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Urging people, businesses to conserve water Early action needed as drought, water-scarcity risks increase throughout B.C.

Summary

* Much of B.C. is expected to experience elevated drought conditions this summer, which may increase water-scarcity risks

* People, businesses and large water users are urged to reduce water use to help protect watersheds and fish populations, and reduce the water-scarcity risk

* The Province is investing in drought resilience through watershed security, agricultural water infrastructure and updated drought-response planning

VICTORIA - Government is urging people in B.C. to conserve water over the coming weeks as forecasts suggest much of the province will experience elevated drought

conditions that may increase water-scarcity risks.

"Protecting B.C.'s water resources is a shared responsibility, and the actions we take today will help communities, farmers and businesses manage increasing drought pressures," said



Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. "We are working closely with First Nations, local governments, industry and the

agricultural sector to support water conservation and long-term water security.

By working together and reducing water use where we can, we can help protect fish and wildlife, support farmers who depend on reliable water supplies and strengthen the resilience of our communities."

People are encouraged to reduce water use wherever possible to help protect local watersheds and reduce the risk of water scarcity. Voluntary reductions in water use, along with favourable weather and rainfall, can play a critical role in maintaining stream flows and reducing pressure on watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

Province preparing for worsening conditions

Recent rainfall and cooler temperatures have improved stream-flow conditions in some parts of the province; however, warm and dry conditions are expected to continue.

Key regions being monitored include:

* the southern coast and southern Interior, where some watersheds remain under significant pressure and drought conditions persist, increasing water scarcity risk

* parts of Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the southern Interior, where record-low stream flows are being recorded

* around the Okanagan and Vancouver Island where

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*URGING PEOPLE...
FROM LAST PAGE*

ecosystems and wildlife significantly rely on a steady, healthy supply of water

* watersheds where risks to aquatic ecosystems and fish populations are increasing, including the Koksilah River, Tsolum River, Salmon River and Bessette Creek

Temporary protection orders may be issued as a last resort if voluntary conservation measures are insufficient to restore stream flows and protect vulnerable fish populations, wildlife and watersheds. Decisions are based on scientific evidence and an assessment of how it impacts the local economy. Working together

Government continues to take action to help communities prepare and respond to increasing water-scarcity risk and build long-term water security throughout British Columbia.

Key actions include:

* adopting a whole-of-government approach to managing drought and water scarcity, working closely with First Nations, local governments, industry and the agricultural sector

* updating B.C.'s Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan each year to strengthen monitoring, emphasize early action and support local decision-making

* supporting local governments and First Nations in their response planning, and investing in long-term water security through the \$100-million Watershed Security Fund

* launching the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding, which provides funding to help communities prepare for disasters and climate emergencies, including drought

* investing \$100 million since 2023 into the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program to support nearly 700 projects to build or improve water storage and supply systems

in water-scarce and drought-prone areas

* providing \$50 million toward new water meters for 19 small, rural and First Nation communities to save water and increase resilience during droughts

* piloting a new water-scarcity level system in several regions to raise awareness and encourage voluntary action to help reduce local water shortages

"Water is essential to B.C.'s agricultural sector so farmers can continue to grow crops, produce forage and care for livestock that help feed British Columbians," said Lana



Popham, Minister of Agriculture

and Food.

"As drought conditions intensify, we are asking everyone to do their part to conserve water so we can help reduce stress on local watersheds and keep more water available to support our food security and wildlife. We will continue working with farmers to strengthen year-round water availability through investments in storage, infrastructure and community projects."

Learn More:

* For water-saving tips and to learn more about how to prepare for drought and water scarcity, visit: <https://gov.bc.ca/drought>

* For the BC Drought Information Portal and to sign up for the new Drought and Water Scarcity Bulletin, visit: <https://droughtportal.gov.bc.ca/> (GCPE.WLRSMedia@gov.bc.ca)



Successful Fundraising Reception Unites Community Behind Mayor Brenda Locke and Surrey Connect

By Reyfort Media

SURREY, B.C. - Community spirit and strong civic engagement were on full display as supporters gathered for the successful Fundraising Reception for Mayor Brenda Locke and Team Surrey Connect, an evening that highlighted leadership, multiculturalism, and a shared vision for Surrey's future.

Mayor Brenda Locke addressed the audience alongside members of the Surrey Connect team, thanking supporters for their continued trust and confidence. She spoke about her administration's accomplishments and emphasized the importance of working together to build a safer, stronger, and more prosperous Surrey. Surrey Connect's platform continues to focus on public safety, infrastructure, responsible fiscal management, housing, and community development.

Sharing the stage with Mayor Locke were incumbent councillors Rob Stutt, Pardeep Kooner, Gordon Hepner, Harry Bains and new council candidate Rona Tepper, and Noemi Victorino, the Filipino-Canadian community leader and Surrey City Council candidate who served as the evening's master of ceremonies. Victorino



kept the program flowing with professionalism, warmth, and enthusiasm, engaging the audience throughout the event.

A highlight of the evening was the outstanding entertainment presented by talented members of the Filipino community. The program opened with an impressive vocal performance by Janice Lozano, followed by the vibrant cultural presentations of

the Anahaw Filipino Canadian Performing Arts Society in BC, whose traditional Filipino dances celebrated the country's rich heritage and cultural diversity. The group is well known for preserving and promoting Filipino traditions through authentic cultural performances.

The audience was also treated to an energetic musical

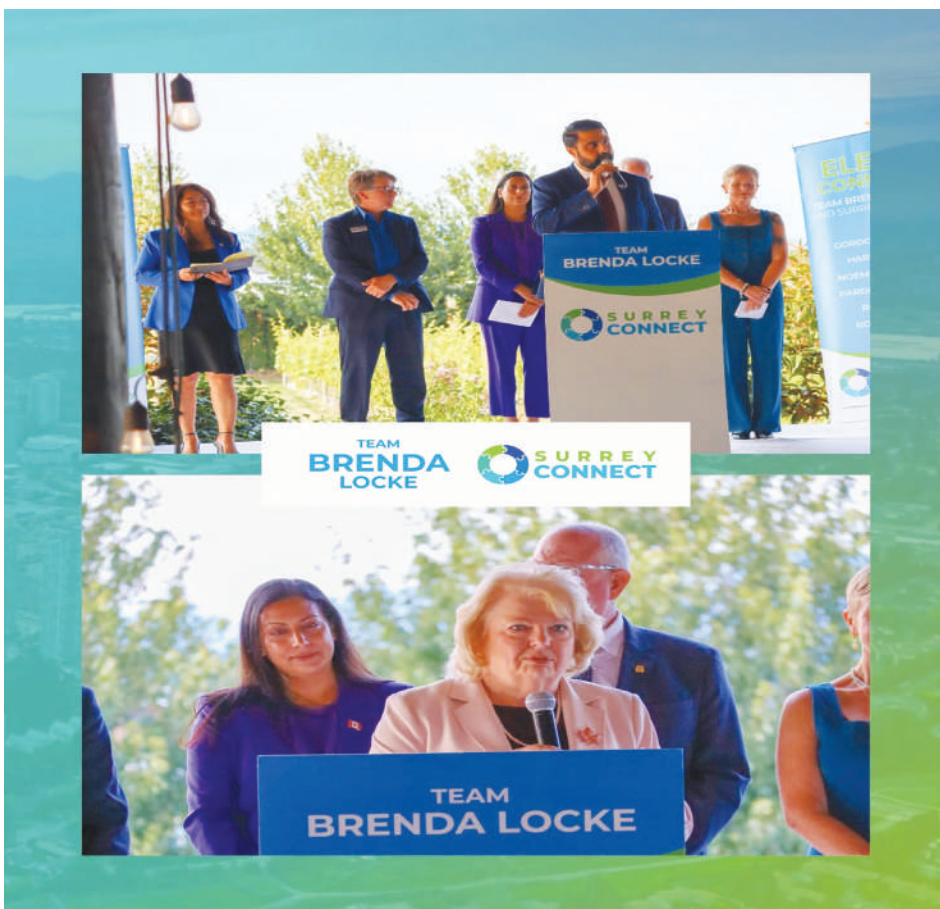
performance by Filipino singer Russel Figueroa, whose songs added excitement to the celebration and received warm applause from guests.

The reception provided attendees with an opportunity to meet Mayor Brenda Locke and members of the Surrey Connect team, exchange ideas, and discuss issues affecting Surrey residents. The evening also demonstrated the growing involvement of the Filipino-Canadian community in Surrey's civic and political life.

Guests praised the well-organized fundraiser, inspiring speeches, and first-class entertainment, making the event both enjoyable and meaningful. The successful reception reflected Surrey's multicultural spirit and reinforced the importance of community partnerships and active civic participation as the city prepares for the upcoming municipal election. (Photos from Reyfort Media, Noemi Victorino, Janice Lozano & Socorro 'Babes' Newland)



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FUNDRAISING ... FROM LAST PAGE



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Snippet of Stories

Joe Larano Jr.

What we've learned from Mary Jane Veloso's story

Some stories refuse to fade with time. They remain in our hearts long after the newspaper headlines have disappeared and the television cameras have moved elsewhere. The story of Mary Jane Veloso is one of them. For sixteen years, her name has been associated with struggle, uncertainty, and hope. When she returned to the Philippines in 2024, many believed her ordeal had finally come to an end. Yet her story reminds us that sometimes the journey home is not the same as the journey to freedom.

Like many Filipinos, Mary Jane left her homeland carrying a simple dream. She wanted to earn a living and provide a better future for her children. She was not seeking wealth or fame. She was simply a mother willing to make sacrifices for her family. In 2010, that dream turned into a nightmare when she was arrested in Indonesia after illegal drugs were discovered in a suitcase, she said had been entrusted to her by recruiters.

What followed became one of the most closely watched cases involving a Filipino migrant worker. Mary Jane consistently maintained that she was a victim of human trafficking and had no knowledge of the drugs hidden in her luggage. In 2015, she came within hours of execution before receiving a last-minute reprieve when her alleged recruiters were arrested in the Philippines. It was a moment that captured the attention of the world and renewed hopes that the truth would eventually prevail.

For many years, however, hope was accompanied by uncertainty. While supporters campaigned for her freedom, Mary Jane remained behind bars. Her transfer to the Philippines brought relief to her family and to those who had stood by her side, but it

did not immediately restore the years that had been lost. The passage of time is perhaps the harshest sentence of all. No one can return the birthdays missed, the family gatherings unattended, and the precious moments that slipped away.

Mary Jane's story is also the story of millions of migrant workers. Every year, Filipinos leave home in search of opportunities that are often unavailable to them locally. They leave not because they want to abandon their families, but because they love them enough to endure separation. Most succeed through hard work and determination. Others become vulnerable to individuals who prey on their hopes and dreams.

Behind every migrant worker is a family that carries its own sacrifices. Mary Jane's children grew up largely without their mother's presence. Her parents spent years pleading for justice while holding on to faith that one day their daughter would return home. Their struggle reminds us that when one family member suffers, the burden is often shared by everyone who loves them.

Perhaps the most important lesson is that human trafficking thrives where poverty and desperation exist. As long as people are forced to seek opportunities far from home without adequate protection, there will always be those willing to exploit their vulnerability. Preventing future tragedies requires more than sympathy. It requires stronger safeguards, greater awareness, and opportunities that allow people to build meaningful lives without placing themselves at risk.

Whenever I think about Mary Jane Veloso's story, I do not see a court case or a political issue. I see a mother who



wanted nothing more than to provide for her children. I see a family that refused to give up. And I see a reminder that behind every migrant worker is a human story waiting to be understood. Perhaps that is what we have learned from Mary

Jane's case. Justice is not only about correcting a wrong. It is about protecting the dreams of ordinary people whose only wish is to create a better life for those they love.

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Mayor Ken Sim of Vancouver visits 88 Supermarket

By Reyfort Media

This past Saturday, Mayor Ken Sim and members of his ABC Vancouver team visited Killarney to meet with residents in one of Vancouver's most diverse neighbourhoods. The group stopped at 88 Supermarket to speak with shoppers and staff about the issues affecting Vancouver families.

Mayor Sim thanked everyone who took the time to stop, ask questions, and share their perspectives during the visit.

"One of the most important parts of serving this city is listening to the people who call it home," said Mayor Ken Sim. "Conversations like these help us better understand the priorities of Vancouverites and ensure we're focused on delivering results that matter in their daily lives."

Mayor Ken Sim by Deputy Mayor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Councillors Mike Klassen, Lenny Zhou, Lisa Dominato, Peter Meiszner, and Park Board Commissioner Angela Haer.

"We're building a Vancouver that works for everyone," continued Mayor Sim. "Over the last four years, we've seen real progress

in making Vancouver a safer and more affordable city by investing in public safety and freezing property tax increases. We're excited to continue that work moving forward."

Throughout the visit, Mayor Sim thanked local employees and business owners for the important role they play in supporting neighbourhoods, creating jobs, and strengthening the local economy.

"Local businesses help bring communities together and are an essential part of what makes Vancouver such a vibrant and welcoming city," said Sim. "It was wonderful to meet so many residents connected to our local economy. ABC is proud to be creating the conditions that allow businesses to succeed and neighbourhoods to thrive."

The delegation received a warm welcome from 88 Supermarket owner Ken Chau, Chief Financial Officer Eric Lam, Kelly Au, Khaleel



UFCABC Past Pres. Ajose Lim, Rey Fortaleza, Mayor Ken Sim of Vancouver, 88 Supermarket owner Ken Chau and Janice Lozano of ABC Vancouver Team

Qureshi, the management team, dedicated staff, and the Directors of the Vietnam Canada Business Association (VCBA).



B.C. secures landmark agreement to power decades of jobs, prosperity, growth



Premier David Eby has secured a multi-billion-dollar agreement with Prime Minister Mark Carney that sets British Columbia on a generational path to prosperity, unlocking jobs for workers, support for vital public services and infrastructure, and protecting the tanker ban and British Columbia's pristine northern coast.

"This agreement is about building B.C.'s future – not just for this year, but for generations to come. It means more good jobs for workers and more opportunities to train for better pay, all while protecting the beautiful places that make our province so remarkable," said Premier Eby. "This deal will deliver faster commutes as we build critical infrastructure, less pollution as we power growth with clean electricity, and the kind of shared prosperity that funds strong public services. I want to thank the Prime Minister for recognizing the key role B.C. is playing in building a stronger, more independent Canada."

"British Columbians have always known how to build big and how to build well. Today, Canada and British

Columbia are building on that legacy by further accelerating major energy projects and trade corridors, protecting our land and waters, and giving workers the support they need to help build Canada strong," said Prime Minister Carney. "Together, we're turning British Columbia's enormous economic potential into lasting prosperity. We're building British Columbia strong to build Canada strong for all."

Canada and B.C. will continue discussions on federal support to build on B.C.'s natural resource strengths. This includes a new federal commitment to delivering on port infrastructure and additional support for the forest and steel sectors in the face of U.S. tariffs. In an increasingly

uncertain world, B.C. can help provide the critical minerals, energy and resources that trusted allies need from a stable, reliable partner – with some of the lowest-carbon LNG in the world, helping support energy security, while reducing global emissions.

This agreement supports B.C.'s Look West jobs and economic growth plan that will see more than \$88 billion in proposed major projects reaching a final investment decision over the next three years. By securing a fair share from the federal government, B.C. expects to strengthen its fiscal foundation and improve front-line public services.

(Complete repost on news.gov.bc.ca)



" Before You Scan... STOP!" *The Hidden Dangers of QR Codes—and How to Stay Safe*

Attention, Readers: Be sure to connect with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and **Like** and/or **Follow** our pages so you won't miss our important **Tip/s of the Day**. Send us your questions, we might just make it the main topic of our next issue but if the matter is urgent, text us at (236) 700-6388 and write **HELP** as the first word of your message.

Have you noticed how QR codes seem to be everywhere these days?

They're on restaurant menus, parking meters, event tickets, advertisements, product labels, business cards, and even donation boxes. With one quick scan, you're instantly taken to a website, payment page, or online form. They're fast, convenient, and have become part of our everyday lives.

But here's the problem...

Unfortunately, scammers love QR codes too.

A growing scam known as "Quishing" (QR Code Phishing) involves criminals placing fake QR codes over legitimate ones. You scan what looks perfectly normal, only to be redirected to a fake website designed to steal your passwords, banking information, or credit card details.



Because we can't actually see where a QR code is taking us until after we scan it, it's easy to trust something that may not deserve our trust.

So how can you protect yourself?

First, take a quick look before scanning. Does the QR code appear to be a sticker placed over another one? Is it damaged, poorly printed, or out of place? If something doesn't look right, trust your instincts.

Second, after scanning, don't immediately tap "Continue." Most phones display the website address before opening it. Take a second to read it. Does it look like the company's real website? If not, don't proceed.

Third, be especially cautious when a QR code asks you to enter personal information, passwords, banking details, or payment information. Legitimate companies rarely ask for sensitive information without first directing you to their official website.

If you're paying for parking, buying event tickets, or making a donation, consider opening the company's official website or app yourself instead of relying solely on the QR code.

Technology is meant to make life easier—but only when we use it wisely.

Computer Dean's Simple Rules for QR Codes: Stop before you scan / Check the website address / Never rush because someone says "limited time" / If something feels wrong, don't continue / When in doubt, visit the company's official website directly - Remember, a QR code is simply another way of opening a website. It isn't automatically safe just because it's convenient.

Remember, a QR code is simply another way of opening a website. It isn't automatically safe just because it's convenient.

Closing Thought: "The safest scan is the one you stop and think about first."

Helping everyday people make technology safer, simpler, and a little less intimidating—one tip at a time. ~ Computer Dean



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Surrey exceeds housing targets ahead of schedule, with over 13,800 units issued

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey has exceeded its housing targets, issuing 13,844 net new housing units over the past two and a half years and remaining on track to complete all initiatives outlined in its Housing Action Plan.

"I'm pleased at the incredible progress we've made and the meaningful steps we've taken to reduce red tape, modernize our processes and make it easier to build housing in Surrey," Mayor Brenda Locke said. "At a time when market conditions remain difficult, Surrey has continued to move forward, working with the housing sector to provide more options for residents. I would like to thank the federal government and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for their ongoing support."

Surrey's Housing Action Plan set a target of 13,000 net new housing units over three years by the end of 2026, representing a 27.8 per cent increase in the City's housing supply. The City achieved this six months ahead of schedule. The plan is supported by \$100.7 million from the federal government's

Housing Accelerator Fund.

The City has completed six of the plan's nine initiatives, with the remaining three on track for completion by the end of the year. These improvements have helped streamline the development process, including:

"Surrey is one of Canada's fastest-growing communities, and people need more homes they can afford close to where they work, learn, and raise their families," said The Honourable Randeep Sarai, Member of Parliament for Surrey Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development. "Through the Housing Accelerator Fund, our government is proud to support the City of Surrey as it surpasses its housing target ahead of schedule. These 13,800 new homes will strengthen the community and make a meaningful difference in the lives of residents for years to come."

Stay up to date on development and permitting improvements at surrey.ca/development.

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*The Tall Order
By Mon Datol*

PBBM Pinarangalan si Alex Eala, tuwang-tuwa sa pasalubong ng Filipina tennis star; VP Sara tagilid sa 'death threat' sa Pangulo; Ilang boto para maalís si impeached VP Sara; Marcoleta 'fit to travel' na - PNP; Makati court naglabas 'warrant of arrest vs Baligod'

Binigyan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr nitong Lunes ng Presidential Citation si Filipinatennisstar Alex Eala dahil sa kaniyang makasaysayang laro sa Wimbledon na kung saan tinalo niya ang defending champion Iga Swiatek at makarating sa 4th round ng pinakamalaking tennis tourney sa buong mundo. At dahil duon ay...

No. 28 na sa ranking si Alex Eala. Higest ever ng Pinoy sa WTA.

Kitang-kita ang saya ni PBBM ng makasama sa Malacanang ang 21-year-old na si Alex Eala lalo na ng bigyan siya ng tennis cap at tennis balls, kayat nasabi ng Pangulo na isa siyang tennis fan at isa ang ganuong okasyon na makita ang hinahangaang tennis player at masabing...

"It's good to be President." Sana all, hane 'Tol Reyfort.

Napatawa pa ni PBBM ang mga dumalo sa homecoming reception para kay Filipina tennis star Alex Eala, kasama na si FL Lisa at presidential sister Irene Marcos, matapos niyang biruin na "inimbento" lamang ang seremonya upang...

'Magka-excuse kami na makapag-picture sa iyo.' Ngiti si Alex.

Nagpasalamat si Alex Eala kay Pangulong Marcos Jr., sa mainit na pagtanggap at sa pagkilala sa kanyang naging tagumpay at nangakong patuloy niyang ipagmamalaki at irerepresenta ang Pilipinas sa international tournaments.

Mabuhay ka Alex! Buong Pinas nasa likod mo sa lahat ng laban mo!

Humarap sa Senate impeachment court nitong Lunes si Atty. Jeremy C. Lotoc,

NBI regional director at dating chief ng kanilang Cybercrime Division, at isiniwalat ang kanilang findings na may 'prima facie evidence' ang pagbabanta ni VP Sara Duterte sa buhay nina PBBM, FL Liza Araneta-Marcos, at dating Speaker Martin Romualdez, kayat...

Mayruong "reasonable certainty of conviction" ang Bise.

Sa pagtatanong ni Senate Impeachment Court Presiding Officer Sen. Chiz Escudero, kinumpirma ni Atty. Lotoc na nakitaan ng NBI ng supisyenteng basehan para magsampa ng grave threat at inciting to sedition laban sa Bise Presidente.

Delikading talaga si Inday Sara, Artikulo Uno pa lang yan, huh.

Sinabi ni Impeachment Presiding Judge Sen. Chiz Escudero na 16 na boto kailangan 'to convict' VP Sara Duterte, pero, dapat ba talagang 16 boto kailangan para mahatulang guilty si VP Sara 'considering' na kulang na miyembro ng Senado at di na 24 kung 'di...

21 Senador na lang um-aatend ng impeachment trial.

Saad sa Konstitusyon, Artikulo XI, Kapanagutan ng mga Pinunong Pambayan, Seksyon 3 (6) na "dalawang-katlo (2/3) ng lahat ng mga Kagawad ng Senado" para magparusa o sa simpleng arithmetic, kung kumpletong 24 ang mga senador ay...

16 dapat ang boto pag guilty, pero iba ang sitwasyon ngayon.

Ani retired SC Justice Antonio

Carpio at kinakatigan siya ng maraming constitutionalists at dekanong law schools: Nagtatago si Sen. Bato dela Rosa dahil sa arrest warrant ng ICC at suspendido sa pwesto at naka-piit si Sen. Jinggoy Estrada at ikukulong na rin si Sen. Dante Marcoleta sakasong plunder at dahil du'n, hindi sila maari umaktong senator-judge at sumapi sa paglilitis.

Kaya 21 na lang ang "lahat ng mga senador" kayat 2/3 ng 21?

May kumakalat pang balitang may isa pang Senador na mawawala sa Senado dahil kakasuhan din ng plunder kayat, pag nagkataon, 20 na lang ang maglilitis kay VP Sara at 14 na lang ang boto para parusahan siya.

Eh, paano pa kung si Sen. Bong Go ay i-wanted na rin ng ICC?

Ani pa ex-Justice Carpio dalawang beses na nagpasiya ang SC sa ganyang pagbilang ng dami ng senador: People v. Maceda at Trillanes v. Pimentel. "Lahat ng nakakulong, preventive detention man o sentensyado, ay hindi maari... maupo sa puwesto," anang Korte. Tingin ko...

Bago mag-Pasko, tapos ang kaso, laglag si Inday sa pwesto.

Inihayag ni PNP Lt. Col. Benaly Bayani, hepe ng Internal Medicine ng PNP General Hospital, na maaari nang bumiyahe si Sen. Dante Marcoleta matapos gumaling mula sa mild pneumonia at altapresyon, pero, mas gusto ng PNP na tapusin na nito ang pitong araw na antibiotic treatment bago ito ihatid sa Sandiganbayan.

Sa Hulyo 15 magkasama na sa hoyo mag-bff Jinggoy at Ka Dante.

Naglabas ng warrant of arrest ang isang korte sa Makati City laban kay Atty. Levito Baligod, abogado ng 18 "Maleta Boys", kaugnay ng cyber libel case na inihain ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

Dami yatang makukulong bago magPasko ah. Abangan.

Pinangalanan ni Laurel bilang mga respondent sa reklamo sina Baligod, ang 18 "Maleta Boys," at si dating Rep. Zaldy Co matapos umano nilang pangalanan ang kalihim bilang isa sa mga opisyal ng gobyerno na nakatanggap ng mga maletang may lamang pera bilang kickback mula sa dating kongresista.

Si Zaldy Co na lang kulang sa maka-karsel sa Payatas Jail.

SHORT ORDER: Happiest birthday to Utol Rolly Fortaleza (July 11) of Surrey, BC, greetings from the whole Fortaleza clan of Surrey, BC, Canada, Leveriza, Malate, MM, USA..... Happy birthday in Heaven to colleague Ka Oscar 'Oca'y' Estabaya, (July 13) ace fotog of Malaya, Kampay!!! Happy birthday (July 13) to Insang Salvador 'Buddy' Datol of Navotas, MM Phil. Greetings from the whole Datol Clan of Navotas, NE & Isabela. MBtC... Happiest birthday greetings to cousin Daisy Ann Velarde (July 13) of Jaen, NE. Greetings from the whole Velarde, Jose, Esquivel, Datol Families... Happy birthday (July 14) to my niece Rhoda Garcia-Belleza of Jaen, NE & Bicol. Greetings from Garcia, Catle, Datol & Belleza Families ...

God Bless.



The Notary Corner

By Editha Corrales Nelson
Immigration Consultant, Notary Public, Mediation / Arbitrator

GST relief for first-time home buyers on new homes valued up to \$1.5 million

To lower the upfront cost of buying a new home for young Canadians and spur the construction of new homes across the country, the government is eliminating the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for first-time home buyers on new homes up to \$1 million and reducing the GST for first-time home buyers on new homes between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

On May 27, 2025, the Minister of Finance and National Revenue, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, tabled legislative proposals to amend the Excise Tax Act to introduce a new GST rebate for first-time home buyers (the "FTHB GST Rebate"). As a result of this rebate, first-time home buyers will be able to save up to \$50,000 on a new home. This measure is expected to deliver \$3.9 billion in tax savings to Canadians over five years, starting in 2025-26.

First-Time Home Buyers' GST Rebate

- If you are a first-time home buyer, you may be eligible for a FTHB GST Rebate if:
- you buy a new home from a builder;
- you build, or hire someone else to build, a home on land you own or lease; or
- you buy shares of a co-operative housing corporation.

The FTHB GST Rebate will apply to the same types of housing and apply similar eligibility criteria and conditions as the existing GST/HST New Housing Rebate, with certain modifications to ensure that the rebate is targeted at first-time home buyers.

To be considered a "first-time home buyer" for the purposes of the FTHB GST Rebate, an individual would generally need to meet the following conditions:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- be either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada; and
- not have lived in a home, whether in or outside Canada, that they owned or that their spouse or common-law partner owned in the calendar year or in the four preceding calendar years.

Together with the existing GST/HST New Housing Rebate (where that rebate is applicable), the FTHB GST Rebate would provide for a rebate of 100% of the GST on new homes valued up to \$1 million.

The FTHB GST Rebate would be phased out in a linear manner

for new homes valued between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. For example, under the linear phase-out, a home valued at \$1.25 million would be eligible for a 50% GST rebate (a rebate of up to \$25,000).

No FTHB GST Rebate would be available for new homes valued at or above \$1.5 million.

New Homes Purchased from a Builder

The FTHB GST Rebate would allow an individual to recover up to \$50,000 of the GST (or the federal part of the HST) paid in respect of a new home purchased from a builder (including on leased land).

To qualify for a FTHB GST Rebate, at least one of the purchasers of the home would need to be a "first-time home buyer" that is acquiring the new home for use as their primary place of residence. That individual would also need to be the first individual to occupy the home as a place of residence.

The FTHB GST Rebate would generally be available if: the agreement of purchase and sale for the home is entered into with the builder on or after May 27, 2025 and before 2031; and construction of the home begins before 2031 and the home is substantially completed before 2036.

Owner-Built Homes

For an owner-built home, the FTHB GST Rebate would allow an individual to recover up to \$50,000 of the GST or the federal part of the HST that they paid to build the home.

For an owner-built home, the FTHB GST Rebate would allow an individual to recover up to \$50,000 of the GST or the federal part of the HST that they paid to build the home.

To qualify for a FTHB GST Rebate, at least one of the owner-builders would need to be a "first-time home buyer" that is building, or hiring another person to build, the new home for use as their primary place of residence. That individual would also need to be the first individual to occupy the home as a place of residence.

The FTHB GST Rebate would generally be available if construction of the home begins on or after May 27, 2025 and before 2031 and the home is substantially completed before 2036.

Shares of a Cooperative Housing Corporation

The FTHB GST Rebate would allow an individual to claim a rebate of up to \$50,000 in respect of the purchase of a share of a cooperative housing corporation (co-op) where the co-op paid GST or the federal part of the HST in respect of new housing.

To qualify for a FTHB GST Rebate, at least one of the purchasers of the share would need to be a "first-time home buyer" that is acquiring the share to use the co-op housing unit to which the share relates as their primary place of residence. That individual would also need to be the first individual to occupy the co-op housing unit as a place of residence.

The FTHB GST Rebate would generally be available if:

- the agreement of purchase and sale of the share is entered into with the co-op on or after May 27, 2025 and before 2031; and
- construction of the cooperative housing begins before 2031 and is substantially completed before 2036.

A FTHB GST Rebate would not be available in respect of a co-op share if the co-op housing is eligible for the 100% GST rebate for purpose-built rental housing.

Limitations

To ensure that the rebate is available as intended to first-time home buyers after the announcement date, a series of rules would limit the availability of the FTHB GST Rebate in certain circumstances. These rules include the following: An individual would not be

permitted to claim a FTHB GST Rebate more than once in their lifetime.

An individual would not be permitted to claim a FTHB GST Rebate if their spouse or common-law partner previously claimed a FTHB GST Rebate.

If, pursuant to an assignment sale, a FTHB assumes the rights and obligations of another person that is a purchaser of a new home under an agreement of purchase and sale with a builder, the FTHB rebate would not be available if that original agreement of purchase and sale was entered into before May 27, 2025.

If an agreement of purchase and sale for a new home was originally entered into before May 27, 2025 and the agreement is subsequently cancelled and a new agreement of purchase and sale is entered into (or the agreement is varied or altered to effect that outcome), the FTHB GST Rebate may be disallowed in respect of the sale of a new home under the new agreement (and would not be allowed in respect of the varied or altered agreement).

Strictly taken from Canada.ca

A Canadian Certified Immigration Consultant, Certified Senior Advisor and a Notary Public in the City of Burnaby, Editha Corrales Nelson's preferred areas of practice are Powers of Attorney, Wills Preparation, International Legal Documents, Name Changes, Affidavits, Letters of Invitation, Statutory Declarations, Drafting of Business Contracts and other notarial services. For an appointment, please call: 604-777-2757.

The following should not be construed as providing legal advice and information in this column is intended only as a general guide and should not be applied to specific circumstances without further consultation. For more information on the subject, contact Editha Corrales Nelson at 604-777-2757.

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Sara impeachment trial puts Philippine democratic institutions to the test: analyst

By Carlito Pablo

The impeachment trial of Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte started on July 6, 2026, in what one analyst says is a test of the credibility of democratic institutions in the Asian country.

Writing for the online Asia Sentinel publication, Manila-based observer Tita Valderama noted that the stakes "extend far beyond Duterte's political survival".

The ongoing trial at the Senate is also a test of the "resilience of Philippine democratic institutions and their ability to function independently amid deep political polarization".

"Ultimately, this impeachment is testing two questions at once: whether Sara Duterte remains fit to hold public office, and whether Philippine democratic institutions are strong enough to decide that question through evidence, due process and the rule of law.

"The answer will shape not only the 2028 presidential race but also public confidence in Philippine democracy for years to come," Valderama wrote in her July 6, 2026 piece.

If convicted by senator-judges, Duterte faces removal from office and perpetual disqualification from running in an election, which takes her out of the 2028 presidential race to replace current President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Marcos and Duterte ran as a ticket in the 2022 national elections, but their alliance quickly fractured.

In 2025, Duterte's father Rodrigo, whom Marcos succeeded as president, was arrested in Manila



Vice President Sara Duterte is the leading contender in polls for next president of the Philippines in 2028. Image from Duterte's official social media.

and flown to The Hague in Netherlands to face charges of alleged crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Duterte has publicly stated that she has contracted an assassin to kill Marcos, his wife and a cousin, a declaration that now constitutes one of four impeachment charges against her.

To reach conviction, two-thirds of the 24 senator-judges or 16 must reach a guilty verdict against Duterte.

In her Asia Sentinel piece, Valderama noted that the Senate "carries perhaps the greatest burden".

"Its legitimacy will rest not on whether Duterte is convicted or acquitted but on whether Filipinos believe the verdict was reached fairly and strictly according to law," Valderama stated.

In her piece titled "Duterte Impeachment Puts 2028

Duterte allies are firmly entrenched in the Senate, and reaching the two-thirds vote threshold to convict could be difficult.

In an explainer piece on July 6, 2026, The Guardian quoted Maria Ela Atienza, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, saying that there is a 50-50 chance for Duterte to be convicted, given the current composition of the Senate.

Atienza noted that evidence and public opinion will also weigh in when senator-judges make up their mind about the charges.

Meanwhile, the ICC trial of Duterte's father Rodrigo for crimes in connection with his war against drugs is scheduled to start in The Hague in November 2026.

Writing previously for the Manila Times in a piece titled "The Duterte

Race — and Philippine Institutions — on Trial", the analyst noted two competing narratives about the trial.

One narrative speaks about the need for accountability of officials like Duterte, who is facing charges of misusing public funds, bribery, and amassing unexplained wealth, in addition to the alleged threat to the life of Marcos.

The counter-narrative has characterized Duterte's impeachment as a move to take her out as the leading contender for next president in 2028.

Duterte has denied the allegations against her.

"The Senate's credibility will therefore depend less on the final verdict than on whether Filipinos believe every witness was fairly examined, every piece of evidence properly weighed and every ruling anchored in the Constitution rather than partisan calculation," Valderama wrote.

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dynasty's hardest battle," Valderama noted that the once powerful Duterte clan is "fighting for political survival".

"But Filipinos, too, are engaged in a larger struggle, one for honest

government, clean leadership, and respect for the rule of law," Valderama noted.

Duterte's impeachment trial before the Senate is expected to last for a few months.

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Tinig Migrante

By E. Maestro

By CWWM-Canada

Approximately 50 migrant workers, faith leaders, migrant service providers, and community advocates gathered at the Interfaith Forum for Migrant Justice organized by the Canadian chapter of the Churches Witnessing With Migrants (CWWM). The Forum was at the Charbonnel Lounge, University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto last June 24-25, 2026.

These individuals and groups came together to discuss how to help build and strengthen interfaith solidarity for migrant justice, discuss the impacts of Canada's anti-imm/migrant immigration policies, and advance campaigns for regularization and the abolition of closed work permits.

Johnny Moore, a Cree author and Fire Keeper, opened the forum with greetings, prayer and an intentional ritual with sacred tobacco, and reflected on the interconnectedness of the struggles of migrants and that of the First Nations.

Rev. Ariel Siagan of the Asbury & West United Church in Toronto spoke about the moral and spiritual responsibility of churches to resist systems that reduce people to labour, price, or function and perpetuate conditions of modern-day slavery. "When a person is turned into a price unit, that person becomes a commodity," said Rev. Siagan. "This dehumanizes people and strips them of their desires, dignity, and full humanity. Churches must be a counterforce to systems that normalize this."

Joey Calugay of the Montreal-based Immigrant Workers Centre (IWC-CT) talked about the immediate and harmful impact of Bill C-12 on migrants, like the information-sharing between government bodies, the increased budgets provided to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) resulting in higher enforcement and deportations, powers to cancel immigration documents, and restrictions that affect access to asylum claims. Calugay said this broader escalation in anti-migrant policy and actions

saw 22,500 people deported in 2025 and 20,000 more planned deportations this year (source: CBSA, 2026); and Montreal has been the most hard hit by CBSA operations.

Wanda Chell of the Alberta Workers Association for Research and Education (AWARE) spoke about children in Alberta who are being denied access to education in Alberta schools because of their parents' precarious immigration status. "Children living in Alberta should not be denied access to school because of their immigration status," Chell emphasized. Chell highlighted advocacy efforts around the grassroots campaign Education for All and the Dreamers School led by IMA-Alberta, Migrante Alberta and supported by AWARE.

The Canadian chapter of CWWM in discussions about its organizational structure and future direction, moved from a historically church-based network towards a broader, more inclusive interfaith movement. This affirmed that the network welcomes diverse spiritual traditions and cooperation among grassroots migrant organizations, faith communities, and service providers.

Moving forward into the next couple of years, CWWM-Canada looks forward to a shared multilingual repository of education and campaign resources and materials in multiple languages, the mapping of allies and organizations, and a structure of regional conveners in cities across Canada.

As Fr. Dante Coloma of the IFI Greater Toronto Area reminded everyone, "Today, we affirm that migration is not merely an economic issue—it is a sacred human journey. Behind every migrant is a family longing for hope, a worker sacrificing for loved ones, and a child dreaming of a brighter future. The Church is called not only to welcome migrants but also to stand with them, defend their dignity, and challenge every system that creates poverty, displacement, and forced migration. Our faith compels us to transform compassion



Top: L-R: Fr. Ariel Siagan, the Asbury & West United Church in Toronto, Joey Calugay of the Montreal-based Immigrant Workers Centre
Bottom: L-R: Wanda Chell of the Alberta Workers Association for Research and Education (AWARE), Mithi Esguerra from the Migrant Resource Centre Canada (MRCC)



into action and prayers into prophetic witness.

The Interfaith Forum united on a shared commitment to build an inclusive, grassroots, and action-oriented movement rooted in faith, dignity, and solidarity with migrants and migrant workers.

To contact the Canadian chapter of the CWWM, email: cwwmcanada@gmail.com



(As requested by Erie Maestro, this migrant story be published)



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Leaders, Families, and Community Partners Gather for Official Launch of MINDS

New non-profit organization launches with the support of diplomats, elected officials, community leaders, and families to advance neurodiversity awareness, inclusion, advocacy, and support throughout British Columbia.

Community leaders, diplomats, advocates, families, and supporters gathered for the official launch of MINDS – Multicultural Inclusion for Neurodiversity and Development Society, a British Columbia-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting awareness, acceptance, inclusion, advocacy, and support for neurodiverse individuals and their families. The launch was held on July 11 at 6:00 PM at the 3rd floor offices of Work Commons on 13888 Wireless Way, in Richmond.

The launch marked an important milestone for MINDS and brought together diverse communities with a shared vision of creating a society where every person is valued, respected, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

MINDS is led by President Marlon Parel and governed by its founding Board of Directors, comprised of Alan Yong, Lissa Bentley, Gigi Astudillo, Maylani Parel, Carmelita Tapia, and

Cindy Tang. Together, the leadership team brings diverse professional experience, community involvement, and a shared commitment to advancing meaningful support and opportunities for neurodiverse individuals and their families.

The event welcomed a distinguished gathering of diplomatic representatives, elected officials, Indigenous representatives, community leaders, advocates, and well-wishers.

Among those recognized and acknowledged by Irene, the Master of Ceremonies, were Mr. Don McKenzie, representing the Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia; Mr. Chapron Harris from the Consulate General of Indonesia; Ms. Violet Chan, President of the British Columbia Cultural Diversity Association; Councillor Richard Lee of the City of Burnaby; Hon. Natanipa Burusapat from the Royal Thai Consulate General; Ms. Marissa Peña of the Peña Family Foundation; Vice Consul Frederick Marco Harder of the Philippine Consulate General; and Ms. Susan Au-Young, President of the North American Association of Asian Professionals.

The presence of these distinguished guests reflected the growing recognition that advancing neurodiversity and inclusion requires collaboration



among diplomatic missions, governments, Indigenous communities, educational institutions, community organizations, healthcare providers, educators, healthcare professionals, businesses, families, and advocates from diverse cultural backgrounds.

During the launch, MINDS shared its vision and mission of fostering a society where neurodiversity is recognized, respected, and embraced as a valuable part of human diversity. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to promoting awareness, acceptance, advocacy, education, and inclusion while ensuring that neurodiverse individuals and their families have access to meaningful support, resources, and opportunities.

MINDS also called upon governments, businesses, educational institutions, healthcare providers, community organizations, professionals, and families to work collaboratively in building a more inclusive British Columbia where every individual has the opportunity to belong, contribute, and thrive.

MINDS was established in response to the growing need for culturally responsive advocacy, education, community engagement, and family support. The organization aims to bridge cultural and service gaps by connecting neurodiverse individuals and their families with information, resources, partnerships, and inclusive community initiatives. (Submitted by ctapia@telus.net)



COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN AND APPLE PLATA



PICPA Vancouver Chapter Welcomes New Members & Leadership at 2026 Annual General Meeting



The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) – Vancouver Chapter successfully held its 2026 Annual General Meeting and Induction of New Members on July 4, 2026, at the Burnaby Public Library – Metrotown Program Room.

The gathering brought together members, guests, and friends to celebrate the Chapter's accomplishments, welcome new members, and share plans for the year ahead.

A highlight of the event was the induction of new members

and the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Board of Directors, led by President Rowena Rosales and Vice President for Professional Development Mary Grace Jauod, who pledged their commitment to serving the organization and its members.

Also serving on the 2026 Board are Vice President for Membership Ramon Salcedo, Secretary Maribeth Acosta, Treasurer Ernesto Ong, Auditor Lorimarie Rimpillo, Board Members Joy Lagayan and Mercedes Ortila, Mercedes Ortila, and Committee Member Herson Santiago.

The Chapter also welcomed new members: Herson Santiago, Chrised Leano, Janet Chiong, and Rosemarie Hinong.

The successful event reflected PICPA Vancouver's continued commitment to promoting professional excellence, collaboration, and community engagement among Filipino certified public accountants and finance professionals across Metro Vancouver.



RP NEWS

Bishops say VP Duterte impeachment should remind officials of accountability

SINACABAN, Misamis Occidental— Catholic bishops said Friday that the impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte should serve as a reminder that all public officials remain accountable to the people and the Constitution.

Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo of Kidapawan, who chairs the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue, said the Church supports the constitutional process while taking no position for or against the vice president.

"This impeachment process is important," Bagaforo told reporters after the CBCP concluded its 132nd plenary assembly in the Archdiocese of Ozamis.

"It is not a condemnation of our vice president. We are not taking a stand for or against her. What we uphold is the Constitution and the rule of law," he said.

Bagaforo urged lawmakers and the public to allow the legal process to run its course, saying the outcome should be determined through established constitutional procedures.

"Let the rule of law give its own verdict," he said. "Public trust in the impeachment process remains high, and people are closely watching what the Senate will do."

He said the Church's concern is based on justice and accountability rather than partisan politics, particularly amid corruption allegations that led to the impeachment proceedings.

"This reminds all public officials that they are accountable," Bagaforo said. "The people's trust and the authority entrusted to us carry responsibility. We must be able to explain our actions and ensure



Catholic bishops gather for a Mass at the conclusion of the 132nd plenary assembly at AMORAP in Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental, on July 10, 2026. (CBCP News)

that public service is carried out properly."

Bagaforo said religious leaders have been following the proceedings through the InterReligious Leaders' Council for National Transformation, an interfaith coalition promoting ethical governance and national renewal.

The bishop also acknowledged deep political divisions among

Filipinos and appealed for unity, urging citizens to rise above partisan loyalties and work together for good governance, national progress and the common good.

"If we want our country to progress and have good governance... it is very important that we remain united. I hope we do not focus too much on personal or politics by patronage," he said. (CBCP NEWS)



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Philippine Bicol Association of BC Holds 1st AGM, Reports Continued Membership Growth

By Socorro "Miss B" Newland

Vancouver, BC - Demonstrating steady growth and a continued commitment to serving the Bicolano community in British Columbia, the Philippine Bicol Association of British Columbia (PBABC) convened its Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) and Community Picnic on July 5, 2026, at Trout Lake Community Centre.

The annual gathering brought together members from across the province to review the association's accomplishments over the past fiscal year, strengthen community ties, and chart its course for the future. The event reflected PBABC's enduring mission of promoting unity, preserving Bicolano heritage, and fostering active participation within the Filipino Canadian community.

A key highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the President's Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, outlining the organization's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and strategic priorities. The Treasurer's Report provided members with a transparent overview of the association's financial position, while committee reports showcased the collective efforts of volunteers who continue to drive the organization's programs and activities. Members also approved the agenda of their first AGM under its newly-elected president—Lorry Gavieres Russell, deliberated on new and unfinished business, and presented the association's new set of officers as follows:

President:
Lorry Gavieres Russell
Vice- President:
Pilar De Guzman
Treasurer:
Juan Dumalasa
Assistant Treasurer:
Robert Azana
Secretary :
Allen May B. Robles
Assistant Secretary :
Eden De La Rama
Business Manager:
Rene Alcantara
Auditor :
Jose Arellano
Press Relation Officer;
Eman Raguin

Sargeant At Arms:
Danilo Reyes
Director of Communications:
Aleta Bombase
Board of Directors:
Marilyn Abundo Cunanan
Victoria Tena
Muriel Boncacas
Joy Ann Llamas
Mario Garchitorena

Ms. Russell also announced encouraging membership growth, with the association expanding from 133 members at the close of Fiscal Year 2025 to 147 members by the end of Fiscal Year 2026. The increase reflects the organization's growing presence and the continued confidence of the Bicolano community in its leadership and programs.

Following the informal business meeting, members and their families gathered for a community picnic marked by warm fellowship, shared meals, and meaningful conversations. The informal setting provided an opportunity for long-time members to reconnect while welcoming new families into the growing PBABC community.

For many years, the Philippine Bicol Association of BC has served as an important cultural and civic organization dedicated to preserving the rich traditions, values, and heritage of the Bicol Region while strengthening friendships among Bicolano's living in British Columbia. Through volunteerism, cultural celebrations, educational initiatives, and community outreach, the association continues to make meaningful contributions to the broader Filipino Canadian community.

Looking ahead, the association remains committed to expanding programs that celebrate Bicolano culture, support newcomers, encourage greater youth participation, and build stronger partnerships within British Columbia's multicultural society.

As the Philippine Bicol Association of BC continues to grow, its Annual General Meeting served as more than a statutory gathering—it was a reaffirmation

of the organization's shared vision, resilient spirit, and collective commitment to preserving the Bicolano legacy while building a vibrant and united future for generations to come.

Watch out and support PBABC's fundraiser on November 7, 2026, entitled, Stayin' Alive on the Dance Floor at the Fraserview Banquet Hall, 8241 Chester Street, Vancouver, BC. For tickets, please contact: Lorry



Russell (604)785-5987; Robert Azana (604)218-0046: Payment by E-Transfer: officers@pbabc1990.org





GOLF TIME
BY
FERDIE LONTOK



PILIPINO GOLF ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Fort Langley Golf Course
May 30, 2026

Champion :
Class A: Sonny Bernales
Class B : Danny Aganon

KP Winners:
Hole # 3: Rolie Ugalde
Hole # 5 :Lito Razon
Hole # 8 : Karlo Avenido
Hole # 15 : Butch Cusi
Hole # 17 : Summesh Putra



Tsawwassen Spring Golf Course
May 24, 2026

Champion :
Class A: Karlo Avenido
Class B : Toti Epondula

KP Winners:
Hole # 2 : Rowena Yapyuco
Hole # 4 : Rolie Ugalde
Hole # 9 : Clint Angala
Hole # 13 : Butch Cusi
Hole # 15 : Rolie Ugalde
Hole # 17 : Clint Angala

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1976 - 2026

Golden Eagle North GC
June 06, 2026

Champion :
Class A: Art Cordero
Class B : Danny Aganon

KP Winners:
Hole # 4 : Jess Cusi
Hole # 6 : Saleem Bhamji
Hole # 14 : Danny Aganon
Hole # 17 : Karlo Avenido



Golden Eagle North GC
June 14, 2026

Champion :
Class A: Neil Cerio
Class B : Emman Carballo

KP Winners:
Hole # 4 : Neil Cerio
Hole # 6 : JayR Pareja
Hole # 14 : Art Makalintal
Hole # 17 : Boy Holgado





That's All

Al S. Mendoza

BM

SPORTS

Eala a paragon of sporting excellence

IT warms the heart to see Alex Eala at Malacanang as special dinner/guest of President Marcos Jr. on Monday night. The occasion did not only validate Eala's impact on the nation's consciousness, which Mr. Marcos so zealously recognized with his singular action of engaging the tennis sensation up close and personal.

More than anything, it made Eala a paragon of sporting excellence worthy of emulation.

In his speech to welcome Eala, Mr. Marcos unabashedly admitted that he is Eala's avid fan.

"We invented this occasion in order for us to have a photo opportunity with you," the President said of Eala, eliciting chuckles from an audience that included First Lady Lisa Araneta Marcos and Chairman Pato Gregorio of the Philippine Sports Commission. "Nagpupuyat kami para lang mapanood ka namin."

Mr. Marcos lavishly heaped praise on Eala's numerous achievements on the world tennis stage since she turned pro last year, making special mention of the Filipina's sensational winning run in the just-ended Wimbledon in London.

"I've watched matches myself in Wimbledon in the past," said the Chief Executive, who studied in UK's University of Oxford after attending secondary school at West Sussex. "Wimbledon is the highest in prestige of all tennis tournaments in the world."

In her turn at the rostrum, Eala said she always carried the Filipino spirit in her matches abroad.

"I always carry the Philippine flag wherever I compete," she said, earning hearty applause. "Ipinagmamalaki ko po na ako'y Pilipino."

Wimbledon was Eala's last tournament, where she became the first Filipino—male or female—to reach the fourth round of the third of four Grand Slams held yearly.

Eala punctuated her incredible

winning streak by eliminating defending Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek of Poland, a feat that gave her a 2-1, win-loss edge in her head-to-head duel with the five-time Slam winner.

Before that, Eala immersed herself in a torrid campaign on grass courts in Europe in preparation for the grass-surfaced Wimbledon event in England.

Along the way, Eala, who turned 21 on May 23, won the Birmingham Open last month in the UK, her second WTA title after winning the Guadalajara Open in Mexico last year.

Pundits favored Eala to defeat Italian Jasmine Paolini in their Round of 16 match at Wimbledon's Centre Court.

But when Eala showed up with a heavily-bandaged right thigh, and with her swinging left arm also thickly wrapped in white sheet, I knew at once she was to play hurting. Wounded.

Her strokes visibly dulled.

Her footwork slowed down.

Her serve sting-less.

Still, she fought on unbowed and was a gallant loser in three sets 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 to Paolini, who was ousted by Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine two days later in straight sets 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

Eala is enjoying her much-needed break here, unselfishly holding meet-and-greet sessions with fans, signing autographs, before plunging back to action en route to joining the US Open, the year's last Slam set from Aug. 25 to Sept. 13 in Flushing Meadows, New York.

Enjoy your much-needed furry, Alex.

THAT'S IT As expected, Italian world No. 1 Jannik Sinner defeated German Alexander Zverev 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 to retain the men's Wimbledon crown on Monday. But for reaching the final on his 10th try, Zverev, the reigning French Open champion, climbed to No. 2 for the first time from No. 3, dislodging the injured (wrist) Carlos Alcaraz of Spain, who



Alex Eala receives presidential citation after historic Wimbledon run (gma news)

dropped to No. 3. In women's play, Linda Noskova beat Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in a dramatic All-Czech final that saw the 21-year-old Noskova blow away five match points in the second set before regaining her poise in the deciding third

set to salvage her first Slam triumph.

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Wisdom from the Word

Ben Berto



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ANGIE, MY LOVE

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.¹¹ For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come....

Song of Solomon

2: 10-12 NKJV

I recall the first day we met at the front of your home in Le-veriza, Malate, Manila, more than 70 years ago.

I was just in my senior year in Nursing, assigned to that area as a part of our Public Health Nursing requirement.

As a result of our "Buntis" Hunting, I was assigned to your family, your mom being pregnant with Rosario (Rose) your only sister, after a bunch of 8 boys. You just started teaching at the Aurora Elementary School, highly regarded by your principal, Mr. Juan Hernandez. It was love at first sight as they say, but I was a timid boy then.



Ben & Angie Berto.

So, I had to find a way to get to your heart by being friends with your dad. And I guessed it worked well. You were of another faith and I am a Seventh-day Adventist, but you embraced my beliefs

Our means of communication was snail mail, yet, I did not expressly express my love for you. I wrote you every where I went; from Ifugao, Kalinga, Apayao, Bontoc, Baguio City,

Ilocos Sur and when I came to Canada,

I wrote you from Hong Kong, that I love you. But I had itchy feet, so you got my letters from Vancouver, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, Prince Rupert, Prince George and Mackenzie in BC; from Grande Cache, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, in Alberta, from Long Beach, California, and Carlsbad, New Mexico. You were confused, receiving my letters from so many places. I told you to get boyfriends, and I found girlfriends, too. Yet it seemed that we were meant for each other; that was why we did not give up on each other. Finally, I said, "Come over here", so you came and we tied the knot on November 11, 1979.

I chose November 11, Canada's Remembrance Day, so I won't forget our Wedding Anniversary. Our life together was not always plain, rosy and hunky dory.

We had our little spats, also.

And so our life went on, and today you are 80, celebrating a birthday among so many friends and family, still happily married to me, your one and only.

We are still in love with each other, and if I have to get married again, it will still be with you. I love you, Angie, and Happy Birthday. I am your present and will still be.

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.¹¹ For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come....

To contact us: Our website is 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: 1-3

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



Let it grow

They say that there are three ways to catch a tiger. The first way, the Army way, is to pursue the tiger till it gets tired, and catch it. The second way, the Navy way, is to lure the tiger, then trap it. The third way, the police way, is to catch a cat, beat it up until it admits it is a tiger.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 13:1-23) we hear of the parable of the sower and the many ways of receiving the seed, the Word of God. And so it is that there are those who receive it without depth (the seed on the path). There are those who receive it without fruits (the seed sown on rocky ground and among thorns). And finally, there are those who receive it and bear fruits (the seed on good soil).

Why does the Word of God not grow and does not bear fruit in you? Maybe it is because you are mababaw (shallow), malayaw (pampered), and matakaw (selfish). God provides but we must abide. God operates but we must cooperate.

There are many beautiful things deep inside us which this world will never understand, or listen to, but we must hold on to our peace, as long as we have done our best. Before a tree bears fruit, it has undergone a lot of patience, pruning, and perseverance. The tree bears fruit because it stayed put. Yes, we must stay rooted in the Lord. In order to bear fruit, we must not forget these three Ps: Prayer, Patience, and Perseverance.

The Word of God cannot take root in a person who is always busy and who is constantly focused on his own emotions and moods. Furthermore, the Word of God can take root but cannot bear fruit in a person who is materialistic. Finally, the Word of God can take root and can bear fruit in a person who has commitment, but the yield will vary according to the degree of commitment of every person. May the Word of God bear fruit abundantly in each one of us.

The biggest burden of our

country is our heartless politicians who work for the next elections, but not for the good of this nation. In this seemingly hopeless situation, we must continue to sow the seed of goodness, and believe, and keep on believing that crime does not pay, and that goodness will triumph in the end. Keep on dreaming. Keep on believing. Keep on working. Take heed, you men and women of goodwill, and remember God's word in Isaiah 55:11 "My Word shall do My will, achieving the end for which I sent It." Question: Which side are you working for? Are you working for goodness, or are you working for evil?

Think about this: Are people suffering because of you? You and your family are comfortable while others are suffering because you cheated them. I sow this seed in your conscience today and pray that you will be enlightened to repent and make amends. Remember that whatever you did to others, you did it to Christ. Remember, too, that Divine justice, though often

delayed, will catch up with you sooner or later. Finally, remember that it profits you nothing if you gain the whole world and, in the end, you lose your soul!

The Word of God has to bear fruit in our concrete lives. Let us not just be hearers or preachers of the Word. We must be doers of what we hear or preach. There are people who claim to be spiritual and talk spiritual, but are so carnal and material in their daily lives and dealings. In other words, there is a disparity between what they say and who they are. Jesus did not mince His words about such people whom He called hypocrites, a brood of vipers, wolves in sheep clothing, and empty tombs.

SAD. MAD. GLAD. Sad. I'm sad that because of politics in our country, our economy is not really growing, and our people are suffering. Mad. I'm mad to see many so-called public ser-

MOMENTS TO PAGE 22 ...



FR ORBOS from PAGE 21....

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, may Your Word grow and bear
fruit in us. Amen.

public servants who are involved in
self-service, and not in public service.
Glad. Yes, I'm glad that there is hope,
that no matter how slow, goodness
will still triumph in our land.

momentswithfrjerry@gmail.com

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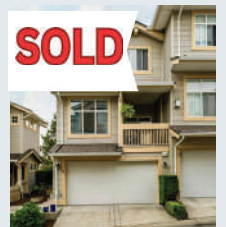
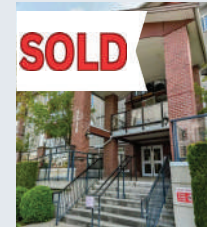
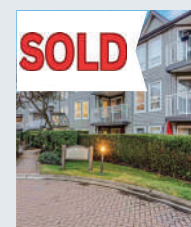
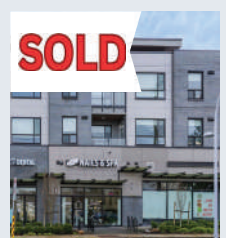
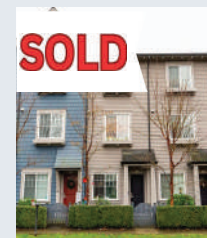
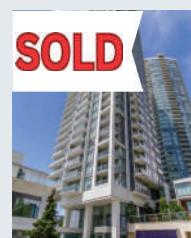
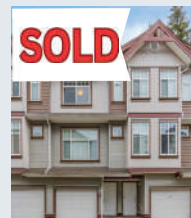
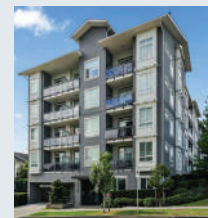


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