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President Marcos lauds Filipinos in Canada, assures continued government support

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. praised the Filipino community in Canada for their hard work and positive contributions to Canadian society, saying they have earned the respect and admiration of the people there.

In his post-visit statement at the end of his official visit to Canada, the President said he was encouraged by the warm reception he received from more than 500 members of the Filipino community who traveled from different parts of the country to meet him.

"I was heartened by their presence and the positive remarks of the Canadian government officials and ordinary Canadian citizens about the Philippine diaspora and how they are very glad and very happy to have the Filipinos that are here in Canada,"



President Marcos said.

President Marcos noted that Filipinos in Canada are recognized for their dedication and positive role in their adopted country.

"Filipinos in Canada are widely respected and regarded as a

steady and positive force in Canada's society," the President said.

President Marcos also assured overseas Filipinos that the Philippine government remains committed to supporting them and recognizing their

sacrifices.

"I convey to the Philippine community the Philippine government's continued support for overseas Filipinos and our appreciation for their continued hard work and dedication to their families and loved ones in the Philippines," the Chief Executive said.

The President said the success of his visit to Canada was made possible by agreements reached with the Canadian government and the private sector, which are expected to strengthen cooperation across various fields and create more opportunities for Filipinos.

The President added that the government will continue working to ensure that the gains from the visit will benefit more Filipinos in the years ahead. | PND (Presidential Communications Office)

A Historic and Meaningful Gathering: Filipino Community in British Columbia Welcomes His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

By Christian Cunanan



Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin welcomed Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during his visit on July 1-4, 2026. At the back are Ambassador Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga and First Lady Liza Marcos.

His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. - Engagement with the Filipino Community in Canada during his official visit to Canada on July 3, 2026, at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver, BC, at the invitation of Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The visit showed the strong and enduring friendship between Canada and the Philippines, which date back to 1861 when Benson Flores became the first recorded Filipino immigrant to arrive in British Columbia.



Today, nearly one million Canadians of Filipino heritage live across the country, including approximately 200,000 in British Columbia, and remain an integral part of Canada's multicultural society.

President Marcos Jr.'s visit further strengthens the partnership between Canada

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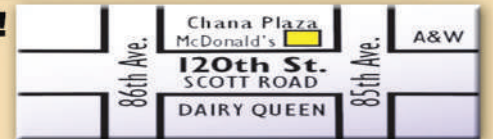
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**FILIPINO COMMUNITY FROM
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His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. - Engagement with the Filipino Community in Canada during his official visit to Canada on July 3, 2026, at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver, BC, at the invitation of Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The visit showed the strong and enduring friendship between Canada and the Philippines, which date back to 1861 when Benson Flores became the first recorded Filipino immigrant to arrive in British Columbia.

Today, nearly one million Canadians of Filipino heritage live across the country, including approximately 200,000 in British Columbia, and remain an integral part of Canada's multicultural society.

President Marcos Jr.'s visit further strengthens the partnership between Canada and the Philippines, creating opportunities for greater cooperation in areas such as trade, tourism, economic growth, and support for Filipino-Canadian communities and entrepreneurs.

The visit will further strengthen the partnership between Canada and the Philippines, creating meaningful opportunities that benefit Canadians and Filipino communities across the country while building stronger connections and advancing a future of friendship, collaboration, and shared prosperity.



Photos from Christian Cunanan/
Annette Beech, Rowena Papisin
of Bilyonaryo and Presidential
Communications Office)

Vice Ganda, Vic Sotto film among first four official entries to MMFF 2026

The Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) unveiled the first four official entries to its 52nd edition during the festival's launch at GH Mall in San Juan on Tuesday.

The initial lineup includes "2nd Miracle in Cell No. 7," "Amir," "Haunted Carnival," and "The Greatest Showdown."

Produced by Viva Films, "2nd Miracle in Cell No. 7" stars Aga Muhlach and Xia Vigor. It expands the story of the 2019 Filipino adaptation as both a prequel and a sequel. It is directed by Nuel Crisostomo Naval from a screenplay by Mel Mendoza-del Rosario.

GMA Pictures' "Amir" stars Argus Aspiras, Dennis Trillo, Will Ashley, and Glaiza de Castro under the direction of acclaimed filmmaker Zig Dulay.

Meanwhile, Regal

Entertainment's "Haunted Carnival," directed by Joey De Guzman, features an ensemble cast as led by Julia Barretto, Fyang Smith, Maricel Soriano, James Reid, and John Arcilla.

The fourth and final film announced was "The Greatest Showdown," the long-awaited comedy starring Vice Ganda and Vic Sotto.

Note the MMFF committee built anticipation for the announcement throughout the program, saving the film for last before welcoming the two stars to the stage to one of the loudest receptions of the afternoon.

Vice was all smiles, acknowledging the "Dabarkads," the collective name for the loyal fans of Vic's long-running noontime show, "Eat Bulaga," a gesture that

drew applause from the crowd.

Tuesday's announcement confirmed months of speculation that "The Greatest Showdown" would be part of this year's MMFF.

Since early this year, Vice and Vic had been teasing their first movie together, with the buildup culminating in a grand launch event last Sunday. While that event officially unveiled the project, it stopped short of confirming its inclusion in the festival lineup.

Directed by Jun Robles-Lana, "The Greatest Showdown" is a co-production among ABS-CBN Studios, Star Cinema, The IdeaFirst Company, M-Zet Productions, and APT Entertainment.

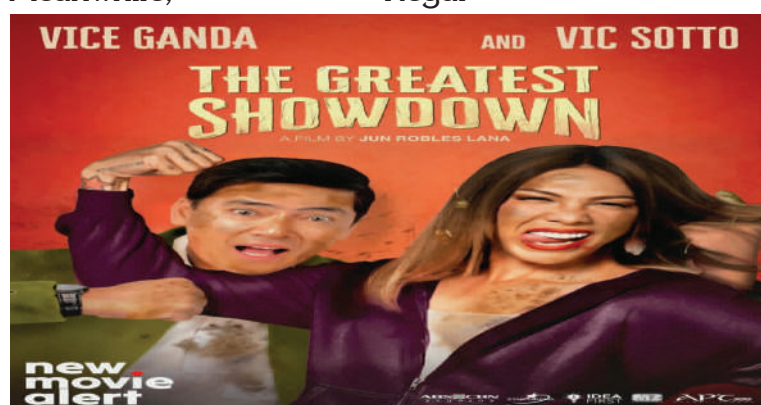
Also during the launch,

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairperson and MMFF Overall Chair Atty. Don Artes announced that cinema ticket prices during the festival will be capped at P299.

"Nagkasundo kami ng Cinema Exhibitors Association of the Pilipinas na ang presyo ng tickets sa sinehan ay hindi dapat lalagpas ng P299," Artes said.

He clarified that the price cap will only apply during the festival period and that ticket prices may still be lower in some areas.

"Ito po ay during festival period lamang, at 'yung P299 ay maximum. Pwede pa bumaba, lalo na sa mga probinsya," he added. (N. Ramos/mb.com.ph)



CONFIRMED! Vice Ganda, Vic Sotto join forces for 'The Greatest Showdown'



After exchanging hi's and hello's on their respective afternoon show, box office royalties Vice Ganda and Vic Sotto finally announced they are teaming up for the film, "The Greatest Showdown."

The pair officially unveiled the project on Sunday, July 5, at a mall event in Cubao.

During the launch, Vice and

Vice mentioned public clamor as main reason for the film collaboration.

"Sa lahat ng Dabarkads, sa lahat ng Madlang People, ito po ay para sa inyo," Vic said.

Vice couldn't hide her excitement standing on the same stage with Vic, co-host of "Eat Bulaga," rival of his noontime show "It's Showtime."

"Hindi lang ito ang una at huling beses nyo kami na makikita ngayon," Vice said. "Mapapanood nyo kaming magkasama sa isang pelikula."

Vic described their film as "hardcore comedy," something that the country badly needed.

"Alam naman natin na ang bansa dumaan na sa mga pagsubok kaya kailangan natin ngumiti. Kailangan natin gumanda ang mga awra. Kasing ganda ni Vice Ganda," Vic explained.

Directed by Jun Robles Lana, the film's official release date has yet to be revealed.

That said, many believe they would submit it to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

(C. Alcantara/mb.com.ph)



Real Moments, Real Thrills, Real Entertainment Await This July on GMA Pinoy TV

GMA Pinoy TV, the Heart of Global Pinoys, continues to deliver diverse entertainment in July. From must-watch Kapuso programs that inform and entertain to some of the finest classic and contemporary movies of Philippine cinema featuring screen legends and today's highly acclaimed actors, Global Pinoys can look forward to an exciting viewing experience.

Fresh episodes of GMA programs await viewers in July. More twists and turns are coming in the action-drama series *"The Master Cutter,"* *"Taskforce Firewall,"* and *"Kamau."* The romantic drama series *"You're My Favorite Song"* gives more kilig moments, while *"Born to Shine"* promises to deliver more inspiring and touching storylines. Also keeping Global Pinoys entertained are the Network's original game show, *"The People Have Spoken,"* and a new season of *"The Clash Teens."*

Global Pinoys can keep updated on news from home through the award-winning flagship newscast *"24 Oras"* and compelling topics on the hit magazine show *"Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho."* Further engaging audiences are *"I-Witness,"* *"Saksi,"* *"Family Feud,"* *"Fast Talk with Boy Abunda,"* *"Pepito Manaloto,"* *"BBL Gang,"* *"Magpakailanman,"* and many more.

Witness the real-life love stories of Filipinos abroad as they find and sustain love across cultures in *"Finding Mahal: A Global Pinoy's Love Story."* This GMA Pinoy TV original series shares heartfelt stories of Global Pinoys who have found love beyond borders and built meaningful relationships despite differences in culture, distance, and tradition.

GMA Pinoy TV also presents real excitement and more cinematic offerings in July. *"FPJ sa GMA"* gives passionate fans and new audiences classic movies starring the King of Philippine Movies, Fernando Poe Jr.: *"Ang Padrino,"* an action-drama co-starring Coney Reyes (July 5); and *"Ang Leon at Ang Daga,"* a comedy with Dencio Padilla and Niño Muhlach (July 12).

Also keeping audiences at the edge of their seats are GMA Pinoy TV's action-packed Sunday films: *"A Hard Day"* and *"Manila Kingpin: The Asiong Salonga Story."*

"A Hard Day" stars Dingdong Dantes and John Arcilla in the Philippine adaptation of the South Korean action-thriller of the same title. Dantes and Arcilla play law enforcement officers tangled in a web of corruption, secrets, blackmail, and murder. Watch how every choice made leads to further consequences on July 19.

Audiences get a glimpse of history in the biopic *"Manila Kingpin: The Asiong Salonga Story."* Starring E.R. Ejercito, Carla Abellana, and Philip Salvador, it is the fourth movie adaptation of the life and times of notorious Tondo gang leader Nicasio "Asiong" Salonga. See how a life of crime unfolds on July 26.

Coming soon on GMA Pinoy TV this July is the *"Seafarer Social Summit 2026"* interstitial, highlighting the network's participation in the landmark gathering of 750 active Filipino mariners celebrating the country's rich maritime heritage. The special also features renowned broadcast journalist Susan Enriquez and television personality Kuya Kim Atienza, who served as moderators for select panel discussions that explored key issues, opportunities, and the future of the maritime industry.

GMA Pinoy TV delivers original digital content through its podcast, *"GMA Pinoy TV Podcast."* The latest episode features BGYO JL Toreliza, who shares his musical journey from a hopeful contestant in GMA Network's *The Clash* and now as a returning member of the Clash Panel in the latest season of *The Clash Teens*.

From compelling dramas, exciting game shows, and trusted news programs to timeless Filipino films and inspiring original digital content, GMA Pinoy TV continues to bring Global Pinoys closer to the stories, personalities, and moments that matter most. As the Heart of Global Pinoys, GMA Pinoy TV remains committed

to delivering meaningful entertainment and authentic Filipino stories that inform, inspire, and connect audiences around the world to home and to one another.

To subscribe to GMA Pinoy TV, visit GMA Pinoy TV Subscription Page.

For more program highlights, behind-the-scenes content, and the latest GMA Pinoy TV updates, follow @gmapinoytv on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and X.



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THIS JULY

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Jericho Rosales, Maris Racal bag top acting awards at the 9th EDDYs



The 9th Edition of the Entertainment Editors' Choice Awards, or The Eddys, celebrated another year of cinematic excellence at the Ceremonial Hall of the Marriott Grand Ballroom, Newport World Resorts in Pasay City on July 5.

Jerrold Tarog's "Quezon," last of his trilogy of so-called Bayani-verse films, dominated the event, winning five golden scroll.

Tarog himself won best director for the same.

Lead star Jericho Rosales also bagged the Best Actor trophy, while the film itself scored trophies for Best Screenplay and Best Production Design.

Jericho dedicated his win to his family and the team behind "Quezon."

"My mother is not watching this because she has Alzheimer's, and I don't know why I want to say this, but this is for you, mama. I love you so much. For my family, when situations get so tough, I want to let you know that you guys are my greatest mission. Nag-artista ako dahil sa inyo," Jericho said.

Taking home the Best Actress award is Maris Racal for her exemplary performance in "Sunshine."

Maris couldn't help but feel emotional about it and spilled into her speech.

"Sunshine is a girl who had so much promise, who had big, big dreams, who had such a bright future—pero nadapa, nagkamali. This feels so familiar to me. I know the feeling of losing everything. Matatanong

mo sa sarili mo if titigil mo na lang ba. Burado na ba sarili mo—pero hindi. Sa story ni Sunshine pinili niya mabuhay mga pangarap niya. This award is for all the Sunshines in this world. Sa lahat ng mga kababaihan, sa karapatan natin piliin sarili natin. Sa lahat ng nadapa, bangon lang," Maris said.

Meanwhile, Rochelle Pangilinan won Best Supporting Actress for "Child No. 82," as Will Ashley, and Rico Blanco tied for Best Supporting Actor.

Several Kapamilya stars received special recognitions during the ceremony. Among those honored as Box Office Heroes were Vice Ganda, Maricel Soriano, Joshua Garcia, Richard Gutierrez, Kim Chiu, and Paulo Avelino, while Donny Pangilinan was presented with the Isah V. Red Award.

The complete list of winners at the 9th EDDYS:

- Best Picture - "Quezon"
- Best Actor - Jericho Rosales ("Quezon")
- Best Actress - Maris Racal ("Sunshine")
- Best Director - Jerrold Tarog ("Quezon")
- Best Supporting Actor - Will Ashley ("Bar Boys: After School") and Rico Blanco ("Manila's Finest")
- Best Supporting Actress - Rochelle Pangilinan ("Child No. 82: Anak ni Boy Kana")
- Best Screenplay - Jerrold Tarog and Rody Vera ("Quezon")

- Best Cinematography - Moises M.M. See ("Salvageland")
- Best Production Design - Monica Sebial ("Quezon")
- Best Editing - Benjamin Gonzales Tolentino ("Sunshine")
- Best Sound - Roy Santos and Neil Diokno ("Manila's Finest")
- Best Musical Score - Frederik Sandoval and Emerson Tecson ("Manila's Finest")
- Best Theme Song - ("Sandalan" ("Manila's Finest"))

- Best Visual Effects - Bien Michael Caralian, Vincent Cheng, Jimmy dela Cruz, Santelmo Sudio ("Shake, Rattle & Roll: Evil Origins")
- Eddys Movie Icons - John Arcilla, Edgar Mortiz, Rio Locsin, and Janice De Belen
- Joe Quirino Awardee - Joven Tan
- Isah V. Red Awardees - Donny Pangilinan and Chaye Cabal Revilla
- Manny Pichel Awardee - Lhar Santiago

(C. Alcantara/ mb.com.ph)



Photo: This years winners at The Eddys headed by Jericho Rosales (Best Actor); Maris Racal (Best Actress) and Jerrold Tarog (Best Director) (Photo by: Jefferson Fernando)

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Philippine Airlines Expands North America Services with Additional Flights to Vancouver, Toronto and New York



MANILA, Philippines — Philippine Airlines (PAL) is expanding its North American network with additional nonstop flights to Vancouver, Toronto and New York, providing customers with more travel options while strengthening connectivity between the Philippines, Canada, the United States and Southeast Asia.

Beginning November and December 2026, PAL will:

- Increase Manila–Vancouver services from 7 to 10 weekly flights effective November 17, 2026;
- Increase Manila–Toronto services from 3 to 4 weekly flights effective December 5, 2026; and
- Increase Manila–New York (JFK) services from 3 to 4 weekly flights effective December 2, 2026, with a fifth weekly flight during the peak December 2026–January 2027 holiday travel season.

The expanded services further strengthen Philippine Airlines' leadership in the Philippines–North America market and reinforce its position as the leading Southeast Asian carrier operating the most nonstop flights between the region and North America.

"North America continues to be one of Philippine Airlines' most important markets," said Richard Nuttall, President of Philippine Airlines. "As travel demand grows, these additional flights strengthen our position as the preferred nonstop carrier between the Philippines and North America whilst providing

our customers with greater choice, improved connectivity, and more opportunities to travel, do business, and reconnect with family and loved ones. As the Philippine flag carrier, we remain committed to supporting tourism, trade and economic ties between the Philippines and our key North American markets."

The additional North America frequencies will improve connectivity via Manila to key destinations across Southeast Asia, including Jakarta, Bali, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi. Through PAL's partnerships with American Airlines, Alaska Airlines and WestJet, customers will also enjoy seamless onward connections to numerous destinations across the United States and Canada.

The expanded schedule will likewise provide additional cargo capacity to support growing trade, e-commerce and high-value shipments between the Philippines and North America.

Additional Toronto and New York services will initially be operated by the Airbus A350-900 before transitioning to PAL's new Airbus A350-1000 as additional aircraft join the fleet. The A350-1000 will also begin serving San Francisco beginning August 2026, offering more premium seating and further strengthening PAL's competitiveness on the U.S. West Coast.

The expanded North American schedule and the commencement of 3x per week Manila to Chicago flights beginning November 9, 2026 form part of Philippine Airlines' long-term network growth strategy, strengthening Manila's role as a premier gateway



between North America and Southeast Asia while supporting tourism, business, investment and cargo opportunities across the Pacific.

About Philippine Airlines

Philippine Airlines (PAL) is the Philippines' flag carrier and the country's only full-service network airline. Founded in 1941, PAL is Asia's first commercial airline and has played a vital role in connecting the Philippines to the world for

over 85 years.

PAL operates scheduled nonstop flights from its hubs in Manila and Cebu to 29 destinations across the Philippines and 40 destinations in Asia, North America, Australia, and the Middle East.

PAL is an APEX Four Star™ airline and was recognized by Cirium for achieving the highest on-time performance among Asia-Pacific carriers in 2025.

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Lea Salonga to be honored as icon at the 2026 Metro Manila International Film Festival



The Metro Manila International Film Festival will honor Lea Salonga with the Icon Award during its closing night gala on Sept. 6 at the Beverly Hilton in

Beverly Hills, California.

Lisa Lew, Executive Producer of the MIFF, said in a statement:

“From sweeping major theater awards to voicing classic Disney heroines and starring on screens across both the U.S. and the Philippines, she is the ultimate ambassador for Filipino excellence. The Manila International Film Festival is proud to champion Lea’s achievements through our Hollywood Walk of Fame nomination, and we look forward to celebrating her legacy with our Icon Award at the Closing Night Gala.”

It was also the MIFF that nominated Lea for the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

She is now set to become the first Filipino born and raised in the Philippines to receive a star on the

historic site.

In a previous interview, Lea admitted the idea still feels surreal for her.

“I still don’t believe that it happened. At first, I thought somebody was pranking me, kasi it’s something that I didn’t expect, that I would get kasi most of my work is in New York and Manila because I’m not exactly a Hollywood person. But I’m happy that it’s going to happen,” she said.

Other artists with Filipino roots who have received a star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame: Bruno Mars (2016), apl.de.ap (2016), and Rob Schneider (2011).

LJ Moreno misses showbiz, returns to Philippines with family after 6 years

MANILA, Philippines — Actress LJ Moreno admitted that she missed the world of showbiz after six years of living in America.

LJ has returned to the Philippines with her husband, basketball coach Jimmy Alapag, and their four children, Ian, Keona, Calen Asher, and Cayson Amory.

In an interview in “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda,” LJ shared that living abroad is not easy, and that she has been missing acting and hosting for a long time.

“Gusto ko. Like, being in the States, sabi ko, parang sobrang napagod ako sa States. And the last year or so, parang sabi ko, ‘na-miss ko nang mag-actor or mag-host,’ you know what I mean?” she said.

“Getting made up again, not being in a hoodie, no more kuskos-kubeta and all that,” she added.

LJ said that she had been praying about her return to the Philippines while supporting Jimmy in his work as an NBA coach.

“It’s been six years and matagal ko nang pinagpepray. Although I’m very happy with his career and all that stuff. But no place like home talaga,” LJ said.

Jimmy and LJ returned to the country after the former Gilas player was hired as the head coach of the NLEX Road Warriors in the PBA. Jimmy previously worked as the player development coach of the Sacramento Kings in the NBA.

“To be honest, Tito Boy, it just felt like the right time. And not just for myself, for my career, but I think more importantly for our family,” Jimmy said.

“As you can see, ‘yung asawa ko is extremely happy. And even for the kids, kasi medyo mabigat when you’re traveling

throughout the NBA season,” LJ added. (J.M. Severo/Philstar)



Celebrity couple LJ Moreno and Jimmy Alapag with their children. LJ Moreno via Instagram

Anjo Yllana questions P3.5 million in damages sought by TVJ

Former “Eat Bulaga” host Anjo Yllana has finally broken his silence on the case filed against him by TVJ Productions.

The case stemmed from Anjo’s TikTok livestream last year, in which he alleged that a “syndicate” was operating within the show.

Anjo declared, “Hindi ako takot sa TVJ. May sindikato sa Eat Bulaga.”

Last June 29, the court ordered Anjo to pay P3.5 million in damages to TVJ Productions.

In its decision, the court ruled that Anjo’s statements had damaged the reputation of the noontime show and its hosts.

In an interview with “Ogie Diaz Inspires,” Anjo said the



P3.5 million in damages being sought by TVJ was too much.

“Masyadong mabigat kaya nga mag-a-appeal ako,” Anjo said.

“Pakiramdam ko kasi, may pinatay ba ako? Meron ba akong ninakaw? Meron ba akong nilapastangan?” Anjo

added.

According to the former “Eat Bulaga” host, he was only expressing what he felt, and things eventually escalated.

“Hindi nga ako nagmura eh. Naglabas lang ako ng emotions. So baka too harsh, masyadong mabigat yung parusa. Mag-uusap ulit kami ng abogado ko, hopefully makapag-appeal sa upper courts,” he added.

“Although sabi nila damages sa kumpanya. So ibig sabihin, kapag sinabi mong damage sa kumpanya, nalugi sila. Hindi naman nalulugi ang TVJ, so may ganoon akong gustong iklaro sa upper courts,” he concluded. (C. Alcantara/mb.com.ph/ Photo from Bandera.com)

Billy Crawford wins ‘Mask Singer France’ Season 9

MANILA, Philippines — Singer and television host Billy Crawford added another milestone to his growing career in France after winning the ninth season of “Mask Singer France.”

Crawford was revealed as the celebrity behind “L’Âne” (The Donkey) during the season finale held June 27 in France (June 28 in the Philippines), capping weeks of performances that impressed both the judges and viewers.

For his final performance, Crawford delivered Michael Jackson’s “Beat It,” helping secure the championship over fellow finalist Carla Lazzari, who competed under the costume “Le Poussin.”

During the competition, Crawford showcased his versatility by performing songs in both English and French. His repertoire included the Black Eyed Peas’ “Let’s Get It Started,” Luis Fonsi’s “Despacito,” James Brown’s “I Got You (I Feel Good),” Mark Ronson’s “Uptown Funk,” and Calogero’s “Le Portrait.”

After the finale, Crawford shared a heartfelt message on Instagram, thanking the show’s production team, viewers and his family for their support.



Billy Crawford revealed as the celebrity behind “L’Âne” (The Donkey) during the season finale. PHOTO FROM INSTAGRAM/ BILLYCRAWFORD

“This was an absolutely amazing experience! Thank you to my Mask Singer TF1

family for keeping me a secret for a whole month! Thank you to the costume designers for your incredible patience and

for the countless adjustments you made along the way,” he said.

“To everyone who voted for me, thank you from the bottom of my heart. L’Âne was a very special character to me because I chose it with my son Amari in mind. I figured if he loved it, everyone else would too! Most of all, thank You, Lord God, for giving me the courage, strength, and opportunity to compete—and on top of that, to win!” he added.

Crawford said the donkey character held special meaning because it reminded him of his son, Amari, and became a source of inspiration throughout the competition.

The latest victory marks another significant achievement in Crawford’s flourishing career in France. In 2022, he won “Danse avec les stars,” the French adaptation of “Dancing with the Stars,” where he and professional dance partner Fauve Hautot claimed the Season 12 title.

His participation in “Mask Singer France” also marked a full-circle moment. From 2020 to 2025, Crawford hosted three seasons of “Masked Singer Pilipinas.” (Iglesias / Manila Times)

Vice Ganda urges UP grads to champion truth, integrity, social change

MANILA, Philippines — Host Vice Ganda delivered a candid and socially charged commencement address before graduates of the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Media and Communication (UP CMC), urging the Class of 2026 to become communicators who champion truth, reject corruption, and use their platforms responsibly.

Serving as the college's guest speaker during its recognition rites, Vice reminded graduates that earning a degree from the country's premier state university comes with greater responsibility.

"Much is expected of you because you are the product of the country's premier university. You are expected to spark change, not chaos. You are expected to share your education, not disinformation," Vice said.

The television personality challenged the graduates to uphold ethical journalism and communication, saying they should never become instruments of corruption, deception, or manipulation of public opinion.

"Hindi kayo ang magsisimula ng korapsyon. Hindi kayo ang maghahasik ng kasinungalingan. Hindi kayo ang magliligaw at magmamaniplula ng opinyon ng publiko. Hindi kayo ang magpapasimuno ng impunidad," the speaker said, drawing applause from the audience.

Vice Ganda also reflected on a difficult childhood marked by poverty, sharing how those experiences became a driving force behind a successful career in entertainment.

"In my case, these experiences



Vice Ganda delivers his commencement speech in front of the University of the Philippines-Diliman College of Media and Communication (UP CMC) Class of 2026 on July 5, 2026. Vice Ganda via Facebook

did not break me. It started a spark inside of me. These experiences made me realize that I did not want to be poor," Vice said.

The comedian recalled making a personal commitment to change the course of life through determination and hard work.

"So I decided I would not continue to be poor. I know I needed to stand up, to step up, to hustle, to work very hard. Hindi ako sigurado kung saan at kung paano, pero kailangan kong magsimula."

While emphasizing the value of perseverance, Vice acknowledged that hard work alone is often not enough for many Filipinos because of systemic challenges.

out that many hardworking Filipinos continue to struggle with rising living costs and low wages.

"Napakapalad ko dahil ang kasipagan ko ay dinikitan ng suwerte. Maraming Pilipino ang mahusay ngunit hindi makausad dahil mas malaki pa ang gastos kaysa sa suweldo."

Toward the end of the address, Vice reflected on the role of media professionals amid disinformation, political controversies, and the closure of ABS-CBN's free-to-air broadcast operations, saying the experience deepened the understanding of the responsibility that comes with having a public platform.

"Sa gitna ng ingay at kaguluhan... doon ko higit na naunawaan na ang aking saysay ay higit pa sa pagpapatawa, sapagkat ang aking mikropono na hawak ng aking kamay ay ang aking kapangyarihan," he said.

Vice Ganda concluded by reminding the graduates that influence carries accountability.

"At kaakibat nito ang pananagutan ko sa aking mga taga-subaybay, ang tamang paggamit sa aking boses at plataporma." (J.M. Severo/Philstar)

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Opinion | The Marcoleta Case Is About More Than One Senator—It Is a Test of the Rule of Law

Every democracy eventually confronts a question that extends beyond the guilt or innocence of any single public official: Can citizens trust that the justice system operates independently of politics?

July 6 - The plunder charges filed against Senator Rodante Marcoleta have become such a test for the Philippines. Regardless of how the courts ultimately rule, the case has already prompted an important public debate about prosecutorial discretion, legal consistency and confidence in democratic institutions.

That debate deserves careful examination.

There should be no ambiguity about one principle. Corruption must be investigated wherever credible evidence exists. Public office is a public trust, and officials who abuse that trust should be held accountable through fair and impartial legal processes. The fight against corruption remains essential to strengthening Philippine democracy.

Equally important, however, is another constitutional principle: the extraordinary powers of criminal prosecution must never create the appearance of being used selectively. Justice must not only be done; it must be seen to be done.

The charges against Senator Marcoleta stem from allegations that approximately ₱75 million in campaign contributions during the 2025 election were not properly declared. Prosecutors argue that these transactions constitute the basis for a non-bailable plunder charge. Marcoleta rejects the allegations, describing them as politically motivated and intended to silence one of the Senate's most outspoken critics of alleged government corruption.

His claim remains an allegation, not an established fact. The courts alone will determine whether the prosecution has met the legal threshold required for conviction.

Even so, the case raises broader questions that extend beyond one politician.

One point attracting significant attention is the apparent



divergence between election law and criminal law. Reports indicate that the Commission on Elections had already concluded that the failure to declare campaign donations is no longer prosecuted as a criminal offence under current election legislation after the repeal of the relevant penal provision. The Office of the Ombudsman, however, has advanced a different legal argument—that the same private donations may constitute “ill-gotten wealth” under the Plunder Law.

Whether that legal interpretation withstands judicial scrutiny remains to be seen. Courts routinely confront novel legal arguments, and evolving jurisprudence is neither unusual nor inherently improper.

The concern lies elsewhere.

When a legal interpretation appears unprecedented and carries exceptionally severe consequences—including a non-bailable offence against a sitting senator—the burden on prosecutors to demonstrate consistency and legal clarity becomes correspondingly higher. In constitutional democracies, public confidence depends as much on the transparency and predictability of legal reasoning as on the outcome of individual cases.

The timing of the prosecution has further intensified public scrutiny.

Before the charges were filed, Senator Marcoleta chaired Senate hearings examining alleged irregularities involving flood-control projects and national budget allocations. Those investigations heard testimony implicating current and former legislators, executive

officials, contractors and engineers in alleged anomalies. It bears emphasizing that many individuals named during those proceedings have denied wrongdoing and remain entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty in court.

Nonetheless, the sequence of events has prompted questions that cannot simply be dismissed as partisan speculation. When a politician leading investigations into alleged corruption subsequently faces serious criminal charges, citizens will naturally ask whether the two developments are entirely unrelated. The existence of such questions does not establish political interference, but neither should they be ignored.

Democratic institutions derive their legitimacy not only from acting independently but also from maintaining public confidence in their independence.

This broader concern has been reflected in public reaction.

Large numbers of members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo participated in peaceful demonstrations expressing concern over what they perceived as unequal application of justice. Regardless of one's view of the senator or the legal case itself, peaceful assembly remains a protected democratic right. More importantly, the demonstrations illustrate that the issue has resonated beyond partisan politics and entered a wider conversation about institutional trust.

Public confidence is difficult to measure but easy to lose.

Political commentator Rigoberto Tiglao has argued that the prosecution represents an expansive interpretation of the Plunder Law and risks transforming campaign finance disputes into criminal allegations originally intended to address officials who unlawfully enriched themselves through public office. His conclusion is contested, and readers are free to disagree with his analysis. Opinion columns are not judicial decisions.

Yet his broader observation deserves consideration: laws intended to strengthen accountability should be applied in ways that preserve

predictability, equal treatment and public confidence in legal institutions.

This principle extends beyond the present controversy.

History offers numerous examples of democracies struggling to distinguish legitimate anticorruption prosecutions from politically consequential ones. In every jurisdiction, the challenge is the same. Governments must demonstrate not only that prosecutions are legally justified but that comparable conduct is addressed consistently, irrespective of political affiliation, popularity or institutional influence.

That standard protects both the accused and the integrity of the justice system itself.

None of this suggests that Senator Marcoleta should receive special treatment. Nor should any public official be shielded from investigation because of political prominence or public support. The opposite is true. If evidence establishes criminal liability, accountability should follow through due process. If the evidence proves insufficient, dismissal should be accepted with equal respect for the judicial process.

The credibility of democratic institutions depends on accepting both possibilities.

The Marcoleta case therefore represents more than the legal future of one senator. It has become an opportunity for Philippine institutions to demonstrate that justice is administered consistently, transparently and without political favour.

The courts will determine the legal merits of the charges.

The public, however, will judge something equally important: whether the institutions entrusted with enforcing the law continue to deserve the confidence upon which every constitutional democracy ultimately depends. (Photo from commons.wikipedia.com)

Opinion by TS de Jesus
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Keeping the faith: Filipinos are most religious people in Canada

By Carlito Pablo

When the going gets tough, Filipinos most often turn to their faith for solace.

Through generations, faith has sustained Filipinos through hardships and adversity.

The Philippines is known as one of the most religious countries in the world, and it's no wonder that Filipinos abroad have kept the faith.

In Canada, Filipinos have the highest rate of religious affiliation, making them the most religious people in The Great White North.

A Statistics Canada study states that nine in 10 Filipinos report a religious affiliation.

"The concept of religious affiliation refers to a person's self-identified connection to or affiliation with any religious denomination, group, body, or other religiously defined community or system of belief. It is not limited to formal membership in a religious organization," the paper explained.

The study noted that based on the 2021 Census, 94.3 percent of Filipinos reported a religious affiliation.

In comparison, the rate of religious affiliation for the total population in Canada was 65.4 percent; 72.5 percent in other racialized groups; and 62.7 percent in the non-racialized, non-Indigenous population.

The paper also noted that Filipinos who reported having no religion or having secular perspectives made up a small proportion at 5.7 percent.

The said rate of Filipinos having no religion is much lower compared with over one-third of the non-racialized, non-Indigenous population (37.3



Honour guard by the Knights of Columbus at the June 6, 2026 Eucharistic procession in Vancouver by the St. Mary's church, where most parishioners are Filipinos. Photo from St. Mary's parish social media.

percent), and about one-fourth of other racialized groups (27.5 percent).

The study is titled "Portrait of the Filipino Populations in Canada: A Sociodemographic and Socioeconomic Analysis".

Written by analyst Sajjad Taghizadeh Imani, the comprehensive report was released by Statistics Canada on June 2, 2026.

Interestingly, Filipinos in Canada identify with many religious strains.

The study noted that in 2021, Filipinos reported more than 50 distinct religious affiliations.

Not surprisingly, Filipinos in Canada are predominantly Roman Catholic.

current religious affiliations among Filipino populations, both in the Philippines and in diasporic communities such as those in Canada," the paper explained.

The Roman Catholic affiliation of Filipinos in Canada largely mirrors that in the Philippines, the bastion of Catholicism in Asia.

A report by the Philippine Statistics Authority on February 22, 2023 noted that Roman Catholics account for 78.8 percent of the household population.

Of the 108,667,043 household population in 2020, nearly four fifths or 85,645,362 persons (78.8 percent) reported being Roman Catholics, according to the PSA report titled "Religious Affiliation in the Philippines (2020 Census of Population and Housing)".

Roman Catholicism was followed by Islam with 6,981,710 persons (6.4 percent), and Iglesia ni Cristo

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with 2,806,524 persons (2.6 percent).

"In 2015, these were also the top three religious affiliations in the country," the PSA report noted.

Completing the top ten religious affiliations in 2020 in the Philippines are Seventh Day Adventist, and Aglipay (0.8 percent each); Iglesia Filipina Independiente (0.6 percent); Bible Baptist Church (0.5 percent); and United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Jehovah's Witness, and Church of Christ (0.4 percent each).

The June 2, 2026 report by Statistics Canada revealed that religion is becoming

less relevant to new generations in Canada.

"While Catholicism remained the most significant denomination regardless of generation status, the proportion of people reporting this affiliation decreased across generations, from 74.1% in the first generation to 52.7% in the third generation or more," the study noted.

Meanwhile, the paper continued, the proportion of those who reported having no religion or having secular perspectives increased from 3.3 percent in the first generation to 32.6 percent in the third generation or more.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN & APPLE PLATA



The officers of the Circulo Pampagueño Association gathered on July 5, 2026, at the TELUS Residential amenity room in downtown Vancouver for their regular officers' meeting. The meeting was followed by a fun BBQ celebration in honor of Joan Belen's birthday, where everyone enjoyed delicious food, good company, and warm fellowship.

Attendees were Edith, Jo Ann, Luz, Noel, Rey, Christian, Gina, Alya, Yoli, Arcie, and Raymon. And at the Birthday BBQ Party - Joan's family and

closest friends.

The meeting reviewed the association's financial report, fundraising results, current bank position, scholarship disbursements, and outstanding tuition commitments. Officers also discussed improvements to the scholarship selection process, and guidelines to help scholars remain in good standing.

The meeting concluded with a BBQ party to celebrate Jo Ann's birthday, where everyone enjoyed delicious food, warm fellowship, and great company

Circulo Pampagueño Association Officers' Meeting and Joan Belen's Birthday Celebration



BAPTISMAL and 1st BIRTHDAY Celebration - HONORING Van Jacob Gibz

With grateful hearts, parents Revelyn and Gilbert invited their family, ninongs and ninangs, relatives, and friends to celebrate the Baptism and First Birthday of their son, Van Jacob Gibz, on July 4, 2026. The Baptism was held at St. Jude Parish & Shrine, followed by the reception at Norquay Park in Vancouver, where loved ones gathered to share this special occasion.

The family expressed their appreciation to everyone who joined them in making the celebration memorable.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." — Matthew 19:14



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Regine Velasquez asks fans to leave free concert seats for those who have never seen her live

Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez has a message for her fans as she prepares to stage her final solo concert in October.

The singer opened up on Monday, July 6, about feeling "excited, nervous, and anxious" for her upcoming concert, "FINALE," which will be held on October 17 and 18 at the SM Mall of Asia Arena.

The concert will be the last large-scale solo show of her career, although she clarified that she is not retiring from show business.

It also marks Regine's 40th anniversary in the entertainment industry.

"I am thankful to my sister Cacai kasi siya talaga ang nag-isip nito, and actually, siya ang producer ng concert na 'to, not me. Gusto niya na sa last concert ko, maka-pagpasalamat kami sa inyong lahat," Regine said, referring to her sister Cacai Mitra.

"Siya ang naghananap ng mga tutulong samin para kahit

papano, matulungan kami sa sa cost. As you all know, ang mahal produce ng concert ngayon," she added.

"Ang pakiusap lang namin sana sa mga nakakaluwag, ibigay na natin 'yung free night dun sa mga hindi talaga makabili ng tickets. Para naman sa mga nangarap mapanood ako live, mabigyan sila ng pagkakataon makita ako. Maraming salamat sa 40 years, love you, guys," Regine said.

The first night of Regine's concert will be a paid show, while the second night will be free for fans who have yet to see her perform live due to financial constraints.

Registration for free tickets will open on July 30 at 6 p.m.

Further details will be announced by her management, iMusic Entertainment, through its Instagram account.

Regine has been in the entertainment industry since 1986 and is known for her powerful vocal range.

She is widely regarded as



Regine Velasquez in this photo posted on the Instagram of TEAMRAINXEM on May 17, 2026 (teamrainxem via Instagram)

one of the country's most influential Filipino artists, with singers such as Morissette, KZ Tandingan and Yeng Constantino citing her as an influence.

Regine has reportedly sold more than seven million records in the Philippines and another 1.5 million across Asia. (J. Malasig/Interaskyon)



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March 29, 2026
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Class A: Art Makalintal
Class B : Justin Panganiban

KP Winners:
Hole # 2 : Butch Cusi
Hole # 4 : Marlon Pasatiempo
Hole # 9 : Ron Santos
Hole # 13 : Butch Cusi
Hole # 15 : Ron Santos
Hole # 17 : Summesh Putra



Surrey Golf Course
April 11, 2026
Champion :
Class A: Ron Santos
Class B : Karlo Avenido

KP Winners:
Hole # 3: Ron Santos
Hole # 6 : Ron Santos
Hole # 13 : Will Ugalde
Hole # 16 : Wilson Canupin



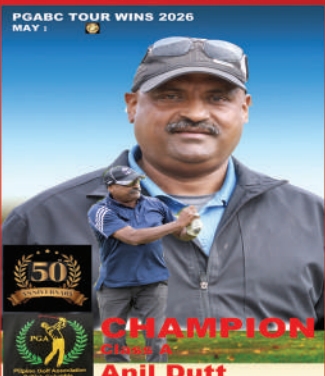
Kings Links Golf Course
April 18, 2026
Champion :
Class A: Lito Razon
Class B : Danny Aganon

KP Winners:
Hole # 4 : Edwin Soriano
Hole # 5 : Saleem Bhamji
Hole # 13 : Ato Cusi
Hole # 15 : Edwin Soriano



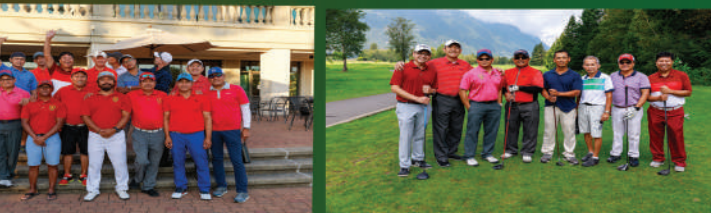
Point Roberts Golf Course
April 26, 2026
Champion :
Class A: Art Cordero
Class B : Marlon Pasatiempo

KP Winners:
Hole # 3 : Will Ugalde
Hole # 6 : Nomer Razon
Hole # 11 : Niel Cerio
Hole # 17 : Wilson Canupin



Golden Eagle North Golf Course
May 02, 2026
Champion :
Class A: Anil Dutt
Class B : Weng Yapyuco

KP Winners:
Hole # 4 : Tim Blacquier
Hole # 6 : Saleem Bhamji
Hole # 14 : Jessie Castillo
Hole # 17 : Anil Dutt



The Hills at Portal Golf Course
May 10, 2026
Champion :
Class A: Neil Cerio
Class B : Jomel Trinidad

KP Winners:
Hole # 4 : Clint Angala
Hole # 7 : Sonny Bernales
Hole # 24 : Jessie Castillo
Hole # 15 : Rollie Ugalde



AT THE MOVIES By Robert Waldman

Total Impact!

Now and then filmmakers get the name for a movie right. Just like the title suggests Pressure is a movie that simply put is about pressure - the worst kind. When decisions about life and death are on the line the best judgment matters - and counts. When the going gets tough the tough get going and Focus Films delivers a wonderful film now showing at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres around B.C.

Take a look outside your front door or window. Snags the first thing you notice? The weather. Odd as it may be sound the entire focus of Pressure relates to, not surprisingly, the weather. When planning a battle there's no such thing as a sure thing and when lives are on the line nothing can be taken for granted - especially the weather. So it's up to the highest echelons of the U.S. army to decide should they stay or should they go in this nail biter of a thriller.

Based on the hit London play our story focuses on the decision being contemplated by U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower as to when to launch the Invasion of Normandy and Europe in what was to become

known as D-Day. Former comedian Brendan Fraser (The Mummy) delivers a compelling performance full of emotion and rage as he must weigh rather heavily the date of the attack.

To help him decide when to launch the attack Ike must rely on the advice of two weathermen with totally distinct personalities and viewpoints. As if Eisenhower doesn't have enough on his plate he has to "referee" the competing views expressed by fellow countryman Irving Knick and Scottish transplant Dr. James Stagg. Together Chris Messina and Andrew Scott (SPECTRE) look like prizefighters out to win over Ike to their way of thinking. You just have

to be in the room to see the split and tension between these two scientists who give compelling evidence to bolster their choice of day to start the invasion.

In an Oscar bound performance Scott is sensational as the Academic who tries to win Ike over and in The process he will win you over too with his reasoned approach to make his case

Both history buffs, armchair generals and people wanting to watch tremendous acting will find Pressure to be immensely appealing,

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.

This Ordinary Thing (PG) *****

Running Time: 1h 2m

Brave New World!

Words can not describe the meaning conveyed through This Ordinary Thing. To be fair there is nothing remotely "ordinary" from the righteous deeds done by the brave souls depicted in this heart-wrenching documentary. Extraordinary were the actions taken by the interviewees who put their own lives (and those of their families) on the line when

they helped save the defenseless. Hear just how these people saved hundreds of men, women, and children from certain death. A must see movie for children, adults and dare I say educators and so-called politicians This Ordinary Thing can now be found on streaming services across Canada. Contact your cable company or internet provider to watch this historic story unfold thanks to EGPR.

They say history has a way of repeating itself. And how. Timing is everything. As Canada and the

world is now seeing the scourge of anti-semitism explode largely due to misguided left leaning lunatics and crazed terrorist supporters how enlightening it is to see just what a real genocide looks like and not a fictionalized trumped up version. All the horrors of what a real Holocaust looks like comes through loud and clear in this historically accurate depiction faithfully and truthfully recounted in This Ordinary Thing.

Holocaust movies are not new.

What makes This Ordinary Thing so extraordinary is that it tells the stories of many gentiles who went out of their way to save innocent Jews from Hitler's killing machine in Germany and throughout Europe. Voiced by actors we get to see and hear the words of the brave men and women still alive who reveal how they saved Jewish families while most in their cities and countries simply followed the orders of the Nazis as they too control.

Chilling and emotional yet must see viewing acclaimed director

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Ol' Man River

SPORTS

IT has ended, yes, but that does not mean it's the end of it.

It will go on and on and on, like a river flowing unstopably into the sea; the continuing journey, saga, of our dear Alex Eala is just around the bend.

We cried after seeing Alex Eala lose to Jasmine Paolini 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on Monday night, PH time.

That's natural. We are human. We feel pain.

You stay stoic, that's being robotic, if not downright humanoid.

But there's no fretting after the crying.

Turbulence happens.

Consider it like spilled milk: No use crying over it.

Move on has always been the politically correct approach in times of trouble.

Alex Eala wasn't even mired in trouble.

Before losing to Paolini, the wily 30-year-old Italian, Eala showed a tremendous amount of tennis dexterity that endlessly earned the

adulation of a snooty Wimbledon crowd that applauds only once in a decade.

Each of Eala's three wins before her face off with Paolini was a courageous caricature of how to win with pride anchored on a big heart and a mental toughness rarely seen from a 21-year-old warrior.

First, Eala dispatched Mexican Renata Zarazua 6-1, 6-2 faster than Heart Evangelista could change wardrobe.

That was Eala's first win in the 139th edition of Wimbledon, widely considered as the fulcrum of global tennis.

Second, Eala etched a stunning 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 come-from-behind win over rising Australian star Maya Joint.

Eala's love-set win in the final frame to clinch the match was a totally embarrassing moment in the young career of the 20-year-old Joint, who humbled seven-time Wimbledon champion Serena Williams before she battled Eala.

In a Grand Slam, it is almost improbable for anyone to lose a set without a won-game—and Joint will have to live with that shameful

6-0 loss to Eala for the rest of her life.

And then in her third match, Eala scored that incredible 7-6(11-9), 6-2 win over Iga Swiatek that sent shock waves worldwide as though an 8.1 magnitude earthquake had hit the Galapagos Islands.

It was a victory to end all victories for Eala, who cried and cried and cried, unabashedly shedding tears of joy in front of a jam-packed audience at Wimbledon's sacred Centre Court—the only sporting arena in the world that reserves seats for British royalty.

During the post-game interview, the way Eala responded to questions felt like she had already won the Venus Rosewater Dish, the sterling silver salver first awarded to the women's champion in the 1886 tournament.

And why not?

In beating Swiatek, Eala did not only become the first Filipino to enter Wimbledon's fourth round, she also became the first Filipino to defeat the tournament's defending champion.

If you ask me, to dethrone the champion would already feel like I had won the crown itself. So fret not, my dear fellas.

Eala may have lost her fourth round match to Paolini (Alex wasn't 100 percent healthy, I tell you, as she had a heavily-bandaged thigh and her swinging left arm was also wrapped in white sheet), but overall, she was like the true winner—if not the champion.

As the saying goes, you win some, you lose some. And, definitely, one loss does not define an athlete's career.

In Alex Eala, we have an Ol' Man River. It flows and flows and flows.

THAT'S IT If only for the record, Alex Eala, by reaching Wimbledon's fourth round, has raked in approximately P39.4 million (480,000 pounds with one pound equivalent to P82.19). Who is complaining?... Happy birthday to Malaya M. Sadiwa (July 9)!

(Article reprinted as authorized by the author)



MOVIE REVIEW ... FROM LAST PAGE

Nick Davis lets those who were there tell their own story. Fortified by vintage footage from the war and the pain and struggle of those who lived during the Nazi/SS occupations you can feel the horror. You can sense the hurt in the miraculous survivors' voices whose haunting memories should be a stark reminder and warning about what can happen if people allow a minority whose penchant for hate obscures the truth from becoming gospel and mainstream. Never Again!

For more reviews please visit my website site moviereviewssite.com.



Leviticus (PG) ***

Running time: 1h 28m

Should Mates!

Dangerous. Perhaps that best describes the problems plaguing some youth in the original and mysterious Leviticus. One could also use the word shocking to describe the goings on that confound and bewilder a group of teens. See all the muted horror unfold brilliantly in this unique and original thriller from Elevation Pictures now generating fear at select Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across B.C.

My oh my we lead an eventful life. Boys will be boys. Or will they? Settle in for a bumpy ride as some weird evil engulfs school boys Naim and Ryan. Superb acting by Joe Bird and Stacy Clausen reveal the demons inside as some weird "thing" manages to tear their lives apart as well as those of their families and friends in a closed knit community where religion reigns supreme. Shades of The Exorcist

come back to haunt one's soul.

Once upon a time taboo subject matter is raised as religion and morality are on a collision course. Director and writer Adrian Chiarella knows just how to push all the right buttons and succeeds in elevating what could have been an insane story into a first class thrill ride. You'll become totally immersed in the evil just itching to get out in this high stakes drama where you just won't know what's coming next. Scary indeed!

Dark and brooding Leviticus will make your blood curl and leave you questioning the turmoil surrounding



some teens looking for a way out. No escape.

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'Melai na Melai': Melai Cantiveros delights Pinoys with reaction to fan-made portrait



A fan-made drawing of Jason Francisco and Melai Cantiveros as posted by the actress on her Facebook on July 5, 2026 (melaiofficial via Facebook)

Host-comedienne Melai Cantiveros delighted Filipinos with her hilarious reaction to a fan-made illustration of her and her husband, Jason Francisco.

The comedienne took to social media on Sunday, July 5, to

share her amusement over the drawing, which was inspired by a photo of the couple.

"Salamat po sa nag-drawing sa aming mag-asawa. Kuhang-kuha mo ang mukha ko. Sana hindi ka nahirapan. Salamat ha, ang laki ng ginanda ko sa

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drawing mo," Melai joked, adding several emojis.

"Heehehehehe, char char lang hehehehe. Na-amaze lang ako na kasinglaki ng mata ko ang butas ng ilong ko. Pa Baboy Ramo na ako dito, hehehehe, char char lang po. Ohhh, ohhhh, ohhhh, hmmmmmm??? Tawang-tawa????? Libre lait, go na, grab niyo na ang chance in 3...2...1..." she added.

"Pero kidding aside, tawang-tawa kami ni Papang, abot tenga ang tawa namin, pramis, hahahaha," Melai continued, referring to her husband.

Her post has garnered more than 193,000 laugh reactions, 1,700 shares and 3,400 comments from Filipinos.

"Galing nung pagkaka-edit

sa phone, nagawang formal ang wacky," a Facebook user quipped.

"Ahahahaha, kuhang-kuha ang face ni Ms. Melai kapag nagpapatawa, hahahaha," another Pinoy commented.

"Creative... naka-wacky 'yung drawing," a Facebook user wrote. "Sa caption ako natawa eh," another Pinoy said.

"Melai na Melai, hahaha," a different Facebook user commented. Melai is known for her relatable and self-deprecating humor, often poking fun at her appearance, including her wacky facial expressions. (J. Malasig/Interaksyon)

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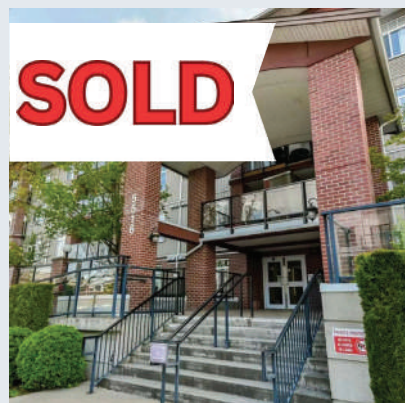
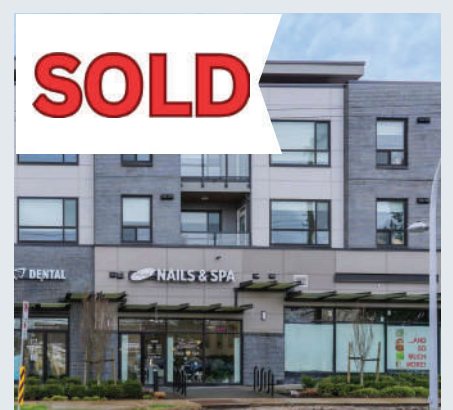
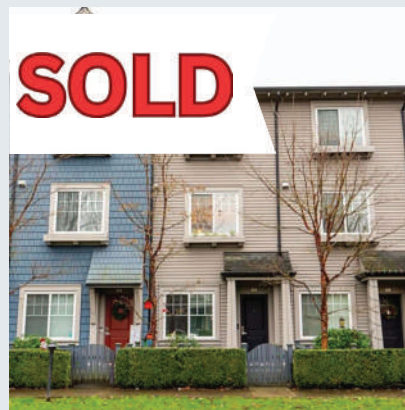
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