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Minister's, MLA's statements on supporting farmers by buying B.C. products



VICTORIA - Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food, has released the following statement about how choosing to buy B.C. products can help farmers in communities suffering from wildfires:

"As families, workers and small businesses in Summerland and across the Okanagan continue to respond to and recover from wildfires and evacuations, British Columbians have a simple way to show their support for affected farmers:

Look for local and to Buy BC.

"Summerland and the Okanagan are home to farms, orchards, food producers, as well as wineries, cideries, breweries and distilleries, that support thousands of jobs and contribute enormously to the economic and social fabric of their communities.

"Many of these businesses have faced evacuations, road closures, smoke, disrupted operations and lost business during one of the most important periods of their year.

"British Columbians do not need to travel into an affected community to support it. We can make an extra effort to support products from communities affected by the wildfires from wherever we are in B.C. When grocery shopping, we can look for locally grown fruit, produce and food products. If

we are going out for dinner, we can ask for a Summerland or Okanagan wine, cider, beer or spirit. If we are visiting a private liquor store, grocery store or BC Liquor store, we can look for products from the affected region.

"When shopping, the Buy BC label is one of the easiest ways to identify products that are grown, raised or processed in British Columbia.

"Every local purchase helps keep British Columbians working, supports farmers and producers, strengthens local communities and, especially right now, in places like Summerland, helps businesses continue operating and supports their recovery.

"You don't have to be in Summerland to stand with Summerland. Whether you're dining out in Vancouver,

shopping in Victoria or choosing something local anywhere in British Columbia, supporting products from Summerland and the Okanagan is a simple way to stand behind the people and businesses working through an extraordinarily difficult period."

Amelia Boulton, MLA for Penticton-Summerland, said:

"I'm so heartened to see the outpouring of support for people in my community. The wildfire service, first responders, volunteers and all those keeping us in their thoughts are appreciated. If you're looking to support families here, when buying a gift or purchasing wine or cider, think Penticton-Summerland first. Many of our local retailers have online shops and could use your help right now. I'm thankful to the minister and government for the support they're providing to our community." (news.gov.bc.ca)

Premier announces three cabinet changes



VICTORIA - Premier David Eby has announced three changes to cabinet following Brenda Bailey's, Minister of Finance, decision to take a leave for cancer treatment and recovery.

Bailey has been diagnosed with early-stage cancer that is treatable. She will begin treatment in late August 2026 and expects to return to work in early October 2026. She remains a member of cabinet.

"Brenda came to me with her diagnosis and her

plan, and I told her to take the time she needs," Premier Eby said. "She'll be back at the cabinet table this fall. These changes give her room to focus on getting well and give British Columbians continuity on the issues that matter most to them."

The following appointments take effect on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026:

*** Josie Osborne, Minister of Finance**

*** Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Health**

*** Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth**

Bailey returns to the ministry she led as minister of jobs, economic development and innovation, taking on the major projects and trade diversification files. Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy

and Climate Solutions, will cover Bailey's portfolio while she's on leave.

Osborne moves to finance from health, bringing experience across four ministries and a working knowledge of the fiscal plan from the Treasury Board table. Kahlon takes on health after leading jobs and economic growth, including the Look West strategy and the Province's response to U.S. trade action.

"Josie, Ravi and Brenda are three of the most experienced people around our table," Premier Eby said. "Their focus will

always be on delivering for British Columbians."

(premier.media@gov.bc.ca)

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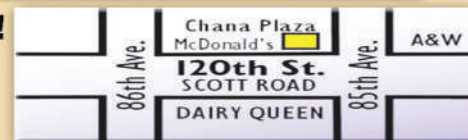
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Global music icon Apl.de.ap partners with GMA Music for upcoming EP



"I am incredibly excited about this collaboration with GMA Music. This will really connect me with our kababayans and the Filipino audience, not just here, but around the world," said Apl.de.ap. "This partnership is just a stepping stone in highlighting OPM and upcoming Filipino artists. This is just the beginning, and I can't wait to keep creating content and releasing music, and collaborations, and acknowledging upcoming amazing, talented Filipino artists."

International music icon and Black Eyed Peas co-founder Apl.de.ap has officially joined forces with GMA Music, the official music label of GMA Network, in a milestone distribution deal signed on August 14 at the GMA Network Center.

Under this partnership, GMA Music will manage the world distribution and release strategy for Apl.de.ap's upcoming three-track Extended Play (EP). Centered on themes of national pride, Filipino identity, cultural unity, and the global Pinoy spirit, the EP serves as a powerful showcase of Original Pilipino Music (OPM).

Bannered the EP is the carrier single "Why," an explosive collaboration between Apl.de.ap and OPM rock legend Bamboo. The tracklist also features "Turn Around" with J. Rey Soul and "Pinoy United" with Datu Khomeini.

The signing ceremony was attended by key executives from GMA Network, including Mr. Felipe S. Yalong (GMA Network Executive Vice President and Chief Finance Officer, and EVP and COO for GMA Music), Ms. Gigi Santiago-Lara (Vice President for Musical, Variety, Specials, and Alternative Productions), Ms. Angel Javier-Cruz (Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Communications), Mr. Jojo Aquio (Assistant Vice President for Corporate Communications), Ms. Ruth Mariñas (Assistant Vice President for Musical, Variety, Specials, and Alternative Productions), and Mr. Rene Salta (Managing Director of GMA Music).

"Apl.de.ap is the first foreign artist signed with GMA Music. I want to make GMA Music a company that will be identified as a home for talented Filipino artists. This is just the start of more collaborations using



GMA Network Executive Vice President and Chief Finance Officer, and EVP and COO for GMA Music Mr. Felipe S. Yalong; international music icon Apl.de.ap; and Managing Director for GMA Music Mr. Rene Salta



From left: Assistant Vice President for Corporate Communications Mr. Jojo Aquio; Vice President for Musical, Variety, Specials, and Alternative Productions Ms. Gigi Santiago-Lara; GMA Network Executive Vice President and Chief Finance Officer, and EVP and COO for GMA Music Mr. Felipe S. Yalong; international music icon APL.DE.AP; Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Communications Ms. Angel Javier-Cruz, Assistant Vice President for Musical, Variety, Specials, and Alternative Productions Ms. Ruth Mariñas; and Managing Director of GMA Music Mr. Rene Salta

the full resources of GMA Network," stated Mr. Yalong. "On behalf of the community of GMA Network, we are so glad that you chose us to be your distribution partner for your digital works. Rest assured that we will do our best to ensure the success of our initial venture."

"We warmly welcome Apl.de.ap to GMA Music. We are honored and excited to be chosen as the distributor for his upcoming EP, a project that will really connect him with his audiences here and around the world," added Mr.

Salta.

Also present were members of Apl.de.ap's team: Ms. Cathy Villarba (Talent Manager) and Mr. Dan Vo (Business Manager).

The EP is set for worldwide release on September 25, 2026, across all major digital streaming platforms.

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

'Call My Manager' explores realities, work behind showbiz glamour



Behind the movies, television shows and glamorous lives of celebrities are managers dealing with the pressures and complications of the entertainment industry. That less visible side of showbiz gets a closer look in the new HBO Original series ***“Call My Manager,”*** led by **Judy Ann Santos, Edu Manzano, Gina Alajar and RK Bagatsing.**

The eight-episode Philippine comedy-drama, adapted from the French hit *“Call My Agent!”* (*“Dix Pour Cent”*), follows talent managers at the fictional Shine Artists Management as they handle demanding celebrity clients while dealing with their own personal and professional struggles. ***The series premiered on HBO Max on Aug. 13.***

For Santos, who plays manager Andrea Manuel, accepting the role was an easy decision. She said she was immediately drawn to the project after her first Zoom meeting with director Erik Matti and the production team.

“When it was pitched to me, first, Zoom pa lang with Direk Erik and Sir Don Don and the rest of the production team, it was a go already. I hadn’t even seen the show yet at the time. But when Direk Erik mentioned the cast and the show’s synopsis, I knew I had to say yes,” Santos said during a roundtable interview.

The actress also welcomed the chance to play a character unlike those she has portrayed before.

“I know I wanted to be part of the team. I wanted to be part of this project because it is something really different from my past characters. I knew that if I declined it, I would’ve regretted it. So, it was an easy decision,” she added.

Alajar, who plays Aleta Alfonso, was likewise sold on the project after watching the original French series.

“When it was pitched to me, I binged the series in one sitting. I said to myself, I want to be in that project. I told my manager I want that role. I want that project,” Alajar said.

Working again with Matti was another reason she accepted the role, while her partnership with producer Dondon Monteverde was another draw.

“I wanted to work with him once again because he’s someone I look up to in the directorial field. And of course, I wanted to work with Dondon Monteverde of Reality Films because I play Mother Lily Monteverde here. So it’s home. It feels like home, this whole thing,” Alajar continued.

Manzano, who plays senior manager Matthew Buenaventura, said he was also interested in seeing how the French series would translate

to the Philippine setting. He has also known Matti since the director’s early years in the industry.

“When I saw the French version and fell in love with it, I said, me too, like Gina. I wanted to be part of it,” Manzano said.

“You thought the French series was colorful? You ain’t seen nothing yet. You want color? We give you color. You know what it’s like here with the different characters in the Philippines.

This has far more color than a rainbow or a kaleidoscope. This is it. I’m just so happy to be part of it,” he added.

Tribute to industry

For Matti, *“Call My Manager”* is also a tribute to the entertainment industry he grew up in. He recalled spending time in the home of the late producer Lily Monteverde, where he would encounter people from different corners of showbiz.

“You don’t know how important this show is to me and Don Don, who started in the industry quite young. Don Don started upon birth. He was born into the industry. I started when I was 21 years old and I’ve seen it all,” Matti recalled.

“Every day there was a mix of different people in Mother’s dining area. There would be press, a production designer, a manager, an actor, a director. No one knew me. I would eat and drink with them, and listen to all the show business,” he added.

While the industry has changed, Matti said the *“Call My Manager”* allowed him to revisit some of those experiences.

“The show business we know now is totally different from what we had then. Doing this show brings up a lot of memories, but also it also provides a tribute to the industry we once had,” he said.



Manzano said audiences typically see only the glamorous side of being an artist and rarely see the work that happens behind the scenes.

“It’s just that the audience only sees the glamour — ‘God what an easy job you have,’” he said. “They don’t see the intricacies that go with being an artist and what managers have to go through to make us worthy of the producer’s time.”

He said the series also shows that show business is ultimately a business, with managers often responsible for keeping their clients grounded.

“There’s show and there’s biz. And I think what’s important here also is that we see the dark side where the managers have to tell us, ‘Hey, come down to Earth.’ They keep you grounded because this is a business. We don’t need your tantrums. The producer could use less of you coming to work late, less of you not knowing your lines,” Manzano said.

A distinctly Filipino relationship

The series also explores the close relationships that can develop between Filipino artists and their managers, with Santos pointing to the country’s culture of treating members of a team like family.

“There are lots of scenes that are very much us. You can’t really lose the culture of a

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CONTINUATION

Vice Ganda opens up on hesitation before saying yes to MediaQuest

MANILA, Philippines — After a long and “lengthy” process, Vice Ganda has finally signed a partnership with MediaQuest Holdings, the media conglomerate led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

The signing was formalized Wednesday during a ceremonial event dubbed “The Phenomenal Partnership,” where the TV host-comedian was introduced as the “Queen of All Networks” following her entry into MVP’s media group, which includes TV5.

But while the partnership may now be official, Vice admitted that saying yes to MediaQuest did not come easy.

The Unkabogable Box-Office Superstar revealed that he initially hesitated to accept the company’s offer, particularly because of the cancellation of “It’s Showtime’s” run on TV5 in 2023.

“Inaamin ko medyo sumama loob ko pero di ba, in this

industry naman we don’t burn bridges. So ako, dahil nagustuhan ko ang layunin nila, I eventually said yes,” Vice said.

He acknowledged that he needed time to process what happened before he could move forward.

“I allowed myself to heal muna. Parang valid naman siguro kung nagtampo ako. Pero I did not close doors. I did not burn bridges. Sabi ko nga, there was never a time na binad-mouth ko ‘yung TV5 after that,” he said.

Vice also clarified that he holds no resentment toward Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon, collectively known as TVJ, after “Eat Bulaga” moved to TV5 following “It’s Showtime’s” departure from the network.

Asked whether she felt hurt by TVJ’s arrival on the Kapatid network, Vice was quick to draw a distinction between the network’s decisions and the veteran trio.

CALL MY MANAGER ... FROM LAST PAGE

Filipino regardless if you’re related or not. Once you’re part of the team, you’re part of the team. You’re family, that’s automatic,” Santos said.

Santos said her own experience has shaped her understanding of those relationships, describing her current management team as her “chosen family.”

“My management team now, they are what I love to say, my chosen family. And when you do that in this industry, it simply means that you trust your life with them and they do the same with me,” she added.

She hopes the series will also remind viewers that both celebrities and managers have their own struggles.

“Celebrities are also human beings. Same with managers. Hopefully after they watch this show, they’d be more

understanding on why sometimes celebrities can be moody or that managers can be frank side because they also go through a lot,” Santos said.

For the cast, that combination of showbiz glamour and the realities behind it is what makes “Call My Manager” more than a story about celebrities.

As Christiana Zaleta who plays Camille Vergara put it, the series ultimately gives viewers a chance to see the people behind the industry.

“It opens your eyes to the human side of showbiz. And ultimately, you’re the human part of life,” Zaleta said.

“You have to watch the whole thing. You have to witness and experience it for you to understand that anyone, even people outside the showbiz industry, can relate to it on an emotional level.”

(Iglesias/Manila Times, Photo from panaynews.com)



MVP and Vice Ganda

“Wala akong sama ng loob sa TVJ, ha. TVJ has nothing to do with it. Wala naman akong relationship or deal with them. Hindi naman sila ‘yung nakasakit sa akin. Wala naman silang obligasyon sa akin. TVJ was just doing their job also as well, as entertainers,” he said.

For Pangilinan, Vice’s entry into MediaQuest is an opportunity to build something even bigger around an already established career.

“You have built an exceptional career with your exceptional talents. On your own, you have built a distinctive brand, an audience that is not only nationwide, but goes beyond the shores of the Philippines, in a career that very few people

in this room can match,” Pangilinan said.

“This event completes the elevation of Vice Ganda to the title of Queen of All Networks,” he added.

Vice’s partnership with MediaQuest marks a new chapter for one of the country’s most recognizable entertainment personalities, whose career has been closely associated with “It’s Showtime” and ABS-CBN.

Rather than dwelling on the past, however, Vice appears ready to embrace what lies ahead — this time, with MediaQuest promising a partnership built around new opportunities and bigger possibilities. (J.M. Severo/Philstar)

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Bianca Gonzalez airs frustration following floods across Metro Manila: 'Taon-taon nalang ganito'



Kapamilyahost Bianca Gonzalez can't help but be frustrated over the flooding that's been happening across Metro Manila this month. In her X (formerly Twitter) account, the **Pinoy Big Brother host** expressed how Filipinos deserve better as the flooding has become a yearly occurrence.

Bianca has always been vocal

about her opinions, be it about life or politics. She has previously made statements and joined calls for a better and progressive country.

"TAMA NA ang band aid, short term, temporary fixes sa tag-ulan. DESERVE NG PILIPINO NG EFFECTIVE LONG TERM SOLUTIONS," she wrote.

Metro Manila has seen severe flooding the previous days due to the effects of the habagat or the southwest monsoon. Earlier this week, PAGASA reported that the nation's capital received 201.7 millimeters of rainfall in just 5 hours last August 17.

The Kapamilya star took note of how neighboring countries have been able to adapt to the situation while the Philippines seems to have become even worse as the years go by.

"Flood control, mass public transport, good governance, atbp. Taun taon nalang ganito. Bakit sa mga katabi nating bansa, kaya naman, eh dito, parang mas lumalala?" she questioned.

Fans seconded Bianca's statements on the reply section. Other netizens proposed their ideas in hopes that the government could implement it the next time that a storm or southwest monsoon passes.

"When public officials pride themselves not for preventing

floods but for claiming the floods 'recede more quickly,' you know how low the bar for good governance has fallen," a fan wrote.

"Mukhang ayaw ng mga politiko mawala ang pagbaha kasi sinasamantala nila yung pagkakataon na mamigay ng relief goods para mangampanya," another netizen shared.

"Nakakadismaya din kasi ang mga Pilipino na paulit ulit bumoboto ng mga pulitikong magnanakaw!!! Nakakasawa na!!!!" a netizen expressed.

Previously, Bianca shared in Kylie Verzosa's Almost Honest podcast how Filipinos deserve better when it comes to public service.

"I mean, as much as resilience is a great trait, Filipinos definitely deserve better. Public service and systems in place to make everyone's lives a bit better and to make everyone's taxes work for the people," she previously said. (D. Acierto/Push Team)

Celebrities brave floods, heavy traffic as Habagat drenches Metro Manila

It was a day of flooded roads, stalled vehicles, long traffic jams and canceled plans as celebrities took to social media to share how they dealt with the heavy rains brought by the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

According to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Metro Manila received 201.7 millimeters of rain in just five hours on Monday—nearly half of the 455 millimeters recorded over 24 hours during Tropical Storm Ondoy in 2009.

With the downpour showing no signs of letting up, some celebrities found themselves braving flooded streets and hours-long traffic just to get where they needed to be.

Vince Maristela

Actor Vince Maristela documented his journey through flooded roads, eventually choosing to walk



because it was faster than riding in a car.

He also showed the heavy traffic, stranded motorists and damaged sidewalks he encountered along the way before finally reaching his destination.

Pokwang

Actress and comedian Pokwang, meanwhile, found herself stuck in traffic for almost three hours while trying to make it to the Cinemalaya awards night.

"3 hrs na kami sa daan! Aabot kaya ako sa awards night ng Cinemalaya?" she wrote in a video, while another clip showed their vehicle making its way through flooded roads.

To those not in the know, she did make it to the awards night and actually won best actress.

Betong

Just when things couldn't get any worse, Betong found another way to beat the traffic.

He shared a video showing flooded streets along Quezon Avenue and, rather than risk driving his car through the flood, opted to take the MRT to get to the office.

Kim Chiu

Despite the rainy season, 'It's Showtime' host Kim Chiu still showed up to work while feeling a little bit gloomy.

"Raining outside, and everything feels a little sad and gloomy... ??? But still dressing up,

showing up, and choosing to see the sunshine in everything we do. ????????????????" Kim wrote on her post.

Jon Lucas

Jon Lucas also shared a video showing the heavy traffic and acknowledged that he wasn't the only one struggling to get through the rain.

He urged everyone to stay safe, reminding his followers that despite the delays and canceled events, getting home safely was what mattered most. (C. Alcantara mb.com)

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Bea Alonzo adds wife duties to Anne Curtis collab, Tom Rodriguez show as 2026 tasks

SAN JUAN, La Union — Actress Bea Alonzo is going to end 2026 as a productive year following her marriage to Vincent Co.

The two entrepreneurs tied the knot last month in a civil ceremony officiated by Makati Mayor Nancy Binay, nearly a year after confirming their relationship.

Philstar.com spoke to Bea in an exclusive interview after a Taguig launch of a beauty milk she endorses about what still lay ahead for this year following the surprise intimate wedding.

Bea said she'd be focusing on both professional and personal duties, primary among them the ongoing production on "Whispers From Heaven" opposite Tom Rodriguez.

The upcoming series coincides with her 25th anniversary in local showbiz. Her last television

appearance was an episode of "Magpakailanman" last year, coincidentally with Tom, but her last headliner series was "Widows' War" alongside Tom's ex-wife Carla Abellana, which ended in January 2025.

"Whispers From Heaven" also stars Jason Abalos, Jake Macapagal, Cassy Legaspi, and Maricar Reyes — the latter making a drama comeback after seven years.

The actress shared they were major launches and plans ahead for her lifestyle brand Bash, including an ongoing collaboration with BLK Cosmetics co-owned by Anne Curtis.

"[While] those things are happening, I am trying my best to be a good wife!" Bea laughed. "Even though it's hard, women can have it all and do it all." (K. Purnell/Philstar)



Composite photo of Bea Alonzo with fellow actress Anne Curtis and "Whispers From Heaven" co-stars Tom Rodriguez and Maricar Reyes Bash Manila, GMA Network via Instagram

'We deserve some privacy': Bea Alonzo to 'gatekeep' married life with Vincent Co

MANILA, Philippines — She may be one of the biggest names in Philippine showbiz, but newly-wed Bea Alonzo fully intends to continue keeping her relationship with Vincent Co private.

The actress and the Puregold executive tied the knot last month in a civil wedding officiated by Makati Mayor Nancy Binay.

Now going as Bea Alonzo-Co, Bea made her first public appearance since the intimate ceremony for the launch of a beauty milk she endorses in Bonifacio Global City.

Bea later spoke to members of the media to briefly explain why she and Vincent opted to have a quick and quiet wedding.

"At that point I felt like I wanted [the event] to be mine, that's it. I wanted it to be about us and no one else," she said, adding that the ceremony wasn't supposed to be a surprise. "It felt like... the moment was ours."

During her first public appearance as Bea Alonzo-Co, the actress unconsciously posed

for photos showing off both her wedding and engagement rings, something that Philstar.com asked her about in an exclusive interview.

Bea made it clear she was not trying to blatantly show her rings but acknowledged that many will be curious about it since she is a public figure.

"Obviously it's part of who I am and part of my life now, but there are things I would like to keep private because my husband is a very private person, not a showbiz personality. So I think he deserves some privacy," she said.

The actress ended agreeing with Philstar.com's comments that some things need to be gatekept, "Yes, totoo!" (K. Purnell/Philstar)

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VCBA Hosts Community Meet & Greet with Mayor Ken Sim and ABC Vancouver Team

VANCOUVER, BC — August 12, 2026 — The Vietnam Canada Business Association (VCBA) hosted a successful Community Meet & Greet with Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim and members of the ABC Vancouver team, bringing together Vietnamese-Canadian entrepreneurs, business owners, community leaders, professionals, VCBA members, and guests for an evening of meaningful conversation, connection, and community engagement.

The gathering provided members of Vancouver's Vietnamese-Canadian community with an opportunity to hear directly from Mayor Ken Sim and the ABC Vancouver team about the issues affecting Vancouver today, the work underway at City Hall, and their vision and plans for the city moving forward.

Throughout the evening, Mayor Sim and the ABC Vancouver representatives engaged openly with attendees, answering questions and discussing concerns important to residents and businesses across Vancouver.

What stood out throughout the evening was the ***genuine and candid nature of the conversations***. Rather than simply delivering prepared remarks, Mayor Sim and the ABC Vancouver team took the time to listen, engage directly with attendees, answer difficult questions, and speak openly about both the progress Vancouver has made and the challenges that remain.

Discussions touched on important issues affecting the city and its communities, including ***public safety, affordability, housing, support for local businesses, community services, economic growth, and Vancouver's future***.

Mayor Sim and the ABC Vancouver team also shared their priorities and plans moving forward, speaking about their commitment to continuing to address the challenges facing Vancouver while building a city that is safer, stronger,

more affordable, economically vibrant, and welcoming for families, businesses, seniors, newcomers, and future generations.

The evening demonstrated the importance of direct dialogue between elected officials and the communities they serve. Attendees had the opportunity not only to hear about policies and priorities but also to ask questions, share their own experiences and perspectives, and discuss what they would like to see for Vancouver's future.

For VCBA, creating opportunities for this type of engagement is an important part of strengthening the voice and participation of the Vietnamese-Canadian business and professional community.

"Strong communities are built through connection, conversation, and collaboration. Events like this give our members and community an opportunity to hear directly from civic leaders, ask meaningful questions, exchange perspectives, and participate in conversations about the future of our city."

VCBA extends its sincere appreciation to ***Mayor Ken Sim and the ABC Vancouver team*** for spending the evening with the community and for approaching the discussion with openness, sincerity, and a genuine willingness to listen.

VCBA also thanks the entrepreneurs, business owners, community leaders, members, professionals, and guests who attended and contributed to the thoughtful and engaging conversations throughout the evening.

A special thank you goes to ***88 Supermarket Ltd., PHO 37, and Dan D Pak*** for their generous sponsorship and support in helping make the gathering possible and successful.

The Vietnam Canada Business Association remains committed to creating opportunities that connect Vietnamese-Canadian entrepreneurs and professionals, strengthen



relationships within the broader community, encourage civic engagement, and provide spaces where ideas and perspectives can be openly exchanged.

The success of the Community Meet & Greet reflected what can happen ***when business, community, and civic leadership come together around the same table — not simply to speak, but to listen, learn, and engage with one another***.

VCBA looks forward to continuing to create opportunities for meaningful dialogue, stronger partnerships, and greater engagement as Vancouver moves toward its next chapter.

Together, through connection, conversation,

and collaboration, we can continue building a stronger community and a stronger Vancouver.

About the Vietnam Canada Business Association

The Vietnam Canada Business Association (VCBA) works to connect and support Vietnamese-Canadian entrepreneurs, business owners, professionals, and community leaders while fostering stronger relationships with the broader Canadian community. Through networking, collaboration, community engagement, and dialogue, VCBA strives to create opportunities for its members to connect, learn, grow, and contribute to the communities they call home.

(By REYFORT MEDIA)

Katherine Luna reveals she hesitated to accept Coco Martin's help

Katherine Luna is enjoying a showbiz resurgence, with the actress now back in the spotlight and even part of the cast of "Sigabo," Coco Martin's new hit series.

It's a remarkable turn for Katherine, whose career and personal life had taken a difficult turn in recent years.

And much of that new chapter came after Coco extended a helping hand, helping her get her eyesight fixed and get her life back on track.

But there was a time when Katherine almost turned that help down.

In a recent episode of "Ogie Diaz Inspired," Katherine revealed that she initially felt embarrassed about accepting Coco's assistance, especially because of the controversy that once surrounded them.

Ogie Diaz recalled how he reached out to Coco about Katherine's situation.

"Alam ko namang mabuting



tao si Coco. Siya ang nilapitan ko para sa 'yo (Katherine). Tingnan mo naman, hindi naman nagdadalang-isip 'yung tao. Talaga, 'Sige, Kuya Ogs, sabihin mo tutulungan ko siya,'" Ogie said.

But Ogie noticed that Katherine was hesitant.

"Ikaw naman, nahiihiya ka pa. Ba't ka ba nahiihiya?" he asked.

Katherine explained that it

wasn't because she didn't want Coco's help. She was simply embarrassed because of everything that had happened between them.

"Hindi naman sa ayaw kong tanggapin 'yung tulong. Ang iniisip ko 'yung mga nangyari noon, e. Ano na lang ang mukhang ihaharap ko? Anong sasabihin ng tao? Ang kapal naman ng mukha ko para tanggapin 'yung tulong after lahat ng nagawa ko," she said.

Katherine was referring to the controversy that erupted after she claimed that Coco was the father of her child, as well as remarks she made that affected the actor and his family.

"Yun 'yung worry ko. 'Yun 'yung isa sa mga dahilan ko noon kung bakit nagdadalang-isip pa akong tanggapin 'yung tulong. Kasi nga, katulad ng sinabi ko, tanggap ko na 'yung sarili ko, 'yung sakit ko," she added.

Katherine eventually accepted Coco's help, which included having her eyesight fixed and getting support as she worked to put her life back together.

She later issued a public apology during an interview with Julius Babao in February 2025.

More than a year after that apology, Katherine has not only received Coco's forgiveness but has also found herself working alongside him. (C. Alcantara/mb.com.ph/ photo from entertainmnet inquirer)

Anne Curtis to be busy with film projects until next year



MANILA, Philippines — The last four months of 2026 will not see actress Anne Curtis slowing down in her showbiz projects. She finished dubbing Erik Matti's nine-part, action-drama series, "Buy Bust 2," which will stream on Netflix before the year ends.

"I can't explain how happy I am," asserted Anne. "I started dubbing the parts for 'Buy Bust 2' that need to be dubbed because there are parts that are noisy. We're going to pick up where we left off. I can't wait for everyone to see this new one. I have to wait for Netflix to

do the official announcement of that. It's a Netflix original. I saw snippets of that and it's something to be proud of for Filipinos."

It has taken eight years before Anne worked on the new chapter of "Buy Bust" that premiered in 2018. This time, "Buy Bust: The Undesirables" is a sequel and spin-off of the first film. Completing its cast are Gerald Anderson, Sarah Lahbati, Lotlot de Leon and Eric Quizon. The script was written by Michiko Yamamoto.

Anne has three films coming up next year. First is with young director Mikhail Red, who worked at the helm of "Deleter," "Birdshot" and "Eerie."

"He is a very young director, but he has done amazing projects," said Anne of the director. "I'm very, very excited to work with him, I've seen 'Birdshot,' I've seen 'Deleter.' We have a project I haven't done yet."

She has two other projects coming up. "So, my newest endorsement is really ideal,"

she said. "We are able to do this now before I start on a hectic schedule again."

Be it a new endorsement or a filming day of a new film that Anne is scheduled to do, she finds it hard to sleep the night before because she's super excited about what will happen. "But learning now that sleep with Zion has a heart rate monitoring effect, for sure I will be able to sleep now in a relaxed way... For me, it's an investment because health is priceless," she said.

"Definitely, I will still lose sleep over the exciting things. But I think that's something you want to keep, anyway."

Anne gets to balance her endorsement deals and showbiz schedules. "If there's one thing I've learned only when I became a mother, it's proper time management," Anne said. "I've learned to compartmentalize. It's an agreement that I have with my management now in terms of schedule, they all know that on Sundays, I don't work."

"Once my husband (Erwan Heussaff) says it's time to go on a family vacation, because it's a school holiday, then that's the ruling. Family first. Other than that, I'm really a workaholic. I really love to work. I'm so passionate about what I do. Hangga't kaya pa, kakayanin."

She also stressed that one has to "invest in health." When she was in her 30s, Anne started doing her annual executive check-up. "You don't have to wait when you turn 40," Anne said. "Do it early. For anyone that has something to do with age, I'm okay." (L. Salterio/Philstar)

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Filipino Fest returns to Museum of Surrey

A vibrant celebration of Filipino culture is coming to Museum of Surrey on Saturday, September 12, from 11am to 4pm.

Surrey, B.C. – A vibrant celebration of Filipino culture is coming to Museum of Surrey on Saturday, September 12, from 11am to 4pm. Filipino Fest is a free, family-friendly event that brings communities together for a day of cultural performances, traditional music and dance, and delicious Filipino cuisine. Whether you're reconnecting with your heritage or experiencing Filipino culture for the first time, the festival offers an opportunity for visitors of all ages to celebrate, discover, and learn through engagement and interaction.

"Once again, Museum of Surrey is excited to host Filipino Fest. It is an honour to work with the Filipino community as they celebrate and share traditions through performance, food, activities, vendors, and music," said Museum of Surrey Manager Lynn Saffery.



Performers at Filipino Fest 2025

One of the festival's highlights is its diverse selection of Filipino food vendors and food trucks, offering visitors the opportunity to experience authentic flavours from across the Philippines. Vendors include Cake It Easy, Nanay Kitchen, Dale's Food Products, Kasalo, and Timplado Filipino Street Food Truck.

This year's entertainment lineup features performances by Glissha, The Kuyas, Raffy Swap One, Red Filos, Mabuhay Arnis, and Grupo Ilocano Association of BC. Guests can also enjoy cultural displays, photo opportunities, textile exhibits, children's activities, artisan

vendors, and more throughout the day.

The Museum of Surrey is located at 17710 56A Ave. in Surrey. For more information, visit surrey.ca/museum

AC Bonifacio clears air on issue with Sassa Gurl, says they have no bad blood



AC Bonifacio harbors no ill feelings towards Sassa Gurl.

On "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" on Tuesday, AC was asked about Sassa's comment during the media conference for their film "Saving Cherry."

Back then, Sassa told her in

Filipino, "You were shocked with the Kapuso, 'no? No fakeness, 'no?'"

"Honestly, it was just funny," AC said in a mix of English and Filipino. "Sassa's really that way both online and offline, she jokes that way. It has no

meaning."

"And I just laughed because it was genuinely funny in that moment, because I know we've never had a conversation about being Kapamilya or Kapuso so we just really came together as one," she added.

AC said that she and Sassa talked about it right after the press conference.

"We just talked it out. She apologized to me and I said, you know what, it's OK, it's fine. That's how our friendship is. If people take it differently, that's just how the world works," the actress said.

Following the media conference, netizens expressed their dismay, saying that Sassa put AC, a Kapamilya actress, on the spot.

Sassa took to X to apologize for her statement.

"Saw all your tweets and

messages, kinda deserve ko naman talaga ang mabunot, as a queer person who represents the baklang kanal girilies, I realized na dapat nga naman talaga ilugar ang kakanalan," she said.

Sassa said she stands by being real, but it was not an excuse to be insensitive. She also took accountability for what she said.

"At s'yempre to my sister, Ms. AC, sorry ma, for putting you into a very vulnerable situation," she added.

AC retweeted Sassa's post and added, "All love guys!"

AC currently appears in "Born to Shine" as Kendall, the leader of the Yumi's rival girl group, Nixi.

"Born to Shine" airs at 2:30 PM, from Monday to Saturday on GMA Afternoon Prime.

(Nika Roque/MGP, GMA News)



Rotary Club welcomes Dr. R. Lee Harman, MD, FACS to Vancouver

Dr. R. Lee Harman, MD, FACS is welcomed by Rotary Club in Vancouver.

He is the co-founder, along with Winston Conyers, of the *Miss Vicky Polio Plus Challenge*.

He belongs to RC Arlington in Washington State; Winston Conyers belongs to RC White Rock, D5050.

His presentation was about Polio Plus and Rotary's 42-year effort to rid the world of polio.

His Polio Plus Challenge for 2026 raised approximately \$250,000

for Polio Plus for District 5370. In 2025, \$226,000 was raised for Polio Plus for District 5050.

Miss Vicky is a 1931 Model A Ford Victoria that has literally travelled the circumference of the world to prove that difficult things are achievable, even eradicating polio.

With Anna Lu (RC Fraserview), Diana Smith (RC Arbutus), and RC Vancouver-Mountainview PE Spike Alegro. (Submitted by PP Matt Caparas)



Dr. R. Lee Harman, MD, FACS, was very much in his element talking about how he plans to eradicate polio.



This is Miss Vicky. Dr. Harman was driving her to the meeting but discovered that the brakes were not working. So Miss Vicky spends the night at a local Canadian Tire for repairs.



From left: RCVM President Chris Loredo, Dr. R. Lee Harman, RCVM member Joel Castillo and RCVM PP Matt Caparas



Dr R. Lee Harman and RCVM President Chris Loredo.



Winston Conyers, Dr. Lee Harman, and D5040 District Governor Dean Hsieh.

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AUGUST 22, 2026 Swangard Stadium

Leni-Raffy in dead heat with Sara-Imee: poll

By Carlito Pablo

The contest for the next president and vice president of the Philippines is far from decided.

Even though Vice President Sara Duterte continues to lead surveys among likely presidential contenders, it doesn't look like the 2028 campaign will be a walk in the park for her.

A couple of recent releases by OCTA Research indicate that that she is not unbeatable as previously thought.

An August 12, 2026 report by the Quezon City-based polling firm shows a statistical tie between a hypothetical tandem by former vice president Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo and Senator Rafael "Raffy" Tulfo and a potential ticket by Duterte and Senator Maria Imelda "Imee" Marcos, for president and vice president, respectively.

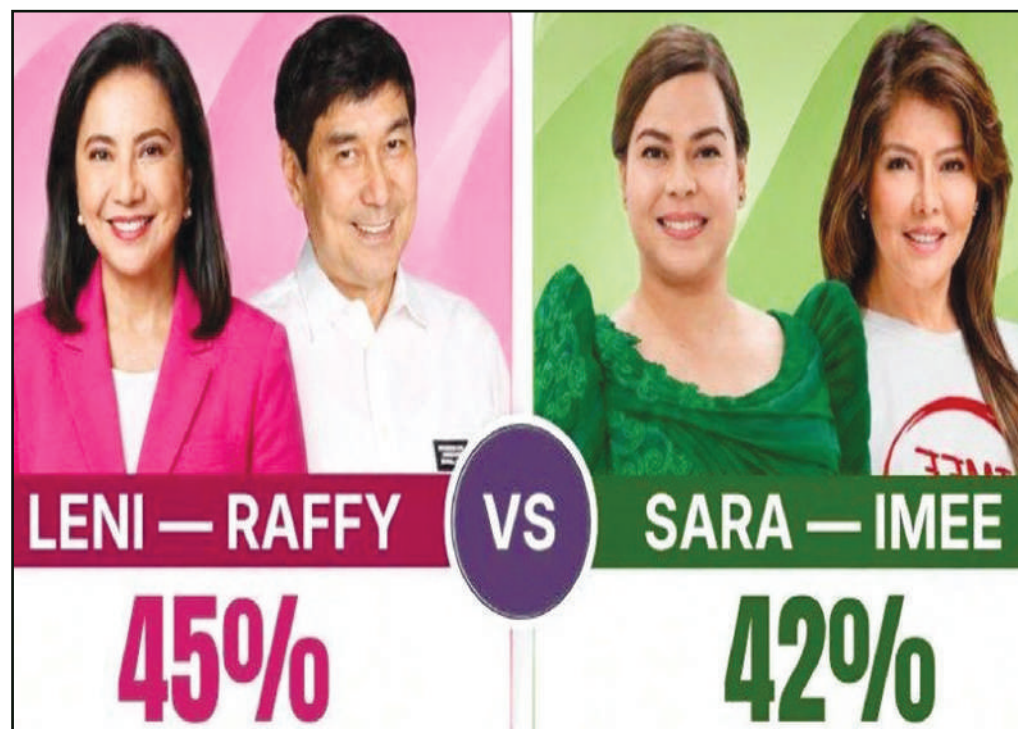
Based on OCTA Research's Tugon ng Masa (TNM) survey, a Robredo-Tulfo tandem got the support of 45 percent of respondents nationwide, compared to 42 percent for a Duterte-Marcos tandem.

Meanwhile, eight percent of respondents polled from July 4 to July 11, 2026 indicated that they would vote for neither tandem, four percent are undecided, and one percent refused to answer.

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent, meaning the three percent lead by a Robredo-Tulfo ticket is "not a reliable signal of who is actually ahead".

Per OCTA Research's release, the "race is statistically a toss-up".

For context, the polling firm noted that this is "nonetheless part of a dramatic multi-quarter shift for this match-up".



Graphic by OCTA Research on where the two hypothetical 2028 tandems stand with the public.

Specifically, prior TNM rounds had shown Duterte-Marcos leading Robredo-Tulfo by roughly 15 to 25 points.

By the first quarter of 2026, Robredo-Tulfo had "not only closed that gap but moved into an apparent 4-point lead of its own (44% versus 40%) — the first time in the TNM series that a Robredo-led tandem had numerically topped Duterte-Marcos".

Based on the most recent survey, that "apparent lead compressed further to 3 points (45% versus 42%)".

These results had political columnist Marlen V. Ronquillo speculating that the "political ground may have shifted".

"It is just one poll and maybe an outlier, a fluke. But it is an indicator that maybe, just maybe, there are other possibilities in 2028 that do necessarily involve the coronation of Sara Duterte as the new president," Ronquillo wrote in his August

16, 2026 column.

Titled "Calcified presidential polling hits a wall", the piece by the Manila Times opinion writer was referencing Robredo's refusal to run for president in 2028 and that this stance may have been shaped by Duterte's strong showing in previous surveys.

Robredo first ran for president in 2022 but lost to Ferdinand Marcos Jr., brother of Duterte's ally Imee Marcos.

"So, those hoping that Robredo would change her mind and run anew for the sake of a country hungry for competent and honest leadership have harbored this hope: for the calcified polling to hit a brick wall, then shatter the aura of political invincibility built around Sara Duterte. Maybe that will push Robredo into reconsidering her decision not to embark on a second presidential run," Ronquillo wrote.

In the first week of August, OCTA Research released a "2028 Presidential Political Map", using the results of its July 4-11 Tugon ng Masa nationwide survey.

Nationally, according to the polling firm, Duterte leads a hypothetical matchup with Robredo, 43 percent to 34 percent.

"But the more important number may be the 22% who remain undecided, favor neither candidate, or declined to answer — a bloc larger than Duterte's 9-point lead."

OCTA Research concluded, "The race remains fluid, and preferences can still shift considerably before 2028."

The map also "reveals distinct regional preferences".

"Duterte commands overwhelming support in Mindanao and holds an advantage in the Visayas, while Robredo remains strongest in Balance Luzon. Metro Manila has emerged as the country's most competitive battleground — both candidates tied at 34%, with nearly one in three voters undecided."

Hence, according to OCTA Research, "The challenge for any contender will be expanding beyond a traditional base while winning over the country's large undecided bloc."

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Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver and Inarte Society Launch “SINEWIKA Sa Konsulado”

VANCOUVER, BC — The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver, in partnership with the Filipino-Canadian Society for Interactive Arts and Events (Inarte Society), launched SINEWIKA Sa Konsulado, a month-long celebration of Filipino language, cinema, culture, and identity in observance of Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa.

The celebration officially opened on August 4, 2026, at the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver with an opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting. Throughout August, Filipino films are being screened at the Consular Hall every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, providing the community with an opportunity to reconnect with Filipino stories, history, and culture through cinema.

During her opening remarks, Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin emphasized the important role of Filipino cinema in promoting the Filipino language:

“Ang pelikulang Pilipino ay isang epektibong paraan para sa pagpapaunlad at pagpapalaganap ng Wikang Filipino.”

She highlighted the initiative’s goals of promoting the Filipino

language, recognizing Filipino filmmakers and artists, and helping younger generations, particularly Filipino-Canadian children, connect with their language and heritage.

N. Ryan Ferrer of Inarte Society likewise emphasized that SINEWIKA is more than a film screening event—it is a celebration of Filipino identity and a way to keep Filipino language, stories, traditions, and values alive for future generations.

“Ang SINEWIKA ay higit pa sa isang film screening event. Ito ay isang pagkilala at pagpapahalaga sa ating pagkakakilanlan bilang mga Pilipino — sa ating wika, kuwento, tradisyon at pagpapahalaga.”

He encouraged the Filipino-Canadian community to support the screenings and join the celebration, saying that through film, Filipinos can share their experiences and bring the richness of Filipino culture to a wider audience.

The partnership between the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver and Inarte Society reflects their shared commitment to strengthening Filipino culture, language, arts, and community connections in Canada.

“Filipino Stories. Our Language.



Our Identity. Our Pride.”
The organizers invite the community to join the month-long celebration and experience Filipino cinema throughout

August.
Celebrate our language. Watch our stories. Be proudly Filipino.
(Submitted by Ryan Ferrer)

Ruby Ruiz, Pokwang tie for Best Actress at 22nd Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival

MANILA — Ruby Ruiz and Marietta Subong, more popularly known as Pokwang, shared the Best Actress award at the 22nd Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival for their performances in “Status: Rejected” and “2 Valid IDs,” respectively.

Pokwang made her Cinemalaya comeback after a decade in the entry where she plays Sylvia, a poor farmer unable to claim a remittance because she lacked the requirements. “2 Valid IDs” posted one of the strongest audience demands, drawing a string of sold-out screenings.

“After 10 years, yung una ko sa Cinemalaya, ito na ako. Nagpapasalamat ako sa Cinemalaya, sa co-actors ko.



Sa lahat ng nanood, alam ko mahirap ang buhay ngayon pero sinupportahan niyo. Bangon, industriya! Kaya natin ‘to! Kaya ng Pilipino. Sa lahat ng may pinagdadaanan, huwag kayo mawalan ng pag-asa. Laban lang,” she said during her

speech.

Ruiz, meanwhile, portrayed Virginia “Biring” Divinagracia, a 69-year-old whose dream of reuniting with her son in the U.S. seemed out of reach after her fourth visa rejection. That

was until she connected online with an American.

“Status: Accepted! Salamat! Wala ako pinirepare. Alam ko sa Cinemalaya, maraming surprises. Kakaiba ang Cinemalaya, kaya pag nabigyan ka ng Balangay, talagang pahahalagahan mo... Sobrang karangalan ito,” Ruiz said in her acceptance speech.

The Best Full Length Feature, went to “Mag-iina” starring Janine Gutierrez, Lucas Andalio, Cherry Pie Picache, Agot Isidro, Ness Roque, Jackie Lou Blanco, Bart Guingona, Alejandra Cortez. Design. Check full winners at Cinemalaya.org. (A. Cerezo/abs-cbn)

GMA Network and ABS-CBN Studios open auditions for 'Pinoy Big Brother Collab 3.0'

MANILA, Philippines — Another milestone unfolds for GMA Network and ABS-CBN Studios as the iconic “Pinoy Big Brother” house opens its doors once again, this time to ordinary Filipinos for “Pinoy Big Brother Collab 3.0.”

During “It’s Showtime” on Aug. 14, OG Boarder ni Kuya Bianca Gonzalez, Next Door Ka-Bonding ni Kuya Kim Chiu and Kapuso IT Girl and Sparkle artist Gabbi Garcia teased the upcoming season, giving Filipinos worldwide ages 18 to 35 the chance to fulfill their dream of becoming a “Pinoy Big Brother” housemate.

The announcement also featured “PBB Celebrity Collab Edition” housemates Mika Salamanca, Will Ashley, Klarisse De Guzman and AC Bonifacio, alongside “PBB Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0”



‘Kuya’s Angel’ Gabbi Garcia, Bianca Gonzalez-Intal and Kim Chiu of ‘Pinoy Big Brother’ SCREENSHOT PHOTO FROM YOUTUBE/ABS-CBN ENTERTAINMENT

housemates Lella Ford, Joaquin Arce, Marco Masa and Ashley Sarmiento.

The PBB hosts also teased that the auditions, which officially opened during “24 Oras,” are just one of several big revelations from Big

Brother. Viewers can expect more announcements in the coming weeks, including details about Kuya’s new house.

For its 14th season, “Pinoy Big Brother,” together with GMA Network and ABS-CBN Studios, aims to celebrate Filipino values and culture while fostering meaningful connections.

Filipinos worldwide can join the auditions by visiting Joinnow.ph/PBBCollab for the complete mechanics. Aspiring housemates need to upload a one-minute video introducing themselves and explaining why they should become a housemate for the new season. Entries will be accepted from Aug. 14 through Aug. 31 at 11:59 p.m. (Manila Times)

Kris takes over editing for Netflix's 'Kontent Analysis'

Kris Aquino is putting her editing skills to the test as the Netflix C.H.I.K.A. (Chief Head of Insights and Kontent Analysis), this time taking over the video editor role herself.

After a communication mishap with Earljohn, Aquino decides to handle the editing of clips from several films, adding what she calls “a little extra oomph” to scenes from “Call Me Mother,” “Shake Rattle and Roll: Evil Origins,” “Manila’s Finest” and “Ganito, Ganyan, at Ganoon.”

The Netflix Philippines material describes the move as part of Aquino’s first day as C.H.I.K.A., with the media personality taking on the editing herself after the mishap.

“Game na!” Aquino says as she tackles the films across different genres, including dramedy, horror and period crime.

Aquino’s return to the spotlight through the Netflix project comes as the streaming platform continues its 2026 slate of Filipino titles. (Malaya entertainment news)



Aiko cuts professional ties with Ogie via Viber



Quezon City 5th District Councilor Aiko Melendez ended her professional relationship with her business manager, Ogie Diaz, via a Viber message, which left many puzzled.

Although both Ogie and Aiko said they would remain friends, many have raised concerns because of how she ended their professional relationship.

“Sana man lang niyaya niyang magkape o lunch/dinner para mag-usap sila personally. Tatal, sabi naman ni Aiko magkaibigan sila. Bakit through Viber message

lang? Sana tinawagan man lang niya. Ganu’n ba ka-busy si Aiko para sa limang minutong tawagan si Ogie?” said someone who is close to both of them.

Ogie did not deny on his “Showbiz Update” vlog that he and Aiko are on opposite political fences, with the councilor being a Duterte supporter, while he is “KakamPink.”

It is regrettable friends of several decades would go their separate ways simply because they belong to different political camps. (R. Bonoan/ Malaya)

'Romcom heart is happy': Precious Hearts Romances fans get 'kilig' as beloved pocketbooks go digital

The launch of a digital reading app by a romance pocketbook publisher was welcomed by readers who reminisced about indulging in their favorite paperbacks before the rise of social media.

Precious Pages Corp., one of the country's leading publishers of Filipino novels, reportedly launched the **CAT-HA**, a digital reading app that offers free e-books, including titles from its iconic **Precious Hearts Romances** collection.

Formerly known as Precious Pages iReader, the app allows users to read romance novels and other titles on their mobile devices.

Its "Free to Read" collection features select titles that users can read at no cost.

Precious Pages Corp. **President Segundo Matias Jr.** said the app was inspired by his goal of making reading more accessible to Filipinos who may not have the means to purchase physical books. "Alam naman natin 'yung crisis na marami sa mga Filipino ang hindi nakakapagbasa. Minsan, nakakalungkot isipin na may mga taong hindi nakakabili ng books o walang access sa mga reading materials," he said.

"Yun 'yung ginagawan ko ng paraan sa publishing, na sana 'yung mga walang kakayahang makapagbasa, magkaroon ng pagkakataon. Kaya 'yung mga ganitong klaseng initiative, tulad ng app na libre, malaking bagay," Matias added.

He also said that the titles available on the reading app were selected for their quality and appeal.

The app is available on the Google Play Store, Apple App Store and the Huawei AppGallery

Meanwhile, the announcement excited readers of the Precious Hearts Romances pocketbooks, which were particularly popular in the '90s and early 2000's.

"Just a Gen Z still in love with PH Romance's books na

minana pa sa mga ate and older cousins. My romcom heart is happy, huhu, yes, pleaseee," a Facebook user commented.

"Binabasa ko 'to during my high school days. Sabi ko pa naman sa asawa ko last month, gusto ko bumili ng mga [secondhand] pocketbooks online habang naka-maternity leave ako para [may] magawa ko during me time, kaso 'di na makapag-me time kasi dami inaasikaso lagi sa bahay kaya 'di na ako natuloy pagbili," another said.

"Libangan ko ito nung dalaga pa ako kasi wala akong TV sa boardinghouse, wah, [download] ko 'to," a different Pinoy said.

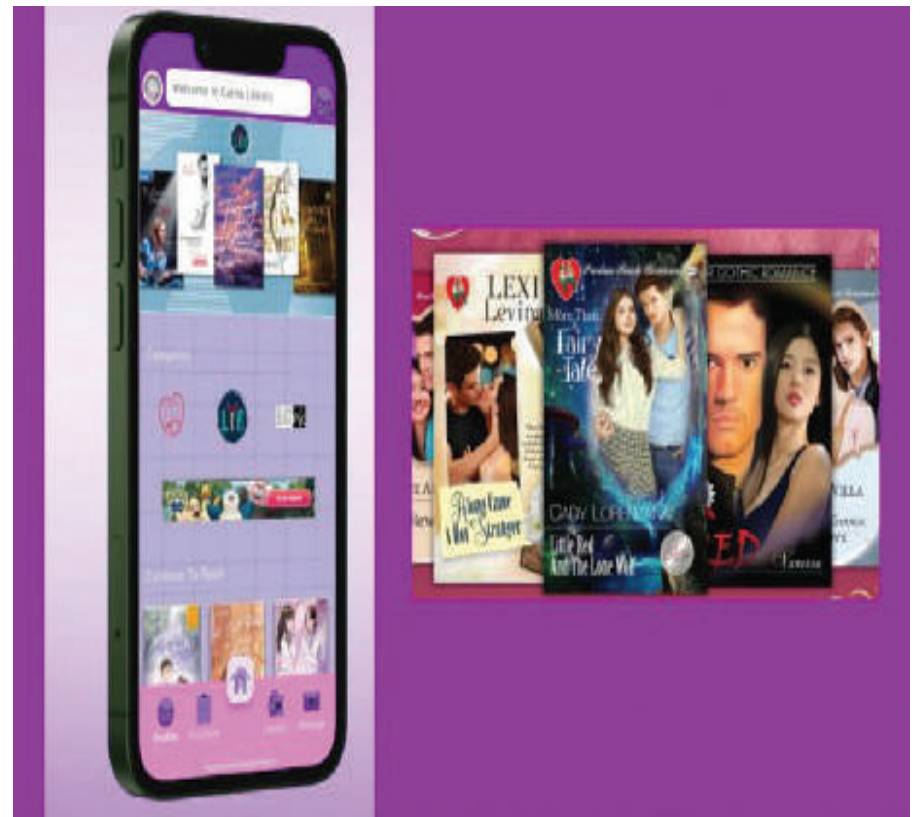
"Kakatapos ko lang ng isang libro ngayon, 'yung kilig ko nung high school, same pa din. OG PHR Readerrr," another commented, with emojis.

"Me too! Hehe, gustong-gusto ko 'yang mga series na 'yan, talagang pinag-iipunan ko, makabili lang," a different Pinoy commented.

Precious Hearts Romances pocketbooks are romance novels, written in Filipino, English, or Taglish (a mixture of Filipino and English), with stories centered on love, relationships and romance in local settings.

The pocketbooks are known for their colorful book covers, often featuring images of couples, or individual female or male characters.

Their stories are also known for happy endings, with love ultimately triumphing despite the challenges faced by the characters. (J. Malasig/Interaksyon)



Photos from the Facebook page of Precious Hearts Pocketbooks (YouArePreciousOfficial via Facebook)

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Robbie Jaworski finds a different kind of thrill in hosting

Robbie Jaworski may be known for his acting projects, but it is hosting that has given the Star Magic artist some of his biggest professional challenges.

Speaking at the monthly Star Magic Spotlight, Jaworski discussed his career, advocacy and upcoming projects, including his return to Y-Speak 2.0, a youth-oriented program that tackles politics, culture, the economy and media literacy.

Jaworski said the program's message of listening, discerning, and acting is particularly important at a time when young audiences are constantly exposed to information on social media.

"We should not simply listen to and believe what we see and watch on social media," he said.

While coming from one of the country's well-known political families, Jaworski said he wants to carve out his own identity through entertainment and show that making a



Robbie Jaworski credits live hosting with teaching him how to stay composed and react quickly onstage

difference does not require entering politics.

"I want to be an example that you don't have to enter politics to make a difference in the

Philippines," he said.

His work as a host has also taught him to think quickly on his feet, particularly during live events.

"When it comes to hosting, when it is live, there is only one take. If you make a mistake, that's it, it's yours," he said.

Jaworski, who hosted last year's Star Magic All-Star Games, will return to the event this year, this time as a player.

He also hopes to take on more demanding acting roles, particularly in action.

"I am very hungry for acting projects. I just want to experience more," he said. "My dream in terms of acting is to do action." Jaworski said he plans to train in martial arts as he prepares for the possibility of taking on action-heavy roles.

His recent acting credits include *The Alibi*, *Meet, Greet, Bye* and Prime Video's *The Loyalty Game*, where he played Juancho Madrigal.

Jaworski is set to return for the second season of Y-Speak 2.0 while continuing to explore opportunities in both acting and hosting. (Manila Standard Showbiz)

Why Ricky Lee's 'Quiapo Ilalim' is a must-read for aspiring writers



Ricky Lee's new book *Quiapo Ilalim: Pagsusulat ng Iba't Ibang Daan (Trip to Quiapo 2)* is a "compilation" of all his lectures as a scriptwriter. PHOTO/: Gerry Olea

For anyone who has ever wanted to write a screenplay but did not know where to begin, National Artist Ricky Lee's new book may be the closest thing to having him conduct a workshop on paper.

"Quiapo Ilalim: Pagsusulat ng

Iba't Ibang Daan (Trip to Quiapo 2)," launched on Aug. 14 as part of "Cinemalaya 22: Reel Reflections," is a compilation of Lee's lectures, discussions and exercises from his scriptwriting workshops dating back to 1998.

"Compilation ito ng lahat ng mga lectures ko. Discussions namin. Exercises sa mga nakaraang workshops ko mula pa noong 1998 when I published 'Trip to Quiapo,' and then ito yung follow-up," he said.

For those who have attended his workshops, he considers "Quiapo Ilalim" a refresher. For those who have not, he hopes it can serve as a workshop in book form.

"Kaya parang refresher na rin itong librong ito para sa mga nag-workshop na sa akin. At doon naman sa mga hindi pa nag-workshop, para na rin silang

nag-workshop sa librong ito," he said.

The book's launch was particularly fitting during Cinemalaya 2026, where Lee's influence as a mentor is highly visible.

Note seven of the festival's nine competing full-length films were directed by filmmakers who went through his free scriptwriting workshop.

Lee said he was proud of the lineup, particularly the different voices represented by the filmmakers.

"Kanya-kanyang boses sila ng pagkukuwento," he said, adding that it was gratifying to see his former workshop participants continuing to make films.

But Lee refuses to play favorites.

"Wala. I make it a point na wala akong maging favorite. Na lahat sila, appreciate ko," he said.

Lee watched all nine Cinemalaya full-length films and said he was happy to see the work of his former students.

His book launch also drew plenty of readers.

For Lee, the long line was hardly a burden.

"Para sa isang writer na gaya ko, ang sarap-sarap na andaming taong nag-a-appreciate ng pelikula, andaming taong nag-a-appreciate ng mga libro, ng literature," he said.

That may be the simplest reason to pick up "Quiapo Ilalim": it represents decades of lessons from a writer who has not only written films but has spent years helping others find their own voices. (N. Ramos/ mb.com.ph)



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BY: *Ferdie Lontok*

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AT THE MOVIES By Robert Waldman

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Sunny dusty Australia is the perfect place for a getaway. Out to build a new life and doing a good job of it so far is macho woman Voodoo Child.

Don't you just love that name! Australian actress Radha Mitchell puts on a brave face as her past is about to come calling. Once upon a time Voodoo was a top notch sniper in the army.

Seven Snipers (R) ***



decides her lease on life is up.

Time's up as stone faced killer Tim Roth (*Planet of the Apes*) meticulously stalks this lonesome lady, now aided and defended by some crew from her past?

Survival is the order of the day in this hunt thriller that's dripping with tension - and blood. With a gritty and grimy atmosphere director Sandra Sciberras achieves here her aim in this violent surreal thriller,

That past becomes a liability as an evil warlord called Dragon

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.

Anne Curtis assures fans she is 'doing okay' amid health concerns

Anne Curtis assured fans that she is doing well after online discussions raised concerns about a visible lump on her neck.

In an interview during an event, the "It's Showtime" host said she prefers to keep details about her health private.

"It is not something I would like to talk about. I would like to keep things I am going through privately. But to anyone concerned, I am doing okay,"



Anne said.

The actress also stressed the importance of paying attention to changes in the body and undergoing regular medical checkups.

"It is very important you listen to your body," she continued.

Anne encouraged people to invest in their health and consider regular executive checkups as they get older. She added that

she has been undergoing yearly checkups since her 30s.

"We say mag-start at 40, but I have been doing it since my thirties," she said.

Anne also has several acting projects lined up. She is set to lead the Netflix original series "BuyBust: The Undesirables" and is scheduled to appear in three films.

(A. Villanueva/ manila Standard Showbiz)

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Anisimova's experience did Eala in

SPORTS

THIS time, Alex Eala bowed to someone richer in experience.

That sums up Amanda Anisimova's victory over Eala in yesterday's third round of the Cincinnati Open in Mason, Ohio, USA.

"Experience prevailed over youth," said Admiral Louie Fernandez (ret.). "That simple."

I can't dispute that.

While it's true that Eala gutted out a 6-4 win in the first set with an exceptional display of vicious tenacity and steely nerves, the Filipino ace just couldn't sustain her firepower against someone bent on reaching the finish line first.

Unlike many of Eala's previous victims who either folded up that easily or withered going into the final bend of the race, Anisimova proved to be of a different texture. She seemed like a dike built to buck the strongest surge of water from a burst dam.

Thus, while Eala was trying to ride on the momentum of her first-set win sparked by her brilliant three-game run to erase a 3-4 deficit en route to a 1-0 lead going into the second set,

Anisimova fought back like a dragon disturbed from deep slumber.

Down 2-3 in the second set, Anisimova sprang back to life by stringing up three games of her own to seize control, 5-3.

The American was simply a fantastic turnaround, utterly transforming from mediocre to magical by unbelievably bucking five double faults in that winning streak.

In game six alone of the middle set, Anisimova survived three horrific double faults to level the count at 3-3.

Next, she broke a suddenly disoriented Eala at the first opportunity before holding serve for a 5-3 lead—again brushing aside two double faults.

And after Eala held serve, Anisimova routinely held her own for a 6-4 win to forge a deciding third set, where, horror of horrors, Eala would hurtle back from heaven to earth.

Eala had an auspicious start in the decider, racing to a 2-0 lead as she broke Anisimova in the second game.

After that, it was all Anisimova

show.

After a break back, Anisimova, finally flashing her famous lethal backhand, tied it at 2-all, before making it 3-2 as she pounced on Eala's two double faults.

After that, defeat was merely a matter of time for Eala, who showed clear signs of fatigue against a visibly resurgent and rejuvenated Anisimova, who iced a crucial 4-2 edge with a blistering ace—her third for the day.

She would next break again Eala—by now appearing visibly spent with shoulders sagging and feet seemingly weighed down by lead—before wrapping up the match with flourish, clinching a 6-2 win at love.

While Eala was younger at 21 against the 24-year-old Anisimova (she turns 25 on August 31), the element of stamina, surprisingly, also turned in the American's favor.

But Anisimova, winner of four titles including two WTA (Women's Tennis Association) 1000s and a losing finalist in 2025 Wimbledon to Iga Swiatek and in the 2025 US Open to Aryna Sabalenka, praised Eala "for her great talent."

That talent will surely be unfurled again when Eala plays in the 2026 US Open from Aug. 30 to Sept. 13 in Flushing Meadows, New York.

With the lessons Eala learned during her super hectic schedule this season from January to the present, winning, along the way, the Mubadala DC Open in Washington with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 victory over world No. 3 Jessica Pegula only last Aug. 3, expectations are again high for the Filipino sensation to perform well in the season's fourth and last Grand Slam in the Big Apple.

I can almost see it happening.

THAT'S IT With over 20 tournaments she had played this year in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the US, Alex Eala should be more than ready for the US Open. She has two weeks to rest/prepare for the grandest tennis event of the year.

(The author authorized the reprint of this article)

Eala climbs to career-high No. 18 in WTA live rankings

FILIPINO tennis ace and world No. 20 Alex Eala climbed two spots to a career-high No. 18 with 2,166 points in the WTA live rankings ahead of her Cincinnati Open debut on Saturday.

Seeded No. 17 in the 1000-tier tournament with a first-round bye, Eala was set to face world No. 74 Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania in the second round (round of 64) Saturday at 11 p.m. in Manila.

If Eala beats Ruse, she will face either Zeynep Sönmez or Amanda Anisimova in the third round.

Jasmine Paolini and Ekaterina Alexandrova having their points from last year's Cincinnati and Monterey tournaments deducted

from their total enabled Eala's rise.

The live rankings indicated a net loss of 649 points for world No. 15 Paolini who reached the Cincinnati final last year, falling to No. 20 this time with a 2,124 total.

(N.V. Masoy/ Manila Times/ photo from sports inquirer)

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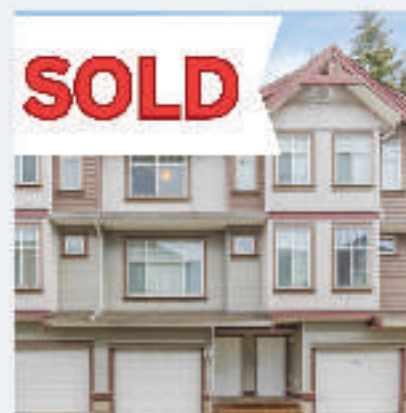
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