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Premier's statement on BC Day - August 3, 2026

VICTORIA – Premier David Eby has issued the following statement celebrating B.C. Day:

"Today, we're celebrating everything that makes our province one of the best places to live in this

country we all love.

"British Columbia is a land of extraordinary natural beauty – with abundant resources and endless

possibilities.

"From our pristine waters and coastlines, to our world class cities and communities, to the forests,

mountains, valleys and parks that give so much to the people of this province, we are so lucky to be in

B.C.

"The story of our province stretches back thousands of years.

"It starts with the Indigenous Peoples who built thriving communities and cultures that



continue to

shape British Columbia today.

"Then came the fur trade, followed by the gold rush that transformed British Columbia.

And with them came people from all over the world who helped build the province we know today.

"Recently, that has included

American nurses and doctors who are choosing to come here and

strengthen a health care system that reflects their values.

"Every generation has helped write the story of British Columbia.

"Our story includes both accomplishments we celebrate and difficult chapters we

continue to learn from

as we build a better future together.

"Today, we face challenges previous generations could not have imagined, but there is nowhere I would

rather be to face a changing world than right here.

"We have the resources, access to growing markets, and skilled people to lead a stronger and more

independent Canadian economy.

"That's why we fought hard to secure a landmark new agreement with Ottawa that finally recognizes

British Columbia's central role in Canada's future. This multi-billion-dollar deal will create good jobs,

strengthen public services, and protect our northern coast.

"Together, we're making real progress as British Columbians: (news.gov.bc.ca/ photo from theytee.ca)

Improvements to complaint process for workers, employers in effect Aug. 1

Changes will improve efficiency of complaint processes, speed up complaint resolution

Victoria

Summary

* Amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act are expected to improve the complaint and dispute-resolution process at the Employment Standards Branch

* Changes will increase opportunities for early dispute resolution and help workers recover wages more efficiently

* Amendments will improve complaint processes, while maintaining fairness for employers and workers

As of Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026, changes to the Employment Standards Act and the

Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act will be in effect.

The changes will streamline the employment standards complaint and dispute-resolution process by increasing opportunities for early resolution, while maintaining fairness for workers and employers.

The Employment Standards Branch ensures that workers covered by the Employment Standards Act and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act receive minimum standards of compensation and conditions of employment. The branch receives and investigates complaints about violations of the Employment Standards Act and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act for

non-unionized employees and temporary foreign workers. It also facilitates voluntary compliance, issues decisions and levies penalties for contraventions under the two acts.

Purpose of the changes

* Increase opportunities to quickly resolve straightforward complaints

* Require employers who appeal a determination to deposit amounts owed before an appeal proceeds

* Help match workers with unclaimed wages more efficiently

* Improve complaint processes, while maintaining rights and protections

Learn More:

* For more details about the amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act, read the news release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026LBR0005-000220> (news.gov.bc.ca)

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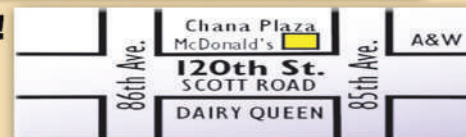
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Surrey's popular \$20 tree sales return this summer

The City of Surrey's highly popular \$20 tree sales return this summer, giving residents an affordable way to add trees to their properties while helping grow Surrey's urban forest.

Surrey, B.C. – The City of Surrey's highly popular \$20 tree sales return this summer, giving residents an affordable way to add trees to their properties while helping grow Surrey's urban forest. The first online sale opens Aug. 18 at 9 a.m., with pickup scheduled for Sept. 13 at the Surrey Operations Centre. The second will open Sept. 29 with a pickup date of Oct. 25.

"Trees planted today will benefit Surrey for decades to come," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "It's exciting to see so many residents take part in this program, with more than 25,000 trees purchased since it began. These affordable sales make it easy for people to beautify their properties while helping build a greener, healthier and more resilient city."

A thousand trees will be available during each sale on a first-come, first-served basis, and they often sell out

quickly. To help more Surrey households participate, the purchase limit has been set to two trees per sale.

"Fall is one of the best times to plant trees, and the City's tree sale program is a meaningful and effective way for residents to help protect and grow Surrey's urban forest," said Rob Landucci, urban forestry manager. "More than half of Surrey's tree canopy is located on private property, so homeowner participation plays an important role in growing and protecting our urban forest."

Residents can choose from a variety of fruit and ornamental trees, including apple, cherry, plum, dogwood, maple, and magnolia. Trees offered are selected for their popularity with residents, suitability for Surrey's climate, and ability to support local biodiversity.

For more information, visit surrey.ca/treesale.



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Vice Ganda promises 'to do better' after backlash on comedy skit



TV host Vice Ganda and Baby Dolls member Johaira.
SCREENSHOT PHOTO FROM YOUTUBE/IT'S SHOWTIME

MANILA, Philippines — "It's Showtime" host Vice Ganda apologized Saturday to viewers offended by remarks made to dancer Johaira during the show's "Memerimar" segment.

The controversy came from

a live episode where Vice Ganda spat water onto the face of Johaira, a member of the show's resident dance group, Baby Dolls, as part of a slapstick routine. Moments later, the host commented, "Anong

nangyari sa 'yo? Ba't nagputik ka?" ("What happened to you? Why do you look like you're covered in mud?")

Clips of the incident drew criticism from viewers who argued the remark targeted Johaira's skin tone and crossed the line from comedy to humiliation.

In an official statement released on social media on July 25, the television host directly addressed the public's grievances.

"Nakarating po sa aming kaalaman na may mga Madlang People po na hindi nagustuhan o na-offend sa ilan sa aming jokes o biruan dito sa Showtime pati na rin sa ginagawa namin sa 'Memerimar,'" Vice Ganda said.

("It has come to our attention

that some of our viewers were offended or displeased by some of our jokes here on 'Showtime,' as well as what we do in 'Memerimar.'")

The host emphasized that offending viewers was never the production's intent.

"They found the jokes offensive or insensitive... the last thing we want is to displease you o hindi mapasaya ang aming Madlang People," Vice Ganda added. "Kaya naman ina-acknowledge namin ang inyong sentimyento at humihingi po kami ng paumanhin sa inyo and we will try to do better."

(The last thing we want is to displease you or fail to make our audience happy. That is why we acknowledge your sentiments, sincerely apologize to you, and we will try to do better.)

Following the statement, several social media users praised the host for acknowledging the mistake and taking swift accountability. Neither Johaira nor the management of ABS-CBN has issued separate statements regarding the incident as of posting. (I. Iglesias / Manila Times)

MTRCB summons 'It's Showtime' producers over Vice Ganda controversy

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has formally ordered the producers of "It's Showtime" to appear before its Hearing and Adjudication Committee following a wave of complaints over the program's July 24 episode, placing the long-running noontime show under official review.

In a Notice to Appear issued by the agency, the MTRCB directed representatives of GMA Network Inc. and ABS-CBN Corporation to attend a hearing on July 29 after receiving numerous complaints from viewers regarding allegedly offensive content aired during the episode.

The complaints primarily centered on the show's "Memerimar" skit featured in the "Laro Laro Pick" segment, where host Vice Ganda was accused by complainants of making racially insensitive and colorist remarks.

Also included in the complaints was the now-viral "lugaw" segment involving Vice Ganda and partner Ion Perez.

According to the MTRCB, the complaints, together with findings from its Monitoring and Inspection Unit, prompted the agency to determine whether the broadcast may have violated Section 3(c) of Presidential Decree No. 1986, which prohibits television programs containing material deemed contrary to law, public morals, good customs, or public order.

The producers were likewise instructed to submit documents authorizing their representatives to appear before the committee. The agency warned that failure to attend the hearing could result in the case being decided based solely on the evidence already on record.

The development comes just days after Vice Ganda publicly apologized on-air following the online backlash generated by the controversial skit.

During the July 25 episode of "It's Showtime," the comedian acknowledged that some viewers



found portions of the program offensive and insensitive.

"Nakarating po sa aming kaalaman na may mga Madlang People po na hindi nagustuhan o na-offend sa ilan sa aming jokes o biruan dito sa Showtime pati na rin sa ginagawa namin sa 'Memerimar,'" Vice said.

Vice stressed that offending viewers was never the intention of the show's hosts and assured the public that they had taken the criticism seriously.

"They found the jokes offensive

or insensitive... the last thing we want is to displease you o hindi mapasaya ang aming Madlang People. Kaya naman ina-acknowledge namin ang inyong saloobin at humihingi po kami ng paumanhin sa inyo and we will try to do better," the host added.

The MTRCB has yet to announce whether sanctions will be imposed, with the outcome expected to depend on the findings of the hearing and subsequent deliberations by the Board. (N. Ramos/ mb.com.ph/Photo by MTRBC (FB) & Tempo)

AC Bonifacio excited to showcase comedic side in 'Saving Cherry'

MANILA -- Actress and performer AC Bonifacio is embracing a new challenge as she joins the cast of the upcoming comedy film "Saving Cherry."

Bonifacio stars alongside Barbie Forteza, Mika Salamanca, Mikee Quintos, Sassa Gurl, and other Kapuso artists.

Bonifacio said she was immediately drawn to the project because it gives her the opportunity to portray a character unlike anything she has done before, while introducing a fresh concept to Philippine cinema.

"I'm just so excited to do something very different from AC Bonifacio. Something new and just a movie that is needed in Philippine cinema. I feel like it's a concept that's never been put out before," she shared.

The actress added that she has already been telling her friends about the story because of how much she enjoys its concept and is excited for audiences to finally see it on the big screen.

Although she previously appeared in the campy horror-comedy "Shake, Rattle & Roll," Bonifacio said "Saving Cherry" marks her first project centered entirely on comedy.

"I was very scared because my jokes don't hit sometimes because of my English and stuff like that. But with Direk and the

whole cast, they've definitely helped me through all of it. I learned a lot," she said.

Bonifacio also expressed her appreciation for working with a diverse ensemble cast, saying it was a memorable experience collaborating with both artists she grew up watching and fellow performers from different networks.

"It's so nice being around these new artists and artists that I got to watch growing up. It's nice that we're finally able to cross over and work together. I've been learning so much. I always love to meet new people to learn, and this is one of those movies that will stick with me no matter where I am," she said.

Outside of "Saving Cherry," Bonifacio is also part of the GMA series Born to Shine while continuing to pursue new acting opportunities through



AC Bonifacio with the cast of the upcoming film "Saving Cherry," August 3, 2026 at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City. Ganiel Krishnan, ABS-CBN News

auditions.

"I'm just sticking with what I love to do," she said.

"Saving Cherry" opens in cinemas nationwide beginning September 2, 2026.

(G. Krishnan /ABS-CBN New)



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Why 91% of Filipino 10-year-olds struggle to read: Alden Richards' new documentary looks for answers



The Philippines' education crisis remains one of the country's most pressing challenges, with millions of students struggling to read, overcrowded classrooms becoming the norm, and many schools still lacking adequate facilities years after the pandemic.

A 2022 World Bank report found that 91 percent of Filipino children aged 10 were unable to read and understand a simple text appropriate for their age, underscoring what education experts have described as a severe learning crisis.

The issue takes center stage in "Rebuilding Broken Rooms: A GMA Public Affairs Education Special," airing Aug. 8, with actor Alden Richards traveling to some of the country's most underserved schools to examine the realities behind the statistics.

The documentary visits Tinungkaan Elementary School in Alabel, Sarangani, which the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) identified as having the highest percentage of struggling readers in the country. Teachers and students cross rivers and trek through

mountainous terrain every day just to reach makeshift classrooms.

In Tondo, Manila, the program also features Rosauo Almario Elementary School, where many pupils continue to struggle with basic reading and comprehension. Among them is Grade 2 student Jannah Will, who sometimes misses classes because her family cannot afford transportation. A nearby public school has remained closed since it was destroyed by fire two years ago.

The special also highlights the shortage of classrooms in parts of the country.

Ciudad Nuevo Elementary School in Naic, Cavite, has resorted to building temporary learning spaces, while Calubcob Elementary School has converted vacant housing units into classrooms despite unsuitable learning conditions.

For Richards, the documentary has a personal dimension. The actor has spoken openly about leaving school at a young age to help support his family and has since funded scholarships

and school-building projects for underserved communities.

He said he accepted the project in hopes of drawing attention to the country's education challenges.

"Gusto kong magamit 'yung boses na meron ako para maipalaganap 'yung mensahe na kailangan marinig ng sambayanan. Gusto ko maging part nung advocacy para mamulat natin 'yung mga tao sa kung ano ba talaga 'yung sitwasyon ngayon," Richards said.

What struck him most, he added, was seeing children who had come to accept poor learning conditions as normal.

"Paano natin naiparanas sa kanila na okay na 'to? Hindi siya okay. Hindi natin dapat ipa-realize sa mga kabataan na ito 'yung normal na way to be educated. Kasi hindi 'to deserve ng mga batang gustong matuto," he said.

"Rebuilding Broken Rooms: A GMA Public Affairs Education Special" airs Aug. 8 at 9:30 p.m. on GMA. (N. Ramos/ mb.com.ph/ photo from GMA)

Pinoys At Sea: GMA Network Inks New Partnership with Maritime Mobile Communications

GMA Network, the country's leading media company, takes another step in expanding its global footprint through a new maritime distribution partnership with Maritime Mobile Communications. This latest collaboration, through which the Network's flagship international channel GMA Pinoy TV, "The Heart of Global Pinoys," will reach more Filipinos at sea, underscores its commitment in bringing more Filipino content through technology-driven solutions worldwide.

The partnership ensures reliable access to GMA Pinoy TV through advancements in satellite and IP connectivity, bringing beloved Kapuso programs along major international maritime routes and also in remote offshore locations. Filipino seafarers can enjoy the latest episodes of favorite programs and also trusted news and updates, keeping them connected to home while onboard sea

vessels.

"Following our recent expansion into maritime distribution, this new partnership allows us to reach even more Filipino seafarers across different vessels and routes," says GMA Network First Vice President and Head of International Operations Joseph T. Francia. "We know that life at sea can be isolating, and even the simplest connection to home can make a meaningful difference. By bringing GMA Pinoy TV onboard, we hope to offer not just news and entertainment but also a sense of comfort, familiarity, and shared Filipino experiences wherever their journey takes them. This is how we continue to live out our commitment to being 'The Heart of Global Pinoys,' steadily and purposefully reaching our kababayan, even in the most distant waters."

Beginning August 1, 2026, GMA Pinoy TV brings seafarers closer



to home through a diverse array of programs that inform, inspire, and entertain: the Network's award-winning flagship newscast "24 Oras," the must-watch game show "Family Feud Philippines," the long-running comedy program "Bubble Gang," heartwarming real-life stories in "Magpakailanman," touching narratives in "Tadhana," and the beloved magazine program "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho."

The latest collaboration of GMA Network with Maritime Mobile

Communications is a testament to the Network's commitment to serving and providing further platforms for Filipino seafarers and more Filipino communities across the globe, bridging the distance between home and navigating life at sea.

For the latest partnerships and initiatives of GMA Network, visit www.GMANetwork.com. Follow Kapuso PR on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube.

SB19, BINI as tourism ambassadors hailed as 'a very smart move'

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine Ambassador to China Jaime FlorCruz applauds the recent decision of the Department of Tourism (DOT) to launch P-pop Kings SB19 and P-pop girl group BINI as the country's newest tourism ambassadors.

"Especially among the Chinese youth. I think that is a very smart move on our part, having them as ambassadors will, by association, inspire many Chinese to learn more about the Philippines, discover what the country has to offer, and visit the Philippines," FlorCruz told The Philippine STAR in a recent exclusive sit-down interview.

Tourism Counselor Ireneo Reyes recalled the two P-pop groups' influence in the Mainland.

"I think the BINI, they've been here in China in 2024. They attended one very popular reality show wherein they performed, I think, Pantropiko. Which is very popular. I think they have a lot of viewership during that time. And then on the other side, the SB19, they're a very popular group here in China because of Douyin, which is the local TikTok. Their song, Gento, it's very popular here and is being used as background music (by) some of those bloggers or KOLs, which they do some

dance performance," Reyes said.

"They are really known here in China," he added. "So, we really have an opportunity for them to help us promote the Philippines here in China in terms of tourism."

For Reyes, he believes that Filipino talent can help boost tourism and encourage Chinese nationals to make the Philippines their next travel destination.

"But I think the thing is, they also showcase the Filipino, you know, our musicality, which is one of our innate traits. That's very popular in the world. So, we just showcase that we are really very friendly people and then our musicality to show our Chinese guests. Way to attract them to come and visit the Philippines," Reyes noted.

If there is an opportunity, Reyes said that they are open to inviting SB19 and BINI to visit China to perform and showcase Filipino talent among Chinese nationals.

"And hopefully, if they can be able to have some opportunity, we can bring them here to China to be able to do some performance and be able to showcase the talents here in the market. That will go a long



Philippine Ambassador to China Jaime FlorCruz supports the Department of Tourism's decision to tap SB19 and BINI as the country's newest tourism ambassadors. Tourism Counselor Ireneo Reyes recalls the two P-pop groups' influence in the Mainland.

way for us, especially with this social media network right now that we can be able to reach a lot of Chinese consumers."

It can be recalled that DOT officially named P-pop group SB19 last July 26 and fellow P-pop group BINI on July 3 as the tourism ambassadors aiming to promote Philippine culture, destinations and

hospitality to international audiences.

This is after the two groups raised our flag on international stages, including SB19's performance at "Lollapalooza" and "Summer Sonic" and BINI's "Coachella" debut that made back-to-back history in the Philippine entertainment industry. (J. Lorzano/Philstar)

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Princess, Ruby and Tootsie find their way back to acting in America

MANILA, Philippines — Ruby Rodriguez, Princess Punzalan and Tootsie Guevara have found their way back to acting, this time in the US, thanks to “Nurse the Dead.”

The “Hollywood-made, Filipino-led” supernatural workplace comedy-drama on iWant brings them together with a multicultural cast that includes seasoned actors with credits in American network television, Hollywood studio films and international productions, from “Freakier Friday,” “Glee,” “S.W.A.T.,” “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” to Telemundo shows.

Show creator Mark Labella said the project’s mission is to put Filipino faces and stories in front of Hollywood and global audiences. The series, after all, centers on Filipino healthcare workers.

“Nurse the Dead” follows Noa Reyes, played by Jelynn Malone, a hardworking Filipina nurse in a US hospital who can see and communicate with the spirits roaming the facility. While handling patients, families and relationships with co-workers, she must also deal with ghosts carrying unfinished business.

Ruby plays Rosalinda “Ross” Amee, a member of the haunted Ward 5 hospital team, while Tootsie portrays Nurse Zeny, who brings humor and heart to the workplace. Princess takes on the role of Camille Alejandro, a former Filipino child star who now works as a nurse, a character that interestingly reflects the actress’ own transition to the US healthcare field.

For the three former Philippine showbiz personalities, “Nurse the Dead” reconnected them with their “past lives” in the Philippines, while allowing them to draw from the lives and careers they had already established in the US.

Relocating for family

Ruby recalled that she had not planned to leave showbiz. The comedienne and former “Eat Bulaga” host eventually chose to move to the US for her children, particularly for her son’s special education and medical treatment for an autoimmune condition.

“It’s always family first. It (the show) resonates with me so much because I left the Philippines for my family,” Ruby said during the show’s global media conference.

“I still had a good run there. I was doing well when I left. It may not have been at the peak, but I was still there. I left because I



Former Philippine showbiz personalities Princess Punzalan, Ruby Rodriguez and Tootsie Guevara are part of the supernatural workplace comedy-drama ‘Nurse the Dead’ by show runner Mark Labella.

had to, for my son — not just his education but his treatment.”

Relocating meant starting over in a country where her credentials in the Philippines didn’t necessarily bear the same weight.

“I said, ‘Forget it. I’m just going to start over and work hard again for my son, not just for my son but my daughter,’” she further shared.

Her decision, ultimately, came down to determining what mattered most at this stage of her life. “It’s the mom in me. I had to weigh what’s important in your life. You had a good run. You enjoyed your showbiz life. It’s about time to devote yourself. You’re a mother now.

“Sacrifice whatever comfort and joy and everything that you had in the Philippines. Say goodbye and be a mother — this time a full-time mother.”

That’s why Ruby, though working as a staff member at the Philippine Consulate Office, could relate very well to the sacrifices made by Filipino healthcare workers portrayed in “Nurse the Dead.”

“That’s how nurses are. They sacrifice their families, their lives because they serve families that are not their families,” she said.

“That’s why I always tell people, if a Filipino nurse or caregiver is taking care of you, be thankful. Love them. Be nice to them because they will be your family forever.”

Ruby also said that she drew from her personal history for one of her character’s most emotional scenes. She was already crying

during rehearsals and had to hold back the emotion until the right moment.

“There’s a term in the Philippines when you’re doing something like that: ‘Saan mo hinuhugot?’ Where are you pulling it from?” she said.

“You’re pulling it from there, but at the same time you’re pulling it down so that you give it out at the right time. That episode hit me right there.”

Apart from reuniting her with former colleagues such as Princess and Jett Pangan, the experience made Ruby realize that her love for acting had never waned.

“When I got on the set, I didn’t even realize that I missed it so much,” she said. “I was so happy doing it.”

Reinventing away from showbiz

Tootsie, meanwhile, moved to the US in 2004 after making her name in the Philippines primarily as an OPM singer in the late ‘90s and early 2000s.

She became known for such hits as Kaba, Pasulyap-Sulyap, Mahal Ka Sa Akin, Nang Dahil sa Pag-Ibig, etc.

Acting formed a smaller part of her Philippine showbiz career but the “That’s Entertainment” member appeared in films like “Psycho Sex Killer,” “Rubberman” and “Radio Romance.”

“Nurse the Dead” marks her return to the craft.

“Gusto ko po talagang maging actor even when I was based in

the Philippines,” she stressed. But as her family’s breadwinner, she had to make practical decisions. During her time in the industry, acting could mean spending an entire day or longer on one set for a single paycheck. As a singer, she could perform on several stages in one day and earn separate fees from each appearance.

That led her to prioritize music before moving to America and creating a completely different professional identity.

“I moved here to the US to reinvent myself as Emma,” she said. “I reinvented myself as a different person, but I still have it in my heart as Tootsie Guevara.”

She has since pursued a successful non-entertainment career, becoming a hospital executive. Her daily work has given her a closer view of the contributions and pressures experienced by overseas Filipino nurses.

“I work in the healthcare field. Sa hospital po ako nagtatrabaho. I’m in management, so I see my fellow Filipinos who are nurses,” Tootsie said.

Having worked in healthcare for more than two decades, she noticed that many of the nursing leaders in the hospitals are Filipinos.

“Maaasahan ko talaga the way they take care of and represent my hospitals, the way they treat patients and difficult families,” she said. “Filipinos, especially in healthcare, we are the heart of the company. Napakahirap po ng trabaho ng nurses.”

So, when Labella and director Wesley Villarica approached her for “Nurse the Dead,” the opportunity didn’t only reawaken her interest in acting, it also let her two identities — Emma, the healthcare executive, and Tootsie, the performer — to finally meet.

She jokingly described herself as “Emma during the day, Tootsie at night.”

One thing’s for sure, she said, it filled a space in her life that she had long wanted to explore.

“That is such a huge addition, not only to my résumé but as a human being,” she said. “My soul right now, I’m at the point in my life that it’s complete.”

She also welcomed the chance to act opposite performers working

SEE NEXT PAGE...

The 'signs' that helped Abdul and Marsy win P1 million on "Kapamilya Deal or No Deal"—and their plans to donate



You can and you should trust your intuition. If you need a little more convincing, just look at the *duo of Abdul (David Domanais in real life) and Marsy (Kimp Atip in real life)*, who listened to the signs and are now P1 million richer after bagging the highest prize in the latest episode of "*Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal*."

The content creators, known for

their comedic LGBTQ-themed skits, are the first Lucky Stars to win the P1 million jackpot in "*Kapamilya Deal or No Deal*" Season 6, so of course they were over the moon. "Namaos na ako kakasigaw," enthused Abdul during a quick interview with ABS-CBN Studios after the game.

Even before the Lucky Wheel picked a player, it already felt as

though it was going to be their night. First, host Luis Manzano announced Marsy's birthday, and whether or not you believe in wishes, it seemed like the universe was already dropping hints.

Originally, Abdul and Marsy were assigned Briefcase Number 14. But the night before taping, Marsy had a random strong feeling about the number 6, which he dismissed at first. Then on the day of the shoot, the first Lucky Star they encountered was Jannah Chua, who went into their dressing room to give them a box of donuts which had six pieces inside. And Jannah happened to be holding Briefcase Number 6 too, so taking these as signs, the duo swapped briefcases with her. They fought for Briefcase Number 6 until the final round, and then went home as millionaires.

"*Ngayon lang kami naniwala sa signs,*" Marsy mused "*Tapos birthday ko pa, parang ang daming nag-connect-connect. Para sa amin talaga itong P1 million na 'to.'*"

Abdul and Marsy also believe that the heavens knew they had good intentions for the prize money. "*Narinig ni Lord 'yung reason, kung anong gagawin namin sa mapapanalunan namin. Itutulong din namin, eh. Hindi naman para sa amin lang 'yung pera na 'yun. Kami 'yung magiging*

bridge para tumulong din kami sa iba," shared Abdul.

Part of their win will be donated to children and animal shelters. But of course, they're saving a little room to celebrate too—possibly an out-of-town trip.

They didn't really have a strategy in playing, apart from trusting each other as they took turns picking which briefcases to open. That's why their advice for future Lucky Star players is to not overthink, "*Maniwala lang kayo sa gut feeling ninyo. Kung ano 'yung nakukutuban n'yong number, huwag kayong magdalawang-isip.*"

Most of all, they shared that every good thing starts with the right mindset and the power of positive thinking. They just kept telling themselves they were going to beat the Banker, though they appreciate the Banker for putting up a good fight as well, considering that his final offer of P560,000 was one of the biggest in the show's history.

"*Siguro swerte lang talaga 'tong araw na 'to,*" said Abdul, to which Marsy added, "*Sobrang ramdam ko lang na sobrang blessed kami.*" But they also reminded viewers and future Lucky Stars that we're all fortunate and blessed in different ways every single day. "*Kaya namin, kaya n'yo rin!*" said Abdul. (L. Dela Cruz/abs-cbn)

PRINCESS FROM LAST PAGE...

in the US, including those who were discovering the Philippine veterans' body of work for the first time.

Working in US healthcare

Princess, on the other hand, brought real hospital experience to the set while pulling off a demanding balancing act to make the project work.

"It felt nice to be able to do what I actually do in real life," Princess said of her character.

She also felt responsible for helping the production portray hospital procedures and workplace realities more accurately.

"I felt like I had the responsibility to help guide them on what really happens and how things are done in the hospital," she said.

Her two careers sometimes collided during production.

Labella recalled Princess reporting

to the set after completing a 12-hour hospital shift.

"Pag mahal mo talaga ang ginagawa mo, gusto mong ginagawa mo, you will do everything to make it possible para mangyari siya," the actress explained.

She hoped the series would help patients and families understand that nurses often work under intense pressure while still trying to provide the best possible care.

"We want to help you. We want to find solutions. We want to be able to give you the best care possible," Princess said.

"It's just that sometimes there are too many tasks to be done and too little time. More often than not, we rarely eat. We rarely take our breaks. We can't even go to the toilet."

She added: "We try our best to help as much as we can, and it's nice when we meet patients and families who are understanding and kind."

(N. Tomada/Philstar)



How Regal found 'perfect cast' for 'Saving Cherry'

Putting together the cast of "Saving Cherry" took Regal Entertainment, Inc. two years of developing the story, refining the script and finding the right actors to bring the characters to life.

At the film's press conference on Aug. 3 at Gateway Mall Cinemas in Cubao, Regal Entertainment, Inc. executive vice president Keith Monteverde said the team wanted a cast that could deliver both the comedy and the emotional weight of the story.

"We really wanted to make this movie because, one, we wanted to do a comedy that can hopefully make people laugh... But at the core of the movie, I think it's something also very real," Atty. Keith said.

He credited filmmaker Ivan Andrew Payawal and writer-director Patrick Tabada for bringing the story to life after years of development.

"I think Direk Ivan is the perfect guy to do it. We've been planning this for a couple of years," he said.

Direk Ivan said assembling the right ensemble was one of the biggest priorities for the film.

"We were really looking for the perfect cast... I'm very proud

of this cast," he said.

The director said the bond formed during production became one of the strengths of the film.

"The connection that we made during the shoot is something na lagi kong tina-try i-achieve in my set."

By the end of filming, Direk Ivan said he gained a deeper appreciation for the cast beyond their performances.

"At the end of the shoot, I became a fan of each and every one of them... I'm always impressed that they're good people."

Atty. Keith said Barbie Forteza was the first choice for the role of Cherry, while the rest of the cast came together through Regal's previous collaborations with several of the actors.

"Each one of the girls we've worked with before," he said, citing Mikee Quintos, AC Bonifacio and Sassa Gurl. He added that Mika Salamanca, who was working with Regal for the first time, immediately stood out during their meeting.

"She was perfect for Jewel."

Atty. Keith said the chemistry among the actresses was already



Sassa Gurl, Mika Salamanca, Barbie Forteza, AC Bonifacio and Mikee Quintos

visible early in production.

"First day was warm-up, pero sa second day rushes, nakikita ko na 'yung chemistry. It felt like it was really working. It's a perfect cast."

Regal Entertainment, Inc. president and CEO Roselle Monteverde-Teo also noticed the transformation in the cast's dynamic.

"Nakita ko sila sa photo shoot, tapos nung nakita ko sila ulit, parang may nangyari," she said, referring to the change in their energy and rapport after filming began.

She described "Saving Cherry" as a more daring entry compared to Regal's films from the 1970s and 1980s.

"Noong '70s and '80s, hindi pa. Mas sobra pa 'to. Kakaiba," she said.

"Campy 'yung before. But this is grounded. Mas madadala ka kasi may pinaghuhugutan kung saan ang pagka-comedy niya, at saka may pinaghuhugutan kung bakit sila gano'n."

"I've seen the movie and I love it so much," she added. (Malaya entertainment)

Barbie Imperial skips birthday bash to give back



Instead of throwing a lavish birthday celebration, actress Barbie Imperial chose to spend her special day where her heart truly belongs — her hometown in Bicol.

In a heartfelt social media post,

Barbie shared that returning home always brings her peace, describing the province as a place filled with kind people, delicious food and a simple yet soulful way of life. She also

reflected on how the majestic Mayon Volcano reminds her to stay grounded and connected to her roots.

"Instead of having a big party, nag-decide kami ng family, friends ko and ni Chard (Gutierrez) na mag gi-give back na lang," she said in her post.

"Sobrang lakas ng ulan pero tuloy pa rin ang pagbibigay namin ng mga school supplies, medicines, mga pagkain. I'm so excited," she added.

The actress turned her birthday into a meaningful celebration by giving back to her former grade school and the teachers who, according to her, became her "second parents."

"Palaging lilingon sa

pinanggalingan," Barbie wrote, expressing gratitude to the educators who believed in her, cared for her and helped shape the woman she is today.

She revealed that it had long been her dream to give back to her school, Maroroy Elementary School, Daraga in Albay — a goal she was finally able to fulfill with the support of her loved ones.

Barbie also thanked God for blessing her with people who continue to surround her with love and kindness, saying she felt incredibly fortunate to experience such overwhelming support during her birthday celebration.

(O. ekabar/ Malaya)

This is Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for the month of August

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for the month of August is for evangelization in the city.

"Roughly half of us live in cities. Jesus himself walked city streets, in Cana, in Jericho, in Jerusalem, and just as in those cities Christ is present in ours — teaching, praying, celebrating, but also suffering among the poor, the forgotten, the imprisoned," the Holy Father said in a video released July 31 on X.

He added: "This month, let us pray for the courage to recognize him [Jesus] there and through our work and witness to bring the Gospel to the streets and homes of our metropolises."

In the full video shared on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website,

Pope Leo recites an original prayer written specifically for this month's prayer intention:

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, You walk through our streets and squares, enter tall buildings and humble neighborhoods, and silently accompany millions who seek meaning amid noise and haste.

You know, Lord, the heart of the city: its lights and shadows, its noise and loneliness.

We know that cities are called to be places of freedom and opportunity, but they can also become spaces of anonymity and isolation.

That's why today we ask you for a renewed gaze, able to discover in urban life fertile ground for proclaiming your Gospel.

Give us a creative and deep faith, that doesn't remain in words, but becomes flesh through simple and loving gestures.

Make us a Church that goes forth, able to reach out to the peripheries, to console those who are lonely, and to sow fraternity and connection instead of giving in to indifference.

Lord, may our urban communities be open and welcoming homes,

places where hope is shared, where no one feels invisible, and where the joy of your Gospel shines in the hidden lives of so many brothers and sisters.

Make us your witnesses in the city, bold and creative missionaries, who proclaim your love with their lives— a love capable of overcoming haste, noise, and anonymity.

Amen.

"Pray with the Pope" is accessible on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website and its digital platforms.

(By Francesca Pollio Fenton, EWTN News via CBCP News)

The thing Sessionistas say AI can never replace

For the Sessionistas, artificial intelligence (AI) may become an increasingly useful creative tool, but there's one thing it will never replace: the experience of live music shared with other people.

As conversations around AI continue reshaping the music industry, the group believes technology has its place as long as it helps artists instead of taking their place.

"The problem starts when it affects someone's livelihood," Ice Segueria said, referring to unauthorized AI-generated music using existing works.

Nyoy Volante said genuine artists will always use technology to enhance, rather than replace, their own creativity.

"The real musician uses AI to harness what already exists," he said.

Still, all three agreed that no technology can replicate the feeling of being inside a live concert.

"No matter what happens," Princess Velasco said, "there's something different about appreciating live music with other people."

That belief sits at the heart of "Sessionistas: The Playlist," the group's upcoming reunion concert.

After reintroducing themselves to audiences during their first comeback concert, the group is taking a different approach this time by shifting the focus from themselves to the audience and the memories they share through music.

"We started with kami," Ice explained. "This time, it's tayo."

"It's like someone starts singing, then suddenly everybody knows the lyrics," Nyoy said. "That's the experience we're trying to create."

The concert's carefully curated playlist reflects that vision. Creative director Liza Diño and stage director Ice built the show around emotional "playlists" rather than traditional concert segments, selecting songs tied to heartbreak, romance and other life moments from hundreds of suggestions.

"It's difficult for me to sing songs I don't connect with," Ice said. "If it's a concert, the songs have to come from the artists themselves. That's how you truly connect with the



audience."

In an era dominated by carefully curated social media personas, the members believe their greatest strength is simply

being themselves.

"Sessionistas: The Playlist" will be held on August 22 at 8 pm at The Theatre at Solaire in Parañaque. (Malaya Entertainment)



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Sara Duterte's ratings plunge with impeachment trial

By Carlito Pablo

Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte is starting to feel the pain of her impeachment trial.

Duterte has suffered "significant declines" in her public ratings as prosecutors have started laying down evidence on the charges against her.

Results of an OCTA Research survey show that trust in the vice president fell by eight percent, from 55 percent in March 2026 to 47 percent in July 2026.

Meanwhile, public satisfaction with her performance dropped by five points, from 50 percent to 45 percent in the same period.

For context, OCTA Research reported that Duterte's performance rating is below majority level for the first time since November 2024.

Public trust of the vice president also dipped below majority once before, in November 2024, when both ratings stood at 49 percent.

"July 2026 therefore marks the first time since November 2024 that her trust and performance ratings are simultaneously below majority — and both are now the lowest ratings recorded for her in the series to date."

Duterte's is facing four Articles of Impeachment. Her trial before the Senate sitting as impeachment court started on July 6, 2026.

Article I covers alleged misuse of P612.5 million in confidential funds from the Office of the Vice President (P500 million), and the Department of Education or DepEd (P112.5 million), which Duterte used to head.

Article II involves alleged unexplained wealth, failure to



Sara Duterte is facing four Articles of Impeachment. Photos from Duterte's official social media.

truthfully disclose assets in Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth, or SALNs, from 2022 to 2024, and failure to divest and willful continued business interests.

Article III concerns alleged bribery and procurement irregularities involving DepEd officials.

Article IV is with regards to alleged assassination threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and Marcos' cousin and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

Prosecutors have finished presenting Article IV and, as of this writing, are proceeding with Article I.

OCTA Research's Tugon ng Masa nationwide sur-

vey was conducted from July 4 to 11, 2026 amid heightened public attention to the trial.

In its July 27, 2026 report, the Quezon City-based polling, research and consulting firm stated that Duterte's decline "warrants closer scrutiny than the topline numbers alone suggest".

"Her trust and performance ratings have fallen below majority level together for only the second time in the available series — the first being November 2024, when both stood at 49%. This quarter's ratings of 47% trust and 45% performance are the lowest yet recorded for her, surpassing even that earlier dip. It is the scale and timing of this decline,

more than its rarity, that stand out."

OCTA Research's report continued, "The most direct explanation for this record decline is the impeachment trial itself. The proceedings opened on July 6 to extensive live coverage across both broadcast and online platforms, with thousands of police deployed around the Senate and protesters gathering to call for her conviction — a level of sustained public and media attention rarely matched by other developments in this survey period."

Moreover, "The opening was further amplified by the same-day arrest of a key Duterte ally, Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, which dominated both traditional news cycles and social media discussion in the days that followed. That her ratings crossed below majority in precisely the quarter this trial began, and by a wider margin than the previous such crossing in November 2024, makes the trial and its surrounding media environment the most direct and best-supported explanation among the factors considered here."

Additionally, "Other factors may have compounded this effect, though none can be isolated from this survey alone. One is a growing perception, voiced increasingly by critics in Congress, that the Vice President has not done enough given her limited formal portfolio during a period of economic difficulty."

As well, "Some lawmakers have publicly questioned what the Office of the Vice President has accomplished, pointing to her relative absence from public statements on pressing issues such as West Philippine Sea tensions and disaster response.

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A second is the perception of corruption itself: the flood-control-fund scandal, the allegations of unexplained wealth and misused confidential funds at the center of the impeachment charges, and the same-day arrest of Sen. Marcoleta may together have reinforced corruption-related concerns as a factor distinct from the trial's media visibility alone."

Further, the "shape of the data itself points to a more structural reading that reinforces the trial as the central explanation". "The decline is unusually

uniform across socioeconomic class — Class ABC, D, and E each fell by approximately 9 points in trust — which is not the pattern one would expect if the cause were narrowly economic, since economic pressure this quarter fell more unevenly on lower-income groups. A decline this evenly spread across class lines is more consistent with a shared national event, such as the trial, than with a pocketbook-driven shift."

In short, the loss of majority support for Duterte indicates that she is no longer invincible as previously thought.

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By Ysabelle Tumaneng & Chelsea Ramirez

Sometimes it's so hard to find the right words for something this deep. Still processing how meaningful it is to see this in print—as a witness and survivor of the Lapu Lapu Day tragedy, it has been a long journey of just pushing through and surviving at a time when there was no space to process.

To have the article, “Healing through an Indigenous Filipino tattoo: A journey of reconstruction,” featured on the cover of the July – September 2026 issue of Occupational Therapy Now feels entirely surreal.

This piece is a deeply personal exploration of cultural reclamation,

storytelling, and healing. It reflects why representation and mental health matter so deeply, and how the spirit of kapwa—our shared humanity and deep interconnectedness—can truly act as *isang bagsak* when we need it most.

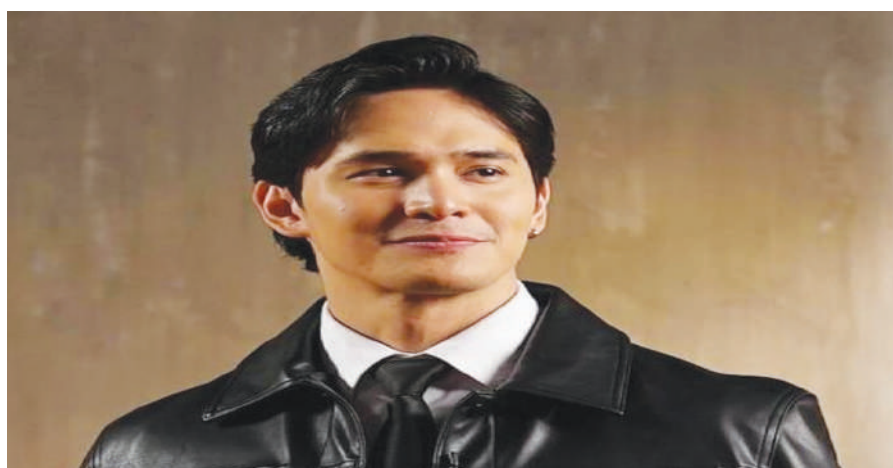
A massive thank you to everyone who has supported this path, and special appreciation to @birthmark_tattoos for the incredible artistry, safe holding space, and being a vital part of this healing and chelsea for helping to make this article possible.

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Healing Through Heritage: Filipino Survivor Shares Journey of Recovery



Ruru Madrid reveals turning down projects due to his religion



Kapuso actor Ruru Madrid admitted that he has turned down several projects because of his faith. In an interview with King of Talk Boy Abunda on Fast Talk, he explained how challenging it could be, but at the same time, he isn't limited by his faith when it comes to taking various roles.

Ruru is a proud member of Iglesia Ni Cristo.

“Totoo yun marami ng mga bagay na natanggihan ko just because of my faith,” he revealed.

In the interview, he shared how alcohol and gambling are some of the things that they aren't allowed to promote or become endorsers of. He explained the process of how he would usually ask permission from his church to do roles through a *salaysay*, which is usually approved every time due to the nature of his work.

“I'm gonna be honest, Tito Boy. Of course, challenging siya sa pagiging isang aktor. I mean, siyempre, bilang isang aktor hindi ka lang naman umaarte—marami rin tao na nag loolook up sa'yo,

nagsisilbing inspirasyon ka, at marami sa mga tagahanga ko ay miyembro ng Iglesia Ni Cristo,” he expressed.

“Siyempre, hindi naman sa lahat ng pagkakataon na mauunawaan nila kung ano yung ginagawa namin bilang isang aktor,” he added.

Ruru added that before accepting a project, he would talk to the crew about it and assured that his work as an actor isn't limited to what other people would think.

“Ang ginagawa ko na lang bago pa namin gawin ang isang proyekto, mag-uusap-usap kami ng production, mag-uusap-usap kami ng directors kung ano yung mga hangga't maaari, maiwasan. Pero I wouldn't say limitasyon siya kasi puwede naman yun ipagpaalam,” he explained.

The Kapuso star cited his upcoming movie as an example of how his church allowed him to act in it despite the plot around it. He is set to star in *Los Salvajes Bravos*, where he'll be portraying a person

from a different religion.

“Ang story po niya, Tito Boy, kami po yung mga dinala na mga Pilipino o mga Igorot na dinala po sa Spain during the 1800s. During that time wala pa naman Iglesia Ni Cristo, so kumbaga, walang magiging problema doon kasi parang ang pinoportray ko na role ay isang role na wala pang Iglesia [Ni Cristo] that time,” he said.

When asked about romantic scenes, Ruru maintained that they are allowed to do so because their church knows what their job entails.

“Actually, yung mga ganyan eksena hindi ko na siya usually pinagpapaalam dahil parang nakikita naman nila lagi ko siyang ginagawa at bilang isang aktor, ayoko din talaga malimitahan yung sarili ko lalo pa at right now, I'm in the era of expansion and gusto kong mag-explore kung ano pa yung kakayanan ko bilang isang aktor,” he ended. (D. Aniceto/Push Team/abs-cbn/ photo from GMA news)

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Kim Chiu's legal fight with sister far from over, says Star Magic

Kim Chiu will continue pursuing her criminal complaint against her sister, Lakambini "Lakam" Chiu, despite an old video circulating online that showed the actress speaking positively about their relationship.

The clarification came from Star Magic after the 2023 video resurfaced on social media.

In a statement, the talent management agency stressed that the video reflected the circumstances at the time it was recorded but no longer represented the current situation between the two.

"While the statements made by Kim at the time were true and reflected the circumstances then, they no longer represent the present situation," Star Magic said.

The agency explained that Kim uncovered new information in 2025 that led her to seek legal action against her sister.

"Since then, Kim has discovered material information that came

to light in 2025, which prompted her to take legal action. As a result, a criminal complaint filed by Kim against Ms. Lakambini Chiu is currently pending before the proper authorities," the statement read.

Star Magic added that Kim remains committed to seeing the case through the legal process. According to the agency, the actress intends "to establish the truth, hold the responsible parties accountable, and seek justice."

The management said it released the statement to clarify the timeline of events and prevent misunderstandings caused by the circulation of the old interview.

Kim filed a qualified theft complaint against Lakambini in December 2025 over an alleged financial dispute involving their businesses.

The case remains pending before the proper authorities. (N. Ramos/mb.com.ph)



Photo from pep.ph

Boy Abunda promises to give Jobert Sucaldito proper burial

Boy Abunda shared more details about the death of veteran entertainment journalist Jobert Sucaldito on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda" on Monday.

During the "Today's Talk" segment, Tito Boy said that, according to Jobert's son, Carlo Sucaldito, the late journalist passed away due to cardiac arrest.

Jobert had collapsed in his room and hit his head. His housemate found him unconscious and rushed him to the Philippine Heart Center where he was declared dead on arrival.

Per Tito Boy, Jobert had been hospitalized last month after doctors found two blocked arteries in his heart. Doctors recommended that Jobert be admitted to the intensive care unit, but he declined and said he could push through.

Tito Boy also shared his condolences on the show.

"We are mourning. He was very close to me. He was very, very protective of me and I will miss him," Tito Boy said in English and Filipino. "I cannot find a more loyal friend than Jobert. I will always remember him."

Tito Boy also confirmed the news that Jobert had wanted Tito Boy to be informed of his death first.

"That is true. They informed me yesterday that he has passed away. It was very difficult. I'll just give context on why he wanted me to be the first to know. He would always tell me — he called me 'sir.' 'Sir, when I die, I want a proper burial,'" Tito Boy recalled Jobert telling him.

Turning emotional, the TV host promised to do just what Jobert wanted.



"I promise to do that. Sinabi ko [kay Carlo] na bibigyan natin nang maayos na paalam, maayos na libing, ang iyong ama," he said.

Jobert passed away on Sunday.

According to director Chaps

Manansala, Jobert had been confined at Providence Hospital in Quezon City for nearly a month due to anxiety and sleep deprivation. (Nika Roque/CDC, GMA News)

Jobert Sucaldito's son Carlo Brian breaks silence on his father's death

After the sudden death of veteran entertainment columnist Jobert Sucaldito on Sunday, his son, Carlo Brian, revealed what happened in the days leading up to his father's passing.

In a Facebook post, Carlo shared that his father died from cardiac arrest and is currently lying in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium in Commonwealth.

"Sadly, Nanay Jobert passed away yesterday due to cardiac arrest (heart failure), as explained by the doctors at the Philippine Heart Center. During the incident, he suddenly collapsed and fell, causing him to hit his head, which resulted in the bruise on his forehead and the cut on his lips.

"His wake is currently being held at Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium in Commonwealth, and everyone who wants to visit is welcome anytime until August 6, 2026," Carlo wrote.

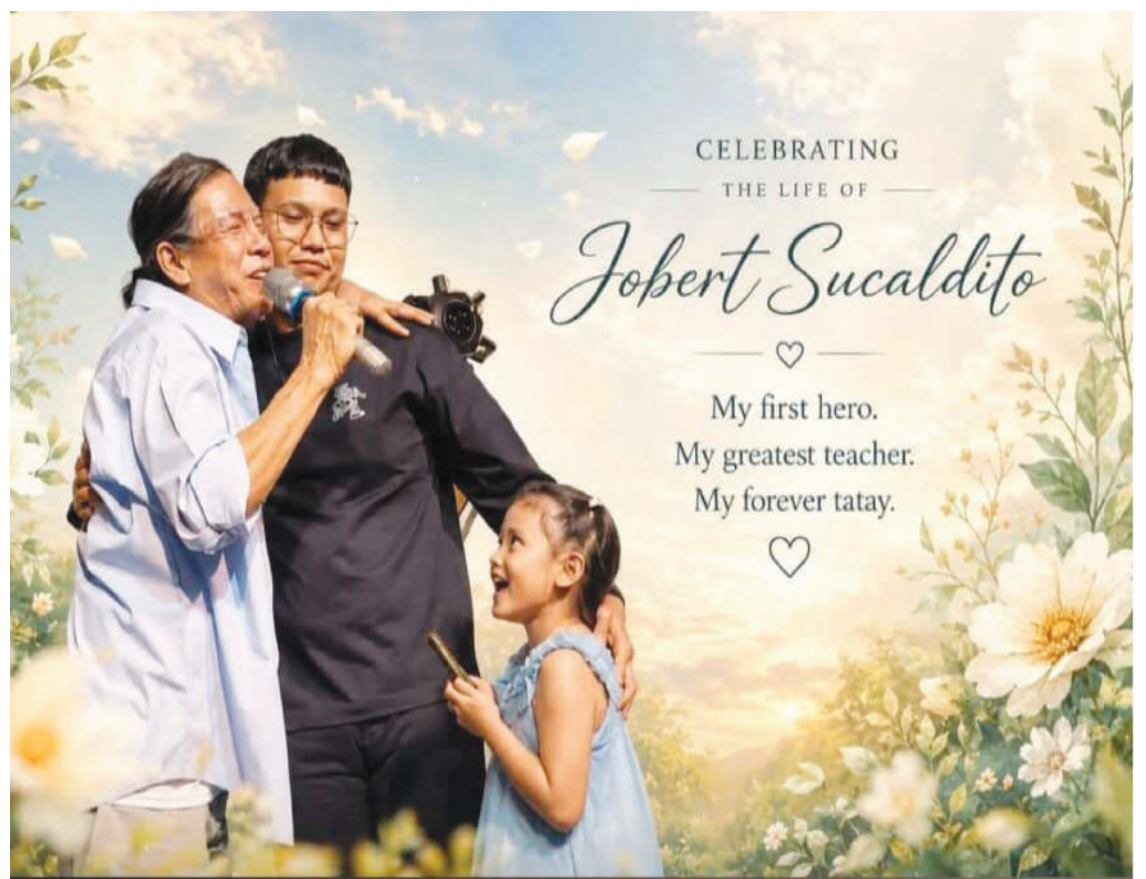
Carlo went on to reveal what happened to his father in the days leading up to his death. "A few weeks ago, Nanay

was rushed to Providence Hospital because he really wasn't in good condition. The doctors recommended that he be admitted to the ICU, but if you all know Nanay, alam niyo kung gaano siya katapang at katigas ang ulo, in the best way possible.

He wanted to keep fighting and continue enjoying life, and he kept saying, 'Kaya ko!' at 'Okay ako!'"

According to Carlo, he respected his father's decision and they went back home, where his father continued with his usual routine. He added that Jobert's health had been steadily declining over the past few weeks, prompting them to spend more quality time together.

"The last two weeks we spent



together became some of the most unforgettable moments of my life. We went on road trips, visited places he enjoyed, shared meals, laughed together, and simply spent quality father-and-son time.

Looking back, we noticed that his body was slowly getting weaker, but

he never complained and never wanted anyone to worry. He always made us believe that he was okay, even when he probably wasn't," Carlo wrote. (C. Alcantara/mb.c0m.ph)

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Joross Gamboa finds a different calling in showbiz

MANILA, Philippines — His bread and butter is to entertain people, making them laugh and touching their hearts. Off-cam, among the missions of actor Joross Gamboa is to speak about and share the “good news.”

“Actually, I have lots of communication because I share the Word of God with my friends,” said he in a recent brief group chat, including this paper.

“So, yun yung isang purpose ko ngayon (that is one of my purposes these days), being the salt and light in the industry. Ilapit sila kay Lord (it means bringing my friends closer to God) and i-share lagi ang Word of God (always sharing His good news),” added he.

Joross studied theology, earning his AB Biblical Studies degree from Global Life University last year.

From his answers, one could say that a person can share the Word of God and the truth as long as he or she fully understands it and does so with gentleness and kindness.

He said that there are churches that have expressed their interest in getting him as a pastor.

“Pero, sinasabi ko hindi yun yung calling ko (but I told them that it’s not my calling),” added he.

“Sa’kin lang (for me), is mag-evangelize sa showbiz (to share the Gospel in show business). Siyempre, una yung ministry ko, yung family ko (of course, first is my ministry, my family), and then yung mga friends ko (next is my group of friends). And then, ito sa industriya.”

Joross described himself as “a follower of Christ,” who really focuses on the Bible, and non-denominational. “But I just focus on Sola Scriptura. Final authority is the Bible,” said he. Available online information shares that Sola Scriptura means “Scripture alone,” and Scripture is the authority, faith-and practice-wise.

Joross has previously spoken

about his spiritual journey. In a GMA interview, the actor shared that marrying his wife, Katz, brought him closer to God and his faith has since shaped his outlook on work and relationships. In a separate ABS-CBN interview, Joross described God as his family’s provider, saying that the blessings they receive should also be used to bless others. He has since used his social media pages for ministry.

He’s also part of the family drama movie titled “Remember,” with Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera in lead roles.

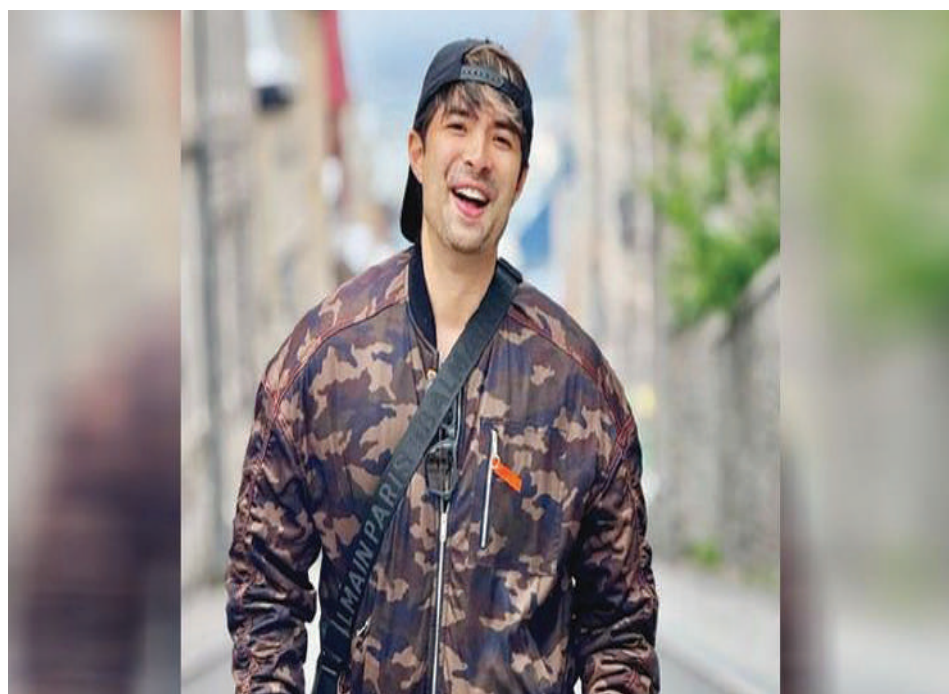
He shared that the cast and crew completed the scenes filmed in Quebec, Canada, and they’re finishing other sequences to be shot in the country.

“‘Remember’ ang title. So, malamang ‘di nyo makakalimutan kasi you’ll remember (the title is ‘Remember.’ So, you probably won’t forget it since you’ll remember it),” said he, adding that it might be screened in cinemas sometime in November.

As for his character, Joross shared, “Ako yung manggugulo kay Dingdong at Marian (he is the third party, who will stand in the way of the characters of Dingdong and Marian), dahil ako ang feeli-ngerong nanliligaw kay Marian (since the character is a pretentious and proud suitor of hers). So, masaya ‘to, masaya ‘to, pang-pamilya (the movie is fun and for the family).”

“Hindi ka maaasar, parang mapapailing ka na lang at matatawa na lang sa kalokohan (one doesn’t get annoyed with the character but will just shake one’s head and laugh at the character’s silliness),” said he, adding that the movie is also about pain and has a beautiful story to share.

Meanwhile, like Filipinos out there who work hard for their families and spend their earnings wisely, Joross also finds ways to lower electric consumption and reduce energy bills. His measures include setting air-con to 24 degrees, having electric fans with plastic blades, installing solar panels and net



Joross Gamboa entertains viewers with his funny and touching portrayals and continues to be among visible actors. Beyond his showbiz persona, he has also found his purpose to bring friends in the entertainment industry closer to God.

metering. He would also consider suggestions made by a group of moms on Facebook.

“Syempre, tayo bilang sa pamilya, gusto rin natin makatipid para sa ating

bahay (Of course, as a head of the family, we want to save). So, ayun, yung mga ganung bagay, ginagawa ko rin talaga (those tips and practices, I’m also doing them),” said he. (J. Donato/Philstar)



The actor-comedian is part of the family drama movie titled ‘Remember,’ with real-life couple Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera in lead roles and Mae Cruz-Alviar as director. Photos from the artist’s Facebook page

Mary Rivera, Ned's lola in 'Spider-Man: No Way Home,' passes away at 82

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine-born actress Mary Egida Rivera, best known for portraying the grandmother of Ned Leeds in 2021's "Spider-Man: No Way Home," passed away last April. She was 82 years old.

A relative of Rivera's confirmed to entertainment outlet TMZ suffered a stroke and was in an extremely serious condition.

Doctors informed the family that even if the actress emerged from her coma, the prognosis was not positive, so the decision was made to take her off life support.

Rivera's death date was April 15 in Honolulu, Hawai'i and was later cremated. She is survived by her husband Alejandro, four children, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The same relative told the

outlet Rivera had a good life and was proud to appear in "No Way Home" after being encouraged to audition as the lola of Ned played by fellow Filipino-American Jacob Batalon. Batalon shared a brief message of condolence, "REST IN PARADISE LOLA," in a comment on a social card by another outlet Entertainment Weekly.

The actress in the film shares a scene with Batalon and Zendaya as the latter two's characters attempt to search for Tom Holland's Peter Parker via magic, only to find themselves the versions of Peter Parker played by Andrew Garfield and Tobey Maguire.

Rivera's character humorously calls her grandson a "salamangkero," requests in Filipino that Andrew's Spider-Man take off cobwebs on the ceiling, appears smitten upon seeing Maguire's Peter and scolds everyone again in Filipino, making a mess.



Mary Rivera in "Spider-Man: No Way Home" Columbia Pictures

"No Way Home" went on to become the highest-grossing film of 2021 with nearly \$2 billion (P122 billion) at the global box office and landing in the Top 10 all-time box office list, though its sequel "Spider-Man: Brand New Day"

is on track to match or even surpass it.

Rivera was born in Iloilo to parents Vicente and Felicia, later serving as a missionary for the Church, a teacher, and radio broadcaster. K. Purnell/Philstar)

Cebu archbishop holds up Alex Eala as role model for youth

Eala captures the 2026 Mubadala DC Open

A Cebu archbishop urged young Filipinos to value character above trophies and fame, pointing to tennis star Alex Eala as an example of humility, perseverance and faith.

Archbishop Alberto Uy said the country needs role models whose lives inspire goodness, encouraging young people to admire not only success but also integrity and compassion. "My dear young people, dream big, work hard, and never stop learning. But above all, build a beautiful character," Uy said in a pastoral reflection.

"Trophies will one day gather dust, records will eventually be broken, and fame will fade," he said. "But humility, kindness, honesty, perseverance, and faith will continue to touch lives for generations."

Uy, who also plays tennis, said Eala represents more than sporting excellence because

she has remained humble, disciplined and gracious despite international recognition.

He described the 21-year-old tennis star as cheerful, resilient and respectful, saying her character shines even brighter than her achievements on the court.

The archbishop said Eala reflects the best qualities of Filipinos, showing that true greatness comes not only from talent but also from the way people treat others.

"This is exactly what every young Filipino is called to do. Success is a blessing, but a life that inspires others to become better is an even greater blessing," he said.

Uy prayed that Eala and other Filipino youth would become champions not only in sports or their professions but also in goodness, integrity and hope. "If more Filipinos choose this path, I truly believe that the future of our nation will be brighter, stronger, and filled with



Tennis - Wimbledon - All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London, Britain - July 6, 2026 Philippines' Alexandra Eala reacts as she leaves the court after losing her fourth round match against Italy's Jasmine Paolini Photo from CBCP; Reuters/ Jaimi Joy)

God's blessings," he said. Earlier Sunday, Eala advanced to the final of the Mubadala DC Open after defeating four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in the semifinals in Washington, D.C.

As of this writing, Alex Eala's breakthrough moment has

arrived.

The 21-year-old Filipina overcame a rain suspension and a one-set deficit to stun top seed Jessica Pegula and capture the 2026 Mubadala DC Open crown early Tuesday, August 4 (Philippine time).. (CBCP News)

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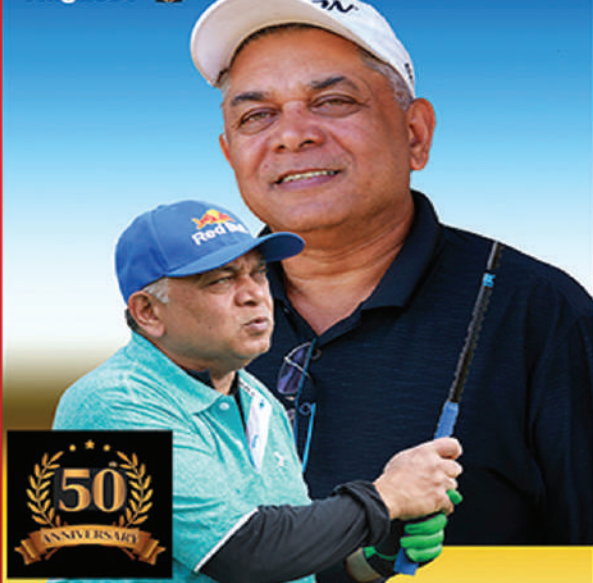
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Eala ripe for the big time

SPORTS

ALEX Eala is, indeed, ripe for the big time.

She had just proven that by winning the Mubadala DC Open on Tuesday, 4 August PHL time, in Washington, USA.

It wasn't just sensational but smashingly unbelievable as well.

Her victims were big guns of the tennis world, with their credentials almost parallel to that of intellectuals waving doctorate degrees.

First, Eala defeated China's Qinwen Zheng, bucking a first-set loss to carve out a 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win on July 29.

Her victory, completed in two hours and 32 minutes, cruelly ousted Zheng, the reigning 2024 Paris Olympics champion.

But more than that, the win also avenged Eala's defeat to Zheng in the semifinals of the 2023 Asian Games where the Chinese star proceeded to win the gold.

Second, Eala bundled out Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) on July 30, dethroning the Fil-Canadian winner of the event last year.

The win likewise avenged a loss to Fernandez early this year.

Third, Eala swept aside Elina Svitolina, 6-3, 6-4 on August 1 to validate an earlier win over the Ukrainian hot shot in the United Kingdom.

And in her fourth match of the tournament on August 2, Eala took the scalp of Naomi Osaka, 6-4, 6-2, in a brilliant win that drew tons of praises from around the world.

Rightly so.

Osaka was a four-time Grand Slam champion, winning her first Slam in the 2018 US Open as a 20-year-old, following that up with a victory in the 2019 Australian Open to become the world No. 1.

She would win the US Open again in 2020 and the Australian Open in 2021 before walking away from the sport to become a mother.

And in her return years later, Osaka would prove outstanding once more before Eala would clip her rousing return with that straight-set win in the Mubadala semifinals.

There was no stopping Eala by now.

Her being on a roll preceded her amazing 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 win over the tough-as-nails Pegula, the billionaire's daughter from New York, whose father owns the Buffalo Bills in the US National Football League.

Eala's epic win over Pegula had a tinge of drama as the match was stopped twice by rains and was postponed for a day to thoroughly clear up the hard court.

But once play resumed with Eala ahead 2-1 in the second set, it was evident that Eala was hell-bent on beating Pegula, the 32-year-old seven-time champion seeded No. 1 in the tournament.

But Pegula would prove resilient and it took a 5-4 lead done at love by Eala to set up a break and score a 6-4 second-set win to force a third-set decider.

Bizarrely enough, Eala totally and clinically outplayed Pegula in the crushing entirety of the final frame as the 21-year-old Filipina sensation broke the American thrice en route to a brutal 6-0 victory.

So incredibly deadly was Eala in the decider that she zoomed to 40-plus leads in each of the six final games, speeding to 40-0 in the sixth game for a triple championship point she had so crazily clinched just on her second try.

Eerily, Eala totally dismantled Pegula in the final set as the outclassed American committed 50 unforced errors, the bulk of which came in the decider.

It was also sweet revenge for Eala, who lost to Pegula the first time they met in March last year that ended Eala's winning streak of three against Grand Slam champions Jelena Ostapenko, Madison Keys and Iga Swiatek in the 2025 Miami Open.

Pegula took her defeat well,



lex Eala wins her FIRST WTA title. (Mubadala DC Open via CBCP News)

exhibiting good breeding by heaping praise on Eala the minute she stepped up to the podium.

indeed, for Eala. Only time will tell how high she will soar from hereon.

It was actually Eala's first WTA (Women's Tennis Association) 500 triumph, after her WTA 125 win in Mexico in 2025 and her WTA 125 victory in the Lexus Birmingham Open this year in the United Kingdom.

In his social media post, President Marcos Jr. praised Eala's win, calling it as "yet another historic achievement" as it will inspire "our youngsters to dream without limits."

THAT'S IT From Washington, Eala is set to play in the National Bank Open in Toronto, Canada, after which she goes next to the Cincinnati Open in Ohio before heading to New York for the US Open set from Aug. 27 to Sept. 13. Such a hectic schedule for ur firebrand. All the best, Alex.

(Article reprinted as authorized by the author)

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'Para may divorce': Barbie Forteza dreams of Las Vegas wedding

MANILA, Philippines — Barbie Forteza gave a playful answer when asked about her dream wedding, saying she would love to get married in Las Vegas while wearing a Vera Wang gown.

During the grand mediacon for Regal Entertainment's upcoming film "Saving Cherry," Barbie was asked to describe her ideal wedding.

"Dream wedding ko? I wanna get married in Vegas. In Vera Wang. Para may divorce," she said.

Her candid response drew laughter from members of the media, with the actress making a reference to Nevada's divorce laws.

Divorce remains unavailable for most couples in the Philippines.

Barbie's answer came as she discussed portraying a married woman for the first time in her acting career.

The actress revealed that

"Saving Cherry" marks her most mature role to date, as the story delves into marriage and the complexities that come with it.

"And most of all, ito 'yung most mature role ko 'coz we will tackle about marriage, e," she said. Unlike many of her previous characters, Barbie said her role begins with her already married.

"Ito 'yung role ko na kasal na ako agad-agad," she said. She also described her character as the "wildest" she has portrayed, saying the role allowed her to explore a freer and more uninhibited side of herself.

Directed by Ivan Andrew Payawal, "Saving Cherry" stars Barbie alongside Khalil Ramos, Mikee Quintos, Sassa Gurl, AC Bonifacio, JC Alcantara, and Mika Salamanca.

The film explores the realities of love, marriage and relationships through a more mature and emotionally driven narrative. (J.M. Severo/ Philstar)

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