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Premier David Eby calls October 24 snap election

By ReyFort Media

B.C. NDP Premier David Eby on Tuesday (September 22) called a snap election for October 24.

Eby announced the election in Victoria, citing threats to the province by U.S. President Donald Trump and amid the disarray among the political opposition.

The election will be held a week after voters cast their ballots for the October 17 municipal elections across the province.

This means that British Columbians will be going to the polls twice in October.

Eby's government has made a flurry of announcements in recent days, including investments in health care.

Eby also announced he is committed to pausing

the provincial sales tax expansion and will build new BC Ferries vessels in the province.

In his remarks Tuesday afternoon, Eby said "for British Columbians and for Canadians, this is an existential moment. The prime minister has called this a rupture, and he is absolutely right."

"Donald Trump is attacking our workers. He's targeting our businesses, and he is threatening our sovereignty."

Meanwhile, interim B.C. Conservative leader Lorne Doerksen has swiftly moved to reunite the Opposition's splintered factions.

Doerksen was appointed temporary leader of the B.C. Conservatives on September 20 after Kerry-Lynne Findlay stepped down.



Eby has called the election less than two years into his mandate. The regular election was supposed to be held in 2028.

Eby and his B.C. NDP won the 2024 provincial election with a slim majority.

"When you smell smoke you don't sit and wait to see what happens next," Eby said, standing alongside

his wife, Dr. Cailey Lynch, outside Government House in Victoria, where he went to ask Lt.-Gov. Wendy Cocchia to dissolve the legislature on September 22.

He called for a firebreak against both the trade war and "Trump-style politics."

Eby mentioned Trump by name more than 20 times.



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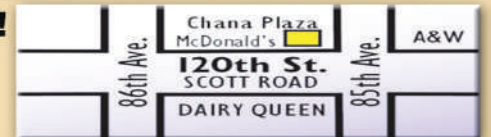
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Attorney General's statement on B.C. filing legal action against OpenAI



VICTORIA - Niki Sharma, Attorney General, has released the following statement on the Government of British Columbia filing legal action against OpenAI related to the Tumbler Ridge tragedy and advocating for stronger regulations on AI:

"The people of Tumbler Ridge have endured an unimaginable loss, and they deserve answers and accountability. As part of our ongoing efforts to achieve that, British Columbia is filing a lawsuit against OpenAI in California for its failure to notify law enforcement of threats made on its platform prior to the mass shooting at Tumbler Ridge Secondary school.

"This action is an important step toward seeking justice for the families, students, educators and community members whose lives were forever changed by the events of Feb. 10, 2026. The Province is working closely with the board of education for SD59

Peace River South as this matter proceeds through the courts.

"The lawsuit being filed raises serious questions about the responsibilities of technology companies when they become aware of credible threats of serious violence, and the actions that should be taken to help protect people and ensure public safety.

"This case highlights the urgent need for strong national safeguards for artificial intelligence technologies and online platforms. Our government has consistently advocated for measures to protect people, especially children and youth, from online harms.

"I have written to federal ministers Fraser, Solomon and Miller with clear policy ideas to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to ensure a pathway to human accountability for AI's actions.

"As technology evolves, our laws and safety frameworks must keep pace. British Columbians deserve confidence that credible threats of violence will be treated seriously, and that those who profit from offering AI services to the public are held accountable for any criminal actions that can appropriately be traced back to them.

"To date, OpenAI has not taken meaningful steps to address the concerns raised by survivors, families and the Tumbler Ridge

community. The company still has an opportunity to demonstrate accountability by strengthening safeguards, improving transparency and taking concrete action to help prevent similar tragedies in the future.

"Our government remains committed to supporting the Tumbler Ridge community and to working with partners at all levels to strengthen safeguards that help keep people safe online and in their communities.

"This action today is consistent with the Province's long-standing commitment to hold powerful corporations accountable when their products or practices cause harm to people and communities. From tobacco and opioid manufacturers to vaping companies, the Government of British Columbia has used the courts to pursue accountability and ensure that people in B.C. are not left bearing the costs of

corporate wrongdoing.

"Legal proceedings cannot undo the immense loss experienced by the people of Tumbler Ridge. However, holding OpenAI accountable, seeking much needed answers and demanding stronger protections are important steps for preventing future tragedies."

Learn More:

* To learn about the supports available for people affected by the Tumbler Ridge tragedy, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/youth-and-family-services/tumbler-ridge>

* To read more about legal filings related to Tumbler Ridge tragedy by affected families, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026AG0050-000799>

(Ministry of Attorney General Media Relations)

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MLS **RE** **E**

Star for All Seasons Vilma Santos-Recto has broken her silence on her omission from the latest list of National Artists, saying she has accepted that the recognition may simply not be meant for her.

The actress and Batangas governor addressed the issue during the talkback session following a special screening of her 1984 film "Sister Stella L" at the Metropolitan Theater on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Santos said she considers the more than six decades she has spent in show business as a gift in itself.

“Sa animnapu’t taon ko sa industriya, palagay ko ang



naibalik sa akin ng industriya ay malaking regalo na," she said.

Her omission from the latest batch of National Artists has drawn attention, particularly among her supporters who

have long backed her for the honor.

Ten new National Artists were proclaimed in 2026, bringing the total number of declared National Artists to 91.

Still, Santos said she would rather accept the outcome than dwell on what did not happen.

She was also asked whether her role in public service could affect her chances of becoming a National Artist.

Santos, who is currently serving as governor of Batangas, said she would rather fulfill her responsibility to her constituents first.

“Palagay ko po hindi ko po muna ipagpapalit ang pwede ko maitulong sa totoong buhay ang pangangailangan ng ating kababayan,” she said.

"I have two years and eight months to go at kung ito ay maging sagabal sa pagiging National Artist, hayaan niyo ako magsilbi sa totoong buhay. Ako ay pinagkatiwalaan ng Batangueño ibabalik ko muna iyon," she added.

(lan Ureta/mb.com.ph)

'Maybe you need kindness': Anne Curtis claps back at 'retokada' claim



MANILA, Philippines — Host-actress Anne Curtis shut down a comment that claimed she had surgery done on her face.

The “It’s Showtime” host reposted on X last September 21, Monday, a video of a fan appearing to take home posters of Anne after purchasing items from a cosmetics brand she co-owns.

A lurking account replied to the post Anne made with a close-up photo of her from the recent Preview Ball 2026 with the caption “Retokada yarn? Exhibit A - anak,” alleging that Anne got plastic surgery.

Anne responded an hour later during the early hours of September 22 and made it

clear she is “not retokada at all.” For her, she and her daughter Dahlia are both beautiful.

"I usually don't give people like you the time of day but wala lang. I don't know who hurt you or why you're so angry with me but nonetheless sending you some kindness, maybe you [need] some in your life," the

host-actress said.

“Big virtual hug. I mean that, sincerely. Good night!” Anne ended with a couple of emojis, followed by supportive replies by followers.

Dahlia is Anne's six-year-old daughter with husband Erwan Heussaff, whom she wed in 2017. (K. Purnell/Philstar)

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AMBETH OCAMPO BRINGS PHILIPPINE HISTORY TO VANCOUVER

Acclaimed Filipino historian and author welcomed by Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin and the Filipino-Canadian community



VANCOUVER, B.C. — Renowned Filipino historian, author and public intellectual **Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo** received a warm welcome in Vancouver during a special gathering held at the Philippine Consulate General office in Vancouver, bringing Philippine history closer to members of the Filipino-Canadian community.

Hosted by Philippine Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, the event brought together community members, academics, officials and admirers of Ocampo's work for an engaging gathering centred on Philippine history, culture, identity and heritage.

Consul General Jamoralin welcomed Dr. Ocampo and the guests to the Consulate, underscoring the value of bringing distinguished Filipino scholars and cultural figures closer to Filipinos living abroad.

Ocampo is one of the Philippines' best-known contemporary historians and authors. Through his books, lectures, newspaper columns and public appearances, he has built a wide following by presenting Philippine history in a way that makes the past accessible and engaging to readers beyond the traditional classroom.

His Vancouver appearance offered members of the community a rare opportunity to hear directly from a historian whose writings have encouraged generations of Filipinos to look more closely at their country's past.

Ocampo's approach to history often goes beyond dates, monuments and familiar textbook narratives. Drawing attention to original documents, correspondence, photographs and other historical materials, his work encourages readers to examine the personalities and circumstances behind important moments in Philippine history.

For Filipinos living overseas, that connection to history can carry particular meaning. Learning

about the country's past provides another way for Filipino families to preserve their heritage and pass their cultural identity to younger generations born or raised outside the Philippines.

The gathering at the Philippine Consulate General office demonstrated the continuing interest in Philippine history among Filipino Canadians and provided an opportunity for dialogue, reflection and community interaction.

One of the highlights of the program was the presentation of a **Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Ocampo**, recognizing his visit and participation in the Vancouver gathering.

The program was followed by an opportunity for guests to personally meet Ocampo, take photographs and have copies of his books signed. The book signing added a personal dimension to the occasion, particularly for readers who have followed his writings and historical work over the years.

For members of Vancouver's Filipino community, Ocampo's visit was more than an opportunity to meet a prominent historian. It also served as a reminder that Philippine history and culture remain important parts of Filipino identity regardless of where Filipinos now call home.

The event likewise reflected the important role of the **Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver**, under the leadership of Consul General Jamoralin, in creating opportunities that strengthen cultural and educational connections between the Philippines and the Filipino community in British Columbia.

The gathering concluded with photographs and conversations among Dr. Ocampo, Consul General Jamoralin, officials, guests and members of the community.

For those who attended, the occasion provided an opportunity to experience history beyond the pages of books — through conversation with one of the Philippines' most recognized historical writers and through a shared celebration of Filipino heritage in Vancouver.

— Philippine Showbiz Today / ReyFort Media



Philippine Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo during his visit to the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver.



Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo, Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, officials, guests and members of the Filipino-Canadian community gather for a commemorative photograph following the Vancouver program.



(Left photo) ReyFort Media Publisher Rey Fortaleza, OLY (in stripes shirt) with Dr. Ambeth R. Ocampo and UFCABC Pres. Joel Castillo during the noted Filipino historian and author's visit in Vancouver.



... with members of the community enjoying the event.



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Kim Chiu's sister's bail reduced to P5.6 million



KIM CHIU VS LAKAM CHIU

124 counts of qualified theft.

"May natanggap kaming report about diyan sa presence ng accused doon sa area ng Mandaluyong," said Police Lt. Col. Aljun Belista, station commander of the Quezon City Police District-Kamuning Police

Station. "Cooperative naman po sila at parang anticipated na po na may warrant."

'SHAKEN'

Lakam has since been detained at the Kamuning Police Station custodial facility.

"Kagabi po, understandably, she's a little bit shaken. Medyo bago po ito," Solis said. "Malungkot po ang pangyayaring ito lalo na't ang kasong ito ay nag-ugat sa isang alitan ng mga magkakapatid."

Kim's camp, meanwhile, expressed support for her sister's arrest.

"We are hopeful that this crucial step will expedite the ongoing legal proceedings," said Margarein Archernar Gregana, legal counsel of Kim and company The House of LittleBunny Philippines, Inc. (HOLB).

The complaint stemmed from alleged serious financial discrepancies amounting to P44.4 million from January to July 2025 at the company, where the sisters are both stockholders.

"These charges are strictly involves the unlawful taking of corporate funds and not a personal dispute between Lakam and Ms. Kim Chiu," Gregana said.

SETTLEMENT

Solis declined to discuss the merits of the case, saying it is already before the court, but expressed hope that a settlement remains possible.

"Umaasa pa rin po kami na sana



Lakambini (Lakam) Chiu

maayos po ito ng magkakapatid," he said.

Gregana, however, said they have not received any offer to settle from Lakam's legal team.

"Wala pa nagri-reach out sa amin talaga sa legal team upon filing ng complaint as to this, no offer, no anything. So, ayon. We take it as that," Gregana said.

Kim's camp added that they are determined to pursue the case and seek justice and accountability. (M. Delizo / abs-cbn news)



Father visits Lakam Chiu, says family struggles to raise bail

The father of embattled Lakambini "Lakam" Chiu said Wednesday that the family was unable to raise the hefty amount needed for her immediate release, but volunteers are helping them raise funds for bail.

The 45-year-old Chiu was charged by her sister, actress Kim Chiu, with 124 counts of qualified theft over alleged financial discrepancies amounting to about P44.4 million in the company where the siblings are co-stakeholders.

A Quezon City court initially set bail at P5.8 million, which was later reduced by P200,000 following a motion filed by Chiu's lawyer.

William Chiu Jr. told ABS-CBN News that the family still does not have the capacity to post the amount, even though

the cash bond option would reduce the amount to about P2.9 million.

Chiu's legal counsel, Dominic Solis, said the camp is instead seeking a surety bond, in which a bonding company guarantees the bail amount to the court in exchange for a non-refundable premium.

The bail amount remains P5.6 million for a surety bond.

Documents are still being processed, but the camp is hopeful that the court will issue a release order by Thursday, according to Solis.

Chiu remains detained at the station on Wednesday.

She also underwent police-mandated medical procedures to ensure her health and welfare.

(M. Delizo/abs-cbn)

(Updated) Manila - A Quezon City court has "partially granted" the motion to reduce the P5.8 million bail for TV host-actress Kim Chiu's older sister Lakambini, the accused's lawyer said Tuesday.

Atty. Dominic Solis, legal counsel for Chiu, said the court reduced the bail to P5.6 million and allowed the accused to post a cash bond, which would reduce the amount by 50 percent to about P2.9 million.

The bail would remain at P5.6 million if posted through a surety bond, in which a bonding company guarantees the amount to the court in exchange for a non-refundable premium.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News, Lakam's legal counsel Dominic Solis said they have filed a motion before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 84 seeking a "reasonable bail."

"We have already filed a motion to reduce the bail. Napakalaki nga po ng amount na hinihingi or recommended and Ms. Chiu at this point of time simply does not have the means to post that entire amount," Solis said.

"Ang hiling po namin ay reasonable bail naman po na hindi magiging hadlang sa kanyang karapatan na pansamantalang makalaya habang nililitis ang kaso," he added.

Lakam, who has an address in Quezon City, was arrested by police Sunday afternoon at a condominium parking lot in Mandaluyong City by virtue of an arrest warrant dated September 8 covering

Michael V. steps in as 'Family Feud' host



MANILA, Philippines — Kapuso viewers will see a familiar face taking over the podium of GMA Network's "Family Feud" as Michael V. temporarily assumes hosting duties while Dingdong Dantes attends to the tapings of "The Master Cutter."

Started on Sept. 17, Michael V., fondly known as Bitoy, will host the weekday game show, bringing his trademark humor and spontaneous style to the program.

For Michael V., the opportunity also marks a welcome return to game show hosting, something he said he realized he had missed only after stepping in front of the "Family Feud" audience.

"Naku, napakasaya, miss na miss ko na 'yung pagho-host. Matagal ko nang iniisip-isip 'to eh, na-miss ko nga ba o hindi? Pero nung sumalang na ako dito sa Family Feud, oo nga na-miss ko nga!" (I'm really happy. I've missed hosting so much. I've been thinking about it for a long time, wondering if I really missed it or not. But when I got to host "Family Feud," I realized, yes, I really did miss it!) he said.

The comedian, actor, writer, director and longtime television host said he particularly enjoys the interaction that comes with the format, where contestants' answers often reveal aspects of their personalities.

"At gusto ko 'yung interaction, gusto ko 'yung meeting new people at saka 'yung mgasagot na binibigay nila para malaman mo 'yung personality nila." (And I like the interaction. I like meeting new people, as well as hearing the answers they give

because you get to know their personalities.)

Michael V. is also putting his own spin on some of the show's familiar mechanics, particularly the way contestants respond to certain hosting cues.

"Nilaro lang natin ng konti. Madalas kasi kamay sa mesa 'yung binibigay ni Dong na request. Request lang pala 'yun, so parang puwede

Apart from "Family Feud," which airs Mondays to Fridays, he continues to entertain Kapuso viewers through the long-running sitcom "Pepito Manaloto" on Saturdays and the comedy program "Bubble Gang" on Sundays.

His temporary stint gives viewers a chance to see another side of the seasoned performer as he brings his comedic timing and improvisational style to the

daily family competition.

"Family Feud" airs weekdays at 5:35 p.m. on GMA Network and is also available via livestream on Kapuso Stream.

(Manila Times Entertainment)



Michael V., fondly known as Bitoy, returns to game show hosting. PHOTO FROM GMA NETWORK

namang iba-ibahin." (We just played around with it a little. Usually, Dong would ask them to put their hand on the table. But apparently, that's just a request, so it can actually be changed.)

He said he has been experimenting with different ways for contestants to respond, incorporating their professions and personalities into the game.

"So saan-saan ko pinahawak lalo kapag mga beauty queen, gusto ko kamay sa korona. At saka iba-iba pang parte ng katawan. Paborito ko 'yung sa dancers. Kayang-kaya nilang mag-bend at mag-contort ng katawan nila, kaya pinahawak ko sila sa sahig. [laughs]" (So I had them put their hands in different places. When they're beauty queens, I want them to put their hands on their crowns. And on different parts of the body, too. My favorite is with the dancers. They can easily bend and contort their bodies, so I had them put their hands on the floor.)

Michael V.'s hosting stint adds another television commitment to his already busy schedule on GMA Network.

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Joshua Garcia, Julia Barretto find their way back to each other in 'Always Yours, Never Mine'



Joshua Garcia and Julia Barretto are back in each other's arms.

Well, at least on film.

The two, who were once lovers in real life, are paired anew in "Always Yours, Never Mine," a romance that seems almost tailor-made for a tandem whose own history has long fascinated fans.

It also makes perfect commercial sense.

Garcia and Barretto struck gold when they reunited on the big screen in 2024's "Un/Happy for You," their first major project together in four years. The film opened to record-breaking numbers and eventually grossed more than ₱250 million domestically.

So naturally, one might ask: Why did it take them this long?

After all, they had the momentum.

Apparently, Barretto wasn't exactly too keen on rushing back into another project with Garcia. Following the success of "Un/Happy for You," she said she needed to step back and rest.

That she did. Only that it took longer than she expected.

"I think I enjoyed it too much," she told us.

Fair enough.

Two years later, here they are again, and this time, their story on screen stretches far beyond

the usual meet-cute, breakup and reconciliation

"Always Yours, Never Mine" follows two people over the course of 30 years. They keep finding their way back to each other, but their timing is never quite right. They come close, drift apart and cross paths again, perpetually stuck somewhere between "almost" and "finally."

"I think the concept for the film is new, not only for our audience but for us as a tandem. We've never done anything like it," Garcia said.

For Barretto, the story's appeal lies in how it looks at love beyond the grand romantic moments.

"I think a lot of people will relate to it as it tackles the many facets of love, its different phases," she said.

Screenwriter Vanessa Valdez described the title as a metaphor for the complicated stages of the characters' relationship. It represents a connection that never really disappears, even if it never quite becomes what they want it to be.

And that is what makes their pairing interesting all over again.

Because while Garcia and Barretto are playing fictional characters, they are doing so with a history of their own.

They were asked how they manage to work together so naturally despite everything

they have shared.

Garcia's answer was surprisingly simple.

"You have to accept that people grow, and you learn to respect where that person is now in their life," he said.

Barretto agreed, but placed even more emphasis on gratitude.

For her, Garcia is no longer simply a former flame or a

screen partner.

"We've shared so many milestones in the last 10 years," she said. "I'm lucky that I have that kind of partnership and friendship in my lifetime. I'm just so grateful for everything that we've shared."

It's a rather mature way of looking at a relationship that once made headlines for very different reasons.

But when asked to give their own journey, both real and reel, a movie title, the two couldn't resist having a little fun with it.

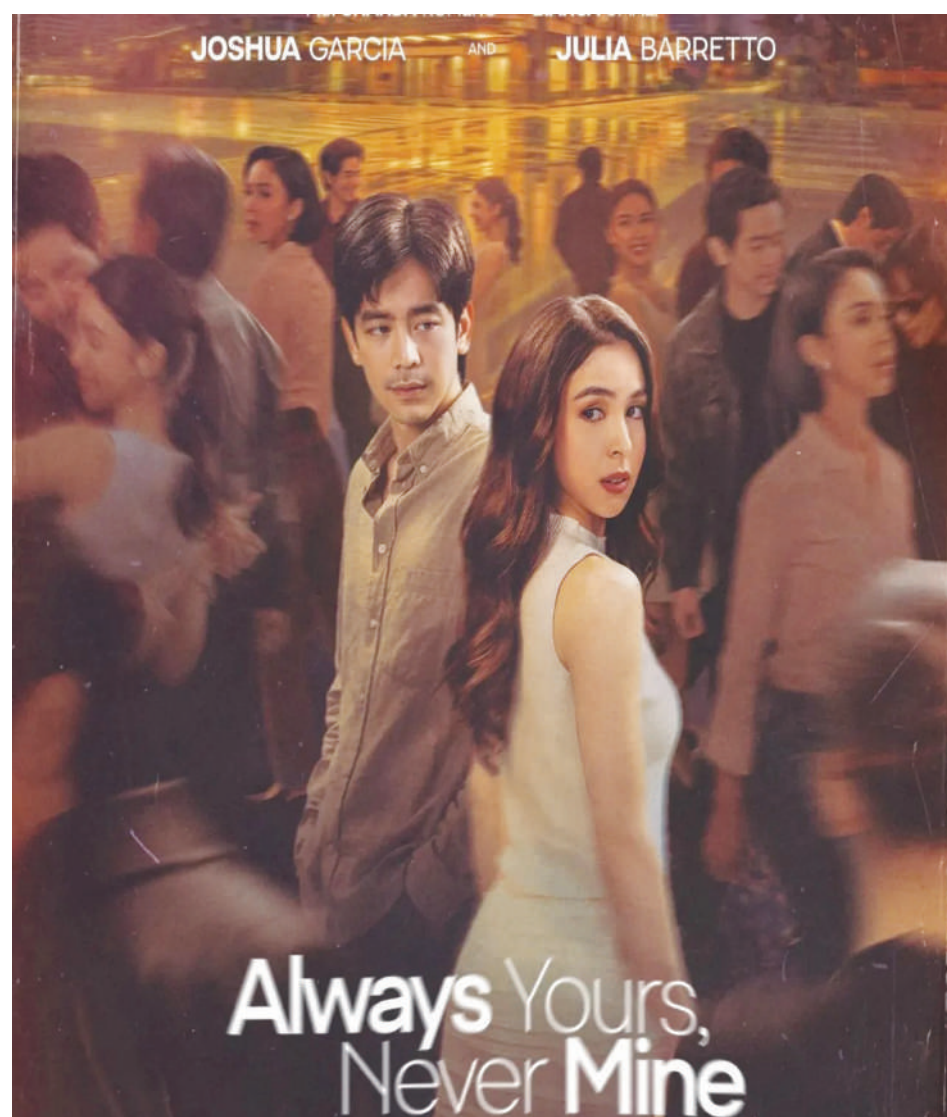
Garcia borrowed from their upcoming film and answered, "Always Yours, Never Mind."

Barretto had a title of her own: "Once Yours..."

She stopped short of finishing the thought.

And there it was. Just enough to leave everyone wanting the rest of the story.

"Always Yours, Never Mine" opens in cinemas on September 30. (N. Ramos/mb.com.ph)



'Hindi ko sinasadya': Niño Muhlach crash victim apologizes to actor, family over posts



Days after accusing actor Niño Muhlach of failing to fulfill his promise, Nicolas Villanueva apologized to the actor and his family.

On Wednesday, September 16, Nicolas posted an apology addressed to Niño, his wife Diane Abby Tupaz and Angela Muhlach Hortaleza over his actions concerning his damaged motorcycle.

Nicolas had called out Niño in several posts, claiming that the actor failed to fulfill his promise to give him a new motorcycle in exchange for the one damaged in an August 23 road crash.

Niño was involved in the crash after falling asleep at the wheel, causing his vehicle to hit several establishments along Marcos Highway in Antipolo City.

Nicolas was among those affected by the incident, with his motorcycle also damaged in the crash.

Weeks later, he accused Niño



Photo of Nicolas Villanueva as posted on his Facebook on Sept. 16, 2026 (nicolas.villanueva.206222 via Facebook)

of failing to follow through on the alleged promise to replace his motorcycle.

Diane later disputed the claims, saying a family member had regularly accompanied Nicolas to his medical checkups.

She also said Nicolas refused to coordinate with the insurance company, which delayed the process of replacing his motorcycle.

Diane likewise said her husband would not walk away from the situation because of a motorcycle, pointing to his public admission of wrongdoing as proof.

Two days after Diane's post, Nicolas apologized for his

actions.

"Isang taos-pusong paghingi ng paumanhin sa inyong lahat. Ako ay humihingi ng malalim na patawad sa aking mga nasabi at [nagawa] kamakailan," he wrote.

"Alam ko na ang aking mga kilos ay nakasakit at nakadisakto (nakasama) sa marami sa inyo, at walang rason para balewalain ko ito. Buong-puso kong tinatanggap ang responsibilidad sa aking pagkakamali," Nicolas added.

"Hindi ko sinasadya na makasakit, pero alam ko na ang epekto ng aking ginawa ay totoo at seryoso. Marami akong natutunan sa pangyayaring ito. Sana ay mabigyan ninyo ako

ng pagkakataon na patunayan ito sa pamamagitan ng aking mga susunod na kilos. Muli, humihingi po ako ng patawad sa inyong lahat," he continued.

Nicolas also explained his earlier posts, saying they were driven by the "emotion" he felt after losing his motorcycle.

"Taos-puso po ako humihingi ng kapatawaran po. Nagawa ko lang po dahil sa dala [ng] aking emosyon dahil sa motor ko po ako umaasa para may pang-suporta po ako sa pang-araw-araw namin," he added.

"Muli, hindi kabawasan sakín ang pag-hingi ng kapatawaran upang maging maayos po ang lahat. Maraming, maraming salamat po," Nicolas said.

Niño was previously praised by some social media users for taking responsibility for the crash involving his vehicle.

"I take full personal and legal responsibility for what happened. My priority right now is ensuring that the affected individual receives all necessary care, support, and medical assistance, and that all damages caused to the properties and establishments are fully compensated and rectified," he said before.

The actor said his driver was on his scheduled day off at the time, while he was tired from his "demanding schedule." (J. Malasig/Interaksyon)

Cart full of chika

GMA is bringing showbiz updates, celebrity stories and trending product finds to television with the launch of "Chika Cart," which premieres on GTV on September 28.

The multi-platform program will air Monday to Friday from 5:15 pm to 6 pm, combining entertainment news and lifestyle content focused on the latest happenings in the local entertainment scene alongside products and services worth checking out.

Leading the program are showbiz journalist Jeff

Fernando, content creator and actress Baninay Bautista and comedian, host and showbiz insider Donita Nose.

Fernando brings more than three decades of experience in media and entertainment journalism to the program. Bautista brings her candid and comedic style while Donita Nose adds her humor, energy and perspective as a showbiz insider.

"Chika Cart" will feature celebrity news, insider scoops, discussions and celebrity guests alongside product and



JEFF FERNANDO, BANINAY BAUTISTA and DONITA NOSE

service features.

The conversation will continue online through "Chika Cart Add Pa More," an after-show

airing from 6 pm to 6:30 pm on ATM's (Adventure.Taste.Moments) YouTube and TikTok channels. (Malaya)

Christopher de Leon breaks silence on the feud between Lotlot and Ian De Leon

Christopher de Leon is choosing not to take sides in the ongoing situation between his children, Lotlot and Ian de Leon, over matters involving the legacy of their late mother, Nora Aunor.

The veteran actor addressed the siblings' dispute for the first time during an interview with Ogie Diaz on his YouTube vlog on September 18.

"Nakausap ko na silang dalawa [nang] hiwalay...not the same day. At ayokong makialam because ang pinag-aawayan nila is the mom, the mother," Christopher said, referring to Nora.

"Ang pinag-aawayan is a sort of a foundation na involves funding. 'Pag ganyan, ayoko nang makialam... For example, during the wake, the burial [of Nora], I was just quiet. I was just there. Hindi ako nakialam," he added.

The family dispute centers on the one-person corporation established by Ian, Nora's only biological son with Christopher.

Ian previously said he had informed his adoptive siblings—Lotlot, Matet, Kenneth, and Kiko—about the corporation. Lotlot, however, strongly denied those claims and pushed back against accusations that she, along with other adoptive siblings, were after their mother's estate.

While Christopher has spoken with both sides privately, he said he does not see the need to publicly weigh in on their disagreement.

"Nandito na ako sa stage ng buhay ko na...bakit ako tatalak? Bakit ako magsasalita ng mga bagay na ipaalam ko sa lahat? Kung meron



akong gustong sabihin, sasabihin ko kay Lotlot nang diretso, sasabihin ko kay Ian nang diretso na," he said, maintaining that both Lotlot and Ian are adults who can handle their own concerns.

Despite the conflict, he remains hopeful that their relationship will eventually be restored.

"Definitely, one day, magkakaayos 'yan. Hindi naman pwedeng hindi, at hindi ko rin naman papayagan na hindi magkakaayos," Christopher said. "By the grace of God, [sana] magkaroon ng reconciliation 'yung dalawa. Kasi masyadong mainit ngayon, eh. Kasi 'pag pumasok ka doon sa heat ng gulo, lalong gugulo eh."

The veteran actor also stressed that speaking publicly about the dispute could lead to his words being misunderstood, which is why he prefers to communicate directly with his children.

At the same time, he admitted that he is saddened by how Lotlot and Ian's relationship has changed, especially since he remembers how

"Hindi ako sumuko. Hanggang ngayon kausap ko pa rin [sila]. Mayroon nga akong ginagawang mga hakbang para mag-ease up," he noted, adding that he remains in touch with all his children and continues to privately share posts expressing "his love for them."

"Walang sablay 'yun...basta't tuloy 'yung relationship namin."

The actor also admitted that he was surprised to see the once-close siblings reach this point and that their conflict eventually became public. Still, he

remains confident that their family can move past the current situation.

"Nagulat talaga ako but I am not worried. It will happen naman eh. Hopefully, maayos. The sooner, the better," said Christopher.

During the interview, Christopher also said that he has never had an issue with his adoptive children using his surname, emphasizing that what matters to him is the relationship they share as a family.

"Hindi issue sa akin 'yun... They call me dad. Ang sarap pakinggan," he maintained. "Pagmamahal 'yan eh. Minamahal nila ako."

(A. De Guzman/Push Team; photo from FB)

close they were growing up.

"Yan ang pinagtataka ko nga eh. Doon ako nagugulat, [kung] bakit biglang nag-iba 'yung ihip ng hangin after the death of their mother," he said.

Despite not taking sides, Christopher said he continues to make efforts to help ease the tension between his children.

"Yan ang pinakaayaw natin siguro... Marami sigurong nag-aaway tungkol sa mga naiwan, inheritance or whatever... But kung ano man 'yon, bakit niyo pag-aawayan 'yung ganon, 'di ba? They have their own reasons why they're acting like that. So hindi mo mapapakialaman yon," he said.

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Liza Soberano thrilled to see Filipino food animated in 'Forgotten Island': 'That was so exciting and cool'

Liza Soberano was thrilled to see Filipino food and culture brought to life in animation through her latest film *Forgotten Island*.

In an interview on NBC New York's TV show *New York Live*, Liza shared which part of the Philippines' culture featured in the movie she was especially excited to see.

"Oh yes, I was really excited to see the food because I'm a huge fan of like Japanese anime. One of my favorite things to look out for is the food because it looks so good in the animation," she expressed.

"Finally, Filipino dishes are now animated and that was

so exciting and cool for me to see."

Forgotten Island follows childhood best friends Raissa (Liza) and Jo (H.E.R.) as they navigate the mysterious island of Nakali.

Inspired by local culture, the animated film highlights familiar elements of Filipino life through its story and visuals.

Even before its release, *Forgotten Island* had already offered a preview of how Filipino culture would be featured in the film through its "Extended Graduation Clip."

The scene takes viewers to Raissa's graduation party, where

Jo enjoys the handaan prepared for the celebration. The spread includes Filipino favorites such as lechon, spaghetti, roasted chicken, barbecue, lumpia, fried chicken, and hotdogs with marshmallows on sticks.

The clip also features several familiar Filipino traditions and scenes, including friends and family singing together on videoke, a tricycle, dancing the tinikling, children showing respect through *mano po*, a portrait of Jesus, and the distinctly Filipino gesture of pointing with pursed lips.

Days before the film's release, Liza and H.E.R. also brought the Filipino fiesta spirit to New

York City.

The *Forgotten Island* stars teamed up with Gold House for a Filipino-themed dinner that celebrated the culture and traditions showcased in the film.

New York-based Filipino restaurant Kalye prepared the dinner, which featured a spread of Filipino favorites. The theme extended to the table setup, with banana leaves used as placemats and plate liners to complete the fiesta-inspired celebration.

Written and directed by Joel Crawford and Januel Mercado, *Forgotten Island* is now showing nationwide in the Philippines



Manila to hold tourism expo showcasing food, culture, heritage

Manila is putting some of its familiar and lesser-known destinations in the spotlight as the city seeks to encourage more people to explore the nation's capital.

The city will hold the first-ever My Manila Tourism Expo 2026 this weekend at Foro de Intramuros, gathering businesses and destinations from Manila's tourism, food, culture, hospitality and entertainment sectors.

Organized by the City Government of Manila through the Department of Tourism, Culture and Arts of Manila (DTCAM), the three-day event will also mark the introduction of the city's new tourism campaign, "Manila, My Manila."

Participating hotels, restaurants, cultural destinations, tourism establishments and local businesses are expected to offer special packages, promotions and deals during the expo.

The event comes as the city

seeks to encourage both visitors and residents to look beyond Manila's usual stops and explore more of its neighborhoods, food spots, heritage sites and other attractions.



For Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, the city's long history is part of what makes it worth rediscovering.

"Matanda na ang Maynila. Luma. Pero ang pagkakaluma ng Maynila ang siyang yaman nito. Sa bawat kanto, avenida, at boulevard, may kasaysayan, may kultura, at may kuwentong naghihintay na maranasan," he said.



Moreno also highlighted what Manila has to offer.

"From our food and heritage to our historic downtown, there is always something to discover in Manila," he said.

DTCAM Director Cristal Bagatsing said her experience working with the city's tourism sector has also changed how she sees Manila.

"Since becoming DTCAM Director, I've fallen in love with this city in ways I never expected. There are stories everywhere—in our history, our food and traditions, our neighborhoods and people, and even in our grit. A city that has been through so much has so many colorful stories to tell,"

she said.

The expo will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. from September 25 to 27 at Foro de Intramuros, with free admission.

Bagatsing said the campaign is intended to encourage people to form their own connection with the city.

"Manila is alive, vibrant, imperfect, historic, and constantly evolving," she said.

"We each have our own Manila story. Come and discover yours," Bagatsing added. (Interaksyon News)



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Gilberto Teodoro open to 2028 presidential run

By Carlito Pablo

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. isn't closing the door on running again for president.

Teodoro ran and lost in the presidential election in 2010, but says he is open to another bid in 2028.

For now, he says he is focused on his job as defense chief of the Philippines.

"Bukas lahat ng oportunidad. Hindi ko isasara 'yung pintuan sa kahit na anong humarap sa akin na oportunidad na ginawad ng Diyos, ginawad ng taumbayan sa atin," Teodoro said in an interview with radio station DZRH on September 11, 2026.

[All opportunities are open. I will not close the door on any opportunity that will be presented to me by God and the people.]

Philippine President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos Jr. is barred by the country's Constitution from seeking a sec-



Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. here in a photo on his personal website.

ond term.
 At an event with foreign

journalists on August 14
 this year, Marcos said that

he will endorse a candidate to succeed him in 2028.

The Philippine president did not offer a name, and instead said, "The time will come."

Teodoro is also allowing time to tell.

"Maybe there will come a time, kailangan kong magdisyosyon sa susunod na pakay ng buhay ko," Teodoro said in his DZRH interview.

[Maybe there will come a time that I will need to decide the next plan for my life.]

There is a page on Facebook titled "Filipinos for Gibo Teodoro 2028".

Asked by DZRH if he would stop people from urging him to run for president, Teodoro replied: "Hindi ko paparihin kahit sino man."

[I will not stop anyone.]

So far, surveys among potential presidential contenders have been dominated by Vice President Sara Duterte.

Duterte and Marcos ran as a ticket in 2022, but their alliance quickly unraveled after the election.

Duterte is currently facing impeachment trial before the Senate. If convicted, she will be perpetually disqualified from running for public office.

Teodoro lay low from politics after losing in the 2010 presidential race, which was won by cousin Benigno "Noy" Aquino III.

In the lead-up to the 2022 national election, Teodoro expressed interest in running as the vice-presidential candidate of Sara Duterte, who was at the time considering a run for the presidency.

Duterte eventually decided to be the running mate of Marcos. In the same 2022 election, Teodoro ran for a seat in the Senate, but failed to crack the winning circle.

Teodoro is the first to hold the position of defense secretary twice. He served

in the post from 2007 to 2009 under then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He was again appointed defense chief in 2023 by Marcos.

Teodoro came from an influential family in the province of Tarlac. The mother side of his family belongs to the Cojuangco clan. He was often described as the favourite nephew of the late businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., who was also an associate of Marcos' late father and ex-president Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

Exposed to politics at a young age, Teodoro served as a member of the House of Representatives. A lawyer by training, he was educated at the University of the Philippines and Harvard.

One question facing Teodoro at present is whether he can build momentum to be considered as a serious contender for the presidency in 2028.

Bishop urges wider consultation on proposed Pax Silica hub



Bishop Gerardo Alminaza of San Carlos. (Photo from Diocese of San Carlos via CBCP News)

MANILA — The Catholic Church's social action arm on Tuesday called for broader consultation and dialogue over the proposed Pax Silica industrial and technology hub in the Philippines, saying the project appeared to be moving too quickly.

Caritas Philippines president Bishop Gerardo Alminaza said there had not been enough study or consultation with communities that could be affected, particularly indigenous Aeta communities. "It seems like they are rushing it. It also seems that there has not been enough study or enough consultation with the communities and people who will actually be affected, especially the Aeta commu-

nities," Alminaza said.

He called for clearer information about the project's potential impact on land, water, the environment and surrounding communities, and said authorities must ensure the development does not cause lasting harm.

"The Church, especially us at Caritas Philippines, is open to reaching out and engaging in dialogue," Alminaza said.

Pax Silica is a proposed 1,620-hectare development in New Clark City, Tarlac, intended to attract investments in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, critical minerals and advanced manufacturing.

The Bases Conversion and De-

velopment Authority has promoted the project as a major investment hub. Officials have said it could require about 65 million to 90 million liters of water and 3 gigawatts of power daily.

"These are not minor requirements," Alminaza said. "They demand serious public scrutiny in a country already struggling with water stress, energy insecurity and climate vulnerability."

The bishop said the Church does not oppose technology, investment or decent jobs but cautioned against development that is rushed, opaque or disconnected from environmental limits and human rights.

"Progress worthy of its name

must improve lives without sacrificing the land, water, culture and future of the people who live there," he said. (A. Peralta/CBCP News, Interaksyon)

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COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN & APPLE PLATA



Richmond, BC — September 19 — The spirit of friendship, camaraderie, and community was on full display as members of the Ateneo Alumni Association of British Columbia (AAA of BC) and community organizations came together for a lively afternoon of the first of its kind bowling with a twist- **Disco Bowling at Splitsville Richmond**.

The event, brainchild of **Ateneo President Heidi Ng**, together with **Vice President Amado Mercado III** brought together alumni, friends, families, and community members for a afternoon filled with bowling, music, laughter, and plenty of friendly competition to raise funds for the scholarship fund of the Association. More than just a sporting event, the gathering was a celebration of the strong relationships and connections shared among alumni and the wider Filipino-Canadian community.

Participating community teams proudly represented a diverse group of organizations, including

the **Bicol Association, Isabela, Pampanga, Ateneo de Naga, Ateneo de Manila 1990, Philippine Consulate, GAP, Filipino Canadian Construction Society, United Architects, and active members of the Ateneo Alumni in BC.**

With disco lights, music, and the energetic atmosphere of Splitsville, participants traded their formal gatherings for bowling shoes and team shirts, enjoying an evening where old friendships were renewed and new friendships were formed. The friendly rivalry on the lanes added excitement, but the real highlight was the sense of togetherness shared by everyone.

The event also provided an opportunity for members of different alumni groups and community organizations to connect beyond their usual activities. Teams cheered one another on, celebrated strikes and spares, and shared plenty of laughs throughout the evening.

AAA of BC Disco Bowling: An afternoon of Fun, Friendship, and Community

The participation of organizations from different regions, professional groups, alumnibatches, and community associations demonstrated the strength and diversity of the Filipino community in British Columbia. Events such as this help build bridges among organizations while creating opportunities for fellowship and collaboration.

The **September 19 Disco Bowling** event at Splitsville Richmond was a memorable afternoon of sportsmanship, friendship, and community spirit. It was a reminder that while alumni may come from different schools, provinces, professions, and generations, they can come together through shared experiences, friendship, and a common sense of community. First place went to the Team Isabelenos, the association of province of Isabela, second place went to Ateneo de Manila batch 1990.

Consul Andre Estanislao of the Philippine Consulate and

former president Gigi Reyes Ricarse were the ones who picked the winners for the best in outfits that went to Leo Onata, Rosalina Jaballa, and Sherly Valdez for their fun, colorful and bright disco fever get up.

The disco bowling was made possible because of Ateneo sponsors partners Eman Raguin of Toyota, mag construction, Darna express. And also supported by silver sponsors Aablue and Musa Canada.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to all the participating teams, organizers, supporters, and everyone who helped make the evening a success. Most of all, thank you to everyone who came ready to bowl, cheer, laugh, and enjoy the company of fellow community members.

Until the next gathering—keep the spirit of friendship, fellowship, and community rolling!

(By Heidi Ng/ Photo credit: Karen Dandasan)



ONE LIFE STUDIO DANCE FITNESS GRAND OPENING



SURREY, BC — September 18, 2026 — With an inspiring message, “*You only have ONE LIFE, so don’t just live it, DANCE IT!*” One Life Studio Dance Fitness officially opened its doors with a Grand Opening celebration at 13550 106 Ave., Surrey, BC.

Led by owner **Ms. Gladys Penamante**, One Life Studio

Dance Fitness brings together dance, fitness, friendship and fun in a welcoming community environment. The new studio encourages people of all ages and fitness levels to stay active, enjoy music and movement, and make the most of life - one dance at a time.

The Grand Opening was made possible through the support of numerous community organizations, businesses and individuals.

Reyfort Media Group served as the Media Sponsor.

Community partners included PinoyFestival, GlobalMulticultural Affairs Society, Tsikenstarr Production and Diskarte Nation. Supporting partners included Amihan Dance Ensemble, Golden Steps Community Recreation Society, Mahuni Band,

Kallen, Reeve Ryan and Arto.

The event sponsors: 3D Republic, The Inner Core Entertainment, Leeam’s Design, DJ Luwy Vancouver, Bahai Deals, Ann’s Catering, ZL Crew with Zin Laarni, Zambales Society in British Columbia, Filipino-Igorot Realtor in BC Ms. Abigail Andiso, Ms. Natie Sotana Canada Immigration Consultancy, Unicity Feel Great System Ms. Sandra Nieva, EM1, Kuys Lechon, Bitrol Home Service & Builders, Eastlife Financial Services Ltd. Ms. Joy Caresosa, Birthmark Tattoos, Fleetwood Laser Beauty Salon, Anytime Fitness, Aden Garden Florist, Cochinillo de San Fernando, Engage Develop

Value Mr. Edz Valdez, ROS Salud Visuals, One Lancaster Park, SMDC, Pinay Pantry, Glam N Glitter and Paul Auto Sales.

More than just a fitness studio, One Life Studio Dance Fitness aims to create a space where people can move, sweat, connect and simply be themselves.

The Grand Opening marked the beginning of a new chapter for **Ms. Gladys Penamante and her team** - and an invitation to the community to embrace the One Life philosophy: Move. Sweat. Be You. And Dance It! *(By Christian Cunanan)*



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Ogie Alcasid breaks down after standing ovation, Lea Salonga returns for Ryan Cayabyab's 'LIYAB' gala



National Artist for Music Ryan Cayabyab found himself at the center of a musical celebration honoring both his work and Filipino music.

"Unang Siklab LIYAB: Mga Himig ng Dakilang Pag-Ibig" brought together Lea Salonga, Martin Nievera, Ogie Alcasid, Bituin Escalante, Jed Madela and Arman Ferrer at The Theatre at Solaire on September 20, 2026.

The concert was backed by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, with conductors Jonathan Velasco and Toma Cayabyab.

Joining them was the 200-member LIYAB Grand Chorale, made up of singers from eight choral groups: the Ateneo Chamber Singers, Imuscapella, Konsertus, Mass Appeal, Novo Concertante, PCSO Chorale, UP Concert Chorus and UP Manila Chorale.

The result was a production that moved between intimate love songs, inspirational and patriotic pieces, sacred music and familiar compositions from Cayabyab's catalog.

The concert grew from Cayabyab's desire to hear more of his sacred works performed live, eventually expanding into a celebration of music and the many forms of love it can express, with Escalante, Madela and Ferrer providing various interpretations throughout the program.

Among the show's more emotional moments came from Ogie Alcasid, who performed Cayabyab's much-loved "Da Coconut Nut" and used the moment to encourage



elected officials to make use of their "coconut nuts," turning the performance into one of the concert's lighter but memorable highlights.

The song, known for its playful take on the humble coconut and its distinctly Filipino character, took on an unexpected emotional weight for Alcasid when the audience gave him a standing ovation. "Hindi ko inakala na sa lahat ng kanta sa 'Da Coconut Nut' ako magkaka-standing ovation," Alcasid said, noticeably moved by the response.

Nievera then brought his familiar concert presence to Cayabyab's repertoire with performances of "Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka" and "How Can I?"

For Nievera, being part of the concert carried both pressure and privilege. Before the show, he described being asked by Cayabyab to participate as a true honor, particularly because performing the composer's songs meant matching the emotion and passion in both the lyrics and arrangements.

The occasion was particularly timely for Salonga, who had just reached another historic career milestone.

Earlier this month, Salonga became the first Filipina to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. At "LIYAB," she brought that milestone back home with performances of "Liman-dipang Tao" and "Minsan ang Minahal ay Ako."

Cayabyab's music has moved across pop, theater, sacred music, choral composition, orchestral work and television. He was named National Artist for Music in 2018.

That breadth was reflected on the LIYAB stage, where individual performances eventually gave way to a much larger communal sound. The 200-member chorale and Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra gave Cayabyab's compositions a grander scale while bringing together established and younger performers.

The concert also looked beyond Cayabyab's catalog, paying tribute to the work and legacy of other National Artists across different artistic disciplines.

Throughout the evening, Cayabyab himself remained at the concert's emotional center. He did not simply watch his

music being celebrated. He took part in the performance, playing alongside the massive choral forces assembled for the production.

The concert moved toward its finale with everyone coming together for "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika," followed by an encore performance of "Kumukutikutitap," turning the ending into a festive gathering. "LIYAB" began with a "siklab," or spark, rooted in Cayabyab's sacred music. By the end, that spark had grown into hundreds of voices, a full orchestra and some of the country's most recognizable performers.

For Cayabyab, it was a celebration of a lifetime of music. For the performers and audience, it was a reminder that Filipino songs can continue to bring generations together.

(I. Ureta / mb.com.ph)



Christian Bables on minding one's own business

CHRISTIAN Bables doesn't hide the fact he's a favorite staple in many blind items questioning his sexual orientation. But coming across them does not bother the award-winning actor a bit, he confessed in an interview with Push.

"Hindi dahil wala along pakialam, kundi patuloy na paniniwalaan ng tao ang gusto nilang paniwalaan (It's not because I don't care at all, but because people will still believe what they want to believe)," Bables said.

He has accepted there's no way he can change their line of thinking. "Sa akin, okey lang. Hindi ako apektado sa mga naririnig ko (In my case, it's fine with me. I never get affected by what I hear). Kahit tumambling ka diyan, dukutin mo man ang eyeball mo sa eye socket mo (Whether you do cartwheels or gouge out your eye), you cannot change people's perception of you!"

Bables' logical take on this comes from understanding other people's standards. "If this is their standard in determining who's straight and who's not, let it stay that way. No matter what you do, you'll only end up frustrated."

Not only is he able to understand the yawning chasm in people's mindsets, "It's also a matter



of respecting them. If they say that he's like that, who are we to question their standards? But let me be clear on this... one's sexuality is none of your business."

There are obvious exceptions

though to this devil-may-care attitude. "Unless you're interested in marrying that person, or extracting information about him will do you good, you don't ask such questions."

The bottom line, Bables stressed, is this. "Hindi naman ikaw ang magmamahal sa taong 'yon, hindi ikaw ang may kakaibang preference kundi sila (It's not you who is in love with that person, nor is it you with a different preference, but them). Give it to them. That's their thing to keep. Again, it's none of our business." A staunch ally of the LGBTQIA+ community, he considers his involvement in this societal sector as his personal advocacy.

"Never get tired of standing up and fighting for what you believe is right. No one will stand up for us except us ourselves," he said.

Instead of harping on Bables' sexuality, let's highlight his noteworthy acting feats vis-à-vis accolades received:

*Multiple Best Supporting Actor awards for "Die Beautiful" (2016)

*Best Actor in Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino for "Signal Rock" (2018)

*Best Actor in Metro Manila Film Festival for "The Panti Sisters" (2021)

Eat your hearts out!

(R. Carrasco 3rd/ Manila Times))

Juliana finds reason to smile



Juliana Parizkova and Vice Ganda have buried the hatchet — something the former describes as an answered prayer.

"Finally, 'yung nangyari natin ni Vice doon is talagang tapos na. Past is past. Pag-usapan na namin," Juliana said in an interview Friday, September 18 at Seda Hotel in Quezon City, held alongside the launch of SMILE, an initiative seeking to professionalize the Philippines' live events workforce. "Answered prayer for me."

The two have yet to meet face-to-face but have resumed talking through chat. Juliana said he had been reaching out to Vice, while Vice's repeated mentions of him in connection with the return of

"Miss Q&A" on "It's Showtime" gave him a sign that things were getting better.

Juliana said their misunderstanding was never a direct fight between the two. He attributed much of the tension to fans and the heated political climate during the 2022 elections. At the time, he and Vice chose to keep their communication private.

"Pero ngayon na talagang confirm na talagang na okay kami. So, I am

so happy."

He will also be less vocal when it comes to his politics.

"Medyo nag-lie low ako ngayon. Kasi sabi ko nga parang, parang so dami na nangyayari. Parang ang gulo-gulo, parang gulo-gulo na. So, parang kahit ako, naihirapan din ako."

Juliana said he still stands by his political beliefs but has learned not to argue too much online.

"Pero, syempre, once naman na talagang meron akong stand, pininindigan ko rin naman. Pero siguro, lesson learned na lang din sa akin din na aside from mag-stand ako sa pina-iniwalaan ko, huwag naman masyado makipag-barga-gulan online."

Juliana remains grateful to "It's Showtime" and "Miss Q&A" for launching his career. He continues to advise contestants who seek his help and said he would welcome an invitation to return as a guest judge.

At the SMILE launch, Juliana said he is supporting the initiative because of his work as an artist and influencer and his long involvement in live events. Juliana also remains grateful to Vice for giving him his break in show business.

"Syempre I am very grateful, forever grateful na siya yung nagbigay sa akin ng chance. Sabi ko nga doon sa farewell speech ko nung Miss Q&A, maraming salamat kay Vice kasi siya yung naging way para mabuksan 'yung pintuan ng industriya." (Malaya Entertainment)

Rundown: 26 films set for 2026 Puregold CinePanalo Film Festival



Stories about family, grief, identity, love, survival and growing up will take the spotlight as 26 original films compete in the 2026 Puregold CinePanalo Film Festival.

The films were presented to the media during a conference at Quantum Skyview in Gateway Mall 2, Araneta City in Quezon City on Thursday, September 17, ahead of the festival's September 23 opening.

The lineup includes seven full-length films and 19 student short films from filmmakers from different parts of the country.

Among the full-length entries is "Apol of My Ai," directed by Thop Nazareno, which follows a young boy whose coming-of-age is complicated by his feelings for his choir teacher and a decision made by his father.

"Beast," directed by Lawrence Fajardo and starring John

Arcilla, follows a farmer and his carabao on a journey to Manila after a final harvest imposed by their landlord.

Meanwhile, BC Amparado's "Mono No Aware" centers on a Filipino kodokushi cleaner in Japan who meets an elderly widower seeking one final favor.

The festival also features stories exploring queer experiences and identity.

In "Multwoh (Patay Na Patay Sa'yo)," directed by Rodina Singh, a college student who dies unexpectedly returns as a ghost to express feelings they were unable to share while alive. The film stars Sassa Gurl and Joao Constancia.

Other full-length entries include "Patay Gutom," co-directed by Carl Papa and Ian Pangilinan, a story involving a shut-in, a ghost and an accidentally opened third eye; "Stuck on You," directed by Mikko Baldoza, about a manicurista who becomes involved in a deadly conspiracy;

and "Wantawsan," directed by Joseph Abello, which follows a cash-strapped father whose attempt to buy food for his son's birthday leads to an unexpected adventure.

Student filmmakers take the spotlight

The student shorts category features 19 films grouped into four sets.

The entries cover a range of subjects and settings, including family, faith, poverty, gender identity, childhood and life in provincial communities.

Among them is "Starfish," directed by John Clite Apolinar, about a male sex worker who returns to his hometown and confronts his estranged family and the oppression he encounters there.

"Kun Hain, Bisan Diin. (Anywhere and Everywhere)," directed by Jomarie Reyes, follows a young lawyer who

returns to Samar to search for her estranged activist mother before her wedding.

Other student films include "Sa Mga Nagdaan at Lumipas," about a queer archivist preserving a historical video of the Philippines' first Pride March in 1994; "Limlim," about a young girl and her mother confronting grief while living in seclusion; and "Alumahan," which follows a 13-year-old boy seeking acceptance in a violent youth gang.

The lineup also includes "When Heaven Inched Towards Earth," "No Mad is an Island," "Tingi," "Ang Huling Banlaw ni Susan," "Pulis Dunggab," "The Sound of K," "Nakabinbin," "Nang Matakasan ang Tagay," "Teks Battle: Shoot Pati Patol!," "Kapag Tapos na ang Umpukan," "12 Shots," "Bumtak Sara ti Nuangen (The Carabao's Horns Have Cracked)" and "Miss Intrams."

The filmmakers and cast members behind the entries appeared at the media conference and gave audiences a preview of the stories they will bring to the festival.

"Every film in this year's CinePanalo carries the passion of its creators," Ivy-Hayagan Piedad, festival chair of Puregold CinePanalo, said.

"Giving these stories a platform where audiences can experience and celebrate them is our way of supporting Filipino artistry and contributing to the continued growth of Philippine cinema," she added.

The festival will run from September 23 to October 4 at Gateway Cineplex 18, TriNoma, Fairview Terraces, Ayala Malls Feliz, Ayala Malls Circuit, Ayala Malls Manila Bay and Market! Market!

The festival offers regular and discounted tickets, as well as festival pass.

PWDs, senior citizens, students, national athletes and Aling Puring and Perks cardholders are eligible for discounted tickets. (Interaksyon entertainment news)

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Church official: Remember martial law to guard against abuses today



The Conference of Major Superiors in the Philippines marks the 54th anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law with a Mass at Cubao Cathedral in Quezon City on Sept. 21, 2026. (CMSP via CBCP News)

MANILA — An official of the Conference of Major Superiors in the Philippines urged Catholics Monday to turn remembrance of Martial Law into vigilance against abuses of power and threats to human dignity.

“Remembering is not being trapped in the past. Remembering means guarding the future,” said Fr.

Angelito Cortez, OFM, CMSP co-executive secretary, in a homily during a Mass at Cubao Cathedral marking the 54th anniversary of Martial Law.

Cortez said the abuses committed during the period remain relevant today, urging Catholics to move beyond commemoration and demand accountability.

“Our remembrance cannot end with our words, prayers or songs,” Cortez said in an interview after the Mass. “We need to genuinely stand up and demand accountability, especially from the government.”

“The times today are dark. These are times we do not want repeated,” he said. “That is why we continue to shout, ‘Never

again’ and ‘Never forget.’”

Presided over by Cubao Bishop Elias Ayuban Jr., the Mass brought together consecrated men and women from various religious congregations.

Cortez also called on consecrated persons to help younger generations understand the country’s history and uphold the truth about abuses committed during Martial Law.

“The Church cannot remain silent,” he said. “We will continue to speak and continue to stand firm.”

The CMSP, formerly known as the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, was founded during the Martial Law period and became involved in efforts to assist victims of human rights abuses.

Various religious congregations provided sanctuary to people fleeing persecution during the dictatorship. (A Peralta via CBCP News)

Lyca Gairanod on political stance: ‘Bakit niyo ba ako pinapakialaman?’



Credit: YouTube.com

Lyca Gairanod has hit back at netizens questioning her political views, telling them to stop meddling in her personal life.

In a TikTok Live, the first-ever grand champion of The Voice Kids Philippines addressed the criticism that has followed her online in recent days.

“Bakit niyo ba ako pinapakialaman?” Lyca said,

without mentioning anyone by name.

“Hindi ako... ayoko kasing sabihin ‘yung mga names, eh,’ she said.

Lyca added that she has no faith in politics at all.

“Wala akong pinaniniwalaan in politics. That’s it. Wala akong tiwala sa politics,” she said.

The controversy started as her 2015 song “Puede Nang Mangarap” became popular again on social media. Netizens have been using the song in edits, remixes, and dance videos.

But the attention also put Lyca’s political stance under the spotlight. Some social media users pointed out that she was following President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte on social media. Others also claimed that

she unfollowed the two after screenshots of her following list spread online.

Before going live, Lyca had already made headlines for her reply to a fan’s comment. The fan told her that they would love her, as long as she did not support the green and red colors linked to the UniTeam alliance of Marcos and Duterte during the 2022 elections.

Lyca answered: “Wala akong kailangang patunayan sa inyo. I worked hard for my family. Please don’t take it personally. Love you, y’all.”

Screenshots of the exchange quickly spread online, drawing mixed reactions. Some netizens criticized her, while others came to her defense, arguing that following a politician online is not proof of political loyalty.

Lyca has not publicly confirmed

which political side, if any, she supports.

This is not the first time the singer has been caught in a political debate. In March 2022, when she was 17, Lyca was part of the lineup of performers at a UniTeam campaign rally and motorcade in Las Piñas City. Her participation drew criticism from some netizens at the time, while others asked the public not to “cancel” her, noting that she was still a minor and her family’s breadwinner.

Lyca was born in Tanza, Cavite. Her father is a fisherman, while her mother collected used bottles and old newspapers to sell for extra income. At nine years old, she won the first season of The Voice Kids Philippines in 2014 under coach Sarah Geronimo, which earned her a recording contract. She now has more than two million followers on TikTok. (P. Lim /Push Team)

AT THE MOVIES By Robert Waldman

Odd Couple!

Movies based on true events can be downright startling. Racial tensions in the troubled United States are front and centre in *By Any Means*, the latest high stakes drama from VVS Films and Paramount Pictures currently confronting audiences at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across B.C.

Historically speaking for many a year America was confronted with a brutal racial past. Even Canada couldn't escape this scourge but Nowhere near on the same scale. The hotbed of such racial tensions was The South. Ground zero for the plague of hatred against Blacks

was Mississippi. Set during the tumultuous early sixties Our story follows the travels of a group of three well meaning outsiders who were investigating discrimination in The South but wound up go missing and presumably dead. Call it murder, call it hatred, but their plight did not go unnoticed by the administration of Great Society President Lyndon Baynes Johnson.

Out to solve a crime J Edgar Hoover and the FBI concoct a plan to get at the truth and find justice. That brand of justice involved sending a talented agent to the state and bringing along an outsider with a special set of skills.

Like it or not to get things done in any area sometimes you have to go outside the box. The old expression fight fire with fire perfectly describes the relationship



between

Agent Wayne Strider and wise guy Greg Scarpa. Perfect casting sees odd couple Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Mark Wahlberg (Boogie Nights) somehow put their differences aside and go about rooting out a culture of hatred targeting Afro Americans and any

of their liberal supporters. Tension abounds in this quest for justice and the methods Scarpa uses make waterboarding seem like kids play. Violent for a reason director Elegance Bratton pulls out all the stops in this whirlwind emotional escapade proving that might makes right. Soul searching aside *By All Means* displays how two men on the opposite sides of the law can unite for a common good. Justice served!

Great atmosphere with a good supporting cast including Josh Lucas and David Strathairn helps make *By Any Means* highly watchable, insightful and intense. It sheds light on a troubled time in American society. And does it well.

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.

The Odyssey (PG) *****

Running time: 2h 52m

Homeward Bound !

Master filmmaker Christopher Nolan (The Dark Knight) turns his sights on ancient mythology in the ambitious and highly entertaining *The Odyssey*. Based on the famed Homer novel this Hollywood spectacular is "big"

in all respects. Universal Pictures goes back in time to capture all the intrigue and bravado of a soldier extraordinaire still going strong at Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres around B.C.

Despite the long length at almost three hours Nolan takes us on an unforgettable journey. Of course set in Ancient Greece our tale



follows the plight of famed warrior Odysseus. Actor Matt Damon (The Bourne Identity) is in the zone as the conflicted man of war who leads his troops on a number of military campaigns.

Better fasten your seatbelts as Odysseus must tangle with

NEXT PAGE PLEASE...

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His prose resembled poetry **SPORTS**

PLEASE pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Recah Trinidad, who had passed on at 83 on Sept. 13 after a heart attack.

My mentor, idol and glass mate for the longest time, Recah was one of the best sports writers and sports columnists—if not the best—this country has ever produced.

If America had Jim Murray, Red Smith or Jimmy Cannon as icons of sports writing, the Philippines has only Recah Trinidad to match their combined talents.

Recah's "Bare Eye" columns appeared for decades at the Inquirer, chronicling, commentating on, sporting events and personalities in a unique manner that kept many readers mostly enthralled.

A rabid anti-cliché, Recah loved crafting original lines, embellishing his pieces with imagery rarely found among his peers.

His prose resembled poetry so that his brand of journalism bordered on literature. Maybe because he was a Palanca awardee in poetry in 1978?

His two books were classic examples of how to write with exactness, churning out words, sentences and paragraphs without word wastage.

His first book was about the

Pasig River—the beloved river of his youth in Mandaluyong City where he was born and raised. His second book was about Manny Pacquiao's epic rise from abject poverty to boxing stardom and unimaginable wealth.

We covered together Pacquiao's conquest by knockout of Erik Morales in 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada, 21 years after our coverage of San Miguel Beer's phenomenal stint in the World Club Basketball Championship in Girona, Spain, in 1985.

Our last overseas joust together was the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where Recah brought kaming adobo for pulutan at the Olympic Village.

But the one trait that amply put Recah to a pedestal was his love for what the American Indians call the "crazy water" aka alcohol. His writing skill was matched only by his drinking prowess.

There were nights when fellow sportswriter Ding Marcelo and I tried to "out-drink" Recah. It was all in vain.

Only once did I beat Recah, when he simply slumped on the table and fell asleep. At maybe 4 in the morning.

Recah must have gulped all kinds of drinks the world had to offer: beer, wine, whiskey, brandy, cognac, rum, gin, bourbon, champagne, sake, soju. Sky was the limit.



Credit: spin.ph

Eventually, Torres brandy of Spain became his lifetime pal.

It was through Recah that I had met and clinked glasses with literary giants like Nick Joaquin, Pete Lacaba, Greg Brillantes, Wilfrido "Ding" Nollado and Erwin Castillo.

Danny Dalena, the quintessential painter, also became a very close friend of mine because he was friends with Recah.

Recah was tone-deaf but on drunken nights, he'd suddenly belt out Elvis Presley's "Are You Lonesome Tonight" with gusto. A ca pella.

"Let It Be" was his favorite Beatles song.

There will never be another Recah Trinidad. He was as original as Michael Jordan.

THAT'S IT Tickets are sold out for my good friend Richard Reynoso's historic concert on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills in San Juan City. Historic because it will mark the balladeer's 40th year in a singing journey punctuated by unparalleled excellence in a highly-competitive world of glitz and glamor. Richard, also a distinguished Board Member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, has a high-impact cast of guest singers that include Chad Borja, Andrea Gutierrez, VR Caballero, Jay-R Dizon and Rannie Raymundo, among others. Show starts promptly at 8 p.m. Cheers!

(The author authorized the reprint of this article)

ODYSSEY ..FROM LAST PAGE...

giant soldiers, hideous giants, the odd cyclops or two along with a vexing witch and more ancient misfits.

At the heart of The Odyssey is palace Intrigue, a quest for power, and a desire to go home. Expect lots of spectacular battles on land and sea along with sparkling special effects. Loud and brash The Odyssey is superb dramatic filmmaking with all the actors pulling off impressive performances.

Big is good!

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com

MEDAL TALLY: 2026 Asian Games

MANILA, Philippines – Team Philippines seeks to pull off what it has not done in the Asian Games for decades.

Bannered by champions Carlos Yulo, Alex Eala, EJ Obiena, Nesthy Petecio, and Annie Ramirez, the country eyes an eight-gold haul in the 20th edition of the continental showpiece in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4. The Philippines has not surpassed four gold medals in a single Asian Games since 1962, with the country matching that tally in the past two editions in Indonesia in 2018 and China in 2023.

As of September 22, the official third day of the Asiad, the Philippines already has one



silver from Jean Claud Saclag in MMA and three bronze medals — from the women's soft tennis team, MMA fighter Carlos Alvarez, and the women's kata team

But with the collection of talent the Philippines has at its disposal, sports officials believe that is an achievable goal.

China remains the standard, having won the overall title in each of the last 11 editions since 1982, while host Japan and South Korea stand as the other perennial powers in the field. (Rappler)

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Atasha Muhlach as 'Annie Batungbakal'

PHOTO: Facebook/Full House Theater Company

Tomorrow, September 25, is the gala night of "Bongga Ka Day! Annie Batungbakal," the musical based on the songs of Hotdog. We chanced upon Atasha Muhlach's parents, Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez, when we watched the musical's opening last Friday, September 18.

Atasha's performance in the titular role got encouraging feedback on opening night.

Atasha must have felt challenged by the bashings she received

as early as the announcement of her being chosen as Annie Batungbakal.

She was already judged to be unfit for the role played by the late National Artist Nora Aunor in the movie version.

But Atasha proved her detractors wrong.

She's not the heir apparent of Aga and Charlene for nothing.

And that's despite the spain Atasha

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was suffering that evening.

Aga chose not to make a big deal of it.

Charlene just said, "Maging positive at happy na lang tayo."

"Ang sa akin lang, just you know, continue to be strong, and not just for Atasha but for everyone. Don't let anybody stop you from reaching for your dreams."

Aga added, "Roads are never easy, may mga ups and downs. But always go for your dreams."

"Huwag po kayong matakot, and enjoy the journey."

"Bongga Ka Day" will run at the Newport Performing Arts Theater until October 24.

(G. Rula/ Malaya)



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