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First Comes Love: Nakabingwit 4/5
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45th Vancouver International Film Festival



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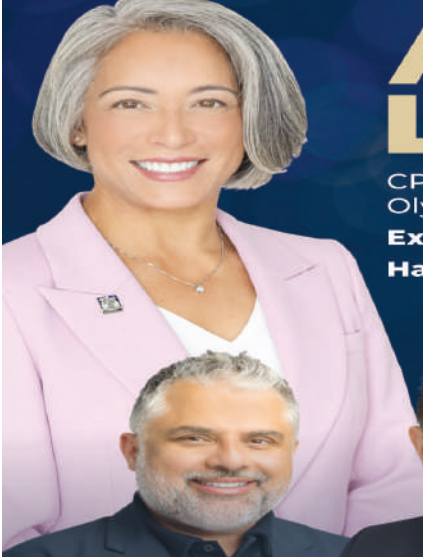
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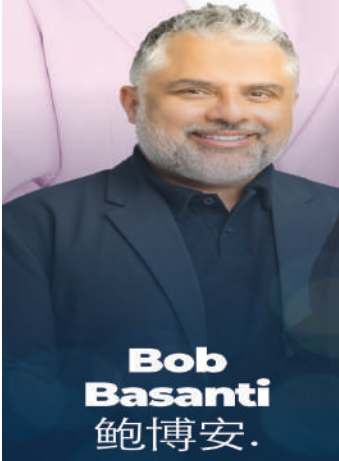
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2026 Municipal Election

Saturday, October 17 from 8am to 8pm.



On Saturday, October 17, 2026 eligible voters will cast their ballot to elect one (1) mayor, eight (8) councillors and six (6) school trustees.

Stay informed

Non-resident property elector

- If you own property in the City of Surrey but you live elsewhere in BC, register to vote in advance of voting.

Vote by mail

- Eligible voters can request a mail ballot package until October 14, 2026.

October 7, 10, 14, 15

- Advance voting from 8am–8pm: view advance voting locations in your municipality

October 17, 2026

- Election day: view on your municipality on how to vote, including if you need help to vote.



Beginning immunizations for viral respiratory season People encouraged to protect themselves, loved ones from influenza, COVID-19, other viral illnesses

VICTORIA - With this year's respiratory illness season underway, people in British Columbia will continue to get safe and effective free vaccines against influenza, COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.

Vaccines against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and pneumococcal disease are also available.

"We're starting to see influenza circulating in the province, and with the respiratory illness season officially starting, it's an important time for people to book their appointment to get immunized," said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer. "Vaccines provide one of the best defences against respiratory illnesses, and they help keep you, your family and your community healthy and safe."

Higher risk groups

While anyone can get sick from influenza or COVID-19, some groups are at higher risk of serious illness and complications. For influenza, this includes infants and children under five years. For both COVID-19 and influenza, these include:

- * adults 65 and older
- * pregnant individuals

- * people living in long-term care
- * Indigenous people
- * those with chronic conditions

While it's not a requirement to be vaccinated to work in a health-care setting, it is strongly recommended that people who provide essential community and health-care services receive the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. Immunization with updated vaccines remains the best way to protect yourself, your patients and the health-care system.

B.C.'s viral respiratory illness immunization campaign aligns with recommendations from Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization, and aims to ensure priority for those most at risk. Vaccines are free, safe, easy to access and available to everyone six months old and older.

"In addition to getting immunized, cleaning your hands regularly, covering sneezes and coughs, and staying home when you're sick are tried and true ways to move safely through this season when we're seeing more viral transmission," Henry said.

Notifications to book appointments

Notifications began for priority

populations on Monday, Oct. 5, 2026, and appointments will start as early as Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. Notifications will continue and expand to the general population through early November 2026.

Notifications to book influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations are being sent through the Get Vaccinated registration system. Anyone not registered in the Get Vaccinated system can register online or by calling 1-833-838-2323. Vaccines are available through health authority clinics, more than 1,400 participating pharmacies and some primary-care providers' offices.

Children two years and older can get the influenza vaccine as a nasal spray.

B.C. has secured nearly two million doses of the 2026-27 influenza vaccine, and 1.5 million doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccines, all of which are approved by Health Canada. This year's vaccine supply is based on uptake in previous seasons to ensure efficient use and to minimize waste.

In addition, starting in fall 2026, seniors in B.C. with the highest risk of serious illness from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) can get the vaccine for free as part of a time-limited program. Eligible individuals include:

- * adults 75 and older
- * residents who are 75 and older living in long-term care homes and assisted-living facilities
- * First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals 60 and older

At this time, only one dose of the RSV vaccine is recommended for long-term protection. Those who have received an RSV vaccine do not need another dose. The RSV vaccine is available year round. More appointments will be available in the coming months as more doses arrive in B.C. and are distributed to RSV immunization locations.

To learn more about health information services in B.C., visit:
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/>

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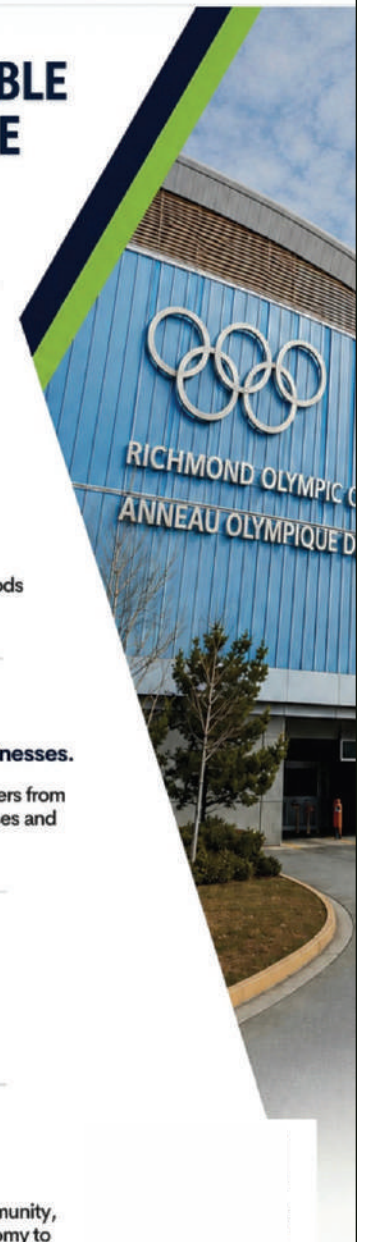
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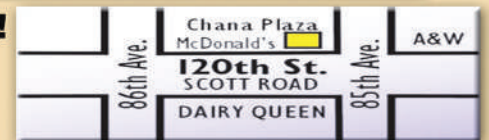
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BC NDP to double funding for public libraries

COURTENAY – BC NDP candidates Will Cole-Hamilton, Sara Lopez and Christine Boyle announced today that a re-elected BC NDP government will permanently double provincial funding for B.C.'s public libraries, from \$14 million to \$28 million a year.

"As families are squeezed by rising costs, public libraries are more important than ever," said Christine Boyle, BC NDP candidate for Vancouver-Little Mountain. "This investment will help make sure British Columbians can continue to access the books, technology, programs and welcoming community spaces they count on."

With more than 60 million visits each year, libraries are an important part of communities across B.C. Libraries provide

free access to information, entertainment and technology, support early literacy and lifelong learning, and provide welcoming spaces where people can connect with their neighbours.

"Libraries are places where a senior can learn a new digital skill, a student can find a quiet place to study, a parent can bring their child to a free literacy program, or someone looking for work can get online and access the tools they need," said Will Cole-Hamilton, BC NDP candidate for Courtenay-Comox. "As a former Library Trustee, I know that stable provincial funding means that libraries here in the Comox Valley, and across the province, can plan for the long term and provide more of these crucial services."

The commitment would provide stable, long-term funding for

B.C.'s 71 public library systems, helping libraries respond to the needs of their communities. The additional \$14 million in annual provincial funding could help libraries:

- stay open for longer hours or additional days;
- expand digital collections and reduce wait times for e-books and audiobooks;
- provide more free community, family and literacy programs;
- expand free access to high-speed Wi-Fi, computers and workstations;
- offer more lifelong learning opportunities, including digital skills and technology training; and
- provide more opportunities for newcomers, seniors, students, families and

job-seekers to access information and connect with their communities.

"Public libraries are essential community infrastructure, and they should be treated that way," said Sara Lopez, BC NDP candidate for North Island. "Permanent funding gives library boards and staff the ability to make long-term decisions based on what their communities actually need. It means more opportunities for people to learn, connect and access information for free."

Conversely, the BC Conservatives have proposed deep cuts to public spending that would put services people rely on at risk, including community services like public libraries. Those temporary funding commitments have now expired, returning the annual provincial grant to \$14 million. (communications@bcndp.ca)



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AUTHORIZED BY SARJ DHALIWAL, FINANCIAL AGENT (INFO@SURREY-CONNECT.CA)

Lakam Chiu's family turns to volunteers as bail remains out of reach



The family of businesswoman Lakambini "Lakam" Chiu is turning to volunteers for help as they work to secure her release from detention.

Chiu's father, William Chiu Jr., said the family has yet to come up with the amount needed to post bail following her arrest over allegations involving millions of pesos in company funds.

The 45-year-old is facing 124 counts of qualified theft filed by her sister, actress Kim Chiu. The case stems from alleged financial discrepancies involving a company in which the siblings are co-stakeholders, with the amount reportedly reaching around P44.4 million.

The Quezon City court initially placed Chiu's bail at P5.8

million. Her lawyer later sought a reduction, resulting in a P200,000 cut that brought the amount down to P5.6 million.

William said the reduced amount remains difficult for the family to raise. Even the cash bond option, which would require roughly P2.9 million, is beyond what they can currently afford.

With the family unable to immediately shoulder the cost, volunteers have begun helping collect funds for Chiu's bail.

Her legal team is also exploring another route to secure her release.

Lawyer Dominic Solis said they are working on a surety bond, where a bonding company guarantees the bail before the court in exchange for a non-refundable premium.

The court-set amount for the surety bond remains P5.6 million.

For now, Chiu remains at the Kamuning Police Station in Quezon City, where she has been detained since her arrest on Sunday. (N. Ramos/mb.com.ph)

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OCT. 17 ELECT



First Comes Love: Nakabingwit 4/5

By Julian-Ray Fortaleza

It takes courage to put your heart on the screen like this. There are few filmmakers who have the chops to put their own struggles on screen, but Joella Cabalu showed the industry how it's done. Philippine Asian News Today covered the movie's world premiere on October 3rd at the 45th Annual Vancouver International Film Festival. The event started with Joella organizing an "Isang Bagsak" applause with the crowd.

It was a fitting way to begin a film that is, at its core, about community, family and the complicated ways we carry love with us.

First Comes Love: Nakabingwit is deeply personal without feeling self-indulgent. Cabalu opens the door to her own experiences and allows the audience to sit with her as she explores love, relationships and the expectations that come with them. There is an honesty to the film that is difficult to fake, and that honesty is what makes it so easy to connect with.

The film also feels distinctly Filipino Canadian. Rather than treating identity as a simple question of choosing one culture over another, Cabalu shows the push and pull that can come from living between worlds. Family expectations, romantic relationships and personal ambitions do not always fit neatly together, and the film embraces that

messiness.

That is perhaps where Nakabingwit is at its strongest. It does not pretend that love is always simple.

There are moments that are funny, awkward and uncomfortable, but they are presented with enough warmth that they never feel cruel. Cabalu understands that some of the funniest parts of relationships come from the things we would rather not admit about ourselves. At the same time, the film never loses sight of the vulnerability underneath those moments.

The title itself speaks to that idea. Love can feel like something we pursue willingly, only to discover that we have become caught up in something much bigger than we expected.

What makes the film stand out is Cabalu's willingness to leave some of the rough edges intact. This is not a polished Hollywood romance where every emotional beat lands exactly when it is supposed to. It feels lived-in. It feels like real people trying to figure things out while carrying the baggage of their families, their cultures and their past experiences.

That authenticity gives First Comes Love: Nakabingwit its charm.

The film is also a reminder of why festivals like VIFF matter. Vancouver has a large and diverse Filipino community,



but seeing Filipino Canadian stories on a major festival screen still feels significant. These are stories that deserve to be told not simply because they represent a particular community, but because the experiences they explore are universal.

At its heart, First Comes Love:

Nakabingwit is about the courage it takes to be honest about what we want from love and what we are willing to give up for it.

Cabalu has put a considerable piece of herself on the screen. Thankfully, audiences are given something meaningful in return.



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New challengers revealed as 'LOL Philippines' returns for Season 2

MANILA, Philippines — The new challengers are ready to test their poker faces as "LOL: Last One Laughing Philippines" returns for its second season on Oct. 30, with Vice Ganda once again serving as host and 10 comedians facing off in a six-hour battle of wit and comedy.

Following the success of its first season, the Prime Video comedy competition returns with a mix of established performers and emerging talents from live performance, stand-up, television and digital content.

The Season 2 lineup features Long Mejia, Epy Quizon, Candy Pangilinan, Ethel Booba, Pooh, Donna Cariaga, Chariz Solomon, Esnyr, James Caraan and Charuth.

The new cast brings together different generations, backgrounds and styles of Filipino comedy, with comedy

veterans sharing the room with newer crowd favorites. The format puts their individual comedic approaches to the test as each contestant tries to make the others laugh while keeping a straight face.

All 10 comedians will be locked together for six hours, where they can use different comedy techniques, spontaneous performances and interactions to make their fellow contestants break character. At the same time, they must control their own reactions because even a single laugh could put their place in the competition at risk.

The challenge becomes a balancing act between provoking laughter and avoiding it. Contestants will have to find new ways to catch their opponents off guard while maintaining their composure as the competition progresses.



Every reaction can affect the game as the comedians compete to remain among the last standing and claim the win.

Season 2 also marks the return of original showrunner Randolph Longjas. The series comes from Amazon MGM Studios in association with UXS

Inc. (Unitel/StraightShooters).

"LOL: Last One Laughing Philippines Season 2" premieres exclusively on Prime Video in the Philippines and in more than 240 countries and territories worldwide on Oct. 30. (Manila Times

Ria Atayde says 2nd pregnancy a blessing despite health condition

Ria Atayde was cool, calm and collected sharing the news with ABS-CBN News that she and husband Zanjoe Marudo are expecting baby No. 2.

"Super grateful, we really wanted this. It's not something that you'd expect given that I have PCOS, I have thyroid issues, you think it would have been a lot harder, so it's really such a blessing," she said.

"There's a lot of health stuff, which is also why we wanted to do it agad, kasi nga mahirap, there are conditions for me basically I am the type that gets hemorrhage, I bleed," she added.

With these pre-existing conditions, her doctor is attending to her closely up to her delivery month, which will fall in the first quarter of 2027.

Right before our virtual interview, Atayde still went to do Pilates.

"I am still allowed to workout, I still have my routine, of course cleared by my doctor with all

my medical stuff (condition)," she explained.

A boy or a girl? Atayde replied, "Sobrang cheesy, basta healthy at this point, really. No preference."

But having another baby and making Sabino a 'kuya (big brother), has always been their plan.

"It's always been for both of us, a dream to have more than just one child. We both grew up with siblings so, that's something that we want to give Sabino," Atayde said.

"This is really what's meant for us. There are days, I think like all mothers question like what they're doing, there's mom guilt, there's all of that. The fact that we were blessed with another one, it goes to show we're on the right path, we're doing okay," she said.

Atayde's parents, actress Sylvia Sanchez and Art Atayde, are happy to be lola and lolo to their second grandchild.

"Of course happy sila, super



Photo from Ria Atayde's Instagram account

happy. Ano daw, mas mahihiram na raw nila 'yung older one," she said.

Aside from the medical care, having a strong support system makes the pregnancy a lot easier and more comfortable, according to Atayde.

"This is something that we both prayed for. We are so thankful that we have a lot of people rallying behind us. We have a proper village supporting us, it's such an important thing to have a support system throughout the entire process." (MJ Felipe/abs-cbn news)

Jennylyn Mercado carries on with business amid buzz over Patrick Garcia interview



Jennylyn Mercado in this photo posted by makeup artist Anthea Bueno on Instagram on Aug. 31, 2026 (antheabueno via Instagram)

For Kapuso actress Jennylyn Mercado, life goes on.

The actress posted about Miss Universe Philippines 2026 Bea Millan-Windorski's upcoming appearance on her TikTok account amid the ongoing buzz surrounding her ex-boyfriend, Patrick Garcia, and their child support issue.

Jennylyn shared that the beauty queen will appear on her TikTok account for a live-selling event featuring the actress' beauty brand, DLN Skin.

"Abangan sa TikTok ko today at 5 p.m. mga bessies! Live with our Miss Universe PH 2026 Bea Millan-Windorski," she wrote in an Instagram Story on Wednesday, September 30.

Bea is an endorser of Jennylyn's brand.

Actor Dennis Trillo, Jennylyn's husband, also posted about the beauty queen's upcoming appearance on the actress' TikTok account.

"Uy, may live selling pala today with Miss Universe!!!!" he wrote.

Some praised Dennis for supporting Jennylyn amid the ongoing buzz.

"Go, go, go! Sugod na tayo sa TikTok! Let's support this family," a Facebook user commented.

"The Good Husband and a Good Father," another user wrote.

"Sana maraming katulad mo po, Lods Dennis," a different Pinoy wrote.

Earlier that day, Dennis wrote a cryptic post that many interpreted as a reference to actor Patrick's viral interview, in which Patrick talked about his breakup with Jennylyn, as well as his intention to support their son.

"Hindi ako pabor sa bashing, pero salamat at naalala mo si Jazz dahil sa pag-bash sa anak mo. O, spread LOVE, not Hate," he said.

Patrick's interview

In an interview released with showbiz personality Ogie Diaz on Tuesday, September 29, Patrick said he spoke up about



the issue after his daughter, Michelle Garcia, became the subject of online bashing related to the child support controversy.

He and Jennylyn began dating in 2007. In January 2008, they announced that Jennylyn was pregnant with their child, Alex Jazz.

They separated a month later, while Jennylyn was pregnant. She later spoke publicly about their breakup, saying she did not receive emotional and financial support from Patrick during her pregnancy and that she instead experienced stress.

At the time, the actress also said she was hurt by questions about the paternity of her then-unborn child.

Patrick, for his part, said he reached out to the actress but she rejected him.

"I was never there for Jen during her pregnancy, not because I didn't want to be there, but because she didn't want me to be there," he said.

Aguila Entertainment, the agency representing Jennylyn, said the actress will no longer speak about the issue "out of respect for the privacy and peace of mind of both her family and Patrick's."

"Jennylyn asks the public to stop the hate and refrain from bashing Patrick's family, especially his daughter, Michelle," the agency said on September 30.

Jennylyn has been married to Dennis since 2021, while Patrick has been married to Nikka Martinez since 2015.

Dennis has since been a father figure to Jazz, who is now 18 years old. (J. Malasig/Interaksyon)

Bela Padilla single again



"I think sometimes, loving someone also means knowing when to let go."

With those words, Bela Padilla announced the end of her relationship with businessman Martin Tan, just weeks after the

two confirmed their romance.

In an Instagram post on Sunday, Bela said she had decided for both of them to "move forward separately to save whatever we can of ourselves and how we see each other."

She described her relationship with Tan as different, calling it the first one in which she was "truly swept off my feet."

"We share the same love for films, food markets, our work, and, most of all, genuinely being together," she wrote.

Bela said she kept the relationship private because it was also the first romance in which she felt both

"most like and unlike" herself.

Videos of the couple at Legazpi Market that circulated online recently gave the public a glimpse of them as a new, shy and slightly awkward couple. But behind those moments, Bela said, were months filled with both "the best and also hardest days" of their relationship.

"I think sometimes, loving someone also means knowing when to let go, before you lose the good things you saw in each other," she wrote.

Bela had nothing but kind words for Martin, calling him one of the "most fun, smartest, and definitely most charming" people she has

ever met. She said she will always be grateful for what they shared and genuinely wished him the best.

She also thanked their followers for rooting for them from afar and for giving them space whenever they were spotted together.

Now, she is asking for that same space as they move forward separately.

In a postscript, Bela shared a video of the two together, seemingly without a care in the world. She said that if she could immortalize one night, it would be "this lovely, ordinary one." (Malaya Entertainment/photo from Instagram)

Jamie Evangelista breaks silence on Baron Geisler's current situation following cryptic posts

Jamie Evangelista spoke for the first time regarding the current situation of her husband, actor Baron Geisler, following her controversial social media posts in recent months.

"Baron is now recovering in a treatment facility connected with our church, CCF," Jamie told veteran journalist Dolly Anne Carvajal of The Philippine Star. "He is receiving professional care, while we continue with individual therapy and work toward marriage counseling as well."

Jamie did not elaborate why Baron is currently receiving professional care. Her statement comes as some netizens have been speculating whether the actor may be facing renewed struggles with addiction.

"We are praying for the best, taking things one day at a time, and surrendering everything to the Lord. We believe in the power of prayer, but we also believe in seeking the help and treatment that God provides through people trained to heal. Faith and professional care can work hand in hand," Jamie continued.

Jamie, who is a psychologist, also reflected on her own experiences and acknowledged that she has areas she continues to work on.

"Basically, I also acknowledged that I have my faults and shortcomings. I did not like being stressed and angry. I took my therapy seriously, did continuous



education for counseling and focused on loving and improving myself."

She also shared how she has been making changes in her lifestyle while continuing to prioritize her children.

"I started a fitness journey instead of stress eating. My kids still need me. So, I have to stay healthy. In my next course, I will specialize in counseling for gaming and gambling addiction."

For now, she asked the public for prayers while also giving their family space and privacy as they focus on the healing.

In recent years, Baron has undergone rehabilitation programs as part of his efforts to address alcoholism and substance

abuse.

The actor has also publicly credited Jamie for supporting his recovery and helping him remain committed to making healthier choices.

Meanwhile, Jamie's statement comes after several of her social media posts drew attention online in recent months.

In July, speculation surrounding Baron surfaced after Jamie appeared to urge the actor to seek help for drug rehabilitation in a comment that has since been deleted.

The remark was posted on Baron's collaborative Instagram post with an aesthetic clinic, which showed the actor undergoing a facial treatment. Jamie wrote: "Find a

drug rehabilitation sponsor who can help you address the root cause of your problems. I doubt a facial can heal that."

Around the same period, Jamie also shared a series of cryptic posts on her Instagram Stories, tagging Baron alongside messages about accountability and personal growth.

By September, another post from Jamie generated discussion online. On Threads, she asked whether it was normal or morally acceptable for a maid or personal assistant to sleep in the same bed as a married employer.

"Is it normal for an alalay/maid/PA to sleep in the same bed as her married employer? Morally acceptable? Asking for a confused wife," she wrote in a since-deleted Threads post.

At the time, she also reposted content on Instagram discussing the difficulties of being married to someone dealing with alcoholism, addiction, and narcissism, along with other posts about healing.

Despite the attention surrounding her social media activity, Jamie has not publicly confirmed whether the posts were connected to Baron or their marriage.

As they continue working toward healing, Jamie also said that Baron is set to have a reunion project with child actress Althea Ruedas following their 2022 film Dollhouse. (A. De Guzman, Push Team)

Michael Sager joins 'Pinoy Big Brother Collab 3.0' as newest host

MANILA, Philippines — Former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate Michael Sager is returning to the reality show, this time stepping as one of the hosts of "Pinoy Big Brother Collab 3.0."

Sager, who was a housemate in "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 1.0" in 2025, revealed the news on Instagram, expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to take on a new role in the franchise.

"Hello Philippines, hello world, we are so back! Grateful to be given a new task by Kuya ... this time as his host," Sager wrote.

Sager, dubbed the "Diligent Wonder Son ng Marinduque" during his stint as a housemate, spent 49 days inside the "Big Brother" house alongside various duo partners before his eviction.

His return marks another chapter in his "Pinoy Big Brother"

journey, more than a year after he competed as a housemate.

For "Pinoy Big Brother Collab 3.0," Sager joins a hosting lineup that brings together Kapamilya and Kapuso talents, including Bianca Gonzalez, Robi Domingo, Melai Cantiveros-Francisco, Enchong Dee, Alexa Ilacad and Gabbi Garcia.

Sager is the latest addition to the lineup and the first former housemate from the recent "Celebrity Collab" editions to take on a hosting role.

Meanwhile, Kim Chiu is taking a hiatus from hosting duties this season after eight years with the show.

The newest season follows "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 2.0," which concluded in February 2026 with duo Caprice Cayetano and Lella Ford emerging as Big Winners.



Actor-host Michael Sager PHOTO FROM INSTAGRAM/MICHAELSAGER_

The previous edition, "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Collab Edition 1.0," which aired in 2025, crowned Brent Manalo and Mika

Salamanca, popularly known as "BreKa," as its Big Winner duo. (I. Iglesia/Manila Times)

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Is Baste the Dutertes' Plan B for 2028?

By Carlito Pablo

The youngest son of former Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte could be the family's Plan B in the 2028 presidential election.

Sebastian "Baste" Duterte may replace his sister Sara as the family's presidential contender, if the latter is convicted in her impeachment trial, and as a result, disqualified from public office.

Sebastian Duterte is currently mayor of the Dutertes' home turf of Davao City.

At a press conference on October 6, 2026 in Davao, Sara Duterte said that Sebastian may run for national office in 2028.

Currently the Philippine Vice President, Sara Duterte recalled that their mother Elizabeth Zimmerman once told her to just return to Davao City and let Sebastian go for a national position.

"I think I have mentioned this before. My mother really told me to come home to Davao and said that Baste should be the one to run nationally," Duterte said in a report by the Manila Times newspaper.

The paper noted that Sara did not identify what national position their mother had in mind for Sebastian.

However, Sara indicated four years ago that her brother may run for president.

In a report by the Manila Bulletin on June 25, 2024, Sara said in an interview in Cagayan de Oro City that their mother has a plan for Sebastian.

"My mother (Elizabeth Zimmerman) told me my brother will run for senator. Then he will run for the presidency in the 2028 elections," Sara said in a local dialect.

Sara also said that their mother asked her to return to Davao City and run as the city mayor, a position she has



Sebastian "Baste" Duterte in this photo from the Davao city mayor's social media.

previously held.

Sara is facing impeachment trial before the Senate sitting as an impeachment court.

Prosecutors have laid four articles of impeachment against the vice president.

These charges include alleged misuse of public funds at the Office of the Vice President and the Department of Education, unexplained wealth, bribery and procurement irregularities, and threats to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and Marcos' cousin and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

Sara and Marcos ran as a ticket in 2022 national election. Their alliance broke soon after their electoral victory.

Under the Philippine Constitution, conviction by an impeachment court requires the vote of at least two-thirds of senator-judges.

If convicted, Sara faces removal from office and perpetual disqualification from any public office.

Mayor Baste and Senator Robin on trumped-up criminal charges, or throw Sen. Bong Go into the dungeons at The Hague, a surprise dark horse waiting in the wings will emerge, and will be swept to the presidency by a tidal wave of votes coming from millions of Duterte followers, and millions more from nonpartisan awakened citizens, angered by the conviction of VP Sara under an orchestrated illegal process, plus an equal number of overwhelming sympathy and protest votes from voters who are outraged by the political retribution heaped on the Dutertes and their Senate allies."

Antonio Tinio is a party-list representative in Congress for the ACT Teachers party-list group.

An April 13, 2026 report by the Philippine Daily Inquirer quoted Tinio saying that the Dutertes are preparing for the worst, which is the potential conviction of Sara before the impeachment court.

"It is clear that there is a Plan B for the Dutertes, and that is Baste, so maybe the Duterte camp is nervous that the vice president may be impeached, and this may continue toward a conviction at the Senate," Tinio said in Filipino in the paper's report.

Tinio noted that Sebastian has been designated as president of the Dutertes' Partido Demokratiko Pilipino (PDP) and that a new movement called Reform Alliance for Good Governance and Accountability (Rage) Coalition was formed.

"That's why, as early as now, the Dutertes are presenting a Plan B: they will let another Duterte run for president. That is why Baste was appointed as president of PDP, and they are building a coalition to give another Duterte a national platform," Tinio said in Filipino.

Salvador Panelo is a former spokesperson and chief legal counsel for ex-president Rodrigo Duterte.

Writing in his Manila Times column dated October 5, 2026, Panelo said that the Marcos administration has "no viable presidential candidate to defeat VP Sara in an honest election if she is acquitted".

"If Duterte is convicted — using foul means such as lowering the voting threshold for conviction, jailing senators who are certain to vote for exoneration, and threatening other senators to force them to vote for conviction — it still has no winning bet even if it coalesces with the yellows or with the leftists or with both. It has no winning bet against a substitute formidable candidate in the person of Davao City Mayor Sebastian "Baste" Duterte or Sen. Robin Padilla or Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go."

Panelo also wrote, "And if the anti-Duterte forces who are ensconced in power succeed in jailing

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Choose life.
Choose love,
not violence.

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EXODUS 20:13

OCTOBER 24, 2026
SATURDAY | 4:00 PM

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BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA



COMMUNITY CORNER

BY CHRISTIAN CUNANAN & APPLE PLATA



Marking a historic first for Filipino-Canadians in British Columbia, the **'Miting-de-Avance'** was held on September 26, 2026, at Balai in the Borough in New Westminster, BC, bringing together Filipino-Canadian candidates from various ridings across the province, creating an opportunity for Filipino Canadian voters to meet the candidates and hear directly from them.

The successful gathering was led by Immigration Consultant/Realtor Rovic Canono of Filipino Helping Filipinos in BC, together with Joel Castillo, Bert Parungao, Joanna Manuel, Clifford Belgica, Merlina Fayusal, and James Mark Villamayor of UFCABC.

The gathering brought together Filipino community leaders,

members, and supporters from across the community. The program was hosted by Joel Castillo, Rovic Canono, and Ria Inducil-Abesamis.

Special guests included New Westminster Mayor Patrick Johnstone, former MP Peter Julian, and Salvacion E. Dayao. Balai In the Borough is owned by Realtor Evelyn Nival Lopez.

FILIPINO-CANADIAN CANDIDATES:

Surrey

- Councillor: Noemi Victorino, Narima De La Cruz, Dan Carlos
- School Board Trustee: Michelle Ceniza, Vanessa Gilera

Vancouver

- Councillor: Armor Valor
- School Board Trustee: Lina Vargas

MEET THE FILIPINO-CANADIAN CANDIDATES FOR OCTOBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Port Coquitlam

- Councillor: Dehara Thompson

Richmond

- Councillor: Antonio Ortega, Mario Cruz
- School Board Trustee: Jenny Gonzales Matta, Rod Belleza, Willie Sinconegue

North Vancouver

- Councillor: Lailani Tumaneng
- School Board Trustee: Ralph Perfecto, Ethel Purugganan, Senora Navales

Burnaby

- Councillor: Maita Santiago
- School Board Trustee: Stephen Andrada

New Westminster

- School Board Trustee: Lucas Steele

West Vancouver

- Councillor: Annsabelle Pronych

Fort St. John

- Councillor: Ovwian Hill

Dawson Creek

- Councillor: Gregg Apolonio

Kitimat

- Councillor: Edwin Empinado

The gathering highlighted the growing participation of Filipino-Canadians in local civic life and reflected the enduring Bayanihan spirit of the Filipino community across British Columbia.

Photo credit: Philip Louis Pua



Philippine Historama Society Presents 'The Ten Commandments' on Stage

Philippine Historama Society presents The Ten Commandments on October 24, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the Michael J. Fox Theatre, in Burnaby, B.C.

The production offers audiences a Filipino cultural theatre experience featuring music, drama, choreography and visual artistry.

Director: Carmelita Tapia and Noel Trinidad, Dance choreographers: Jehnel Wong and Noel Trinidad. Voice-over: by Irene Yatco.

The cast features:
Lawrence portrays Moses
Jehnel Wong, Marilou Maclang-Yodogawa and the Richmond

55+ers, together with Christian, Bennette, Salve, Rudy, Rene, Sheran, Marivic, Raffy, Noel, Richard, Mila, Laarni, Raymon, Bullet, Paul and Peter.

The Philippine Historama Society invites the community to witness this inspiring production and support Filipino cultural theatre. Don't miss

The Ten Commandments - an evening of faith, courage, music and inspiration.

Come and experience this unforgettable stage production on October 24!



'Filipiñana' actress Jorrybell Agoto in critical care



media on September 23 to appeal for help for Agoto, who is currently in the hospital's Critical Care Unit.

In the post, Lipnica said fluid has accumulated in the pleural area around Agoto's lungs, making it difficult for her to breathe. The actress currently has a Blake drain to help manage the fluid.

Agoto's family is also dealing with the mounting costs of her treatment, hospitalization, procedures and medication.

Lipnica asked for financial assistance from those who are able to help and encouraged those who cannot donate to share the post.

"Every donation, every share, and every prayer gives Jorrybell and our family hope and strength

to keep going," Lipnica wrote.

The news has also drawn messages of support from people in the film industry, including Film Development Council of the Philippines chair Jose Javier Reyes.

"Heartbroken. Life can be so unfair. But who are we to question? In the end, all that happens serves a purpose. In the end, we will understand," Reyes wrote in his post.

"We are with you, Jorrybell. You are meant for greater things. Laban lang," he added.

Agoto is currently getting attention for her role in "Filipiñana," Rafael Manuel's feature film set inside an exclusive golf club. The film has been selected as the Philippines' official submission for the 99th Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category.

Agoto also shares a personal connection with her "Filipiñana" co-star Nour Hooshmand,

who plays Janine. The two have been friends and had worked together even before they became part of Manuel's film.

During the recent CinePanalo press conference, Hooshmand spoke about their reunion on "Filipiñana."

"Kami po ni Bel, matagal na po kami friends so ang sarap lang na kami yung magkasama dito," said Hooshmand, who is also part of the cast of "Starfish," a 2026 CinePanalo student film.

While "Filipiñana" is making its way through the international film circuit, Agoto is dealing with a personal battle that has taken her away from the spotlight.

For now, friends and colleagues are hoping to help her and her family get through it.

(Malaya Entertainment)

Jorrybell Agoto, the actress who plays the 17-year-old tee girl in "Filipiñana," is battling lymphoma and is currently confined at St. Luke's Hospital.

Kamil Lipnica took to social

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More Stories to Call Our Own: GMA Pinoy TV Celebrates Filipino American History Month This October

In celebration of Filipino American History Month in October, GMA Pinoy TV, the Heart of Global Pinoys, presents a program lineup curated to showcase the stories, values, and experiences that continue to connect Filipinos with each other and further deepen their ties to home.

With specials that celebrate the richness of Filipino culture and spirit, GMA Pinoy TV delivers entertainment that showcases themes of family, resilience, love, perseverance, and pride in one's heritage, which will resonate with Global Pinoys across generations and borders.

Leading the lineup of GMA Pinoy TV's Filipino American History Month celebration is **"The Filipino Story,"** a two-part animated special that is a must-watch for every Filipino missing home and would like to deepen their connection to the Motherland. Audiences can look forward to stories showcasing the rich culture, tradition, history, and beauty of the Philippines. Watch on October 24 and 31.

While GMA Pinoy TV brings Filipino American History Month to viewers through its on-air programming, the celebration extends to its digital platforms as well. Through Quick Chat, GMA Pinoy TV features global music icon Apl.de.Ap as he reflects on his Filipino heritage, successful career, and ongoing advocacy.

After taking viewers to Asia, the Middle East, and most recently the United Kingdom, GMA Pinoy TV's Finding Mahal: Global Pinoy Love Stories continues its inspiring journey as it heads to the United States for its fourth installment, featuring Sarabeth and Antonio Acapulco. Their story is a heartwarming blend of traditional Filipino courtship and grand romantic gestures, as seen through the eyes of Sarabeth, who shares what made her Filipino husband stand out. Catch their inspiring journey on October 31.

Global Pinoys can also catch Family Feud Philippines with Michael V. stepping in as temporary host while Dingdong Dantes focuses on The Master Cutter. Known for his sharp humor and easy rapport with guests, Michael V. brings his own style to the game show, making every episode entertaining as families take on the survey-based challenges.

Not to be missed are the exciting action sequences and plot twists in fresh episodes of "The Master Cutter," starring the multi-awarded Dingdong Dantes. More action awaits as cybercrime continues to meet its match in "Taskforce Firewall," with Kapuso Action Drama Actress Kylie Padilla and The Primetime Prince Miguel Tanfelix.

"Born to Shine," starring Sparkle artists Zephania and Michael Sager, together with Olive May, will bring more kilig, inspiration, and catchy P-Pop vibes, while the sports drama

series "Kamאו" with Anton Vinzon promises to deliver more inspiring episodes.

Meanwhile, "FPJ sa GMA" presents an action-packed collection of movies starring the King of Philippine movies, Fernando Poe, Jr.: "Agila ng Maynila," with Vic Vargas, Max Alvarado, and Paquito Diaz (October 4); "Batang Maynila," featuring Paquito Diaz and Jay Ilagan (October 11); "Isang Bala Ka Lang II," co-starring Nanette Medved, Subas Herrero, Vangie Labalan, and Bernardo Bernardo; and "Isa Para Sa Lahat, Lahat Para Sa Isa" with Andy Poe, Conrad Poe, Frederick Poe, Romy Diaz, Max Alvarado, and Paquito Diaz (October 25).

Chills and thrills await fans with GMA Pinoy TV's "Horror Fest" feature: "Bahay Na Pula," starring Julia Barreto, Xian Lim, and Marco Gumabao, directed by Brillante Mendoza. When newlyweds are discouraged from selling a grand ancestral house due to plans by the local government to have it declared as a historical site, strange and horrific events begin to unfold—and lead to a shocking twist. Get ready for a haunting unlike any other on October 11.

Aside from the diverse entertainment coming in October, Global Pinoys can keep watching favorites such as "Bubble Gang," "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda," "TiktoClock," "The People Have Spoken," and "The Voice Kids." Global Pinoys can also keep updated on the latest news and developments

from home through "24 Oras."

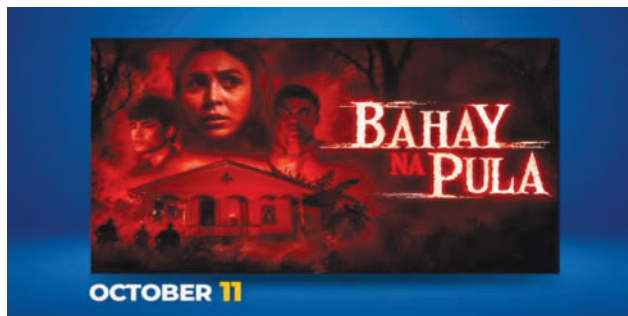
GMA Pinoy TV's digital platforms continue to bring inspiring stories to Global Pinoys worldwide. Viewers can catch a new episode of Pinoys at Sea featuring Del Icalla, who transitioned from working on a passenger ship to building a successful career in Japan as a web development professor, and an exclusive interview with GMA Sparkle artist Larkin Castor offers a closer look at the accomplished TV commercial model, athlete, and musician.

For the GMA Pinoy TV Podcast, get ready for a fun conversation with Rochelle Pangilinan as she talks about SexBomb Girls' latest single, "MAMA," and their upcoming U.S. shows!

Plus, Apl.de.Ap talks about his exciting new chapter with GMA Music and the energy and joy he gets from performing for Global Pinoys around the world.

From stories that celebrate Filipino heritage and identity to original Kapuso programs that highlight compelling storytelling through action, romance, suspense, and more, the GMA Pinoy TV lineup gives Global Pinoys more reasons to watch while being able to gather, connect, and take pride in stories that bring them closer to home.

Keep watching GMA Pinoy TV for the latest Kapuso programs, exciting, exclusive content, and many more! To subscribe, visit GMA International.



ANCOP Walk Draws Nearly 1,000 Participants to Burnaby

October as the month of Thanksgiving becomes more meaningful as we give thanks for the upliftment of the poor through the very successful 2026 ANCOP Walk.

Nearly 1,000 people participated in the 2026 Greater Vancouver Area ANCOP Walk on Aug. 22 at Swangard Stadium and Burnaby Central Park. The annual fundraiser brought together families, volunteers, sponsors, community partners and supporters from across Greater Vancouver.

Theme and Leadership

This year's theme, "One Mission, One Walk," reflected the event's shared purpose. ANCOP volunteers—many of them members of Couples for Christ—organized the walk under the leadership of event heads, Elvis and Melody Atienza.

Walk Route and Activities

Participants began the day at Swangard Stadium, then followed an approximately 3.5-kilometre route through Burnaby Central Park. After returning to the stadium, they gathered for photos, fellowship and other activities.

Community Support

Guests included Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, Philippine Consulate Deputy Consul Paul Vincent Uy, Burnaby City Councilor Maita Santiago and CFC Pacific Regional Head Ding Mercado. Each shared a message of support with participants.

Fundraising and Impact

373 Filipino plays vie for production in new theater festival

A new Philippine theater festival received 373 submissions from Filipino playwrights during its inaugural call, with only 12 works set to move forward to full production.

Teatro Panalo, presented by Puregold and produced and organized by Wishbone Collective Inc., held its first call for submissions from August 8 to September 11. The call was open to both emerging and established Filipino playwrights, who were invited to submit original one-act works across genres, styles and theatrical forms.

Of the 373 entries, eight straight



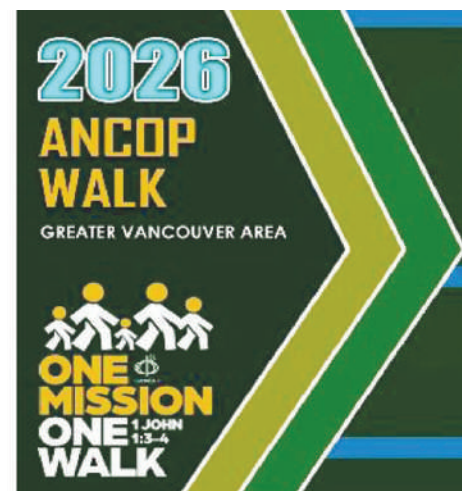
As of Aug. 31, the walk had raised \$110,648, with donations and pledges remaining open until Sept. 30. Proceeds support ANCOP programs focused on education, community development and assistance for families facing poverty in many countries around the world.

Organizers said the turnout demonstrated strong local support, with volunteers, donors and sponsors contributing in different ways. The event also gave participants an opportunity to learn more about ANCOP's work with disadvantaged communities.

A Continuing Commitment

For organizers and volunteers, the event offered another opportunity to unite the community around a shared concern for families who need support.

The 2026 walk continued ANCOP's long-standing effort to raise funds, build awareness and encourage community involvement in helping people living in difficult circumstances.



plays and four musicals will be selected for production. Each selected playwright will receive P100,000 in financial compensation, along with development and production support.

Festival Director Vincent de Jesus said the number of submissions reflects the interest among Filipino writers in developing work for the stage.

"For our first year, receiving 373 entries is already something to be grateful for. It tells us that many Filipino writers out there have stories they want to share and develop for the stage. Now, our responsibility is to look closely at these works,

recognize the voices behind them, and give the selected pieces the support they need to grow," De Jesus said.

The festival is also intended to create opportunities for other theater artists involved in productions, including directors and actors.

"Teatro Panalo aims to expand and strengthen the theater ecosystem by creating more opportunities not only for established and emerging writers, but also for directors, actors, and everyone involved in bringing a production to life. By giving more theater

artists the chance to create and collaborate, and building on the work of the theater festivals that came before us, we hope to contribute to a bigger, and more sustainable theater community," he added.

Teatro Panalo is the latest expansion of Puregold's "Panalo" platform for Filipino storytelling, which also includes its annual film festival.

The first Teatro Panalo festival will run from February 18 to March 14, 2027.

(Interaksyon Entertainment)

BC Amparado's 'Mono No Aware' dominates 2026 CinePanalo awards

MANILA, Philippines — “Mono No Aware,” directed by BC Amparado, led the winners at the 2026 CinePanalo Film Festival, claiming the festival’s top honor along with awards for direction, acting, cinematography, editing, sound design and ensemble performance.

The film was named Pinakapanalong Pelikula in the full-length category and received a P250,000 cash prize.

In his acceptance speech during the awards ceremony Wednesday night, Amparado said the film’s deliberately measured pace was meant to encourage audiences to remain present and appreciate the experience of living.

“This film may be long for some but it forces us to stay in the moment. Just like the movie suggested that we have to live in the moment, appreciate life while it’s here, and enjoy the beauty of it,” Amparado said. “Life is boring sometimes. We have to endure it to find true happiness,” he added.

Amparado also took home the Panalo sa Direktor award for “Mono No Aware,” while the film won Panalo sa International Jury, Panalong Ensemble, Panalo sa Cinematography, Panalo sa Editing and Panalo sa Sound Design.

Juan Karlos was named Pan along Aktor for his performance in “Mono No Aware,” while Momoko Kobayashi received the Pan along Pangalawang Aktres award for the same film.

The awards also recognized



The team of ‘Mono No Aware’ led by director BC Amparado (fourth from left), JK Labajo (third from right) and Perry Dizon (third from left) PHOTO FROM INSTAGRAM/JUAN KARLOS

performances from other full-length entries.

Xyriel Manabat won Pan along Aktres for “Stuck on You,” while Zanjoe Marudo was named Pan along Pangalawang Aktor for “Apol of My Ai.” Zion Cruz received the Pan along Child Performer award for the same film.

During her acceptance speech, Manabat thanked the filmmakers, organizers and, particularly, audiences who spent their time and money to watch the festival entries.

“You are part of our victory,” Manabat said, acknowledging the viewers who supported the films, from the student shorts to the full-length entries.

She also praised CinePanalo for providing a platform for filmmakers and promoting inclusivity in Philippine cinema. “You are not only winning in the field of cinema. You are also doing an incredible job in providing a platform and promoting inclusivity,” she said. “Thank you for giving your trust and opportunities to people

who love cinema,” Manabat added.

“Apol of My Ai,” directed by Thop Nazareno, received the Pan along Karangalan Mula sa mga Hurado award in the full-length category. Emerzon Texon won Panalo sa Musical Scoring for the film, while Marudo and Cruz also received acting awards.

“Patay Gutom,” directed by Carl Joseph Papa and Ian Pangilinan, won Pan along Kwento and Panalo sa Visual Effects. It also shared the Puregold Always Panalo award with Rodina Singh’s “Multwoh (Patay na Patay Sa’yo).”

“Multwoh” received the Panalo sa Mga Manonood award, as well as Panalo sa Production

Design for Rodrigo Ricio.

For the student shorts category, “Limlim,” directed by Samantha Palaje, was named Pinakapanalong Maikling Pelikula and received a P100,000 cash prize. Palaje also won Pan along Direktor for the film.

Jomarie Corro-Reyes’ “Kun Hain, Bisan Diin (Anywhere and Everywhere)” received Pan along Karangalan Mula sa mga Hurado and Pan along Kwento, with Brian Spencer Reyes winning Panalo sa Editing for the film.

“Alumahan,” directed by Christian Melvin Arejola, won Panalo sa International Jury in the student shorts category, while “The Other Side of Reality,” directed by Zig Dulay, became the first winner of the Pinakapanalong Maikling Pelikula award in the Panorama section.

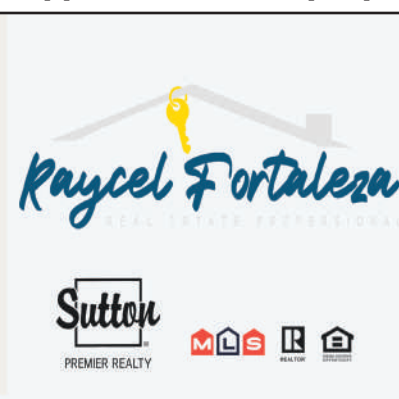
Other student shorts winners included Jonalyn Mateo of “Ang Huling Banlawni Susan” for Pan along Aktres, Jay Gabriel Cañada of “The Sound of K” for Pan along Aktor, Nor Domingo of “12 Shots” for Pan along Pangalawang Aktor and Nour Hooshmand of “Starfish” for Pan along Pangalawang Aktres. Zoey Madison Lim of “Limlim” was named Pan along Child Performer, while Geia De Verawon Panalo sa Cinematography for the same film.

The student shorts category also recognized “12 Shots” for production design, “Miss Intrams” for musical scoring and “Starfish” for visual effects. (I. Iglesias / Manila Times)



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M L S R E



Pope's October prayer intention: 'For mental health ministry'



Pope Leo XIV presides over a Prayer Vigil and Rosary for Peace, in Saint Peter square at the Vatican, October 11, 2025. (Reuters/Matteo Minnella)

VATICAN — Pope Leo has released the “Pray with the Pope” video accompanying his prayer intention for the month of October 2026: “For mental health ministry.”

In the video, produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, the Pope prays that

the Church may be an “open house” where people facing challenges to their mental health find welcome, dignity and hope.

Holding an image of Saint Dymphna, patroness of people suffering from mental disorders and of mental health professionals, he addresses the “God of life”, who knows the innermost depths of our hearts and “the silent wounds that sometimes no one sees.”

“Today we bring before you our brothers and sisters who struggle with challenges to their mental health, who suffer in solitude with anxiety, depression, or any other mental illness,” he prays.

Pope Leo asks forgiveness for the times when Christians have looked the other way, contributing to stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses.

He prays that the Church may become “a safe space where

everyone has a place – a community that accompanies and never excludes, that listens without judging and draws near without fear.”

The Pope also remembers those who provide care, including professionals, family members and volunteers, asking God to give them strength and compassion.

“Send your Spirit upon us, that we may learn to welcome and integrate care for mental health into the life and ministry of our communities and of the whole Church,” he concludes, “and thus become a living sign of your mercy, which never abandons and always restores.”

Accompanying without judging

According to the press release accompanying the Pope's intention, more than a billion people worldwide live with a

mental disorder, while public spending on mental health accounts for barely two percent of health budgets.

Fr. Cristóbal Fones, International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, notes that many people experiencing mental illness have felt unable to speak about it, or have encountered judgement and misunderstanding.

“That is why, as a Church, we come together to open our hearts to this reality and to pray together, throughout this entire month, for all of them and also for those who accompany them,” he says. The press release also highlights the work of Catholic mental health ministries, universities, parishes and support groups already accompanying people and their families.

(F. Merlo, Vatican News via CBCP News)

Bishop urges families 'to bring back the family table'



Bishop Jose Alan Dialogo of Sorsogon, chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, speaks at an interfaith family forum at the University of the Philippines Bonifacio Global City on Sept. 29, 2026. (CBCP News/Norman Dequia)

MANILA — A Catholic bishop urged families Tuesday to bring back shared meals without gadgets, saying the family table can strengthen communication and help children cope social media influence.

Speaking at the Interfaith Family Forum: Families as Foundation of Peace at the University of the Philippines

Bonifacio Global City, Bishop Jose Alan Dialogo said shared meals allow family members to discuss their day and recognize each other's needs.

“The dining table is the heart of the family. Today, we no longer have the family table. We should bring it back because this is the strength of the family,” said Dialogo, chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life.

The Sorsogon prelate said parents should remain children's primary influence amid growing use of social media, gadgets and artificial intelligence.

“That is what is happening now. Social media is influencing children and has become a major influence on them,” he told Radio Veritas.

Dialogo said a lack of communication, love and concern at home can leave children vulnerable to outside influences, which he linked to violence and sexual abuse.

He also acknowledged that families face different circumstances but urged parents to strengthen communication, concern and respect at home.

“Let us go back to the basics,” Dialogo said, urging families to recognize each member's individuality, strengths and weaknesses while respecting one another. “That is the basic foundation of the family.”

He also emphasized that peace-building begins within families, where children first learn how to relate peacefully with others.

“Peace is not first negotiated in parliaments or signed in treaties. Peace is first learned. And it is learned nowhere more powerfully than in the family,” he said.

The bishop called for cooperation among religious groups to address family challenges, particularly those involving technology and its

effects on children.

“Every religion can work together toward a common vision and a common goal. And right now, our focus is on helping the family,” he said.

Fr. Carlos Reyes of the Archdiocese of Manila's Ministry on Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue said such efforts also require cooperation among professionals and institutions. “We really need a multidisciplinary approach here, not just interreligious dialogue,” Reyes said, citing human trafficking and violence against women and children as concerns requiring coordinated action.

The forum, organized by the Manila archdiocese and partner religious and civic groups, brought together representatives from different faiths and sectors to discuss families' role in peace-building. (N. Dequia via CBCP News)

AT THE MOVIES By Robert Waldman

Running time: 87 min

Frozen!

If nothing else film festivals never like to shy away from controversial subjects. Setting aside the ample racism and outright hatred plaguing many backward leaning European Festivals no real politics is on view in Relax. Open Your Eyes. Made almost entirely with Canadian taxpayers money

Vancouver International Film Festival

Relax. Open Your Eyes. (18+) **

this documentary looks at a very obscure yet interesting subject.

Who wouldn't want to live forever. No, we're not talking Ponce de Leon here. More like Austin Powers. Remember Dr. Evil who took a turn in a freezing time capsule. Well trust a pair of well-meaning Canadians to actively court preserving their lives in a frozen state through the process of cryonics.

Science fiction aside, this tale is interesting and thought

provoking. It shows just how far people will go to preserve life. For better or worse.

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com.

For tickets to the film festival go to VIFF.org or call 604 683-3456.

Showtimes.

Friday Oct 2. 6:00 PM. Lindsay Stage, Granville Island
Tuesday, Oct 6. 3:15 PM. Lindsay Stage, Granville Island



Farruquito *** (G)

Running time: 90 min

Magic Man!

You should be dancing. That's a line made famous by a hit Bee Gees song from the smash Saturday Night Fever - the film that made John Travolta a star. Now the Vancouver Film Festival sheds light on the art of Flamenco dancing with the mesmerizing Farruquito. Get your groove on while watching this unique documentary which sheds light on the best flamenco dancers in the world. In

Spanish with English subtitles.

Families matter, Farruquito takes us in an incredible that traces the life of a one of a kind extend family whose prowess with performing this wondrous Spanish are form will have you in awe. Talented dance routines are passed down through generations as we see how a loving grandfather "grooms" a young boy into being a master dancer that takes the world by storm. Put this kid, now a mature adult with his own boy



making waves in the same category of Michael Jackson and Sammy Davis Jr,

Brilliant footage of concerts, practices and candid family interviews help make this bit of dance history a fun journey with memorable moments and performances.

For more reviews please visit my website moviereviewssite.com

For tickets to Farruquito and more information call (604) 683-3456 or go to VIFF.Org.

Showtimes:

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Asiad fever out, basketball republic in

SPORTS

WE finished 17th out of 40 nations in the just-ended Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan.

What do you think?

Fine by me. We beat 23 countries with our haul of 4-9-16 (gold-silver-bronze) medals for a total of 29.

Not that bad, prompting Chair Pato Gregorio of the Philippine Sports Commission to proudly pronounce: "This is our best medal performance in decades."

It was actually our largest haul in 60 years, the best being our 42 medals in the 1966 Bangkok Asiad.

Never mind that our Southeast Asian neighbor Thailand had massively outperformed us.

The Thais amassed a huge haul of 18 golds to firmly grip a seventh-place finish, which is just one gold shy of sixth-placed Iran's 19 golds.

But Thailand was six golds clear of the eighth-running Kazakhstan's 12 golds—a mere one gold ahead of Hong Kong and Bahrain.

Hong Kong was the Asiad's surprise package by barging into the Top 10, finishing ninth with 11 golds. Bahrain also had 11 golds but was relegated to 10th

as Hong Kong edged ahead with its collection of more silvers.

But the biggest revelation was India, which hopped to fourth overall with 21 golds. Uzbekistan also had 21 golds but settled for fifth with lesser silvers.

China won by a sea-wide margin with its 169 golds, which was 86 more golds than the second-placed collection of 83 by Japan. South Korea was a distant third with 39 golds.

So massive was the disparity in medal harvest that Syria, which finished last among 40 nations, had only one bronze medal to show.

Syria was tied actually at 37th to 40th with Bangladesh, Brunei and Lao—each with one bronze apiece on their identical 0-0-1 (gold-silver-bronze) tally. In solo 36th was Nepal with two bronzes.

If we value an Olympic medal that much—whether gold, silver or bronze—so are such countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Brunei and Laos which, I am almost sure, would treat their Asiad bronze like shining gold and the winner of such medal insanely hailed a hero upon his return home.

So, in a sense, we could treat Carlos Yulo's Asiad golds in the floor exercise and vault as



commonplace already after he had won both events in the 2024 Paris Olympics. Not much hoopla over it anymore.

But that is not to belittle both feats in Nagoya as, surely, Yulo richly deserved the victories as he had trained hard to achieve both.

Same with EJ Obiena's pole vault triumph scored in equally spectacular record fashion of 5.91 meters to eclipse his 5.9 in the 2023 Hangzhou, China Asiad. Worthy of praise anytime.

And Jeus Gabriel Derick Yape's taekwondo virtual victory? Similarly amazing as well as it came when nobody was expecting it.

The troika's golden harvest of four more than made up for the painful debacle absorbed by the celebrated Alex Eala in women's tennis. Sadly, Eala's much-ballyhooed gold finish turned into bronze—a result, I must admit,

of a coaching misstep when Eala was unleashed to play singles and doubles in insane succession in a day. In her semifinal match the next day, a dog-tired Eala huffed and puffed against a Chinese skyscraper who played like an attack dog in bamboozling our hapless Alex.

Oh, well, that's what happens when we go crazily greedy for gold.

THAT'S IT With the ebbing of the Asian Games fever, we go back to reality with the return today (Wednesday) of the Philippine Basketball Association Governors' Cup. It's back to business as usual in our dearly beloved basketball republic—not to mention that both the UAAP and NCAA cagefests are also off and running for several days now.

(The author authorized the reprint of this article)

FARRUQUITO...FROM LAST PAGE...

Friday Oct 2. 10:30 am.
International Village #10
Saturday Oct 3 8:00 pm.
International Village. #9
Monday Oct 5. 10:45. am.
International Village #8
Smudge The Blades (14A)

Smudge The Blades (14A) ****

Running Time: 96 min

Game On!

The accent is on action and prejudice in the uplifting Smudge The Blades. Shot in Alberta this inspiring tale is all about a group of indigenous

youth battling discrimination and chaos on and off the ice.

Talk about one of the ultimate underdog stories It's David vs Goliath as the disadvantaged youth from Treaty 6 must confront all sorts of obstacles in their quest to "fit in" and win local hockey tournaments. Great on ice footage complements the complexities and personal battles team members face along with their novice coach.

Great acting from both the players and their adult families combined with sparkling realistic dialogue make Smudge the Blades winning entertainment with a lot of heart and soul.

For more information and tickets to the film festival go to www.viff.org or call (604) 683-3456

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Monday. Oct 5. 3:00 PM. International Village #9

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Sandara Park opens up about changes as she marks 22 years in showbiz

After more than two decades in showbiz, South Korean personality Sandara "Dara" Park opened up about the physical changes she has experienced since her younger years as she reflects on her career.

The showbiz personality on Monday, October 5 took to X (formerly Twitter) to share her sentiments about her career and how its impact has affected her as a 41-year-old individual.

"I've been working almost nonstop for 22 years since my debut in the Philippines, you know. Of course, during trainee days, it wasn't 'work' per se, but I was so swamped with practice," Sandara wrote, as translated from Korean.

She began her entertainment career in the Philippines after joining the reality show "Star Circle Quest," where she emerged as a runner-up in 2004.

She reached her peak after moving back to South Korea in 2007 and later debuted as part of the K-pop girl group 2NE1.

Sandara admitted in her post that she has had doubts as she marked 22 years in showbiz,



Sandara Park in this photo posted on her Instagram on Oct. 6, 2026 (daraxxi via Instagram)

saying she has been feeling its physical effects more.

"Lately, these thoughts just pop into my head out of nowhere. How much longer can I keep up this kind of active schedule? What if I get older and my stamina drops, making it tough?" she added in her post.

"Sure, my physical condition's been lousy since I was 20, lol, but I'm hanging in there," the showbiz personality said with a grinning emoji.

"A bit sleepy, a bit tired, but happy right now. Tossing out some sentimental stuff in broad daylight," Sandara added with emojis of a drooling face and an

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exhaling face.

"Hope everyone has a great day!" she concluded with a smiling-face-with-hearts emoji. Sandara's post has garnered 4,900 views, 322 reposts, and 86 replies, with some Filipinos expressing support.

"When you no longer have the 'stamina' to hold up to the busy idol lifestyle, you know you have a home to go back

to in the Philippines. Us, your kababayans, would love to have our pambansang krungkrung back [on] our screens. 'Showtime' maybe. We're so proud of you," an X user said.

oLast June, Sandara established her own label, ARADNAS.

She was also appointed as a public relations ambassador for the Overseas Koreans Agency.(J. Malasig/ Interaskyon)



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