

## Philippines gearing up for presidential elections



Presidential candidates from left: Vice-President Jejomar Binay, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Senator Grace Poe, Secretary Mar Roxas and Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

February 23, 2016 - MANILA, Philippines — It's not just difficult to predict who will win Philippine presidential elections this year — thanks to some of the candidates' legal woes, it's difficult to predict who will be allowed to run.

Four are within striking distance. Sen. Grace Poe, a political newcomer, leads opinion polls ahead of the May 9 elections, with Vice President Jejomar Binay, close behind. They are followed by former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and Rodrigo Duterte, mayor of the southern city of Davao.

Poe, 47, has seen her popularity soar since she first ran for office three years ago. She is the adopted daughter of one of the country's most famous movie couples. Her late father mostly played roles as a defender of the downtrodden in a country still plagued by widespread poverty and corruption.

But the Commission on Elections ruled in December that Poe was not a natural-born Filipino as required by

See Page 4 - Philippine elections

## US Presidential elections

The United States presidential election of 2016, scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2016, will be the 58th quadrennial U.S. presidential election. Voters will select presidential electors who in turn will elect a new president and vice president through the Electoral College. The term limit established in the Twenty-second Amendment to the United States Constitution prevents the incumbent President, Barack Obama, from being elected to a third term.

The series of presidential primary elections and caucuses is taking place between February 1 and June 2016, staggered among the 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. This nominating process is also an indirect election, where voters cast ballots for a slate of delegates to a political party's nominating convention, who then in turn elect their party's presidential nominee. (wikipedia)



Leading candidates from left: Democratic Party candidates for nomination: Hilary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, Republican Party candidates for nomination: Donald Trump and Ted Cruz.

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# EDITORIAL

## Issues versus personalities in the 2016 Philippine presidential elections

A review of the candidates' backgrounds and their platforms reveals interesting insights as to who might win the election although most experts agree that it is difficult to predict because of so many variables. For instance, the citizenship of the front runner, Grace Poe, is being studied by the Supreme Court and no one knows when a decision will be handed down. Preferably, the decision as to whether Grace Poe is eligible to run for president should be known before the elections. Meanwhile, she is continuing as an independent to run for president. She has retained her lead in spite of two questions about her eligibility - citizenship and residency requirements.

The first-term senator, 47, is going head to head with Jejomar Binay, 73, vice-president, who is polling second; Mar Roxas, 58, the grandson of a former president and President Benigno Aquino's preferred successor; Rodrigo Duterte, 70, a crime-busting mayor known as "Dirty Harry" and Sen Miriam Defensor Santiago, 70, experienced and served in all branches of government.

Jejomar Binay, a long time mayor of Makati before being elected vice-president has been accused of corruption and having acquired so much wealth while in public office. He is known to be concerned with the plight of the poor, and he has gained popularity for this personality trait.

Mar Roxas, US-educated

ex-banker and grandson of a 1950s president may benefit from Mr Aquino's backing and legacy. Although he lost to Binay as VP, he was a member of Aquino's cabinet. During the first debate on February 21st, he pointed out the lack of experience of Grace Poe. He said: "There is a right time for everything, How will you know if you are being duped? How will you choose between the recommendations of your cabinet secretaries?"

In reply, Grace Poe said: "What is important is a leader who can be trusted, Yes, I am new, but our problems are not new and many who have spent a long time in their positions have tried to fix them with old solutions."

Mr Duterte, the seven-term mayor of Davao in Mindanao, the island where the presidential debate was held, focused on the role of federalism in bringing peace to the southern region, which has been blighted by conflict linked to Muslim separatist groups.

Senator Santiago, trailing far behind in the polls, has been sick with cancer but claims she has recovered.

Analysts say that it will be difficult to shift focus from personalities to issues such as poverty, corruption, drug abuse and economy. Under President Aquino, the economy grew by 6.2 percent GDP, but it is not an inclusive growth for it has not included every Filipino.

Whoever is elected president, he or she will face many challenges.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the Filipino community for attending the January 18 press conference convened by six Montreal City Councillors on the issue of the under representation of visible minorities in municipal life.

We pointed out that only 6 of 208 municipal elected officials in the agglomeration of Montreal are members of visible minorities. That's a shocking number given that nearly 33% of the population of the island is comprised of persons who are visible minorities.

This situation isn't unique to Montreal. While Canada is increasingly a multiracial and multicultural country, most cities including those with visible minority majorities have little or no representatives from visible minority communities.

The press conference was called in support of my motion that went to the January 25 City Council meeting and which urged the municipal political parties to redress the situation and required them to report back to City Council by February 2017, well ahead of the November 2017 election.

Participants at the press conference also raised other issues such as the under representation of visible minorities in the municipal civil service and issues related to obtaining information and services. Those present emanating from the Black, Filipino, Chinese, Vietnamese, Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities urged the Councillors to form a working group that would broaden the debate through 2016.

The motion was adopted at City Council. I consider it a significant action that ultimately can lead to a major change in the complexion of our elected bodies.

But all is not rosy and enormous public effort will still be required.

A second resolution was brought forward at the February 22 City Council by Equipe Coderre, the party of the Mayor. This resolution which was adopted used most of the language of my first motion and urged the parties to work to advance the cause of all under represented groups including women, native people, ethnic communities, including visible minorities, and persons of reduced mobility.

On the face of it, this language would seem to express a noble sentiment. However, making visible minorities, who have faced systemic discrimination and are the most under represented group of all, just another category, seems to me as backing out of the commitment that each party took in voting for my motion.

There are 19 women on Montreal City Council (of 65 elected representatives), all of them white. There are dozens more elected to other Councils in the agglomeration. While we are still unfortunately far from achieving parity between men and women in our elected bodies, in my view the obstacles facing women, particularly those from the majority community, are hardly of the same magnitude as that faced by visible minorities.

However with your support, we will assure that visible minorities are not shunted to the back burner.

The next step will be the hosting of a public meeting in early April where speakers will outline Montreal's governance model and suggest steps that can be taken independently from City Hall to assure greater public interest and participation. It will be my pleasure once the details are finalized to alert the public as we hope to have a large turnout to launch a movement that is aimed at bringing visible minorities into the halls of power.

Marvin Rotrand  
City Councillor

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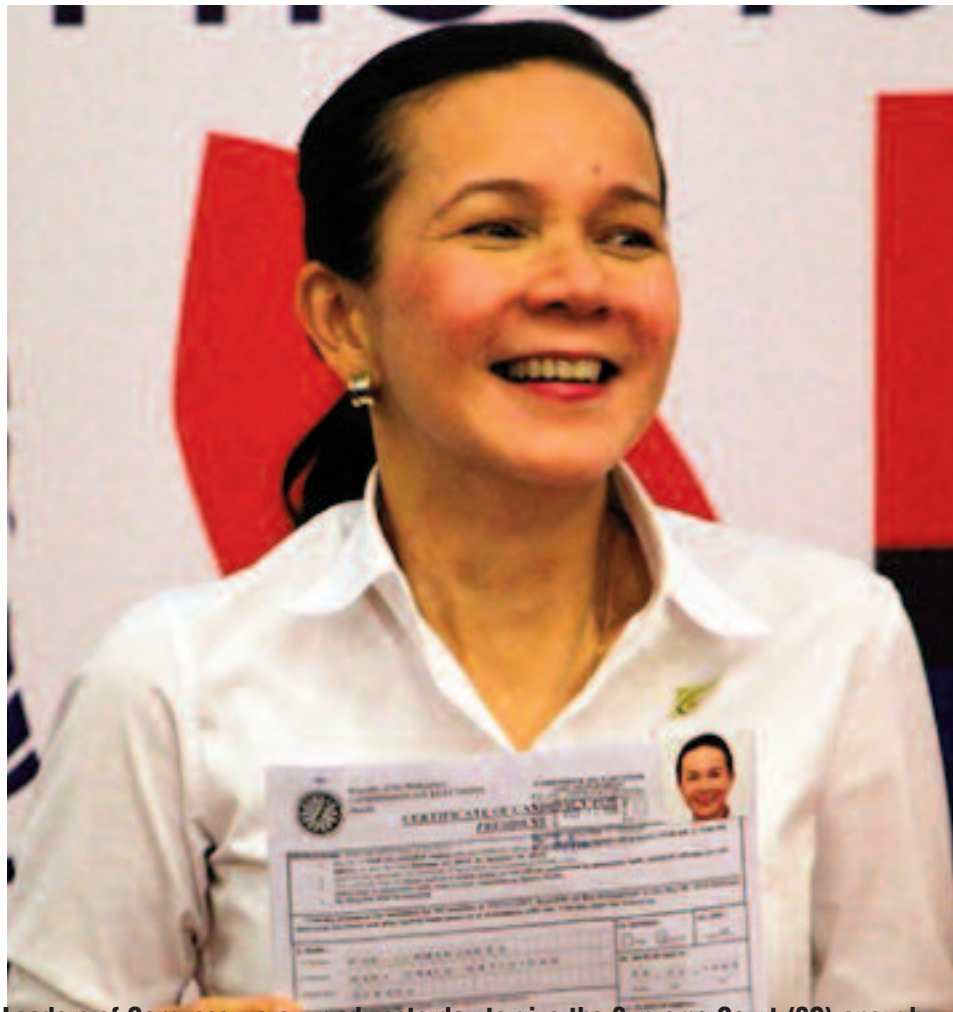


# Poe disqualification case up for resolution

By Edu Punay (The Philippine Star) | Updated February 23, 2016 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Grace Poe's petition questioning the Commission on Elections (Comelec)'s decision to disqualify her from the presidential race

Salle University professor Antonio Contreras, former Government Service Insurance System lawyer Estrella Elamparo and former University of the East College of Law dean Amado Valdez asked the high court to dismiss Poe's petition and uphold the Comelec



Leaders of Congress were urged yesterday to give the Supreme Court (SC) enough time to resolve the disqualification case against presidential aspirant Sen. Grace Poe. STAR/File photo

is now up for resolution by the Supreme Court (SC).

Parties submitted yesterday their respective memorandum summarizing their arguments heard over the past five Tuesdays.

The petitioners in the disqualification cases against Poe before the Comelec insist that she is not eligible for the presidency because she is not a natural-born citizen and lacks the 10-year residency as required by law.

Former senator Francisco Tatad, De La

rulings disqualifying the senator over material misrepresentations in her certificate of candidacy.

They stressed that Poe's camp failed to prove before the SC that she is a natural-born citizen based on law and jurisprudence and likewise failed to debunk Comelec's finding that her residency would only be nine years and six months by Election Day.

Tatad rebutted Poe's arguments invoking international treaties or agreements to claim that foundlings like her are guaranteed natural-born

citizenship in the country they are found.

"(She) insisted that under the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), a foundling is considered a natural-born citizen. (She) relies on these international conventions to convince this commission that she, as a foundling, is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines. But the Comelec First Division already addressed these issues," read Tatad's memorandum filed through lawyer Manuelito Luna.

"The First Division was correct when it held that the ICCPR, the UDHR and the UNCRC do not provide that every child, including a foundling, shall ipso facto be granted by the state-party with a nationality. These conventions are likewise silent and do not particularly commit natural-born citizenship to the child," it added.

Contreras, for his part, debunked the statistics submitted by Solicitor General Florin Hilbay showing the ratio of non-Filipinos to Filipino born children from 1865 to 1975 at 1:661, saying the conclusion drawn was speculative as it does not really address the factual issue on Poe's bloodline.

"The figures of NSO can only refer to the probability of any child to have Filipino parents. It is not correct to include foundlings into the inference since such has not been factored in as a variable in the statistics," he said.

Contreras believes that giving Poe a natural-born citizen status would be tantamount to according her "special treatment."

On the residency issue, he stressed that the Comelec's decision against Poe was "firmly anchored" on solid jurisprudence.

"She failed to perform a necessary act (such as acquiring the necessary immigration status) that would have perfect her reacquisition of domicile in the Philippines and would have been substantial proof that she has abandoned her domicile in the US prior to her repatriation in July 2006," he added.

He argued that Poe's physical presence in the country, transfer of children's schooling from the US, moving of household and personal belongings to the country, procuring of a taxpayer's identification number to acquiring a condominium unit do not amount to abandonment of her legal domicile in the US.

Elamparo agreed with this position, saying "the only way Poe could legally actualize those intentions were to apply for re-acquisition of citizenship or at the very least secure a permanent resident's visa. She did not do either of these in May 2005 or shortly thereafter."

Valdez also rebutted the position espoused by some sympathizing justices of the high court that denying Poe the status of natural-born would be tantamount to injustice to all foundlings.


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From page 1 - Philippine elections

the Constitution because she was abandoned as a baby by her unknown parents at a Roman Catholic church.

percent.

"It's a very tight race," Tabunda said. "We don't really know what the next survey will say."

Should the court rule against Poe's candidacy, it is unclear who would

country's 100 million people still seek better-paying jobs abroad. He ends his six-year term in June.

Aquino, who has had a falling out with Binay, has endorsed Roxas, a former investment banker who served as Aquino's transport chief and later as

down his popularity.

Anti-graft officials have found "probable cause" against Binay over alleged corruption in the construction of a parking building when he was mayor. But a government prosecutor said Binay would not be charged



**FACE-OFF** The five presidential aspirants square off in the first of three debates held at Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, February 20, 2016. (yahoo news.com)

The U.S.-educated Poe, who renounced her Filipino citizenship for about five years to live with her own family in America, also lacked the required 10-year Philippine residency ahead of the vote, the commission said. That prompted Poe to bring her case to the Supreme Court, which could deliver its verdict soon — and have a huge impact on the presidential race.

"This particular election has the most uncertainty," said Ana Maria Tabunda, research director of Pulse Asia, an independent pollster whose latest survey last month showed Poe leading with support from 30 percent of respondents, with Binay garnering 23 percent.

Roxas and Duterte each got 20 percent each in the survey that polled 1,800 people nationwide and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2

benefit. Poe has carried on, holding rallies across the country.

"The story of my life started in a church," Poe told followers when she kicked off her campaign outside a downtown Manila church popular among the underclass. "So I decided to go in front of a church to launch the next chapter of my life."

President Benigno Aquino III's successor will need to grapple with poverty, corruption and Marxist and Muslim insurgencies in the south — persistent problems facing the country that three decades ago toppled the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos through a "people power" movement.

Aquino's anti-graft campaign led to the detention of his predecessor on an elections fraud charge and three senators, and the economy has grown steadily. However, a tenth of the

interior secretary in charge of local governments and the national police.

Legal woes have also hounded Binay and Duterte, a tough-talking mayor who has caught national attention for threatening to take down criminals, drug lords and corrupt bureaucrats within half a year if elected president.

Elections officials have dismissed petitions to disqualify Duterte, 70, but those could still be challenged in court. His party put forward another candidate while they convinced him to run, and some questioned whether he could replace the party's initial nominee.

Binay, 73, faced several months of investigation by a Senate committee over alleged corruption when he was still mayor of Makati city, Manila's version of Wall Street. He has denied the allegations, which have weighed

before a special anti-graft court until his vice presidency ends because he has immunity while in office.

Unlike in the past, the closely-fought battle now has left many undecided, including Macario Puno, a 48-year-old father of seven who ekes out a living by peddling boiled duck eggs and chips in Manila's streets.

Puno backed the winning candidates in the last three presidential polls, including Aquino in 2010, because he said the choices always narrowed down to just two main contenders.

"Now there are four major candidates," Puno said. "And they're all sweet-talkers." TVJ

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From Page 1 - U.S. Elections

President Obama weighing in the presidential race last night. *Christi Parsons and Michael A. Memoli writing in the Los Angeles Times,*

"President Obama on Tuesday issued his strongest warning yet about the Republican candidates for president with a two-word message on why voters should choose solemnly: nuclear codes.

Bluntly questioning front-runner Donald Trump's temperament, Obama said, "Whoever is standing where I'm standing right now has the nuclear codes with them and can order 21-year-olds into a firefight." A restive electorate ultimately will decline to elect Trump, he predicted.

"The American people are pretty sensible," Obama said. "And I think they'll make a sensible choice in the end." Though he referred specifically to Trump, Obama also took care to warn about all of the GOP candidates. "Not a single one of them" is talking about some of the world's biggest problems, he said.

The words represented Obama's most energetic criticism of the Republicans running to replace him. For months, he has mostly kept a studied distance from the fray and resisted invitations to engage in political analysis."

Hillary Clinton is campaigning today in Chicago trying to shore up support among the African-American community. She'll appear with the mother of Sandra Bland who died in police custody after a conflict with a police officer. Meantime, Clinton's

support in Nevada is being questioned as Bernie continues to surge.

*James Hohmann writes today in the Washinton Post:*

The Nevada caucuses were once considered a lock for Hillary Clinton. Just last month, campaign manager Robby Mook said she was ahead there by 25 points.

But the dynamic on the ground has shifted rapidly in the wake of Bernie Sanders' 22-point victory in New Hampshire.

"The Clinton panic is palpable," Jon Ralston, who runs a Nevada politics website, wrote in a dispatch on Tuesday. "Clinton spent Monday in Nevada and sent her husband to fill in at Florida events after her campaign clearly sensed the firewall buckling here. . . . There is a dearth of reliable public polling in Nevada, but no one on either side has asserted a victory is not within reach for Sanders. "Her staff repeatedly claimed that Nevada was as white as the first two early states," Ralston continued. "This was not only visibly false, but a clear sign that she wasn't just lowering expectations but showing real fear she could lose Nevada.

Jeb Bush may be making his last stand in South Carolina.. he needs a win to convince the country can be the Trump alternative. His brother former President George W Bush making the case for him this week. David A. Graham in the Atlantic writes today:

"Time and again this election, Jeb Bush has been outshone by more charismatic candidates. On Monday, there was a slight variation on the

story. Once again, Jeb was outdone by a much more talented politician, but this time, it was a backer and not a rival: Jeb's big brother George W. Bush.

It was the former president's first appearance on the campaign trail this cycle, and it came just a few days before the South Carolina Republican primary, which is shaping up to be a make-or-break moment for Jeb. President Bush, along with his wife Laura and Senator Lindsey Graham, helped pack 3,000 people in for a rally in North Charleston. It's proof that his popularity endures in South Carolina, but it's too early to tell whether that popularity will prove transferrable."

President Obama says he will move forward with naming a replacement nominee to the Supreme Court after the death of Justice Scalia. He says there is no basis in the constitution for refusing to hold hearings on his nominee.

Many of the headlines after Donald Trump's win in Nevada were about how he widened his support base to include Hispanics, women and educated voters. But is that true?

The man who likes winning won. And he won BIG. The billionaire who has never held political office was supposed to be a candidate who would never get above 40%. In Nevada he smashed that, hitting nearly 46%.

He has also been cast as a candidate too reliant on votes from white people,

yet on Tuesday night he was supported by 45% of the Hispanics, way ahead of his Cuban-American rivals.

And far from being too reliant on people without a college education, he won big among graduates too. However, there is more to these impressive stats than meets the eye. 46% of the overall vote went to Donald Trump 45% of Hispanics 40% of college graduates 47% white CNN, CBS entrance polls

So his march to the Republican nomination is all but assured, right? If he really had strong support in so many different demographic groups, he would be almost impossible to stop. But how many people in Nevada actually voted for him? 34,531 votes cast for Donald Trump. That's only:1% of Nevada's total population of 2.9 million US Census Bureau 0.0001% of the entire US population of 319 million US Census Bureau

And how many people is that? Here's a few more statistics for comparison. 37,000 the approximate population of the country of Liechtenstein in 2015 Liechtenstein Office of Statistics But the jury is still out on whether he can really draw on support across the board. We will find out this Tuesday, so-called Super Tuesday, when 11 states go to the polls.

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# Tagalog Seksyon

## Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

### NAGIGING PERSONALAN ANG PULITIKA SA ATING KOMUNIDAD

Magulo ang pulitika. Marumi pa. Sa America, eleksyon ngayong taong ito kaya ang mga kandidato ay nagbabatikusan sa isa't isa. Ang sabi ni Hilary Clinton ay racist si Donald Trump. Binuksan naman ni Trump ang isyu ng infidelity ng asawa ni Clinton na si Bill na nagkaroon ng relasyon kay Monica Lewensky. Kahit parehong Democrats, nagbabatikusan sina Clinton at Bernie Sanders. Kahit parehong Republicans, nagsisiraan sina Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, at Ben Carson. Labu-labo sila.

Sa ating komunidad, minsan ay magulo rin. Tapos na ang eleksyon, patuloy pa ring nagbabatikusan ang mga lider. Hindi maka-move on ang isa't isa. At nagiging personal din ang batikusan. Sabi nga ni Barack Obama noong kumakandidato siya sa pagkapangulo, "Matatanggap ko ang mga batikos sa akin pero huwag lamang isama ang aking pamilya, lalo na ang aking mga anak."

Tama si Obama. Ang batikusan ay hindi dapat maging personal. Nadadamay ang mga taong hindi dapat madamay at lumalabas ang mga bagay na hindi dapat ituon lamang sa performance o pagpapalakad ng mga lider na nahalal sa kanilang mga asosasyon kung mabuti o masama. Walang personalan.

### PULITIKA NAMAN SA PILIPINAS

Hindi ko napigilan ang mapatawa nang malakas habang nanonood ng balita sa Pilipinas. Ang ipinagmamalaki at isinisigaw ni Jejomar Binay sa kaniyang talumpati sa Cavite ay ang mahabang karanasan sa pamumuno. Iyon ay patutsada sa kalabang si Grace Poe. Sumagot naman si Grace, "Oo, wala akong karanasan... sa pagnanakaw at pangungurakot."

Inimbistigahan si Binay sa pagnanakaw. Halos 242 ang kaniyang bank accounts.

### KAILANGANG MAGHARAP AT PAG-USAPAN NANG MAHUSAY NI NIDA AT CORA ANG TUNGKOL SA FINANCIAL TURN OVER

Lumalaki ang hindi pagkakaunawaan ng dati at kasalukuyang presidente ng FAMAS, si Nida Quirapas at Cora Aberin. Kamakailan, pinapunta ako ni Nida sa kanilang bahay upang ipaliwanag ang panig niya at kaniyang mga direktor sa naisulat sa diaryo tungkol sa hindi kailangang

pagpapagawa kaagad ng roof at nangyayaring irregularity. Parang apoy na nakarating kaagad kay Cora ang balita na nagpunta ako kina Nida at may nagsabi raw sa una na magre-retaliate ako. Natawa na lamang ako. Bakit naman ako magre-retaliate kay Cora ay wala naman siyang ginagawang masama sa akin. At pareho kong kaibigan si Nida at Cora. Ginagawa ko lamang ang trabaho ng isang reporter. Ang kumuha ng tamang balita. Katunayan, nang anyayahan ako ni Cora noong Nov. 29 sa FAMAS centre dahil handa na raw si Lily Vasquez na ipakita ang Financial Report, nagpunta rin ako. Nasayang nga lamang ang pagod ko dahil hindi natuloy ang pagpapakita ni Lily ng report. At nang lumabas ang balita tungkol sa pagpapa-repair ng roof, tinawagan ko rin si Cora noon kung totoong lahat ang nakasulat sa diaryo dahil nagre-reklamo ang grupo ni Nida. Ang sagot ni Cora, "Maliban sa \$4,000. Na-mixed up ang sumulat nito. Hindi lamang computer ang kasama sa \$4,000 kundi iba pang gastos." Nakuha pala ng sumulat ang figure sa report ni Lily.

Pagkatapos ng meeting ng grupo ni Nida, pinayuhan ko nga siya na magharap at mag-usap sila nang mahusay ni Cora bago lumaki nang lumaki ang isyu. Kung minsan, ang mga supporter ng dalawa ang maiinit. Sabi nga ni Nida, kapag nagkikita sila ni Cora, nagbabatian naman sila.

Mayroon akong nabasa kamakailan na nagsasabing, "Let bygones just be bygones? Life is too short." Mahirap bang gawin iyon?

### MGA MAGAGANDANG MUNGKAHI NG MAMBABASA

Kamakailan ay may nagsabi sa akin na tama ang isinulat ko tungkol sa mga beauty pageant na ginagawa ng mga asosasyon. Naisulat ko na mukhang walang layunin at ginagawa ang mga nananalo kundi mag-raise ng funds. Naihambing ko ang pageants dito sa Miss Universe na ang layunin ay to promote humanitarian causes at ang Miss Earth ay to promote clean environment. Isinulat ko na dapat magkaroon din ng layunin ang ating mga asosasyon na gumagawa ng pageants. Halimbawa, kung nais ng mga asosasyon na ma-develop ang self-confidence o personality ng mga nananalo, isama sila ng mga asosasyon sa pagtitipon ng mga Pilipino para magsalita sa kahalagahan ng pagkakaisa ng mga ating kababayan o problema ng mga kabataan tulad ng drugs o

delinquency. O mag-volunteer sa mga hospital upang dumalaw sa mga matatanda at may sakit. Sabi naman ng isa tungkol din sa isinulat ko, higit na maganda kung may English version ito para maintindihan ng mga kabataan na hindi nakauunawa ng Tagalog. May isa namang nakatira sa West Island na nagmungkahi na dapat ay maglathala rin ng mga information sa Tagalog para sa kapakanan ng mga matatanda at makatulong sa kanila. Halimbawa, information tungkol sa Rental Board o Small Claims Court. At dahil napag-uusapan ang mga nangyayari sa komunidad, nabanggit ni Bert Abiera ang kaniyang balak na buhayin ang Kapehan. Bungang isip ito ng mga yumaong miembro ng Press na si Nestor Ambas at Tony Fernandez. Inaanyayahan nila ang mga ibang Pilipino sa basement ng FAMAS upang mag-kape at marinig ang kanilang opinyon at kuru-kuro sa nangyayari sa komunidad.

Magaganda ang mungkahi ni Bert at ng ating mambabasa. Ang kanilang mga puna at mungkahi ay pagpapatunay na patuloy nilang tinatangkilik at binabasa ang The North American Filipino Star.

### ANG KARAKTER NG TAO AY HINDI NASUSUKAT SA TAAS NG PINAG-ARALAN

Noong matapos ang pasko, naanyayahan ako ng isang lider sa ating komunidad sa kanilang bahay. Pagdating ko sa kanila, nakita ko sa wall ang kaniyang mga diploma at nasabi ko na nakatapos pala siya ng Education. "Oo," sabi niya. "Ang iba nga, maliit lamang ang tingin sa akin. Walang binatbat. Hindi nila alam kung ano ang background ko sa Pilipinas."

Pagkalipas ng isang linggo, nagkausap muli kami ng nasabing lider at napag-usapan naman namin ang isang kaibigan na minsan ay nagsabi sa akin na hindi masyadong mataas ang kaniyang pinag-aralan. "Ang totoo, nakatapos siya ng agriculture," pagtatapat sa akin ng lider. "Kaya lamang, kung ikukumpara ang natapos niya sa college bulad ng mga iba na nakatapos ng law, medicine o commerce, mababa ang kaniyang pinag-aralan."

Napailing na lamang ako. "Kung walang magsasaka, paano tayo kakain?" sabi ko. Sa akin, ang pagkatao ng tao, hindi nasusukat sa taas ng kaniyang pinag-aralan. Nasusukat iyon sa kaniyang ugali – kung mabuti o masama. Mayroon akong kilalang accountant na sobra ang pagpapahalaga at taas ng tingin

sa sarili. Mataas pa sa Empire State building.

### AT NAPANGITI AKO NG TAONG HINDI KO KILALA

Maganda rin ang sumasakay sa bus o metro dahil iba't ibang uri ng tao ang makikita mo na minsan ay makapagpapabago sa pananaw mo sa buhay.

Kamakailan ay pauwi na ako at naghihintay ng bus sa Cote Vertu metro. Wala namang mabigat na dahilan pero parang wala ako sa kondisyon. Siguro, winter blues. Napahinto ako sa malalim na pag-iisip nang narinig ko ang lalaking nasa likod ko na nagsasalita nang malakas. Masakit sa tainga. "I'm going to Mourelato (supermarket sa O'brien at Poirier). I'll buy steak and potatoes." Paulit-ulit niyang sinasabi ang mga ito. "Medyo kulang sa tamang pag-iisip," bulong ko sa aking sarili. "O baka lasing."

Sa bus, magkakarap kaming nakaupo. Iniiwasan ko siyang tignan dahil patuloy ako sa malalim na pag-iisip ng kung anu-ano. Patuloy siyang nagsasalita pero hindi ko pa rin pansin. Napatingin lamang ako sa kaniya nang sabihin niyang, "I have a woman. Her name is Linda but she left me. But I'll be ok." Natawag ang pansin ko hindi dahil sa para siyang luku-luko kundi sa pangalang sinabi niya - Linda. Maraming bumalik sa aking alaala. Pangalang Pilipino ang Linda. Maganda. At napahuni ako dahil may lumang awitin na ang pamagat ay Linda. Ilan sa mga kumanta nito ay si Jerry Vale at Frank Sinatra. "When I go to sleep, I never count sheep – I count all the charms about Linda – And lately, it seems in all of my dreams, I walk with my arms about Linda..."

Pagdating sa Mourelato, bumaba ang lalaki. Hindi ko maiwasang sundan siya ng tingin habang mabilis na naglalakad. Kahit iniwan siya ng kaniyang girl friend, nakukuha niya pang tumawa. Magsaya. Ako naman, walang malaking dahilan, bakit parang wala sa kondisyon. Siguro nga, winter blues lamang.

Pansamantalang nakalimutan ko kung ano man ang bumabagabag sa akin o ang winter blues dahil sa lalaking iyon. At napangiti niya ako. ■

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## Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits  
by

Al Abdon

### KEEPING YOUR VIDEO STEADY

A camera is useless if it can not be supported so that image is free of vibration and jerkiness. That is the purpose of camera support products.

Cinematography today has the advantage of technologies that those in the early 20th Century could never imagine, but one thing that has remained unchanged is the need for being able to support the camera and lens so that what is being shot will be held steady and in focus. To satisfy this need, there are a number of camera support solutions available, depending on what kind of shooting the camera will be doing. The following categories illustrate the types of camera solutions that are now available

#### TRIPOD



A tripod is the most basic of camera supports, but just because it's old school doesn't mean it should be treated with disrespect. Tripods vary in size and composition but their basic purpose is to not just to hold the camera steady during shooting. Tripods also allow for minute control over the positioning of the camera. An example is the VariZoom TK75A Video Camera Tripod, which is suitable for compact video cameras and DSLRs handling cameras of up to 10 lbs. Featuring a quick release plate, the tripod has a 65/75mm fluid head, built-in bubble leveler and the aluminum switchable rubber/spiked feet folds down to 31-inches and extends to 64-inches. The MSRP is \$199. Another example, the Benro AD71FK5, combines a sturdy

lightweight tripod (7.1 lbs.) with a precision matched K5 video head. It can support up to 11 lbs. and the maximum height extension is 60-inches. The legs quickly lock into place and there is also an internal spreader and quick release plate. The MSRP is \$195.



#### MONOPOD

A monopod can have many of the same attributes as a tripod, except they are usually not able to stand on their own. This is traded in for portability and easier access into areas where a three-legged tripod would not be able to fit. In a real sense, the camera operator functions as part of the tripod, using his/her body to add stability when in use. An example is the Sachtler Monopod 2 CF, which is composed of carbon fibre and weighs only 1 kg. It has a 100 mm head fitting. Useful for photographers as well as for cinematographers, it has a two-stage extension and reaches a height of 166 cm. It has an MSRP of \$880.

#### POCKET SUPPORT



These types of tripods are known for their compact size and ease of portability. They can be found in use with cameras that are also compact and portable, such as DSLRs and smartphones or tablets. Durability is an important factor here, since outdoor use will occur as often as indoor. Being able to weather the elements is an important specification. The edelkrone PocketRig2, for example, is a lightweight DSLR portable video rig which has a fully adjustable support arm; it can be used like a monopod by using the belt groove on the shoulder piece or can provide stabilization through a rifle-like approach. It has industry standard 15mm rods for attaching follow focus, matte boxes and standard handles, and extends up to 18cm. Use of the 1/4-inch connection hole on the bottom lets it attach to a tripod for use as a base plate solution. The MSRP is \$290.

#### SHOULDER MOUNTED RING

A shoulder-mounted rig adds stability and focus control for the camera operator, while allowing movement during shooting. It also enables access into areas where a traditional tripod would be unable to go, as well as rapid movement on the part of the camera operator. In the past, heavier cameras helped to create a center of gravity for those using the rig, so as to make movements during shooting more stable. With today's lighter cameras, a bit more concentration will be of service. An example is the Manfrotto SYMPLA Shoulder Mounted Rig. It supports camera equipment on the shoulder of the camera operator and has swivel-joint handles and a quick release plate. It's ideal for use with DSLRs and interchangeable lens camcorders. The Variable Plate allows for quickly adjusting the position of the camera in combination with all other accessories being used. It has an MSRP starting at \$390.

#### Handheld Support/Stabilizers



Similar to shoulder mounted rigs, but smaller and less confining are hand-held support systems, which allow the camera to be more

intimate and free in movements. Designed to combat jerkiness and smooth the images being shot, these are used in situations where fast and intimate shooting is desired. Glidecam offers a range of handheld stabilizers with the HD Series. Prices start at \$450 for the HD-1000, which supports compact cameras weighing 1.5 to 3.5 lbs. The HD-2000 for \$550 is ideal for DSLR setups weighing 2-6 lbs. From there, prices climb to \$650 for the HD-4000, which can support cameras up to 10 lbs.

#### Sled/Vest Systems

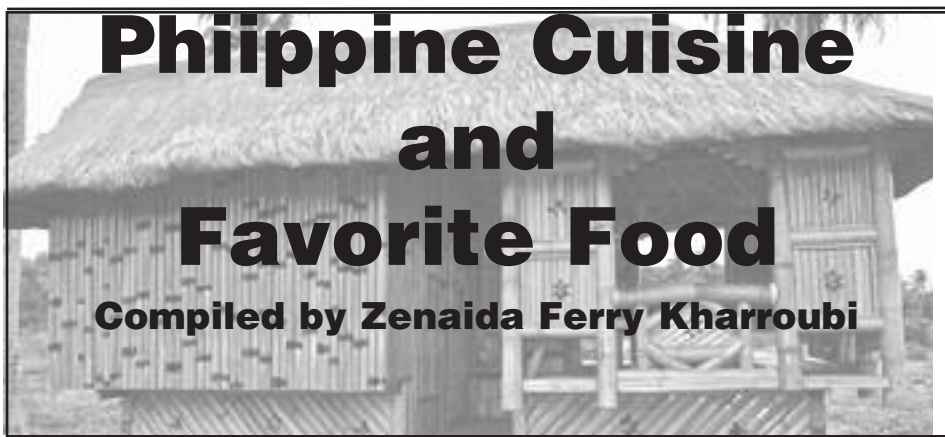


A sled is a system that holds the camera and isolates the operator's body from causing unwanted vibrations. The camera can be boomed up and down and also moved into various positions easily, since a negative buoyancy is maintained on the camera arm. An example of a sled is Steadicam's M-1i Sled, which is made for HD broadcast and feature film use. It is of a modular nature for adapting to the filmmaker's needs. A low vertical profile provides flexibility for the operator for positioning the monitor and gimbal as necessary, making a wide variety of monitors available for use. The iso-elastic arm can handle up to 70 lbs of lifting capacity, is adjustable and provides a smooth operation with a 29-inch boom range. The MSRP in in the mid two thousand to upper three thousand range, depending on the items being acquired.

Another example is the GLIDECAM X-30 Professional Camera Stabilization System (MSRP \$16,000), which utilizes body-mounted camera stabilization, isolating the camera operator's body motion from the camera (which remains balanced in a relatively motionless and isolated state). This makes it usable from within vehicles, when walking or running, using stairs or moving across uneven terrain. The support arm can be boomed up and down, pivoted in and out and from side to side. It can handle cameras from 15-30 lbs. The complete system consists of the support arm, a support vest and support sled.

AL ABDON / HOLLYWOOD JUNKIES





# Phiippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

## Mongo Bean Soup



Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound raw mung beans
- 2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 pound boneless pork loin, cut into 1-inch cubes
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 1/4 pound peeled and deveined prawns
- 1 small tomato, diced
- 3 cups chicken broth, or more as needed
- 1/2 pound fresh spinach leave

Directions:

Bring the mung beans and the water to a boil in a pot; cook at a boil until the beans are soft, about 40 minutes. Mash the beans; set aside.

Heat the olive oil in a large pot; cook and stir the onion and garlic in the hot oil over medium heat until softened, 5 to 7 minutes.

Add the pork; season with salt and pepper. Continue cooking the mixture another 3 minutes. Gently stir the prawns into the mixture; cook 2 minutes more. Add the tomatoes; cook another 3 minutes. Reduce heat, and pour the chicken broth over the mixture; allow the mixture to simmer in the broth for 5 minutes.

Add the mashed beans to the soup; mix well. Cook another 5 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent any of the mixture from sticking to the bottom of the pot.

Add more chicken broth or water if the soup is too thick. Stir the spinach leaves into the soup and cook 2 minutes more before serving hot.

To Cook:

In a hot frying pan, add the 4 tbsps. of cooking oil and heat till it just starts to smoke over medium-high heat. Place the Bangus fillet, skinside down.

Lower heat to medium and cook uncovered about 4 minutes each side.

Brown the marinade garlic and place it on top of the bangus.

Serve Daing na Bangus with rice, and atchara.



Ingredients

- 3 to 4 lbs. green papaya, julienned
- 2 medium sized carrots, julienned
- 1 large onion, thinly sliced lengthwise
- 10 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp whole peppercorn
- 1 large red bell pepper, cut into strips
- 1 knob ginger, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 cup salt (to dehydrate papaya)
- 1 1/2 tsp salt (for the brine or syrup)
- 2 cups white vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 small boxes raisins

Instructions

Place the julienned papaya in a large bowl and combine 1/4 cup salt then mix until the salt is well distributed. Cover the bowl and place inside the refrigerator overnight (the salt will dehydrate the papaya).

Place the julienned papaya in a colander or strainer then rinse with running water.

Using cheesecloth (or any cloth) as a container, put the rinsed papaya inside the cloth and squeeze until all the liquid comes out.

Put the papaya back in the large bowl and combine with carrots, garlic, ginger, onions, whole peppercorn, bell pepper, and raisins

Heat the saucepan and pour-in the vinegar and bring to a boil. Add the sugar and 1 1/2 tsp salt then stir until well diluted

Turn off the heat and allow the syrup to cool down until temperature is low enough to handle.

Place the combined vegetables and spices in a sterilized airtight jar and pour-in the syrup Seal the jar and place inside the refrigerator for a week (or 5 days minimum to achieve the expected texture and flavor). Serve cold with fried dishes.

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### Daing na bangus Fried marinated milkfish

- 2 pcs. Boneless Bangus ( Milkfish ), Butterflied with skin-on
- 2/3 cup vinegar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cloves crushed garlic.

Marinating Instructions:

Flatten Bangus with skin on top and place in baking pan (or any flat surface like baking pan) Sprinkle the crushed garlic on all the Bangus surface Now pour in vinegar, then season with pepper and salt. Safely cover and marinate Bangus in the refrigerator overnight to get full flavor.



# The North American FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY



Hon. Anthony Housefaher, MP of Mount Royal riding, (5th from left) is flanked by guests from Montreal and suburbs.



Pascale Dery (2nd from left) and husband Eric (4th from the right) pose for souvenir with the people who know them very well at the FFCAQ Valentine party, 2/13/2016



Ed Tupaz, president of FFCAQ, poses with Hon. Anthony Housefaher and Fred Narvas after his message during the Valentine party on Feb. 13, 2016



Miss Valentine, Edna Vitales, is flanked by the two runner ups, and the president of the association, Ed Tupaz and Fely Rossales Carino.



Souvenir photo of Zenaida Kharroubi with her former roommate, Adoree Silva.



Hon. Anthony Housefaher, MP of the Mount Royal Riding, is flanked by guests wearing red to celebrate St. Valentine's Day.



Gilmore College PAB nursing aide students from left: Myra Wanawan, Lanie Grace Abellera and Sonia Soto displaying their nutrition class project.



Jovy Narvas (2nd from left) is one of the party organizers seen here with family and the president of FFCAQ, Ed Tupaz (standing, 1st from the left).





Gilmore College International PAB nursing aide students pose with their teachers, Sophie Toledo and Clarice Mackay (4th and 5th from the left) on Valentine's Day.



Gilmore College students Luz Maderazo and Katrina Cempron hold their nutrition project assigned by their teacher, Mrs. Clarice Mackay.



From left: NDG Councilor Marvin Rotrand, Manila Councillor Raymundo Yupangco, Ambassador Petronila Garcia, Liz Villasensor, Head, Manila City Tourism office, and CDN/NDG Mayor Russell Copeman pose in front of the Rizal monument in Manila, Philippines Feb. 3/16.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Migrant Worker voices must be central to review of Foreign Worker Program

Open work permits, family reunification and permanent immigration status on landing for Seasonal Agricultural Workers, Caregivers and Temporary Foreign Workers remain priorities.

Canada, February 18, 2016 - The Coalition for Migrant Worker Rights Canada (CMWRC), the representative alliance of migrant worker groups across the country, is responding to Minister Mihychuk's statements in the mainstream media about forthcoming review of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program by calling for further details, including timelines, migrant worker involvement and scope of the review. Migrant worker advocates have been calling for Mobility, Voice and Equality for Migrant Workers, including open work permits; an end to discriminatory Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) regulations like the 4 in and 4 out rule; and permanent immigration status on landing.

"As a country, we need to honour and celebrate low-waged, and racialized migrant workers for feeding our families; taking care of children, the sick and the elderly; and doing backbreaking work to build our economy," says Syed Hussan of the CMWRC. "Migrant worker voices must be central to the review to show Canadians the critical importance of migrant workers, and the need to ensure that they have full rights, and permanent immigration status just like everyone else who works here."

Migrant worker rights groups are available for comment across Canada

Pour le français

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For impact on Agricultural Workers

Ontario - Chris Ramsaroop - Justicia for Migrant Workers / Harvesting Freedom Campaign - 1-647-834-4932

For impacts on Caregivers Vancouver - Natalie Drolet - West Coast Domestic Workers Association - 1-604-669-6452

For impacts on in Alberta Edmonton - Marco Luciano - Migrante Canada - 1-780-966-5908

For impacts in Atlantic Canada Charlottetown - Josie Baker - Cooper Institute- 1-902-315-2705

For impacts in Prairies Diwa Marcelino - Migrante Canada - 204-218-7100



**The Embassy of Mongolia to Canada & Festival Accès Asie present:**

Opening Cocktail  
 Friday, March 4, 2016 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Exhibition  
 March 4 to May 8, 2016

Monument-National  
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FREE ADMISSION

The Embassy of Mongolia to Canada and Festival Accès Asie, in collaboration with the Mongolian Canadian Association and Monument-National, are pleased to present Mongolia, Land of Eternal Blue Sky, a visual arts exhibition featuring photographic works by artist Bayar Balgantseren (Mongolia). The exhibition will run from March 4th to May 8th, 2016.

The public is invited to attend the opening cocktail on Friday, March 4th, 2016, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, showcasing traditional dance by Mongolian children from Montreal, a music performance by Quebecois singer Juulie Rousseau and Mongolian specialties served courtesy of the Mongolian Canadian Association. The event will be officiated by His Excellency, Mr. Radnaabazar Altangerel, the fourth resident Ambassador of Mongolia to Canada.

Curated by Kakim Goh and Catherine LaMendola, with assistance from Elodie Lavergne, Mongolia, Land of Eternal Blue Sky explores Mongolian identity and culture both past and present as exemplified in three perspectives: nature, nomadic life, and the Mongolian city.

Visit the website event page

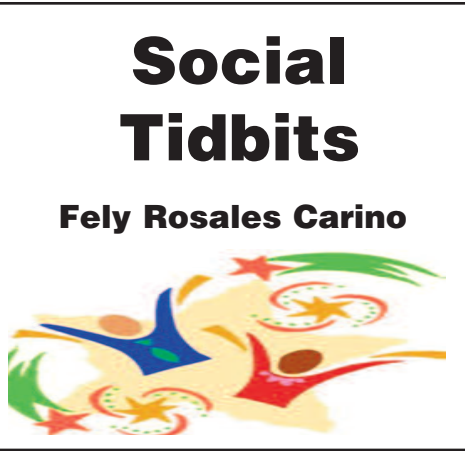
Download the Press Kit (PDF)

For more information, contact:  
 Curator | Kakim Goh | (514) 270-6913  
[commissaire.artsvisuels@accesasie.com](mailto:commissaire.artsvisuels@accesasie.com)



Filcan Chess Club held its Christmas party last December 5, 2015 and awarded trophies to the winners. Councillor Lionel Perez graced the occasion and he is flanked by the officers and members of the association.





# Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Carino

## FFCAQ Valentine's Party

"Love is in the air" was the theme of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) Valentine's party. This was held at the Centre de Ressources Communitaires (CRC) 6767 Cotes de Neiges, Montreal last Feb 13, 2016. Since Valentine means love, MMTV's program manager Mr. Al Abdon wanted us- the crew-Laurisse Cruz, Desiderio Isabelita and I to find couples who can express perceptions and versions of Valentine. Some, when approached, hesitated because they said they could not remember what to say. But when coaxed further, love verses flowed freely. One wife said she cooked dinuguan for her husband last night. Another husband said he vacuumed for her on Valentine's Day. Another said he bought his loved one something beautiful but unmentionable. Answers varied. Several said they could not remember what gift they bought. The last couple interviewed answered "wala" when asked what he gave his wife. Everyone had fun laughing as some of the answers.

The new Member of Parliament, Mr. Anthony Housefather arrived to give his Valentine message. That night, music was non-stop and the dance floor was never empty. Most of the numbers of the program - raffles, door prizes, and voting for Miss Valentine and her court put all the officers to work. The FFCAQ officers are : Ed Tupaz, Minda Mazzone, Zenaida Manon-Og, Jovy Narvas, Shirley Gattoc, Haydie Trinidad, Ella Reyes, Felix Reyes, Cristy Hunter, Al Abdon, Warlie Basbacio, Rex Tuquero, Nenita Licyayo, Lorenza Tolentino, Wendy Singh, Arwin Allana, Remedios Montegudo and Ellison Jamespila. Voted FFCAQ's Miss Valentine was Miss Gina Vitales. Her court included Miss Cathy Antalan and Miss Elsie. Taking pictures in front of the giant red balloons was the order of the night. The photo booth was also a popular sport.

News release: The FFCAQ Social Bingo held last Jan 31, 2016 was a resounding success. Attendance was tripled compared to the first one. Watch for the third social bingo fundraising activity.

The most important notice from FFCAQ President Ed Tupaz is the Annual General Meeting and election of Board of Directors on May 1, 2016 at the CRC-CBN at 6767 Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Qc at 1 PM. A welcome surprise was the attendance of Mr. and Mrs. Eric and

Parcale Dery. They are sorely missed since we bonded as a family some months ago. Also a pleasure to see was our MMTV boss Mrs. Zenaida Kharoubi seated at the VIP table with Mr. and Mrs. Eric and Pascale Dery along with Mr. and Mrs. Nick Mazzone. Zeny's work ethic is too hectic to allow her to attend parties she is invited to. Imagine managing a school, Gilmore International College, overseeing her co-op store and managing her MMTV venture. I guess she wishes there were 49 hours in a day! Impressive work Zeny - keep it up!

Darlington Borough Mayor Lionel Perez arrived to deliver his Valentine greetings. Friends who were on the dance floor most of the time were: Adorie Silva, Lilia Megley, Auoring and Luming Angeles, Siony Nueva and niece, Auring Ferrer and friends. Among those content with just enjoying the ambiance of the afternoon were: Mrs. Merle Valiente, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Reyes, Mr. John Megley, and Mr. Hans Hilgehof. Announcing like a pro was the afternoon's emcee, Ms. Almaleen Mapihisan.

## SWIS's Valentine Party

The Spring Garden chalet was the choice of the members of the Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) to celebrate the 2016 Valentine Party. A family type of atmosphere was everyone's wish and they got it. It didn't take long before the place was filled up. Friendship club old timers like Nasir and Lou Arlegui were there. Daphne Odulio cheered the audience with her jokes while husband Ray just smiled approval. Elvie Maximo, this year's party chairman prepared funny games and encouraged most to participate. For example, the trip to Jerusalem was particularly hilarious. We were glad to see members of different associations present. Special mention were friends from FCAWI who, they said enjoyed the party from beginning to end. Food was abundant courtesy of all SWIS's different groups. Mr. Benny Bote, the very resourceful emcee, didn't let anybody get away with whatever was going on. Jennifer Perinio, Felix Salazar, and Benny Bote entertained us with their beautiful voices.

SWIS chairman Mr. Roger Ajero was visibly appreciative of all that was happening. The arrival of Mr. Frank Baylis, the new MP from Dollard-Roxboro had everyone cheering. He himself delivered some funny jokes. Highlight of the party was the celebration and proclamation of Mr. and Mrs. Pag-ibig. The choice was

unanimous. The honor went to Mr. and Mrs. Ike and Chit Bas. Not only was the title bestowed very fitting, they both deserve accolade. Chit cooks pot luck dishes and Ike singlehandedly readies the chalet for every Wednesday social gathering. He is the first to arrive and the last to leave. Ike deserves every SWIS member's "Thank you". The party ended with a special Valentine treat- a free one hour Zumba for everyone!

During the party, MMTV program manager, Mr. Al Abdon, was able to focus his lens on couples who gave testimonies on how they usually spend Valentine's Day.

## UPS Valentine Party 2016

The search for the UPS Miss Valentine 2016 brought us to the St. Kevin's Parish Social Hall on February 14, 2016. That day the weather was so cold (-25) that organizers led by Mrs. Warlie Basbacio (President of the United Pilipino Seniors) and her crew of Alex Castro, Remy Lopez and Nellie Nicolas thought attendance would be affected. Soon after, waves and waves of members and guests started to arrive. The program started with the parade of colors participated in by: Ms. Elvie Pansoy and Ms. Joselyn Ranon holding the UPS banner. They were followed by Mr. Ed Tupas, President of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec, FFCAQ, holding the Canadian flag. Mr. Agustin Mercado came next holding the Quebec flag. Last but not least was Mr. Fred Narvas holding the Philippine flag.

Part 2 of the program saw Mrs. Minda Mazzone, Vice President-external of the FFCAQ giving the invocation. Then UPS president Warlie Basbacio welcomed everyone. Dancing began immediately.

The dance floor was full. Almost everyone enjoyed line dancing. But dancers had to take a rest while Mrs. Remy Caberto introduced the twenty one February 2016 birthday celebrants: Dante Acido, Ming Aguilar, Paulina Atillo, Daris Boco, Leonila Cabanela, Amerfina Casia, Arvee Castillo, Alex Castro, Cesario de la Cruz, Dominador del Monte Sr, Brigida Derege, Rhodora Estimada, Marites Flores, Estela Gregorigs, Rubin Hunter, Jacqueline Lanto, Angelica Lasin, Clarita Lobrera, Siony Nueva,

Monica Regacho, and Wendy Singh.

The next exciting number was the selection of UPS Miss Valentine 2016. The candidates were: Menchu Cea, Elvie Pansoy, Nora Soriano, Nida Tulang, and Joselyn Ranon. Besides the fund raising money each had collected, they delighted the audience with their talents in hip-hop dancing or singing. In the end the board of judges declared Ms. Elvie Pansoy as UPS miss Valentine 2016. The rest of the candidates deservedly received the following titles: Ms. Nida Tulang (Goddess of Charity), Mr. Nora Soriano (Goddess of Peace), Ms. Joselyn Ranon (Goddess of Love), and Ms. Menchu Cea (Goddess of Hearts).

Following the declaration of the winners came the pinning of sashes and presenting of bouquets. Among those who did the above honors were Mr. Dario Boco (Area Deputy Commander, Knights of Rizal) and wife Claire, Mr. Jerry Dansil (Council of Filipino Associations of Quebec president) and wife Linda, Nellie Nicolas, Alex Castro, Juanita Corbet, Remy Ramos, Pacing Castro, Remy Lopez, Luz Domingo, Gloria Noche, and Amy San Juan.

The new Miss Valentine 2016 received her crown from Mrs. Remy Caberto (Miss UPS Valentine 2015) and Mr. Ed Tupaz FFCAQ President.

## Addendum:

In the incredible mix ups during parties, sometimes we, the writers, unintentionally forget items in the program that should have been mentioned. Examples of this are the important commemorative speech of Mr. Salvador Cabugao during Dr. Jose Rizal's death anniversary celebration. Mr. Cabugao is the president of the Council of Associations of Canada. Ditto with Mr. Dario Boco (Area Deputy Commander, Knights of Rizal). His official participation during the Dr. Jose Rizal's celebration was also mistakenly not included. Anyway, Mr. Cabugao can be known for his inspirational speeches while Mr. Boco can be remembered for his rhythmic and graceful interpretation of social dancing. Watch him dance with his wife and you will know what I mean! He is a sight to watch every time he is on the dance floor.

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# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### How our fave Pinoy stars celebrated Valentine's Day



**Maine Mendoza**  
Photo from @mainedcm Twitter

Love was definitely in the air for our favorite Filipino celebrities who celebrated Valentine's Day in different ways.

"Yaya Dub" Maine Mendoza drove for a road trip and took a selfie, and shared the photo on her Twitter. Where could Alden Richards be?

Heart Evangelista, who is also celebrating her 31st birthday on Valentine's, shared a photo of

shared photos of her and husband John Prats, who is also celebrating his 32nd birthday on Valentine's. Isabel announced her pregnancy last September 2015.

Iya Villania and Drew Arellano celebrated Valentine's in Sydney, Australia.

Kapamilya stars Coleen Garcia and Toni Gonzaga received bouquets of flowers on Valentine's Day. Toni got her flowers from



**Kim Chiu**  
Photo from @chinitaprincess Instagram

from someone who wishes to remain unnamed, maybe a surprise from boyfriend Billy Crawford.

KC Concepcion celebrated Valentine's with her "handsome" date at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

Kim Chiu may be the luckiest girl for Valentine's. She

received an extraordinary gift from Xian Lim. "Dati akala ko puno lang ng saging ang namumunga ng puso, ngayon kahit pala anong puno may puso!!! ila sya eh! hehe #ThankYou," Kim wrote in a caption on her Instagram photo. ■



her cake on Instagram. Soon-to-be mom Isabel Oli

husband Paul Soriano who is in Berlin, Germany. Coleen got hers

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## All good between Jasmine and Anne



**Jasmine Curtis-Smith and Anne Curtis (Instagram)**

Anne and Jasmine Curtis-Smith are two of the closest celebrity siblings in showbiz. Weeks after a video showing Anne's boyfriend Erwann Heussaff kissing Jasmine on the cheek went viral and created major buzz among netizens, the sisters insist they are doing okay.

Jasmine recently shared a 10-second video on Snapchat showing Anne and Erwann watching a video of two cats playing with each other. The clip also shows Anne smiling at the two.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News, Anne said, "We are all okay. We are all good."

Before that, Anne took to Instagram to post a message to critics who made a big deal of Erwann and Jasmine's video. She clarified it was an inside joke that was "wrongly screencapped."

She wrote: "Nothing happened, we are all fine. I'm lucky that Erwann treats Jasmine like his own sister. He has known her since she was 13. So please, STOP," she posted, adding, "It deeply saddens me that such viciousness is being thrown at the people I love. DON'T perverse their relationship. I mean, seriously. This is a non-issue." ■

## Toni Gonzaga: Dates with husband Paul are different now



**Paul Soriano and Toni Gonzaga**

Toni Gonzaga admitted that going out on a date with her husband Paul Soriano is different now that they are married.

"Date nights namin before is just a regular dinner or going to the mall, but now it is different because we can actually go out of town and finally go wherever we want," Toni said in an interview with Philstar.com at the Pond's Institute launch.

Toni, who grew up with strict parents, admitted in her previous interviews that she and Paul are not allowed to go out of town without a chaperone. In fact, the couple is used to going out on a group date with Toni's parents.

Toni, who tied the knot with

Paul last June 2015 shared that Paul, as a husband, is very sweet as he always finds time to leave her cute love notes every now and then.

"Yung mga post-it notes niya make me feel important. It makes me feel special. Yung mga simple reminders niya about work, yun," reveals Toni.

Asked whether she is now used to being Mrs. Soriano, "Everyday mas magiging used to ka na sa married life situation. I think marriage is a work in progress. Every day you have to work for it. Parang ngayon medyo nasasanay na, pero hindi pa yung full na sanay na sanay," she said. ■

## Lovi Poe indulges her passion for singing



**Lovi Poe**

She is Primera Aktresa to her home network and the fans but even before she gained renown in acting, one of Lovi Poe's biggest passions has always been music with an album to boot under her name.

The singer-actress returned to

roots at Music Museum over the weekend in the concert "Fantaisie" co-billed with Solenn Heussaff. In an interview held a few days prior to the show, Lovi said its concept is two girls exchanging notes on love, heartbreak and a "tiny bit of naughtiness" also reflected in the repertoire.

"Imagine our bedroom...we talk everything that is really personal...about our dream guys and even the things that we went through before..." Lovi said. "Para siyang (the concert) different stages of love, falling in love, then reality hits you and you go through a lot of terrible things...(so) either you move on or you try to work things out."

Lovi had parted ways with Rocco Nacino so it was inevitable to ask her how her Valentine's in 2016 is shaping up. Is she happy? Is she open

to dating again? Is she still on speaking terms with Rocco? And does she believe in second chances?

So many questions with Lovi having an encompassing answer.

"Yes," she said. "And we are still communicating but I just want to stop thinking (about anything) and (just) let things happen."

Lovi got her singing talent from her father, the late Fernando Poe Jr., as well as her mother whom, she said, can also carry a tune. Given the chance to record another album, the singer-actress wants to do easy-listening tunes in the mold of those done by her favorites Norah Jones, Anita Baker, and Corinne Bailey.

Despite that she had rarely sung in public for years now except for the occasional guest performance on variety shows and doing a teleserye

theme song here and there, music has always been on her mind.

"I don't want to stop there (acting)," she said. "I want to sing... it makes me happy."

Being an actress gives Lovi the advantage of being in touch with her "hugot emotions" that people hear when she sings. She points out that as actress, she feels more "vulnerable" as person and that "if may eksena na kailangang umiyak, I listen to sad songs."

The concept of "Fantaisie" is holding a sort of musical "girls talk" to give audiences a more intimate experience with the headliners.

"The audience will understand na hindi sila nag-iisa," she said. "Kumbaga 'yung pinagdadaan ng bawat isa sa atin ay pinagdadananan din namin." ■



**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.15***KC Concepcion shares her “equestrian life”**

Kapamilya actress KC Concepcion shared her “equestrian life” through a series of Instagram

worked up about the last now, or the next now.

It seems like the Kapamilya



posts about her adventures in horseback riding.

A few weeks back, KC uploaded a candid photo of her while doing some photoshoot in Baguio, wherein she took the opportunity to reminisce her unforgettable encounters in relation to horseback riding.

“Riding horses. I’ve fallen off one as a child, and been kicked hard by one during a movie shoot before. Despite the pain, I don’t know why I keep coming back for more.”

The said upload was followed by another one last Wednesday (January 27, 2016) when KC posted a photo accompanied by a quote from the novel “The Horse Whisperer” by Nicholas Evans that says,

“I guess that’s all forever is... Just one long trail of nows. And I guess all you can do is try and live one now at a time without getting too



actress has been spending most of her time at stables and horse arenas upon posting another photo revealing that she’s into horseback riding again.

“Glad I’ve been riding again. Gives me an awesome workout & great mental energy. Aaand i’m awt for an out of town work weekend.” ■

**James Yap expecting baby with Italian gf Michela Cazzola****James Yap & Michela Cazzola are having a baby!**

James Yap is having a child with his Italian girlfriend, Michela Cazzola.

In a column by Philippine Star entertainment editor Ricky Lo published Saturday, Michela confirmed that she is pregnant.

“Yes, I am. Four months, going on my fifth month,” Michela said, adding that she plans to give birth in the Philippines.

Michela works for Asian

Development Bank (ADB) in the Philippines for almost eight years now. In a previous interview with Ricky Lo, Michela said she met James at an outing for ADB. They’ve been together since 2012.

James’ child with Michela will be his third; the basketball player has a son with former wife Kris Aquino and an older child with an ex-girlfriend. ■

**Status: Engaged****Rufa Mae Quinto and Trevor Magallanes with his family**

Rufa Mae Quinto and Isabelle Daza are now engaged to their respective sweethearts.

Rufa Mae got engaged to non-showbiz boyfriend Fil-American Trevor Magallanes on Feb. 5.

The actress took to Instagram to thank Trevor’s family for the engagement dinner party tendered for them in California. She also thanked friends who attended the celebration.

“Can’t say much coz I’m so overwhelmed...,” she captioned one

of the photos.

Rufa made public her relationship with Trevor in 2014, noting he was her constant companion when she had her breast implants removed.

Isabelle, on the other hand, revealed her engagement to French boyfriend Adrien Semblat in an interview for Hola magazine.

She shared to Facebook followers on Feb. 5 a photo of the article, captioning it, “I said, YES!”

According to the Hola article, Isabelle confirmed the news during their shoot in Morocco, although she had been denying engagement rumors prior.

Isabelle also shared a photo of her and Adrien from Hola on Instagram.

In an interview with “Tonight With Boy Abunda,” the actress even joked how she’s been giving Adrien a hint she’s ready for marriage.

Isabelle is the daughter of beauty queen-turned-actress Gloria Diaz, while Adrien is the country manager for Adidas. They have been together for six years. ■



# Piolo finds new love



**Piolo Pascual**

Don't look now but Kapamilya star Piolo Pascual is in love.

The hunk actor has been quoted in an ABS-CBNNews.com report as saying, "May bago akong mahal."

Ladies, don't despair. Piolo is actually talking about a mixing console.

Apparently, the 39-year-old actor has been tinkering with one in preparation for his DJ role in an upcoming movie co-starring Dawn Zulueta and Coleen Garcia.

"I have to undergo immersion and ngayon, halos every day, I've been training with my teacher. Masaya. (I'll be) DJ PJ," Piolo related.

Sample of Piolo's mixing work could be enjoyed via Instagram video, uploaded by his longtime assistant Moi Bien.

According to Moi, Piolo bought the mixer with his own money.

"Masyadong excited, napabili agad ng sariling mixer at pagkagising session agad... @piolo\_pascual kalma! #MyFavoriteDJ," she said.

In one 15-second clip captioned "DJ PJ," the actor is seen experimenting with Zedd's "Find You" as director Joyce Bernal looks on.

In an earlier report on Push, Piolo described his character in the upcoming movie as someone who's "been around the world backpacking. He loves to party, he loves to just wing it."



**Piolo Pascual mixing songs**

Coleen also shared details of her role in a separate interview.

"I'll be like a socialite dito. Somehow, my character will develop a friendship with Piolo's and that friendship, it kind of revolves around our professions as well. We work hand in hand at what we do," she said.

Dawn, on the other hand, will play the role of a married fashion designer.

"Dahil sa kanyang career, she will meet the characters of Coleen and Piolo and from there, a wonderful story is told," Dawn shared.

This is Piolo's first time to work with both actresses.

The Star Cinema film is set for a second quarter 2016 release. ■

# Award-winning pair



**John Lloyd Cruz and Jennylyn Mercado**

What network war?

GMA's Jennylyn Mercado and ABS-CBN's John Lloyd Cruz are teaming up for a romantic comedy film under Star Cinema.

Jennylyn, a two-time Metro Manila Film Festival Best Actress winner, posted on her social media accounts photos of her with John Lloyd on the set of the upcoming film.

She aptly captioned one: 'Surprise!' John Lloyd, a FAMAS Best Actor awardee, likewise shared on Instagram a behind-the-scene photo of him and Jennylyn with film director Cathy Garcia-Molina.



This will mark Jennylyn's third acting project with a Kapamilya actor as leading man.

She had worked prior with Sam Milby in 'The Prenup,' followed by Jericho Rosales in 'Walang Forever.' ■

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# FilCan Michele Serrano Seeks Nomination to Canadian Senate

By : Tony A. San Juan,

The normally reticent Filipino Canadian community in Ontario is fully agog recently on the latest political development in the parliamentary landscape in Ottawa. Michele Serrano,



a notable community leader , experienced corporate manager & entrepreneur and practicing certified professional, is reported to be pursuing and have applied for nomination to the Senate of Canada .

Michele Serrano wishes to represent us-- our interest and aspiration and make us proud to have a highly credible Filipino professional and deserving political leader from the community with true professional and personal credentials in going to the so-called "chamber of sober second thought ".

Ontario is one of 3 Canadian provinces where two vacancies in the Senate are to be filled this winter 2016, through " non-binding merit- based recommendations by a 5- person Independent Advisory Body on Senate nominations to the Prime Minister and for eventual appointment by the Governor General.

Many kababayans have continuously expressed the need for someone in the

Senate like Michele Serrano to be not only as "our hope but a rightful voice hope but a rightful voice and inspiration for us in our Filipino Canadian community", including our families, women, elderly, youth & students , new immigrants and fellow Canadians as well. As a woman with distinguished career and experience, Michele according to her pronouncement "intends to serve and share with fervor & fairness her personal and professional skills, capabilities and talents when afforded the opportunity".

Michele has a distinguished career as a practicing professional accountant, former government executive and corporate business manager & comptroller. She is greatly proud of having achieved Canadian professional designations in 5 industry sectors, such as : Certified Professional Accountant (CPA), Certified General Accountant( CGA), Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant( RCIC), certified Human Resources Professional( CHRP) and Licensed Financial Advisor.

A multi licensed professional, she is a member of several accredited professional organizations and a recognized community advocate & political organizer as well. Michele is an officer or member of : Philippine Cultural Community Centre, Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto, Filipino Canadians Political Affairs Council, Council of Filipino Canadian Professionals in Ontario, Filipino Canadian Parents Association in Catholic Education and Federation of Filipino Canadians-Ontario. She is focused and fully engaged in civic and community activities especially in charitable and social fundraisers.

The Nomination process, according to requirements, is by organization . To date, supporting M. Serrano's Senate quest include a cross section of active community-based and mainstream

groups, such as: professional, business, alumni, faith-focused , sports, specific-interest and other province-based organizations.

Michele is encouraging those who wish to learn more about her and /or her rationale, she may be contacted by phone at: 416-988-9613 or michele.serrano@hotmail.com

Let us then join hands and our hearts & minds by supporting and nominating Michele Serrano to the Canadian Senate for a stronger, unified, and progressive Filipino community in our adopted homeland .( T. San Juan).

## Senator Enverga concerned about report on assisted dying



Ottawa, February 25, 2016 – Today, the Honourable Tobias C. Enverga Jr., Senator for Ontario, received the final report of the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying with great concern.

"I am morally and ethically opposed to any action that ends another human being's life, and that denies a person the natural life cycle from conception to natural death," said Senator Enverga in a statement following the tabling of the report in both houses of Parliament. "Bishop Samuel J. Aquila once said: '... we must have the courage to proclaim the culture of life for the common good of society. This is a duty and responsibility ...'. I am taking this duty seriously in my work as

a senator and will do my part to ensure that we protect those most vulnerable in our society from severe risk of harm," the Senator continued.

The report is the latest step in the process to comply with the Supreme Court of Canada's judgement in Carter v. Canada (Attorney General), which has given Parliament until June 6, 2016 to provide a legislative framework under which persons can obtain assistance in ending their lives before natural death occurs.

"I am reading the report with grave concern, noting a clear lack of safeguards and protection of the vulnerable that are found in other jurisdictions' relevant legislation on physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. This report opens the door for minors, persons below the age of 18, to access assisted dying three years down the road; it recommends that persons with psychiatric condition should not be excluded from receiving medical assistance in dying; and it recommends forcing physicians who oppose the practice based on their conscience to refer patients to other willing physicians, rather than providing information to the patient and reporting the patient's wishes to a government agency. There is still much study needed, and I will ensure that the voice of those who are concerned about this report is heard in the Senate of Canada when we debate the report and the forthcoming legislative proposals from the government," Senator Enverga concluded.

See more at SenatorEnverga.com

--30--

For more information please contact: Lars Andersen  
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**Showbiz Gossip** continued from p.17

# Madonna dances with Philippines flag on her shoulders



**Madonna wears the Philippines' flag while singing her encore, the song "Holiday".**



### Madonna singing "Crazy for You" a song that hasn't been sung in 30 years

Did Madonna violate the law during the first night of her concert?

Drawing applause and roars from the massive audience on Wednesday night, the Queen of Pop performed and showed the side she has always been known for - racy and rebellious.

In one part of the concert, Madonna danced with the Philippine flag draped on her shoulders. As seen from the clip below posted by a netizen, the flag even touched the floor as she was performing.

While the audience clearly enjoyed the gimmick, the move

might be a violation of of Section 34 of Republic Act 8491, which prohibits the wearing of the flag "in whole or in part as a costume or uniform."

Before Madonna's The Rebel Heart Tour commenced in Manila, Batangas Archbishop Ramon

Arguelles referred to Madonna as "the evil one," warning the Filipino faithful to shun her.

This is not the first time Madonna has draped a national flag on herself as she has been doing this for the final acts of her previous tours. ■

# Madonna visits an orphanage in Manila



### Madonna visited the kids at the Bahay Tuluyan Foundation

Madonna did some charity works before her two-day concert here in Manila.

On Tuesday, Madonna posted photos of her together with the kids at the Bahay Tuluyan Foundation.

In a post, she even applauded the foundation for taking the children who were victims of abuse and trafficking.

Hats off to the Bahay Tulyan Foundation in Manila for taking so

many kids off the street and providing food and shelter!" she said.

The international pop icon also visited Hospicio de San Jose to give the kids some good time.

"Everyone needs a tickle!! Even at the

Hospicio de San Jose in Manila!" she captioned one of her posts.

It was on Monday when Madonna arrived unknowingly here in Manila for her two-day "Rebel Heart" tour. ■





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**Adele Lascano (October 2009)**



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**Ethel Tugna (March 2011)**



PAB-PSW Nursing aide graduates, Batches 8 and 9. Ceremony held at La Cucina on Sherbrooke West, October 7, 2012. First row: From left to right: Annabelle Allosa, Ethel Tugna, Teachers: Terry White, Amy Manon-og, Director-General, Zenaida Kharroubi, Teachers: Edith Fedalizo, Josefina Toledo, and Lourdescita Lubang. Standing: Grace Calvo, Vilma Lagonilla, Mildred Mendoza, Giselle Arellano, Marilou Hechanova, Anne Signey and Joesie Bingayen.



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### PROGRAMS

- **PAB/PSW Nursing Aide**
- **Early Childhood Education Assistant**
- **Office Systems Technology**
  - Secretarial
  - Medical/Legal/Executive
  - Accounting Technician

### COURSES & SEMINARS

- **Second languages**
  - English - French - Filipino (Tagalog)
  - Mandarin - Spanish
- **Computer Training**
  - Microsoft Office
  - Sage Premium Accounting
  - Keyboarding
- **Seminars - Small Business, Writing, Photography, Artistic Makeup**