

Duterte sticks to SONA script



Duterte family photo: Based on the article published in KAMI, the Duterte family featured the creations of fashion designer Cary Santiago. Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte was wearing a blue Filipiniana while her mother Elizabeth Zimmerman was wearing a red one. The wife of former Davao City Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte, January was wearing a light brown dress and Baste Duterte’s long-time girlfriend, Kate was in off-white Filipinana. Admiration for the ladies in elegant fashion during the SONA was expressed by the media. (Photo source: @carysantiago IG)

Dharell Placido, ABS-CBN News
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 MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte largely stuck to his prepared speech for his State of the Nation Address (SONA), which is also the shortest in his three annual reports to the nation so far.

Duterte’s expletive-free speech lasted for nearly 50 minutes, beginning at around 5:20 p.m. and ending at 6:10 p.m.

Malacañang earlier estimated that the President’s third SONA would last for 35 to 45 minutes.

House leadership row delays Duterte’s third SONA

Duterte started his speech later than expected as the Congress grappled with the sudden change of leadership at the House of Representatives. As Duterte was about to arrive at the Batasan Pambansa, former president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as the new Speaker, replacing Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez.

No Bangsamoro law on SONA day dismays Palace

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SONA

Is Trudeau trying to reap the benefits of resisting a NAFTA deal? Harper under scrutiny after new report

New polling seems to back up a reported suggestion by Stephen Harper that standing up to Donald Trump is politically popular for Justin Trudeau.

But one expert is less confident about his reported claim that the government is resisting reaching a NAFTA deal in order to continue reaping the benefits of being seen to stand up to the unpopular president, saying there’s little sign a

deal is actually ready to be cut at this point

“I don’t think there’s a deal to be had there right now. Trump has made the fight around the world,” said Mike Moffatt, director of policy and research at Canada 2020, a think tank that is heavily linked to the Liberal Party (its president was chief digital strategist on Justin Trudeau’s federal

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NAFTA



Donald Trump and Justin Trudeau endure a bilateral meeting at the G7 Summit in in Charlevoix ...

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Where do you start when you want to get a good job, or build a career?

It is a well-known fact that there is no unemployment for people who have all kinds of skills and they can choose their jobs because they have many options. But how do we get to this point when we do not have to accept just any job but choose the one we will be happy and feel fulfilled? It is only possible through proper training and a well-rounded education. A high school education is no longer enough. As we now live in what we call the knowledge-based economy, we cannot afford not to keep up to date. Even a university degree is just part of the whole process of building a career, and getting a good job that will make us happy and be fulfilled. Most people who have university degrees need to take other courses to get practical skills in doing office jobs such as word processing, accounting, filing, receiving calls, writing business letters, using office equipment and many other tasks that are often required in any business enterprise. One of the most rewarding jobs a university graduate can have is being an executive assistant but in order to be competent, one needs to have training in almost every area of business management.

Speaking from my own experience, I have gone through a lot of situations in life that I would have not survived if I did not have practical skills that I learned right after high school. My mother enrolled me in a vocational school to take shorthand and typing. I got my first apprentice job in an accounting firm because I was a gold medal winner in a stenography contest. The treasurer of the Lions Club of Manila asked if I wanted to be an apprentice in his office. For a month or two, I was typing financial statements even though I did not yet know accounting. A short time later, an opening for assistant to the bookkeeper of the Lions Club came up and I was given the job. This was the beginning of a working life that enabled me to go to university at night and complete a B.A. degree majoring in English literature. After working with the Lions Club, I decided to apply for an executive secretarial job and became an assistant to a German manager in a drug manufacturing and hospital equipment importing firm. This was my position when I immigrated to Canada. My boss voluntarily gave me a letter of

recommendation which was useful when I applied for a job. Due to my secretarial skills, it was not difficult to get a job. Before becoming a business education teacher with the Montreal Catholic School Commission, I worked with three different companies, the Underwriters Adjustment Bureau, Readers Digest, and Canadian Pacific Railway. But teaching has always been my vocation so much that when an advertisement from the government of Quebec called for vocational teachers to be given a bursary to go to McGill

not yet been realized as I know it would require another degree and write some books before I can be given a post in higher education. Besides, I am already busy managing my own private college.

As I predicted, drastic changes were introduced under the Regime Pedagogique, reforms introduced in the 1980's. Teachers like me were declared excess and we had to do substitute teaching. It was a position that I was unhappy about and led me to establish my own school which I named at first Gilmore Business Institute in 1989, and



Gilmore College International faculty: L to R: Terry White, Clarice MacKay, Kadri Shérifi (Director of Studies), Zenaida Kharroubi (founder & Director-General), Edith Fedalizo, Amy Manon-og, and Sophie Toledo.

University, I was very happy to send my application. I went to university to study full time to know how to teach business education courses and obtained a Diploma in Education from McGill University. I was offered a teaching job at Jean Talon High School after my practice teaching assignment. After three years of probation, I obtained my permanent license to teach secondary school English and vocational education.

As I am always interested to improve myself, I never stopped going to school. I studied at Concordia University to get a TESL certificate (teaching English as a second language) as I wanted to prepare myself to go to another field. I had some clues that the government might change its policies and abolish the vocational education program in high school. I also wanted to teach in college or university so I enrolled in the graduate education program at Concordia where I obtained an M.A. degree in Educational Studies, with an option in philosophy. My ambition to be a university professor has

changed it to Gilmore College International in 2000 as that was the time when there were many more international students from Tunisia, Taiwan, France and other countries. From 1996 to 2001, I had a college permit to offer AEC programs in accounting, secretarial, and international trade. I did not re-apply to renew this college permit as I did not find enough time to do this. But due to changes in immigration procedures as of June 30, 2017, schools need to have a designated learning institution number to accept international students. It is therefore necessary to make an application in September 2016 to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur to authorize Gilmore College International to get a permit in two AEC programs. I moved to a bigger location because I was told that I needed a cafeteria and library space to be given a college permit which were not required in the past. The permit was not approved for lack of financial and human resources. I did not ask more information but just accepted this decision. Then I decided to offer a DEP instead of AEC courses last September 1, 2017 as I presume that the collegial level programs require more material resources but with the same answer. This time I decided to ask for more detailed explanation for the refusal. When the government employee replied, I understood that the financial statement submitted to them gave the wrong idea that I had only \$1,000 worth of assets. After almost 30 years, all the fixed assets got depreciated so the book value of several thousand dollars are no longer reported in the financial statement except for a token value of a \$1,000. I had to explain in another letter the reasons why Gilmore College International should be considered well equipped to deliver a DEP program for PAB as I have already been giving this

course since 2005 and most of our graduates are working in different places in Montreal as well as in Alberta and Ontario. I am in the process of re-applying before September 1, 2018 to get this permit which I believe has more chances of being approved after being informed of all the requirements that I must submit with the application.

In view of my educational background and working experience, I believe I can help many people, specially newly arrived immigrants in providing them with a well-designed curriculum to prepare them for any office work. I know that most people in the Filipino community seem to go to the other big colleges, believing that they can get a better education there, but if they only knew the wealth of knowledge and experience behind the foundation of Gilmore College International, they might be convinced to study here.

Over the past 29 years, I have hired teachers from different cultural groups, specially during the first 15 years of the College as I was still teaching with the Montreal Catholic School Commission for another 8 years before I took my pre-retirement in 1997 after 25 years of service. But for another 4 years, it was a very hectic period of my life when I was recruited to be an officer in four different organizations that used my office to hold their meetings and be involved with their social and cultural activities. Looking back at this time, I should have learned to say no to most of the things I was asked to do because it took away so much time from my own business. In 1998, in spite of my busy schedule, I took over the management and publication of the Filipino Star, followed by the formation of the first Filipino Canadian Scouts group in 2003 until 2010, and helping the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative from 2006 until now as I still have to wind up the paper work to settle outstanding reports to the government. I also tried to produce a community TV show from December 2013 until January 2016. I had to give this up because of the heavy financial burden.

When people find out all these things I have done and still do, they ask if I ever find time to sleep. Honestly, I have an average of 5 to 6 hours of sleep and only sleep longer when I really feel tired. But the most important thing that I would like to emphasize is that in spite of my limited resources, I was able to do everything in a business because I have the skills needed to work in an office and I can speak and write in three languages fluently - English, French, and Filipino.

In hindsight, I realize that Gilmore College International could have been a bigger school if more people knew the quality of training offered in a small school is usually better than in a bigger one, hence, I decided to do promotion of my own school by holding a career orientation seminar. I am inviting human resources managers to speak about the skills they are looking for in their prospective employees. This seminar will also serve as an introduction to the business community about our training courses and other services that we offer. Moreover, it is my goal to raise awareness that the school I founded is not only for me and my family but it is a legacy for the whole community.

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I'm worried': Greyhound route cuts in Western Canada mean more than the loss of a way to travel

All total, the cuts in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and parts of Ontario will affect around two million riders

As of 2016, 68 people lived in Grassland, Alta., a hamlet around 150 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

It's in Athabasca County, where there's no Via Rail station, only a regional airport; the west isn't central Canada, with trains flitting between Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. You can either drive, take the bus or fly. In tiny Grassland, though, there's a Greyhound stop. As of the day after Halloween, though, there won't be: Greyhound Canada, which has been operating in Alberta since January 1930, is ending its service for all routes outside of Ontario and Quebec, save the run between Vancouver and Seattle.

There are other bus companies, it's true – Red Arrow, a coach service in Alberta since 1979, stops in Grassland, at the Esso Family Restaurant, which Jagdish Masiwal has owned for three years. Four times a day, he said, 15 to 20 passengers unload from Greyhound buses at his restaurant for food. He expects to lose at least \$300 a day because of the shutdown.

"I'm worried about it," Masiwal said. And, it's not just the passenger service that will affect him. The Canada Post office in Grassland is open three days a week, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., so locals rely on Greyhound for parcel service. "If my oven breaks down, if I need a part and I call Edmonton, and I get (the) part the same day. Otherwise it's going to take two days, three days to get here," he said.

Some 107 communities in Alberta will lose Greyhound service because of the shutdown, 334 in total from the Rocky Mountains to the Ontario border. The company said there has been a 41 per cent decline in ridership since 2010; in Manitoba, it was a 57 per cent decline. Peter Hamel, Greyhound's regional vice-president for western Canada, said the cargo service has lost \$35 million worth of business since 2010. "The e-commerce, and the Amazons, who are doing their own shipping, continue to erode the business we have," Hamel said.

Hamel said there are simply fewer riders coming from rural areas, and competition, particularly in British Columbia, with subsidized carriers such as BC Transit, a Crown corporation, has harmed ridership. "That is not a fair, level playing field, they either run in competition to us, or they have backfilled after we have left," Hamel said.

Bus services also face competition from low-cost airlines, such as Swoop and Flair Air. This means longer inter-city runs – such as the 16-hour trip between Edmonton and Kelowna, B.C., which costs \$92.20 to travel next Thursday – are in competition with a 45-minute flight within a similar price range. The Flair



A Greyhound bus leaves the station in Edmonton. Some 107 communities in Alberta will lose Greyhound service because of the shutdown, 334 in total from the Rocky Mountains to the Ontario border. Codie McLachlan/Postmedia/File

Air fare for that day is \$119. "They're starting to play in a sandbox that they never used to," Hamel said. "These are markets that were predominantly Greyhound."

As of 2016, there were more than 3.5 million cars on Alberta's roads, but, considering a population of 4.3 million as of January 2018, many Albertans don't drive. For many, Greyhound was a way to travel, a way to see family and for some even a literal lifeline. Jan Reimer, the executive director of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, said she's known of women who've used the Greyhound network to escape domestic abuse.

"Many women who are abused, you know, financial abuse is part of it; they don't have keys to the car, they know they have to get out of there if they want to stay alive. Greyhound and the bus has been something that they can afford and that they've used," Reimer said.

The Greyhound bus depot in Calgary is among those that will be shut down. Darren Makowichuk/Postmedia

Along the Highway of Tears – a 720-kilometre stretch of highway in British Columbia from Prince George to Prince Rupert – the lack of transportation has been cited as a factor in the disappearance or murder of at least 18 women and girls, many of them Indigenous, as instead they turned to hitchhiking. BC Transit now offers bus services there, as Greyhound pulled out of the region.

And for seniors, especially those who don't drive, coach buses are the best way around the province, to see family or even get to medical appointments available only in larger centres, said Ruth Adria, with the Elder Advocates of Alberta Society. "It's extremely important because smaller

centres have no transportation whatsoever," Adria said. "When individuals have to ask others for rides, it becomes very difficult for them."

More than 400 people will lose their jobs as a result of the cuts. All assets, such as buses, Hamel said, will be moved to Ontario to serve those routes. More than 650,000 people rode the Greyhound each year in British Columbia, 380,000 in Alberta; all total, the cuts in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and parts of Ontario will affect around two million riders. On Monday, Brian Mason, Alberta's transport minister, called on the federal government to propose a "national solution that keeps Canadians connected across the country." At a press conference on trucking safety Tuesday afternoon, Mason didn't rule out – but didn't commit either – to a subsidized bus service, saying Alberta had reached out to other affected provinces, and suggested the federal government could have a role to play in inter-provincial bus lines.

Already, the NDP government is spending \$1.4 million over two years to expand regional public services, which includes a contract between the city of Camrose, just shy of 100 kilometres southeast of Edmonton, and Red Arrow to provide a shuttle service to the capital.

The Greyhound pullout also presents, perhaps, an opportunity for Greyhound competitors such as Red Arrow. It operates routes mainly along the north-south corridor from Fort McMurray, 435 kilometres north of Edmonton down to Lethbridge, around 200 kilometres south of Calgary.

John Stepovy, Red Arrow's director of sales and business development, didn't say what action, if any, Red Arrow would take. "Throughout the years, we've had many different requests for starting service in varied communities," Stepovy said. "We look at opportunities seriously and closely and we always have, and we'll continue to do so."

Other cities in Alberta have had new operators pop up when Greyhound left in previous downsizing. In Slave Lake, Alta., nearly three hours north of Edmonton, Mayor Tyler Warman knows what it's like to lose bus services. Greyhound cut its route through the town of around 6,000 people in 2011.

In particular, he said, that loss mattered for medical appointments, many of which are at hospitals in Edmonton. "It's definitely a frustration, because there is a significant group of people out there who have either income pressures, or you know, just don't have the equipment to physically go whenever they need to go and they rely on some form of public transportation," Warman said.

A bus service did pop up soon after, Warman said, but it folded after a few months. Another one, Northern Express, exists now, and Simon Juckes, whose family owns the company said while they were already considering an expansion, they're "trying to get our head wrapped

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SONA

Malacañang also had to make last-minute changes in the President's speech as the House of Representatives failed to ratify the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Duterte was expected to sign the bill into law in time for his SONA, but the House of Representatives adjourned Monday's session without having ratified the proposed measure.

Duterte's 2017 SONA lasted for 120 minutes, double the 50 minutes it was estimated to last, as the chief executive broke from what the teleprompter flashed by delivering jokes and impromptu remarks.

Duterte's first SONA ran for more than 90 minutes.

Duterte: Third telco must be 'reliable, inexpensive, secure'

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 23 2018 06:43 PM

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said the third telecommunications player in the Philippines should be "reliable, inexpensive and secure."

The terms of reference in the selection should be "fair, reasonable and comprehensive," the President said in his third State of the Nation Address.

The National Telecommunications Commission is overseeing the search for the third player to challenge the dominance of Globe Telecom and PLDT Inc.

"It will be inclusive, so it will be opened to all interested private parties, both foreign and local," Duterte said of the selection process.

"The only condition is that the chosen entity must provide the best possible services at reasonably accessible prices," he added.

Interconnection rates between industries should be lowered to lessen costs both for consumers and the third player.

"A market environment that is more conducive to competition. This is a policy which is crucial to ensure that our solution to our telecommunication problems will be both meaningful and lasting," he said.

Stars react to SONA 2018

MANILA, Philippines — In a sudden twist of events while waiting for Pres. Rodrigo Duterte to make his third State of the Nation Address (SONA), former president and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo unseated House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and became the House of Representatives' top congressman.

While the SONA of the president turned out smooth as he followed his speech and did not say curse words, Arroyo's appointment became the hottest issue at the SONA on Monday, and even celebrities shared their reactions on what happened.

On her Twitter account, known Duterte critic Agot Isidro said Gloria is back with a vengeance.

"Aaand she's back. With a

Paolo Duterte explains family photo minus Kitty



MANILA - Davao City Vice-Mayor Paolo "Pulong" Duterte on Thursday explained why he posted a photo of the Duterte family on his Facebook account without Duterte's current partner, Cielito "Honeylet" Avancena, and their daughter, Kitty.

vengeance. Just like that, folks. Aminin ninyo, marupok tayo," she tweeted.

On Duterte's SONA, the veteran actress said: "#KasamaAko sa mga naniniwalang ang maririnig natin mamaya ay S-ame O-ld N-onsense A-nyway."

Meanwhile, TV host-actress Bianca Gonzalez-Intal said she did not see Gloria becoming the House speaker.

"CGMA in the House Speaker's seat for the SONA after everything that has happened.. did not see that coming," she tweeted.

She also retweeted a photo of Gloria in the rostrum while Ilocos Norte governor Imee Marcos can be seen below. This came with the caption: "I am all for women taking power but this photo is problematic on so many levels. #SONA2018."

Kapamilya actress Alessandra de Rossi makes the moment lighter as she tweeted some "hugot."

"Taray! May plot twist ang sona. Yung love life natin wala! uwian na!" she tweeted.

Spoken word artist and actor Juan Miguel Severo retweeted a photo of Gloria in a rostrum with the caption "WELCOME TO THE 75TH HUNGER GAMES!" #SONA2018."

Radioactive Sago Project vocalist and TV5 host Lourd de Veyra

The photo shows President Rodrigo Duterte seated with his ex-wife, Elizabeth Zimmerman, daughter Inday Sara Duterte and her son, Stingray. Members of Duterte's immediate family, their spouses and children are also included in the photo.

In his FB account, the Davao City vice-mayor wrote: "To everybody questioning the whereabouts of Ms. Avanceña and Kitty Duterte they hve their own family picture...NAA AMONG INAHAN KAY AMOA SIYANG INAHAN



A photo from the RTVM photo page shows Duterte with Avancena and Kitty before the inauguration.

posted a photo of ousted Speaker Alvarez with the caption: "Gaano kalaki yung umagaw sa puwesto mo?"

On the other hand, another Duterte critic and known supporter of Liberal Party, Jim Paredes, praised the president for not swearing, but he wondered where Gloria went during the speech.

"On the plus side, no cussing. Calm siya and he actually did not digress from text. Meanwhile, what happened to the little girl in red? She just disappeared," Jim tweeted.

He also joked: "The biggest tragedy to hit the US was 911. In the Philippines it is 411," pertaining to the height of the former president.

President Duterte SONA 2018 highlights, review for reaction paper

MANILA, Philippines – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivered on Monday, July 23, 2018 his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) in front of around 3,000 lawmakers and guests at the Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City.

President Duterte SONA 2018 highlights, review for reaction paper President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his third State of the Nation Address (SONA).

SONA 2018 broke tradition of highlighting the previous year accomplishments but instead the iron-fist leader addressed as a "father of the Filipinos" and focused on desire for genuine and meaningful change for the people.

The key policies, programs and initiatives of the government were discussed separately in the successful run of three-part series pre-SONA 2018 Forum.

SONA 2018 was delayed by an hour as advice of who will be seated beside President Duterte was not immediately finalized after Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sworn as the new House Speaker. The Congress ousted Pantaleon Alvarez few minutes before the SONA. Note that the spots besides the president are reserved for the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

The SONA proper started at exactly 5:22 in the afternoon and concluded at 6:09 pm or longer by few minutes in the originally declared 35-minute speech, due to some off-the-cuff remarks of the president.

Be guided with our summary and review of President Duterte's SONA 2018. Students may use this as reference for making a reaction paper:

"About 2 years ago, I solemnly took my oath as a worker of the national gov't. I was inspired to institute real changes for the greater good of the Filipino people," President Duterte opened his speech.

Duterte highlighted that the war from illegal drugs is far from over and will not be sidelined, instead, it will be as relentless and chilling.

Duterte said his concern is more on human lives and not human rights. "Illegal drugs wasted away lives, dysfunctionalized families and ruined relationship."

Duterte also addressed that corruption must stop to improve delivery of services. He also warned government agencies to stop red tape. Duterte on Ease of Doing Business Act: "I hereby direct all government units and government agencies to faithfully implement this law and simplify the process."

Duterte also said budget for Mindanao is being increased. By the end of his term, he wants to see the fulfillment of his promise. On Bangsamoro Organic Law, he said: "Give me 48 hours to sign it and ratify the law."

The Mindanaoan president emphasized "War is not an option. We have been through the catastrophe in Marawi. We have seen the horror, devastation, human toll, displacement

he discussed open pit mining that he said "destroying my country."

Duterte applauded the Congress for the immediate passing of



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his third State of the Nation Address (SONA).

of both Christians and Muslims alike."

On Marawi siege, Duterte recognized soldiers and police who died fighting for the city. He said that government welcomes with open arms the terrorists who surrender to authorities.

Duterte hailed the successful hosting of ASEAN anniversary and summit last November. "We will have stronger bonds with ASEAN friends."

On relationship with China, Duterte said it has led to an unprecedented level of cooperation between nations on the war against transitional crimes. "Our shared intelligence with China led to discovery of clandestine shabu laboratories."

The iron-fist president shared admiration to our Filipino migrant workers for their selflessness and courage in enduring hardships of living

the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion or the TRAIN law. "I am committed to a comprehensive tax reform and I ask Congress to continue the job." On TRAIN impact, he said: "You have made funds available to build better roads, bridges and improved health and education."

Duterte also warned rice cartels to stop messing with the people.

The passage of the universal healthcare bill was also encouraged by Duterte.

On federalism, he said: "Strong political determination, not political ambition, is the guiding light. I have no illusions of occupying this office one day longer than what the Constitution under which I was elected permits." But he is confident the people will support effort to pass a new

consequently, the purchasing power of currency is falling) also increased versus last year (4.9 vs. 3.2).

Some also reacted with the proposed federalism, that would decentralize the system of the government. Others said creation of new states or regional governments will just create another bureaucratic layer with the installation of state governors on top of provincial governors, municipal, and city mayors.

Meanwhile, the President was not able to sign the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in time for the SONA as it was not ratified before the adjournment of today's session of the House of Representatives.

"We consider this as a temporary setback in the administration's goal of laying the foundation for a more genuine and lasting peace in Mindanao," the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson said in a statement.

On the other hand, latest Pulse Asia survey revealed that majority of Filipinos consider the war on the drugs as the Duterte administration's most important achievement. The report also include good feedback for the fight against crime, salary increase for police and soldiers, fight against graft and corruption and free tuition in public universities and colleges.

— The Summit Express

Alang-alang sa bayan': Ousted Alvarez recognizes Arroyo as new Speaker

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 25 2018 05:37 PM | Updated as of Jul 25 2018 06:00 PM

MANILA (UPDATE) - Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez on Wednesday finally broke his silence on his ouster as House Speaker, recognizing former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the new leader of the House of Representatives.

Alvarez released the statement following a meeting with Arroyo on Wednesday morning.

"We cannot undo the past, but we can certainly shape our future. The House of Representatives has chosen a new Speaker in the person of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," he said.

"Alang-alang sa bayan (for the sake of the country), let us go back to work and move on," he added.

Arroyo meets Alvarez following House coup

Arroyo, through Pampanga 3rd District Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr., had earlier offered to switch offices with Alvarez.

The 71-year-old Arroyo was sworn in as the country's first female House Speaker late Monday, following a power tussle with Alvarez that eclipsed President Rodrigo Duterte's third State of the Nation Address.

Representatives on Wednesday adopted a resolution entering into the record the July 23 proceedings that elected Arroyo as



Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez and newly installed House Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/Composite

away. "You have contributed greatly to the Philippine economy." He also mentioned the fight against 'endo' which has resulted to regularization of more than 300,000 workers.

Talking about the third telco player, Duterte said the chosen entity must provide the best possible services at reasonable prices. He also wants to lower interconnection rates between industry players.

Duterte also promised to restore environmental integrity of Boracay. "It has sadly become a representation of government's negligence, including mine." He said that protection of the environment is a top priority. Duterte was emotional as

Constitution.

Reactions on President Duterte's Third SONA

Thousands of protesters and militant groups rallied near the Batasan to condemn rampant killings being linked to Duterte's war against illegal drugs; as well as the tax reform law, raising duties on fuel, cars, and sugar-sweetened drinks.

Analysts added that Dutertenomics performance after his two years in power is fair to poor citing the impact of the TRAIN law.

The inflation rate (rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising and,



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Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

KAILANGANG MAGKAROON NG TRANSPARENCY ANG MGA IBANG ASOSASYON

Isang isyu sa komunidad ang kakulangan ng transparency ng maraming asosasyon pagdating sa pera. Kadalasan ay nag-aatubiling magtanong sa mga presidente ang mga opisyal o miembro ng mga kanilang asosasyon tungkol sa financial statement. Sasagutin sila, "Wala ka bang tiwala?" o pagbabagsakan ng mga papeles.

Ang ilang pumapasok sa mga asosasyon ay tapat ang hangaring maglingkod nang libre sa komunidad subalit ang karamihan ay upang magkapera lamang. Sa tagal ko sa komunidad, nakita at narinig ko na ang mga paraan upang magkapera. Isang dating presidente ng malaking asosasyon ang nagsabi na isang lider na hindi niya opisyal ang malimit humingi ng solicitation letters kung may kalamidad sa Pilipinas tulad ng bagyong Yolanda pero wala nang bumabalik na sulat. Ang iba naman ay panay ang fundraising na laging lugi. Mayroon namang sa bulsa ng nagbabantay sa centre napupunta ang upa.

Ginagamit ng iba ang pera ng asosasyon o komunidad dala ng pangangailangan subalit ang iba ay upang makapanlamang. Ano man ang dahilan, hindi dapat galawin ang perang hindi sa kanila. At panahon na upang maglabas nang regular at malinaw na financial statement ang mga asosasyon. Huwag na nilang hintayin na tanungin pa sila ng mga tao.

PAANO MAPANGANGALAGAAN ANG PANGALAN NG HERITAGE

Napapailing na lamang ako kapag may nagsasabing kahit sinong Pilipino ay puedeng gumamit ng pangalan ng Heritage na ibinigay ng city hall sa lahat ng Pilipino. Dipende sa paggamit. Tulad ng sabi ko noong nakaraang isyu ng The North American Filipino Star, paano kung may isang Pilipino o asosasyon na alam nating magdadala lamang ng kahihiyan sa Heritage? Kamakailan ay may nagsabi sa akin na isang lider ang nag-solicit ng \$30.00 para sa souvenir program ng Heritage Month pero mahigit nang isang buwan ang nakalilipas ay hindi niya pa alam kung may lumabas na souvenir program o wala. Nang itanong niya ang nag-solicit sa kaniya

kung ano ang nangyari sa ibinigay niyang \$30.00, ang sagot ay "Nandiyan lamang iyan."

Ang Heritage ay parang FAMAS na sinasabi natin na para sa lahat ng Pilipino. Pero ang FAMAS ay may mga provision o kondisyon na nagiging gabay ng gustong maging miembro o tumakbo sa posisyon. Sana ganoon din ang Heritage na ad hoc committee pa lamang ang bumubuo nito.

Maganda ang panukala ng isang lider na dapat ay magkaroon ng kinatawan ang bawat asosasyon upang hindi ma-monopolize ng isang grupo. Dapat ding piliing mabuti ang tatlong mahahalagang posisyon tulad ng pangulo, treasurer at auditor. May nakausap akong politico na nagsabing sa isang taon ay may funding na ang Heritage. Ito ang dapat bantayan.

Sa susunod na miting ng Heritage, marami ang nagpakita ng interest na dumalo. Huwag lamang sa FAMAS bulletin board o internet ilagay ito. Ilagay din daw ito sa The North American Filipino Star of The Filipino Forum.

MAGDADALA RIN NANG MALAKING PERA SA FAMAS ANG MUNTING BB PILIPINAS- MONTREAL

Malimit kong isulat na pangalagaang mabuti ang mga nananalo ng pageant dahil nagdadala sila nang malaking pera sa asosasyon. Si Jasmine Cleofas-Tabares ay Munting Bb. Pilipinas Montreal 2017. Hindi raw siya naanyayahang dumalo sa koronasyon ng FAMAS Bb. Pilipinas 2018. Tinanong ko ang FAMAS kung isasama sa Philippine Independence Day parade ang mga nanalo sa pageant, kabilang kasama si Jasmine. Ayon kay Cesar Manuel, hindi with the United States and our relationship with the United States is far too important to play partisan politics with," the Liberal Party leader said during a stop in Markham, Ont., Friday.

Trudeau was responding to a recording first obtained by CTV News of Harper at the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum earlier this month.

CBC News has also obtained the audio.

"The problem right now is we have two governments that do not want an agreement," Harper says.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was asked about former PM Stephen Harper's comments on the state of the NAFTA negotiations during a stop Friday in Markham 2:04

"The reality is the government of Canada believes today that it is doing very well, the fight with Trump is good for it politically, it is winning. And so if it can take that fight and continue it, and more importantly paint conservatives as linked to Donald Trump, this is great for them. And so right now that is the strategy they are on."

Harper, who now works as a consultant, also accused the government of going after him on a partisan basis, pointing to the fracas around his trip to Washington on July 2.

"Lo and behold, before the

inanyayahan ng FAMAS si Jasmine. Sa Canada Day parade ay inanyayahan naman siya pero dalawang araw bago July 1. Si Svetlana Suarez pa raw ang nagsabi na dapat ay sumama siya sa parada. Si Jasmine ay pamangkin ni Manuel. May hindi pinagkakasunduan si Manuel at ang FAMAS EB pero hindi dapat isangkot ang batang walang malay

MGA KOMENTO NOONG INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mga dalawang lingo pa bago Independence day ay tiniyak ko sa FAMAS kung sasama sila sa parada ng CCFAQ sa June 17. Sumagot sila ng "oo". Noong June 16 na ipinagdiriwang ang kaarawan ni Rizal sa MacKenzie King Park, ipina-alaala kong muli sa FAMAS ang parada sa June 17. Ang sagot ay sa Canada Day parade sila sasama. Karapatan nila kung alin ang higit na mahalaga - ang Canada Day parade kaysa Philippine Independence Day parade. Ang isyu ko ay hindi ko nalaman na hindi pala sasama ang FAMAS sa Philippine Independence Day kundi ko pa naitanong. Paminsan-minsan, maging propesyonal tayo sa pakikipag-usap. Noong June 17, nakita ko sa park na masayang nag-uusap si Dexter "Adiva" Estinosa at Michael Supang. Magandang tignan na nagkakasundo sila kahit magkalaban ang kanilang team noong FAMAS eleksiyon.

Dahil sa pagod at init, sumama ang pakiramdam ni James de la Paz. Dinala kaagad siya ng ambulansiya sa ospital. Ang nakatatatawa ay ang balitang lumabas na ikalawang stroke ni James iyon at nagkakandapilipit na raw ang dila niya sa pagsasalita. Ang bilis kumalat nang maling balita.

meetings are confirmed, I wake up one day ... and this is out in the news," Harper said.

"How did it get out in the news? I'll tell you how it got out into the news: the government."

Harper called the government's stance "foolish."

He added that he could lend a hand to the government on NAFTA, "but they don't want my help."

Trudeau said he has spoken with Harper and other former prime ministers about taking an "all hands on deck" approach.

This is not Harper's first time talking publicly about the Canada-U.S. relationship since leaving office. He has waded into the ongoing NAFTA talks, offering commentary on TV and at other conferences.

While he has criticized some of the Liberal government's actions on the trade file, he has defended the merits of NAFTA.

"I can understand why President Trump, why the American people feel they need some better trade relationships," Harper told Fox News last month. "[But] this is the wrong target."

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said she believed that appearance on Fox News was helpful.

CBC's Journalistic Standards and Practices

From page 5

Arroyo

House Speaker.

Amid shouting, House adopts resolution recognizing Arroyo as Speaker

Arroyo, who is on her third and last term as Pampanga representative, is the first former president named House Speaker.

Lawmakers had expressed discontent over Alvarez's leadership, citing his call to forego the 2019 midterm elections, among others.

The President's daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, was also known to have made calls to lawmakers to remove Alvarez from the chamber's helm.

She and the Davao lawmaker earlier figured in a spat over the mayor's establishment of a local political party.

Arroyo speakership proves Sara Duterte's political prowess: opposition solon

-with a report from RG Cruz, ABS-CBN News

From page 1

NAFTA

election campaign) and an assistant professor at Western University's Ivey School of Business.

"He [Trump] hasn't been able to get a deal on any of those, so is every other country in the world being obstinate? No. I think the problem is Trump."

Trudeau slaps down Harper's claims that NAFTA is being delayed for political gain

Former prime minister Stephen Harper says Liberals 'don't want my help' on NAFTA

CBC News · Posted: Jul 20, 2018 3:26

Former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, right, has accused Justin Trudeau's Liberal government of leaking news of his visit to Washington to the media before it was even confirmed. (Canadian Press)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is rebutting claims made by former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper that the Liberal government is dragging out the NAFTA negotiations for political gains.

"I think I've been very clear for a long time now that the issue of trade

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It's all about power

July 19, 2018 | Opinion

ON DISTANT SHORE

By Val G. Abelgas

Just when the Philippines was beginning to join Asia's emerging economies and was well on its way to becoming one of the fastest growing economies in the region, the Duterte administration has opted to rock the boat and insist on amending the 1987 Constitution to pave the way for a federal form of government, the path to which is fraught with dangers and uncertainties.

Constitutional experts and economists have repeatedly warned the President of the consequences on the country's economy and political stability.

In November last year, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. cautioned against the rush to federalism, describing the move as "a lethal experiment, a fatal leap, a plunge to death, a leap to hell." Davide cited 18 reasons he opposed federalism, foremost of which is the "bloating" of the bureaucracy with the creation of the regional governments. Former national treasurer Leonor Briones, now Duterte's education secretary, had voiced the same concern regarding the added layers of bureaucracy federalism would create, saying the creation of an additional layer of government—namely the state—will inevitably lead to higher levels of expenditures that will, according to her, inevitably lead to pressure for increased taxes.

Renowned economist Bernardo Villegas of the University of Asia and the Pacific also warned of federalism's perils, which, he said could stoke "hyperinflation" and cede more powers than what many local government units (LGUs) are ready to handle. Calling the move counter-productive, Villegas said the shift could trigger "hyperinflation," a situation when consumer prices are skyrocketing, sharply eroding the

value of the local currency.

He said there's "no rhyme, no reason" on how the so-called federal states in the Philippines were proposed to be organized.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also warned against the rush to federalism, saying that there is a need to submit the proposed shift to thorough and intelligent discussion. For example, he said, recent studies have shown that only three regions – National Capital Region, Central Luzon, and Southern Tagalog — can stand on their own under a federal form of government.

What will happen is, instead of allowing equal opportunities for development for the proposed states or regions, federalism might even stunt growth for many of the regions and for the entire country.

With political dynasties firmly entrenched in most of the proposed states under the draft Constitution submitted recently to Duterte by the Constitutional Commission he had formed just a few months ago, federalism could breed new or entrench old political dynasties. And it could easily transform into feudalism, instead of just federalism, with local politicians becoming feudal lords in their own fiefdoms.

This would spawn more private armies, more warlords, more expensive elections and wider opportunities for graft and corruption with the creation of new public offices. And more political killings, for sure, as politicians fight it over for rule of their own kingdom. I can imagine confusion as courts decide which falls under state or federal offenses.

Proponents of federalism point to countries such as the United States, Malaysia, Germany and Australia as examples of highly successful federal countries. But they fail to mention that these countries did not start as one nation but actually started as separate and independent states before they

transformed themselves into one nation. It's the reverse with what they want to do here, which is to transform one single state into separate autonomous states.

Proponents of federalism also fail to mention that contrary to economic growth that they are peddling, many federated countries have failed miserably, such as Brazil and Mexico. Senior economist Victor Abola, also of University of Asia and Pacific, said these two federal countries had the highest inflation in Latin America "because the federal state is not strong enough to control the local states."

We don't have to go far to cite an example of the failure of granting autonomy to various regions. We have had a brief look at having an autonomous state in the failed experiment called the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARRM) that only spawned a stronger, abusive political dynasty in the Ampatuan clan, an even chaotic governance, and an economy that insured the ARRM became the poorest region in the country.

Despite years of discussion, federalism is an issue that remains strange to millions of Filipinos. A survey by Pulse Asia last month found that 69 percent of those surveyed had "little to no knowledge" of the proposed federal form of government while only 31 percent said they knew a "great deal to sufficient."

The study also found that 67 percent of Filipinos opposed charter change against 18 percent who favored it, and 14 percent who didn't know and couldn't answer. The same survey found that 62 percent of Filipinos were not in favor of replacing the present unitary system of government with a federal one.

The same survey showed 62 percent of Filipinos saying they were not in favor of replacing the present unitary system of government with a federal one. Of this figure, 34 percent said the system of government shouldn't be changed "now or any

other time," while 28 percent said it might be changed "sometime in the future," but now now, obviously believing that the country is not ready for it.

The proposed constitutional amendments would bring an abrupt change to a system that Filipinos have been accustomed to for decades and which, with proper governance, can bring the same or even better results. And besides, surveys after surveys have shown that there is no popular clamor for charter change nor for federalism. Why the rush then?

Duterte's allies in Congress want to force its approval by convening a constituent assembly to tackle the draft constitution that seeks, among other things, a shift to parliamentary government and an end to term limits. Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, an ally of Duterte, warned of a plot to make this move during the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA) where the Senate and the House of Representatives would be convened in joint session.

Zubiri said most of, if not all, the senators would walk out if the House leaders, led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, call for constituent assembly during the SONA joint session. Alvarez and other House leaders want the two chambers to vote as one, and with the Senate outnumbered by the Duterte-controlled House, the latter could easily force the passage of the draft Constitution.

The congressmen can also adopt a proposal by Alvarez to postpone the mid-term elections next year that ensures a supermajority by Duterte allies for the next three years and beyond, and possibly the extension of Duterte's term by 10 more years.

With their actions, Duterte's allies have exposed the true reason for the rush to a shift to federalism. It's all about power, after all. (valabelgas@aol.com)

Nine Fantastic FilCans File for Elective Posts in the Greater Toronto Area

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The dust has barely settled and the smoke had just snapped out, as they said, in the recently - held June 7th Ontario provincial election and now, 9 courageous but ambitious Filipino Canadians have entered the political arena for the coming city civic elections in Canada's premier province. The fantastic nine, as reported, have declared their respective candidacies for civic positions in the scheduled October 22nd, 2018 municipal election in the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario. Comparatively, the number of candidates is fewer this time than in the 2014 election, as 14 FilCans ran for municipal posts then.

Yes, dear kababayans. The coming-up generation of fellow Pinoys running for elective office at this point in time are Benjamin Abis, Randy Bucio, Alex Chiu, Paulina Corpuz, Marlene

Mogado, Miles Roque, Luz Del Rosario, Rowena Santos, and Garry Tanuan. In terms of elective civic posts, of the nine candidates, 6 are seeking for Councillor position and three are for School Board Trustees. Thus, out of the "lucky 9" politicians, three are reelectionists, 4 are new nominees while two are come - backing candidates.

Meeting the challenges, Philippine - educated lawyer Benjamin Abis is vying for Trustee of Etobicoke's Ward 1 of the Toronto Catholic District School Board- TCDSB. Randy Bucio, a Philippine-trained mechanical engineer and telecom cabling expert in Canada is seeking the Councilor position for Toronto's Ward 40 - Scarborough Centre area. Long-serving Tsinoy Councillor Alex Chiu is going for his 11th term as Markham alderman for Ward 8 while community leader and social-cause advocate Paulina Corpuz, has declared her candidacy for Councillor in Toronto's Ward 39. Marlene Mogado, 3-term YCDSB Trustee is stepping up to the next level to become a city councillor for Markham's Ward 5. Second generation FilCan Miles Roque is running for Ward 1 Councillor in the

City of Mississauga. Twice- elected Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board Trustee Luz Del Rosario is going for her reelection in Wards 6 & 11. A former Toronto Council candidate in 2006, Rowena Santos will do her best to bag the Wards 1 & 5 Councillor post in Brampton. After serving faithfully for almost 2 terms, faith-focused leader Garry Tanuan is seeking reelection as TCDSB Trustee for Scarborough's Ward 8.

In respect of political candidacy experience, R. Bucio, P. Corpuz and R. Santos are taking their "second chances"..... with Randy Bucio as a former Council candidate for York Centre, and Paulina Corpuz for TCDSB trustee in the 2014 municipal election and Rowena Santos, for Toronto Councillor in 2006. This is the first attempt for Catholic community leader Ben Abis to get into school board politics while Miles Roque and Marlene Mogado are vying for Councillor for the first time too. Running for reelection are Markham Councillor Alex Chiu and Dufferin and Toronto Catholic school board trustees Luz Del Rosario and Garry Tanuan, respectively. .

All the FilCan political candidates are well- qualified, have solid professional backgrounds & experience and strong advocacy & volunteer service in their communities, as well. They have demonstrated admirable people skills and divergent foci in working towards helping and organizing initiatives for the "common good". These determined candidates have organized their own campaign teams and are still seeking for more volunteers. When asked, the 9 Pinoys are hoping that if elected each of them pledge to uphold their political platform, goals & aspirations, to engage & advocate for local issues, and to serve as the relevant voice for their respective constituencies as well as the "long voiceless members" of the ever- growing Filipino Canadian community. Let us all support our own kababayan- candidates "for a better tomorrow" in our very discriminating FilCan community. (Tony A. San Juan)



Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by

Al Abdon

Exposure Bracketing

Most common question from a beginner in a photography class is the term "Exposure Bracketing". According to CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY authors, one of the hardest things to perfect in a photo is the exposure, as there are many pieces to bring together for the perfect image. Exposure bracketing allows you to take 3 images at 3 different exposures which gives you the security of knowing that one of them will have captured the light in the best possible way.

So what's the best way to use exposure bracketing, both during the shoot and in post? Here's how a simple camera setting can make sure you capture all the details in a single press of the shutter.

In this guide you will learn:

- What is Bracketing and Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB)?
- When to use use bracketing in photography
- How to manage bracketing in post-processing
- Other types of bracketing: flash bracketing

WHAT IS AEB OR AUTO EXPOSURE BRACKETING?

Exposure bracketing can be done manually by taking a shot, adjusting the exposure compensation or shutter speed and then taking another shot. Manual exposure bracketing makes it easy to customize your bracketing based on the scene by taking more shots for high contrast scenes and fewer shots for low contrast ones. But slight camera movements can make working with the different exposures difficult in post and manual bracketing will slow you down.

Auto exposure bracketing, or AEB, tells the camera to bracket the shot for you, which means that after you turn the feature on, you only need to press the shutter release once to get multiple exposures of the same scene. AEB is included on most advanced cameras and many allow you to customize the number of bracketed shots and the exposure difference between each one.

On the Canon Rebel series, for example, the setting is located inside the menu and referred to as AEB or bracketing. Canon allows users to adjust how much the exposure varies between each shot, but the Rebels only take three bracketed shots.

The Nikon D7200 has the bracketing feature as a shortcut marked "BKT" towards the lens barrel and turning the front and back control dials adjusts both the exposure compensation between each shot and the number of

shots, up to five. Nikons without the shortcut button usually have the feature



Minus 1 stop exposure

inside the menu.

So how much should you bracket? A 1/3 exposure compensation is the default on many cameras, creating slight exposure differences between shots. The 1/3 is a good setting to use if you are fairly confident about your exposure and for most scenes.

If the scene has a high level of contrast, or you're just really not sure that your exposure settings are even in the right ballpark, adding to the number of bracketed shots or setting a higher exposure compensation value



Plus = exposure

increases the exposure range the camera captures for a wider range to choose from later.

AEB is a simple way to bracket — the trickiest part is just finding out where the setting is located on your particular camera model. And for that, there's exploration, the camera manual, Camera Fast Start classes, or of course, Google.

SHOULD YOU USE PHOTO BRACKETING ALL THE TIME?

Exposure bracketing is a helpful technique for getting that exposure dead-on. Using AEB is a quick, efficient way of taking advantage of the method. But, while those shots are one right after another, the slight delay may not be for every shooting scenario. If you're shooting sports using burst mode, you'll have three different

exposure values mixed into that burst, which could mean that the shot with the right timing has the wrong exposure. Using AEB also means you'll be shooting three times the number of photos in about the same amount of time. That means your SD card will fill up three times faster and, if you don't go through and delete the exposures you don't need, your hard drive will fill up quickly as well.

When detail is paramount and the exposure is tricky, AEB helps ensure you leave the shoot with the shots you need. While great for a number of applications such as landscape photography and street photography,

an incredible technique for high contrast scenes, it's also easy to overdo. With AEB, however, you have the data to choose whether dodging and burning or a full HDR merge will get you closest to the look you are going for.

IS EXPOSURE THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE BRACKETED?

Actually, no. Exposure is the most popular type of bracketing and a feature that's included on most advanced cameras. Bracketing a flash to adjust the intensity of the light with each shot can be just as helpful, or even more so, since manual flash involves a bit more guesswork than choosing exposure settings based on the light meter. Too much flash often means odd shadows, but too little doesn't grab enough of the details. Auto flash bracketing is a viable solution if you're not confident in your settings or if you need to move along quickly without checking the shot.

Setting flash exposure bracketing (FEB) is very similar to AEB, except the setting may be located in a different spot. For Nikon shooters, for example, FEB is inside the custom menu under Exposure/Flash, including the option to switch from just bracketing the ambient light, or bracketing with the flash. Some hot shoe flashes also have their own FEB options, including Canon Speedlites. Both will allow you to adjust the difference between the shot in stops, just like with exposure bracketing.

Some cameras will also adjust settings outside of exposure and flash in a bracketed series, though these settings are often less useful than exposure and flash bracketing. Nikon, for example, allows for white balance bracketing. Since shooting in RAW allows you to adjust the white balance later anyways, this setting is less helpful.



Normal exposure

If the third time's a charm, bracketing helps guarantee a charming shot by automatically taking shots with three different settings. Exposure bracketing helps photographers grab the ideal exposure while out shooting — but it also makes post processing techniques possible using more data from multiple images. While auto exposure bracketing is the most popular, flash bracketing can help flash newbies perfect the art of blending a flash with the ambient light.

Bracketing can be done at post but that is cheating and you lose a lot of pixels by adjusting primary colors and tone. To play safe use bracketing with your apertures and you cannot go wrong.

Happy Shooting guys,

Al Abdon
Hollywood Junkies

Minister Hussen meets with European partners to discuss Canada's immigration advantage

July 24, 2018 – Ottawa, ON – The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, completed a successful week long visit to the United Kingdom (U.K.), Belgium and Germany, where he met with key European partners and stakeholders to discuss global migration trends and speak to how Canada is growing our economy through diversity and immigration.

Minister Hussen highlighted immigration as a powerful economic tool as he led a fireside chat at the University of Oxford, provided the keynote address at a luncheon with the Canada U.K. Chamber of Commerce, delivered a speech at the London School of Economics and participated in a roundtable discussion with U.K. businesses that have invested in Canada. Through these events, the Minister outlined how Canada's multi year levels plan and economic programs work to attract top talent to help grow Canada's economy and meet labour shortages, which are a result of our aging population. The Minister encouraged European leaders and employers to look to immigrants for their innovative perspectives,

entrepreneurial spirit, global experience and unique skill sets.

Canada's humanitarian commitment to refugees was also a key discussion point throughout the trip. During a meeting with the Honourable Sajid Javid, Home Secretary of the U.K., Minister Hussen applauded the leadership the U.K. has shown in piloting a community based refugee sponsorship program. Minister Hussen also thanked the U.K. for co hosting the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) Technical Workshop in May 2018 and for supporting the growth of the GRSI.

In Germany, Minister Hussen met with officials from various levels of government, which included bilateral meetings with cabinet members of the German government who are involved in migration issues. The meetings were positive, and Minister Hussen thanked Germany for its leadership in dealing with migration challenges in Europe. While in Berlin, Minister Hussen also had the opportunity to visit the ReDI School of Digital Integration and meet with officials from the betterplace lab, Kiron Open Higher Education, GoVolunteer.ca and Wefugees to learn



Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

other innovative solutions being developed to facilitate the integration of refugees and newcomers.

Minister Hussen led Canada's delegation to the Somalia Partnership Forum on behalf of his colleague, the Honourable Marie Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development, and participated in bilateral meetings with African officials, including the President of Somalia and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General to Somalia, to engage with them on matters of mutual interest.

Quote

"Canada offers the world a great example of how different groups of people can successfully live and work together, while contributing to great prosperity and social harmony. With populism and xenophobia on the rise in many places in the world, I am grateful for the opportunity to share Canada's positive experiences of diversity and immigration."

– The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Associated links

- The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative
- Joint Statement – Ministers from Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Argentina, Spain and New Zealand underline their support for community based refugee sponsorship in advance of the 2018 United Nations General Assembly and agreement on the Global Compact on Refugees
- Somalia Partnership Forum

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Martin Nievera LIVE in Toronto ! at Mabuhay Philippines Festival on August 25th

PIDC Media Bulletin :

Martin Nievera, widely known as the Philippine concert king, will headline the TFC Hour on August 25, 2018, Saturday, at Nathan Phillips

Square, City Hall, Queen Street West, Toronto. The live show is in celebration of the 20th platinum anniversary of Mabuhay Philippines Festival, a signature summer event



of the Philippine Independence Day Council - PIDC.

The popular Filipino singer, songwriter and actor is billed to perform at the centre stage of Nathan Phillips Square as part of TFC's Sama Saya event series upon invitation by ABS-CBN North America. Nievera, is one of the main hosts of the musical variety show ASAP on the ABS-CBN network in the Philippines. His music genre includes OPM-Original Pilipino Music, pop and soft rock.

Among his popular songs are: "Be My Lady", "Kahit Isang Saglit" "Say That You Love Me", "You Are My Song", "Forever", "Himig ng Damdamin" and a lot more. He has appeared as an actor in a dozen movies, hosted numerous television shows and performed in several successful Philippine & international concerts.

February-born Martin Ramon

Razon Nievera, whose father was the equally famous balladeer Bert Nievera, spent his childhood in Hawaii and California and came to the Philippines in the 1980s. In his entire career, Martin, has garnered numerous music awards including 18 platinum, 5 double platinum, 3 triple platinum and one quadruple platinum albums.

The ABS-CBN TFC Hour is being held in partnership and cooperation with the Filipino Canadian community's iconic Philippine Independence Day Council-PIDC whose main goal is to promote and showcase Philippine culture, heritage, arts and charity in Canada. (by: Tony A. San Juan).

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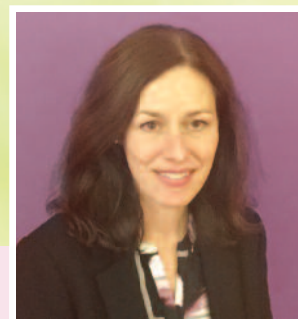
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Pinoy Beef Salpicao

Ingredients:
1½ lbs beef sirloin (or tenderloin), cubed
3 tablespoons garlic, minced
1 teaspoon salt
⅛ cup butter
3 tablespoons olive oil

½ teaspoon ground black pepper
5 tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
2 tablespoons oyster sauce
Instructions
Combine the beef, salt, pepper, and garlic then mix well. Let stand for 10 minutes.
Add the olive oil and marinate for at least 30 minutes.
Apply high heat on a pan then put-in the combined ingredients once the pan is hot enough.
Sear the beef until the color of the outer part turns brown. Try to toss the beef while searing so that all sides are uniformly cooked.
Add the oyster sauce and Worcestershire sauce and continue tossing until the liquid dries up.
Put-in the butter and cook for 2 to 3 minutes more.
Transfer to a serving plate.
Serve hot. Share and enjoy!



Igado (Pork stir fry)

Ingredients
1 pound pork tenderloin, cut into ½ inch strips
½ cup vinegar
¼ cup soy sauce
1 small onion, peeled and sliced thinly
4 to 5 garlic, peeled and minced
2 bay leaves
8 to 10 pepper corns, cracked
1 tablespoon oil
1 small red bell pepper, cored, seed and sliced into strips
1 cup water
1 pound liver, cut into ½ inch strips
½ cup frozen green peas, thawed
salt to taste
Instructions
In a bowl, combine pork strips, vinegar, soy sauce, onions, garlic, bay leaves and pepper corns. Marinate for about 1 hour. Drain meat from marinade, squeezing excess liquid. Reserve marinade and aromatics.
In a pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add bell peppers and cook for about 30 seconds. Remove from pot and set aside.

Add the marinated pork including aromatics and cook, stirring occasionally, until pork lightly browns and onions and garlic are limp and aromatic.
Add reserved marinade and water and bring to a boil, uncovered and without stirring, for about 4 to 5 minutes. Lower heat, cover and simmer for about 25 to 30 minutes or until pork is tender and liquid is reduced. Add liver, stirring gently to combine, and continue to cook for about 4 to 5 minutes or until liver is cooked through and sauce is thickened. Add green peas and bell peppers and continue to cook for about 2 to 3 minutes or until peas are heated through and bell peppers are tender yet crisp. Season with salt to taste. Serve hot.



Pinoy Chicken Curry

¼ cup oil
2 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
2 large carrots, peeled and cubed
1 small onion, peeled and chopped
2 to 3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
1 (3 to 4 pounds) whole chicken, cut into serving parts
1 tablespoon fish sauce
2 cups coconut milk
1 cup water
½ green bell pepper, seeded and cut into cubes
½ red bell pepper, seeded and cut into cubes
2 tablespoons curry powder
salt to taste
In a pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add potatoes and cook for about 3 to 4 minutes or until lightly browned and tender. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels. Add carrots and

cook for about 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels. Remove excess oil from pot, leaving about 1 tablespoon. Add onions and garlic and cook until limp and aromatic. Add chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 7 to 8 minutes or until chicken changes color and juices run clear. Add fish sauce and continue to cook for about 2 to 3 minutes.
Add coconut milk and water. Bring to a simmer. Lower heat, cover and continue to cook for about 25 to 30 minutes or until chicken is fully cooked. Add potatoes and carrots and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes or until fork-tender.
Add curry powder and cook, stirring to combine, for about 3 to 5 minutes or until sauce starts to thicken. Season with salt to taste. Add bell peppers and cook for about 1 minute or until tender yet crisp. Serve hot.



Siopao (Stuffed bun)

cup warm water
1/4 cup + 1 tablespoon sugar
1 pouch instant dry yeast
2 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tablespoon baking powder
3 tablespoons shortening or vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
Chicken Asado Filling
US Customary - Metric
Instructions
In a bowl, mix together the warm water, 1 Tbsp of sugar and yeast. Let stand for 5 minutes.
In a big bowl, combine the flour, rest of sugar and baking powder. Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and the 3 Tbsp shortening. Mix well until a dough forms. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead the dough for 5 minutes or until smooth and elastic. Coat the dough with oil and place in a bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let the dough rise for an hour or until it doubled in size.
Punch the dough down and turn it out onto a floured surface. Roll into a log and divide into 8-10 equal portions. Form one into a ball and then using hand of rolling pin flatten it into about 4-5 inch circle leaving a small bulge in the middle. Scoop a tablespoon of filling and place it in the middle. Gather the ends towards the middle from one side until you reach the other end closing the filling in. Pinch and twist to seal the ends together o top. Repeat with the remaining dough balls. Let them rest for 5-10 minutes. Before steaming, put a piece of parchment or wax paper at the bottom of each bun. Place the buns in the steamer leaving at least an each apart as they will rise and spread while steaming. Steam for 15 minutes. Turn off the steamer or remove from heat and let it stay closed for 5 minutes before removing the cover.
Let the buns cool a bit before serving

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Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Cariño

The month of June came and went like a passing breeze. Perhaps this was precipitated by the formation of yet another Filipino organization. This was conceived by Snowdon City Councillor Marvin Rotrand. He initiated and proposed to the city council that the month of June every year be declared and known as Filipino Heritage Montreal (FHM), since most organizational celebrations are held every June. An ad hoc committee was formed in early April 2018 and the committee - although there are no elected officers yet - has seen the salvo of seven activities in the month of June. June 3 - Opening Day at 6767 Cote des Neiges, Montreal

June 9 - Philippine Independence Ball at Holiday Inn, Cote de Liesse

June 12 - Philippine Independence Day Flag Raising at FAMAS

June 16 - Dr. Jose Rizal Birth Anniversary celebration at Rizal Monument, MacKenzie King Park

June 17 - Philippine Independence Day Parade & Celebration with cultural presentation at Mackenzie King Park

June 23 - Coronation of Miss Heritage 2018 by Filipino Golden Agers (FILGA) at St. Malachy's.

Special guests were Hon. Anthony Housefather who crowned the winner, Sonny Moros, and Councilor for Darlington District, Lionel Perez.

June 30 - Closing and Appreciation to participants, sponsors and donors, Arts and Crafts display, Sports & Cultural presentations

Jesus Is Lord (JIL) Pastor Donald Barrientos and JIL members Joey Sanchez and Evelyn Sanchez attended a meeting given by the Government of Canada Day Parade Committee before July 1, 2018. This involved the time, place, and order of the parade. This group, our friends from JIL church, is active in the Filipino community activities. They participated in the July 17, 2018 Independence Day Parade at the Mackenzie King Park where Pastor Donald Barrientos gave the Invocation. Thank you for your participation and hope to see more of JIL in future Filipino activities!

The following members of the "Dragon Fireworks" representing the Philippines in the Firework Competition and will be performing at La Ronde on July 21, 2018 are: Stephen Ong (Quezon City), Hans Emerson (QC), Joseph Velose (QC), Vander Tenedero (QC), Utay Turingam (Abeza Province), Edward Ilagan (Batangas), Don Miguel Villarosa Rosa (QC), Oliver Zeng (Valenzuela), Marlon Villangca (Bulacan), Rolando Panuncial (Bulacan), and Michael Mendoza (Bulacan).

For those who were unable to watch the Canada Day Parade, here

were the participating organizations with their beautifully decorated floats: Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ), Salinggawi, Pinoy Pa Rin, Association of Filipino Seniors of Quebec (AFSQ), Ati-atihan, Flores de Mayo, Jesus is Lord, FAMAS, LGBTQ, Catholic Women's League, Little Miss Maria Clara, Munting Binibini 2017, Kapampangan Association of Montreal, Munting Hiyas, Munting Lakan, and Munting Mutya ng Pilipinas.

Another group of Knights of Rizal was formed recently in Montreal. It was organized last March 3, 2018 and the chapter name is Mackenzie Central Chapter. It is chartered under Philippine Republic Act No.646. Officers elected are the following: Sir Ramon Posadas (Chapter Commander), Sir Julius Abad (Deputy Commander), Sir Rolando Villanueva (Chancellor), Sir Menard Esmeralda (Deputy Chancellor), Sir Benjamin Balaus (Pursuivant), Sir Angelito Posadas (Deputy Pursuivant), Sir James Menzi (Exchequer), Sir Nestor Deladia (Deputy Exchequer), Sir Venerando Pegano (Archivist), Sir Eduardo Escobia (Deputy Archivist), Sir Rowel Pangilinan (Auditor), Sir Reuben Mendoza (Deputy Auditor), and Sir Angelito Manuel, Sir William Pasion, Sir Mario Pantaleon, Sir Hermegilio Villa, and Sir Reynaldo Abaya (Trustees).

News from Tri-City Event! The usual tri-city sports fest at Long Sault last July 7, 2018 was represented by Kingston, Ottawa, and Montreal. Montreal representative/coordinator Ed Vasquez saw to it that everything went well. If some organizations plan to join the tri-city games, just give Ed Vasquez a shout and he'll do everything to let you in. This year, Manny Lagasca, President of the Chess Organization of Montreal, happily reported that they won the chess tournament! They went against players from Kingston and Ottawa. There were two entries from Montreal. Another was represented by the Filipino Canadian Association of West Island (FCAWI) led by their president Ador Bolusan. In the end, Montreal bested their rivals. Diosdado Ilustre, the Montreal Champion, received his trophy from Games Coordinator Ed Vasquez.

June 23, 2018 was the FILGA's Coronation of the 1st Ms. Filipino Heritage Montreal (FHM) 2018. Amy Chantengco, an adviser of the Bicol Club Association, did the honors of proclaiming the winner and her court. In contrast to the younger generation's version of beauty contests, this event was mainly centered on showing the cultural heritage of the Filipino people. Our history is rich in songs, native dances, costumes, Filipino dishes,

customs, sports...etc. Excitement began when the candidates paraded in their lovely gowns. They went around displaying their best smiles as they were accompanied by their escorts. The judges Elle Israel (Commissioner 2007-2014, English Montreal School Board) and Raquel Indio (Esthetician and Hairdresser) declared the following winners: Third Runner-up Marilou Bernas is half Chinese (father) and half Filipino (mother) and has two grownup daughters; the first is a lawyer and the second is finishing her CEGEP studies. Marilou, a supervisor at a McDonald franchise, also speaks five languages: Italian, Arabic, French, English, and Tagalog - WOW! Second Runner-up was awarded to Cathy Mae Pelleja, who has two daughters, Tamara and Claudine. When Cathy Mae attended the University of Negros Occidental Recollectos in the Philippines, she won the title of Miss Bar Tender Designer/Layout Category. At the moment, she is attending Adult Education classes at Lasalle College in Montreal, specializing in Make Up. Beauty is her passion, really! She also bagged the Best in Filipiniana Gown Award! First Runner-up went to Raquel Trinidad, from Aklan, who has 5-year old Ranishka Elion and 9-year old ROnnell Dwayne. In joining the contest, Raquel has stated, "This is my hope. When my children and other Filipino children grow up, that they will keep our cultural values, and will keep the importance of respect and to observe our traditions. I hope they will be proud of who they are of who they are and where they come from." Raquel was also the recipient of two special awards: Ms. Popularity and Ms. Charity. Congratulations on your double special awards! And ... the highlight of the evening was the Coronation of the 1st FHM 2018, Trinidad Jimenez! Trinidad has 5 children (Jerald Hans, Aldrin, Christian John, Julius Dinar, and Maria Christina. Trinidad is not new to contests such as this. Her previous profile includes Miss UPS Independence 2016, Miss Pangasinan 2014, and Miss Valentine Goddess of Love 2002. The real excitement of the evening was the Royal Walk Parade of the first FHM 2018 and Her Court! Trinidad, draped in a black formal gown decorated with multicoloured sequins, was escorted by Alfredo Erquisa. Raquel Trinidad, in an off-white ensemble with attractive flower

printouts at the front, was escorted by Romeo Talabocon. Cathy Mae Pellejo, lovely in a multi-layered off-white ruffles, was escorted by Mark Fernando. Marilou Bernas, in a shimmering gold bouffant formal, was escorted by Demetre Trevlos. Well, that was a happy gathering, with great entertainment and hot music! Behind the delightful extravaganza was FILGA President Lilia Esguera and her Executive Board (Rolando Salvador, Carmelita Quizon, Josefa Nicolas, Tina Datu Lee, Sylvia Lemaire, Dodie Salazar, Nely Salvador, Caridad Josue, Valent Lloyd Hughes, Roberto Salazar, Lea Musa, Cathy Escano, Nellie Aguilar, and Sheldon Cohen.

The summer time Social Bingo was held by the (FFCAQ) last July 8, 2018. It was held at the Center des Ressources Communautaire (CRC) on 6767 Cote des Neiges, Montreal. Their flyer read, "Win Cash and Prizes!" There was a good turnout despite the fact that several groups went to the Casino that day. According to FFCAQ President Minda Mazzone and some Executive Members (Al Abdon, Jovy Narvas, Cristy Hunter, Alvin Allana, Remy Reyes, Warlie Basbacio, Nenita Licayao, Nick Mazzone, Ed Tupaz, Tess Tupaz) and many others were happy with their bounty for the afternoon. Adoree Silva, Tess Tupaz, Nick Mazzone were some of the winners.

A very deserving party at the Centennial Park in Dollard des Ormeaux was given for one of the tireless members of the Seniors of the West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) last Thursday, July 17, 2018. Everyone did not expect such a crowd but Ike, "being our dear Ike" is worth it all. We are bingo enthusiasts and every Wednesday and in all occasions, Ike ALWAYS has the place ready. Chairman Roger Ajero saw to it that everyone had fun with his one-liners and Felix Salazar brought his 1950 songs. After a very hearty lunch, we relaxed with Ike's birthday cake. This was followed by our favorite "Bingo". Somewhere nearby, Chairman Ajero led a bad habit in the name of mahjong. Everyone had fun! Chit, Ike's charming wife, was all smiles! Happy Birthday again, Ike! This is just one of our ways of saying "Thank you for your extra loving service to our SWIS" !!!

God Bless You and see you next issue.



Pista sa Nasyon, July 15, 2018 - Sandra Wong (2nd from the left) poses with Trans Liganor, Monica Ragacho, Nenita Licayao and her friend.

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Sarah Geronimo turns 30, receives sweet message from BF Matteo Guidicelli



Matteo Guidicelli & Sarah Geronimo

Since a showbiz career is It's rare to see pop superstar Sarah Geronimo and boyfriend Matteo Guidicelli posting photos and clips of each other on social media. Geronimo first admitted Guidicelli was her boyfriend back in 2014, but despite being together for four years now, the two have chosen privacy over exposure when it comes to their relationship.

But it seems birthdays are an exception, as Guidicelli took to social media recently to write a sweet message for his Geronimo, who hit the big 30 on Wednesday, July 25.

Guidicelli shared on Instagram Wednesday a photo of him and Geronimo. It was a picture of a pair of sunglasses, with both of their faces reflected on the lens.

He also gave her his birthday wish, saying, "I wish you all the happiness in the whole world because you deserve it all."

Guidicelli's post was lapped up by his million-strong followers, garnering a hundred thousand likes in a day.

It's unknown how Geronimo celebrated her 30th birthday. But when Guidicelli marked his 28th birthday last March, he and Geronimo celebrated it in the company of their loved ones. Many attended his bash, such as brothers Rowell and Randy Santiago, Kapamilya star Sofia Andres and doctors-to-the-stars Vicki Belo and Hayden Kho.

Geronimo and Guidicelli also jammed together that night and had a



"Happy birthday my love! Thank you for understanding me and loving me with a pure heart, it means so much. Words just can't explain... I wish you all the happiness in the whole world because you deserve it all." From Matteo's Instagram

"Happy birthday my love!" Guidicelli wrote. "Thank you for understanding me and loving me with a pure heart, it means so much. Words just can't explain..."

duet, and were even pictured locked in an embrace.

Perhaps this time around they had another duet? ■

Gerald Anderson: BeaRald still 'on'



Gerald Anderson and Bea Alonzo, also fondly called "BeaRald," at the 2017 Star Magic Ball.

Months after Kapamilya actress Bea Alonzo said she and Kapamilya actor Gerald Anderson are no longer a couple, Gerald said there is no reason to move on.

In a Skechers event last week where he is an endorser, Gerald said: "Okay naman kami. Wala namang move on na dapat gawin. Nagulat ako sa tanong mo ha," Gerald said while laughing.

Basketball League (MPBL), will be leading the inaugural Skechers Performance Run at SM By the Bay, MOA Complex.

The race has three categories: 5k, 10k, and 21k distances to cater to both beginners and seasoned runners. Registration is ongoing online and in select stores across the metro.

Gerald said his teammates as well as their coaches will run in the



"Trixie" with Gerald Anderson, Bea Alonzo

Reports say Gerald and Bea did not really break up, but this has not been officially confirmed by the actors.

Recently, photos of the couple reportedly spending time together at a zoo surfaced on social media. User @bearald_rock posted pictures of the couple enjoying the zoo and interacting with animals. The photos reportedly were a repost from Jen A., who is allegedly Gerald's sister.

Gerald, who is doing a new teleserye under ABS-CBN and a basketball player of Marikina Shoemasters at the Maharlika Pilipinas

event for them to have a bonding. He refused to tell if Bea will be running alongside them.

He has yet to make a debut on the hard court due to a hamstring injury, but he said he is doing fine now, so he hopes to play and help his team soon.

The actor also looks forward to meet Xian Lim in the court. Xian plays for the MPBL team Mandaluyong El Tigre. Xian logged six points and six rebounds in 15 minutes of play during his debut. ■

Kris Aquino makes peace with brother Noynoy



Kris Aquino (left) and former Philippine Pres. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III

“Queen of All Media” Kris Aquino opened up about her misunderstanding with her brother, former President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III.

In a lengthy Instagram post reposted on Twitter, Kris shared photos of her oldest son Josh lying on the hospital bed with the former president standing beside him.

In the note accompanying the photo, Kris admitted she and Noy have a “complicated relationship.”

“I chose to live my life openly- kaya nga maraming pwedeng humusga, pero na bless kasi marami rin ang nagmamahal... with true HUMILITY i will share our story & hope that some of you will

learn from our journey,” she began her post.

and side with their mom. But now that Josh is in the hospital, she had to humble herself and text Noy for him to visit Josh.

“Naipit yung 2 boys ko- alam nilang di okay kaya pinili na wag dumalaw at wag iwan si mama... Ang pinaka nag suffer si kuya josh. Sa bawat pag ospital- si titong Noy was always there. Kinapalan ko po ang mukha ko today- nag text ako. Umamin na alam kong na hurt ko sya pero nakiusap- KAILANGAN sya ni kuya josh. My son needed him- the ONLY constant male figure in his life.”

Kris also said that just like any other Filipino family, theirs is the same, willing to set aside any misunderstanding for the sake of family.

“From afar, i took this picture. Sharing w/ you because ito kami- PAMILYA na kagaya nyong lahat. Kayang isantabi lahat ng tampuhan dahil hindi mag iiwanan- gagawin ang lahat sa oras ng pangangailangan- dahil may isang “special” na batang inosente na kukuha ng lakas sa pagmamahal ng titong Noy at mama nya.”

Although Noy is not active on social media, Kris also posted what



Former President Benigno “NoyNoy” Aquino III visiting nephew Josh at hospital.

“My brother & i have had a complicated relationship, siguro po kasi only son & middle child sya, bunso ako. Siguro rin kasi aminadong opposites talaga kami- tahimik sya, pribado, iniisip mabuti ang bawat galaw. Alam nyo na kung ano ako. Dahil #satruelang, 3 months po kaming hindi okay. Kasalanan ko po yun...” she added.

Kris said her two sons Josh and Bimby were caught in the middle of her rift with Noy, which is why they chose not to see their uncle

she said to his brother in the hospital.

“THANK YOU for LOVING JOSH ENOUGH to be here when he really needed you. This is for all of you to get to know the real man, the true NOY AQUINO who is so deserving of RESPECT & ADMIRATION, galing po sa hindi perpekto pero totoong bunsong kapatid, na si kris aquino. ??? (thank you Mom, from heaven i know you made this possible.)” ■

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

Zsa Zsa Padilla remembers King of Comedy Dolphy on his birthday



**“When I think back on these times
And the dreams we left behind
I'll be glad 'cause I was blessed to get to have you in my life
When I look back on these days
I'll look and see your face
You were right there for me
In my dreams I'll always see you soar above the sky
In my heart there'll always be a place for you
For all my life
I'll keep a part of you with me
And everywhere I am there you'll be
And everywhere I am there you'll be
Happy birthday ♥”**

(From Zsa Zsa Padilla's Instagram)

Although she has moved on and has found new romance, Zsa Zsa Padilla has never forgotten her love for the late King of Comedy, Dolphy.

The Divine Diva visited the late comedian's grave at The Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig yesterday, July 25, on what would have been his 90th birthday.

Padilla posed by Dolphy's grave as she wore an all black outfit. In her greeting, she quoted lyrics from Faith Hill's song “There You'll Be”.

Fans flooded Padilla's post with greetings and recollections of Dolphy. Notable celebrities like Roderick Paulate, Joseph Marco,

Ogie Alcasid and Vina Morales also wrote their greetings.

Dolphy and Padilla were together for 23 years. They had a biological daughter Zia, and adopted another daughter Nicole, during the span of their relationship. The comedian passed away in 2012 due to complications from pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Padilla has since been engaged to architect Conrad Onglao. In 2016, they called off their engagement, but had rekindled their romance months later. ■

Bea Alonzo shows support for Zanjoe Marudo at ‘Kusina Kings’ premiere



Bea Alonzo attends the premiere of the movie “Kusina Kings,” which stars ex-boyfriend Zanjoe Marudo.

Kapamilya actress Bea Alonzo proved she had no ill will towards ex-boyfriend Zanjoe Marudo by gracing the premiere of his movie “Kusina Kings,” which he top-bills with breakout comedian Empoy Marquez.

Photos posted by Star Cinema on Instagram show Alonzo appearing at the premiere to support her ex-boyfriend.

Her presence and their public reunion long after their break-up caused crowds to go into “kilig” overload.

In another photo, the two

hugged each other, which made the crowds explode.

In an interview, the actress praised the tandem of Marudo and Marquez.

“Nakakatawa, nakakatuwa ‘yung kombinasyon ni Empoy at ni Zanjoe refreshing sila to see on screen,” she told reporters who caught up with her at the premiere on July 24.

The two have been in a relationship since 2011. It was in



2016 when the actor finally confirmed their breakup in an emotional interview with Boy Abunda.

In the recent media conference for the movie, Marudo said that he had always been OK with the actress even after their breakup. ■

Marian Rivera shares struggles as solo child



Kapuso actress Marian Rivera is looking forward for baby number two with husband Dingdong Dantes.

In a recent Prime Mom Club event held at Prime Hotel Quezon City where she also demonstrated her cooking, Marian said since Zia is already three years old, they are trying to have a new baby.

“Blessed ka na e as a mom na magkaroon ka ng anak, so Lord isa pa. We're trying to have another one kasi sabi ko nga solong anak ako,” the Kapuso actress said.

Since she is turning 34 years old this August, Marian said her birthday wish is to have a second baby with Dingdong.

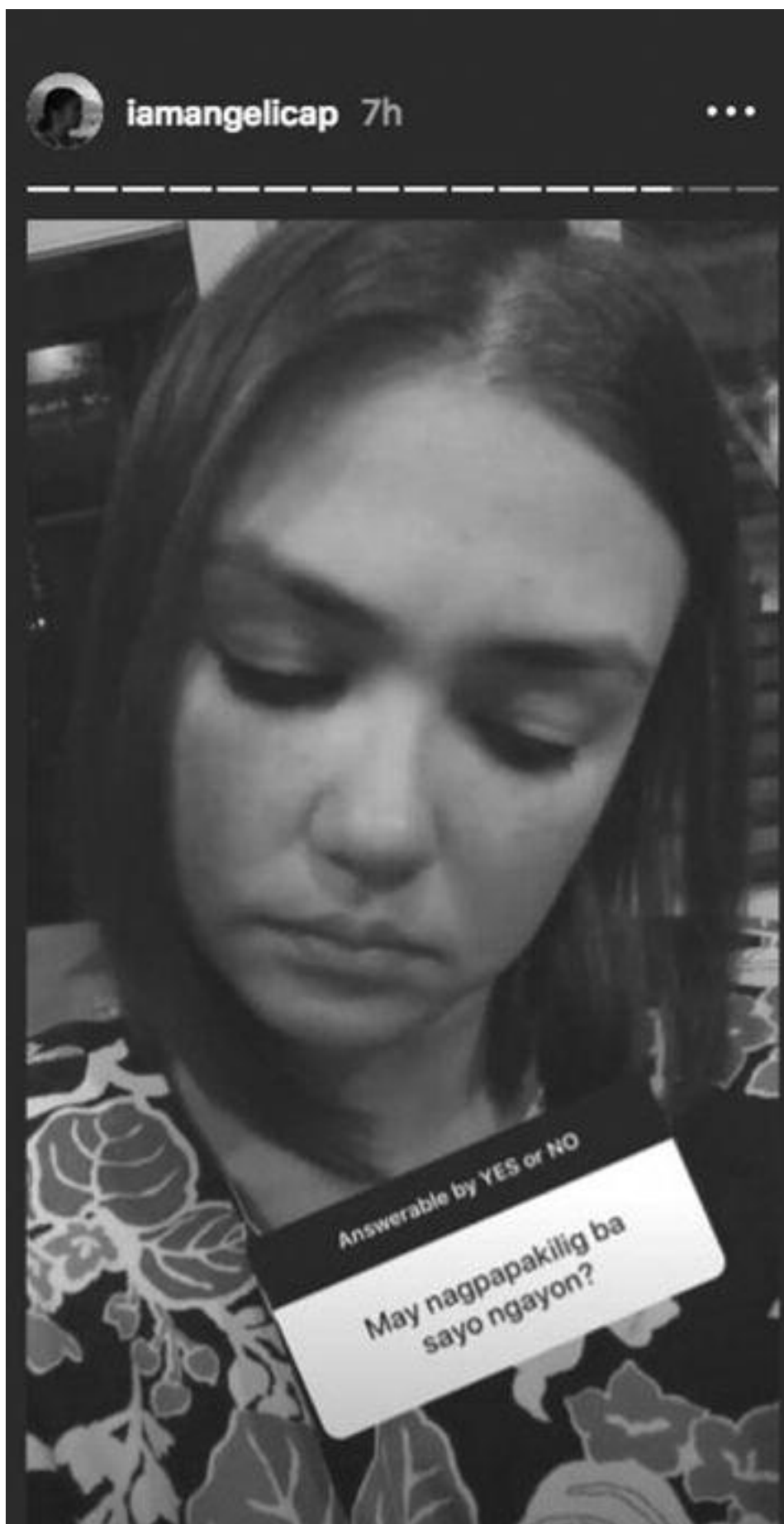
“Sabi ko sa asawa ko meron ka pa pang hindi nabigay, katulad

niyan sa August magbi-birthday na ko. ‘Ano gusto mong gift?’ Bigay mo na. Gusto ko pa. Kailangan madami tayo kasi nga solong anak lang ako, mahirap. Alam ko ‘yung mag-isa lang ako,” she said.

“Diba? Masarap ‘yung malaki, mas madami, mas masaya kayo. So sana ibigay ni Lord ‘yun. Tsaka nang asawa ko. Galingan niya,” she added.

Committed to being a dedicated mom, Marian shared her experiences and cooking to other mothers at the Prime Mom Club, a new and exclusive community by Mega Prime dedicated to helping moms, especially start-up moms, to level up their cooking knowledge and skills. ■

Angelica Panganiban enjoys working with Carlo Aquino but feels no 'kilig'



In answer to their questions, Angelica Panganiban told fans that she enjoyed working with Carlo Aquino again, but said no one is making her kilig at the moment.

Panganiban held another round of Instagram Stories Questions on Wednesday, July 25, entertaining inquiries from fans, which were answerable by only "yes" or "no." The comedienne responded by shooting a short clip where she would simply nod her head up and down, or left and right.

Given the current attention she and Aquino were getting due to their new movie, one of her fans asked whether Panganiban enjoyed working with the actor again. She nodded "yes" with a smile on her face. CarGel fans

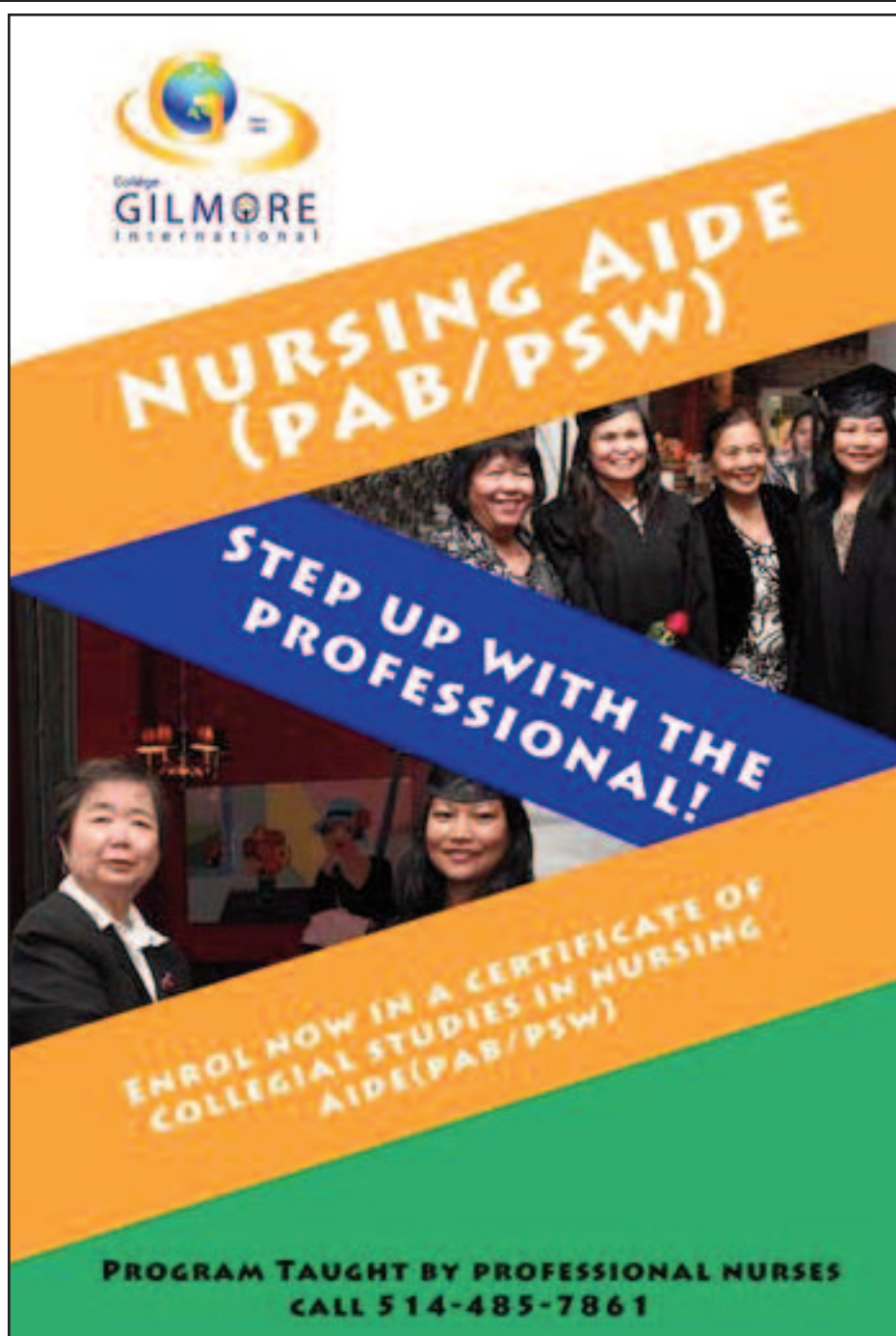
may take this as a good sign for the celebrities to get together if not for a follow-up question.

Another of Panganiban's fans asked whether anyone was making her feel kilig at the moment. For this question, she shook her head to say "no" while wearing a downcast expression.

Panganiban also confirmed that she is currently single and unattached.

Meanwhile, Panganiban confirmed Zanjoe Marudo, another of the men fans are rooting for to get together with the actress, is sweet toward her.

Panganiban and Aquino reunited for the big screen to work on "Exes Baggage," a film by Dan Villegas. ■



Celine Dion in Manila: 'It feels amazing!'



Celine Dion during her recent concert in Manila

Near, far, wherever they were, fans from all over the world braved the storms in Manila on July 19 and 20 to see Celine Dion's first concert in the country, at the Mall of Asia Arena. The five-time Grammy-award winner arrived in Manila on a private jet in the early morning of July 19 and entertained questions from the press under the rain.

"We made it! We finally made it!" Celine exclaimed in the middle of her concert.

"My very first time in the Philippines and it feels amazing!"

"Don't ask me why it took me so long," she enthused. "I don't know. I guess I live too far away."

"But you know what, I'm just so very happy to finally be here with you!" she declared.

"I want to thank you all so much for your patience throughout the years and most of all for being with us tonight. Maraming salamat!"

Related video: Celine Dion in Manila co

During the concert, Celine dazzled the audience with her beauty and lean physique, quick costume changes, fireworks-like lighting, mind-boggling

three-dimensional projected backdrop, live mini orchestra with backup vocals, and of course, her effortless performance of her international number one hits, including "Because You Loved Me," "It's All Coming Back to Me Now," "The Power of Love," "That's the Way It Is," "All by Myself," and "To Love You More." These are the contest pieces that launched the singing careers of many contest champions, including the Philippines' own Sarah Geronimo.

Celine looked like Belle in a black ball gown as she sang the "Beauty and Beast" theme song, which opened doors for her to sing more Hollywood movie soundtracks.

She said the audience should see her more often to see how crazy she is, just like when she narrated how Ryan Reynolds invited her to be part of "Deadpool 2," which opened at number one in the Philippines.

Before singing the movie's theme song, "Ashes," Dion showed her comedic side and acting chops by reenacting her imaginings before opening the letter Ryan sent.

Apart from singing, she showcased how great a dancer she is by

performing tango alongside the sexy "Falling into You."

The concert's repertoire ranged from the melancholic "Recovering" composed by Pink to help Celine move on from her husband Rene Angelil's death; to the mellow "Pour que tu m'aimes," the biggest hit of her French singing career, she said; and to her Vegas party-like covers of Prince's "Kiss" and Tina Turner's "River Deep, Mountain High."

She changed the arrangement of some songs or gave them new treatments, such as a bird-like hum ending.

But of course, Filipinos will not go home (or will be unable to sleep) without hearing the encore, the number one movie soundtrack of all time, "My Heart Will Go On."

For this, instead of the flute entrance, Celine took over the flute

rendered "My Heart Will Go On" exactly as people heard it many times on the radio or on loop in their own playlists, but this time, ending it with a haunting mermaid-like hum.

Her parting piece was an a cappella of the Elvis Presley classic, "Can't Help Falling in Love," which, she said, is what she feels about the Philippines and her Filipino fans.

After watching the show, many fans would agree:

1. Her voice did not age at all even after almost three decades in the industry.
2. She is the only one who can best sing her own songs. Nobody can ever give justice most especially to "My Heart Will Go On."
3. She is among the very few who can sing several quatrains of high notes in one breath!
4. The vast spectrum of her voice, which comes out as natural in her as



Celine Dion joking about how she would arrive in Manila

part and then came out in a jewel-like pink and white gown that made her stand out against a LED screen backdrop projecting underwater images of the sunken Titanic.

Just like her other songs, she

breathing, makes her one of the best, if not the best, singers of all time. As she said, "I'm so passionate about singing. I was born singing!"

5. This first concert in Manila should definitely not be the last! ■

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What is the difference between credit and non-credit courses?

What does one need to work in the business world?

By Zenaida Kharroubi

By this brief overview about the educational system in Quebec, I would like to clarify some terms people often use when inquiring about courses. It seems to me that they always ask whether a course is credited or not without knowing why they have to be and for what purpose. They often associate a credited course to be necessary for studying everything.

To put things in perspective, I have to cite the reason why I did not believe that I should offer credit programs when I first started my own private school in 1989. As I used to teach in public schools and followed a structured curriculum prescribed by the Ministry of Education, I felt that there were components of the syllabus that did not always make sense. For example, the number of hours allocated for each item did not seem reasonable nor warranted. I found the hours too much or too little. In other words, I felt that the curriculum should be reviewed and updated more frequently to be relevant to the real and practical world. I thought there was too much theory which did not always seem useful. Moreover, there were tons of paper work a teacher had to do every term which were time consuming and did not really add anything more than pushing paper to and from the administration.

In the past, anyone who wanted

to offer courses needed a permit from the Ministry of Education. I opted to offer my own courses which I designed out of my experience and idea that in order to be a good employee, one must have courses in psychology, history, current events, stress management, foreign languages, image and personality development, and executive secretarial procedures. My original objective was to set up a finishing school for executive secretaries. But after an advertisement that I placed in the Montreal Gazette, people used to ask if they could get student loans and bursaries. Although I did not want to offer a government prescribed curriculum, I was obliged to apply for another kind of education permit in 1995, six years after operating my school with a self-improvement education permit which was called "formation d'appoint" in French. I understood that funding is only available for credit programs because that is how students can get loans and bursaries but they must study full time. There are rules to be observed to be considered full time. A student also can get a loan only if the parents are not able to finance their children's education. Part time studies are usually not acceptable for funding by the government nor for non-credit courses.

I was able to obtain the permit

in October 1996 and students enrolled in the three AEC programs I offered in Accounting, Secretarial, and International Trade were able to get loans and bursaries. Then the government changed the rules, and only gave student loans. Students in non-subsidized private colleges were not given bursaries anymore. It was rumored that the reason behind this is to discourage students to go anywhere else but to the government funded schools.

Over the years, attitudes of people seem to be based on the idea that all credit courses are good and non-credited ones are not. But this is not the meaning of non-credit. Non-credit courses exist in universities and colleges in languages, computer education, arts, music and other hobby or interest courses. Likewise, other private schools offer non-credit courses which are recognized by employers.

The CEGEP system was established in the 1960s in Quebec. There are no CEGEPs in other provinces, but instead they have community colleges that offer vocational courses to prepare students for the job market. Education is controlled by provincial governments. Quebec is a place where there seems to be more bureaucracy in everything that requires a permit because things are usually done in the two official languages - English and French. Businesses must follow the Bill 101 language laws which stipulate that public signs must have bigger letterings in French and smaller ones for the English equivalent.

Since I started Gilmore College International 29 years ago, I can

remember some of the students who benefited from the non-credit courses they took in accounting and computers. A good example is a lady who gave up her university course in commerce because she did not understand accounting in the way that the professors explained to her. She came to me for a private tutorial course and then I sent her to do a job training in my accountant's office. Two years after working there, she decided to go back to university to get a degree in accounting.

As I have always been doing a multitude of tasks everyday, I have not found the time until now to talk about my own school as much as I should in order to let everyone know what Gilmore College International is all about. Professor Isaac Goodine, who I consider my mentor and who wrote a book entitled "Leaders leading Leaders" had made a remark many years ago that I recall: "Your community has not taken advantage of using your school for all the benefits it can offer."

Perhaps, the community's attitude will begin to change after holding the first Career Orientation Seminar, I hope I have sent a clear message to the community to study French, English, Accounting, PAB and other courses at Gilmore College International for they will certainly get the value of their investment in education and they will get the skills they need to get a better and rewarding job.

-o0o-

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