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Montrealers celebrate 120th anniversary of Philippine Independence

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Filipinos and their guests stand in full attention during the playing of the Canadian and Philippine national anthems at Mackenzie King Park after the parade celebrating the 120th anniversary of Philippine Independence, June 17, 2018. (Photo credit: Cristy Hunter facebook)

U.S. states sue Trump administration over migrant family separations

GENE JOHNSON, MICHAEL BALSAMO AND WILL WEISSERT
LOS ANGELES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Seventeen states, including New York and California, sued the Trump administration Tuesday to force it to reunite the thousands of immigrant children and parents it separated at the U.S.-Mexico border, as the legal and political pressure on the White House to reconnect families more quickly escalated.

The states, all led by Democratic attorneys general, joined Washington, D.C., in filing the lawsuit in federal court in Seattle, arguing that

they are being forced to shoulder increased child welfare, education and social services costs.

"The administration's practice of separating families is cruel, plain and simple," New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement. "Every day, it seems like the administration is issuing new, contradictory policies and relying on new, contradictory justifications. But we can't forget: The lives of real people hang in the balance."

Separately, immigration-rights activists asked a federal judge in Los Angeles to order that parents be

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People participate in a protest against recent U.S. immigration policy of separating children from their families(PBS)



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OPINION ED.

Zero Tolerance Policy punishes migrant children

June 24, 2018 | Featured, Opinion, PerryScope By Perry Diaz

Last April 6, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he's implementing a "Zero Tolerance Policy" (ZTP) for immigrants illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. He then directed federal prosecutors in the region of the new policy, directing them to make prosecuting criminal immigration offenses a priority.

Sessions defended the ZTP by citing the Bible. Specifically, he referred to Romans 13:1-7, which is one of the most misunderstood – and misinterpreted — passages in the Bible. It was written by Apostle Paul around 57 AD, instructing Christians to submit to "God's servants," that is, the government. "Let everyone be subject to the governing authority, for there is no authority except that which God has established," the passage says. "The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently,



Migrant children in detention center sleeping at night.

whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

It is interesting to note that Nazi sympathizers, apartheid-enforcers, slave owners, and loyalists opposed to the American Revolution have cited Romans 13 to justify their actions. Present day Christians also referred to the passage to issues like abortion,

same-sex marriages, and taxes.

Rounding up the children

Within days of the issuance of



Migrant child crying while her mother is being searched by guards

ZTP, children were forcibly separated from their parents. By May 31, 2018, 1,995 children were ripped from their parents. They were brought to detention centers. It was also disclosed that a contractor was paid \$10 million to build a tent city at an undisclosed location near El Paso, Texas in an area that's inaccessible to the public. The rest of the separated children are housed in warehouse-like detention centers. Every day, an average of 70 children are forcibly separated from their parents and sent to the detention centers. Another 12,000 minors are in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). That number is expected to increase to 20,000 by August.

Trump tried to wash his hands of the controversial ZTP by blaming the Democrats for his controversial actions. At an impromptu press conference at the White House lawn, Trump blamed the Democrats for the children's plight. He said that it was the Democrats who created the law. However, one reporter told him that it was his policy — the ZTP — that forcibly took the children away from their parents. Trump ignored the reporter and continued ranting and

blaming the "Democrats' law." Another reporter said that Trump could stop the separation of children from their parents with just one phone call. Another reporter noted that Trump controls both houses of Congress, so he could change the law anytime he wants to.

Sticking to his guns that it's the



First Lady Melania Trump meets with border guards. Note "Acts of kindness..." on board behind Mrs. Trump.

"Democrats' law" — which he claims he hates — that is the separating the children from their parents. However, he has not done anything to stop his cruel actions. And he continues to lie, which reminds me of Hitler's propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels who once said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." It is no wonder then that Trump never admitted to lying. According to the Washington Post, who maintained a list of Trump's lies, Trump has lied more than 3,000 times since he took office. That's an average of 6.5 lies a day. And yet his base never questioned those lies.

Political leverage

Last June 15, White House officials leaked information to the media, which says Trump admitted that he has calculated that "he would gain political leverage in congressional negotiations by continuing to enforce the ZTP." Trump suggested that he would not change the ZTP unless "Democrats agreed to his offer to his other immigration demands, which include funding a border wall, tightening the rules for border enforcement and curbing legal entry." Indeed, Trump is using the children as pawns to achieve his legislative immigration agenda. It is not only unconscionable; it is obscene! Falsely claiming that the Democrats alone had the power to alter the ZTP, he said, "I hate the children being taken away." But ZTP is his policy, not the Democrats'. The Democrats had nothing to do with it. And he can reverse it anytime. And to add insult to an injury, Trump tweeted: "The Democrats are forcing the breakup of families at the Border with their horrible and cruel legislative agenda." Huh?

It's obvious that Trump all along had used the ZTP as a weapon to punish immigrants — particularly Mexicans — that he claimed during the 2016 presidential campaign: "They are not our friend, believe me. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime.

They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Internment camps

And now, he has children of illegal immigrants rounded up and placed in warehouses and a tent city under the hot summer sun in the middle of the desert in Tornillo, Texas. This reminds me of what Hitler and the

Nazis did to Jewish children during World War II. They separated the children from their parents, sending most of the parents to the gas chambers while putting able-bodied adults and children to work in concentration camps like the one in Auschwitz and 45 other camps where the Nazis had put more than six million Jews to death.



First Lady Melania Trump gets into car wearing jacket that says, "I really don't care. Do u?" Hmmm... What's the message she's trying to convey? And to whom?

The detention shelters — or concentration camps — for the separated children are no different from how the Nazis treated Jewish children during World War II. Like the Jewish children, the children separated



Tent city in Tornillo, Texas.

from their parents would be scarred and traumatized for the rest of their lives. Is this necessary punishment for innocent people whose only crimes are that they're children of immigrants seeking asylum in America?

Trump retreats

Meanwhile, on Father's Day, First Lady Melania Trump weighed in.

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Kim Jong-un came out victorious from the summit

The Singapore summit has not done more than legitimise the North Korean regime.

Richard Javad Heydarian 13 Jun 2018

After months of nail-biting anticipation, US President Donald Trump held an historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

The city-state of Singapore, a

the meetings, as well as overall security for the two world leaders. International sanctions made it difficult for Kim to cover his overseas accommodation.

China, a close ally of North Korea, provided transportation logistics by offering an Air China plane, a retrofitted Boeing (747-4J6), for the



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met with U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 on Sentosa island, Singapore. It is the first summit between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader.

mercantile nation that has maintained robust ties with both sides throughout the years, hosted the two leaders at the luxurious Capella Hotel on Sentosa island.

Singapore spent close to \$15m to cover the North Korean leader's accommodation, logistics of

3,000-mile trip from Pyongyang to Singapore.

Kim's official carrier, a four-decades-old Soviet-made Ilyushin Il-62 dubbed "Air Force Un", was deemed unfit for the voyage.

Thousands of journalists flocked to Singapore to cover the



President Donald Trump welcomes South Korean President Moon Jae-in to the White House in Washington on Tuesday ahead of a planned summit with North Korean

historic summit.

But despite all these grand preparations and despite all the big expectations, the outcome of the summit proved largely disappointing. The US-North Korea joint declaration was a broadly generic document, containing no tangible compromise between the two sides.

In the end, what this summit achieved was have the US president indirectly legitimise a notorious dictator.

Much ado about nothing

Both men were desperate for this meeting, Trump perhaps even more so. The US president wanted to score his first major foreign policy achievement. His tenure in office, so far, has been marked by growing

tensions with neighbours and allies as well as a massive collapse in US global influence.

He recently faced a barrage of criticisms over his trade policy, including the imposition of punitive tariffs on the US' top trading partners, proposal for readmission of Russia to the G7, the abrupt withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal earlier this year and reneging on the Paris Agreement on climate change last year.

The North Korean leader, however, provided Trump a chance for diplomatic redemption, no matter how fleeting. Visibly pleased with his highly anticipated summit in Singapore, Trump reassuringly told Kim that they

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Kim Jong-un



**MARVIN
ROTRAND**

Montréal

June 12, 2018

A message from Snowdon city councillor Marvin Rotrand warm independence day greetings to the Filipino community

Dear Friends,

Mabuhay ! It is with great pleasure that I express my solidarity and friendship with Montrealers of Filipino origin and heritage on the happy occasion of the 120th anniversary of the declaration of the independence of the Philippines.

The Filipino community in our city has and continues to contribute to the well being of our region, our province and country. The community is proud of its Filipino heritage but equally proud of its Canadian identity. Each year to showcase its Filipino and Canadian dimensions, the community celebrates the independence of its country of heritage and invites all regardless of origin to share in this happy day.

This year a new special dimension has been added. The Cote des Neiges - Notre Dame de Grace Borough Council has adopted my motion to declare June as **Filipino Heritage Month** in our territory. This year's Independence Day will be celebrated as an important outreach to the general public to take note of the contributions of the Filipino community to our neighbourhood.

The independence of the Philippines was inspired by the work of Dr. Jose Rizal, the national hero, who promoted the building of a nation residing on the principles of racial equality, democracy, freedom, peace, harmony and tolerance. These noble principles and values are as relevant and inspirational today as they were in Dr. Rizal's time. Filipinos everywhere are justifiably proud of these important characteristics that define their identity and contributed to the creation of a nation that cherishes community, family and neighbourliness. As City Councillor I look forward to working with the Filipino population and community groups for the betterment of our neighbourhood and society. Warmly,

Marvin Rotrand
City Councillor - Snowdon



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Montrealers celebrate the 120th anniversary of Philippine Independence and the 1st Philippine Heritage Month

By W. G. Quiambao

No matter where they are, patriotic Filipinos celebrate their independence. In Montreal and suburbs, the Independence Day celebration was organized by the Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of Quebec on June 17, 2018.

In his message, Dario Boco, the new president of CCFAQ, said "The association continues to be the catalyst for harmony and peace in our community. We should set aside our differences and show that we are united to make our community stronger and more respected in our adopted country. 'United we stand, divided we fall.'

Boco expressed his wish not only for the Filipinos but also for all Canadians to live in peace and harmony. "Canada, the country that adopted us and gave us a new life, is a multicultural country. We have to embrace everybody in order to live in peace and harmony. We deal with them in our daily life – they are our neighbours, our co-workers, our doctors and nurses. When we invite



The Black Watch Association poses with the Grand Marshall, MNA for Darcy McGee David Birnbaum, MNA for Mount Royal Pierre Arcand, CDN-NDG Mayor Sue Montgomery, and James de la Paz, CCFAQ Administrator.

motorcade including Seafarers, Bibak, Bisaya-Womens Group of Montreal and Kim Colours. The parade started at 11:30 a.m. from St. Kevin St. and

CCFAQ presented a free show that featured singers, dancers and even athletes from the Philippines, Japan, Romania, Caribbean, Chile,

that the show was successful. He added that he liked the idea that for the first time, SWIS (Seniors of the West Island & Suburbs) joined the celebrations in Montreal. It was a first move for the Filipinos in the West Island and Montreal to work together. Reuben Santos, former president of the Montreal Tennis Association said that CCFAQ did a wonderful job organizing the event. But one of the biggest compliments was from a Romanian whose daughter, Veronique sang on the stage. "Thanks to you people for inviting us. We don't see this kind of show even on Canada Day."

Among the politicians who joined the Filipinos celebrate their independence were Consul Jeffery Salik, Embassy of the Philippines; Anthony Housefather, MP for Mount Royal; Pierre Arcand, MNA for Mount Royal; Sue Montgomery, CDN-NDG Borough Mayor; Marvin Rotrand, Councillor for Snowdonand Lionel Perez, Councillor for Darlington who received appreciation plaques from CCFAQ Past President Gerry Danzil for their roles in the naming of June as Philippine Heritage Month by the CDN-NDG Borough Council last February 12, 2018. MNA David Birnbaum was the Grand Marshall of the Independence Day Parade this year. while Fely Rosales Carino and Ed Vasquez were the master of ceremonies as they usually do every year.



At the Knights of Rizal tent, Borough Mayor Sue Montgomery poses for souvenir with Councillors Marvin Rotrand, Lionel Perez, CCFAQ President Dario Boco, James de la Paz, and Knights of Rizal members.

people from other ethnic groups it does not mean that we are forgetting our native land. Instead, we are promoting and sharing our culture and tradition with them. One trait that we are known for is our warmth and hospitality".

Various associations and businesses participated in the

proceeded to Lemieux St. Beaucourt St., Carlton Avenue. Westbury St. and finally returned to Mackenzie King Park. This park is usually the scene of many activities such as the parade of participants, gun salute and serving of sumptuous food which is always a part of Filipino celebrations.

Russia, etc. The revellers, many of them were sitting on the grass, could not hide their excitement while watching the show.

The efforts of CCFAQ's Executive Board to give a free show for everybody were appreciated. Flor Rillo, former FAMAS president, said

said. "We are enforcing our laws again. We know whose side we are on – so does this group – and we're on the side of police, and we're on the side of the public safety of the American people."

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for a comment on the multi-state lawsuit and had no comment on the Los Angeles filing.

More than 2,000 children have been separated from their parents in

recent weeks and placed in government-contracted shelters – hundreds of miles away, in some cases – under a now-abandoned policy toward families caught illegally entering the U.S.

Amid an international outcry, Trump last week issued an executive order to stop the separation of families and said parents and children will instead

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released and immediately reunited with their children.

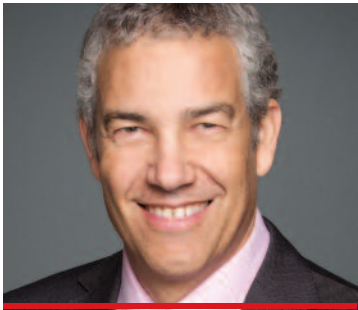
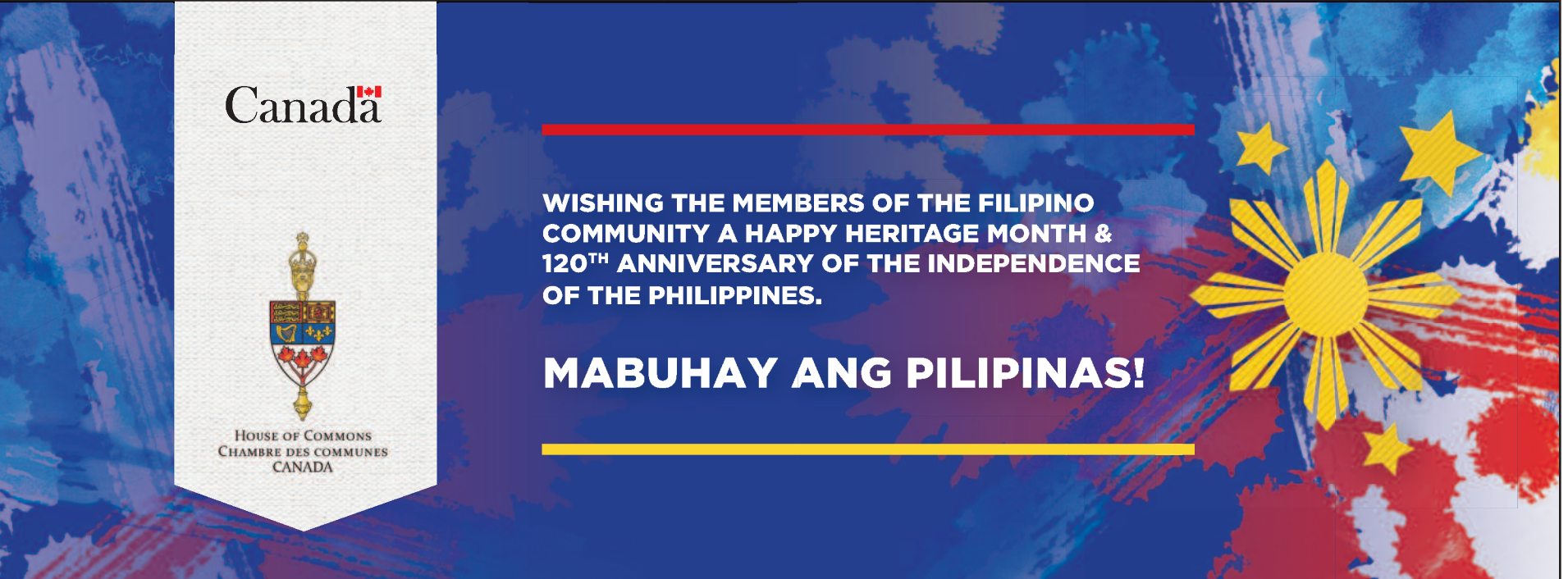
In a speech before the conservative Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in Los Angeles, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions defended the administration for taking a hard line stand on illegal immigration and said the voters elected President Donald Trump to do just that.

"This is the Trump era," he



Steve Bell on Donald Trump and migrant family separations – cartoon (The Guardian)

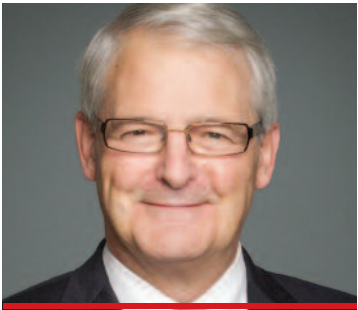
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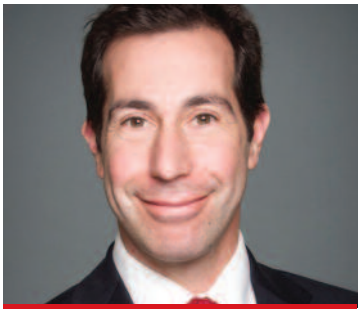
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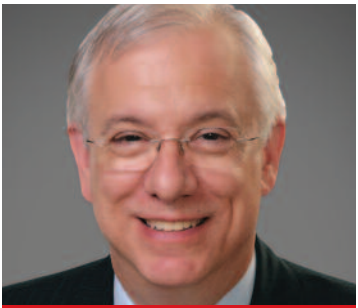
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Tagalog Seksyon

Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

ANO BA ANG HERITAGE?

Maraming nagtatanong kung bakit ginamit ng Filga ang Heritage sa kanilang pageant na Ms. Filipino Cultural Heritage Montreal 2018. Sabi ng isang lider, ibinigay ng lungsod ng Montreal sa lahat ng mga Pilipino ang Heritage kaya kahit sino, maaaring gumamit nito. Kung ganoon, puedeng magkaroon ng FAMAS o Federation Ms. Filipino Cultural Heritage Montreal. Ang isa pang tanong ay kung saan pupunta ang kikitang pera - sa asosasyon o sa Heritage? At kung sakaling may funding na ibibigay ngayon o sa mga susunod na taon ang lungsod ng Montreal, saan din ito mapupunta? May mamamahala ba nito?

Nang itanong ko rin sa isang lider kung bakit na-iugnay ang Heritage sa Filga, ang sagot ay, "Wala pa kasing pera ang Heritage kaya ginamit muna ang Filga". Ito ay pag-amin niya na iba ang Heritage sa Filga o sa ibang mga asosasyon. May sarili nang pagkakakilanlan ang Heritage. Ibang entity ito. Bakit hindi gumawa ng sariling fundraising ang Heritage at

magpatulong sa mga asosasyon tulad ng Filga, FAMAS o Federation. Sa ganitong paraan, may sariling pondo ang Heritage, sa halip na ito ang ginagamit ng mga asosasyon.

Subalit ano nga ba ang Heritage. Asosasyon o grupo lamang ba ng mga Pilipino ito? Inihambing ng iba ang Heritage sa isang sanggol na ibinigay sa atin. Kung ito ay maisipang ipa-ampon, kailangang pag-usapan muna nang lahat. Pero bakit sa kabila ng pagtutol nang marami na i-ugnay ang Heritage sa Filga, ginawa pa rin ito at sino ang pumayag na gawin ito? May mga opisyal na ba ang Heritage o ad hoc committee pa lamang? Ano ang karapatan ng mga pumayag na ang Heritage ay i-ugnay sa Filga na hindi tayo sinasangguni? Sang-ayon ako na kahit sino ay puedeng gumamit sa Heritage subalit depende sa paggamit. Maraming bagay na dapat ay isaalang-alang upang gamitin ang pangalan ng Heritage.

Hindi ako magtatataka kung balang araw ay ang Heritage ay maging Federation na pinag-aawayan kung sino ang legal lalo na kung may

perang nasasangkot.

MGA FAKE NEWS NA NAGPAPAGULO SA KOMUNIDAD

Ang tungkulin ng diaryo ay hindi lamang mag-ulat ng mga tamang balita kundi magtuwid din ng mga maling balita. Kamakailan ay dalawang fake news na nalathala sa The Filipino Forum ang nagpagulo na naman sa komunidad. Nakiusap sa akin ang mga biktima ng mga fake news na ito na linawin sa The North American Filipino Star ang mga maling balita. Sa The Filipino Forum ay nakasulat na patay na ang FFCAQ o Federation. Hindi totoo iyon. Buhay na buhay ang Federation kung saan ay naging pangulo si Felix Reyes, pagkatapos ay si Ed Tupaz at ngayon ay si Minda Mazzone na kamakailan lamang ay na-induct ni MP Anthony Housefather. Ayon kay Reyes, may mga katibayan sila mula sa kanilang abogado na si Tatiana Gomez ng Registraire des enterprises. "Sayang, hindi ako nakapaglibing," natatawa at nasusuklam na sabi ng isang dating presidente ng Federation sa sumulat ng balita. Ang isa pang fake news ay ang balita sa FAMAS Bb. Pilipinas 2018. Ang nanalo ay si Chelsie Clarence Flemming, 1st runner up si Carmina Franco at 2nd runner up si Angelika Messina. Ayon kay Magallanes, patas sa interview sina Fleming at Mesina. "Paano na-break ang tie? At paano naging 2nd runner up si Mesina?" tanong ni Magallanes. Sa mga bumabasa, parang hindi karapat-dapat manalo si Fleming at may dayaan. Nang tanungin ni Mercy Sia si Magallanes kung saan nakuha

ng huli ang maling balita, ang sagot ay "Sa nanay ng kandidata." Dahil sa mga isinulat ni Magallanes, sinabi ni Sia, "Baka madagdagan na naman ang demanda sa iyo." Kasalukuyang may demandang hinaharap si Magallanes dahil sa mga maling balitang isinusulat niya.

MAY BOUNDARY ANG FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Noong isang buwan ay na-cancell ang hit show ni Roseanne Barr nang mag-tweet siya ng ng racist remarks tungkol kay Valerie Jarret, Afro-American senior adviser ni Barack Obama. Ito ang tweet niya, "If the muslim brothers and planet of the apes had a baby, vj". Hindi nagtagal ay nasira rin ang career ni Samantha Dee sa bulgar na biro tungkol kay Ivanka Trump. Ang tweet niya ay "Ivanka is a reckless c...". Noong isang taon ay nawala ang mga gig ni Kathy Griffin nang i-post niya ang maskara ni Donald Trump. Putol ang duguang ulo nito. Sa Quebec ay nagbayad ng \$35,000 si Mike Ward nang gawing katatawanan sa kaniyang comedy act ang may kapansanang teen ager. At noong nakaraang taon ay naparusahang magbayad si Tess Cusipag ng Balita ng \$250,000 sa yumaong Senator Tobias Enverga. Hindi siya tinigilang siraan ni Cusipag sa diaryo. Si Barr, Dee, Griffin, Ward at Cusipag ay ilan lamang sa mga nasira ang career at nagbayad nang malaking halaga sa kanilang mga naging biktima. Kahit nakasasakit sila sa kanilang kapwa, hindi nila alam kung kailan at saan sila titigil. Dapat nga silang magdusa.

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be detained together.

But precious few families have been reunited, and the Trump administration has disclosed next to nothing on how the process will be carried out or how long it will take.

Juan Sanchez, chief executive of the nation's largest shelters for migrant children, said he fears a lack of urgency by the U.S. government could mean it will take months to reunite families.

Sanchez with the non-profit Southwest Key Programs said in an interview with The Associated Press that the government has no process in place to speed the return of children to their parents.

"It could take days," he said. "Or it could take a month, two months, six or even nine. I just don't know."

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Congress on Tuesday that his department still has custody of 2,047 immigrant children separated from their parents at the border. That is only six fewer children than the number in HHS custody as of last Wednesday.

Democratic senators said that wasn't nearly enough progress.

"HHS, Homeland Security, and the Justice Department seem to be doing a lot more to add to the bedlam and deflect blame than they're doing to tell parents where their kids are," Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden said.

Under questioning, Azar refused

to be pinned down on how long it will take to reunite families. He said his department does extensive vetting of parents to make sure they are not traffickers masquerading as p.

Tens of thousands of Central

knew where their children were being held, said Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia.

"The U.S. government never had any plan to reunite these families



Undocumented immigrant families are released from detention at a bus depot in McAllen, Texas, on Monday. Photograph: Loren Elliott/Reuters

American migrants travelling with children – as well as children travelling alone – are caught on the Mexican border each year. Many are fleeing gang violence in their home countries.

At a Texas detention facility, immigrant advocates complained that parents have gotten busy signals or no answers from a 1-800 number provided by federal authorities to get information about their children.

Attorneys have spoken to about 200 immigrants at the Port Isabel detention facility near Los Fresnos, Texas, since last week, and only a few

that were separated," Sandoval-Moshenberg said, and now it is "scrambling to undo this terrible thing that they have done."

A message left for HHS, which runs the hotline, was not immediately returned.

Many children in shelters in southern Texas have not had contact with their parents, though some have reported being allowed to speak with them in recent days, said Meghan Johnson Perez, director of the Children's Project for the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, which

provides free legal services to minors.

"Things might be changing now. The agencies are trying to co-ordinate better," she said. "But the kids we have been seeing have not been in contact with the parents. They don't know where the parent is. They're just distraught. Their urgent need is just trying to figure out, 'Where is my parent?'" Since calling for an end to the separations, administration officials have been casting about for detention space for migrants, with the Pentagon drawing up plans to hold as many as 20,000 at U.S. military bases.

At the same time, the administration has asked the courts to let it detain families together for an extended period while their immigration cases are resolved. Under a 1997 court settlement, children must be released from detention as quickly as possible, which generally has been construed to be within 20 days.

Outraged by the family separations, immigrant supporters have led protests in recent days in states such as Florida and Texas. In Los Angeles, police arrested 25 demonstrators at rally Tuesday ahead of Sessions' address.

Outside the U.S. attorney's office, protesters carried signs reading, "Free the children!" and "Stop caging families." Clergy members blocked the street by forming a human chain. Police handcuffed them and led them away.

Later, protesters gathered outside the hotel where Sessions gave his speech. As the attorney general's motorcade arrived, the crowd chanted, "Nazi, go home."

A new Philippine future beside the exodus?

by JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO

EVERY seventh of June, a Southeast Asian archipelago commemorates the "heroism" of compatriots who have been a visible reason for the steady growth of their motherland's economy. The celebration is National Migrant Workers Day, and the date's historicity is brought about by the passage of a law to protect the rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos and their families. That law, currently coded as Republic Act 10022 (Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, revised twice), spells out regulations for labour migration and lays out the bureaucratic structure — found at home and abroad — that ensures safe and orderly overseas migration. The original law, RA 8042, was a result of the execution of a domestic worker in Singapore, Ms. Flor Contemplacion, in March 1995. That episode created a diplomatic tension between the two countries, as well as national shame for a country that then had no enabling law for migrant workers' protection.

The said law helped the Philippines lay out a program on labour export that (explicitly) facilitates Filipino workers' overseas placement in destination countries requiring certain skills. Decades hence, to include the hard lessons learned since Contemplacion's execution, the Philippines have now "excelled" in migration management.

Filipinos are now in over 200 countries and territories, in all sorts of occupations, with their migration status either legal or irregular. Filipinos have contributed to countries' economic growth, especially countries facing demographic shortfalls and labour shortages. The estimated 10.3 million overseas Filipinos have (unfortunately) become the Philippines' top export. Their overseas migration is a response to the search for more gainful opportunities because the country's agriculture and manufacturing sectors are still struggling and services have been the top draw for homeland employment for nearly two decades.

Remittances have been the reason for overseas Filipinos' symbolic tag as heroes since a formal labour export program (given the passage of a Philippine labour code) began in 1974. From the 1970s to the mid-2000s, remittances have helped shore up the homeland economy's fiscal issues, mitigated the impacts of domestic unemployment, and somewhat helped buoy the Philippines' gross national product. That period, spanning just over three decades, saw the Philippines' macro-economic growth performance as "boom and bust" — like a roller coaster, going up and down. Meanwhile, there is a rising overseas migration (including that for overseas permanent residency, depending on the migration pathways countries offer to foreigners) and a concomitant rise

of labour, welfare, human rights and criminal / civil cases affecting Filipinos in various host lands. With rising migration and remittances are a



Filipinos who became Australian citizens and who just arrived from Singapore commune in a compatriot's home for Bible study" (photo by Jeremiaiah Opiniano).

perceived growing number of problems which face Filipinos abroad, and the corollary family-level social costs.

However, there is a change in the plot: since the 2008 global economic crisis, the Philippine economy is now one of the top economic performers in the world. Sustained gross domestic product growth, with an annual average of some 6 percent these past ten years the Philippine economy is slowly getting better. Coinciding with that is what some demographers perceive to be a demographic transition, where old and young dependents are lesser and the working force is bulging in numbers. That situation gives the Philippines a chance — a 30-year window, says some demographic projections — to drum up as many savings and investments and have these parked at home. Overseas migration and remittances have been contributing their share to this ongoing demographic transition, currently through increasing local consumption. Yet one wonders why the stories are still the same sordid ones? The recent episode the Philippines faced was a diplomatic standoff with Kuwait, with the former demanding certain protections and employment regulations for Filipina domestic workers. This four-month saga started off with the discovered massacre — the body chopped into pieces, placed in a refrigerator for a year — of Joanna Demafelis, angering the tough President Rodrigo Duterte. After a deployment ban and Kuwait's own issues with Philippine diplomatic authorities, a memorandum of agreement on hiring domestic workers was signed just last month and diplomatic relations have been restored. Implementation by Kuwaiti authorities is another matter.

For decades now, Filipinos abroad are still seen as those women who have found dates online and migrated for economic security; of women as "lowly" domestic workers or as abused spouses even after they got permanent residency; of men who are trafficked into occupations different from what were initially in their work

contracts. Filipinos have also been seen as the bearers of the Christian faith; the workers with a more caring attitude; the work force who can endure tough work conditions just to earn more and please employers; as the behaved foreigners in certain host country societies. Yet what is baffling is that the story lines of the Filipino migration saga are still perceived to be the same even in the age of social media. Filipinos abroad being lured by Philippine real property companies is so reminiscent of the past. The sending of boxes with souvenir items (called balikbayan boxes [balikbayan is "returning home" in Filipino]) is already a generation old. Some Filipinos abroad continue to display pity at their compatriots who are in less-skilled occupations in certain host countries, with pity masqueraded as empathy.

Filipinos' overseas migration has already brought about socio-cultural, economic and institutional changes in Philippine society, sociologist and historian Filomeno Aguilar, Jr. writes in his anthology *The Migration Revolution* (2014). Class structures have been reconfigured. That is the current scene of the Filipino migration phenomenon.

Given the current era of a Philippine economy that's in a demographic transition which runs side-by-side with overseas migration, what can be the new Philippine future beside the exodus? Can new stories about Filipinos abroad be told instead of sticking to usual tales?

Will Filipino food, for example, be mainstreamed in host societies and capture the imagination of nostalgic and curious foreign taste buds? Will there be more of a new breed of Filipino migrant entrepreneurs braving the riskier agricultural sector back home, while Filipino banks are averse

in handing out credit to that sector? With social media easily bridging transnational Filipino families, what kinds of family rearing tales have we not heard from those who endured parental separation and found successes? In some Filipino rural communities, kinship and community embeddedness mitigate the risks of migration's family-level social costs. With Japan having a long history of Filipinas going there as entertainers in night clubs, and that migration pathway stopped over a decade ago, have the Japanese of today looked at Filipinos differently?

How many more Filipinos will become elected leaders in countries that realized the first elected migrant leaders in the United States, New Zealand, Korea or Canada?

Have you heard of a full-blooded Australian being deeply affected by the ongoing Philippine war on drugs and helping resolve a Filipino relative's drug-related woes? Or what about some Filipinas, already permanent residents and naturalized citizens in a destination country, dating compatriot seafarers docking on some ports?

There can be a myriad of good and bad tales about the overseas Filipino. People aspire for more pleasant stories, especially since Filipinos are known for extending their personal boundaries and fits of empathy. Filipinos also aspire for less of the tear-jerking stories — from abused domestic workers to Filipino permanent residents who are duping compatriots on temporary work visas. With Filipinos abroad now an influential force for their motherland, and then being exposed to better systems abroad, how can gruesome migration tales be changed for the better?

The homeland and its institutions, especially the Philippine government, have their work cut out to fulfill ambitions of comfortable living for Filipinos. But so do Filipinos abroad: they can chart newer tales and tumble down aging stereotypes of themselves. That will be through the love they usually show to their families, through better remittance management, through improved and sustained relations with the locals in their host countries, and through a renewed sense of Filipino citizenship even while they're away.

Mr. Jeremiaiah Opiniano is a doctoral student (geography) at The University of Adelaide in Australia. He also handles a non-profit research group on migration and development issues in the Philippines: The Institute for Migration and Development Issues (IMDI). Correspondence: ofw_philanthropy@yahoo.com.

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Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by

Al Abdon

Light Source: Color Correcting with Gels

Have you ever looked at your video after you returned from what seemed to be a perfect shoot, only to find your footage is blue and you can't really see the city skyline as well as you thought? Or what about that beautiful wedding shot in the ski chalet that turned out really orange? One of the most frustrating aspects of doing on-location shooting is dealing with multiple light sources. You may be sure you white-balanced the camera, but the deadly mix of different lights, spoils the shot.

Anytime you find yourself mixing outdoor light with indoor light or fluorescent with incandescent you run into problems. In this column, we will look at light from a standpoint of color temperature. We will discuss the gels that you can use to change the color temperature of the light so that you can use multiple sources.

Color Temperature

Your eye is an amazing organ. When you look at a white T-shirt outdoors, it looks white. In an office lit with fluorescent tubes, it still looks white. Even in your living room at night, it looks white. While this might not seem so amazing, it would if your eyes worked like a video camera.

When a camcorder set for use indoors sees the T-shirt outdoors, it looks light blue. In an office the T-shirt will look light green. If you set your camcorder for outdoors and videotape the T-shirt under normal living room light, it will look orange. This occurs because different color temperatures exist in all three areas.

Your eye compensates for the changes in color temperature so quickly that you don't notice the shift. The video camera doesn't have that ability. You have to white balance your camcorder under the light source in which you are shooting in order for your video camera to see white as

white. What you are really doing is adjusting the electronics in your camcorder so that it can see the proper combinations of red and blue in relationship with green. The video camera sees white, under a given lighting situation, with the proper combination of these three colors.

When you adjust the white balance setting on your camcorder for indoors or outdoors, you are adjusting the color temperature controls of the



video camera. The various color temperatures are expressed in degrees Kelvin(K), the scientific temperature scale. Outdoor light, usually referred to as daylight, ranges from 4500K to 6200K with the average being 5600K. However, on clear blue days, the color temperature could be as high as 12,000K. Indoor lighting, such as incandescent light, usually lies in the 2800K to 3400K range with the average being 3200K. Office fluorescent lights range between 4000K and 7000K with the average being 4300K. By knowing the color temperatures of the light you are using, you can take the next step in controlling the color temperature of

your lighting configuration.

Color Correction Gels

One of the most useful tools available to the videographer is the color correction gel. This is translucent pliable material that you can place in front of lighting instruments, or on windows, to change the color temperature of the light source so that it matches the primary light source. You can use specific colors to change indoor or incandescent to daylight, daylight to indoor, incandescent to fluorescent and vice versa.

If you find yourself shooting in a large office with big windows, your best bet might be to change your indoor lights to daylight. You can do this by placing blue gels, often called CTBs, short for color temperature blue, on the front of your lights. The CTBs will change the color temperature of your lights from 3200K to 5600K, simulating daylight.

For those situations when light from a smaller window mixes with indoor lights which are your primary light source, place a large orange gel over the window. This filter is often called a CTO, short for color temperature orange. The CTO will change the color temperature of the light coming through the window from 5600K to 3200K, simulating lamp light.

For those situations when you have to combine indoor light with fluorescent, you have a couple of options. If your primary light source is incandescent, you can wrap the fluorescent tubes with a reddish brown gel, which removes the excess green from the light. This changes the color temperature from around 4300K to 3200K. If the fluorescent lights are your primary light source, you might place a bluegreen filter in front of your tungsten lights to give them the same color temperature as the fluorescent lighting.

If working with daylight and fluorescent lights, a magenta gel converts fluorescent to daylight. Conversely, a light green gel matches daylight to fluorescent.

All of the gels mentioned above come in various shades. If, for instance, you wish to give a shot a cooler feel, you can use a 1/2 CTB to only partially alter the color temperature of the outdoor light.

Sometime, you may find yourself in a situation where you have a large window with a beautiful view. You really want to use the window in your shot but the light coming from the outside is too bright. Don't despair. Color correction gels can be combined with a gel called a neutral density gel or ND for short. This optically clear gel

reduces the amount of light coming through the window without changing the color temperature. You can buy ND gels that reduce the amount of light by 1/2 (ND .15), 1 (ND.3), 2(ND.6) and 3(ND.9) complete stops.

You can also buy gels that combine color correction with neutral density properties. These combination gels are great to work with if you find yourself shooting interviews in offices



with large windows. By taping sheets of the gel on the windows, you can not only change the color temperature of the light coming through, but also the intensity. Keep in mind, to your eye it may look very strange, but to the camera it will look great.

Soft and Color Corrected

In past columns we have talked about diffusing light so that it creates a soft look for lighting faces. What do you do if you have to correct the color temperature of the light and soften it, too? Reduce the amount of light shining on your subject by combining a diffusion gel with a color correction gel. Thankfully, there are diffusion gels with color correction added. There are also diffusion gels with ND filter properties so that you can turn your window light into a large soft light.

Final Thoughts

Anytime you have to mix indoor and outdoor light or incandescent with fluorescent, dig into your bag of tricks and pull out your color correction gels. Decide which light source is the easiest to control and gel that source.

A number of companies make fairly inexpensive gels that you can use to correct the color temperature of your light source. Check with your local video supply company.

Robert G. Nulph is an independent video/film producer/director and teaches video production courses at the college level.

Donald Trump again lashes out at Justin Trudeau and G7 summit: 'What's your problem, Justin?'

By Adam Frisk

National Online Journalist, Breaking News Global News

U.S. President Donald Trump again complained about Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his G7 Summit speech while boasting about how many televisions Air Force One has.

During a campaign rally in South Carolina on Monday, Trump launched into a rant about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Canada's dairy industry and the G7 summit.

"Canada! Nice guy, nice guy, prime minister Justin. I say, 'Justin,

what's your problem, Justin?'" Trump tells the crowd. "So, Canada. Oh Canada, I love their national anthem, O Canada. I like ours better, however. No, Canada's great, I love Canada."

The president told the crowd that the world leaders at the G7 summit were "in love" and how he made "some change" to an agreement signed by the world leaders during their meeting in Quebec earlier this month.

"I left and everybody was

happy," Trump said. "I get onto Air Force One, and he doesn't understand that Air Force One has 22 televisions. They have televisions in closets they have televisions in areas that no place has televisions, unlimited budget Air Force One.

"So I get onto the plane and I see Justin Trudeau, prime minister of Canada, saying 'Canada will not be bullied by the United States,' I said

See Page 19 Donald Trump lashes

Pierre Arcand, Liberal candidate in the riding of Mont-Royal-Outremont

En route to the 2018 general election Pierre Arcand, Liberal candidate in the riding of Mont-Royal-Outremont, June 18, 2018 –

This evening, Pierre Arcand was nominated as the official candidate for the Quebec Liberal Party in the riding of Mont-Royal-Outremont for the upcoming 2018 general election. Many members were present for the occasion as well as ministers Gaétan Barrette, Hélène David, Carlos Leitão and Kathleen Weil.

"I am very happy to commit to a fifth term as an MNA. I want to represent the residents of the new riding of Mont-Royal-Outremont at the National Assembly with the same focus: improving the quality of life of the people I represent. Our government is carrying out many major projects, including the expansion of the Jewish General Hospital, the development of the Université de Montréal Science Complex, the modernization of CHU Sainte-Justine, the deployment of super-clinics and the renovation of five schools in Town of Mont-Royal, for which construction will start this summer," declared Pierre Arcand, Liberal candidate for the 2018 general



Mr. Pierre Arcand, MNA for Mount Royal is running to represent the newly created combined riding of Mount Royal-Outremont in the 2018 general provincial elections.

election.

"These investments that we're making today are the fruit of our government's sound management of public finances. We did away with the deficit and rebalanced the budget in a sustainable way. On March 27, Carlos Leitão submitted a fourth consecutive balanced budget, which explains the flexibility we now enjoy. This is the best our economy has performed in 20 years. More than 229,500 jobs have been created since May 2014," added Mr. Arcand.

The unemployment rate has been at an all-time low for several months; over 1,000,000 Quebecers now have access to a family doctor; taxes have decreased; and major investments have been made, particularly in health and education.

To read the biographies of the candidates nominated to date, visit the Quebec Liberal Party website at plq.org.

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From Page 2 - Zero Tolerance Policy

"Mrs. Trump hates to see children separated from their families and hopes both sides of the aisle can finally come together to achieve successful



Migrant little girl in front of a small tent.

immigration reform," her communications director, Stephanie Grisham, told CNN on Sunday. "She believes we need to be a country that follows all laws, but also a country that governs with heart."

Former First Lady Laura Bush also weighed in, saying: "I appreciate the need to enforce and protect our international boundaries, but this zero-tolerance policy is cruel. It is immoral. And it breaks my heart." She also said: "Our government should not be in the business of warehousing children in converted box stores or making plans to place them in tent cities in the desert outside of El Paso. These images are eerily reminiscent of the Japanese American internment camps of World War II, now considered to have been one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history."

And just as when Americans thought that the internment camps

were things of America's shameful past, the Trump administration built tent cities (the Trump administration calls them "tender age" shelters) where toddlers and babies are housed. The Associated Press reported that at least three "tender age" shelters were built in southern Texas that could accommodate 4,000 toddlers and babies. I call the tent shelters, "Trumpville." There is only one word to describe this: Madness!

Last June 20, Trump backed down amid public indignation and worldwide outrage. He conveniently issued an executive order temporarily allowing migrant families to be held in detention centers together with their children. However, Trump did not reverse or revoke ZTP, which remains like a sword of Damocles over the heads of migrant families. But it was a fellow Republican, Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who aptly described Trump's actions, calling him an "arsonist" who is now playing "fireman" by putting out his own fire. Sad to say, it's too late because the fire has already consumed a whole mountain of forests.

While this would give a sigh of relief to families who haven't been ripped apart yet, there are around 2,500 children who are in detention centers and another 12,000 minors under the custody of the DHHS. Their future remains unknown. According to DHHS officials, there are no plans to reunite the children with their families, which begs the question: What will happen to the children already in detention? The problem of migrant children "orphaned" by separation remains and there seems to be no end in sight to their agony. Their status is in limbo.

At the end of the day, Trump may have gained some respite from



Orphaned migrant children orphaned by separation from their parents. (photo credit Erik Torner).

the ordeal that he inflicted upon himself but the separated children will be an albatross round his neck, a heavy burden he'll carry for the rest of his presidency. Meanwhile, the "Zero Tolerance Policy" continues to punish migrant children.

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

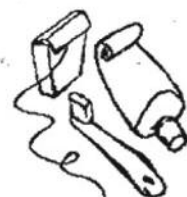
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The North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



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Photo shows some of the members of the Filipino community who attended the CDN-NDG Borough Council meeting on June 4, 2018 when a resolution was approved to name Place Jose Rizal at MacKenzie King Park.



From left: Gerry Danzil, Councilor Marvin Rotrand, Borough Mayor Sue Montgomery, James de la Paz, Councilor Lionel Perez, Dario Boco, and ir Hector Bong Racuya. Photo taken on June 4, 2018 at the Monkland Community Center.



Borough Mayor Sue Montgomery is flanked by Dario Boco, current president of CCFAQ, James de la Paz, administrator, and Gerry Danzil, CCFAQ past president during the annual celebration of Philippine Independence, June 17, 2018.

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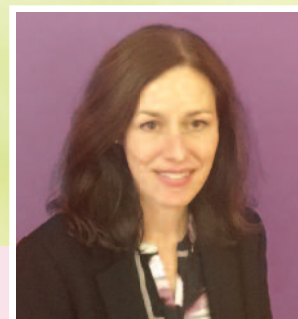
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Delicious recipes



Chicken afritada with pineapple
This Pineapple Chicken Afritada features chicken and tons of vegetables simmered in a flavorful tomato sauce. Vibrant, colorful, super delicious!

Servings: 4 people
Ingredients
2 lb (900g) chicken drumsticks, skin on
3-4 small potatoes , peeled and cubed
1 carrot , chopped
1 yellow bell pepper , sliced into strips
3 cloves garlic , chopped
1 red onion , chopped
1 14 oz. (400g) can tomato puree
1 8 oz. (225g) can pineapple chunks , reserve syrup, drained
2 tablespoons soy sauce
3 dried bay leaves
1/2 cup green peas
salt and pepper, to taste
6 tablespoons cooking oil , divided
Instructions
In a big pan over medium heat, heat 4 tablespoons of oil. Add potatoes and cook for about 1 minute. Then add carrot and cook for about 2 minutes. Add bell pepper and cook for about 1 minute. Remove all vegetables from pan and drain on paper towels.
Warm the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil in the same pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook for 1-2 minutes. Then add chicken and brown it slightly. Add the tomato puree, pineapple syrup, soy sauce, and bay leaves. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for about 20 minutes, or until the chicken is almost tender. Stir occasionally.
Add potatoes, yellow bell pepper, carrots, and pineapple chunks and continue to cook for 5-6 minutes, or until the potatoes are cooked. Add the green peas, season with salt and pepper and cook for 2 minutes more. Serve hot. Enjoy!



Nilasing na chicken salpicao
Ingredients:
300 grams chicken breast fillet, cut into medium chunks
2 tablespoons garlic, minced
3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
3 tablespoons soy sauce
1/2 tablespoon ground black pepper
2 tablespoons white rum or whiskey
a pinch of paprika
1/4 cup olive oil
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
dried chili flakes, optional
For the Mango Salsa
3/4 cup ripe mango, chopped
1 green chili, sliced
1 red tomato, seeded and diced
juice of half a lemon
1 teaspoon fish sauce (patis)
How: Salsa: Mix all ingredients in a bowl and set aside in the freezer for 1 hour.
Cooking instructions:
On a bowl, season chicken with garlic, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, black pepper, white rum or whiskey, and paprika. Mix together. Let the chicken absorb all

2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons water
Instructions
Spread garlic and onions at the base of a roasting pan.
Rub each baby back ribs rack with salt, sugar and ground pepper. Place the ribs on top of the garlic and onion slices, bone side down. Drizzle the ribs with soy sauce and pour beer over the ribs.
Cover the top of the roasting pan tightly with aluminum foil. Let it marinate for at least 15 minutes then bake at 170°C/340°F for 2 hours.
Remove ribs from the roasting pan and transfer to a grill rack, bone side up. Brush with barbecue sauce and grill about 10 minutes. Flip ribs over, brush with sauce and grill for another 5 minutes. Serve white hot
TO MAKE BARBECUE SAUCE
Skim some of the fat from the sauce that is left on the roasting pan from baking the ribs, leaving about 2 tablespoons of fat.
Pour the rest of the sauce through a sieve into a bowl. Press the solids through the sieve until completely mashed. Scrape the bottom of the sieve to take the remaining mashed onion and garlic and add this to the sauce.
Add brown sugar, ground pepper, paprika powder, and hot chili powder. Transfer sauce to a saucepan and bring to a simmer.
Dissolve cornstarch in water and pour into the sauce, cook while constantly stirring until it thickens. Transfer sauce to a bowl or a jar.

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Fall-off the bone Baby Back Ribs in the Oven
the liquid before adding the olive oil. Marinate for at least 1 hour.
On a very hot nonstick pan, cook chicken for 3 to 4 minutes. Turn off the heat. Add butter and chili flakes.
Prep Time 5 minutes
Cook Time 2 hours
Marinating time 15 minutes
Total Time 2 hours 5 minutes
Servings 4
Calories 99 kcal
ngredients
2-3 racks baby back ribs - silverskin removed
4 tablespoons muscovado or brown sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground pepper
4 tablespoon s soy sauce
1 head garlic - cut across into half
1 medium onion - cut into 4 rings
1 can beer
BARBECUE SAUCE
1 cup leftover sauce - more or less a cup
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
dash paprika powder
dash hot chili powder - optional



DAIKON & TOMATO SALAD
Ingredients:
Serves 4
1 daikon, shaved
Coarse salt
100 grams datterini or cherry tomatoes or any other tomatoes that you have, minced (adjust the amount according to your taste)
1 medium onion, finely chopped
Chives, chopped finely (optional)
1/8 cup white or red wine vinegar
Fine salt, Pepper, Sugar
Directions:
Peel the daikon and cut off both ends. Shave the pulp with a peeler. Mix the daikon with a lot of coarse salt using your hands and squeeze the radish pulp a little bit while mixing. Leave for half an hour or more. After half an hour, squeeze out the excess liquid then move the pulp to a medium to big strainer while rinsing under the faucet. Rinse well and squeeze out the excess water completely. Transfer the daikon to a bowl then add the tomatoes, onions and chives (if using). In another bowl, mix the vinegar, salt the pepper. Add a pinch of sugar to break the sourness of the vinegar. Pour on the salad. If it needs more, adjust the amount of the dressing.



Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Cariño

The summer heat is on, my friends. There is no denying that the high temperatures bring discomfort. Just as hot and uncomfortable are elections of local Filipino associations. We all know that elections, at whatever level, are fraught with varying degrees of emotions. Elections seem to be more exciting with intrigues, drama, and mudslinging, etc., fertile plots of a television teleserye. Those who survive the onslaught of going through all kinds of strategies – good or bad, legal or not, called or uncalled for – put themselves as candidates. Fortunately, these apply only to a few; the majority of candidates are hardworking and dependable.

The Association of Filipino Seniors of Montreal (AFSM) held a dual celebration: its 3rd year anniversary and the coronation of AFSM Queen of Philippine Independence 2018 at Ruby Rouge Restaurant in Chinatown on May 25, 2018. AFSM President William Fabia, the Executive Board, Chairwoman Lyn Lopez, and Co-Chairman Mel Anore led this exciting event. After the National Anthems and Invocation, President Fabia gave the welcome address. Then came the presentation of previous Mothers of the Year starting with Mother of the Year 2015 Lucing Bulchland (escorted by Cris Bulchand), Mother of the Year 2016 Estelita Torio (escorted by Erwin Torio), Mother of the Year 2017 Precy Andal (escorted by Jonathan Andal Pham) and finally, Rosario Canivel was crowned Mother of the Year 2018! Lucing Bulchland, Estelita Torio, Julie Parado and Angie Ogerio took care of the sash, bouquet, and plaque presentations.

The well-dressed and beautifully-coiffed candidates paraded with their beautiful gowns around the dance floor. Declared winners were Rose Sumonod (2nd runner-up), Celia Rochette (1st runner-up), and Rosie San, the AFSM Queen of Philippine Independence 2018!!! She was crowned by Cesar Manuel, Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) President, and Mel Anore, 2016 AFSM Queen. The revolving trophy was presented by Pepe and Norma Carbon. The evening saw the delightful antics of TV host Tenne Dayandante and Fil Can Idol Coach Mark Simbulan. Mark's golden voice filled the air when he serenaded the winners. Dennis Mayuga provided the danceable music. Jess Olivares was the tireless official photographer of the evening. An intermission number was provided by the Kababaihang Bisaya Performing Arts (KBPA). If there was a dance contest, this group would have won – what with those graceful moves and authentic costumes! Mr. & Mrs. William Fabia and Executive Board should be thanked for an enjoyable, entertaining, and engaging evening !!! What a treat! It was certainly a lovely social evening !

Here are the 2017-2019 AFSM Executive Board: William Fabia (President), Charito Canivel (VP-External), Elvira Balagot (Secretary), Lyn Lopez (Asst. Secretary), Suzette Olivares (Treasurer), Mel Anore (Asst. Treasurer), Pepe Carbon (Auditor), Rose Sumonod (Asst. Auditor), Precy Andal (Business Manager), Norma Carbon (Asst. Business Manager), Yolanda Dimaano (Asst. Business Manager), Estelita Torio (Press Relations Officer), Lucing Bulchand (Asst. PRO), Marilyn Amaro (Asst. PRO), Reuben Mendoza (Deputy Peace Officer), Vangie de la Mata (Asst. DPO), Clemente Bernardo (Peace Officer), Anatolia Limbaco (Asst.

Peace Officer), and Advisers Elvira Maximo, Dorie Francisco, and Neneh Fabia.

The Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers (QACFT) had their election of a new set of officers last May 12, 2018. It was held at the FAMAS building. Bing Estopa was elected QACFT President. Last June 10, 2018, the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) had its acclamation of its 2018-2020 Board of Directors. It was held at PROMIS (3333 Cote St. Catherine, Montreal), a conglomeration of government offices. Eleanor Nash, Project Manager of the Outreach and Communication Program, opened the celebration by enumerating the services offered, free of charge! These include: Settlement & Integration, French Courses, Employment Assistance, School Support, Family Support, and Community Food Action. And thanks to Adiva who sang the National Anthems! Yours truly delivered the Invocation, after which the newly acclaimed President, Minda Mazzone, gave her welcome address. Honourable Anthony Housefather arrived to induct the officers into office.

Membership certificates to new member associations were awarded by Honourable Anthony Housefather. There was a special message by ex-officio Ed Tupaz; he mentioned his Board of Directors' accomplishments during their term under his leadership. Arwin Allana's music made the atmosphere alive. Deserving Thank You's go to QACFT President Trans Liganor, Nenita Licayao, Svetlana Suarez, Tess Tupaz, Tenne Dayandante, Michael Davantes, Ciony Nueva, Cleo Kopeman, Valent Lloyd Hughes, Sonny Moros and many more for their presence. Al Abdon, the Director of Education and Leadership gave the closing remarks. A special appearance was made by Cesar Manuel, FAMAS President, to congratulate the new set of officers.

It was a pleasure to see all of the officers helping out in the setting up, cleaning, etc. Dolly Arjona brought the big paper flowers that beautifully adorned the walls. Jovy Narvas and Warlie Basbacio took care of the food. Jovy did wonderful as co-emcee. Tess Tupaz baked her favorite ube cake. Nick Mazzone, the First Gentleman of FFCAQ, was seen bringing in and out boxes and boxes of food. Cristy Hunter and Al Abdon took care of taking pictures. Thanks to Adiva Estinosa once more for her vocal renditions. And finally thanks to FFCAQ President Minda Mazzone and her Executive Board for a successful afternoon. The 2018-2020 FFCAQ Board of Directors are: Luzviminda Ogerio Mazzone (President), Josefina Faustino (Vice-President, Internal Affairs), Warlie Basbacio (Vice-President, External Affairs), Cristy Hunter (Secretary), Kimberly Felicia Wong (Treasurer), Matthew Hunter (Assistant Treasurer), Ella Reyes (Auditor), Alfonso Abdon (Director of Education & Leadership), Debbie Resurreccion (Director of Communications), Valent Lloyd Hughes (Director of Communication), Remedios Lopez (Director of Immigration & Employment), Nenita Licayao (Director of Philippine Studies & Library), Lorenza Tolentino (Director of Seniors), Edwina Cedilla (Director of Social Services & Philippine Relief), Arwin Allana (Director of Sports), Remedios Monteagudo (Director of Trade & Commerce), and Dolores Arjona (Director of Youth).

The Knights of Rizal (chartered under Republic Act 646) celebrated the 157th

birthday anniversary of our beloved Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. It was held at Place Jose Rizal Mackenzie King Park, Montreal last June 16, 2018. The program started with the Opening Remarks by Sir Edmour Valdez, followed by the Entrance of Colors by Sir Sadsad Dedote, Sir Angelito Laxamana, and Sir Esmael Calaunan. The Panday Tinig with Paul Imperial conducting and Edith Fedelizo on the piano performed the national Anthems.

Sir Hector Racuya led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag after the Invocation by Sir Reynaldo Balansi. Sir Gerry Danzil (Montreal Chapter Commander) delivered his welcome address with all his troops at attention. After a few photo shoots by MMTV Al Abdon and his crew, guests and dignitaries were introduced by Sir James De La Paz (Administrator). Guests who gave their encouraging messages were MP Anthony Housefather, CRAR Officer Fo Neimi and Rachel Bendayan. Knights of Rizal officers who delivered their messages were Sir Dario Boco (Eastern Canada Region Area Commander), Sir Bert Abiera, Sir Reynaldo Balansi, and Sir Salvador Cabugao. Representing the Philippine Embassy was Consul Jeffrey Salik. He was accompanied by his charming and gracious wife. Before lunch, there was a "Floral Offering" in front of the Jose Rizal monument. In between speeches were vocal intermissions provided by Sir Edmour Valdez and Sir Gerardo Osis. Two budding performers, Rondell Dwayne Talabocon and Gia recited a "tula" entitled "Panunumpa". They looked cute! Rondell was in burgundy barong and Gia was in off white "terna."

The Officers of the Knights of Rizal are as follows: Sir Gerry Danzil (KGOR, Chapter Commander), Sir Hector Racuya (KCR, Deputy Commander), Sir Hadial Gattoc (KCR, Chancellor), Sir Ernesto Gaston (KCR, Deputy Chancellor), Sir Dante Tabamo (KCR, Pursuivant), Sir Gerry Osis, KCR, (Deputy Pursuivant), Sir Freddie Baculina, (KCR, Exchequer), Sir Ismael Calaunan (KCR, Deputy Exchequer), Sir Jolan Bueno (KOR, Archivist), Sir Danny Novida (KOR, Deputy Archivist), Sir Abel Gumangan (KOR, Auditor), and Sir Rolando Maday-a (KCR, Deputy Auditor).

The Trustees are: Sir Pedro Danzil, KCR; Sir Patrick Gotera, KCR; Sir Terry Sadsad Dedote, KOR; Sir Angelito Manuel, KCR; Sir Reynaldo Abaya, KCR; Sir Reggie Villamor, KCR; Sir Edward Ujuvary, KCR; Sir Mario Pantaleon, KCR; and Sir Nixon Devera, KOR.

The Council of Elders are: Sir Dario Boco, KGOR; Sir John Linden, KCR; Sir Edmour Valdez, KCR; Sir Bert Abiera, KGOR; Sir Salvador Cabugao, KCR; Sir James De La Paz, KGOR; Sir Floristo Rillo, KCR; and Sir Reynaldo Balansi, KGOR.

Panday Tinig members who sang the National Anthems at Place Jose Rizal were: Paul Imperial, Editha Fedalizo, Magnolia Camat, Mynia Penaranda, Anita Lo, Theresa Ramos, Mary Ann Vicenzio, Erlyn Gascon, Marina Ocumen, Jessie Pascual, Red Borromeo, Gildo Manon-og, Dick Ribaya, and Dante Tabamo.

Last June 17, 2018, the Council of Canadian Filipino Association of Quebec (CCFAQ) celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence at Parc Mackenzie King on Sainte Catherine Road, Montreal. The park was transformed into a fiesta-looking arena inhabited by several tents of different organizations. Each tent boasted of its individual banner with their own logos inscribed. Each tent was filled with food brought by the officers and members for everyone to share. Behind the tents was more food from the different Filipino restaurants which offered the ever popular pork barbecue on a stick, pancit, pinakbet, shrimp balls, bubble tea, and much much more to tempt you to forget your diet. There was a tent showcasing Filipino attire, among other things. There was also an ice cream vendor to offer more variety of snacks which the children love. Many were seen with halo-halo and popsicle sticks. Thank God it was a beautiful, bright, sunny day! It won't be a surprise if the aroma of the barbecue pork permeating the air attracted more than the

revelers but perhaps the neighborhood as well.

After many years, the Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) decided to "spread its wings" (through the prodding of Chairman Roger Ajero) and joined the Independence Day for the first time. Ike Bas was at the park at 8am decorating the tent. Elvie Maximo arrived soon after to lend a helping hand. Let's hope that this first-time experience will encourage SWIS to join every year. Connie Fabro and Lucy Salazar represented SWIS during the parade.

For those who were not at the park, the sequence of the day's events were as follows: the Motorcade Parade around Borough CDN-NDG, the Grand March around the Park's quadrangle by the parade participants, the National Anthems (Lupang Hinirang and O Canada), Invocation by Alona Amano (Secretary), Welcome Address by Sir Dario Boco (President), Turnover of Command by Sir Gerry Danzil, and the Introduction of Guest Speakers by James De La Paz (Founder and Admin).

This was the order of the Parade: Facilitator Dionisio de los Reyes, Chairman Hector Racuya, and Co-Chairman Sir Jolan Bueno, Police Mobile Patrol, Colors (Sir Terry Dedote, Sir Lito Laxaman, Sir Sheldon Cohen), Grand Marshall Honorable David Birnbaum, MNA, Sir Dario Boco, CCFAQ Board of Directors and Officers, Knights of Rizal (Sir Gerry Danzil), Ladies of Knights of Rizal, Kababaihang Rizalista (Lady Esphe Manaog, President), Canon, Canadian Forces, Seafarers (Sir Freddie Baculina, President), CCFAQ (Sir Reggie Villamor, President), Bisaya Women's Group of Montreal, Black Watch School of Pipes and Drums, FAMAS (Cesar Manuel, President), BIBAK (Ailey D. David, President), JKA (Melarie Taylor and Charles Boco), Jesus is Lord Ministry (Joe Gonzales), Joy Christian Center International (Pastor Victor and Imelda S. Lapitan), Flores de Mayor (Dolly Arjona, Brouillete), Tranont Jeeps (Claire Soriano), Kim Colours, CEO International, Allstate Insurance, and finally, AKHRO (Jose Boyet Espinosa, President). Not to be missed were the attractively-decorated floats from different organizations!

Special mention: a very well-deserved shout out goes to my Independence Day Co-Emcee, ED Vasquez, for being there! THANKS, ED! I appreciate you and the crowd likes you. They love your baritone voice!

After the parade, the following dignitaries arrived: Lionel Perez (City Councilor, Darlington), Sue Montgomery (Mayor, CDN-NDG), Marvin Rotrand (City Councilor Snowdon), and Pierre Arcand (MNA for Mont Royal) and MP for Mount Royal, Anthony Housefather. Each of them gave a congratulatory message for our Independence Day.

Here's a partial list of participants for cultural presentations: Joy Center International, Japanese Karate Association, Doce Pares, Munting Mutya ng Pilipinas, the Highland Dancers, the Black Watch Pipes and Drums, Bibak Group, Circle of Friendly Filipinos, Flores de Mayo, Folklorique Arco Iris, Zornica, Astrid and Ingrid Torrico, Komachi Montreal, Jennifer and Joyce Duka, Ana Stasia, Bulgaria Balkani, Raoul Imbach, Romy Paraleja, June Bunyad, and Romy Reyes, to name a few.

The following are the members of the CCFAQ Executive Board 2018-2020: Dario Boco (President), Salvador Cabugao (Vice-President), Alona Amano (Secretary), Leonita Bumagat (Asst. Secretary), Administrators James De La Paz, Gerry Danzil, Erlinda Buluag, Alejandrina Ablog, Warlie Basbacio, Linda Agcaoili, and Lorenza Tolentino, Estela Tablas (Treasurer), Hodjal Gattoc (Asst. Treasurer), Rosemary De La Paz (Auditor), Claire Boco (Asst. Auditor), Cherry Palmos (PRO), Fely Rosales-Carino (Asst. PRO), Remigio Villamor (Security), Hector Racuya, Jolan Bueno, Pedro Danzil, Ernesto Galcon, Esmael Calaunan, Dionisio de los Reyes, and Alfredo Erquiza (Asst. Security).

God Bless us all. See you next issue.

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Valerie Concepcion finds fulfillment in finishing college



Valerie Concepcion

Last week, Valerie Concepcion graduated from college at 30 years old. She is now a proud Psychology degree holder of Arellano University.

The actress could have finished college 10 years ago but she admittedly had different priorities after high school.

"I was 16 then and already in show business earning money. And then, I got pregnant. I had to work for my daughter. I had to give up school. But I decided to go back to school even after over a decade primarily to impart the value of education to my daughter. I believe education is really important. It's a different fulfillment knowing that you finished school. I want my daughter to be proud of me and give her an inspiration to study knowing that mom moved mountains just to finish college."

Valerie recalls the first time she enrolled in college a decade ago. She signed up to go to AMA University back then.

"I was having butterflies in my stomach. That was 2014 and I was 25 years old that time. After a year, I stopped again at 2nd year college because I started doing teleseryes left and right.

"But another opportunity

to study came last year. The Expanded Tertiary Education, Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) of Arellano University is our government's way po to help working Filipinos like me to finish their studies. You have to be 25 years old and above with work experience to qualify and enroll in their program.

"If you are diligent enough, you can finish the four-year course in one year. Classes are every Saturdays and there are modules and tasks that you have to do at home where you are given specific dates to finish the tasks. Exams are scheduled with your classmates in school. There is also a major thesis to finish and community service which serves as your on-the-job training.

"My classmates ranged from 30 to 50 years old working students so it was easier for me to adjust because I didn't feel so old. And after a year, in God's grace I finally graduated."

Asked what else motivated her to go back to school, Valerie said, "It was my parents that served as inspirations because both of them finished schooling. I may have made a mistake stopping college because I was a teenage mom. But where you fall is also where you should rise up. And I did not let that 'mistake' ruin my life but instead it made me stronger.

"I also realized I need a back-up plan in case I get married and we transfer to another country. I need a degree to be able to work there."

Valerie dedicates her degree to God, to her parents, to her daughter Heather Fiona, to all the single moms and her fans and supporters.

"But I also dedicate this degree to myself. I owe this to myself. If I did not push myself to study I wouldn't have succeeded." ■

Solenn Heussaff defends Anne Curtis from body shamers, pregnancy assumptions



Solenn Heussaff & Anne Curtis (right)

Perhaps people thought wrong when they surmised that the remarks "You look fat" or "You seemed to have gained weight" can only come from Filipino aunties lacking delicadeza, because they don't. Celebrities and personalities, who have their lives in the spotlight, are constantly scrutinized by the watchful public, and are also subject to mean comments, bashings and even trolling.

Solenn Heussaff posted on her Instagram page last June 25 a picture of her with her family, including husband Nico Bolzico and sister-in-law Anne Curtis. The photo wasn't anything more than a beautiful family picture taken abroad, if only some netizens could be polite in their comments.

In the picture, Solenn and Anne can be seen standing in the middle, flanked by Erwan and his father on the right side, and the Heussaff matriarch and Bolzico on the left. Some netizens, however, thought it apt to point out that Anne seemed to have gained weight, with many assuming she's pregnant.

"I think she is preggy," wrote a certain Abigail (@mrs_abigail_brown). "She will announce it on her concert. Happy for you Anne."

Anne has since shot down the assumptions that she is pregnant, replying, "@mrs_abigail_brown No. I'm not pregnant. It's just the angle. And also all the egg tarts I ate."

Solenn came to Anne's defense upon seeing the remarks, commenting on her own post and telling people it's a bad habit to always remark about people's weight.

"Even if you [are] saying cute things, it's really a bad habit to always comment about people's weight," Solenn wrote. "It's always done in the Philippines by our tita's and friends and has become like a 'Hello' in our society."

Solenn added, "It's really not nice and not proper. [Whether] it's gaining or losing weight, people should stop. Really."

Other people also came to Anne's aid and defended her. "@annecurtissmith don't worry you don't look pregos [sic]. People just love to criticize instead of appreciating a nice picture," wrote one Dumas (@evtrdu). "You don't need to explain anything... Don't assume until she claims it because you don't want to spread self doubt on others."

"Actually Anne looks great no matter what angle," added a certain Roscom (@andangroscom). "Perfect body, not taba not payat."

But whether Anne gained weight or not is a business of hers and nobody else's. It's a reality that being subjected to the rudeness of the public is a price that comes with fame, but the adage "If you have nothing nice to say, say nothing at all" sometimes just couldn't ring any truer. ■

Kris Aquino: Duterte’s supporters are reason for not having TV show



As the so-called “Queen of Talk,” Kris Aquino hinted that a talk show that she will be hosting is on its way — not in a TV network like ABS-CBN but in the online world.

During a Monday press conference for her movie “I Love You, Hater” in ABS-CBN, Kris admitted that she misses working in ABS-CBN, but said that the Kapamilya network has not yet offered her new shows because she knows the network will not risk it given her family’s ties to the Liberal Party.

“I know that their (ABS-CBN’s) franchise is at stake. I’m being so honest, diretsahan na ‘yan so why do they risk it by giving me a show especially na kahit wala naman kaming isyu ni president (Duterte), hindi naman ako type ng supporters niya. So naiintindihan ko kung bakit wala,” the multimedia queen said.

Kris told her fans that if they want to see her, she just needs to log in to social media for a Facebook or Instagram live.

“Pero they can see me every night if they want to, I’m online and I have 53 brands supporting me.”

When asked to divulge more details about her talk show, Kris refused as she is afraid to violate non-disclosure agreements.

“I was forbidden to say more, I’m sorry. Sinabi ko nga eh, normally wala akong kinakatakutan pero ang kontrata at non-disclosure agreement kinakatakutan ko. Ang gusto n’yo namang mangyari, mangyayari pero sa tamang panahon pa raw pwede sabihin kung kailan.” ■

Angelica Panganiban, Carlo Aquino stills create stir before real film



The first look for former lovebirds Angelica Panganiban and Carlo Aquino’s movie was recently released and it’s already leaving everyone with double-heart eyes.

excitement for the film, some eager to know when the film will be shown, others already created a couple’s name for the characters, calling them “PINIX”.

One netizen even wrote:



“Gusto niyo ibalik, di ba? Malapit na,” Black Sheep, the production team behind the film, captioned one of the photo teasers.

The preview stills showed Panganiban, whose character’s name is Pia, and Aquino, who plays Nix, hanging out in a bar, exchanging smiles and stares.

Many expressed

“This is what dreams are made of.”

Panganiban and Aquino’s reunion project, titled “Exes Baggage”, will be directed by award-winning director Dan Villegas.

Villegas was the man behind blockbuster films “The Breakup Playlist”, “English Only Please”, and hit teleserye “On The Wings of Love”. ■

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15***Gabbi Garcia's fun-filled adventure in Hawaii**

Gabbi Garcia escaped to the tropical island of Hawaii with the people most dear to her — her family — for some much needed relaxation.

Garcia shared a photo on Instagram last week of herself looking calm at the beach, wearing a blue one-piece swimwear. She wrote, "[Y]ay for tan lines."

"Such a fun vacation with my family at Hawaii!! @sweet.escape made it even more memorable with all these beautiful photos!"ghfgh

While in Hawaii, Garcia also became a daredevil, getting to experience sky diving.



Looking like an island babe, Garcia appeared to be enjoying paradise with the clear blue sky and sea behind her.



Garcia later shared more candid moments of her family, laughing and being carefree.



The Kapuso actress also posed for some wacky photos with her sister and travel buddy, Alex.



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For any questions or information on the district, the borough or the City of Montreal please do not hesitate to contact us.

Autorisé par Robert Richard, représentant officiel de Ensemble Montréal
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GTA Hoops Inaugural Palaro 2018 Opens at HoopDome

By : Bob A. San Juan

Summer has arrived and so do with the ever-popular season of basketball tourneys have commenced in the Filipino Canadian community. The GTA Hoops "Palaro para sa Kabataan" (Sports for the Youth) first basketball invitational had a successful inaugural tournament held recently at Hoop Dome, Downsview Park, 75 Carl Hall, North York, Toronto on June 15 to 17, 2018. Considered the new player in town, GTA Hoops Invitational, organized in January 2018, is now a recognized league among the more than two dozen amateur basketball clubs in the Greater Toronto Area in Canada.

Durham-FBA, Eastside Movement, Fil-Act, Jayhawks, Lakan, Maharlika, North York, OneTen, PMR Ballstars, Red Warriors, Scarborough, Spartans, Toronto Elite, UNDFTD and YDB. Registered participants of the 22 clubs played under 7 age-group divisions (born from 2000 to 2010) such as: Mosquito, Tykes, Peewee, Bantam, Midget, Juvenile and Open.

One of the tournament highlights was the "Skills Challenge" contest participated in by Peewee, Tykes and Mosquito players. Under the supervision of sports director Manny Villamor, assisted by his GTA Hoops co-organizers, the challenge was well-received by players and parents alike.



The First GTA Hoops Basketball Invitational Tourney graced by special guests Hon. Marco Mendicino, MP for Eglinton-Lawrence and Hon. Michael Levitt, MP for York-Centre at HoopDome June 16, 2018.

The 22 participating organizations were: 24 MM, Bayan, Birchmount Elite, CKaTT, Crossover, DLB, Dreamteam,

Albeit the games started a day earlier on Friday, June 15th, the opening ceremonies were formally

conducted on June 16th Saturday. The official program commenced with the singing of the Philippine and Canadian national anthems by Alexandra Manalo with a welcome address and presentation of teams by the GTA Hoops sports director, Manny Villamor. A special message was also delivered by the emcee & CNAC-O president Suzy S.J. Llanera, on behalf of the Filipino Heritage Month-FHMC, citing that "basketball is part of the sporting heritage and culture of Filipinos in this adopted land".

Two special guests, Hon. Marco Mendicino and Hon. Michael Levitt, Canada's Members of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence and for York Centre, respectively, delivered their brief congratulatory messages and repeated Mabuhay chants. The two MPs, who presented a Special Certificate and jointly performed the ceremonial toss, were introduced by Tony A. San Juan, FHMC founding chair. Hon. Rob Oliphant, MP for Don Valley West joined in a short time later.

The maiden GTA Hoops 2018 basketball invitational tournament was generously sponsored by Dr. Victoria Santiago & Associates Family Dentistry, with Jim Cantos of Arrow Professional Services, Mhel Galeon of FV Foods and HoopDome as partners. The GTA Hoops Invitational was co-founded and organized by community-based basketball sports leaders and "aficionados" Manny & Vilma Villamor, Vilma Tahsin, Roger Tarca and Bob San Juan. During the games, the "fab five" was assisted by parent-volunteers such as: Mark Villegas, Brenda Agoncillo, Sharonne Salanguit, Arlene Pacia-Perez, Teresa San Juan, Irene Sarsonas, Marilou Silva, Lalaine Zaragoza, Lisette Dalisay, Mylene Escalona, and Alvin Garsin. Amongst the GTA Hoops friends and supporters present were: Minda Neri, Nene Ticzon, Joy San Juan, Jess Llanera, George Lalata, Mike Cruz Ben & Paulina Corpuz. DJ

Jong Lee and DJ Jason Williams provided the sound systems and photography by Lourellie Faith Palomo-Lee & Dennis Javinal.

Many players, parents, managers, coaches, officials and spectators concluded that the GTA Hoops 2018 "Palaro" was indeed a "very productive & thrilling experience for all of us" and one for the annals of amateur "basketbol", initiated and delivered within the sport - loving Filipino Canadian community.

From Page 3 Kim Jong Un

would have "a tremendous relationship." The less enthused North Korean leader simply replied, "We're here [gladly], overcoming everything" to make this meeting happen.

In their joint declaration, Trump and Kim vowed to continue building "a lasting and robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula". More specifically, the US "committed to provide security guarantees" to Pyongyang, while the latter "reaffirmed [its] firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula."

Yet, there was no mention of Washington's key demands, namely the Complete, Verifiable, and Irreversible Disarmament (CVID) of North Korea's nuclear infrastructure. Trump also provided no clear idea of the kind of "security guarantees" the US is willing to offer Pyongyang.

The two leaders simply underscored their "firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula". To Trump, perhaps the instantaneous media mileage generated by the event was more important than negotiating a truly consequential deal, which, according to leading experts, may take more than a decade to complete.

See Page19

Kim Jong Un

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From Page 18 - Kim Jong Un

Thus, it's hard to see the outcome of the summit as anything but a series of "motherhood statements" with little substance.

The two leaders will likely have to conduct reciprocal visits to each other's capitals over the coming years before working out a final deal. The White House has indicated the possibility of multiple meetings between Trump and Kim, while diplomats and defence officials painfully hatch out the devil in the details of a final agreement.

A victory for Kim Jung-un

While there was little substance in the summit declaration, Kim came out as the winner of this set of talks. He basked in global stardom and managed to enhance his regime's legitimacy by engaging in high-stakes diplomacy with the support of all major powers. Thus the summit undoubtedly helped the Korean regime partially lift the veil of its profound international isolation.

Now, all key players, from China to South Korea, Singapore and the US, have a direct stake in ensuring that the peace negotiations move forward and as smoothly as possible. As a reward for the summit, Trump is expected to suspend joint military exercises with South Korea and contemplate the prospect of drawing down US military presence in the Korean Peninsula.

The announcement has

provoked displeasure in Seoul, but it is music to the ears of the North Korean regime, which has managed to secure concessions from the US without necessarily agreeing to a clear denuclearisation plan. The summit was, in many ways, war by other means.

With Trump constantly heaping praise on the North Korean leader and dangling the prospect of full normalisation of bilateral ties, the reclusive regime is gradually and stealthily dispensing with its "axis of evil" pariah status. There is even talk of a Nobel Peace Prize for Trump and Kim.

As a result, the regime change agenda is definitively off the table for now. This could, over time, also weaken international resolve and the willingness of many nations, particularly outside the West, to implement international sanctions against North Korea.

Thus, the summit was a big win for Kim, giving him a deep measure of strategic respite. Over the coming months, the North Korean regime will explore its next move in chess-like, technical, and potentially drawn-out negotiations towards a final and enduring agreement.

At stake is not only Kim's regime survival, but also the welfare of his people who are desperate for greater economic engagement with the world.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.

From Page 8 - G7 Summit



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to reporters on the conclusion of the G7 summit, June 9, 2018 in Quebec.

‘What are we doing here?’” Trump said.

Following Trump’s departure from the G7 summit, the president launched into a multi-day tirade over trade and Canada’s response to tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. The issue of trade was the most controversial heading into the G7 summit in La Malbaie, with Trump launching multiple barbs in Canada’s direction in the days leading up to his arrival.

“That fact is that Canada has a 275 per cent tariff on dairy products, little thing called dairy products,” Trump told the crowd Monday.

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