

**Comelec appeals SC ruling on Grace Poe**

**Comelec Commissioner Arthur Lim stresses that the Supreme Court remains divided on presidential bet Senator Grace Poe's citizenship**



Senators Grace Poe and Francis Escudero announce their complete senatorial lineup on Thursday, October 29, 2015, at Club Filipino in San Juan City.

MANILA, Philippines (UPDATED) – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Tuesday, March 22, appealed the Supreme Court (SC) ruling that allowed Senator Grace Poe to run for president.

Comelec Commissioner Arthur Lim said the poll body was filing its motion for reconsideration Tuesday afternoon.

In an interview Tuesday afternoon, Lim stressed that the SC remains divided on Poe. He cited SC rules stating “that if the Supreme Court en banc is equally divided in opinion, or the necessary majority vote cannot be had, the Court shall deliberate on it anew.”

He added, “If, after such deliberation, still no decision is reached, the Court shall, in an original action filed with it, dismiss the case.”

Lim explained that 7 SC justices voted that Poe is presumptively natural born. He said this is not a majority vote.

He said this is because 5 SC justices voted that Poe is not a natural-born

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Comelec appeals



Three men who are suspected of taking part in the attacks at Belgium's Zaventem Airport on Tuesday. The man at center has been identified as Ibrahim El Bakraoui.

**Belgium names Brussels bomber brothers, says key suspect on run**

By Jan Strupczewski, Julia Fioretti and Alastair Macdonald March 23, 2016 BRUSSELS (Reuters) -

Belgium's chief prosecutor named two brothers on Wednesday as Islamic State suicide bombers who killed at least 31 people in the most deadly attacks in Brussels' history but said another key suspect was on the run.

Tuesday's attacks on a city that is home to the European Union and NATO sent shockwaves across Europe and around the world, with authorities

racing to review security at airports and on public transport. It also rekindled debate about lagging European security cooperation and flaws in police surveillance.

The attacks came four months after militants, also from IS, carried out bombings and shootings in Paris that killed 129 people. Some Belgian media reports said a forensic link had been established between one of the Brussels bombers, who may have

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Brussels attacks

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# EDITORIAL

## Who will be the ideal president?

Every time an election comes, we always wonder if the Philippines would ever elect a president who is a visionary to make things better for the common masses. Out of the six who filed their certificates of candidacy for president, five have emerged as the main contenders - Grace Poe, Jejomar Binay, Mar Roxas, Rodrigo Duterte and Miriam Defensor Santiago. But does any one of them qualify to be the kind of president the Philippines needs?

Leading the voter preference surveys is Grace Poe, 47. She says she will put her heart in governance, get closer to the people and be able to feel what they feel. In presenting her vision for the country, Poe anchored this on the idea of unity and inclusiveness, which she said was inspired by her father's dream for the country. According to Poe, her program is centered on "a simple principle and belief:" that no Filipino and no region should be left behind. She outlined three strategies to achieve her goals. The first is to fight poverty and push for inclusive growth. The second is to have an open government, one that is free from corruption and respects human rights. The third is to push for a culture that would pave the way for the country's global competitiveness.

Vice President Jejomar Binay wants to continue higher economic growth by investing more in infrastructure and ensuring that action is taking place quicker. He wants first to generate more resources externally by inviting foreign investors and making sure that environment is really conducive to foreign investments. His team would propose amending the economic provisions of the Constitution to allow foreign investors to invest in areas that have been disallowed or limited — land, public utilities.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has three priorities — first 24/7 fight against crime and corruption, second, promote the development of the economy by tying this up with the advocacy on federalism, which is regional development and the last is equality before the law and give equal opportunities for everyone. He also proposes programs for SMEs and agriculture, promises free irrigation for farmers if elected president.

For administration bet Manuel

"Mar" Roxas II, the priority is to continue the "Daang Matuwid" which underlies his entire platform, that has been started by President Aquino. He declares "three freedoms" at center of his platform - first is the freedom of hunger, and that is essentially concerned with job generation particularly in the agriculture sector. He talks about foreign investments in manufacturing and bigger government investments in infrastructure for the agricultural sector. The second is freedom from fear — talking about safety nets on health issues and peace and order, improve policing. Third, the freedom to dream which goes towards improving the capacity of individual citizens and families to actually aspire for their dreams, such as expanding the K-12 and CCT [conditional cash transfer] programs."

Senator Miriam Santiago almost won the presidency in 1992. The 70-year old has served in all three branches of the Philippine government - judicial, executive, and legislative - and was once named one of the 100 most powerful women in the world by The Australian magazine. Experts say Santiago, who is running for the third time, is a legitimate candidate running on her reputation as a brilliant and fearless mind, but is currently languishing in surveys in the single digits area. She was very ill with cancer; but insists she has fully recovered. She plans to "aggressively fight the war against illegal drugs". She has promised to reform the tax system and increase government efficiency, with the goal of keeping the government deficit below 3% of the GDP. She also plans to invest in public infrastructure, agriculture sector, and government institutions. An advocate of the Reproductive Health Law (RHL), she was not pleased by the 1 billion peso budget allocation cuts for contraceptives. She said that, if she will be elected, she will work for a full and conscientious implementation of the RHL.

All candidates appear to have good platforms but Grace Poe seems to have the edge as she appeals to the heart of the masses. Being a new politician without any bad record, she might be what the Philippines need in the new era of "governance with a heart."

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Permit me to follow up on my letter of last month where I indicated there soon would be an important public meeting on the issue of the under representation of visible minorities in municipal elected office.

Thus, allow me to use the pages of the Filipino Star to urge your readers to attend this public meeting which will be held April 5 at 7:00 PM at 6767 Cote des Neiges.

Your readers will recall that on January 18 six Montreal City Councillors and various organizations representing visible minority communities convened an important press conference to discuss the absence of visible minorities in municipal office in Montreal.

Specifically, the press conference was called to support my motion at the January 25 City Council meeting which pointed out that only 6 of 208 elected municipal officials in the agglomeration of Montreal (the City and on-island suburbs) are from visible minority communities while one person in three on the island of Montreal hails from these communities.

As the research released at the press conference showed, this unfortunate situation is not a Montreal problem alone. Visible minorities are more or less invisible in municipal Councils right across Canada. This a national disgrace, particularly in a country that prides itself as multiracial and multicultural and an example of what a tolerant and accepting society can accomplish.

Toronto, a city where visible minorities account for 49% of the population has five persons of visible minority origin on its Council of 45. That is one of the better records in Canada. Neighbouring Mississauga which has a visible minority majority has no visible minorities on its Council.

My power of action is necessarily constrained to Montreal where I can speak and raise motions. Indeed my motion of January was adopted and now represents a challenge for the municipal political parties for the 2017 civic elections. There has been overwhelmingly positive reaction to the press conference and the motion. In response to many requests, the Councillors and the organizations that have launched this campaign feel it is important to continue the work and keep this issue squarely in the public eye.

Clearly there is much to discuss. Accordingly, a first public meeting has been convened for Tuesday, April 5 at 7 PM at 6767 Cote des Neiges. This meeting will discuss Montreal's governance model, explain the electoral process and consider setting up a permanent working group that will interface with civil society.

It is essential that the public seize the opportunity provided by the adoption of my motion. I hope the readers of the Filipino Star will consider accepting this invitation and join us at this important public meeting on April 5.

In some respects we have already made history in that we are building collaboration between communities which have rarely worked together before. It is heartening to see organizations and individuals from the Filipino, Black, Chinese, Bangladeshi, Indian and Chinese communities work on a common cause. I hope the public will manifest its interest and that we will have a large attendance on April 5.

Yours truly,

Marvin Rotrand  
City Councillor

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Letter to the Editor (Continued)

Dear Editor;

US Secretary of State John Kerry said a couple years ago that "If I went back to college today, I think I would probably major in comparative religion, because that's how integrated it is in everything that we are working on and deciding and thinking about today."

With so many conflicts in the world having a religious dimension, it is critically important that Western governments understand that dimension and work to promote religious freedom and communal harmony.

In the last Parliament, our government created an Office of Religious Freedom within Canada's department of Foreign Affairs, now Global Affairs. This office was and is fairly modest in scope with a budget of \$5 million. But this office is punching above its weight. Most of its resources go directly to supporting programs in troubled regions of the world. And the office also helps Canadian public servants understand the important role that religion occupies in many international conflicts. It helps to make up for that religious knowledge gap which John

Kerry was referring to.

When it comes to religious persecution, the numbers are staggering. Christians face more persecution today than they did during the period of the early church. Sikhs and Hindus in places like Afghanistan face significant persecution, which has led to a dramatic decline in their populations. Uyghur Muslims in China and Tatar Muslims in Russia are under increasing pressure and many human rights groups have recognized that what is happening to Yazidis, Christians and other minorities in Syria and Iraq is nothing short of genocide.

Canada needs to be involved in promoting religious freedom, tolerance, and pluralism around the world. The mandate of the Office of Religious Freedom is set to expire on March 31st and we have been calling on the government to renew its mandate and to let it continue to do its vital work. The work of Canada's Office of Religious Freedom is needed now more than ever.

-Garnett Genuis, MP  
Deputy Critic for Human Rights and Religious Freedom

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Join me in a working session on the  
**under representation of visible minorities** on municipal councils  
in the agglomeration of Montreal.



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### From Page 1 - Comelec appeals

Filipino, while 3 other justices abstained.

“Yung 3 abstentions, boto rin po ‘yun,” Lim said. (The 3 abstentions are also votes.)

The SC on March 8 voted to reverse the Comelec’s decision to cancel Poe’s certificate of candidacy for president.

The High Court explained that, for one, “there is more than sufficient evidence” that Poe “has Filipino parents and is therefore a natural-born Filipino.” – Rappler.com

PRIVATE respondents who had



**Comelec Commissioner Arthur Lim**  
Abandoned

Poe, a baby abandoned at a church in Jaro, Iloilo, in 1968, does not know her biological parents. Raised by her the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. and



lost their bid to disqualify presidential actress Susan Roces as their own, Poe

### Presidential aspirant Senator Grace Poe. FILE PHOTO/JAY MORALES

candidate Grace Poe have asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its landmark ruling in favor of the senator, calling the decision “a 47-page perversion of the Constitution.”

In a joint motion for reconsideration, former Sen. Francisco “Kit” Tatad, De La Salle University professor Antonio Contreras, former University of the East Law Dean Amado Valdez and former Government Service Insurance System chief legal counsel Estrella Elamparo on Friday urged the court to overturn its March 8 ruling, saying the “ignominy” could erode the public’s trust in the country’s institutions.

“By declaring that petitioner Poe is qualified to be a candidate for president in the coming elections, the honorable court committed a serious misstep from which the nation might never recover,” read the 48-page reconsideration plea.

The plea asserted that Poe was both a noncitizen and is short of the 10-year residency requirement for presidential candidates, contrary to the Supreme Court’s ruling that affirmed the senator on both points.

“Private respondents urge the honorable court to reconsider this patently discriminatory ruling, that can only but further degrade the trust that the public bestows on a government that it expects to exercise fairness,” said the respondents, calling Poe a “true nuisance candidate.”

The four, all petitioners in the disqualification cases against the senator before the Commission on Elections (Comelec), questioned the voting that won the case for Poe, saying there was no clear majority on how magistrates ruled on the separate issues of citizenship and residency.

became a US citizen in 2001 after residing for more than a decade in the United States.

She returned to the Philippines in May 2005, months after burying her father, and reacquired her Philippine citizenship in July 2006. She renounced her American citizenship in 2010, upon her appointment as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

Fighting to stay in the presidential race, Poe won the case against her disqualification in a 9-6 vote, with the majority all agreeing that the Comelec had committed grave abuse of discretion in canceling Poe’s certificate of candidacy.

The voting varied on the issues. Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno disclosed in her concurring opinion that out of 12 justices who opted to bring the citizenship issue to a vote, seven held that Poe was natural born, while seven out of 13 voted that Poe had met the 10-year residency requirement.

For the respondents, this defeated the point of the majority rule. “With the ruling of the majority today, a presidential candidate who is deemed a natural-born Filipino citizen by less than majority of this Court, deemed not a natural-born Filipino citizen by five justices, and with no opinion from three justices, can now run for President of the Philippines even after having unanimously found by the Comelec en banc to be not a natural-born Filipino citizen,” read the plea.

“What is clear and undeniable is that there is no majority of this court that holds that petitioner Poe is a natural-born Filipino citizen,” it said. TVJ

### From Page 1 - Brussels attacks

been killed, and the Nov. 13 attacks in the French capital.

Washington announced that Secretary of State John Kerry would visit Belgium on Friday to demonstrate support.

The Belgian federal prosecutor told a news conference that Ibrahim El Bakraoui, 29, one of two men who blew themselves up at Brussels airport on Tuesday, had left a will on a computer dumped in a rubbish bin near the militants’ hideout.

In it, he described himself as “always on the run, not knowing what to do anymore, being hunted everywhere, not being safe any longer and that if he hangs around, he risks ending up next to the person in a cell” - a reference to suspected Paris bomber Salah Abdeslam, who was arrested last week.

His brother Khalid El Bakraoui, 27, detonated a bomb an hour later on a crowded rush-hour metro train near the European Commission headquarters, prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw said.

Both men, born in Belgium, had criminal records for armed robbery but investigators had not linked them to Islamist militants until Abdeslam’s arrest, when police began a race against time to track down his suspected accomplices.

That seems to have prompted the bombers to rush into an attack in Belgium after months of lying low, according to the testament found on

however, citing an unidentified source, named Laachraoui as the second suicide bomber at the airport.

Khalid El Bakraoui rented under a false name the apartment in the city’s Forest borough, where police hunting Abdeslam killed a gunman in a raid last week. He is also believed to have rented a safe house in the southern Belgian city of Charleroi used to mount the Paris attacks.

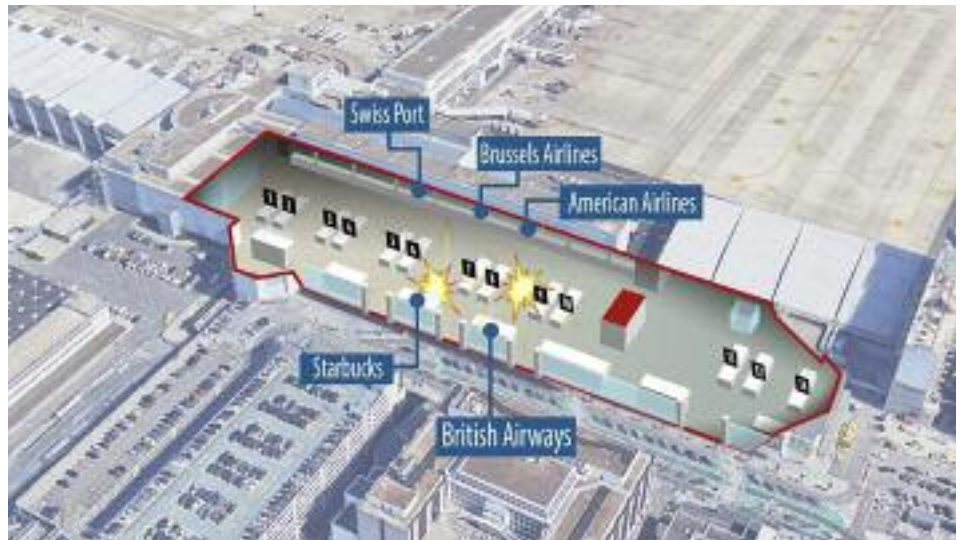
### "BLACK DAYS"

Turkey said it had detained Ibrahim El Bakraoui near the Syrian border last year and deported him to the Netherlands before he was briefly held in Belgium, then released. “Belgium ignored our warning that this person is a foreign fighter,” President Tayyip Erdogan said.

The Brussels attacks came days after a suspected Islamic State suicide bomber blew himself up in Istanbul’s most popular shopping district, killing three Israelis and an Iranian.

The Syrian-based Islamist group claimed responsibility for Tuesday’s attacks, warning of “black days” for those fighting it in Syria and Iraq. Belgian warplanes have joined the coalition in the Middle East, but Brussels has long been a hub of Islamist militants who operated elsewhere.

A minute’s silence was observed across Belgium at noon. Prime Minister Charles Michel cancelled a trip to China and reviewed



**Map of the airport showing where the bombings occurred among the crowds departing for their travels**

the laptop.

At least 31 people were killed and 271 wounded in the attacks, the prosecutor said. That toll could increase further because some of the bomb victims at Maelbeek metro station were blown to pieces and victims are hard to identify. Several survivors were still in critical condition. The Bakraoui brothers were identified by their fingerprints and on security cameras, the prosecutor said. A second suicide bomber at the airport had yet to be identified and a third man, whom he did not name, had left the biggest bomb and ran out of the terminal before the explosions.

Belgian media named that man as Najim Laachraoui, 25, a suspected Islamic State recruiter and bomb-maker whose DNA was found on two explosives belts used in the Paris attacks and at a Brussels safe house used by Abdeslam.

De Standaard newspaper,

www.filipinostar.org

security measures with his inner cabinet before attending a memorial event at European Commission headquarters with King Philippe, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and French Prime Minister Manuel Valls.

“We are determined, admittedly with a strong feeling of pain in our stomachs, but determined to act,” Michel told a joint news conference with Valls. “France and Belgium are united in pain more than ever.”

Valls played down cross-border sniping over security, saying: “We must turn the page on naivete, a form of carefreeness that our societies have known.”

“It is Europe that has been attacked. The response to terrorism must be European.”

EU justice and interior ministers will hold an emergency meeting in Brussels on Thursday, the Dutch EU presidency said.



More than 1,000 people gathered around an improvised shrine with candles and street paintings outside the Brussels bourse.

Belgium's crisis coordination centre kept the level of security alert at the maximum as the man hunt continued. Some buses and trains were running but the metro and the airport were closed, along with key road tunnels in Brussels.

The blasts fuelled political debate across the globe about how to combat militants.

Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican nomination to succeed Obama in November's U.S. election, suggested suspects could be tortured to avert such attacks. He also said in a British television interview that Muslims were not doing enough to prevent that kind of violence.

After a tip-off from a taxi driver who unwittingly drove the bombers to the airport, police searched an apartment in the Brussels borough of Schaerbeek late into the night, finding another bomb, an Islamic State flag, 15 kg of the same kind of explosives used in the Paris attacks and bomb-making chemicals.

An unused explosive device was also found at the airport.

#### CLOSING IN

Security experts believed the blasts were probably in preparation before Friday's arrest of locally based French national Abdeslam, 26, whom prosecutors accuse of a key role in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks.

He was caught and has been speaking to investigators after a shootout at an apartment in the south of the city, after which another Islamic State flag and explosives were found. About 300 Belgians are estimated to have fought with Islamists in Syria,

making the country of 11 million the leading European exporter of foreign fighters and a focus of concern in France and other neighbours over its security capabilities.

Reviving arguments over Belgian security policies following the Paris attacks, in which 130 people died in an operation apparently organised from Brussels, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin spoke of "naïveté" on the part of "certain leaders" in holding back from security crackdowns on Muslim communities.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders retorted that each country should look to its own social problems, saying France too had rough high-rise suburbs in which militants had become radicalised. Valls said France had no place teaching Belgium lessons and had problems with its own communities.

Brussels airport seemed likely to remain shut for several days over the busy Easter holiday weekend, since the departure hall was still being combed as a crime scene on Wednesday and repairs can only begin once investigators are finished.

"Belgium ignored our warning that this person is a foreign fighter," President Tayyip Erdogan said.

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The Syrian-based Islamist group claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attacks, warning of "black days" for those fighting it in Syria and Iraq. Belgian warplanes have joined the coalition in the Middle East, but Brussels has long been a hub of Islamist militants who operated elsewhere.

An American injured in the Brussels terror attacks has already been impacted previous terror attacks in Boston and Paris, his family said.

Mason Wells, 19, was injured in the bombing at the Brussels airport along with two other American Mormon missionaries who had gone to help check in other missionaries who were traveling to the U.S.

Wells suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon, shrapnel injuries, as well as second- and third-degree burns on his



**Mason Wells**

face and hands after the bombing, his father Chad Wells told ABC News.

The teen missionary had previously been impacted by other terror attacks in Paris and Boston.

"This is his third terrorist attack," Chad Wells said, noting he was with his son just a block from the Boston Marathon bombing.

"This is the third time that sadly in our society that we have a connection to a bomb blast," Wells told ABC News. "We

live in a dangerous world and not everyone is kind and loving."

**Dramatic Video Goes Inside Brussels Airport After Deadly Attacks Explosions Tear Through Brussels Airport And Subway New York, DC Ramp Up Security in Wake of Deadly Brussels Attacks**

Wells said that during the Boston Marathon bombing, he was with his son a block away from the finish line, where the bombing took place, waiting for Mason Wells' mother, who ran the marathon.

"It had shaken their bodies and he had taken Mason to our hotel and said to stay there," Kymberly Wells told ABC News of her son and husband being near the Boston bombing. "Mason was very calm and composed."

The family said Wells was in France during the Paris attacks last year that lead to a wide mobilization to find the terrorists and disrupt future attacks.

"Mason has always assured us that he is safe and careful," Kymberly Wells said. "I told him first and foremost always be aware of your surroundings, please be very careful when you're traveling be very observant to people around you."

ABC News' Sally Hawkins and Clayton Sandell contributed to this report.

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## The illustrious Jeff Rustia



JEFF RUSTIA

Philippine Presidential Pamana awardee Jeff Rustia is a Canadian broadcaster, creative director, TV host, and executive producer of Filipino descent from Toronto. He is recognized in the TV Industry as a leading creative executive of FRONT TV, an international broadcast design and branding agency. Under his leadership, Front TV created multicultural global design for networks like Nickelodeon (India, Asia, Europe, Africa), Discovery Channel, CPAC, APTN, HBO, CBC, and Current TV. FRONT TV is recognized as one of the first agencies in Canada to specialize in diversity. As a TV host and VJ, Rustia is known for hosting Club Fashion, a weekly national show on

Dance Music Video Channel. Rustia has interviewed many prominent figures in fashion, entertainment, and music, and has travelled over 38 countries for his style program. Rustia has hosted several BPM:TV Specials as well including 50 Most Fashionable Music Videos, a 5-part TV series on the world's stylish music stars and their videos.

As executive producer, Rustia has developed and produced several Canadian programs, such as Pet Fashion TV, on the latest pet styles and trends, and Kol's World, a first of its kind, children's animated TV series about a boy in a wheelchair named Kol whose zest for life enables him to overcome any obstacle. He is also the executive producer and founder of



**Quezon's Top Model Quest awarding of the Darling of the Press with the President/Ceo of JOP Jaylo Pizarra, designer Julius Ornum, and stylist Domz Ramos. photo by Lito Caleon**

fashion, style icons, nightlife, and club culture on BPM:TV, Canada's 24-hour

Canada Philippines Fashion Week (CPFOW), which is dedicated to the promotion and development of Filipino talents in the Philippines and Canada. Furthermore, he is the man behind Toronto Men's Fashion week (TOM\*) – the eighth men's fashion week in the world. With cutting-edge runway shows and presentations, Toronto Men's Fashion Week (TOM\*) has become the most influential platform in Canada for menswear designers and brands.

While Rustia's passion for fashion is evident, his heart is on Kol Hope Foundation for Children, which he co-founded. It is the first charitable organization in North America that helps and supports children born with Trisomy-related disabilities. The Foundation which was formed in 2002, is named after Jeff Rustia's son, Kol, who was born with a Trisomy 13 genetic syndrome. Kol, who died on October 9, 2011, is the inspiration and story behind the foundation. On November 11, 2011, Kol Hope Foundation for Children held its annual fundraising event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto entitled, "The Most Glamorous Filipino Ball on Earth". Canada Philippine Fashion Week and Toronto Men's Fashion Week are also dedicated to Kol Hope, which has four beneficiaries, namely, Easter Seals Canada, Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto and 2 special children homes, Bacolod Boys Home and Holy Infant Nursery in Bacolod Philippines. ■



**Toronto Men's Fashion Week (TOM\*) MensFashion4Hope featuring 20 of Canada's top male models.**



# Tagalog Seksyon

## Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

### ANG KARAPATAN NG PASYENTE PAGDATING SA EMERGENCY ROOM NG OSPITAL

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon sa pagkamatay ni Mark Blandford, isang kilalang filmmaker/producer. Noong Nov. 2, dinala siya sa emergency room ng St. Mary's Hospital dahil sa nararamdamang sakit sa tiyan. Matapos ang pagsusuri, napagalaman na may ruptured aortic aneurysm siya at kailangan siyang maoperahan kaagad. Hindi alam ng staff na noon pang July 1, pinagbawalan nang gumawa ng operasyon si Dr Carl Emond na siya lamang makatutulong kay Blandford. Dahil dito, isinugod si Blandford sa McGill University Health Centre pero namatay na siya bago operahan. Subalit ayon kay Benoit Morin, direktor ng West Island Integrated Centre, may privilege pa si Dr. Emond na gumawa ng operasyon.

Sabi naman ni Health Minister Gaetan Barrette, "There is a difference between an elective surgery and urgent surgery." Sa kalagayan ni Blandford na nag-aagaw buhay, dapat binigyan ng priority ang urgent surgery. Nandoon si Dr. Emond at kahit wala na siyang privilege gumawa ng operasyon, dapat ay inoperahan niya si Blandford. Sinabi naman ni Jean-Mierre Menard, abogadong kumakatawan sa mga karapatan ng pasyente, "In defiance of hospital orders, the welfare of patients outweighs all considerations in a life-and-death situation."

Nararamdaman ko ang sakit na pinagdadaan ng pamilya ni Blandford – ang hindi kaagad mabigyan ng kinakailangang lunas ang mahal sa buhay na naghihinala.

Nasa first year ako college ako nang mabangga ang sinasakyan ng aking ama sa Pilipinas. Dinala siya sa San Juan de Dios, isang pribadong ospital na pinakamalapit sa pinangyarihan ng aksidente. Natatandaan ko ang unang nang tanong ng doktor na sumalubong sa amin sa ospital, "May pera ho ba kayo?" "Bakit ganoon?" tanong ko sa aking sarili. Buhay ng tatay ko ang nakataya pero pera ang itinatanong. Akala ko ay ang kaligtasan ng pasyente ang unang tungkulin ng mga doktor.

Sa pagkamatay ni Blandford, sino ang dapat sisihin - ang gobyerno, ang ospital o doktor? Magsisihan man sila ay hindi na maibabalik ang buhay ni Blandford.

### ANG KAHALAGAHAN NG KASAYSAYAN NG EDSA REVOLUTION

Noong nakaraang buwan, ginunita ang EDSA Revolution, isang payapang demonstrasyon ng mga Pilipino sa Epifanio de los Santos bilang pagprotesta sa diktadura ng dating pangulong Ferdinand Marcos. Nagsimula ang demonstrasyon noong 1983 at humantong mula Feb. 22 hanggang 25 1986. Kabilang sa mga nag-protesta ay halos 2 milyong Pilipino na kinabibilangan ng mga sibilyan, militar at alagad ng simbahan sa pamumuno ni Cardinal Jaime Sin.

Unang naging pangulo ng Pilipinas si Ferdinand Marcos noon 1965 at nahalal siyang muli noong 1969. Dito nagsimula ang mga katiwalian, pagkawala ng kalayaan ng mga mamamayan at pang-aabuso ng gobyerno.

Ngayon lamang tumatak sa isip ko ang mga pagdurusa at paghihirap na dinanas ng mga Pilipino noong panahon ng diktadurya ni Marcos nang ipakita ito sa television noon lamang nakaraang buwan. Pagkatapos ko ng college sa Lyceum of the Philippines noong 1969, nagpunta na ako sa Canada (hanggang ngayon on ay hindi pa ako nakababalik sa Pilipinas). Wala pang social media o TFC noon kung saan nakakukuha ng mga balita mula Pilipinas. Minsan ay ang mga kaibigan ko sa Pilipinas ang nagbibigay sa akin ng kaunting balita. Alam kong nagkaroon ng curfew, mga rally ng aktibista sa Plaza Miranda at ibat' ibang lugar, mga pagkawala at pagpatay sa mga tumutuligsa at lumalaban sa gobyerno. Ang hindi ko alam ay pati ang mga walang kwentang bagay na pagbabawal tulad ng paglalagay ng mga tattoo sa katawan at pagpapatubo nang mahabang buhok. Ang hindi ko mapaniwalaan ay ang tunay na bilang ng mga nawala at napatay. Akala ko ay mga 200 o 500 lamang. Ang talagang bilang pala ay halos 9,075. Maraming pamilya ang nasira, maraming buhay ang nawala.

Kapag naririnig ko noon ang EDSA REVOLUTION, sinasabi ko sa aking sarili na masuwerte ako dahil kung nasa Pilipinas ako nang panahon ng diktadura, bilang membro ng midya, hindi ko maiiwasang sumama sa mga nagprotesta. Mahirap mabuhay na walang kalayaang tinatamasa. Ngayon, higit akong nagpapasalamat na hindi ko naabutan at naranasan ang diktadurang

pamumuno ng dating Pangulong Marcos.

Huwag na nga sanang maulit ang nangyaring diktadurya noon sa Pilipinas. At dapat ay magpasalamat din ang mga kabataan dahil hindi nila ito naranasan.

### KAUNTING KAALAMAN SA ENGLISH ANG PAGGAMIT NG PRESENT TENSE

Minsan, parang madali ang English pero komplikado rin ito. Kahit ang mga bihasa sa English ay may kaniya-kaniyang opinyon din ang bawat isa sa kanila sa tamang paggamit nito. Walang perfecto. Katunayan, sa Harper of Contemporary Usage (William and Mary Morris), halos 150 manunulat ang nagbibigay ng opinyon sa palagay nilang tama o maling paggamit ng English at Grammar. Nagtatalu-talo rin sila. Ang mahalaga, alam nila ang dahilan kung bakit tama o mali ang kanilang ginagamit. Halimbawa, ang salitang alibi na ganito ang kahulugan, "Alibi in law means legal defense. Many writers and speakers use it in a broader sense meaning any kind of excuse". Ganito ang opinyon ng manunulat na si William Douglas, "Yes, in the extended sense, both in speech and writing." Si Gerold Frank naman na manunulat din ay ganito ang opinyon, "The word has a strong legal flavor that to use it broadly is grotesque".

Minsan, may ilang nagtanong din sa akin kung bakit ginagamit ang present tense sa headline ng diaryo kahit tapos na ang balita. Halimbawa, pagkatapos ng Miss Universe, ang headline sa diaryo ay "Miss Philippines wins Miss Universe title." May pagkakataon din na mapapansin natin sa mga interview ng mga celebrity sa television, kahit matagal nang tapos ang pangyayari, Present Tense pa rin ang ginagamit nila sa pagsasalita. Ang halimbawa ay, "I eat my lunch", "She wakes up early." Ang dahilan ay upang palabasin na nangyayari pa rin sa kasalukuyan ang sinasabi ng mga nagsasalita. Siguro, para ring maging "fresh" ang kanilang sinasabi.

May nabasa ako sa isang diaryo. Nagkukuwento ang manunulat tungkol sa isa niyang kaibigan na

namatay na. Halimbawa, "John is a good friend. He is a good provider to his family." Ang dahilan kung bakit ginagamit niya pa rin ang present tense ay upang mapanatili sa kaniyang alaala na buhay pa ang kaniyang kaibigan.

Isang kaibigan din ang nagtanong sa akin kung ano ang tamang verb sa dalawang pangungusap – Yesterday, my friend told me that Cora (halimbawang pangalan lamang) WAS the president of FAMAS o Yesterday, my friend told me that Cora IS the president of FAMAS. Ang gagamitin ng kaibigan ko ay ang una dahil sa "yesterday" na nakalipas na. Ang gagamitin ko naman ay IS dahil si Cora pa rin ang presidente. Hindi nagbabago. Ang isa pang magandang halimbawa ay ang pangungusap na, "Yesterday, he told me that the capital of Canada was Ottawa". Ako, gagamitin ko naman ay ang "Yesterday, he told me that the capital of Canada is Ottawa" dahil hindi nagbabago ang capital ng Canada. Sa English, may tinatawag na permanent truth or fact.

Para malaman ko kung sino ang tama, nag-email ako kay Josh Freed, Sunday Gazette columnist. Ito ang sagot niya:

1, "The Present Tense is usually used to connote immediacy – most film scripts, documentaries, etc. are written in present tense to make you feel you are there. Columns are sometimes done that way too for the same reason.

2. I am a professional writer and I would say, "He told me that Ottawa is the capital of Canada" and the Gazette editors wouldn't change it."

My wife is a professional writer (Globe and Mail correspondent, Montreal) and she says she would write "He told me that Ottawa was the capital of Canada" and the Globe editors probably wouldn't change it. Both of us are native-English speakers – are unsure which is exactly correct – so I think it's one of those many English language grey zones where either/neither is correct.

Language technicians might agree/disagree but I think in day to day language and writing both work just fine. The idea is to communicate and I think both versions do – that's all I (or my wife) (or our editors) think is required.

I WOULDN'T SWEAT IT IF I WERE (WAS) YOU. ■



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## Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits  
by

Al Abdon

### HOW DO YOU COMPOSE WITH YOUR CAMERA. SIMPLE OR COMPLICATED

Your frame is your canvas — fill it with things that are useful to your story and arrange them in a way that is pleasing to the viewer. Composition is the art of arranging objects in a frame. There are actually shapes and alignments that people find pleasing, but movie composition also needs to tell a story. The arrangement of your objects and actors in a frame can add to your storytelling by emphasizing some and de-emphasizing others. In a big-budget Hollywood film, the director has the expert input of a director of photography. In smaller budget movies the director often does double duty.

“Framing and editing determine the eye path of the viewer. It might not be too much to say that what a film director really directs is his audience's attention.” — Alexander Mackendrick “On Filmmaking”

If you're doing everything right, every frame of your movie should be able to be plucked out at random, stuck in a frame and hung on a gallery wall. This is a tall order and few people succeed in it without lots of time, big budgets, great editors and patient investors. Your budget and timeline may keep you from doing this, but there are things you can do from the very beginning to make sure that your movie looks as good as it can.

#### VIDEO VS STILL PHOTOS

The rules of composition are the same for video and photos, but like everything else, it's complicated. Put simply, the aspect ratio — vertical vs. horizontal dimensions — of still camera images is different from the aspect ratio of motion pictures. The aspect ratio of 35mm film is 3:2, which is why you get a 4x6 inch print. The aspect ratio of most

video is 16:9, which is much wider and not as tall. Since most small-budget movies are shot on 35mm DSLRs — yes, I know about your iPhone and your GH4 — this aspect ratio is a bit of an affectation left over from cinema. In the old days, you were actually exposing less film, but today you're just cropping the top and the bottom out.

A 16:9 frame means that landscapes look fantastic but putting a single person in the frame is more challenging. For the most part, people are vertical objects and most of your frame is going to be empty. So what do you fill the empty space with? That's composition.

#### FRAMES THAT MOVE

One other obvious thing that affects the composition of a movie frame is the fact that things are not only moving in it but sometimes through it and often your camera frame itself is moving. This means lots of rehearsal. Actors moving through a frame have to hit their marks at extremely predictable times, and your camera operator needs to accommodate motion through the frame and motion of the frame all the while keeping a pleasing arrangement that drives the story.

#### THE RULE OF THIRDS

If you leave here with one thing, it should be the rule of thirds. It's the fundamental rule of composition. Divide the screen into thirds with four lines — like a tic-tac-toe game — your objects of interest should fall at the intersection of two of these lines. Some cinematographers are more rigid about it than others, but it's very possible to find a movie whose every shot does not deviate from this.

We mentioned before that people are vertical and movie screens are horizontal — this means that to get a person in a frame you need to either make them very small, or crop them. Both of these are perfectly acceptable. Let's take a look at Ridley Scott's “Blade Runner.” In this closeup of Harrison Ford, Scott and Cinematographer Jordan Cronenweth have chosen to chop him off at the shoulders and the top of the head to put his eyes at the intersection of the top horizontal line and the right vertical line of our imaginary tic-tac-toe board.

Unlike in the real world, in cinematic and photographic composition, you can chop the top of someone's head off with impunity. This is not true of people's chins — chins need to stay in the frame unless you crop an equal portion of the top of the head.

#### LOOK AT THE EYES

We look at people's eyes. We instinctively look at what other people are looking at. We have a deep down belief that the person inside a body is accessible through the eyes — and this is universal. When your cat or your dog wants to communicate with you, they look at your eyes — and they haven't read any psychology books. When framing a shot, if the eyes are in focus, you can get away with a lot of other things not being in focus.

In this shot from “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” Harrison Ford returns, here seen completely in silhouette with the exception of his right eye, looking wary, which, along with his distinctive hat brings personality to the shot. Also notice the out of focus white areas on the left and right, these serve to help balance the frame. “Balance the frame?” you ask

In short, photo and video compliment each other. Whether your viewfinder is from a 35mm camera or monitor from the video camera, they alhave the basic approach to make your subject stand out.

Its Spring...time to clean your cameras and get out shooting.....

Al Abdon  
Hollywood Junkies Media ■

## Movies as medium for change

Filipinos love movies. From Hollywood action-thrillers to local rom-coms, many of us try to watch them all whenever budget and time permit.

This is simply a reflection of our culture's innate romanticism. Movies fuel our imagination. It allows us to dream big.

Many believe that if properly harnessed, movies could actually help propel the nation forward. Former Department Of Energy Secretary Carlos Jericho L. Petilla is among those who think so.



**Former DOE Secretary Jericho Petilla**

“I was among those who watched the hit film ‘Heneral Luna.’ It was good, both entertaining and informative. It made people think. I myself realize, we should have more of this kind of films; films that are powerful and relevant to current times,” he shared.

Petilla is a huge fan of local films, trying to catch one whenever he can.

A film he enjoyed watching with his family is the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) 2015 entry “Walang Forever” starring Jennylyn Mercado and his namesake Jericho Rosales.

“I admire Jericho Rosales not because we share the same name but because he is good at what he does. He is a very talented and very passionate actor...”

Petilla believes in forever, having found one in his wife, Anne, whom, he pointed out, shares the name of his favorite actress, Anne Curtis.

“I like Anne Curtis because she is so versatile. She's quite talented,” he said.

Petilla believes government should be more active in helping the local movie industry produce more quality films. He said this will be one of his priorities if elected senator.

“I would like to push for legislation that would help our local film industry to grow and develop,” he said, noting he would also propel the creation of an expanded film festival that would cover other provinces and not just Metro Manila.

He added government should also help subsidize films that compete in international film festivals.

He credits his parents, former Leyte Governor Leopoldo E. Petilla and current Palo, Leyte Mayor Remedios “Matin” Petilla, for his nurturing nature.

“The principles and values they taught me guide me in making important decisions. Every time I make a decision, it should be something that is consistent with my principles and values,” he said.



# Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

## Balsamic Glazed Salmon



Ingredients

4 fresh salmon fillets (5 oz/140 g each)

2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil

Freshly ground black pepper

1 cup (250 mL) CAMPBELL'S® Ready to Use 30% Less Sodium Chicken Broth

3 tbsp (45 mL) balsamic vinegar

1 tbsp (15 mL) cornstarch

1 tbsp (15 mL) brown sugar

1 tbsp (15 mL) orange juice

1/2 tsp (2 mL) grated orange peel

Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, mix together the oil, pepper, broth, balsamic vinegar, brown sugar, orange juice and orange peel. Marinate the salmon fillets for 30 minutes in the refrigerator and then grill over medium heat until fish flakes and juices run clear.

2. In small saucepan, take the remaining marinade, add the corn starch and heat to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook and stir until mixture boils and thickens. Simmer for 2 minutes.

3. Place salmon fillets onto a platter and serve with glaze.

Recipe Tips

1. When grating citrus fruits you'll want to avoid rubbing too deeply into the peel. There's a white layer between the outer peel and the flesh, called the pith, which can be bitter.

Nutritional Information (Per Serving)

360 Calories, 23g Fat, 4g Saturated Fat, 80mg Cholesterol, 230mg Sodium, 8g Carbohydrate, 0g Dietary Fibre, 29g Protein, 2% Daily Value Calcium

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**Mini Cheddar, Broccoli & Bacon Quiches Recipe**

Ingredients

1 can (284 ml) CAMPBELL'S® Condensed Low Fat Cream of Mushroom Soup

1 pkg (300 g)chopped frozen broccoli, thawed and well drained

6 slices bacon, cooked, drained and roughly chopped (about 3/4 cup/175 ml)

1/2 cup (125 mL) all purpose baking mix

1/2 cup (125 mL) Cheddar cheese, shredded

1/4 cup (60 mL) milk

3 eggs

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Spray 12 (2 ½ inch/6 cm) muffin cups with vegetable cooking spray.

2. In bowl, stir together soup, broccoli, bacon, baking mix, cheese, milk and eggs; spoon about 1/4 cup (60 mL) into each muffin cup.

3. Bake for about 30 minutes or until quiches are golden brown and knife inserted in the centres comes out clean. Let cool in pan on wire rack for 5 minutes.

Recipe Tips

1. These adorable mini quiches are perfect for breakfast, brunch or served as an appetizer at your next party.

Nutritional Information (Per Serving)

100 Calories, 5g Fat, 55mg Cholesterol, 320mg Sodium, 7g Carbohydrate, 1g Dietary Fibre, 6g Protein, 6% Daily Value Calcium

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Mini cheddar, broccoli and bacon quiches



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Blade steak

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Ground Beef

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The North American

# FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY



The MMTV Global crew in full attendance for a surprise birthday (belated) celebration of the executive producer, Zenaida Kharroubi, (2nd from left). Photo shows from left: Al Abdon, Fred Narvas, Jovy Narvas, Mr. & Mrs. Raymund Faustino, Laurisse Cruz, Michael Davantes, Derwin Collantes, Tenne Rose Dayandante, Cristy Hunter, Fely Rosales Carino, and Amy Manon-og. Not in photo is Remy Monteagudo who had to leave earlier for another appointment. Photo taken on March 19, 2016



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March birthday celebrants: Fely Rosales Carino and Zenaida Kharroubi posing for a souvenir of their joint birthday celebration.



From left are: Tenne Rose Dayandante, Jackie Sebellita holding Shamiaviel, and Cristy Hunter during the christening reception on March 12, 2016.



Souvenir photo of christening of Shamiaviel at St. Kevin's Church, March 12, 2016

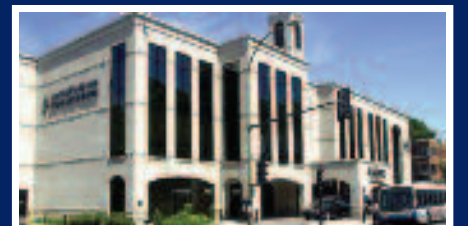
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Quirapas and her 2013-2015 EB break their silence

By W. G. Quiambao

In the wake of the story (FAMAS president decries community centre's "unnecessary" roof repairs and other irregularities) that appeared in another newspaper, ex FAMAS president, Nida Quirapas, called the press and her old Executive Board last Jan. 29. With the exception of Cora Aberin and Naty Floresca who is in Hawaii, everybody was in attendance

"It's not true that there's no urgency to repair the roof. It was checked by Romy and Danny. Whenever it rained successively, the water caused flood in the center. Danny had to use a mop. And it became dangerous to rent the rooms. We even called an inspector who is an expert on roof repair. There were three bidders from Cora and one from us. We compared not only the prices and the advantages and the majority decided that we use our

approved by majority of the board (11 out of 13) even if Cora didn't sign." Furthermore, Quirapas said that the membership lists and receipts were put in a box, strapped with masking tape and placed in the office room on the last day of their term, Aug. 31, 2015. After that, the members of the Executive Board did not go to the center. However, she'd instructed Florentino to type a new list and give it to the new board for the turn over.

She also tackled the financial turn over issue. She did not appear at the center for the scheduled financial turn over on Nov. 29 because the financial report of Vasquez was still incomplete and inaccurate. "I told Lily to fix her report first but until now, the report is inaccurate."

mean by irregularity?" asked Quirapas. Anomaly? Who was the treasurer that time? It was Cora. When claiming reimbursement, the procedure is for everybody to submit an expense report that he or she wants to be reimbursed with supporting papers. And it has to be signed by another director before Cora can make reimbursement. Cora never made an expense report of her expenses. When she went to the Philippines, she bought things for the Munting Bb. Pilipinas. When she came back, she asked for \$1,500 Canadian dollars reimbursement without valid receipts."

"Speaking of the Bb. Pilipinas which Cora claims had a deficit, we gave \$2,300 total prizes to the candidates. At least, we know where the money went. How about her Munting Binibini? It's total revenue was \$9,000 but only \$500 was left as total profit. On the issue of spending a lot, we bought new curtains because for two years, they have never been changed. We also bought new computers because the other one was old and slow and new chairs to make the center look nice and presentable.

Gonzales, Esguerra, Quizon and Baldeovar all asked, "Why is Cora asking about the financial statement when in fact, she's the first one to know it. She was the treasurer in 2013-2015. All Nida had to do was sign whatever was presented to her by the treasurer, accountant and auditor? It doesn't make sense that she's asking the board about expenses. She's asking the board in which she was part of. In fact, she was the treasurer."

"In fairness to Lily, how can she balance her report when she doesn't have complete report without supporting documents?" said Sia Quirapas explained the issue on Guaranteed Investment Certificates. "We opened a Building Fund account for \$15,000 and then decided to invest it for a year to earn interest. Eventually, it will be transferred to the Building Fund. Actually, this should be \$20,000 but we lowered it so the next EB will have something to start. Besides, Cora, the treasurer, was with me at the bank.

"On the other hand, FAMAS account had a bank debit card which the Board did not even know the pass code, an online banking to which the Board didn't have access. The only person who had access to this was Cora, the treasurer. So what are the irregularities mentioned in the paper?" The \$37,000



2013-2015 Famas Executive Board headed by Nida Quirapas, president (4th from the left)

– Dante Tabamo, Romy Remigio, Joseph Gonzales, Danny Florentino, Mercy Sia, Terry Esguerra, Leah Baldeovar, Carmelita Quizon, Lily Vasquez, and Elsa Penular.

"I don't want to talk about this issue because we all belonged to the old board," said Quirapas. "But what was written in the paper was below the belt. Cora made us look bad. I've no choice except to call the press and my directors to give their sides of the story."

Quizon couldn't hide her disappointment when she said, "I didn't know that Cora had a grudge against us."

Soft-spoken Tabamo, former internal vice-president, was the first to explain,

bidder. We didn't have the roof repaired then because we didn't have money yet.

Bert Abiera, former FAMAS president and a volunteer at the center, was one of the people who suggested that the roof should be repaired before winter because the damage would become serious.

Quirapas further explained that the roof was last repaired during the time of Carlos P. Reyes fifteen years ago. She added that she even spoke to Councillor Marvin Rotrand about the roof, and he agreed with the repairs that have a 20-year guarantee. "The bottom line is that Cora was included in the discussion. The decision was

Gonzales and Esguerra, who usually don't mince words, asked, "Is it a coincidence that Julie Parado, Angie Ogerio, Fred Magallanes, Maggie Calcetas, etc. were at the centre on the same day that Josefa Nicolas was conducting her leadership training?"

Vasquez, who distributed a financial report, made a comment a couple of times that Aberin should have been invited to the meeting. However, the members of the board reacted, saying the problem started when Aberin gave an interview to the paper without their knowledge.

Another issue that ruffled the feathers of the EB was the irregularity that was written in the paper. "What does Cora

send you a written notice of rent increase between three and six months before the end of your lease. You have one month to respond. If the notice is not sent within that time period, the lease is renewed with the same rent and terms.

2) You have the option to accept, negotiate or refuse the increase. Some notices only give you the option to accept the increase or move out. You have a third choice! You have the right to refuse a rent increase and maintain

occupancy.

3) The Rental Board publishes rough guidelines every year that can help you decide how to respond to a rent increase notice. The amount is calculated based on building taxes, type of heating, renovations, and a range of other expenses. This means that even if the landlord has not taken good care of the building, they may

## Information for tenants regarding rent increases

### by Project Genesis

Last week, Ms Bell got a notice from her landlord: it said that her rent would be increasing by \$150, and she could either stay in her apartment and accept the increase, or leave.

This is the sort of situation we see every day at Project Genesis –

misleading rent increase notices or other inadequate information can quickly make a situation confusing. Here are six tips to help you make sense of it all.

1) The timeframe. If you have a year-long lease, your landlord must

See Page 18 Rent Increases





## Social Tidbits

**Fely Rosales Carino**



This has to happen. It is a social venture of the Filipino Association of Montreal And Suburbs (FAMAS). It is the Miss Teen Famas 2016 Beauty Pageant held at Salle La Decouverte at Westhill, Cote St. Luc, Montreal. The beauty pageant was hosted by the talented singer, Michelle Vargas Lao.

The pageant started with Ilocano balladeer Mr. Mark Simbulan singing the national anthems. FFCAQ president Mrs. Josefa Nicolas followed with the invocation. It was apparent that the crowd seated behind me were more interested in what Mrs. Nicolas was wearing instead of listening to what she was saying. They were talking about her outfit, a deep blue flowing gown that showed her nice figure. Also, the gown had one shoulder strap that was securely held by a large silver bling (daw). Ditto with FAMAS president Mrs. Cora Aberin who wore an attractive evening gown she bought from the Philippines during her last visit there. Not to be outdone, Ms. Svetlana Suarez's blue-black gown made

her sexy, especially with those tiny spaghetti straps.

Playing the leading roles in this pageant were the following. Contestant number one was Mae de Jesus Berganio, 13, a student at St. Luc High School. She presented herself in a strapless light pink gown, which had brown flowers at the hips that accented her hour-glass figure. For her talent exhibition, she gracefully interpreted a dance number to the tune of Enrique Iglesia's song entitled Bailando.

The next contestant was Tamara Grace Calatin Radeconde, 15, attending Ecole Secondaire Des Sources. Stunning in her beaded strapless light brown gown, she accompanied herself in the piano, singing Adele's 'Someone Like You.'

The next beauty was Abby Rose Cesar Dar Juan, 14, a student at Ecole Secondaire St. Laurent. She stepped out in a wide-belted spider-webbed designed gown. She carried herself gracefully in her white

gold-encrusted high heels. Her dad, Mr. Arnold Dar Juan, accompanied her on the guitar and her solo rendition had the audience's rapt attention. She really can sing!

Last but not least was Shaira Mae Bernardino Salamanca, 14, a student at St. Luc High School. She came out swinging, showing a lot of confidence. Her strapless purple-beaded gown matched her equally attractive high heels. For the talent competition, she sang Adele's Don't You Remember.

For this beauty pageant, FAMAS chose judges from a pool of experts from the field of music, Dance, and film industries. One of the judges was May Ann Miras, the winner of the Binibining Pilipinas Montreal 2008. At the time, she won Best in Gown, Best in Talent, and Best in Swimsuit. The next judge was Ira Terk, President and CEO of Channel Broadcasting Company. Next was Miss Sophie Wagner, an expert in Global Wealth Trade (GWT). The last judge was Miss Erika Perez, a zumba instructor with dance studios in downtown Montreal and at the West Island. Not to be forgotten are two of the well known math wizards of the Filipino community. They are Ms. Cely Dagsaan and Mr. Ramon Vicente. Ms. Dagsaan has been a comptroller of Invera Inc. for 29 years. She is currently the Auditor of the Seniors of the West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) as well as an Adviser of the Kapampangan Association of Montreal. She has been an active

member and past Director of FAMAS. Mr. Vicente is an Accountant, Consultant, and a Band Leader. He was formerly a president of the Filipino Canadian Association of West Island (FCAWI). He was a FAMAS Director and Treasurer (2011-2013). Currently, he is a member of the FAMAS Board of Trustees.

I also want to direct the spotlight to some of the hardworking crew that made the contest a success. Aside from the overall effort of President Cora Aberin, one cannot ignore the Suarez Touch which enabled her to get involved in pageants for over 25 years. As a renowned choreographer, she knows how to produce a show, the caliber of which is awe-inspiring to the audience. FAMAS is very lucky to have Ms. Aris Elumbaring, the pageant chairman. She ensured that the show went well. She gave a lot of credit to her co-chairman Ms. Mishael Thea de la Cruz and to Ms. Richel Llacer.

There were seventeen March birthday celebrants presented by Mrs. Mary Paano during the United Pilipino Seniors' monthly birthday celebrations held at the Saint Kevin Church social hall last March 13 2016. The celebrants were Arjona Dolly Brrouillette, Lindaq Armelon, Fely Rosales Carino, Helen Cataguis, Juanita Corbett, Cristina Cuaresma, Fernando David, Lina Fadera, Dolores Latino, Helen Lobotan, Norma Madolid, Leonila Mercado, Enriqetta Nolasco, and Cherry Pamos. ■



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# FILIPINO STAR

## SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

### Kris Aquino: “I will see you again”



**Kris Aquino**

No goodbyes for TV host-actress Kris Aquino as she promises to return after taking a break from showbiz.

“See you. I will see you again,” said Kris, whose daily talk show “Kris TV” ended Wednesday, March 23.

She was advised by her doctors to take a rest for three months due to her high blood pressure. Kris promised fans she’ll come back healthy.

“For now, I don’t want to say goodbye kasi babalik ako. I’ll make sure of that. But I have to come back na healthy ako,” Kris said in the final episode.

While she’s taking a backseat from showbiz, Kris will be focusing on her health, taking care of her sons Josh and Bimby and their food business.

“Try muna yung mga negosyo, tututukan. Sabi nila ‘Baka maganda na may routine ka din. After office, mag-exercise ka din.’ I’ll take the chance, hangga’t gustong-gusto pa nila (sons) ako kasama, marami kaming gagawin na hindi pa namin nagawa,” she said.

Kris admitted that taking a break was a hard decision, especially in an industry where people come and go.

“I took everything into consideration. Kinausap ko ng masinsinan ang mga kapatid ko, alam nilang kinakabahan ako. Alam nating lahat na mahirap umalis at mahirap asahan na makakabalik ka at the same level that you were noong umalis ka,” she said.

Amid the big risk, Kris decided to take a break to take care of herself and not cause any worry to her family. Kris wants to take care of her health especially because she provides for her sons.

“Kinokondisyon ako ng mga kapatid ko, lagi nilang sinasabi na nobody will say naman na wala kang na-achieve. So sabi nila ‘Deserve mo

ito.’ And kasi ilang buwan na lang ang natitira kay Noy, bawas stress na lang. Naaawa na din kasi ako na lagi silang nagtatawagan, ‘Kumusta na ba ang bunso? Ano namang nangyari?’ With my two sons, ako lang. I’m the sole parent, sole provider,” she said.

Kris shared she was offered by ABS-CBN executives to sign a contract that she can always go back to work once ready. However, Kris declined as she wants to make sure she’s completely healthy before returning.

“I want to say thank you sa ABS-CBN kasi yung bosses, from Boss Gabby (Lopez), Tita Cory (Vidanes), they offered me to sign a contract. Sabi nila ‘Pirma ka. Once you’re ready, we’re here.’ And then I said, ‘I don’t want to do it to you. What if hindi pa ako ganoon kagaling?’ Ayaw ko din naman na ma-stagnant kayo kasi very dynamic ang trabaho natin. Super grateful talaga ako kasi hindi naman lahat binibigyan ng ganoon di ba. So niyaya nila ako, ‘Lunch tayo.’ ‘Ayaw ko.’ Hindi ako pumunta,” she said.

Kris became teary-eyed as she thanked the viewers and her fans who have been with her for 20 years since she started working at ABS-CBN.

“I’m so grateful kasi super naman yung love. From the messages, sobrang bongga naman yung pinaramdam niyo na my life is also your life. Na kung ano ang pinagdadaanan ko, iyon din ang pinagdadaanan niyo. So super thank you, especially to those who said ‘Hintayin ka namin.’ Sa love nga hindi ka hinihintay eh,” she said.

Saying that this chapter of her life is not yet over, Kris said, “Malakas ang pananampalataya ko na makakabalik ako at mananatiling Kapamilya.” ■

### Marian, Dingdong celebrate Baby Zia’s first trip



**Photo from Dingdong Dantes’ official Facebook page**

Proud parents Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes continue to celebrate more firsts for daughter Maria Letizia.

The Kapuso primetime royalty spent their first summer vacation together with Baby Zia in Busuanga, Palawan on Thursday, March 24, 2016.

On his official Facebook page, Dingdong shared their family photo before boarding a plane to Busuanga. Dingdong noted that it was Baby Zia’s

first plane ride.

On Instagram, Marian shared four-month-old Baby Zia’s first photo in a swimsuit while sunbathing on the beach.

Marian wrote, “I fall in love with you more and more everyday, anak. Haaaay! #Priceless.”

Born on November 23, 2015, Baby Zia is Dingdong and Marian’s first child. The two tied the knot in December 30, 2014. ■

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## Mikael on Megan: 'We're still having fun'



**Mikael Daez & Megan Young**

A picture is worth a thousand words but those being posted by Mikael Daez on Instagram that show him with Megan Young must remain without label.

Talks about them being a couple have been around for years but to this day, people have to keep guessing as Mikael, as always, only has this to say on the subject in a recent interview, "Okay kami (ni Megan). We are having fun. At least hindi namin tinatago."

The 28-year-old model-turned-actor would rather talk about work – and there's a lot of that for him lately. Apart from hosting "Midnight Express," he is a regular on the comedy series "Ismol Family," where he plays a gay character.

"Tinanggap ko 'yung sa 'Ismol Family' dahil alam kong malaking bagay 'yun," he said of the role. "Kung actor ka naman at kung hilig mo talaga (ang pag-arte) gagawin mo at

magiging open ka, opportunity kasi 'yun. Besides, alam ko makakadagdag 'yun sa reputasyon ko bilang actor; 'yung hindi lang pang-gimik kundi gusto ko talaga 'yung trabaho ko."

Is he willing to do intimate scenes with a male actor?

"Dapat game ka... hindi dapat tignan kung lalaki o babae... ang mahalaga, alam mo 'yung character mo..."

Ever-busy Mikael is also on "Poor Señorita." It is his first time working with Regine whom he finds "kalog and kulit" between takes.

"Nakakagaan ng work kung ganun 'yung mga ka-trabaho mo so hindi ako magrereklamo, dahil masaya at tsaka tatawa lang kayo ng tatawa dito."

Mikael plays the role of Paeng, a janitor.

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa GMA na iba-ibang roles ang binibigay nila sa akin," he said. ■

## Lovi Poe's kicking discovery



**Lovi Poe (instagram)**

After consulting a therapist, Lovi was surprised to learn she has knee strength of a 50-year-old.

According to results, it was caused by excessive running, Lovi's favorite exercise routine.

In an Instagram post, Lovi pondered how "too much of something, even if that something is good, is bad."

"I practically run 10 km every other day... now it has bitten me in the ass. I run a lot because malakas ako kumain! Hindi ko kaya mag-diet," she said.

As a consequence, Lovi now refrains from too much running and just focuses on other workouts like boxing and planking.

The actress is also currently going through knee therapy hoping "my knees would feel brand new again."

Meanwhile, in a separate Instagram post, Lovi expressed her gratitude to actress Sunshine Dizon whom she credited for being her personal acting coach since starting

her career.

The two first worked together in the now defunct 2006 series "Bakekang," where Lovi played the role of Kristal Maisog, the daughter of Sunshine's character, Jacoba Maisog.

Calling herself "the girl who couldn't act" when she was just starting in the industry, Lovi said she is "forever grateful... to Ate Shine for coaching me and staying up during taping just to guide and teach me. I also believe that the work itself is the best workshop."

Lovi told Pep how Sunshine once said to her "You should explore, you shouldn't stick to one (role). If you wanna grow as an actress... try different things, and that's what I'm doing."

A decade after "Bakekang," Lovi has grown as actress, earning numerous accolades along the way including the Best Actress plum during the 2010 FAMAS Awards for her performance in "Sagrada Familia." ■

## Dingdong tips hat to dad



**Dindong Dantes**

The relationship between father and son is a big factor in how the latter sees the world and how he

wants to take it on – just ask actor Dingdong Dantes.

In an interview, Dingdong credits his success to the way his parents raised him. He said his father, in particular, has always had open communication lines with him and respected his opinions even when he was younger. José Sixto Z. Dantes Jr., now 68 years old, remains an important and inspiring figure in his life.

"Sa pag-develop nya sakin, 'yung mga values na shinare nya... thankful ako don," Dingdong said. "Actually, I owe everything to him."

The actor summed his dad's parenting style as "less talk but still full of authority."

"He helped me define my goals," the actor said. "Mahalaga na mayroon tayong good relationship hindi lang sa ating tatay kundi pati sa mga magulang, kapatid, kaibigan."

Though already married to actress Marian Rivera who gave birth to their first child, Letizia, early this year, he said they've not neglected their folks, holding get-togethers regularly ("at least once a week, Sundays usually" he said) to keep the bond strong.

"Nandyan siya (father) para palakihin ako kaya ibabalik ko naman sa kanya ang pag-aalaga," Dingdong said. "It's payback time."

Looking back, the actor said his father has always wanted to have a joy ride with him on his restored vintage motorbike. José also wishes to have a farm and to fly a plane. Dingdong is working to grant all of these things, if he hasn't already.

"Yung kanyang system tsaka 'yung kanyang age, medyo nahihinder na rin siya to do some things," the actor said. "Pero...as they grow older, dun na rin nakikita 'yung

kanilang passion and enthusiasm to make things (happen). Hindi naman 'yun nababawasan, kailangan lang ma-jump start ulit."

The point is, he said, wherever you are in life, family should remain a unit with members who support one another.

"Kailangan kakampi talaga tayo ng ating mga magulang all throughout the journey," he said. "Support not just your father, but the whole family as well..."

This mindset is a big reason Abbott Ensure tapped Dingdong and José to be ambassadors for its product range. The actor said he and his dad are all for the brand's thrust of being "enablers (to our family) and help them regain, restart their dreams." ■



**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.15***Celebrities on Holy Week vacation**

Holy Week is not only for reflection, it is also the time for celebrities to go on vacation with their loved ones. Since their schedule is always jam-packed, they grab this chance to rest and relax even just for some days. Check some of the celebrities' getaways this Holy Week posted in their Instagram accounts.



**Sarah Lahbati and Richard Gutierrez with their son Zion in Bali.**



**Nikki Gil is on vacation with her hubby in Paris, France.**



**Gretchen Barretto (left) met with couple Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales in Hong Kong with some other friends.**



**Baby Letizia on her first beach trip in Palawan with mommy Marian Rivera and daddy Dingdong Dantes.**



**Isabelle Daza and Anne Curtis are in Australia.**



## Miss Universe chooses to cook 'LumPIA'



**Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach**

In a Facebook live video aired on March at at 1 a.m. (Philippine time), Wurtzbach asked for suggestions from Miss Universe Facebook page subscribers.

Wurtzbach liked the idea of lumpiang shanghai (fried spring rolls) among all the other suggestions that included adobo, kare-kare, menudo, balut, etc. because the dish is easy to cook and the ingredients are readily available.

She also pointed out that her name is incorporated in the dish's name "lumPIA."

"They didn't teach us to cook Filipino dish at school cause they expected us to learn it at home."

Wurtzbach said that as of the moment, she is not craving for any Filipino food. "Hindi ko pa siya namimiss at matagal na rin kasi akong hindi kumakain ng kanin."

What she misses is talking using the gay language, saying: "miss talking beki... yung baklaan lang."

She also revealed that she knows how to bake and that she has ingredients for choco-peanut butter



Video and photos of the Lumpiang shanghai with sweet-and-sour sauce which she will work on will be posted on the different Miss Universe social media accounts next week, Wurtzbach said.

While on it, she also answered some of the questions raised by the netizens in the comments section.

The 26-year-old beauty queen revealed that, although she studied culinary in the Philippines, she was not taught how to cook Filipino dishes.

red velvet, and carrot cupcakes.

Although not disclosing the specific date, Wurtzbach said that she will be going home to the Philippines very soon.

"Filipino Cooking with Pia Help me choose a dish!" was posted by Miss Universe on Friday, 11 March 2016

The video has been viewed 400,448 times, as of this posting and has garnered more than 31,000 reactions. ■

## Happy surprise



**Mariel all smiles inside the van Robin gave her**

Robin Padilla bought wife Mariel Rodriguez a van as surprise gift coinciding with the airing of his new show "Game Ng Bayan" on Monday.

Mariel happily shared with Instagram followers photos of the vehicle the same day, and expressed gratitude to the 46-year-old actor-TV host.

"I was rushing home after work so I can watch Game Ng Bayan at home. When I arrived, there was a brand new van parked in our courtyard when I opened it... the car was filled with roses... the biggest surprise!!! I thought my husband bought himself a

new car... When I saw the roses I knew the new car was MINE," she posted.

Obviously overwhelmed, she added, "I'm the lucky one!"

She went on, "I promise to continue being faithful to you, to honor you at all times, to support you, to believe in you, to pray for you, respect you and love you forever! I know you work hard. Thank you for being a good provider for us. I still can't believe it!!! What a surprise!!!!"

The couple married twice in Baguio in 2010. The first ceremony was conducted by an Ibaloi native priest; the second was officiated by a pastor.

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# Giving it their best



**Rachelle Ann Go**

She may have gotten good reviews over her essay of Fantine in the Manila run of "Les Misérables" but Rachelle Ann Go is not about to relax.

"Napaka-talented ng mga Pinoys, halos lahat marunong kumanta so feeling ko lahat perfectionists," she said. "Magkamali

lang ako on stage or may konting flat or sharp sa mga kanta, (baka) mapuna nila."

The high regard she has of the Filipino audience intensifies now that her kababayans are finally able to watch her here. Recall that Rachelle Ann had been away for months on end as she worked on "Miss Saigon" and "Les Misérables" in the UK.

Living in London for two years and training non-stop for the production made Rachelle a better actress and more mature person.

"Ibang klase 'yung disiplina na nakuha ko sa teatro... at nahirapan din akong mag-adjust kasi wala naman akong training or background sa acting... nakikinig lang talaga ako sa mga tinuturo... ng mga director namin sa London," she humbly said.

After Manila, Rachelle will be doing the London staging of the musical by May 9.

Broadway-bound?

Given the chance, Rachelle Ann would also like to conquer Broadway in the US.

"Ipagpe-pray ko 'yan," she said.

Asked what her dream role is, she

cited Elphaba from the Broadway musical "Wicked."

In a separate interview, composer Claude-Michel Schönberg praised the Pinay singer deeming her, along with Lea Salonga, "the easiest actors to work with."

"She's fantastic. She's a wonderful Fantine. She's doing an outstanding moment onstage, she's also very talented and cute," he said of Rachelle Ann.

Welcome!

Aside from Rachelle Ann, Bulletin Entertainment got to interview other members of the cast during a recent media call.

One of them is first-time visitor Chris Durling who plays Enjolras.

"I find that the Manila area is busy and crazy in a good kind of way," he said then.

Earl Carpenter, who plays Javert in "Les Misérables," hopes to find time for roaming the city.

"Our schedule has been quite busy since arriving in the Philippines but it has been great being here," Earl said.

"The previews we've had the last couple of weeks have been great and we're all looking forward to do the rest of the shows."

Emily Langridge, who portrays Cosette, enjoys Pinoy hospitality.

"Everyone is so friendly and everyone that you meet on the streets will say hello to you," she said. "It's so colorful and vibrant here in the Philippines."

Paul Wilkins, who plays Marius, is happy to have been given the chance to perform for the Filipinos.

"There was a petition for 'Les Misérables' to be brought over here, so the Filipinos really want this show, so the pressure's on, in a good way, of course," he said.

"Les Misérables" runs until April 24 at The Theatre of Solaire Resort and Casino. ■

From Page Rent increases

still raise the rent. Because this amount is based on building and dwelling expenses, each household must calculate their increase individually.

4) Calculating your rent increase. First, calculate the increase based on type of heating: increase 0.7% for electric heating, 0.2% for gas and negative 4.2% for oil. If you pay for your heating, add 0.4%. Next, consider any major repairs or renovations. The landlord can increase the rent by \$2.08 for every \$1000 spent in 2015. Remember, all of these guidelines are very rough estimates that do not take into account a number of influential factors that would be used if the increase were calculated at the Rental Board.

5) Good and bad reasons for refusing a rent increase. If the proposed rent increase is substantially higher than the rough guideline and your landlord does not provide any information about his or her expenses, this may be a good reason for refusing the rent increase and having the Rental Board determine the appropriate increase. However, if your landlord gave you an abusive increase last year and now you plan to refuse to even things out, this won't be considered valid by the Rental Board. Unfortunately, inadequate heating and other problems are not considered by the Rental Board as valid reasons for refusing a rent increase. You can open your own file at the Rental Board to get these problems resolved.

6) You can negotiate a rent increase. Just make sure you put your final agreement in writing.

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**openingsmontreal@hotmail.com**



## Prime Minister Trudeau answers questions from students at American University in Washington, D.C.

March 11, 2016 Washington, D.C.

### Introduction

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today engaged with students from American University in Washington, D.C. in a question and answer session which touched on many topics, including First Nations' issues, Canada's role in the fight against ISIL, and his commitment to gender parity. Several students asked questions on diversity. The Prime Minister took the opportunity to underline Canada's commitment on this matter, noting reasonable, respectful, discussion is key to democracy.

Students were enthusiastic about Canada's role in addressing the Syrian refugee crisis, in particular the decision to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada. They were equally impressed with the choice made to bring gender parity to the federal Cabinet.

When asked about climate change, PM Trudeau said that he saw a role for North America to not only work together to fight climate change, but be an example for the rest of the world. He stressed that collaboration with NAFTA partners is an

"Our two countries share a vision of a strong and sustainable North American economy. One built on collaboration, clean growth, and economic diversification. Our partnership is vital to the success of both our countries. I'll leave this visit very encouraged and extremely confident about the future of our nations."

– Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

### Media Advisory

Washington, D.C., United States of America – 03-11-2016

9:30 a.m. The Prime Minister will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and at the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice.

### Arlington National Cemetery

10:30 a.m. The Prime Minister will host a question and answer session with students.

### American University

12:00 p.m. The Prime Minister will attend a luncheon hosted by Canada 2020.

### Mayflower Hotel

## Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on the bilateral meeting with President Obama



March 10, 2016  
Washington, D.C.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement after a bilateral meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama:

"We also committed to make our borders more open and more secure, and we agreed in principle to expand preclearance to Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto, Jean Lesage International Airport in Quebec City, as well as rail service in Montreal and Vancouver.

"Today, President Obama and I had a very productive meeting that will help our

"The President and I reaffirmed our commitment to streamline trade between



### Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Barack Obama meet the press after their speeches.

countries transition to low-carbon economies, foster clean growth, and create good jobs and great opportunities for our citizens.

our countries. Each day, \$2.4 billion worth of goods and services cross the border. We agreed to work in collaboration to bring trade and investment to new heights.

"The President and I agreed to formally join the Paris Agreement in the global fight against climate change, and to take

"Finally, we agreed that Canada will host the North American Leaders Summit in the Summer of 2016. President Obama will



### President Obama welcoming Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and family to the White House



### Together with the children of Prime Minister Trudeau and President and Mrs. Barack Obama happily posing for a family portrait.

important part of this. The Prime Minister also noted that science is essential to developing solutions and innovations.

1:30 p.m. The Prime Minister will meet with the President of the World Bank.



### President and Mrs. Obama with Prime Minister and Mrs. Justin Trudeau posing for souvenir of the state dinner gala.

ambitious actions to reduce methane, hydrofluorocarbon, and greenhouse gas emissions.

address Parliament during his visit to Canada for the summit.

"We announced a new partnership to build a sustainable Arctic economy, and we will work together to develop new, science-based standards for commercial fishing, low-impact shipping, sustainable development, and Arctic biodiversity.

"Canada and the United States share the same values, the same origins, and the same space. We face many of the same challenges, and we are all better off when we tackle them together."





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## **Education raises the bar but lowers the barriers to a rewarding career.**



Gilmore College International provides immigrants the tools for a successful career change. The training and the skills that I learned gave me the confidence to work as a nurses' aide.  
 Adele Lascano (October 2009)



The knowledge and skills I have learned at Gilmore College gave me the edge to work in the health care field where one needs to show willingness to render service to the sick and the elderly.  
 Ethel Tugna (March 2011)



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



Gilmore College gave me the opportunity to start a new career. I got a job easily because I learned new things from the course which focused on how to care for the elderly and the sick. I'm proud to be part of Gilmore College International  
 Giselle Arellano (October 2011)

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

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  - Mandarin - Spanish
- **Computer Training**
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  - Sage Premium Accounting
  - Keyboarding
- **Seminars - Small Business, Writing, Photography, Artistic Makeup**