

**MAY**  
**VOLUME 1**

# Neo

**News Express O'Clock**

**Limited  
Edition**

**news on time**

## **TWENTY-SOMETHING INFLUENCERS RECOLOR THE Y2K VOGUE**

Despite belonging in a whole new generation of fashion, notable twenty-something influencers have mastered the recolor of the Y2K lifestyle.

## **USE AI TO IMPROVE WORK, NOT DO ALL OF IT**

AI will undoubtedly revolutionize higher education, but amid the panic, there are extraordinary opportunities to embrace. How can we still ensure learning if we were to embrace AI?

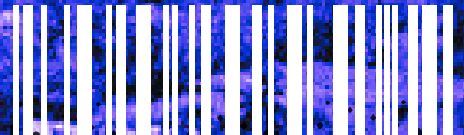
## **MANGO SHAKE MADNESS DRIVES DAPITAN INTO FRENZY**

K&K Fruit Shake is all the craze right now, with people flocking to their stall located along Asturias Street, Manila.

## **MANILA TO HOLD LABOR DAY JOB FAIR**

The local government of Manila will be conducting the "Mega Job Fair: Manila Labor Day" on Labor Day, May 1.

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# MARCOS TO END STATE OF CALAMITY DESPITE DOH'S RECOMMENDATION

Neo

NEWS



By Madeleen Saguid and Jianzen Deananeas

PRESIDENT FERDINAND Marcos Jr. no longer intends to extend the public health emergency in the country despite the Department of Health's (DOH) recommendation to keep the country under the COVID-19 emergency phase.

In a press conference, DOH officer-in-charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said the country is ready if the World Health Organization (WHO) declares an end to the global health emergency caused by COVID-19. Vergeire added that if the state of public emergency is lifted, the country will remain cautious and vigilant against COVID-19 while imposing the same restrictions.

However, in a later statement, Vergeire said in an interview that Marcos is "very hesitant" to extend the state of calamity because of COVID-19. "The DOH, in actuality, we requested for the extension not because of what we have as a situation, but because of technical reasons," Vergeire added. How should the president deliberate choices on economic and pandemic recovery?

## Preparing healthcare systems

WHO said in a meeting of its emergency committee last January 27 that the outbreak remains a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), but COVID-19 is already at an

inflection point — meaning that the virus SARS-CoV-2 is beginning to reduce its impact and reach due to high levels of immunity.

The latest data from DOH shows that cases in the country have remained downward since the end of 2022. But while cases are also starting to be more manageable in the country, many researchers agree with WHO that it should not mean that public health emergency is over.

Even with the state of calamity expiration, the officer-in-charge emphasized that safeguards need to be maintained to guarantee that the healthcare system will be able to manage if and when variants enter the country.

Vergeire also said that the country can still push through with purchasing bivalent vaccines.

"We just need to go through the usual process of procurement. This is what we call competitive bidding and we have discussed this with the President already and he told us to go ahead," she said.

## Effects of Marcos' decision

According to Our World In Data, out of the 174 million vaccine doses given in the Philippines, only



74 million are fully vaccinated, only 68.2% of the Philippines' population.

Marcos' inclination to no longer extend the state of public health emergency could also possibly be why the daily average of administered vaccines is fewer.

During the forum hosted by the Makati Business Club last February 3, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said there are 70 million unused vaccines, therefore the Philippines should not rush to obtain bivalent vaccines just yet.

Some researchers also think lifting public health emergencies on a national or global scale could trigger governments to redirect their sources.

According to Mark Woolhouse, an epidemiologist at the University of Edinburgh in the UK, "Declaring the public-health emergency over would give governments and some public-health agencies permission to look away and move on to other things."

In a recent interview with British medical researcher James Farrar, he warned that there might still be pandemic perils ahead. "I think the overwhelmingly likely scenario is we are in a completely different place and it's much better... But there may be still surprises in this pandemic," he said.

### **The Marcos COVID response plan**

Marcos, in 2021 before his election win promised the "Tawid-Covid, Beyond Covid" program which prioritizes the improvement of the conditions of

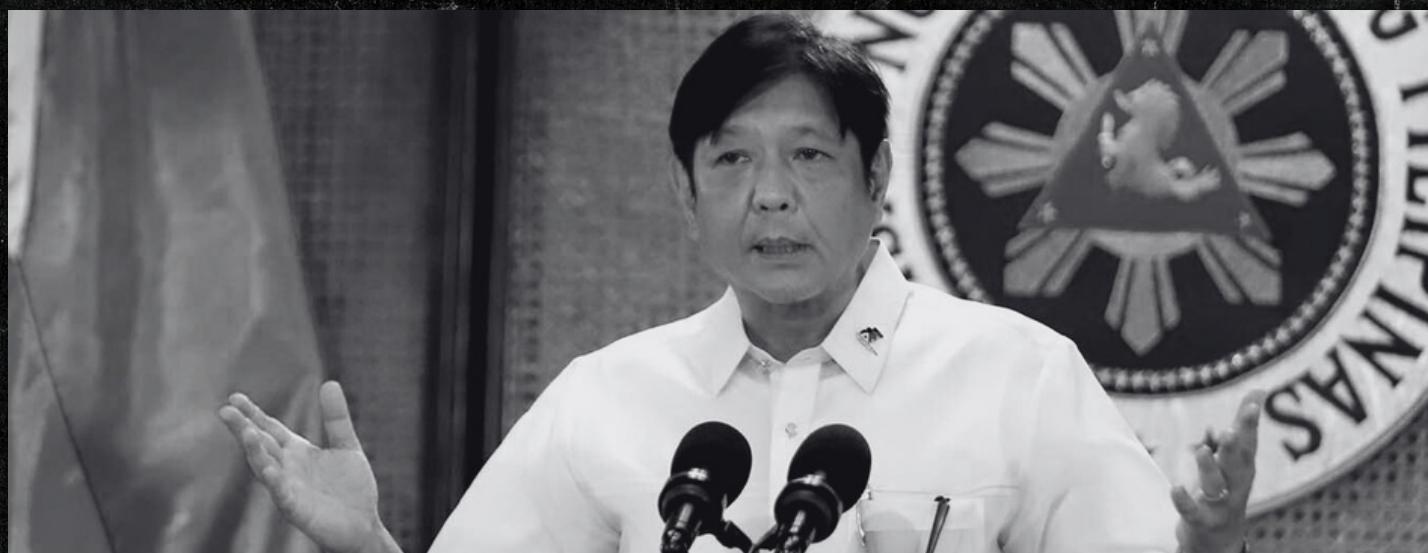
frontline medical workers through salary increases and benefits. Later in the same year, Marcos in a statement said that "medical research needs more support to fight [the] pandemic."

However, Marcos spent his first 100 days in the office without a DOH chief, as former Health secretary Francisco Duque III stepped down from his position without a successor. The next month, Marcos appointed Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire as OIC of the DOH, along with other key officials.

The newly elected Marcos promised that the country will not be "caught unprepared, underequipped, and understaffed to fight the next pandemic." During his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), Marcos again promised the public that there would be no more lockdowns to minimize COVID-19 infection.

One of Marcos' first COVID initiatives was the signing of Executive Order No. 3, which removes the requirement to wear masks outdoors with the reiteration of the need to comply with the minimum health standards.

However, visible confusion was noted as the DOH's visual aids, signed by Marcos and released before EO No. 3, reminded the public of the need for protection against COVID-19 by wearing face masks outdoors.





# 'WALK FOR LIFE' RETURNS AFTER A TWO-YEAR HIATUS

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NEWS



By Alexander Cardenas

CATHOLICS MARCHED from Welcome Rotonda, Quezon City to the University of Santo Tomas Grandstand during the "Walk for Life" march on Feb. 18. This was held for the first time since the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This annual event, organized by the Philippine Council of Laity, aims to defend the "culture of life" against the "culture of death".

Thousands of participants gathered at the Welcome Rotonda roundabout at 4 a.m., which preceded the 7 a.m. mass presided by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' secretary general Msgr. Bernardo Pantin.

In his homily during the Eucharistic celebration, Pantin emphasized on the importance of respect amid the participation from the pro-life march.

"Kaya mga kapatid, sa ipinakita natin, sa ipinakita ni Kristo sa ating Ebanghelyo ngayon, na kailangan pala yung pagsama-sama natin; kasama doon, na tayo'y nagiisa, nakikibahagi sa

lahat yung nasa atin," Pantin said.

The former president of the Alumni Priests' Association also urged Catholics to defend the sanctity of human and environmental life, as the Lord accompanies the faithful in a common goal to preserve life.

"Yung Santo Papa naman natin, sabi niya na hindi lamang 'yong buhay natin, physical life, but yung buong mundo talaga, including the environment, because when we destroy the environment, we also destroy life," he said.

Despite the pandemic, the Council Laity of the Philippines' president Raymon Cruz Jr. said that the spirit of Catholics never wavered and continued to signify the promotion of synodality, or the concept of journeying together.

The theme of this year's Walk for Life was "Clergy and lay faithful called to walk together for life."



# RUSSO-UKRAINE WAR WILL NOT END SOON – POLISH EXPERT

Neo

NEWS



By Ayanna Zoleta

EXPECT THE Russia-Ukraine war-akin to a high-stakes game of poker-to draw out even longer.

This was the analysis of geopolitical expert Krystian Chołaszczyński of the Academy of Social and Media Culture (AKSIM) of Torun, Poland, which he delivered as part of a lecture at the University of Santo Tomas on Thursday.

"The war will not end soon... This war will be long," he said as he discussed reasons why Russia might view pacification as difficult.

Chołaszczyński said the war was a case of "geopolitical poker" with a new world order at

stake.

"The conflict, and especially its course and diplomatic and political efforts, resemble a hard game of poker. Russia, at the table where the pot is still growing, maintains a cold negotiating poker face; even though the first hands turned out to be bluffs and the cards were hit hard, the game is still in progress," he said.

Russia's greatest asset at the poker table, enabling it to withstand the war even further by providing it with cash flow, is the import of highly processed goods and the export of energy sources, and the dependence of the largest European economies on them.




The poker reference does not end with Russia's case, as the speaker also stated that escalation or reduction in "poker bidding" is also the future of Eastern countries.

Despite its distance from the theatre of war that is Ukraine, Chołaszczyński said that China is a key strategic player in this game and for China's own game. He stated that a "weak"-not destroyed-Russia is favorable for China as it allows the country to expand its sphere of influence into other territories.

Russia's current predicament has already seen China making inroads into Russia's backyard in Central Asia, specifically in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, among others, aside from its continued assertion of power in the South China Sea.

In the end, he noted that while the players in this geopolitical poker have all been nation-states, he speculated that, amid the continued loss of life and property in the war, there may still be other players and actors in this game who have not yet shown their hand.

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property in the war, there may still be other players and actors in this game who have not yet shown their hand.

"There may be many more losers in this war than we think. The question arises whether, apart from the aforementioned great players at the poker table, someone else is not dealing cards and pushing up the auctions, like some non-state actor," Cholaszczyński stated, ending his lecture.

In reaction to Prof. Chołaszczyński's lecture, Prof. Lino Baron of UST's Department of Interdisciplinary Studies shared his opinion that there is no way for Putin to win the war.

"Putin can never win this war... There is no way Putin can make Ukrainians trust Russia again... Putin is misplaced in this century. Putin is a curse on Russian people," said Baron.

Cholaszczyński also answered shared his insights on how the Russo-Ukrainian war will impact Asian countries.

He pointed out that people should stop looking at the war as something local, given that it will impact everyone. He stated that we will all be part of this new "post-Post Cold War system."

"Think loudly of what is going on... Educate ourselves, share our knowledge through practices and experience... By thinking loudly, we can stop what's going on." the lecturer added.

This is the second time that Chołaszczyński gave a lecture at the university, as he also visited the country in 2018 to discuss Russia's geopolitical expansion.

The lecture was held almost one year and one month to the day that Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022 as part of Chołaszczyński's visit to UST under the Erasmus+ educational mobility framework of the European Union.




# MANILA TO HOLD LABOR DAY JOB FAIR

Neo

## NEWS

By Paulina Icban, Ayanna Zoleta, Diane Sarmiento

THE MANILA local government will host its “Mega Job Manila Labor Day” on Labor Day, May 1. Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan said the mega job fair will be held at the San Andres Sports Complex in Malate from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Sino-sino ba ang ating tinatanggap? High school graduates, college graduates, college undergrads, technical and vocational courses or graduates,” she said in her capital report.

She reminded job seekers to wear casual attire for comfort, be at the area 30 minutes before the start, and bring at least 10 copies of their resume.

“Ang nabigyan na po natin ng trabaho through our PESO ay 6,573,” Lacuna said, with around 1,500 job seekers hired on the spot. Aside from these, 43 senior citizens and 31 students were hired by the city’s private partners.

The Public Employment Service Office (PESO) is a multi-service, non-fee-charging employment facility that is established by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in coordination with all Local Government Units (LGUs).

Some of the programs implemented by PESO are the Special Program for the Employment of Students, which prioritizes youth by providing them temporary employment, and PhilJobNet, which is an automated job and applicant matching system that is aimed at faster job searching.

PESO are the Special Program for the Employment of Students, which prioritizes youth by providing them temporary employment, and PhilJobNet, which is PESO caters to job seekers, employers, students, PWDs, senior citizens, etc. by providing employment information services and recruitment assistance to employers.

Prior to Mega Job Fair: Manila Labor Day, job fairs have also been conducted throughout March and April this year: Mega Job Fair (March 24), PESO job fair (March 22 and 29), and Trabado: Hanap Trabaho Tuwing Sabado (April 15 and 22).

A total of 195 job seekers were hired on the spot during the previous Mega Job Fair and the PESO Job Fair held last March.

Job fairs are not only being held by the local government but by colleges and universities in the city as well.

Colleges around the metro are also bound to send off fresh graduates straight to the workforce of the country. Job fairs and career fairs at these universities have become a melting pot for job seekers who are both new and experienced in the market.

Career fairs and graduate training spearheaded by various universities also served as a starting line for both undergraduates and fresh graduates who are still uncertain about which field they are going to partake in.

The University of the Philippines’ Career Assistance Program (UPCAP) held its career fair last March 13-17, featuring a diverse roster of companies in different fields of marketing, social service, finance, and many more. UPCAP featured speakers from notable corporations and organizations. On March 22, Ateneo De Manila University’s Development Society also organized a career and internship fair focused on the social development sector.

AIIESECPHL, a youth-run organization, is also currently organizing a three-day training for graduates and undergraduates centered on corporate briefing and pathfinding. Odyssey: Training for Graduates by AIIESECPHL is being spearheaded by Thomasian Aylmer Dayrit, their project head.



# MANGO SHAKE MADNESS DRIVES DAPITAN INTO FRENZY

By Paulina Icban

MANGO SHAKE madness unfolded in Asturias Street, Manila, after K&K Fruit Shake opened its doors to customers on Jan. 16. After gaining online clout, intrigued people scrambled on their feet to get their hands on the famed mango shake.

“Hindi namin inexpect na pipilahan talaga ng mga tao for one to two hours,” Leslie Cruz, 32, said in an interview on Feb. 15.

Social media proved to be a powerful platform because on TikTok, a post by user @princessmargo featuring the mango shake hit a staggering 100,000 views and almost 9,000 likes.

On Twitter, a tweet by user @bluebeyrries achieved almost half a million views with thousands of likes and retweets.

Cruz can't get over the overwhelming number of people stopping by saying it was something unexpected, especially after the pandemic inflicted significant damage, causing them to lose their family business for three years.

“Hesitant pa kami noon kasi ang alam namin, kapag inoobserve namin, hindi kasi ganoon kadami yung students; siyempre mangangapital ka, maglalabas ka talaga [ng pera],” she said, the thought of being hopeless during those times rushing back in her mind.

Reopening on Jan. 16, the daily revenue only amounted to an estimated 3,000 pesos, making them scoff in disbelief as it was relatively smaller than the capital they spent on the ingredients.

Yet the next day, after a student posted that TikTok video, she and her family were surprised at the magnitude of customers wanting to get their hands on the mango shake.

As if in a snap of a finger, their business took a hundred-and-eighty-degree turn for the better.

In a blink of an eye, their daily revenue grew tenfold, soaring to around 30,000 pesos. Although Cruz said it was not really that much, garnering such a sum of money did not only fill their pockets but their hearts as well because they had never experienced holding that much money before.

“Subukan natin kasi ganoon naman talaga yung negosyo, kung malugi or kumita eh ganoon talaga, at least nagtry tayo na iopen siya ulit,” she said, hopeful yet the impact of losing a business palpable in her tone.

## Closure

With the business' closure for almost three years, Cruz's mother, Myrna Cruz, 61, recounted experiencing anxiety after losing their primary source of income.

“March ng 2020 nung nagstart na magka-pandemic, one week nag-open pa kami pero wala na kasi talagang class, so after noon nagsara na rin kami. Nung nagstart yung lockdown, hindi na kami nag-open,” Cruz detailed.

It was inevitable, she added. After gaining zero profits for a week straight, sustaining expenses, including the human resources they hired at that time, was challenging. Unfortunately, they had to let go of the people that have already been a part of their business for years, people they considered family.

Three of their stalls in Asturias Street, Antonio Street, and Rosarito Street had been closed for business.

At the height of the pandemic, as their savings continue to dwindle, they knew better than to sit back and wallow in their loss; with another step forward albeit uncertain, they opened K&K online shop on Facebook. They sold fruit jellies in a jar with flavors including mango, melon, buko pandan, avocado, etc.

Nung pandemic through online lang kase siyempre kailangan may source of income ka pa rin kaya we have to think kung paano pa rin kikita,” she said.

In November of 2022, as restrictions laxed and classes gradually resumed, she made a firm decision to try and reopen the business and sell dimsum products, such as siomai,

Owing to friendship, the owner of a neighboring restaurant Lovelite who happens to be a long-time friend of her mother, initiated to provide a spot for them to situate a table on the side.

Two months later, she decided to sell fruit shakes again.

Formerly priced at 55 pesos, she expressed regret in raising the price to 75 pesos, but said that it had to be done, noting how inflation affected the costs of ingredients needed.

“Tapos nakakita kami ng suki at TinikTok nila, doon talaga siya nagstart na humaba yung pila kasi nalaman nila na open na ulit,” she said.

She remembered telling herself the moment her eyes saw the long queue along the street that the massive amount of people was just due to temporary hype. Yet one month in, people lining up to try their famed mango shake remained consistent in numbers.

Some even reached out to her through messages asking if they are open on Sundays, knocking on their doorstep before 9:00 AM, and inquiring if they will soon open because the customer is having difficulty queuing during the afternoons.

“Kahit yung mga taga ibang school, pumupunta sila sa tindahan namin kaya hindi ko talaga inexpect na ganito kalaki yung [impact] ng TikTok and yung pagflex ng mga Gen Z online,” she said.

As customers fawn over and flock to their stalls, Cruz and her family continue to marvel at the seemingly unceasing mango shake madness in Dapitan.



# TWENTY-SOMETHING INFLUENCERS RECOLOR THE Y2K VOGUE

By Diane Sarmiento

POP CULTURE has never been this vivid as history redesigns itself right onto the glossy pages of the 21st century fashion scene. Despite belonging to a whole new generation of fashion, notable Manila-based twenty-something influencers have mastered the revival of the Y2K, or 2000s-era lifestyle.

These heroines have been leading the think-pink pack into a more vibrant aesthetic, mainly dominated by shades of bubblegum pink and hues of fluorescent green. So-called “noughties” nostalgia has bled onto the style of many young Filipinas—thanks to these up-and-coming influencers who have understood their assignment as time-traveling fashion icons.



## ASHLEY GARCIA'S COVER GIRL CHARM

Ashley gets the crown as arguably the most prominent Y2K icon in the Philippines. Her Youtube channel bleeds 2000s, from her camcorder lenses, Britney Spears vinyl LPs, and Totally Spies graphics, she embodies the 2000s chic image. Her Instagram page, meanwhile, looks like the front page cover of Teen Vogue issues during that time. Ashley's carefully curated online lookbook could be considered a national treasure for fashion.

## BIANCA GAN'S BEAUTY IN CHAOS



Far from Ashley's fondness of color coordination, Bianca Gan chooses to venture the popping and wild route of mixing and matching patterns and prints. As seen on Bianca's Instagram page, her staple outfit will always be along the lines of a cropped tee, mini skirt, wedged heels, and a vibrant-colored handbag to complement the fit. Bianca tends to go crazy with the color combinations but still manages to organize the look. Talk about goddess of color theories!



## TONI SIA'S MINIMALISTIC EXPLOSIVE

Y2K meets minimalism. With Toni Sia's magic touch of fashion, she manages to chip in a flush of modernity into our old friend 2000s. Though the genre is mostly known for its popping colors and crazy layers, Toni makes sure her uniqueness still stands out amongst these sea of eye-catching features. Rarely seen in the usual Y2K fashion, she fuses neutral and earth colors into her Y2K looks. Aside from her peculiar but enchanting choice of colors, she does not normally incorporate patterns—which one would believe is a Y2K staple—but still manages to nail the baby tee and low-waist pants combo. That's Toni's magic for you!



## IDA ANDUYAN'S PEARLS AND SEQUENCE

Almost as if creating a new genre of her own, Ida Anduyan is the love child of Y2K and the old money aesthetic. Ida is also big on opting for neutral colors with minimal patterns on her Y2K-inspired fits. With the usual Y2K magic emitting a "chic from the streets" energy, Ida adds class into the equation, making her shine in a league of her own.

**Y2K's resurgence is proof that some things just never go out of style. Through all the phases of fashion, there is always something that proves permanence even outside of glossy pages and flip phone screens.**



# TOP 5 WEDDING VENUES IN MANILA 2023: PLACES TO RENT FOR YOUR BIG DAY

By Arien Cherise Malonzo

IF YOU have been checking your social media lately, then you are probably familiar with the recent wedding that made the headlines this 2023 - the Cojuangco-Hearn wedding! The couple's celebration took place last month in none other than the National Museum of Natural History, which stirred different reactions from netizens, and if you're part of those who loved the scene but prefer not to cause too much scene, then check out our top recommendations for a "historic" wedding!

## MANILA HOTEL



The illuminated high ceiling, sparkling gold details, and stunning carpeted floor are the key selling points of this grand and luxurious place. Decorate those with beautiful flowers, and even princesses would be jealous. It is no wonder that the Manila Hotel is at the top of our list.

Address: 1 Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila, 0913 Metro Manila

## PALACIO DE MAYNILA



Palacio De Maynila offers a picturesque view of Manila Bay. This stunning venue can accommodate up to 400 to 500 guests for the couple's special day. It is also a short walk from the Malate Church, which is perfect for the occasion.

Address: 1809 - 1813 M. H. Del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila

## PUERTO REAL GARDENS





## TOP 5 WEDDING VENUES IN MANILA 2023: PLACES TO RENT FOR YOUR BIG DAY

If you're a fan of outdoor weddings, then this might be the place that you're looking for. The main venue is an open garden decorated with different kinds of plants for that dreamy garden wedding.

Address: General Luna Corner Real Streets, Intramuros, Manila, Metro Manila

### LA CASTELLANA



La Castellana is situated in the historical Intramuros, making it the best venue for that traditional wedding you have been dreaming of. Bonus! It is near the most beautiful churches in Manila, like the Manila Cathedral and San Agustin Church.

Address: Cabildo corner Beaterio streets, Intramuros, Manila 1002

### HOTEL H2O



If you're a child of the islands, Hotel H2O offers underwater-themed facilities and a scenic view of Manila Bay. The venue showcases a large aquarium that allows you and your guests to be entertained by marine animals.

Address: Behind the Quirino Grandstand, Manila Ocean Park, Rizal Park, Manila, 1000 Metro Manila



## LIFESTYLE



# COMFORT IN COOL: BEAT THE HEAT WITH NEO'S SUMMER CHEAT SHEET

By Paulina Icbán, Diane Sarmiento, Ayanna Zoleta

OUT OF the frying pan and into the fire – lately, life just feels like this, literally. With the scorching sun and the humid weather, going outside is a challenge, and staying too long in such a high temperature may lead to dizziness, headache, or worse, heatstroke.

One cannot simply judge the wholeness of the excruciating summer season but fear not as NEO has prepared a roster of tips to stay cool in the brutal swelter of a May day.

**KEEP  
YOUR  
COOL**



## *Drink your water, b\*\*\*\*!*

Summer is a time of sweating bullets and no other weapon can counter this but to rehydrate. Self-awareness is key and knowing the symptoms of dehydration such as increased thirst, dry mouth, and tiredness can help nip the problem in the bud. Avoid coffee (it's difficult we know) and tea as these contain the stimulant caffeine which contributes to dehydration.

Two simple words: Stay hydrated. Heat exhaustion usually happens when exposed to extreme heat, so getting a frequent fix of H<sub>2</sub>O is a must. Better if you bring your own water bottle, that way, you can take sips of water any day and not only when you are parched – drink more water than usual especially when you are on the move or running an errand outdoors. This is the simplest and most efficient way to create camaraderie with your body during the summer.

When you are out and about, stay in the shade or places with trees as much as you can, that way your body is subjected to a cooler environment. Bring with you an umbrella that can help shield direct sunlight if there are no other options but to walk under it. Mini-fans are a trend these days and a useful one at that. Contemplate purchasing one to beat the heat with portable handheld fans to cool you off.

If you don't have any other important business outdoors, then it's best to stay inside the comforts of your home. Within your four walls, you are protected from any sort of direct exposure to the harshness of the sun. This is a total win for homebodies who are easily exhausted from the heat.

**Seek shade from  
the sun**



## ***SPF is your BFF***

The goal is to age like wine, not milk. Protect yourself from the cancer-causing UV rays with your BFF SPF. The higher, the better! Do not leave home without it. SPF should be applied on your face and your body especially on the areas that are exposed to the sun. Even without direct sunlight, sunscreen should be worn both indoors and outdoors. You don't have to worry about the sticky feeling bestie, there are different types of sunscreen available in the market– gels, creams, sprays, powders and sticks. Love in different forms.

Ten years from now, your future self will be thanking you for wearing your sunscreen everyday all throughout the different seasons.

## ***I scream, you scream, get yourself that ice cream!***

Treat yourself with an array of flavors brought to you by the ever-loved ice cream. Your tongue and soul will thank you with this perfect dessert after any savory meal. Aside from this dessert being one of the most accessible heat-relievers, it is also available in all sorts of flavors you can think of. There is not one thing not to love about the cold and luscious ice cream. You could never go wrong with savoring the creamy goodness of a cold ice cream on a hot summer day.

## ***The right color palette will save you***

Literally shield yourself from succumbing into the heat by rejecting the light that comes your way through wearing light-colored clothes when exposed in direct sunlight. In the infrared spectrum, white clothing appears to be congruent to black clothing. About the same amount of heat radiation is reflected by each of them. White clothing is definitely better as it doesn't absorb as much visible light. See, science is integral in practicality and survival! Go learn your color theory!

Make sure to come out of the heat alive and still as fresh as ever with these tips from NEO. See you next season!



# WARM HUES ON COLD SKINS:

*Julie Lluch chronicles life in coldcast*

By Diane Sarmiento

**THE HUMAN body is a collection of shattered pieces of history, stories, obscurities, and glories. It is a colorful multitude of everything, all at once—and Julie Lluch's work on "Chronicles on Skin" perfectly encapsulates the permanence of these hapless moments etched onto us through the genius utilization of coldcast bodies as her canvas.**

Lluch's latest art commentary venture stands fascinatingly eerie on this 18-day open exhibition held at the Galerie Stephanie on the 4th floor of Shangri-la Plaza East Wing, which ran from March 17 to April 3, 2023.

"Chronicles on Skin" strays away from the typical notion of art as it frontlines what it takes for art to be contemporary. Lluch's work is an enchanting fusion of sculpting and painting, delving into the elements of contemporary mixed media. With an even more unusual canvas for painting—a coldcast marble in her case—Lluch partakes in a whole new level of art evolution, all empowered by the desire to tell stories of violent Filipino encounters.

Lluch unveils an enchanting roster of vignettes directly rooted from the Philippines' past encounters and tangos with the devil. Each one of the displayed shivered limbs and torsos tells a tale of oppression, social injustices within the vicinity of the country. It is disturbing, eye-opening, and reminiscent of the instances that the country was forced to withstand.

After completing a degree in Philosophy at the University of Santo Tomas in 1967, Lluch set forth into the dimensions of sculpting through self-learning. Her dauntless interpretations of epic encounters make her storytelling one of a kind. Physical imprints of grim on cold and shattered human bodies epitomize her call for involvement in the national discourse of unapologetic self-expressions. Her social commentaries in the forms of sculptures and paintings are her unique way of providing an artistic platform for those who have been marginalized.

Recoloring her already used casts from earlier exhibitions, creating a more poetic dissonance of dissected body parts to symbolize long and exhausting battles against slaughter and oppression. "I just cut it up into body parts, if that means anything. I guess it means something, no? Shoulder, arm, leg, torso, it's still related to the concept of violence to the human body," says Lluch.

One striking artwork of hers is "The Guerilla is a Poet," which was based on the late Joma Sison's poem. It's a carefully drenched color on a fragmented torso with women charging toward a battle for peace and freedom. Lluch's passion for activism and feminism, which reflects this very artwork of hers, was also accomplished in memory of poet and activist Kerima Lorena Tariman, who passed away in 2021 during a conflict between the New People's Army and the Philippine military.

Other works of hers reminisce the stories of Ferdinand Magellan's Death at the hands of Lapu-Lapu through Resistance 1521 and Corazon Aquino's seemingly similar victory poses through EDSA Chronicles and Badi Grapiti (Para kay Ericson) which was a tribute to Ericson Acosta, National Democratic Front consultant and a good friend to Lluch.

"For this show, I found inspiration in those who quietly, selflessly, and tirelessly work in the pursuit of truth and justice for the poor, helpless, downtrodden victims of violence and impunity, who truly love the country, even putting their lives on the line." Lluch says, breathing life into a seemingly cold and disintegrated human body, still vibrant of resistance against chaos.





## FEU LADY TAMARAWS DETHRONE DLSU, COMPLETES GOLDEN 'TREBLE'

By Jianzen Deananeas

THE FIRST UAAP women's football champion since 2019 was named after 120 minutes of play.

Far Eastern University won the Season 85 championship and completed a "treble" for the Tamaraws football program on Sunday at Rizal Memorial Football Stadium after defeating De La Salle University, the defending champion, 2-1 in overtime.

"Never talaga nag-give up ang players namin," coach Let Dimzon said. "Even when we played La Salle in the first round, even though the score was close, we won our final game in the second round as well."

'Yan 'yung pinaka-highlight ko sa team ko — hangga't hindi natatapos, never sila nag-gi-give up. Considering na halos lahat ng players ng La Salle is coming from the youth national team and 'yong experience ng players ko is not that high pero the way they work inside the field, hindi matatawaran," she added.

Regine Rebosura of FEU took the lead for the Lady Tamaraws 46 minutes into the game, but Shai del Campo of DLSU scored a consolation goal in the 100 minute of regulation to tie the score.

The Lady Tamaraws pressured the Lady Booters' goalkeeper Alexandra Gumilao, who made several saves. Still, Dimzon's team fought back, and Rebosura poked the ball home in the 118th minute to clinch the title.



UAAP Photo

This was the Lady Tamaraws' 11th championship in the UAAP women's division.

The Lady Tamaraws achieved the school's third-ever treble, the first two occurring in Seasons 76–77. They also won the boys' and men's crowns this season.

For her exceptional efforts all season long, Rebosura was selected Best Midfielder and Rookie of the Year. With eight goals, Angelica Teves of La Salle was voted Best Striker.

Frances Caroline Acelo and Jennifer Baroin, from the University of the Philippines, won awards for best goalkeeper and best defender, respectively.

Katrina Magbitang of FEU was selected as the 85th season's Most Valuable Player.

The Fair Play Award was given to the Ateneo de Manila University.

UP, which lost to De La Salle University 1-0 in the playoff on May 13, rounds out the podium for the competition.



# FEU CLAIMS MEN'S FOOTBALL TROPHY AFTER EIGHT YEARS



By Jianzen Deananeas

UAAP Photo

BY DEFEATING the reigning champion Ateneo de Manila University 4-1 in the Season 85 Final on Thursday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, Far Eastern University won its 10th UAAP Men's Football title.

The last time the Tamaraws won the UAAP Men's Football Championship was in Season 77 during 2014-2015.

"It feels great, especially since we've missed football for the last few years," said Vince Santos, who celebrated his first title as head coach of the Morayta school. "It's such a rewarding feeling to rebuild the program almost from scratch and achieve victories this year for both the juniors and the men's team."

FEU took the lead right away after Karl Absalon's superb finish 12 minutes into the game. With a strike from close range in the 30th minute, Gerald Estores increased their lead.

Gio Pabualan increased FEU's advantage in the 86th minute, and Geri Martini Rey put the game

away with a goal in the 94th minute to end the Tamaraws' eight-year title drought. FEU's victory was more thrilling because they previously lost to Ateneo 1-0 on March 16 and April 13.

Ateneo's greatest effort to mount a comeback was a magnificent volley by Galen Fernandez in the 66th minute that gave the Blue Eagles hope.

A number of individual accolades were also claimed by the Tamaraws.

Pabualan, who finished the season as the league's leading scorer with eight goals, was given the Best Midfielder and Best Striker titles.

The award for Rookie of the Year went to Absalon, who scored five goals.

Viejay Frigillano, a defender and captain, was selected as the season's most valuable player.



## THE VAULT OF LIFE: EJ OBIENA'S LIFE AS A NATIONAL ATHLETE

From being the subject of one of the Philippines' hottest sports scandals to being the country's premiere athlete, pole vaulter Ernest John "EJ" Obiena has been through a lot.

By Jianzen Deananeas

ERNEST JOHN "EJ" Obiena is one of the Philippines' most recognizable athletes because of what he has contributed to pole vaulting in the country showcasing his dedication and passion.

Growing up in Tondo, a district in Manila which has a reputation for criminality and poverty, EJ sought to find ways to "make things work" in the dangerous district.

"If you ask me now, I think being nifty, being able to make things work, that is something that I was able to carry there [in Tondo]," attributing his resilience to his childhood district, Obiena said in an interview for ABS-CBN.

"Well, of course... having that inner asshole in me, knowing how to, you know, to growl and show my teeth when I need to, that definitely is there as well," Obiena added.

### Early life and the family

As a kid, EJ did not play in the streets much, citing that his neighborhood was "not the best" or safest place for a kid to grow up, but because both of his parents were athletes, his main playground was the Rizal Sports Complex.

"That's where I play. I do a lot of different sports [like] long jump, hurdles... all the different things I can do in a track, collecting grass, stuff like that, it could be done," Obiena said.

EJ held the pole at the early age of three to five years old, citing that he was being flung while holding onto the pole with assistance from his dad. EJ then started to jump alone at eight or nine years old.

For a time, EJ only saw pole vaulting as playtime, citing that he did not have ambitions to become an Olympic pole vaulter because it's fun for him until his first competition in which he lost. He saw pole vaulting as a ticket to get to the top universities in Manila.

While growing up in a family of athletes whom EJ sought inspiration from; became the stepping stone for his athletic career and prowess.

EJ's parents, Jeanette and Emerson Obiena, were track and field athletes. His father represented the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games, her mother ran hurdles for her college, and his sister, Emily Jean Obiena, is also a pole vaulter.





## THE VAULT OF LIFE: EJ OBIENA'S LIFE AS A NATIONAL ATHLETE



**"THE NEXT thing you know, I'm representing the country"**

EJ represented the country as an athlete in 2014 when he was able to meet Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergey Bubka. Originally intending only to get an autograph from Bubka, he learned of an opportunity to train in Italy.

EJ trained with Bubka's then coach Vitaly Petrov for three months; of the same year in Formia, Italy. His training paid off on the PATAFA weekly relays held at the PhilSports Football and Athletics Stadium; EJ broke the national record for pole vault with 5.01 meters.

Edward Lasqyete held the previous record at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Spain. Set three years before the national junior of 4.31 was also broken as EJ was only 18 years old at the time, continuing to break his own records several times.

In 2015, EJ participated in the Southeast Asian Games, winning a silver medal with a 5.25-meter leap, his then-personal record.

EJ said that it never felt like it was his decision to become a national athlete. It was until his injury in 2017 made that made him stay out of the game for six months due to a torn ACL. "[I] had six months to kind of... think on it, really absorb all of that, and I felt deep inside that, if I don't continue, I'll regret it," EJ said.

While being left out of the 2017 Southeast Asian Games, EJ cited that it was the year that he actually chose pole vaulting, even citing that it became the year that he wanted to become an Olympian.

In the 2019 Summer Universiade, he won gold and set a new national record in the Men's Pole Vault event. EJ secured qualification in the 2020 Summer Olympics by surpassing the qualifying standard by making a national record finish in Chiara, Italy.

### **The controversy**

The Philippine Athletics Track and Field Association (PATAFA) publicly escalated an accounting issue concerning overdue payments to Vitaly Petrov, the coach of the Obiena team, in November 2021. Later, Petrov and Obiena denied having a payment dispute with Obiena.

Because of the issue, Obiena could not compete in the World Championships despite the 5.91-meter record set by Obiena at that time.

"It was tough. It was a tough seven months of my life; in those times, I did not really have any reason to continue," Obiena said.

"It felt like, at least, at the start. I felt like the federation that I represent doesn't want me to represent the country. So why... or what am I doing here?" Obiena added.



# SPORTS

## THE VAULT OF LIFE: EJ OBIENA'S LIFE AS A NATIONAL ATHLETE

### Moving forward

After the grueling legal process that haunted Obiena and his team, Obiena's mission is not over, as he was out to conquer the 2022 tournament season.

Obiena earned his first gold in the Orlen Cup in Łódź, Poland, last February 11, 2022; he followed up the victory in the Orlen Copernicus Cup with another gold medal finish with a season-best of 5.81 meters amidst the PATAFA controversy.

After reaching an agreement with PATAFA, Obiena settled the score on March 30. Following that, the federation promised to support the athlete's participation in the 2022 World Athletics Meet in Oregon, USA, and the Southeast Asian Games in Hanoi, Vietnam.

In the 2022 Southeast Asian Games, Obiena cleared a 5.46-meter vault to attain the gold medal. In the World Athletics Championships in July of the same year, Obiena made history by setting a new Asian Record in Oregon, USA.

Obiena reached 5.94 meters in three attempts to attain the bronze medal, making him the very first Filipino athlete to a podium finish in one of the most prestigious athletics events in the world. Because of the podium finish, Obiena moved up from fifth to third in the rankings in World Athletics.



The next month after Obiena's historic win, he was reinstated to the Philippine Training Pool of the National Sports Association as most of the votes from PATAFA gave the OK to reinstate Obiena. Obiena capped off the year with a gold medal finish at the Galà dei Castelli in Bellinzona, Switzerland, in September.



# USING AI TO IMPROVE WORK, NOT DO ALL OF IT

By Madeleen Saguid

A FEW weeks ago, a University of the Philippines Diliman professor posted on Facebook an essay that was confirmed to have been generated with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). The allegations came as he grew suspicious when the students' written work failed to make sense. As he inputted the essay into an AI detector, he said the results indicated that the work was "most likely written by AI."

This sparked debates and discussions in the academic community on the benefits and impacts of AI-powered chatbots such as ChatGPT or chat-generated pre-trained transformer — an AI AI-powered language processing chatbot that provides human-like conversations and composes answers to questions based on the massive information it gathers online.

Following the incident, the UP Artificial Intelligence Program denounced the use of AI tools that misrepresent "valid scholarly works" and urged students to uphold academic integrity by ensuring that all academic requirements are completed entirely by students. But it also said the use of AI tools to enhance and facilitate the students' learning "should be encouraged."

Although there is a lot of criticism of students who use AI tools to complete their assignments, recent studies suggest that AI will undoubtedly revolutionize higher education. Amid the panic, there are extraordinary opportunities to embrace.

## AI as part of life and learning

Professors from the United Kingdom claim that within the next three to five years, ChatGPT and other AI tools will be commonplace in most schools and workplaces, according to a webinar hosted by Graide, an assessment and feedback network for teaching, on February 23.

Professor Stephen Webb, Head of Technology Enhanced Learning at Portsmouth University, said that "AI will continue to develop quickly and play an increasingly important role in both life and education."

Although there are still serious issues and concerns with cheating, the academic community has to learn how to navigate through this type of industry and make the necessary adaptations. The worst thing it can do is disregard this innovation.

Webb suggests schools should create an environment where students use AI tools like ChatGPT to learn. Just like a super clever textbook, students can utilize the AI chatbot to ask a single question and receive multiple definitions and examples.

Some students themselves here in the country have also started to adapt to that environment.

In an interview, Matthew Unsay, an electronics and communications engineering student from the Technological Institute of the Philippines, says that he uses ChatGPT like a "pseudo-professor" to ask certain questions he missed in class.

"Ginagamit ko sya pag may mga concepts akong hindi masyado naintindihan and I need to ask my professor about it. Instead of sending them an e-mail and waiting for their reply pa, dinadaan ko sya sa [ChatGPT] kasi its more efficient," he said.

Andrei Nicolas, an international studies student from De La Salle University, says that he also uses ChatGPT to save time studying.

"Pag kailangan ko mag review ng mabilisan for example sa graded recitations, nakaka-pull ako ng ideas through ChatGPT," he said.

Nonetheless, in order to maintain the academic integrity of their works, both have voiced moral issues that need to be addressed when using AI tools to assist with school works.

"For me, ang AI tools kasi should be utilized not to tell students directly kung ano yung sagot, but to get an idea paano sumagot," Nicolas said.

## Limitations

This technology certainly has its flaws. For one, it cannot handle complex math, physics, or other subjects due to alignment problems and mainly because the system bases its answers on previous texts it has processed.

And while the system is theoretically designed not to cross some moral red lines, like other AI models, it can also say biased and offensive things. Reports from Stanford University have said that an earlier version of ChatGPT generated extremely Islamophobic content and also produced some concerning talking points about the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China.



# USING AI TO IMPROVE WORK, NOT DO ALL OF IT

Questions about ethical concerns have also surfaced about students taking full ownership of outputs created by chatbots without giving credit to where credit is due.

But if students only use chatbots for light assistance in completing their requirements, these AI systems become a helpful tool for them.

Dr. Tess Payongayong, vice chancellor for academic affairs at UP Diliman, stated in a forum that “if we use ChatGPT to improve our work [...] or any other light assists and it will not be tantamount to doing your work, then it simply becomes a simple tool to help us.”

## Rethinking assessment tools

As AI rapidly improves, it is unclear how many resourceful students might start taking advantage of it or if teachers will

figure out a way to catch them. Still, these types of AI are already making us consider what activities we humans should carry on with and what we would rather let technology handle.

Recently, internet-based plagiarism detection service Turnitin has successfully developed an AI writing detector that identifies 97 percent of ChatGPT-authored writing. With this, teachers will be able to examine the content and use feedback tools with the same user experience they currently have because the new feature will work within the Turnitin process.

In higher education, faculty members should also train students in interpreting data and encourage them to practice creativity and critical thinking since AI tools cannot make interpretations on their own, according to Dr. Ramon Guillermo, Professor of UP Diliman Center for International Studies.

“What we have to do is bring in the interpretative framework, train them to interpret; that’s the objective of education because this kind of model (ChatGPT) cannot actually interpret; it looks at interpretations, summarizes interpretations. Siguro ito yun isa sa mga aspects na pwede nating i-explore,” he said.

Dr. Payongayong also said that it was crucial for students to have access to AI tools, including ChatGPT and other AI systems, not to replace the actual work done by students but to improve their performance in the classroom.

She noted that faculty members have yet to define the boundaries to determine to what extent students and teachers should incorporate AI-generated suggestions in their academic outputs.

“We [need to] rethink our assessment tools and mahalaga na when we discuss this with students, we tell them to use AI technologies to improve their work, hindi para gawin yung trabaho para sa kanila,” she said.







FEATURES

## PLASTIC CROWN FOR MALE GAZE

By Diane Sarmiento and Arien Malonzo

PATRIARCHY HAS always been the largest hurdle feminists face as they continue to advocate for women's rights and quality of living—and internalized misogyny is the unspoken branch of it. Internalized misogyny has gracefully perpetuated the oppression of men against women without directly doing it. It has become an ugly behavior that plagues the Filipino community. Transitioning lifestyles from the small pond of Baguio to the intimidating seas of Manila has proved that the community has unfortunately caught onto this ugly behavior.

Internalized misogyny has a limited view of femininity and womanhood. This notion states that a woman must oust all of the traditional notions of womanhood and provoke the unbreakable existence of *"the other girl"* to attain self-reliance and independence. It makes womanhood be perceived as a mere competition rather than a collaborative endeavor that requires uplifting others and being an ally to a sister. The society-made competition ignores the diversity and intricacy of independent existence and being one's true self.

It is the patriarchy that will always remain the adversary of feminism. These patriarchal ideals are the long-held ideologies firmly embedded in people of all gender identities. Feminism is the only thing that can counter these problematic notions with its advocacies, means, and genuineness about making the world a better place for all existing genders. It is about deliberately challenging your preconceptions to make space for inclusive, welcoming, and diverse views on womanhood.

Gillian Flynn's best-selling book, *"Gone Girl,"* turned into a blockbuster masterpiece. It encapsulates what it truly means to be The Cool Girl. The Cool Girl was described as the kind of girl that completely enchants men. Amy Dunne, the book's main character, defined a cool girl as "Hot and understanding. They never get angry; they only smile in a chagrined, loving manner and let their men do whatever they want." In short, The Cool Girl is the girl of every man's dreams. Get on men's good side, be a cool girl, and lose yourself in the process. If you cannot be the cool girl, then brace yourself as the punch of patriarchy is about to eat you whole.



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There is no question that the male gaze has been normalized in all forms of media. In the Philippines, the film industry always has a space for erotic films that mostly cater to the male audience. This even went as far as creating cinemas intended to play NC-17 films before. When mobile phones became a massive hit, celebrities with bodies you can't replicate without going under the knife dominated social media. Guess what they look like? Long legs, voluptuous breasts, and a stomach that looks like a bodily organ won't fit.

**Because of these, women are often viewed as objects of desire. They are to be conquered.**

It does not help that there are advertisements made specifically for men. For example, San Miguel Corporation's "Calendar Girl," where the dates are merely visible and the woman in a bikini takes up the whole space, or FHM's top 100 sexiest females in the Philippines. See how they used the word "sexy" to invoke the hormones of men? And how females need to compete who's the sexiest of them all.

Internalized misogyny turns women against each other as they try to justify obvious oppressive remarks made by ignorant men with the goal of demeaning their value. It is the ugly society that dismantles feminine courage and confidence. It is the building up of problematic norms that fuel hatred for women who go beyond the box society has built for them: the innocent, inferior, and fragile girl whose life will come together once validated by a man. This notion turns women into competitors for validation from patriarchal motives.

Valuing validation, likability, and treating other women as competition in order to fall under the standards of the male gaze has been something that is quite a trend nowadays. The trend of quirkiness and being the designated "not like the other girls" girl has been extremely damaging in pre-teens and teenagers, especially since they are to face and navigate adolescence, an important phase in their life.

Some girls take the bait and fall into the trap of questioning women before confronting the system that made these stigmas play into the lives of women in society.

It is the patriarchal system that paves the way for women to pit themselves against each other for the sake of male validity and societal acceptance. It has become a complement to becoming "*different*," making way for hatred toward women who are just being themselves. Some women are conditioned to engage in competition with other women because men have fooled women into thinking that they are a prize worth winning.

More instances of internalized misogyny happen when women project sexist and misogynistic ideas onto other women and onto themselves subconsciously. It has become the byproduct of continuous patriarchy in the country as a means of survival in society. Internalized misogyny ranges from degrading the value of women to abiding by the likings of men or the male gaze. Though it is rarely addressed, it is and will always be a pressing issue if left unattended. It has become the prejudiced behavior women project upon themselves and other women. This manifests in statements that claim, "*I am not like other girls*," due to the need to cater to the male gaze.

To combat the blurry boxes of internalized misogyny, women must first confront the system instead of "the other girl." She must learn to dismantle the competition culture between her and her sisters. But to do this, she must also be able to call herself out for displaying internalized misogyny. However, she does not have to be hard on herself for giving in to the bait of patriarchy that was shoved upon her. Instead, she must use this as her framework for change.

**It is people against the system and not people against people.**

Recognizing the weaknesses of society is what makes living tolerable for every kind of community. In this case, attacking the root of internalized misogyny will lead to camaraderie and possible cessation of discrimination against women and the dismantling of the ever-so-problematic male gaze.



# Pursuing Dreams Beyond Borders

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FEATURES

## The Aspirations of Filipino Millennials Working Abroad

By Madeleen Saguid

LABOR DAY has recently passed – a time dedicated to honoring workers and their contributions to the Philippine economy. With this, the stories of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) come to the forefront. Among them is Trinity Gabon, a 27-year-old OFW from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, who embarked on a journey abroad in search of greener pastures. Gabon's story sheds light on the motivations driving Filipino millennials to choose employment opportunities overseas and the complexities it poses to the local labor market.

Gabon's decision to work abroad was rooted in a desire for financial stability and the opportunity to support her family. Like many young Filipinos, she saw working overseas as a necessity rather than a choice.

"Pangalawa ako sa aming apat na magkakapatid. Yung kuya ko is also an OFW. So when he fully decided to work abroad, sabi ko 'why not?' sunod na lang din ako," Gabon said.

Coming from a family of OFWs, working overseas had always been an option for Gabon. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

As a fresh graduate, she worked in human resources for a few years. Eventually, an opportunity to work at an advertising agency in Kuala Lumpur opened when one of her college friends offered her to apply.

With her single mother needing help to pay for their house and her two younger brothers' tuition for college, she took the chance.

### Earning high outweighs uncertainties

Limited job prospects, low wages, and the high cost of living

in the Philippines often present significant challenges for millennials in securing stable employment. For Gabon, the opportunity of higher earning potential abroad outweighed the uncertainties of venturing into unfamiliar territories.

"It was difficult at first kasi kahit sabihin mo na you have corporate experience naman, iba pa rin yung standard nila dito. So you undergo a lot more training... You also have to be prepared to be on your own. But the benefits are way better and nababawi ko kasi nakakaipon na rin ako para sa family ko," Gabon said.

Moreover, the culture of remittances prevalent in the Philippines played a significant role in Gabon's choice.

The pursuit of personal and professional growth is another driving factor for Filipino millennials like Gabon seeking work opportunities abroad. Gabon, like many others, yearned for experiences beyond her borders, craving exposure to diverse cultures, ideas, and work environments. Working in a foreign country represented an opportunity for her to broaden her horizons, develop new skills, and gain international experience that could propel her career forward.

"I expected a career change, pero hindi ganito ka early. The sad part siguro about it is I realized na the system is not gonna change for me, I'm gonna change for me. So when I wished for things to move forward, and I didn't get that for a long time, saka ako nag hanap ng bago," Gabon said.

### Challenge to local labor market

The increasing number of OFWs also poses challenges to the local labor market. Shiella Estrada, president of Pinay Careworkers Transnational, highlights the impact of the brain drain phenomenon, wherein skilled and talented individuals leave the country for better opportunities abroad. This brain drain deprives the Philippines of valuable human capital and impedes local economic growth.

While Filipinos contribute their skills and talents to various industries around the world, the slogan "We give the world our best" by the Department of Tourism also raised questions. Ellene Sana, executive director of the Center for Migrant Advocacy, explains that the slogan implies that the best of the Filipino workforce is only available to other countries.

This perception undermines the potential for local job creation and development, perpetuating the reliance on overseas employment as the primary option for Filipino millennials.

Addressing the labor issues caused by the increasing number of OFWs requires a comprehensive approach. Estrada emphasizes the importance of creating an environment that fosters inclusive growth, decent work, and fair wages in the Philippines.

This includes providing better employment opportunities, promoting skills development, and addressing the systemic issues that hinder the local labor market's competitiveness.





**Neo**

# About us

## **MISSION**

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NEO aims to provide news and information to the younger generation, introducing them to different perspectives and providing them with opportunities to engage in national conversation.

## **VISION**

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A vibrant and courageous space for the youth to highlight the distinct integrity of the younger generations' right to get involved, be seen, heard, and felt in all fields of awareness and information. For the generation that seeks the truth and fights for the right, NEO aims to bring a future that completely envelopes the color of the ever-vibrant Generation Z.



# About us

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