

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

KC: RP's ambassador against hunger visits WFP in New York

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress

NEW YORK—Maria Kristina Cassandra Cuneta Concepcion was born with a silver spoon. She entered this world famous, no question about that, and the public watched her grow before their very eyes.

With Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion's blood running through her veins, show-business was an inevitable path. KC, as she is more famously known, took a sidetrip and finished a business communications course at the American University in Paris.

Nothing like her contemporaries in the business today, KC decided to take the road less traveled and leverage her star power in pushing for a cause that has become near and dear to her heart.

Last year, the young actress was appointed by the UN-World Food Programme as a National Ambassador Against Hunger in the Philippines, with a special mission to highlight the need for effective solutions to hunger and to address humanitarian needs in Mindanao.

"I have been working with them since 2007 and I was told that I was nominated and I had to wait for six months. I went through a trial period with my Pikit, Cotabato mission and a few meetings before and after that and got word after a few weeks if I wanted to accept the nomination. It was such an honor," KC told the *Asian Journal* in an exclusive interview across the UN headquarters in Manhattan.

WFP in the Philippines has been using food assistance and hot meals to boost school enrolment and attendance especially in Mindanao. As a national ambassador, KC has been traveling within and outside the Philippines to raise awareness about WFP programs and operations.

"We are doing better than a lot of more high-profile countries in some aspects," KC shared. That does not mean though that they are not working double time to make things even better. The most recent issue that affected the situation in the Philippines have



KC Concepcion
AJPress Photos by Momar Visaya

PENANG
You've tried the Rest, Now try the Best!

7 DAYS A WEEK
11:30am-10:00pm
FREE PARKING

HAPPY HOUR
5:00pm-7:00pm (MON-FRI.)

BUSINESS HOURS VARY BY LOCATIONS

4933 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814
Tel. No.: (301) 657-2878 • (301) 657-2875 / Fax: (301) 657-2876
www.PENANGCUISINE.com



KC with Bettina Luescher, WFP Chief Spokesperson for North America

something to do with families and children displaced by the conflict in Mindanao.

"We have more internally displaced families than Sri Lanka and other more high-profile countries but in terms of malnutrition, we have much less than Africa and some of our Southeast Asian neighbors," she adds.

There is a particular focus on Mindanao because

of the conflict going on there, and based on their data, there are about one million women and children displaced by the war there, according to Bettina Luescher, WFP Chief Spokesperson for North America.

"One of the biggest things we do world-wide is our school feeding. It is important that children in school get a meal; that their little bodies can grow up strong. It only costs about 25 cents a day to feed one child," Luescher added.

WFP's Food for Education programme in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and adjacent areas uses food support as an incentive to promote school attendance and reduce dropouts in conflict-affected areas.

[Showbitz!]

Geoff Eigenmann reveals weight loss secret

HEARTTHROB Geoff Eigenmann is excited for his new leading man role in GMA 7's new *teleserye*, *Rosalinda*, based on the Spanish telenovela which starred Thalia. As part of his preparation for the role, Geoff got into boxing and Ultimate Frisbee to shed off excess weight.



Although he considers himself athletic and was involved in a lot of sports, Geoff admitted he loved eating too much that he weighed as much as 230 pounds about six or seven years ago.

"[Before] friends and family were telling me, 'Ang taba mo, papayat ka na.' Ako naman, wala akong pakialam," he tells *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)*. "Nung pumayat ako, ang daming nagbago. I felt better about myself."

Now, he makes sure to make boxing a part of his regular regimen to maintain his ideal weight by boxing at least three-four times a week. It has paid off as he shows his well-toned body in the issue of *Men's Health* magazine.

"Ang kailangan talaga is discipline. It's up to you if you want to excel in whatever you're doing. *Kung ano ang ibigay mo* while training, *yun din ang makukuha mo*," he concludes. ■

Paula Taylor makes RP film debut with Vic Sotto as leading man

ONE of the most recognizable faces in print and TV ads these days is making her Philippine film debut with one of the most charming leading men in the big screen. Popular international commercial model Paula Taylor was handpicked by top comedian/TV host Vic Sotto for *LOL (Love On Line)* to be directed by Tony Reyes.



Paula is originally from Australia but is currently based in Thailand. In fact, she was in Thailand when she learnt from her agent in the Philippines that she was chosen by Vic to star in the movie, and she instantly said yes because the project interested her and also because she loved working in Manila.

"I've been coming here for a long time now for work, I love it here and I know a little bit of Tagalog," she tells *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)*. Another thing she enjoys is the *Pinoy* food such as *sisig*, *dinuguan* and *sinigang*, her current favorite. ■

In addition to its school feeding programme, WFP supports nearly one million people in Mindanao, including internally displaced, pregnant and nursing mothers and others affected by the conflict.

All praises
"We are so delighted to have KC as our partner and our friend. She helps shine a light on this problem. When somebody who is known by the public talks about the problem, people will listen. She helps us raise awareness; she tells the world that this is an important problem and she also helps us tell the world that we can solve that problem if we only put our mind to it," Luescher said.

KC's own country director, who

joined her when she visited Pikit early this year, has nothing but kind words for the actress.

"We are thrilled to have KC on board to help get the word out that, together, we can make real progress in helping to end hunger in our lifetime through small steps, such as this one, that make sure no child goes to school hungry," announced Valerie Guarnieri, WFP Country Director and Representative in the Philippines last February.

"Funding has been our main obstacle in expanding our successes throughout the conflict-affected areas. We hope that, with KC's help, we will be able to increase support to the programme, including from the private sector," Guarnieri added. ■

Must love Dougs

by BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
Inquirer.net

IT is ironic that talent manager Douglas Quijano passed away when local show business is besieged by all sorts of scandals.

That's because in times of trouble, whether professional or personal, for his talents and industry friends, he invariably provides the voice of reason, said filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes. "He lends sanity to an insane business."

Quijano, who would have turned 65 on July 24, died of a heart attack on Saturday. (He is survived by three siblings.)

Reyes recalled a crazy period in his own life, when Quijano was neither judgmental nor patronizing. "He just understood."

"He was always calm and candid," writer and fellow talent manager Alfie Lorenzo said. "When we disagreed, I'd be screaming and he'd just quietly listen, smiling and rubbing his tummy like a Buddha."

Talent Janice de Belen agreed: "He was consistently fair and frank."

Quijano continued managing the careers of De Belen and John Estrada after the couple had separated. "At a certain hour when I attend his parties, he'd whisper to me: 'John is about to arrive, do you want to leave na?' He knew me so well," said De Belen.

"He was the stabilizing force in our group, Pami (Professional Artist Managers Inc.)," said Ed



Instrella. "We had so much faith in him, that we consulted him about every problem."

June Rufino, Pami president, said Quijano "had no envious bone in his body and gladly helped anyone. He was an angel in disguise."

Quijano was a founding member and the first chair of Pami when it was formed after the Manila Filmfest scam in 1994, recalled Instrella and Rufino.

Best in RP
Lorenzo stressed: "He was the best manager in the Philippines. He discovered unknowns and made them big stars. He invested time, money and effort in his talents."
Filmmaker Elwood Perez pointed out that "Quijano was instrumental in jump-starting the careers of so many people, including mine."

Biggest discovery Richard Gomez, who was in San Francisco, California, at the time of Quijano's passing, told the *Inquirer* in a phone interview: "My wife Lucy and I are very sad."

(Gomez said he'd cut short his US visit and try to make it back home last June 16.)

Gomez recalled that he was a baby when Quijano first saw him. "He knew my mother (sex actress Stella Suarez). We met again on the set of my half-sister's (Stella Suarez Jr.) movie when I was a teenager."

He described his manager as "well-loved and respected. People listened to him because he was straightforward. He didn't mess around." From Quijano, Gomez said, he learned "to always be punctual, to honor all

***FREE 10 minute call to the Philippines TAWAG NA DIRECT**

Call Philippines for as low as **10.9¢ a minute**

10 FREE Minutes
CALL TO THE PHILIPPINES PLUS 20 MINS FREE IF YOU ENROLL WITH TND

Tawag na DIRECT™
KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Call our toll free number NOW!
1-877-379-6439

Visit our websites: www.mytawagnadirect.com