

Ford Philippines Honors 25 Motoring Journalists, Media Outlets at 25th Henry Ford Awards

Nineteen (19) journalists are Silver Mile Luminaries, 5 take home awards in the Industry and Ford categories, and 1 journalist named as Butch Gamboa Lifetime Achievement Awardee

Ford Philippines marked a historic milestone as it celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Henry Ford Awards (HFA), the only awards program in the country that recognizes excellence in motoring journalism.

With this year's theme, "Stars and Stories in Silver," the HFA recognized individuals and publications that have shaped the local motoring media landscape over the past 25 years. In line with this milestone, a total of 25 winners were honored at this year's HFA with a special edition trophy that is simultaneously classic and contemporary in concept and design.

"As we celebrate the 25th Henry Ford Awards, we are proud to recognize 25 outstanding journalists and outlets whose gift of storytelling, integrity, and professionalism have made a lasting impact on the automotive industry," said Pedro Simoes, managing director, Ford Philippines. "The motoring media have always been an invaluable part of our industry – helping bridge automotive players like Ford with the Filipino public, and the Henry Ford Awards serves to honor their dedication and commitment to their craft."

In this landmark year, Ford Philippines pays tribute to 19 Silver Mile Luminaries—15 esteemed journalists and 4 media outlets who have garnered the most awards throughout the 25-year history of the HFA.

- Manny de los Reyes
- Ronald de los Reyes
- Junep Ocampo
- Vince Pornelos
- Iñigo Roces
- Tessa Salazar
- Vernon Sarne
- Paulo Rafael Subido
- Dinzo Tabamo
- Niky Tamayo
- Eric Tipan
- Steven Edward Yu



Silver Mile Luminaries (Publications)

- BusinessMirror Motoring Section
- Philippine Daily Inquirer Motoring Section
- Fast Times of The Manila Times
- Top Gear Philippines

More than just celebrating the stalwarts of the automotive industry, this year's HFA also recognized the impact of the new breed of motoring media and content creators in the automotive industry. The esteemed Board of Judges took part in evaluating close to 100 entries submitted for the Industry and Ford categories, and have named the following winners in the 5 categories:

- Automotive Vehicle Review of the Year (Article) – "What the Mazda Miata means to my family despite never having owned one" by Carlo Chungunco for Top Gear Philippines

- Automotive Vehicle Review of the Year (Video) – "2025 Nissan Z NISMO Review | Sharper, Faster, Greater" by Earl Lee for AutoDeal
- Ford Launch Story of the Year – "What happens when the car you once loved returns as a Hybrid?" by MJ Jucutan for GadgetMatch
- Ford Automotive Video Feature of the Year – "2025 Ford Bronco Review | The Best Off-Roader Yet?" by Jack Gutierrez for AutoDeal
- Ford Automotive Short-Form Video of the Year – "FORD BRONCO: Can you tame this beast?" by Roy Robles for Zigwheels Philippines

One of the biggest highlights of this year's HFA was the awarding of the Butch Gamboa Lifetime Achievement Award to Manila Bulletin Executive Editor Pinky Concha-Colmenares. This prestigious award recognizes a journalist whose body of work has made a profound and lasting impact on the industry, informing and inspiring audiences while elevating the standards of automotive storytelling. Colmenares brought home the award after a multiple-phase selection process.



"The Butch Gamboa Lifetime Achievement Award is a tribute to the legacy of Butch Gamboa, one of the Philippine automotive industry's most revered figures. We are honored to present this award to Ms. Pinky Colmenares, a pillar of Philippine motoring journalism in her own right. She has been a beacon of inspiration where her excellence, professionalism and passion to serve have paved the way for the continued success of motoring journalism and its impact to the broader automotive industry," said EJ Francisco, Communications Director, Ford Asia Pacific Distributor Markets and The Philippines.



Silver Mile Luminaries (Journalists)

- Jason Ang
- Ulysses Ang
- James Deakin

A New Chapter for BAIC Philippines with Benjie Paras and Family



PHOTO: (from left) BAIC Ambassadors, Kobe Paras, Andre Paras, and Benjie Paras, BAIC Brand Head, Mr Timothy Sytin, and BAIC Marketing Director, Ms. Cherry May De Los Santos

BAIC Philippines, under UAAGI Auto Group Inc., formally welcomed Philippine basketball legend and actor Benjie Paras, together with his sons Kobe Paras and Andre Paras, as its newest brand ambassadors in a contract signing held at Tsujiya Japanese Restaurant.

As a newly opened dining destination located within the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club Sports Center, Tsujiya provided an exquisite yet relaxed setting for the occasion. Known for its refined Japanese cuisine, modern interiors, and serene ambiance, the restaurant set the tone for a partnership grounded not in spectacle, but in authenticity and shared values.

Set in an intimate atmosphere, the event reflected the heart of the collaboration. It was not simply about a formal signing. It was about family, reliability, and the kind of strength that quietly supports everyday life.

Benjie Paras remains one of the most respected figures in Philippine sports, known for his time in the Philippine Basketball Association and for building a life beyond the game centered on family and purpose. Today, that same foundation continues with Kobe Paras and Andre Paras, forming a family that resonates across generations.

For BAIC Philippines, the partnership is a natural alignment. The brand continues to grow by connecting with Filipinos who value vehicles that are dependable, versatile, and ready for real journeys.

As a father, Benjie Paras places strong importance on comfort, reliability, and the ability of a vehicle to support his family's lifestyle. From everyday city drives to long out-of-town trips, having a vehicle that can keep up with their pace is essential. With a family known for their height and presence, space is also a key consideration. The BAIC B30e Dune proves to be a natural fit, offering the room, comfort, and confidence that aligns with their needs.

A key highlight of the partnership came from Andre Paras, who shared his personal experience after living with the vehicle ahead of the signing.



"I have been using the BAIC B30e Dune for about two weeks now, and honestly, I wanted to really test it right away. The moment I got it, I brought it straight to Tagaytay. That drive helped me understand what the vehicle is really about."

Andre emphasized how the experience deepened his understanding of hybrid technology and changed how he views performance.

"Before, you would always look at engine displacement. Parang iyon ang basis mo for power. But with HEV, it does not matter as much anymore. You feel the power differently. It is smoother, more responsive, and more efficient at the same time."

"For me, it is really about comfort and confidence. Iyong alam mong ready siya whether it is city driving or out-of-town trips. After that Tagaytay drive, I knew it was something I can rely on."

BAIC Philippines leadership also shared their perspective on the collaboration.

"We are happy to welcome Benjie Paras and his family to BAIC. They represent what the brand stands for. Solid and reliable. This partnership is about real families and real experiences, and we are proud to have them as part of the BAIC family," said Timothy Sytin, Brand Head of BAIC Philippines.

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BAIC family," said Timothy Rommel Chan Sytin.

"Each member of the Paras family naturally reflects a different side of what BAIC stands for. Benjie represents legacy, trust, and strength built over time, much like BAIC's longstanding heritage as one of China's most established automotive brands. Kobe reflects the spirit of adventure and confidence, which aligns with BAIC's capability-driven SUVs that are built to take on both everyday roads and new experiences. Andre, meanwhile, represents the modern Filipino driver, someone who values comfort, connectivity, style, and practicality in everyday life, which is exactly where BAIC continues to resonate with today's generation of motorists," he added.

The signing at Tsujiya Japanese Restaurant marked the beginning of a collaboration rooted in authenticity. Rather than positioning the partnership as a traditional endorsement, both BAIC and the Paras Family see it as a shared journey. One that reflects how Filipino families move, grow, and create memories together.

As BAIC Philippines continues to expand, the presence of the Paras Family strengthens its voice in the market. It becomes less about features and more about real experiences. The kind that happens on the road, with family, in moments that matter.

This partnership signals a steady and meaningful step forward. One that stays true to what BAIC stands for. Mobility that supports real life, and a brand that grows alongside the people who drive it.

BYD Cars Philippines Exceeds Support Goals for Healthway Cancer Care Hospital Through Its Advocacy



Bob Palanca, Managing Director of BYD Cars Philippines, and Jef Peeters, President & CEO of Healthway Medical Network

Driven by a shared commitment to create meaningful impact beyond mobility, BYD Cars Philippines, under ACMobility, officially turned over a donation of P770,000 to the Healthway Foundation's Cancer Care Hope Fund during a ceremony held last April 14, 2026, at the Healthway Cancer Care Hospital.

The limited-edition BYD Seagull in Seashell Pink campaign is designed for a new generation of drivers—those who are not only leading the charge in electric mobility but are boldly redefining the future of the road.

Since its launch in July 2025, the initiative successfully surpassed its original year-end target of 70 units. With 77 units sold, the campaign's momentum has provided a vital boost to the Healthway Foundation's Cancer Care Hope Fund, reinforcing its mission to support Filipino cancer patients and their families.

"For us at BYD Cars Philippines, this effort embodies the community support that ACMobility stands for—malasakit. It is about going beyond what is expected and finding ways to create a positive impact in the communities we serve," said Bob Palanca, Managing Director of BYD Cars Philippines.

"We are deeply grateful to BYD Cars Philippines and ACMobility for their meaningful support. At Healthway, we believe that cancer care goes beyond treatment—it is about caring for the whole patient, including the emotional, financial, and social challenges that come with the journey," said Jef Peeters, President & CEO of Healthway Medical Network.

"Through the Cancer Care Hope Fund, this contribution allows us to extend that 'care beyond cure,' helping more Filipino patients access timely treatment while easing the burden on their families. Ultimately, it is partnerships like these that enable us to deliver more compassionate, patient-centered care and give patients not just better outcomes, but greater hope," he added.

The proceeds from campaign are dedicated to the Cancer Care Hope Fund, which provides significant support to patients at the Healthway Cancer Care Hospital—the first dedicated specialty facility of its kind in the Philippines.

Through the Cancer Care Hope Fund, the donation helps ease the financial strain often associated with cancer care, enabling patients and their families to focus on what matters most — healing, recovery, and hope for the future.

This partnership with Healthway Foundation reflects BYD Cars Philippines' commitment to supporting initiatives that shape a future where innovation not only advances mobility but also helps expand access to quality healthcare for Filipinos.



(From left to right): Chiqui Batac, Executive Director of Healthway Foundation; Dr. Kaye Recto, Deputy COO of Healthway Cancer Care Hospital; Dr. Manuel Francisco Roxas, COO of Healthway Cancer Care Hospital; and Jef Peeters, President & CEO of Healthway Medical Network joined by Bob Palanca, Managing Director of BYD Cars Philippines; Ana Melissa Suarez-Paras, PR & Communications Director of ACMobility; Jill Peña, Marketing Director of ACMobility – BYD Cars Philippines