

## Heart reconciles with estranged mother after getting engaged

Written by Administrator  
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**Sen. Chiz Escudero, on his knees, as he offers marriage to two-year girlfriend Heart Evangelista in Surigao on Aug. 23.**

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Heart Evangelista has finally reconciled with her feisty mother Cecile Ongpauco who publicly criticized her relationship with Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero that led to Heart’s estrangement with her parents for over a year.

The 29-year-old actress used Instagram last Monday to share a photo of herself with her mother and sister Camille, showing their apparent mending of ties.

It was the first time in a long while that the two were photographed together.

The Kapuso actress posted the photo two days after she and Sen. Escudero got engaged on Aug. 23 in Sorsogon — an event that generated buzz online and made headlines over the weekend.

Shortly before Escudero popped the question to Heart, who is 15 years his junior, he showed her a text message from her father Rey Ongpauco congratulating them on getting engaged.

Heart’s estrangement from her parents started in March 2013, when they held a press conference where they accused Escudero of being disrespectful and an alcoholic, and urged him to leave their daughter.

After the actress said she will fight for Escudero, Mrs. Ongpauco criticized Heart for choosing to live apart from her family despite the supposed worsening health of her father.

While Heart and her father were on speaking terms by July 2013, the actress and her mother had still yet to mend ties in May 2014.

Noting the disapproval of her parents of her past relationships, notably with actor Jericho Rosales and model Daniel Matsunaga, Heart earlier said she has come to terms with the possibility that neither of her mother or father will show up at her wedding.

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But with the Ongpaucos having softened over Heart's romance with the senator, things seem to be looking up for the Kapuso star, who's now wearing a heart-shaped ring said to be a family heirloom that came from Escudero's mother Elvie.

Unlike in the case of Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera, the newly-engaged Chiz and Heart haven't set a wedding date.

The guess is that it might be held on Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day) next year, on Heart's birthday, just a year and three months before the May 2016 elections in which Chiz is reportedly running for a higher position.

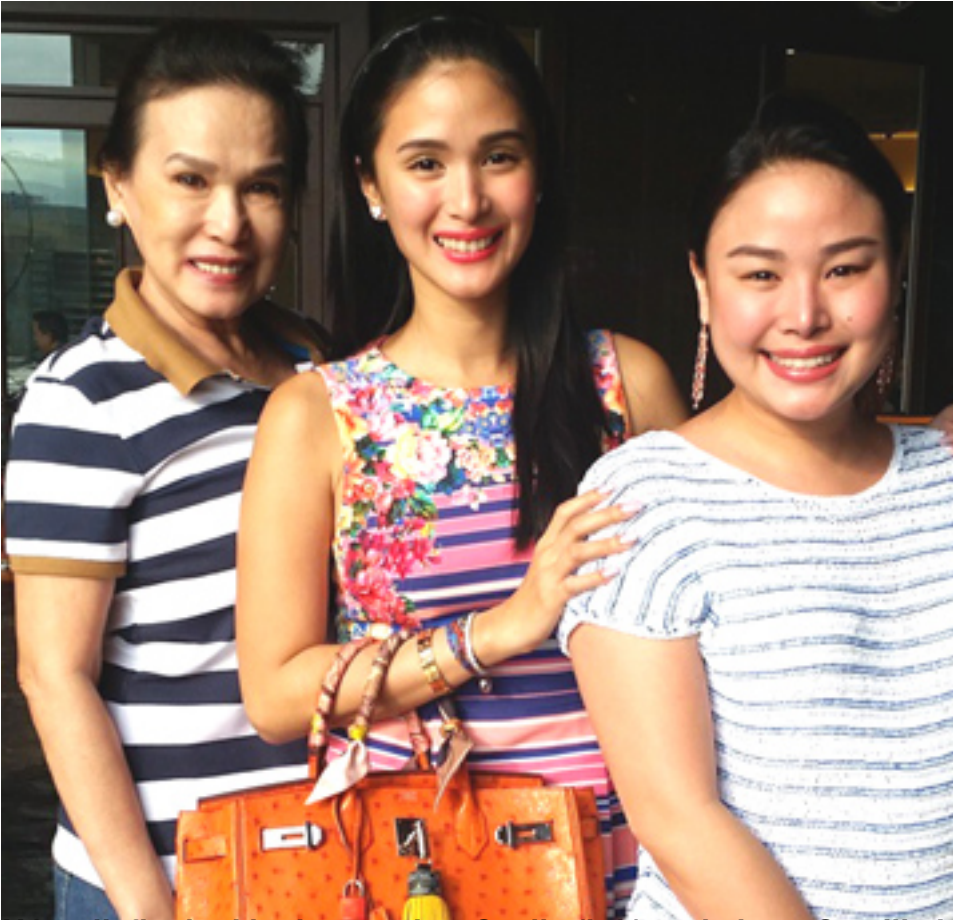
In an interview, Heart said in jest that she would love to be first lady, without specifying whether of Sorsogon or of the entire Philippines.

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was captured by her mother Cecile (left) and sister Camille in a photo reportedly taken