

RCM's 25th for Rotary Year 2019-2020
 Thursday, January 30, 2020, 11:00 AM
 Main Lounge, Manila Polo Club, Makati City
 Officer-In-Charge/ Program Moderator : DE/Dir. Caloy Reyes

PROGRAM TIMETABLE

11:00 AM	Registration	
12:15 PM	Bell to be rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated	
12:20 PM	Program Proper	OIC/Moderator : DE/Dir. Caloy Reyes
	Call to Order	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
	Singing of the Philippine National Anthem	RCM WF Music Chorale
	Invocator	Rtn. Ray Davis
	RCM Hymn	RCM WF Music Chorale
	➤ The Four (4) Way Test Credo	All Rotarians to be led by VP Hermie Esguerra
12:25 PM	Introduction of Guests/Visiting Rotarians and Personalities seated at the Presidential Table	PD Rod Valencia
	➤ Welcome Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:30 PM	Maligayang Bati (RCM Birthday Celebrants)	
	Jan. 30... Rtn. Sha Tamano	Feb. 3.... Rtn. Thad Liamzon
	Jan. 31... PD Oscar del Rosario	Feb. 4..... Rtn. Ric Ramos
	➤ Happy Birthday Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:35 PM	Induction of new members to the Rotary Club of Manila	
	Brief Introduction of Inductees by Proposer	PSAA Gunter Matschuck Proposer
	Dr. Martin Henkelmann (German) Executive Director, German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Classification: Associations-German-Philippine Business Mr. Tobias Rast (German) President, German Club Classification: Information Systems-Consulting	
	Charging of New Member	IPDG Rudy Bediones
	Formal Induction Ceremony	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
	➤ Welcome Baby Rotarian Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:40 PM	President's Time	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez
12:45 PM	Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker	Rtn. Thad Liamzon
	Address : Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez House Majority Floor Leader; Representative, 1st District of Leyte House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines Public Forum	
2:00 PM	Response, Presentation of Token of Appreciation to Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez	
	House Majority Floor Leader; Representative, 1 st District of Leyte House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines & Meeting Adjournment	Pres. Jackie Rodriguez

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Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

Issue No. 3822

January 30, 2020

VP LENI CHAMPIONS ANTI-POVERTY ADVOCACY



GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER



Hon. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Majority Floor Leader
 Representative, First District of Leyte
 House of Representatives
 Republic of the Philippines

KABALITA

After imbibing a culture of anti-poverty advocacy from the second highest elected official of the land, it's time for Asia's First Rotary Club to lend its ears to the legislative agenda and priority bills of the Distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Leyte in his enduring role as Majority Floor leader so that he may gather light to scatter.

www.rcmanila.org

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Name :FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Date of Birth :November 14, 1963

Place of Birth :Manila

Civil Status :Married

Sex :Male

City Address :#42 McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City

Telephone No. :(02) 810-6818

Permanent Address :Brgy. Calanipawan, Tacloban City

Citizenship :Filipino

Religion :Roman Catholic

Height :180 cm.

Weight :95 kg.

Name of Spouse :Yedda Marie M. Kittilstvedt-Romualdez

Name & Birth Date of Children : Andrew Julian K. Romualdez February 21, 2000
 Ferdinand Martin K. Romualdez, Jr. November 10, 2001
 Mariabella Gabrielle K. Romualdez November 11, 2007
 Maria Yedda Danielle K. Romualdez September 1, 2015

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Name of School	Year Graduated	Educational Attainment
Cornell University	1985	Bachelor of Arts in Government
Harvard University	1988	Special Studies in Administration & Management
University of the Philippines	1992	Bachelor of Laws

ELIGIBILITY

Philippine Bar (R.A. 1080) Passer – 1992

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Official Newsletter of Rotary Club of Manila

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INCLUSIVE DATES		POSITION/ TITLE	OFFICE/ AGENCY	STATUS OF APPOINTMENT	GOV'T SERVICE (Yes/No)
07/01/07	7/30/2016	Representative	House of Representatives	Elective	Yes
04/2001	05/30/07	Vice Chairman of the Board	Equitable PCI Bank	Elective	No
07/19/05	02/16/05	Chairman of the Board	Equitable PCI Bank	Elective	No
04/1998	09/1999	Director	Philippine Commercial International Bank	Elective	No
05/1992	01/1997	Director	Philippine Commercial International Bank	Elective	No
08/15/05	05/23/06	Director	Equitable Card Network	Elective	No
09/20/05	05/23/06	Director	EBC Investments, Inc.	Elective	No
09/20/05	05/23/06	Director	Equitable Savings Bank	Elective	No
07/1999	05/23/06	Director	PCI Leasing Corporation	Elective	No
09/20/05	05/23/06	Chairman of the Board	PCI Capital Corporation	Elective	No
07/1999	09/20/05	Director	PCI Capital Corporation	Elective	No
1992	present	Director	Benguet Corporation	Elective	No
09/2002	present	Chairman of the Board	Benguet Corporation	Elective	No
1998	present	Chairman of the Board	Benguet Management Corporation	Elective	No
1992	1998	Director	Benguet Management Corporation	Elective	No
1995	present	Director/Legal Counsel	CARPA Realty Development Corporation	Elective	No
2000	present	Dean, College of Law	Dr. Vicente Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation (DVOREF)	Elective	No
1995	present	Trustee, President	Dr. Vicente Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation (DVOREF)	Elective	No
1992	present	Trustee	Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Medical Foundation (RTRMF)	Elective	No
2004	present	President	Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Medical Foundation (RTRMF)	Elective	No
01/2003	04/2001	Chairman of the Board	Berec Land, Inc.	Elective	No
04/2001	present	Director	Arrow Freight Corporation	Elective	No
04/2001	present	Director	Benguet Trade Inc.	Elective	No
04/1998	2000	Director	Bankard Inc.	Elective	No

TRAININGS/SEMINARS ATTENDED

TITLE	DATE OF ATTENDANCE	NUMBER OF HOURS	SPONSOR
Orientation Course on Corporate Governance for Bank Directors	September 2002	16 hours	Institute of Corporate Directors

MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS

NAME	POSITION
Manila Golf Country Club	Director/President
Philippine Constitution Association	President
Integrated Bar of the Philippines	1993 President
UPSILON Fraternity	1986 President 2019 - President
Manila Yacht Club	Member
Cornell Club of the Philippines	President

Current HOUSE MEMBER & Majority Floor Leader - Congressman, 1st District of Leyte



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Our speaker last week delivered a very special and poignant message. She was well received and cared for by the Rotary Club of Manila. Thank you Madam Vice President Leni for having graced our occasion.

Today, we have a great son of a great father, Martin Romualdez. Martin's father held many positions in government, including, that of Governor and Ambassador. Like his father, Martin is very approachable and likable. An exceptional lawyer and leader, he has shown great ability in his work in Congress. A Rotarian, an Upsilonian, a Congressman, Father, Husband, Filipino and Friend, we welcome him with open arms with great pride and affection.

Today is also time to rejoice as we were informed of the passing of Senate Bill # 1292. This bill is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Manila and is being led and assisted in the Senate by none other than the Senate President himself, the Hon. Tito Sotto. The bill hopes to create laws that would promote the greening of our country, the education of our children in the values of ecology and environment and the allocation of benefits to those who have submitted themselves to the greening of our country and the cleaning of our bays, rivers, lakes and estuaries. This will be a big game changer in our country's need and our desire to plant more trees that are relevant to our communities and to clean our rivers, our lakes, our bays and our shorelines.

Best,

Jackie

FACE MASK IS THE NEW FASHION STATEMENT...

Elias D. Adamos, M.D.



"They seek him here, they seek him there. His clothes are loud, but never square. It will make or break him so he's got to but the best, 'cos he's a dedicated follower of fashion." Sir Raymond Douglas Davis (1941-), English songwriter, singer and musician for the British band The Kinks, "Dedicated Follower of Fashion (1966)"

Because of the recent eruption of Taal volcano and the outbreak of coronavirus, face mask or surgical mask is now a new look in fashion. But does it really help? Or is it just another fashion accessory?

Wearing surgical mask or face mask in the aftermath of Taal volcano eruption is, in the light of public health and personal health, necessary and needed, because volcanic ash, as we all know, is dangerous to health. But after the ash fall and after the air is cleared of the dangerous substances emitted by the volcano, is face mask or surgical mask still needed and necessary.

Now that the novel coronavirus and the impending flu outbreak, has almost at the same time become a public health issue as that with Taal, does surgical mask or face mask really prevent the flu or the coronavirus?

Every year, the winter months or at least our cold months of January and February is flu season. This year, "it's complicated," like the social media lingo declares. The flu months are coupled with the novel coronavirus outbreak that has now gone worldwide. The symptoms of flu, common cold, and coronavirus infection are the same. These three are virus infections. Virus can be transmitted from one person to another.

Will surgical mask prevent you from getting the virus?

Like flu vaccine, which is not a 100% guarantee that you will not get the flu, wearing surgical mask is not an assurance that you will be virus-free. It is still more important to get the flu vaccine, frequent hand washing, healthy foods and habits, staying away from crowded places, and staying at home when you're sick.

If you're sick, wear surgical mask to prevent spread of virus. If you're well, you don't have to wear it. It is just logical to say that if you really want to get protected, you have to wear it 24/7; or else it becomes just a fashion accessory.

What about N95 face mask?

N95 face mask is thicker and more tight. But the virus is not just in the air for it can be present in the things that you hold, like door knobs, elevator buttons, tables and chairs, glasses, plates and utensils, and even books in the bookstore or the library.

Does surgical mask expire? Yes. The shelf life for surgical mask is three years. Also, change your surgical mask after wearing it for several hours.

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

RCM Members' Attendance Report, RY 2019-2020

Thursday, January 23, 2020

VP Leni Robredo

All Members Present	66
Less: Exempt from Attendance	9
Total Active Members	57
ADD: Make-Up *	7
TOTAL	64
Total # of Members	223
Less: Exempt from Attendance	27
On Leave	20
Total Active Members (Total Percentage Base)	176
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	36%

No Credit for MAKE-UP	Date	EVENT	ON LEAVE			
1			1	Aboy, Val	11	Lopez, Tony
2			2	Bella, Jun	12	Garcia, Vic
CREDITED MAKE UP			3	Benedicto, Dong	13	Montecillo, Dennis
1	Alday, Albert	1.21.2020	4	Bolton, Bollie	14	Montinola, Tony
2	Ubaldo, Cesar	1.21.2020	5	Camus, Nando	15	Reynolds, Dave
3	Legarda, Beniting	12.19.2019	6	Follasco, Jun	16	Tanglao, Noel
4	Legarda, Beniting	12.12.2019	7	Garcia, PJ	17	Wong, David
5	Legarda, Beniting	1.16.2020	8	Hedeager, Knud	18	Villegas, Raoul
6	Polcarpio, Jimmie	1.20.2020	9	Ko, Mon	19	Zalamea, Rick
7	Cureg, Alex	1.09.2020	10	Lopez, Ning	20	Zaldarriaga, Chito

	1.9.2020	1.16.2020	1.23.2020
RCM Members	55	49	66
Members' Guests	8	8	28
Press/Media	4		5
Office of Vice President			10
RC Chinatown Manila			7
RC Liwasang Bonifacio			1
RC Makati :Lumina			1
RC New Taipei New Life			1
RC Manila Premier			1
RC Manila JP Laurel Malacañang			3
RC Chinatown Circle			1
RC Manila Midtown			2
RC Manila Robinson			1
RC Pasay Maharlika			1
RC Aseana Manila			3
Club Guests	3		1
RID 3810	5		
Visiting Rotarian	1	1	
BSP	23		
PNB	8		
Security Bank	3		
Robinsons Bank	8		
Palawan Pawnshop/PEPP	8		
Union Bank	8		
BPI	8		
East West Bank	4		
Bankers Ass. of the Philippines	5		
TOTAL	151	58	132



VP LENI CHAMPIONS ANTI-POVERTY ADVOCACY

(Speech delivered on the occasion of the Rotary Club of Manila Luncheon Meeting last January 23, 2020 at the Ballroom of the New World Makati Hotel, Makati City)

To Serve the Filipino:
Our Greatest Call

Maria Leonor Gerona Robredo
Vice President of the Philippines

Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Please take your seats.

Mr. Jackie Rodriguez, President, Rotary Club of Manila; Mr. Hermie Es- guerra, Vice President of Rotary Club of Manila; the past district governors present; past presidents who are present; the Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Officers, and members present; the other Rotary Clubs under District 3810 present; honored guests; ladies and gentlemen: Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat!

The last time I attended a Rotary Club of Manila event was in 2015 when I was still a Member of the House of Representatives. Much has happened since then, and the truth is that, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would become Vice President—that I would have to defend my office against the scion of the former dictator, that I would be appointed twice to a post and removed both times, that I would be fighting an army of trolls on social media day after day, that I would be facing criminal complaints for sedition and contempt that seek to threaten me and my office, and that I will be the head of the opposition to a very popular President.

When I launched my campaign for the Vice Presidency, initial surveys showed that only 1% of the voter base knew who I was, putting me last among the six vice presidential candidates. So I had to work doubly hard. Together with my very small team, we travelled to many communities. We tried to reach as many of our kababayans as possible. We listened to the stories of people from all walks of life. We trekked on muddy trails to the farthest villages and rode in small boats and habal-habals to the most geographically isolated areas. In the end, we covered the most number of cities and towns among all the candidates for a national position.

It was campaign season, yes. But thinking about it now, it was essentially what I had been doing for almost all my life. My life's work revolved around the poorest of the poor and all our efforts were devoted to finding means to balance the inequalities pervading in our midst. In those small trails and in the company of simple folks, I was at home. That was where I found myself. So, for my foray into politics to be meaningful to me, I continued with what I had been doing all my life—to be where help was needed the most.

I was taken for granted at the start of the campaign, but as the competition heated up, so did the viciousness of the attacks against me. Some said I was better off at home because I am a woman. Others said I was incapable of the job at hand, because I was only my husband's widow. It is true: I was used to quietly doing my work in the sidelines while my husband, Jesse, ran Naga City. But what they didn't know was that I was used to a difficult life and was comfortable with it. I had a lot of crosses to bear over the years. I was already married, was raising my children, and was working full-time while I was studying law. When I became a lawyer, I chose to serve indigent clients by joining the Public Attorney's Office. After my stint at PAO, I continued lawyering for the poor for more than a decade as a part of an NGO called SALIGAN. When my husband suddenly died in the unfortunate plane crash, I was not just left alone to singlehandedly raise our three daughters, but I had to run for Congress without him and without money of my own. I survived a very harsh election and defeated a well-entrenched political dynasty in our province. My stint in Congress was supposed to be a one-term thing, because I was only filling up the vacuum left by my husband.

But destiny brought me here.

I held a strong conviction that I cannot let the attacks and difficulties thrown my way hold me back from doing the work that I was tasked to do for our people.

Now that I am already halfway through my term, this is the same conviction that inspires me and my team to work harder every single day and to do better. Despite the political noise and the baseless attacks against me and our office, seeing the faces of those in need in the poorest, farthest, and smallest communities is precisely what keeps me going.

When I assumed office in 2016, my team and I took it upon ourselves to focus on championing the causes of the poor and disenfranchised. Unfortunately, the Vice President's constitutionally-designated mandate is merely succession. This means we did not have the budget nor the manpower for big programs.

But we are not and have never been discouraged by this; in fact, it drove us to reinvent ourselves so that we can contribute to the government's anti-poverty efforts. And so, together with my very young and very small team, we turned the Office of the Vice President from a mere ceremonial office into an advocacy-heavy organization.

The result is Angat Buhay, an anti-poverty program that would bring our feet and our hearts to communities that are in most need. With the help of development organizations and private partners, and with almost no help from government, Angat Buhay became our brave response to uplift the lives of the pamilya na nasa laylayan ng lipunan, believing that for every family we help, an entire community can break free from poverty.

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Strategy
Business Insight

OPINION

The World

EDITORIAL

PM Philippine
 Daily Inquirer

The Philippine Daily Inquirer

Private sector's role in Manila Bay cleanup

GOVERNMENT officials are tired of saying that an appropriate private sector role has not yet been found, but the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight. The private sector's role in the cleanup of Manila Bay, a program underway, will be to fund the action and monitor its progress.

For now, there are important things that cannot be done by the government and left to the private sector. And this cannot be done by the private sector. It is the cleanup of Manila Bay, a program underway, will be to fund the action and monitor its progress.

Exactly two years ago this month, President Duterte launched DENR Secretary Roy Gozon's cleanup of Manila Bay and assigned the private sector to fund the action and monitor its progress. It is the cleanup of Manila Bay, a program underway, will be to fund the action and monitor its progress.

The role of the private sector and LGUs has been clear in this effort. It is to fund the action and monitor its progress.

"With Joseph as the incoming president of the old and prestigious Rotary Club of Manila, the government and the public can expect that not only the yacht club but also the RCM will be active in environmental endeavors — from water, and this time, also about trees."

More prominent is the fact that the Manila Yacht Club and the Yacht Club of Manila are now active in environmental endeavors. The Manila Yacht Club and the Yacht Club of Manila are now active in environmental endeavors.

In Manila, Commodore Joseph and Mrs. Jose, Open to have supported the light fight in the Supreme Court that resulted in the mandate for the government and the public to clean up Manila Bay. Joseph made it clear that from 1999 when the RCM started up to 2000 nothing had changed in the way of compliance to the 1999 Tidal Order.

Now the DENR is recommending a new project for Manila Bay. The new project is to be a cleanup of Manila Bay. The new project is to be a cleanup of Manila Bay.

The project would have been funded by the "new water" construction. The project would have been funded by the "new water" construction.

On Joseph's example, how serious is the club as happy to support DENR's efforts, even funding their own to finance education and studies on environmental issues in the bay.

With Joseph as the incoming president of the old and prestigious Rotary Club of Manila, the government and the public can expect that not only the yacht club but also the RCM will be active in environmental endeavors — from water, and this time, also about trees."

We welcome efforts of the private sector and its role in the cleanup of Manila Bay.

Rattenkrieg: Wuhan virus in the Chinese New Year

TIME TRAVEL
BERNARD KARAMILLA

Bernard Karamilla, Manila

In the new Chinese Year of the Sheep, we return to the old story of Wuhan. In the new Chinese Year of the Sheep, we return to the old story of Wuhan.

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Rotary
District 3810

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
LIZA V. ELORDE
INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2020 (TUESDAY)
ORCHARD GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
(PALMER COURSE)

Registration and Breakfast: 6:00am
Shotgun Tee-Off: 7:30am

Tournament Fee: ₱4,000.00 (local players)
& ₱6,000.00 (foreign players)
(Inclusive of green fee, cart-sharing, breakfast, lunch, giveaway and raffle)

Format: Molave System
Team Play: 4 to play & 3 to count with at least 1 Rotarian per team
Individual Play: Overall Champion, Class A, B & C (Champion, 1st & 2nd R-up)

For sponsorships, you may call the RD3810 Secretariat, Sheryll Bautista at +63 9178767397.

For ticket reservations, you may call Tournament Chairman PP Mon Yupangco at +63 9178365216.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE EVACUEES AND AFFECTED COMMUNITIES OF TAAL

NEWSPAPER RELEASES

THE PHILIPPINE STAR, JANUARY 27, 2020



people&events

DISTRICT 3810 FELLOWSHIP: Rotary International District 3810 incoming senior deputy governor Alvin Lacambacal (left) and president-elect Robert Lim Joseph Jr. of the Rotary Club of Manila with Incoming district governor elect Leody Tarruela at the 4th Presidents Elect Fellowship at the Manila Yacht Club. Over 100 presidents elect attended this event highlighting the Leadership Training Seminar.

Our three and a half years in office have been, to say the least, extremely challenging. But we have seen the immense value of choosing to speak truth to power when it matters, of breaking down walls of apathy and division through empathy and courage, and going to places that were inconvenient but where there is the greatest need.

Let me share with you some of our most memorable stories and the faces of transformation that fuel us to keep making the best better.

In Sumilao, Bukidnon in Mindanao, where students are mostly sons and daughters of farmers, access to quality education has remained an elusive dream despite the efforts of the local government. At the Sumilao National High School, students are forced to walk 13 kilometers each way, every day, to get to school, passing through raging rivers and rocky roads. The only public transport is a habal-habal, which costs 120 pesos each way, a price too expensive for the children and their families. This is one of the reasons why Sumilao has a very high dropout and absenteeism rate.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Makati—we were able to put up a female dormitory inside the school, where students who come from poor families and who live the farthest can now stay for free. Now, the girls do not have to walk for hours to reach school and will not be too tired and hungry to understand their lessons. Just recently, we also put up a male dormitory with the help of ANCOP USA. We will officially turn over the dorm this coming January 29, on Wednesday, and we are hopeful that in the coming months, the attendance rate of students will continue to dramatically improve, and they will now be motivated to study harder.

We have also constructed similar dormitories in other parts of the country, like in Siayan in Zamboanga del Norte and Balangkayan and Salcedo in Eastern Samar, with the help of the Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation and the Metrobank Foundation. The Rotary Club of Makati also helped us with the construction of a girls' dormitory in Pacuan National High School in La Libertad, Negros Oriental. By working together, we can show our youth the pathway to a better life, a chance to dream and hope for a better future.

As of today, Angat Buhay has touched the lives of almost 400,000 beneficiaries in 200 cities and municipalities nationwide, with the help of over 300 partner organizations—including various chapters of the Rotary Club in the Philippines.

With the help of various partners from the private and development sector, we have also been able to answer our people's calls for help in times of emergency. On July 27, 2019, just before dawn, a 5.4- and a 5.9-magnitude earthquake shook the archipelago and woke the residents of Itbayat in Batanes. Homes and schools crumbled to the ground and government and commercial buildings were reduced to piles of debris. Even the famous churches and limestone houses of Batanes, known for their resilience, were no match to the force of the earthquake.

Just days after the earthquake, I flew to Itbayat to personally assess the damage, provide relief items, and find out how to help the victims. And we are very fortunate to have found dependable partners like the Rotary Anns of the Rotary Club of San Juan North, who have been instrumental in delivering immediate relief assistance to Itbayat. We have been able to respond to similar calamities like the earthquakes in North Cotabato and Davao del Sur, and, recently, Typhoons Tisoy and Ursula, because of our private partners.

A few days ago, the eruption of Taal Volcano forced thousands of people in Batangas to flee their homes. I first visited the evacuees who were temporarily sheltered in basketball courts and in schools in Batangas last week, and I have personally seen how heartbreaking their situations are. While there were enough donations for food and water, there was lack of proper toilets, and many were forced to sleep on used carton boxes and in cramped facilities. Thanks to the generosity of various partners and donors, including the Rotary Club of San Juan North and San Juan del Monte, we were able to immediately respond to their needs.

Since our first visit, we have already assigned a permanent team on the ground to continue with the relief operations. Two days ago, I was back with my team to visit the evacuation centers in Mendez-Núñez in Cavite, Nasugbu, Tuy and Lian, all in Batangas, which were not receiving as much help as the others. This time, aside from the mattresses, blankets, water containers, pails, food and toiletry packs that we brought, we were also able to provide hot meals. We also brought several doctors who were able to provide medical check-ups for the evacuees, conducted storytelling and art sessions for the children, and provided laughter yoga session for our traumatized kababayans. And we were able to do this much because of the generosity of our private partners.

In many parts of our country, however, disasters have taken on a different form—one that is shaped by men and existing political, economic, and social conditions. In Marawi City in Lanao del Sur, the five-month siege that took place almost three years ago forced thousands to flee their homes and seek refuge in crowded evacuation centers. Two days into the siege, our office partnered with Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro, initially to help with the relief operations, and to provide immediate assistance to displaced families who sought refuge in towns near Marawi. But when we personally saw the condition of the evacuees, with no means of livelihood, we knew that we needed to come up with something more than just a one-time, big-time effort.

Taralbe Ombus was one of the thousands whose home was terribly destroyed, including her mini-grocery and the harvest from their farm. She and her family ended up in an evacuation center in the nearby town of Saguilaran. She said staying there was like “being in hell,” with no privacy, soaked constantly by rain, breathing in smelly water rising from the canal, insufficient relief goods, and having to share public restrooms with hundreds and hundreds of people.

We left Marawi with broken hearts and immediately sought the help of our partners in constructing an Angat Buhay transitory village, giving families, including that of Nanay Taralbe, a safe and secure space to restart their lives. We were able to construct 60 units at first, with the 7.4 million pesos raised by the group that calls itself Piso Para sa Laban ni Leni—a donation drive initially intended to help settle the required cash deposit for the VP electoral protest, but which I could not accept because I was barred from receiving personal donations. Now, we already have 72 shelters and mobilized more than 13 million pesos worth of resources for the Angat Buhay village.

Aside from houses, we also built classrooms, toy libraries, and are providing livelihood opportunities to residents, whose future have been dramatically and painfully changed. Again, we were able to do these because of the unconditional generosity of our private partners—a unique



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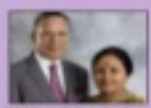
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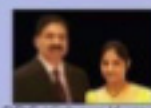
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group of people composed of private corporations, religious groups, the academe, development partners, and even ordinary private individuals who broke down walls and worked together to create a thriving community for the sake of our Muslim brothers and sisters.

Just last month, we were there with the Embassy of Sweden, who turned over IKEA furniture to the residents of the Angat Buhay village in Marawi. The Rotary Club of San Juan del Monte also donated rolls of cloth for the weavers of Brgy. Dayawan and dressmakers of Brgy. Sagonsongan. And we are looking forward to creating more sustainable jobs and livelihood opportunities in the coming months.

These transformations we see among our people drive us to do the work that we do, and they keep me going despite the challenges of being Vice President at a time such as this. That in many of these places, we are changing the nation one family, one barangay, one community at a time.

Even in my very short, 18-day stint at ICAD, the same power that comes from transformative action moves me. I knew that my time will be short and I was only being given a very small window to introduce change. So I immediately buckled down to work the very day I was appointed, talked to as many experts, government agencies, and advocacy groups as possible, to be able to come up with an evidence-based, data-driven plan of action that will amend and supplement the current set-up. The result was a 40-page report, with a long list of recommendations to correct what is wrong with the current campaign. I brought a copy here with me for your reference later on. If you scan through it, you will notice that there are 168 footnotes, all showing that the data that we used all came from government agencies. We made sure to do that because we knew that the integrity of the report will be put to question.

I never regretted accepting the ICAD appointment. I believed then—as I do now—that if we planted just a little seed of hope, just some sense that the war against drugs can be done better, some way to ensure that both our people and our institutions are protected from abuses, then all the sacrifices are worth it.

The silver lining is that we found allies who share the same clarity of vision for our country. When I reported my findings to the public, several agencies welcomed my recommendations as a fresh take on the fight against illegal drugs. In fact, some officials agreed that there is a need to establish scientific baselines and achievable objectives.

It is our hope that through these recommendations, senseless killings will stop, drug supply will be constricted, and a more balanced approach will be taken in the campaign against illegal drugs.

Despite my removal as ICAD Co-Chair, I vowed that I will do everything I can to still help in the fight against illegal drugs. In fact, we are now working with several partners from civil society as we continue to push for a more effective community-based rehabilitation and reintegration program, based on our documented best practices.

We need to do everything we can to uplift the lives of our people. We owe it to the families who have lost so many of their innocent loved ones in senseless bloodshed and violence. We owe it to those who are struggling to rebuild their lives, hoping that they can have a second chance. We are doing these because we must choose to do the right thing, even if it is the difficult choice.

In the past three and a half years, we learned that the more we give of ourselves for the last, the least, and the lost with no thought of return, the more we gain. That when we heed the Rotarian call to serve and help our fellow Filipinos, that is where we truly find purpose and success. So to all the Rotarians here today, we hope that you will join us in our journey to uplift the lives of the Filipino people. They deserve our very best.

Thank you very much! Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2020	GUEST SPEAKERS
6 - Manila Polo Club	Hon. Mark A. Villar Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways <i>Note: Subject to Confirmation</i>
13 - Manila Polo Club	Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Bendigo Nograles CONFIRMED Fellowship hosted by PE/Dir. "Bobby" Joseph
20 - Manila Polo Club	OPEN
27	TOURISM AWARDS LUNCHEON PRESENTATION Chaired by PE/Dir. "Bobby" Joseph, Jr.
MARCH	GUEST SPEAKERS
5 -	OPEN
12 -	Mr. Joaquin "Quinto" M. Henson Sports Analyst/Host RCM Sports Awards CONFIRMED
19 -	DND Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana CONFIRMED
26 -	OPEN



PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph together with DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Sen. Cynthia Villar, MMDA Chairman Danny Lim and different stakeholders led the ceremonial switch on of the Sewerage Treatment Plant last January 26, 2020 at the Manila Yacht Club in Manila as part of the Rotary Club of Manila Project "Save Manila Bay".

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



The Ambassadors of Goodwill Committee held a meeting last January 29, 2020 at the Library Room of the Manila Elks Club in Makati City. Present were Ambassador of Goodwill Committee Chair PDG Vince Carlos, President Jackie Rodriguez, PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph, Ambassadors of Goodwill Committee Co-Chair PD Nick Locsin, DE Johnny Chotrani, Rtn. Hans Palacios, IS/AS Ariel Abriam, Rtn. Juan Montel, Rtn. John Michael Cutter, Rtn. Momo Mommaerts and IPDG Rudy Bediones.



The Disaster Relief Operations Committee headed by **PP Jimmie Policarpio** sent different kinds of relief items, all bearing the Rotary Club of Manila logos, to the different evacuation centers in the province of Batangas last January 29, 2020. These were transported via a truck sent by **Batangas Governor Hermilando Mandanas** for the purpose.



The Rotary Information Briefing Committee led by Chairman **PDG Alex Cureg** together with **Rtn. Romy Nones**, **PVP Lance Masters** and **PSAA Gunter Matschuck** conducted a Rotary Briefing for prospective active members, namely, **Dr. Martin Henkelmann**, **Mr. Toby Rast** and **Mr. Marcel Van Mierlo** last January 23, 2020 at the Press Room of the New World Makati Hotel in Makati City before their induction as active members.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez calls the 24th meeting to order.



PP Francis Juico, as Officer-In-Charge/ Program Moderator, calls the sequence of activities.



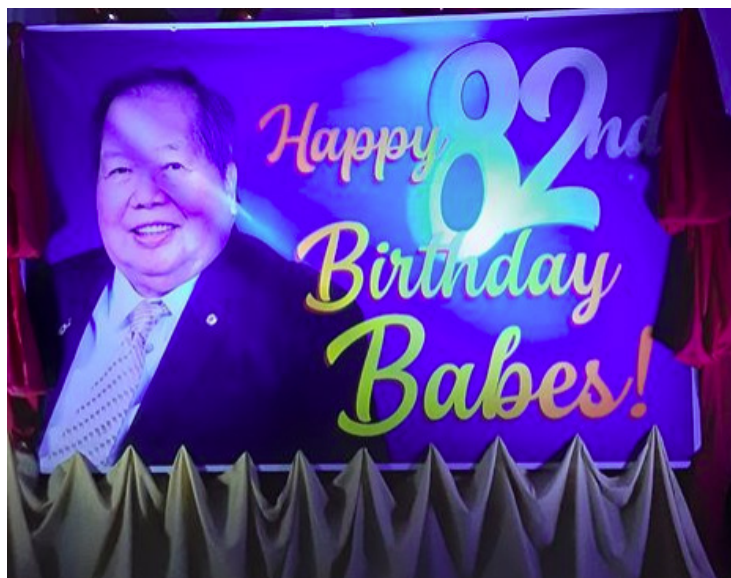
PP Boy Guevara delivers an ecumenical prayer.



STAR Rtn. Hansel Tillmann leads in the recitation of the Four (4) Way Test to renew with fellow Rotarians their commitment to the Rotary movement.



On the occasion of Lunar New Year, rice cake or “tikoy” were distributed through the generosity of **PVP Manny Dy**.



PP Babes Reyes celebrated his **82nd Birthday** with his fellow Manila Rotarians in attendance at the Central Colleges of the Philippines in Quezon City. Manila Rotarians in photo are **PP Francis Juico**, **PP Cesar Ubaldo**, **PP Benny Laguesma**, **PDG Obet Pagdanganan**, **Former Manila Rotarian PS Jorge Salazar**, **PDG Rudy Bediones**, **Rtn. Rick Zalamea** and **PP Archit Bartolome**.



The Rotary Club of Manila turned over a check donation in the amount of Php 100,000.00 to Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo for the Taal Eruption evacuees. Photo shows **PVP Manny Dy** presenting the check for **Php 100,000.00** made through the Rotary Club of Manila to **Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo** in the presence of **President Jackie Rodriguez**.



PE/Dir. Bobby Joseph presents a check donation to **Philippine Vice President Leni Robredo** for the purpose of her anti-poverty advocacies.

PDG Alex Cureg introduces the personalities seated at the presidential table, Rotary Anns, Diplomatic Corps, Guests and Visiting Rotarians.



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez acknowledges with sincere thanks and appreciation, the Rotary Anns, Diplomatic Corps, Champion Presidents in the various districts in the Philippines, other distinguished guests and visiting Rotarians for their attendance which made the meeting a successful event.



VP Hermie Esguerra does the honor, pleasure and privilege of introducing the **Hon. Maria Leonor G. Robredo**, Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines as Guest of Honor and Speaker.



Vice President Maria Leonor G. Robredo presented before Manila Rotarians, Visiting Rotarians and their guests, her topic, “**To Serve the Filipino: Our Greatest Call**”, which was followed by an open forum conducted by panelists.



The panel, composed of **PP Archit Bartolome, III**, **PP Boy Guevara** and **PVP Chito Zaldarriaga**, conducts the open forum.



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez during his response, presentation of the token of appreciation in the form of a replica Rotary bell and gavel set to **Vice President Maria Leonor G. Robredo** and meeting adjournment.

MEMBERSHIP/CLASSIFICATIONS COMMITTEE



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez administers the oath of membership pledge to **Mr. Juan Dayang, Jr. (Filipino)**, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Secretary-Intelligence & Security Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, Classification: Government-Diplomatic Service, together with his proposer **IS/AS Ariel Abriam**.

RCM WEEKLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS



Pres. Jackie Rodriguez presents the week's celebrants, **PP Toting del Rosario**, **PD Abe Pascual** and **Rtn. Colin Patterson**, for the traditional blowing of candle on the birthday cake amidst the singing by the RCM World Famous Music Choral of the happy birthday song.