

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 3927 | AUGUST 4, 2022

Remembering FVR



SAA NAGI ZEITOUNI
Presentation of Sports Program



IPP FRANCISCO "CHITO" ZALDARRIAGA
Chairman, Committee on Elections
Nominations of the Board of Directors



STAR RTN. MICHAEL RAYMOND
"MICRAY" GONZALES
Classification Talk

KABALITA

Great statesman. Economic Manager. Stabilizer. Military man. Engineer. Builder. Avid golfer and sportsman. The Rotary Club of Manila bids goodbye and pays tribute to a quintessential Manila Rotarian and former Philippine President. Indeed, our very own Fidel V. Ramos exemplified the beauty and majesty of the Rotarian motto: Service Above Self. He dedicated his life to public service. With his visionary principle and principled vision, he led the country's economic reforms in the 1990s, for which the Philippines was hailed as Asia's Rising Tiger.



www.rcmanila.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	Program Timetable
05	President's Diary
16	Editor's Note
18	Vice-Versa
21	The Week That Was
25	Club Administration
30	Remembering FVR
48	RC Manila Foundation Inc.
49	Water Sanitation & Hygiene
50	Manila Rotarian in Focus
56	Cogs in the Wheel
63	Comic Relief
64	Fellowship
66	Interclub Relations
69	First Friday Mass
70	Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2022-2023 Editorial Board for RY 2022-2023

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Rotary Year 2022-2023
Thursday, August 4, 2022, 12:30 PM

Program Timetable

Part I

12:30 PM	Registration & Zoom In	
	Program Moderator	AS MICHAEL "Jaey" ALBAÑA
	Presentation of Meeting Protocol/ Zoom Meeting House Rules	
	Call to Order	PRES. HERMINIO "Hermie" S. ESGUERRA
	Invocation and Special Prayers	STAR RTN. NICOLAS SOUVLAKIS
	Philippine National Anthem	AVP of RCM Members
	RCM Hymn	AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale
	Philippine Rotary Hymn	AVP
	The Four (4) Way Test	STAR RTN. NANTHA KUMAR NARAYANAMOORTHY
	Introduction of Guests & Visiting Rotarians	
	Welcome Song	
	RC Manila Birthday Celebrants for the week	
	RTN. NANDO CAMUS	July 29
	STAR RTN. SENEN MANGALILE	July 30
	RTN. MIKE SICAT	August 1
	DIRECTOR JOHNNY CHOTRANI	August 3
	Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song	AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale
	President's Time	PRES. HERMINIO "Hermie" S. ESGUERRA

5th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Part II	Nominations of the Board of Directors	IPP FRANCISCO "CHITO" ZALDARRIAGA
Part III	Introduction of Speaker for Sports Program	PD ISSAM ELDEBS
	Presentation	SAA NAGI ZEITOUNI
Part IV	Classification Talk	
	Introduction of Speaker	RTN. ROBI JOSEPH
	Presentation	STAR RTN. MICHAEL RAYMOND "Micray" GONZALES
	Open Forum	
	Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation	PRES. HERMINIO "Hermie" S. ESGUERRA IPD AMADO "Amading" D. VALDEZ Programs Committee Chairman
		Attested by: SECRETARY EDWIN HERNANDEZ
2:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment	PRES. HERMINIO "Hermie" S. ESGUERRA



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Dear Fellow Manila Rotarians,

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Manila President's Diary! I'm so excited to share with you all the events and activities I attended during the week. It's been quite a busy week, but it's all been worth it!



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

37th Anniversary and 38th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila Midtown (Wednesday, July 27, 6:00 p.m.)

I attended the 37th Anniversary and 38th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila Midtown at Sequoia Hotel, Quezon City. It was a great privilege to be able to represent our club and congratulate our friends from the Rotary Club of Manila Midtown on their success.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Rotary Club of Manila's Weekly Membership Meeting

(Thursday, July 28, 12:30 p.m.)

I presided over the Rotary Club of Manila's Weekly Membership Meeting at the Taft Ballroom of Conrad Manila in Pasay City. Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Jose Crispin "Boying" Remulla, our Guest of Honor and Speaker, spoke about the department's overall structure and organization.



During the meeting, International Service Dir. Johnny Chotrani and International Relations Committee Chairman Past Director Nick Locsin presented me with the club bannerettes from the Rotary Club of San Francisco and Rotary Club of Singapore.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Digitalization and Archiving Committee Meeting

(Thursday, July 28, 2:45 p.m.)

Immediately following the Weekly Membership Meeting, I attended the Digitalization and Archiving Committee meeting, which was presided over by Chairman Inov Talusan together with the prospective service provider. We are digitizing our records in an effort to keep up with the times, document the rich history of our 103-year-old club and preserve them for future generations, and, of course, make them more accessible. Once we've completed our program, other Rotary clubs in our district will be able to replicate it.



From left: Dir. Albert Alday, Programs Committee Chairman Amado Valdez, EA Amy Babiano, Chairman Inov Talusan, HSE (prospective service provider) and STAR Rtn. Aries Balanay

Rotary Club of Manila-Dualtech Scholarship Program Committee Meeting

(Thursday, July 28)

After that, I went to the meeting of the RCM-Dualtech Scholarship Program Committee led by Chairman Anton Mauricio. We discussed the project paper that would be submitted to the RCManila Foundation, Inc.

TREES Committee Meeting

(Thursday, July 28)

I then attended another meeting—The Rotary Ecological and Economic Strategem (TREES) Committee on Regenerative Agro Forestry as proposed by Rtn. Raf Dionisio.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Unveiling of the Four-Way Test Marker at the Manila Police District Headquarters and the Awarding and Culminating Ceremonies of the 27th PCR Month 2022

(Friday, July 29, 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.)

I had the honor of attending the unveiling of the Four-Way Test Marker and the Awarding and Culminating Ceremonies of the Outstanding Policemen of Manila at the Manila Police District (MPD) Headquarters in United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila. The Four-Way Test Marker was installed at the entrance of MPD Headquarters.

It was a Rotary Public Image Project by Rotary District 3810 DG Joyce Ambray, initiated by Rotary Club of Manila Supreme 198 and Phenomenal Leader Presidents.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Inner Wheel Club of Manila

(Monday, August 1)

I attended the Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Inner Wheel Club of Manila (IWCM) whose members are mostly affiliated with the RCM, many of whom are spouses of RCMers. I delivered a short message to rekindle ties between RCM and IWCM to encourage more RCM members' spouses to get involved.

RCM members present at the event held at Hidalgo Place in Rockwell, Makati City were PDG Vince Carlos, PP Boy Guevara, PP Frank Evaristo and Rtn. Gerry Agnes, together with RI District 3810 DG Joyce Michelle L. Ambray.

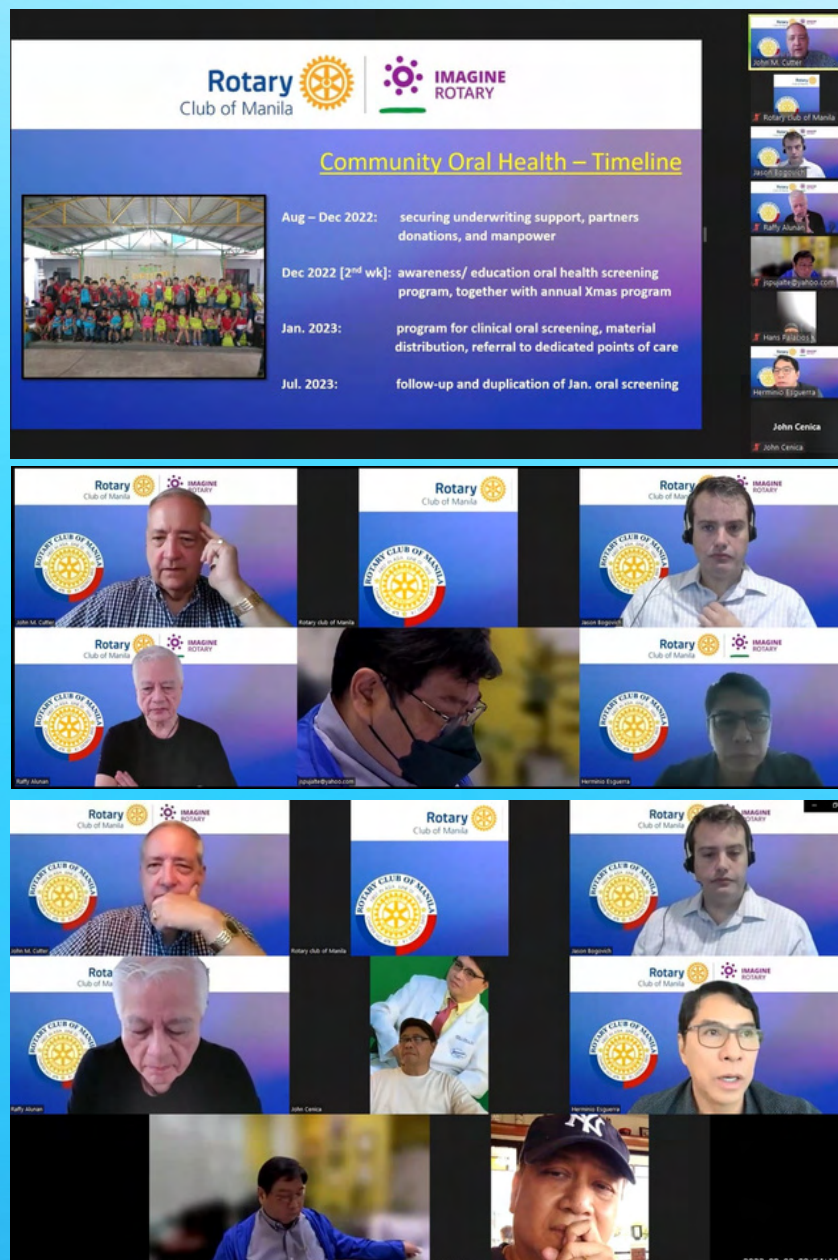


PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Disease Prevention & Treatment Committee and the Maternal & Child Care Committee Meeting

(Tuesday, August 2, 9:00 a.m.)

I joined the virtual meeting of the Disease Prevention & Treatment Committee and the Maternal & Child Care Committee. The meeting was attended by Dir. Raffy Alunan (Director-in-Charge), Dir Hans Palacios, Disease and Prevention Committee Chair PD John Cenica and Co-Chair SAA Jason Bogovich; Maternal and Child Care Committee Chair PD John Cenica and Co-Chair Rtn. Brix Pujalte.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Programs Committee Meeting

(Tuesday, August 2, 11:00 a.m.)

I had a telecom meeting with Programs Committee Chair Amading Valdez, ES Anna Kun Toledo and EA Amy Babiano about the guest speakers for this week's membership meeting.

Meeting with Former President FVR's Staff

(Tuesday, August 2, 1:30 p.m.)

I had a conference call with the late former President Fidel V. Ramos's staff to discuss the RCM's timeslot for the necrological service.

RI District 3810's Executive Committee Meeting

(Tuesday, August 2, 5:00 p.m.)

I attended the monthly (hybrid) meeting of RI District 3810's Executive Committee.

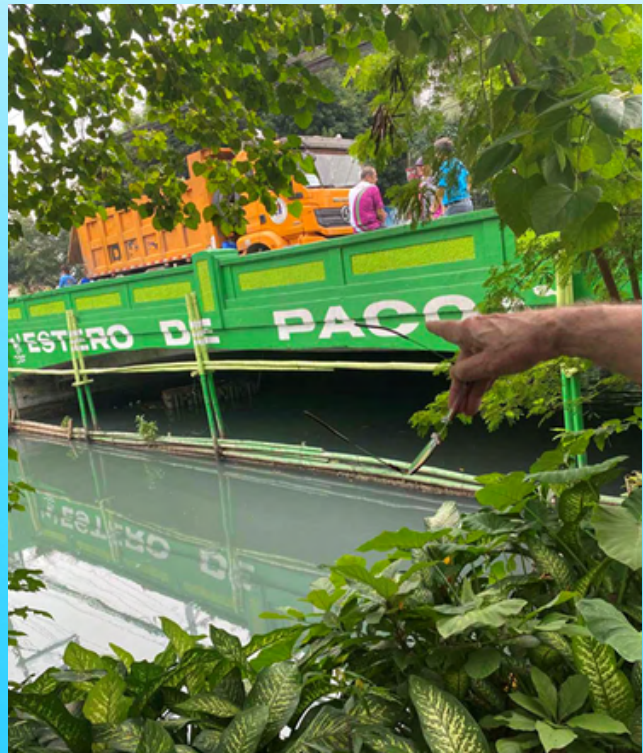


PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Ocular Inspection of Estero de Paco Project

(Wednesday, August 3, 8:00 a.m.)

We conducted an ocular inspection of Estero de Paco project in Manila with Environmental Committee Chairman Dir. Hans Palacios, DGN Jackie Rodriguez, Past Asst. Sec. Henry Go, Rtn. Juan Motel, Rtn. Mon Nolido, Rtn. Anton Mauricio and Garry Sibal of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (DENR-PCRMO).



PRESIDENT'S DIARY



I am grateful to have the chance to be a part of these events and projects. As we continue to work together in serving our community, I am certain that we will be able to achieve even more in the days, weeks, and months ahead. Thank you for your support!

I'm looking forward to another great week!

Very truly yours,

Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra
Phenomenal Leader President

EDITOR'S NOTE

The first week of August came with a doleful buzz about the passing of the country's 12th Chief Executive. A confirmation swiftly followed. Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos has indeed joined the immortals at age 94. The country has lost a beloved leader. In unison, social media, news outlets, chat groups, netizens, various institutions, civic organizations, and practically the whole nation expressed their sadness over the passing of an admired and visionary leader.

In the following days, expressions of admiration for FVR's brand of leadership, the outpouring of sympathies for his family, as well as anecdotes from friends and close associates flooded the cyberspace.



Raoul C. Creencia
Editor-in-Chief, *balita*

I have my own story to share. In 1995, I was asked to write a speech for FVR who was scheduled to speak before a group of lawyers at EDSA Shangrila Hotel. I wrote a 3-page draft. To lighten the mood, I injected a lawyer's joke (which I came up by tweaking the joke I recently heard from a priest's homily). The Presidential Management Staff (PMS) would later call me after I submitted the speech to inquire where I got the joke; and with amusement, I explained how I came up with it. I was impressed, though, on how thorough FVR's PMS was in vetting the content of my draft speech. FVR would later adopt about 80% of the written piece, including the joke (which I must say he delivered with animation and zest). After FVR's term as President, and being an avid golfer, he became San Beda Law Golf Club's regular guest of honor and tournament participant. He was such a joy to be around during golf tournaments, and he would gleefully ask Bedan golfers to do some push ups in the fairway. It was his unique way of "bonding" with us. During photo ops with him, he would smilingly slap our tummies, coupled with a stern "stomach in" command.

One Sunday morning over a decade ago, I bumped into him at the Navy Golf course. Same routine – photo ops, slapping of my tummy, and again commanding me to keep my "stomach in." He also joked about our being able to play golf on that day, smilingly saying that it was our "day-off." That day happened to be Father's Day.

FVR is Mr. CSW -- "Complete Staff Work!" Yes, CSW is the hallmark of his management style. Those who worked with or for him says that they, too, have imbibed the CSW culture.

When news of FVR's death came out, media organizations were at once hungry to get messages and thoughts from those who knew him well. Manila Rotarian Raffy Alunan, FVR's Cabinet Secretary, was asked to give his statement last Monday. He shared that he was "dumbstruck from the time (he) learned the sad news that FVR passed away." He added: "collecting my thoughts will take time to give him the best possible tribute, x x x."

EDITOR'S NOTE

In one of his recent facebook posts, Dir. Raffy described the late President as a “master class,” his “President and mentor,” and “a legend in his time.” I could not agree more. FVR served our country well. He was a consequential leader who has made a profound impact in our people’s lives. He certainly deserves our salute and gratitude for everything he did for Duty, Honor, and Country.

FVR’s belief that democracy and development can run in parallel is most admirable. The posts and comments about his leadership and management style tell us how exceptional, inspiring, and aspiring he was as a leader. He certainly was one “who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way,” quoting John Maxwell’s definition of a great leader.

For Manila Rotarians, FVR is not just a former Philippine President. He was also a Rotarian brother who not only brought prestige to the Club, but also one who genuinely shared the ideals of Rotary service, and the dream of collectively making the world a better place for humanity.

Rest now, Mr. President, fellow Manila Rotarian, and thank you for your service!



VICE-VERSA

DDCC/VP Reginald "Reggie" Yu
Managing Editor, balita



“Wang” Step Forward



“Last night, the taxi that I was riding was overtaken by a horde of motorcycles with their sirens on full display. They were followed by a fleet of posh vehicles that had sirens too. The public buses were forced to stop and give way to this motorcade. Perhaps, they were escorting a VIP — most likely a government official.”

Those were the words uttered by the late Cory Aquino, when years after stepping down as president, deliberately displayed a self-effacing lifestyle as an ordinary citizen. While few other politicians pursued a similar direction of deference, most of their kind have not.

Indeed, as soon as this new administration formally assumed its term a little less than a month ago, many new officials lost no time in flaunting their new trappings of power — huge SUVs with heavily tinted windows, low number plates, stickers, and of course, “wang-wangs.” Their presence became so pronounced that some senators have called attention to the resurgence of “wang-wang” — the unauthorized use of blinkers and sirens by those who think they are VIPs deserving special treatment.

VICE-VERSA

DDCC/VP Reginald "Reggie" Yu
Managing Editor, balita



"Wang-wang" is a street lingo which literally means loud sirens and blinkers on top of the vehicles used by politicians and VIPs to cut through traffic and counterflow.

Over the years, the indiscriminate use of "wang-wang" had come to symbolize abuse of power and privilege, which ordinary Filipinos extremely abhor and loathe. For many, "wang-wang" was just the tip of the iceberg of self-entitlement, abuse, and corruption that lay beneath. Citizens widely understood that, if simple rules cannot be implemented fairly and universally at the street level, it is doubtful that the democratic and constitutional guardrails work at higher levels, where the citizens can no longer pierce through the veil of official impunity. In time, the term "wang-wang" mentality not only meant the literal blaring of sirens but has come to be commonly referred to be the mindset of corruption and lack of accountability of entitled elites which have plagued politics in the country for decades.

Throughout his term, the late President Benigno Aquino III waged a very public and personal campaign against "wang-wang" that has robbed Filipinos of a fair chance to improve their lives. His inaugural speech centered on such practice: "Have you ever been ignored by the very government you helped put in power? I have. Have you had

to endure being rudely shoved aside by the siren-blaring escorts of those who love to display their position and power over you? I have, too. Have you experienced exasperation and anger at a government that instead of serving you, needs to be endured by you? So have I." His address resonated so strongly and widely among the people that they rallied around him and the display of self-entitlement withered quickly on the streets. And his directive was one of the most memorable and applauded edicts during his presidency.

To be sure, the late President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. issued Presidential Decree No. 96 in 1973, prohibiting motorists from using emergency devices including blinkers and dome lights, limiting its use to the President, Vice President, Senate President, House Speaker, Chief Justice, police, military, transportation officials, ambulances, fire trucks, and personnel of the PNP, military, National Bureau of Investigation, and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board during emergency situations. Other regulations covering the use of the devices are Republic Act (RA) 4316, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, also provides that "(n)o horn or signaling device emitting exceptionally loud startling or disagreeable sound shall be installed on any motor vehicle."

VICE-VERSA

DDCC/VP Reginald "Reggie" Yu
Managing Editor, balita



Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Regulation No. 03-005, dated May 22, 2003, entitled, "Banning the Installation of Loud/ power Horns, Horns of Varying Sounds, Sirens and Other Similar Devices That Produce Exceptionally Loud or Startling Sound on All Types of Vehicles Traversing Along the Thoroughfares of Metro Manila," practically reiterates Presidential Decree No. 96 except that instead of mere confiscation the MMDA imposes "outright destruction of the prohibited device at the place of apprehension."

But, as it is here, entitlements are not given up easily. Despite the seeming vigorous words in our rules, the prohibition is hardly implemented. Like so many of our regulatory issuances, our government officials sometimes confuse words with accomplishment. Certain government officials and private VIPs have even found an innovative way of circumventing the ban in the traffic-choked streets of Metro Manila: they use motorcycle-riding cops, who are authorized to use "wang-wang" and blinkers, as escorts to get ahead of other motorists.

This development should prompt a review of the deployment of police personnel. The police-to-population ratio is inadequate enough without every moneyed VIPs demanding "special" protection. There are less than 150,000 cops directly tasked to maintain peace and order. Too many of them are on bodyguard duty, assigned to politicians, some top businessmen, and even the spouses, children and mistresses of these privileged individuals.

Perhaps the practice can be eliminated by the leader of this administration whose father initially put an end to the indiscriminate use of sirens or wang-wang almost half-a-century ago. Every Filipino deserves equal protection by law enforcers. Doing away with "wang-wang" shows his commitment to stop the abuse of authority and level the playing field for all citizens.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



DGN Jackie Rodriguez acted as the RCM 4th Weekly Meeting's Program Moderator/Facilitator.



Sounding the bell, **Pres. Hermie Esguerra** called the meeting to order, paving the way for another eventful gathering among Manila Rotarians.



Humbly calling upon our Heavenly Father, **BLA Raoul Creencia** led the Invocation and Special Prayer.



The **Philippine National Anthem** was made more meaningful, captivating, and alive through the **Rotary Club of Manila Audiovisual Presentation**.



The **World Famous Music Chorale Audiovisual Presentation** of the **RC Manila Hymn** and the singing of the **Philippine Rotary Hymn** boosted everybody's Rotarian spirit.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



Rtn. Rami Chahwan led the recitation of the time-honored Four (4) Way Test.



Visiting Guests and Rotarians were warmly welcomed.



The **World Famous Chorale** sang RCM's signature Welcome Song to the delight of the guests and visitors.



DGN Jackie Rodriguez, Program Moderator/Facilitator, duly acknowledged and greeted the week's birthday celebrants, namely **Rtn. Philip Recto**, **Rtn. JJ Fernandez**, **PS John Uy** and **Rtn. Stefan Schmitz**. The felicitations were made complete with the World Famous Music Chorale singing the RCM's unique birthday song.

THE WEEK

THAT WAS



During the President's Time, **Pres. Hermie Esguerra** highlighted the on-going projects.



Strengthening RCM's ties with other Rotary Clubs, the Sisterhood Agreement between **RC Singapore** and **RC Manila** was renewed.

THE WEEK THAT WAS



Dir. Hans Palacios had the distinct honour of introducing **Guest of Honor and Speaker Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Secretary, Department of Justice.**



Guest of Honor and Speaker Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Secretary, Department of Justice, addressed the Manila Rotarians, visiting Rotarians, and guests.



A short and lively open forum immediately followed after the speech of the **Guest of Honor and Speaker.** Among those who participated were **IPD Amading Valdez, PD Issam Eldebs, Rtn. Raf Dionisio, Dir. Tony Lopez, PP Archit Bartolome** and **Mr. Nick Tobia** (Guest of Dir. Hans Palacios).



President Hermie Esguerra and **Programs Committee Chairman IPD Amading Valdez** presented the Certificate of Appreciation, attested by **Club Secretary Edwin Hernandez** and a Commemorative Centennial Stamp Souvenir Frame, to **Guest of Honor and Speaker, DOJ Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla.** Also in photo are **DGN Jackie Rodriguez, Dir. Hans Palacios, BLA Raoul Creencia** and **Rtn. Rami Chahwan.**



Proudly noting another successful weekly meeting, **Pres. Hermie Esguerra** delivered his closing remarks and thereafter, adjourned the meeting.

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2022-2023

JULY 2022	<u>07 JULY 2022</u> Handover / Inaugural Meeting at Conrad Manila	<u>14 JULY 2022</u> Roll-out of Club Service and Project Committees	<u>21 JULY 2022</u> H.E. Songkane Luangmunithone	<u>28 JULY 2022</u> The Honorable Jesus Crispin Remulla Secretary, Department of Justice
All Members Present	86	67	66	46
All Members in virtual				11
Make Up	0	4	6	15
Less: Exempt from Attendance	2	2	3	3
On Leave	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	84	65	69	58
Total # of Members	220	230	229	229
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	38%	28%	30%	69
ROTARACTORS	0	0	0	0
MEDIA	0	0	0	8
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	12	0	0	
GOHS / GS	0	0	1	1
Visiting Rotarians	0	0	5	3
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	5	0	0	27
Others	334	0	0	0
Total attendees	432	67	72	96

CLUB

ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2022-2023

(As of August 2, 2022, 11:00 AM)

	ANNUAL DUES 2022-2023
83	FULLY PAID
144	UNPAID
2	PARTIALLY PAID
229	TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS

NO.	NAME	OR NUMBER	AMOUNT	REMARKS
1	Abastillas, Celso E.	51359	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
2	Acosta, Crispiniano "Cris" G.	51355	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
3	Albaña, Michael Jaey "Mike"	51389	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
4	Alcantara, Isidro "Butch"	51268	5,000.00	PARTIALLY PAID
5	Alday, Albert S.	51370	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
6	Aventura, Avenilo, Jr. "Jun" L.	51353	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
7	Balanay, Aries	51273	32,138.00	FULLY PAID
8	Bartolome, Arsenio III "Archit" M.	51433	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
9	Bediones, Rodolfo "Rudy" P.	51325	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
10	Benedicto, Sixto "Noy" T.	51358	24,500.00	FULLY PAID
11	Bogovich, Jason M.	51382	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
12	Branellec, Jacques "Jack"	51368	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
13	Camus, Fernando "Nando"	51360	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
14	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo"	51366	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
15	Chahwan, Rami	51376	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
16	Coyiuto, Robert, Jr. "Jun" G.	51364	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
17	Creencia, Raoul	51332	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
18	Cruz, Avelino "Ave" V.	51340	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
19	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.	51348	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
20	David, Virgilio "Vee"	51111	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
21	Dayang, Juan, Jr. "Jed" E.	51375	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
22	De Venecia, Jose "Joe" C.	51357	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
23	Del Rosario, Oscar	Jul-25	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
24	Dela Cruz, Emmanuel	51381	37,318.00	FULLY PAID
25	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.	51318	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
26	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"	51023	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
27	Enriquez, Eduardo III "Jujut" V.	51343	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
28	Esguerra, Herminio "Hermie" S.	51033	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
29	Evaristo, Frank A.	51349	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
30	Fajardo, Beda G.	51436	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
31	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V. "JJ"	51339	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
32	Follosco, Ceferino, Jr. "Jun" G.	51388	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
33	Garcia, Theodore	51250	37,318.00	FULLY PAID
34	Garcia, Victor	51058	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
35	Gierran, Dante "Dan"	51272	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
36	Go, Daniel "Danny" C.	51377	25,000.00	FULLY PAID

CLUB

ADMINISTRATION

37	Gonzales, Michael Raymond	51356	37,138.00	FULLY PAID
38	Guevara, Domingo, Jr. "Boy" S.	51352	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
39	Hallerbach, Mathias	51432	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
40	Hernandez, Edwin	51321	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
41	Jang, Jae "Jay-Jay" J.	51341	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
42	Joseph, Ralph L.	51328	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
43	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro IV "Teddy"	51367	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
44	Koh, Paul Anthony	51303	37,138.00	FULLY PAID
45	Lacson, Sebastian "Basty"	51285	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
46	Laya, Jaime "Jimmy" C.	51317	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
47	Lee, Richard "Dick" L.	51333	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
48	Li, Richard Joseph Chang	51378	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
49	Lim, David Eduardo Ty	51344	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
50	Lonzaga, Reinerio "Ner" C.	51253	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
51	Lopa, Antonio "Tony" A.	51379	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
52	Lopez, Antonio "Tony"	51225	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
53	Macapagal, Michael "Mac"	51326	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
54	Manalaysay, Cesar P "Citos"	51327	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
55	Matschuck, Guenter "Gunter" G.	51371	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
56	Montel, Juan Manuel C.	51228	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
57	Montinola, Antonio "Tony" J.	51351	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
58	Naravannamoorthy, Nantha K.	51301	37,138.00	FULLY PAID
59	Nones, Romeo "Romy" C.	51434	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
60	Nunez, Jose, Jr. "Pepo" A.	51380	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
61	Ong, Phillip "Phil" L.	51322	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
62	Pallasigue, John Brian "JB"	51346	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
63	Patterson, Colin David	51305	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
64	Payumo, Felicitio "Tong" C.	51016	10,000.00	PARTIALLY PAID
65	Pineda, Jr., Patricio "Bebot" F.	51288	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
66	Preysler, Fausto, Jr. R.	51345	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
67	Rast, Tobias "Tobi"	51363	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
68	Reynolds, David John "Dave"	51312	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
69	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jack" H.	51350	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
70	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jackie" C.	51309	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
71	Schmitz, Steffan	51306	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
72	Schneider, Bernd	Jul-25	24,500.00	FULLY PAID
73	Schoucair, Farid Alain	51374	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
74	Shimoda, Shigeru	51369	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
75	Sibayan, Joselito "Lito" H.	51347	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
76	Tamayo, Victor "Butch" L.	51387	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
77	Tan, John	51269	37,138.00	FULLY PAID
78	Tang, Jimmy T.	51354	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
79	Tanglao, Noel V.	51362	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
80	Tejuma, Michael "Mike"	51372	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
81	Valdez, Jason	51263	37,318.00	FULLY PAID
82	Veal, Reynaldo "Rey" B.	51361	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
83	Zeitouni, Nagi	51323	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
84	Zalcita, Xavier "Xavy" Y.	51307	25,000.00	FULLY PAID
85	Zimmer, Christopher	51319	37,318.00	FULLY PAID

GRAND TOTAL **2,193,962.00**

Reminder: Please secure OR within 3 days upon payment. Kindly email the copy of deposit at rcmanila@rcmanila.org or send proof of payment in viber. You may also send via fax at #527-1885.

Sports Committee Holds Meeting at New World Makati Hotel



Sports Committee held a meeting last July 30, 2022 at New World Makati Hotel, headed by Chairman Nagi Zaitouni and hosted by the hotel general manager Nantha Kumar. Present in the meeting were STAR Rtn. Nantha Narayanamoorthy (host), PD Issam Eldebs, Chairman/SAA Nagi Zeitoini, PD Nick Locsin, DGN Jackie Rodriguez and Rtn. Rami Chahwan.

Committee on Election Prepares for RY 2023-2024 Board of Directors Election



The Committee on Election met last Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom virtual platform to prepare for the election of the Board of Directors for RY 2023-2024. Chairman/IPP Chito Zaldarriaga, Vice-Chairman/ PDG Alex Cureg, Rtn. Willie Pelino and Rtn. Inov Talusan were all present during the meeting.

REMEMBERING FVR



REMEMBERING FVR

FVR Lied to Win 1986 EDSA People Power I

By Tony Lopez

Fidel V. Ramos died late afternoon of July 31, 2022 at the Makati Medical Center, following complications due to covid, a heart condition and demtencia. He was 94.

Born March 18, 1928, the once cigar-chomping taciturn West Point-trained general won a narrow victory in the tightly contested May 1992 presidential election to serve as the 12th president of the Philippines, from June 30, 1992 to June 30, 1998. He was a veteran of two major wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and helped win People Power I in 1986.

At 64 in 1992, Ramos was the oldest Filipino president when he defeated six other aspirants which included the former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, mother of incumbent President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., a former vice president, a former Senate president, a former speaker of the House, a feisty former immigration chief, and the country's then richest tycoon.

President FVR (his nickname) went on to restore peace in the land, unify the country, attract record levels of foreign investments, and free the economy by breaking up monopolies in telecommunications, power, shipping, and water systems. He rescued the Philippines from a recession and the 1997 Asian financial crisis only for recession to come back in the last semester of his six-year presidency.

A policy wonk

"FVR was possibly first president who was a serious policy wonk. He was someone who understood the complex workings of the economy in an instinctive manner. In terms of policy, he was the most consistent and methodical. He knew what he wanted to do, and he tried to do it," recalls his protégé long-time Albay congressman and former governor, Joey Sarte Salceda.

"Without FVR, we would not have been able to solidify the bedrock of investor confidence that has since allowed the country to grow its economy for decades. Ramos equaled economic reform. The Ramos brand was a brand of seriousness in governance. Business knew he meant business," Salceda adds.

REMEMBERING FVR

FVR Lied to Win 1986 EDSA People Power I

Ramos, however, is best remembered for winning the 1986 EDSA I revolt for the people.

On the first day of Edsa I, Feb. 22, 1986, I was lucky to be both in Cebu, for Cory's civil disobedience afternoon rally, and Manila, for the first night of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's breakaway coup. Enrile had no troops, just about two dozen RAM soldiers. His shock troops were us, foreign correspondents, numbering about 40. Thankfully, by midnight that Saturday, the Cagayan 100 of Col. Tirso Gador arrived from the north.

Not many people know it but Edsa I was triggered by greed and was won by a lie—a lie concocted by then Armed Forces of the Philippines Vice Chief of Staff General Fidel V. Ramos. The crowds that massed at Edsa on Feb. 24, 1986, Monday, and Feb. 25, Tuesday, were there not to stage a revolt but to hold a picnic.

FVR linked up with Radyo Bandido Sunday evening

At 9 Sunday evening of Feb. 23, 1986, General Ramos established a safe telephone connection to June Keithley of Radyo Bandido and Veritas at the Jacinto building in Santa Mesa, a few kilometers from the presidential palace.

Monday morning, Feb. 24, 1986, Keithley announced on radio that the Marcoses had left. It was a lie—concocted by FVR, the ultimate psy-war expert. In their glee and feeling that finally it was all over, people trooped to Edsa to celebrate. That celebration become known as People Power I.

Ver's forex trader died

The greed arose from a Chinese forex trader who violated the peso-dollar trading band imposed by the then unofficial central bank, the Binondo Central Bank managed and headed by then Trade and Industry Secretary Roberto V. Ongpin.

Ongpin had the erring trader arrested and loaded into a van. Unfortunately, the forex trader died. Unfortunately again, the trader happened to be a man of then-Armed Forces chief Fabian C. Ver. Angered, the dreaded military chief had 22 of Ongpin's security men arrested. They were marching in full battle gear and dressed in SWAT uniform at about 4 a.m. inside Fort Bonifacio when arrested on Feb. 22, 1986, a Saturday.

REMEMBERING FVR

FVR Lied to Win 1986 EDSA People Power I

At 11 a.m., at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ongpin went looking for his security men. He called up then-Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile who was with the Club 365 at the Atrium in Makati. Enrile thought the arrest of the 22 Ongpin security men, who turned out to be RAM Boys of Col. Gringo Honasan, was part of the crackdown against the plot to oust Marcos.

FVR joined Enrile rebellion late evening of Feb. 22, 1986

It was not until late in the evening that Saturday (Feb. 22) that Ramos actually joined the rebellion at Camp Aguinaldo. He had contacted his loyal PC-INP commanders, like Rene de Villa in Bicol, and Rodrigo Gutang in Cagayan de Oro and found to his dismay no troops could be readily airlifted to Manila to reinforce Enrile's men, who were undermanned and under-armed.

Cory learned about the brewing rebellion at 4 p.m. the same Saturday in Cebu. She had led a destabilization and boycott rally there, which I covered. Arriving in Manila from Cebu past 9 pm of Feb. 22, I joined the rebel forces of Minister Enrile and General Ramos at the Armed Forces headquarters Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The two men had barely 50 men at Camp Aguinaldo that night. There were about 40 foreign correspondents, including me.

The following day, Sunday, the group moved to the PC-INP headquarters across EDSA at Camp Crame which had a bomb shelter good for 50 men.

Enrile told me to go home because I could not be accommodated inside the bomb shelter.

Instead, I joined cigar-chomping General Ramos, in his jogging short pants, as he went around the Camp Crame trying to boost the morale of fidgety rebel soldiers and policemen. That night, Ramos and his men plotted the psy-war that won the revolt—for the people. He told June Keithley to lie on air that the Marcoses had left.

The Marcoses actually left evening of Feb. 25, 1986.

biznewsasia@gmail.com

REMEMBERING FVR

FVR: Soldier, Warrior, Diplomat, Strategist, Peacemaker, Nation Builder, Statesman

By Tony Lopez

Fidel Valdez Ramos, the 12th President of the Philippines, is best remembered for his ability to lead and his willingness to be led—not by astute advisors and political strategists, but by the people whom he served, and served well. He was one of the country's best presidents ever.

Ramos was a soldier, warrior, diplomat, author, strategist, peace advocate, nation builder, and statesman. His public service spanned a total period of 51 years.

Steadfastly and faithfully, Ramos promoted the principles of people empowerment and a culture of excellence that both led to global competitiveness during his term as President from June 30, 1992 to June 30, 1998. History appreciates him for eight things:

- 1) For believing that democracy and development go together. There is no need for strongman rule to achieve progress;
- 2) Helping depose his own second cousin, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos after 20 years in power in which he helped pursue Marcos's authoritarian objectives;
- 3) Saving Corazon Cojuangco Aquino from eight coup attempts during her presidency, from February 1986 to June 30, 1992. The coups weakened her presidency and made her a captive of the military;
- 4) Quickly restoring power to a nation besieged by 12 to 18-hour blackouts at the peak of the power crisis during Corazon Aquino's time;
- 5) As a peacemaker. He reached out to all kinds of rebels –the military coup plotters led by army Col. Gregorio Honasan, the Muslim rebels led by Nur Misuari, and the guerillas of the New People's Army of the Communist Party of the Philippines whose armed strength had grown to 35,000 regulars. The effort brought peace, enabled FVR to attract record levels of investments, and saved the country from recession and the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis.
- 6) Breaking up the telco, power, and water utilities monopolies;

REMEMBERING FVR

FVR: Soldier, Warrior, Diplomat, Strategist, Peacemaker, Nation Builder, Statesman

7) Visioning a newly industrialized country (NIC) status for the Philippines by making it a tiger economy; and

8) His work ethic (he was the most hardworking president) and dictum of CSM—complete staff work.

Since 1969, the Philippines had harbored the world's longest communist insurgency, and since 1972, the world's longest Muslim separatist insurgency.

While communist insurgency dwindled to historic lows, Ramos achieved a peace agreement with military rebels (RAM, ALTAS, YOU) in October 1995 and the MNLF southern secessionists in September 1996 which won for him (together with Chairman Nur Misuari) and the Philippines the coveted 1997 UNESCO Peace Prize—the first for Asians. He also worked out a modus vivendi with Congress whose members quickly joined his Rainbow Coalition.

The deals brought peace to the land and enabled Ramos to attract foreign investments and legislate the most far-reaching social and economic reforms through the passage of major pieces of legislation.

Ramos then pursued programs to fight poverty in accordance with the will of the Filipino people expressed by 229 structural/reform laws enacted by Congress from 1992 to 1998.

Ramos exemplified the leader who always looked toward the strategic future and whose thumbs-up optimism—captured in descriptive phrases like “Caring, Sharing and Daring,” “Philippines 1500” and “Pole-vaulting”—propelled the economy and social welfare. He exuded positive energy that seems to burst from his cool and at times steely demeanor.

During the years 1993-1997, the Philippine economy recovered dramatically and a comprehensive Social Reform Agenda (SRA) was implemented that addressed long-standing problems regarding poverty, health, education and skills training, housing, environmental protection, children and the youth, the elderly and the handicapped, jobs and livelihood, agrarian reform and access to equal opportunity.

REMEMBERING FVR

FVR: Soldier, Warrior, Diplomat, Strategist, Peacemaker, Nation Builder, Statesman

Gross National Product growth averaged 5% annually. The total inflow of foreign exchange into the country outpaced forex inflows of the combined periods of rule of both Presidents Marcos and Cory Aquino.

Average income of the Filipino family grew more during his administration than in the preceding two decades. He pushed for the deregulation of key industries and the liberalization of the economy.

FVR encouraged the privatization of public entities, to include the modernization of public infrastructure through the expanded Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law.

Ramos also served as secretary of national defense (1988-1991) and chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (1986-1988) with the rank of general (4 Stars). His military/law enforcement service of more than 40 years was capped by the peaceful, non-violent People Power Revolution at EDSA in February 1986 which threw out a dictatorial regime.

In retirement, the genial general was always on the go throughout the Philippines, mobilizing the citizenry and pushing the "best practices" of Unity of Purpose, Solidarity in Values and Teamwork in Nation-building at every opportunity.



REMEMBERING FVR

Joey Salceda on FVR: Mentor, Model, “Untiring Hands Find Their Rest”

House Ways and Means Chair Joey Sarte Salceda (Albay, 2nd district) has called Former President Fidel V. Ramos a “mentor and a model for my life in public service” in response to reports of the latter’s passing due to complications brought about by COVID-19.

“The former President helped birth my career in public service. During the peak of my career in private sector as an analyst, President Ramos would consult me on matters of national concern. That was when I became convinced that I could serve the country in a greater way. Just as he was leaving office, I ran for Congressman in Albay,” Salceda said.

“FVR is also family to me. He, together with Sen. Letty Shahani, considers our Sarte clan as family because one of my uncles married his first cousin, Angelita Lizardo. So, he always felt at home seeking my advice visiting our hometown Polangui several times.”

“FVR was possibly first President who was a serious policy wonk. He was someone who understood the complex workings of the economy in an instinctive manner. In terms of policy, he was the most consistent and methodical. He knew what he wanted to do, and he tried to do it,” Salceda said.

“Without FVR, we would not have been able to solidify the bedrock of investor confidence that has since allowed the country to grow its economy for decades. Ramos equaled economic reform. The Ramos brand was a brand of seriousness in governance. Business knew he meant business,” Salceda added.

“We would have had a much weaker recovery from the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis if not for FVR’s reforms, primarily to set our country’s finances right. PGMA would have had a much bigger mess to clean up, and our two decades of uninterrupted GDP growth prior to the COVID-19 pandemic may not have materialized.”

“When FVR talked of nation-building, and he talked a great deal about it, you knew it wasn’t hollow ostentatious talk. He meant what he was saying, and you took him seriously.”

REMEMBERING FVR

Joey Salceda on FVR: Mentor, Model, “Untiring Hands Find Their Rest”

Salceda says that Ramos was his “model for unceasing restlessness in public service and public life. In office, he was the first to arise and get to work, and was often also the last to leave. Even after retirement, he kept his sharpness of wit and wisdom intact.”

“With FVR, you also felt like you were facing someone who was a witness to history. The man was born during the Commonwealth Era, went to West Point, fought heroically in the Korean War, and played a leading role in the most momentous events of the country’s modern history. Whether you were on his side or not, you knew he was formidable,” Salceda said.

“His death, in many ways, is the end of an era. As the country reevaluates his times, he will no longer see this country’s destiny – a destiny he had nonetheless helped shape, as both critics and sympathizers would acknowledge.”

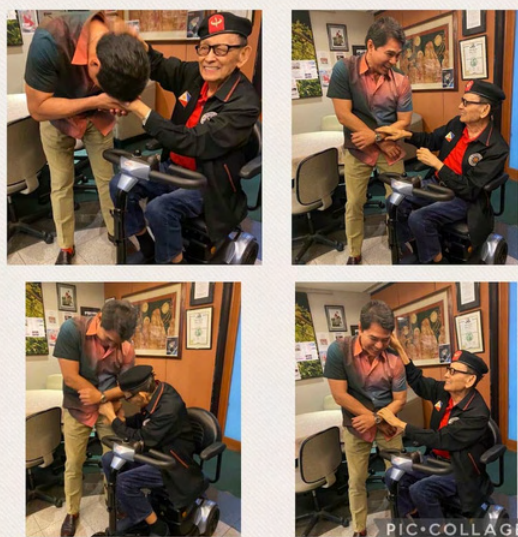
“And so, with his passing, his restless hands – hands that helped shape a nation’s modern history – finally take their rest. Those of us who learned from and worked with the man are left to ponder his legacy and carry on his work of nation-building. May we continue to work, and may he find his rest.”

REMEMBERING FVR

Photographs & Memories

Hermie Esguerra

Dec 10, 2019, my last bonding with Former President FVR at his office. I will surely miss his fatherly advises and our funny moments together. May he rest in peace.



Teddy Ocampo

12h · 2

It's been a privilege and an honor to have known a great man.



REMEMBERING FVR

Photographs & Memories



PFVR administers the oath of office of newly commissioned Foreign Service Officers during the 1997 DFA Foundation Day. To his left is Star Rtn. Senen Mangalile.

REMEMBERING FVR

Photographs & Memories



Former President / Rtn. Fidel V. Ramos with Past District Governor Rudy Bediones and Past Director Oscar del Rosario Sr. at the Manila Hotel



Former President / Rtn. Fidel V. Ramos as guest of honor and speaker at the weekly membership meeting of Rotary Club of Manila on February 23, 2017 at the Manila Polo Club



Past Asst. Treas Muhammad Aslam with Former President/ Rtn. Fidel V. Ramos



Rotary Club of Makati West Rtn. Zedenek Jankovsky (former member of Rotary Club of Manila) at the weekly membership meeting held at the Manila Polo Club

REMEMBERING FVR

Tribute from Manila Rotarians



Antonio Lopez

In 1993 I wrote an editorial in Asiaweek magazine which said: "Ninety-eight percent of Filipinos are waiting for a telephone; the remaining two percent are waiting for a dial tone."

Lee Kuan Yew was invited to Manila to make a major speech. He quoted my editorial, with exuberant derision. Newspapers local and foreign quoted LKY.

Aghast, FVR ordered the breakup of the 70-year old PLDT monopoly. He did it thru an executive order dividing the country into 7 telephone franchises.



Lito Sibayan

RIP, PFVR. You were the key inspiration for many overseas Filipino technocrats from Europe and North America to come home and to help in the mid- to late- 90's.



Beda Fajardo

FVR is now a Philippine historical figure as among those responsible for ending the Marcos dictatorship, a sad chapter, and the return of the democratic way of life in the country. Rest in Peace Sir and fellow RCMer.



Nick Locsin

PFVR highly respected leader, great public servant and defender of democracy. We will always be grateful for what he did for the Filipino people and our country. My sincerest condolences to Ms. Ming Ramos, a model of service and humility as a First Lady. PFVR, Godspeed to the bosom of the Lord.



Philip Recto

FVR was one of the best presidents in the Philippines. He was also a loyal RCM member. May he rest in peace in the bosom of our Lord.



Jordan Pizarra

President FVR - The whole nation is grateful for your service !



John Cutter US

Sad news indeed! President Ramos was one of the first to welcome my move to the Philippines as we were both taking part in the Capas Freedom March. We still hear positive comments on a lengthy interview he recorded for a podcast network in the States. Deepest sympathies to all the Ramos family and nation. He will be sorely missed!



Ambassador Vic Garcia

Thank you for your great service to the nation, FVR! You will be long remembered as a great President. Requiescat in pace, FVR!



PJ Garcia

Thank you for your service Pres. FVR. May he rest in eternal peace



REMEMBERING FVR

Tribute from Manila Rotarians



Rafael Alunan III
12h · 🌐

I've been sucking it in from the time I learned the sad news, staring blankly at the screen, waiting for the family to officially announce his journey to the afterlife. Regarded him as my second father as many of my brothers in uniform did.

The time will come when my thoughts will stream in rapid fashion and convert into words that, nonetheless, I fear will never be articulate enough to express profound gratitude for all that he did for "Duty, Honor, Country." May the Force welcome you Home, Sir!



Oscar

We lost another great Filipino & a good Rotarian! Our Sincerest sympathies & condolences to FVR bereaved Family & May his Soul Rest In Peace in heaven! 🙏🙏🙏



Jackie Rodriguez

We shall miss a great member, a good man, friend, and president....good bye FVR.....



Frank Evaristo

We Grieve lost a great man FVR a RCM Rotarian



Bernardo Benedicto

Dad Eddie, dismantled the telecommunications monopoly that is the reason we have globe smart sun



6:42 PM

Dismantled the airline monopoly giving births to Cebu Pacific et al



6:42 PM

Dismantled the monopoly in water sewage. Making better our sanitation



6:42 PM

Still in process is to make affordable the electric power which is very difficult task that surpassed generations in making affordable electric power to the masses due to the large capital required and laws to pass to allow its success



6:42 PM

It seems that Justice Lolong Lazaro (Uncle Lolong) my lawyer and President Ramos (Dad Eddie) just waited for Bong Bong Marcos to become President



6:42 PM

Dad Eddie, was key in normalizing Philippine - China relations otherwise we shall be in trouble today with the war in Europe



6:42 PM



Roberto Pagdanganan

PFVR was one of the best Presidents of the Philippines! May his soul rest in peace and eternal light shine upon him. 🙏🙏🙏



Pascual Abe

I join my RCM brothers in praying for the repose of fVR soul. May he rest in peace. One of our truly great president.

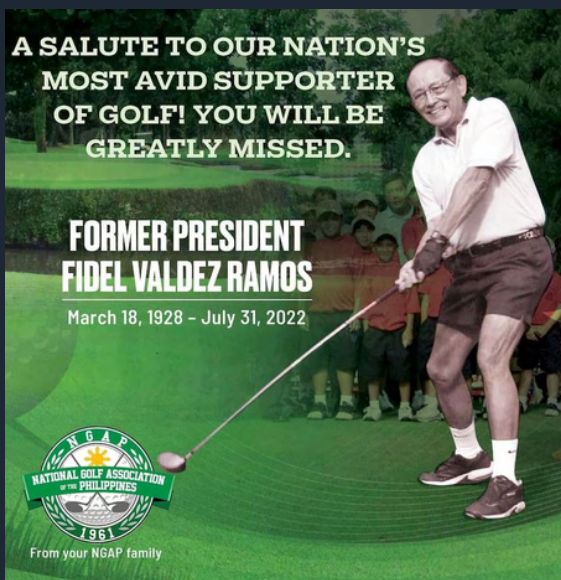


REMEMBERING FVR

Tribute from Manila Rotarians

PD Celso Abastillas

One Saturday morning we had a golf tournament with FVR as our guest of honor. Unfortunately, metro Manila and Calabarzon was being buffeted by a typhoon. We dilly dallied, thinking that the tournament was postponed. So we came late. But lo and behold despite the rain and the wind, there was FVR teeing off at whole number 7. We felt ashamed of ourselves, seeing the president at senior age at that, arriving at the golf course on time. That's the FVR brand of management!



Chito Z

Many moons ago my wife and I set out to play in Subic on an early Saturday morning- only to be stopped by PSG men at entrance with the disappointing message that the "course was closed because PFVR was about to play". So when he arrived- we greeted him and he asked us if we were ready to tee off... we told him our sad plight - to which he berated his men and told us to go ahead and tee off. "Go ahead and tee off ahead - so I can see how badly you guys play!" Years later we were his next door neighbors in AAV and we recounted that incident in one of his parties and he remembered vividly the funny encounter!



Nick Locsin

PFVR highly respected leader, great public servant and defender of democracy. We will always be grateful for what he did for the Filipino people and our country. My sincerest condolences to Ms. Ming Ramos, a model of service and humility as a First Lady. PFVR, Godspeed to the bosom of the Lord.



Jose C. Benedicto

10h · 🧑🏻

A Rotarian has fallen..

Rest In Peace,
President Fidel V. Ramos
1928 - 2022

FVR was a long time RC Manila Rotarian.
In his first year as President of the Philippines,
FVR spoke in our District conference which
coincided with his birthday, March 18, 1993.



REMEMBERING FVR

Tribute from Manila Rotarians



Herminio S Esguerra

My text message to Angel Ramos, daughter of FVR:

Blessed Sunday Angel, our deepest sympathies and condolences to your family on the passing of FVR. He was a father and a friend to me and to many. Will appreciate the info of his wake .

The Rotary Club of Manila and its members, which I am the current President, would like to pay respect to our beloved former member and to handover his RCM Name Badge to his family.

Warmest regards to Tita Ming.

As a foreigner, I was privileged to have many personal and social meetings with President Ramos. Some highlights: I congratulated him as first batch when he joined Rotary as General Ramos and he always showed a keen interest in the German Community and as President of the German Club I knew the big number of my *kababayans* he knew by name. A specific German Foundation was his special connection and when he won the presidency, German politicians confirmed their support. Chancellor Kohl came for state visit and the 2 statesmen witnessed the signing of many German investment projects among our combined cycle power plant St Rita of the Lopezes many invitations to Malacañang followed in which he always give me a presidential golf ball and I was invited to join him with Team Philippines on a couple of goodwill trips abroad e.g. Prague Vienna He listened to our suggestion to improve the power and infrastructure situation. Although at the peak of his popularity, encouraged by many he did not go for a constitution change and just finished his term.

As retired President, he relaxed followed many socials but unfortunately was not seen in RCM too often. On each German National Day he was present and surprised us with his humorous ideas. Remember the eye glasses without lenses! And the many speeches during which he threw the manuscript from the Roster!

What a charismatic leader. RIP my hero!

Bollie Bolton

My deepest condolences to the family of President Ramos. Was my president of the Special Forces of the Philippines.



PSAA Gunter Matschuck



REMEMBERING FVR

Tribute from Manila Rotarians

President Fidel V. Ramos, or simply FVR or TABAKO as he was fondly called by colleagues, admirers, supporters and friends was one of the 5 presidents that I was blessed to engage in my political journey. Among the 5, it was FVR who I had the chance to associate with in various capacities.

Politically, as an 'operator' who played a role in his decision to run and eventually win the presidency, I remember joining that meeting in what was known as 'gringo's bunker' in Camp Aguinaldo where he told the group of the conditions for him to seek the highest office in the land. That was when he 'jestingly called me Brother Mike Velarde' because of the question I posed to him. Spiritually, FVR was closed to and very supportive of the same *Kapatiran* leaders I worked with & who started the '*Pamathalaan (Pamamahala Kasama si Bathala)* Governance Philosophy and the Moral Recovery Program.

Socially, I operated a foundation during his term that provided among others support for our OFWs in Hongkong. Internationally, I had the privilege in joining him in trips abroad that introduced me to world leaders like Pres. George Bush. When he met the homecoming of the Mt. Everest balangay team expedition, I was also with him and I proudly provided the Bulacan band that honored him with their marching songs for a former president.

The most memorable though were the intimate discussions & inspirational exchanges we had in his office at the RP Peace & Development Foundation as well as during his many book launching events.

The warmest occasions were the golf games lunch bantering and after game 'awardings'. FVR almost catapulted us to becoming an economic tiger but sadly the so called imperatives of the democratic system also overwhelmed him in his last year. From then on, we spiralled downwards. He will be missed. May he be blessed with his just heavenly rewards for being God and the peoples servant. Eternal rest grant unto President Fidel V. Ramos O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him , may he rest in peace, amen.

STAR Rtn. Caloy Serapio



REMEMBERING FVR

Tribute from Manila Rotarians

Media has been asking for my statement on FVR's passing. Here it is.

"I've been dumbstruck from the time I learned the sad news that FVR passed away. I regarded him as my second father as many of my brothers in uniform, particularly the SFRA and SAF, and in the Cabinet did.

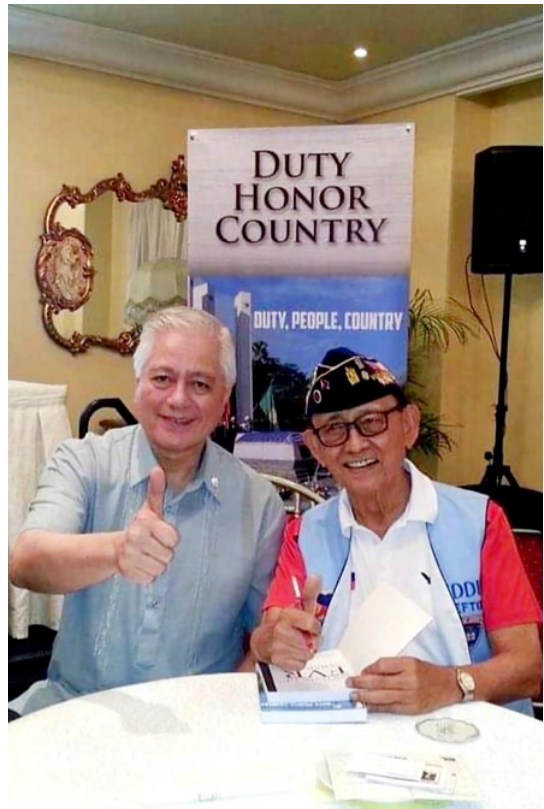
The time will come when my thoughts will get organized and converted into words that, nonetheless, I fear will never be articulate enough to express profound gratitude for all that he did for "Duty, Honor, Country."

FVR was larger than life which was eclectic to say the least, not only during his years in the military and public office but more so after he officially retired.

Collecting my thoughts will take time to give him the best possible tribute, as many more (relatives, friends, colleagues) would want to do. Perhaps in a few days.

We grieve your loss, Mr. President, and are one with Mrs Ramos and your immediate family (to include your close-in aides and the men and women of RPDEV). May the Force welcome you Home, Sir!"

Dir. Raffy Alunan



Frank Evaristo

2m · 🌐

Farewell FVR we lost a good leader, a Manila Rotarian member and a supporter of Alay Lakad walk for a cause for out of school youth. He joined yearly walk for a good cause. A good man indeed.



President Ramos facilitated Unity and Team work among all groups in the Nation. Steering the Nation in waters of extremely difficult odds.

Rtn. Dong Benedicto

RCManila Foundation Inc. Meets with Philippine Band of Mercy



RCManila Foundation Inc. met with Philippine Band of Mercy last Friday, July 29, 2022 at 2 p.m. via Zoom virtual platform to discuss the proposed partnership with Rotary Club of San Francisco Foundation.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WASH Committee Chairman Junjie Vazquez and Dir. Hans Palacios Meet with DENR ASec Jay Lagunda

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Committee Chairman Junjie Vazquez and Dir. Hans Palacios met with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ASec Jay Lagunda last Tuesday, August 2, 2022.



MANILA ROTARIAN

IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Sebastian Lacson: Prime Metro BMD's Man of Steel

By Rhea Vitto Tabora

STAR Rtn. Sebastian “Basti” Lacson has always been a man of steel.

No, not in the sense that he is unyielding or emotionless—quite the contrary, in fact. He is a man of steel because he has always been driven by a strong sense of purpose and a desire to serve and build, whether through his work in the energy sector or now in infrastructure.

This passion was evident early on in his career when he worked on various power projects in the Philippines and then in Spain and Panama. In 2013, he began running companies as CEO, starting with a power distribution company, an agglomeration of thermal power plants, and now PrimeBMD, one of the leading players in the Philippines’ infrastructure industry. Through Prime BMD, he helps provide much-needed infrastructure improvements that benefit many Filipinos.



On a lighter note, STAR Rtn. Basti is an avid sportsman who, at age 51, runs every morning, plays tennis and basketball a few times a week, and is a yoga fanatic. When he was 25, STAR Rtn. Basti swam from Spain to Morocco across the Strait of Gibraltar—one of the world’s most dangerous bodies of water for swimming—and thus far the only Filipino to do a transcontinental swim.

We caught up with STAR Rtn. Basti to learn more about his professional journey, how he’s been able to achieve great success, and what drives him to accomplish so much. He also offers advice for those who wish to get into the infrastructure industry. In addition, he also shares what he does when he is not at work, and how he relaxes and recharges.

MANILA ROTARIAN

IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Sebastian Lacson: Prime Metro BMD's Man of Steel

Rhea Vitto Tabora (RVT): Can you share a little bit about your professional background?

Sebastian Lacson (SL): My professional career was focused on energy and now infrastructure. It took me from the Philippines to Spain in 2001, to Panama in 2006, back to the country, in Cebu, in 2008, and to Manila in 2015. I started running companies as CEO in 2013, beginning with a power distribution company, an agglomeration of thermal power plants, and now a construction company. My employers have all had some element of Spain in them—Union Fenosa/Gas Natural of Spain, AboitizPower, AC Energy, and now PrimeBMD (Razon Group).

RVT: What led you to pursue a career in the construction and infrastructure sector?

SL: This business builds the infrastructure that is essential in our nation's march towards a better standard of life for all who reside within our borders. I am motivated by participating in that effort. When I was given the chance to lead PrimeBMD, I knew this was a good fit. Work is meaningful when it appeals to a higher purpose than just leading a team.



MANILA ROTARIAN

IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Sebastian Lacson: Prime Metro BMD's Man of Steel

RVT: What is your greatest challenge as President & CEO of Prime Metro BMD Corporation?

SL: It could be very tempting to grow exponentially given that, on the surface, more revenues are always welcome. This, however, needs to be tempered by constraints on execution that could be convenient to overlook. The challenge is to find this growth and have the discipline to know which projects to take on without over-straining the organization. On top of all this is the primordial challenge every leader confronts: how to enable the team to aim high and remain enthused in their pursuit of that objective.

RVT: What has been the most successful project or initiative that PrimeBMD has undertaken?

SL: We're proud of the recent port expansion project we built at Manila International Container Terminal, which essentially enhances the logistical capability and competitiveness of our country.

We are likewise pleased to be an integral part of the comprehensive bulk water supply infrastructure being built for Metro Manila in the Antipolo area. We like to work in water (ports and reclamation) and on water (bulk water, water treatment, and pump stations) and so it is where we do our best work.

We also built the vaccination center in Paranaque, which is of use to this day.

Our projects enable and amplify the progress of communities and make life better for many Filipinos.



MANILA ROTARIAN

IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Sebastian Lacson: Prime Metro BMD's Man of Steel

RVT: What are some of the biggest challenges that you see the construction and infrastructure industry is currently facing?

SL: The same issues as other industries—inflation and the consequent rise in interest rates. Working in unison, this two-headed monster brings on tremors in the trigger fingers of decision-makers. Many of the bigger and necessary infra projects are on “wait *muna*” status but we hope that they will be decided on soon as inflationary pressures ease. Specific to our industry is the inadequate supply of skilled labor, perplexing given our demographics.

RVT: What do you like to do when you're not working?

SL: The first priority is to spend time with the remaining family. My wife passed recently and I understand, more than ever, the value of spending time with our very dearest. My college-age daughter, Amaya, lives with me while Mateo, in high school, studies and lives in Madrid and only comes home for the summer and Christmas break. Whatever time I get with them, I treat it as a blessing, so we eat out a lot, go away on weekends, and hang out and work out together.

RVT: Do you have any advice for those who are looking to get into the industry?

SL: Check out other industries first. Absent better options, explore construction but talk to industry players first before jumping in.

RVT: What inspired you to join the Rotary Club of Manila?

SL: Back in 1997, I joined RCM at the age of 26. I believe I was the youngest member at that time. I guess nostalgia led me back.



Lacson family painting

MANILA ROTARIAN

IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Sebastian Lacson: Prime Metro BMD's Man of Steel



With his wife Aina, who passed recently, and children Amaya and Mateo



Spending time with his daughter Amaya and son Mateo

“

*The first priority is to spend time with the remaining family.
My wife passed recently and I understand, more than ever,
the value of spending time with our very dearest.*

MANILA ROTARIAN

IN FOCUS

STAR Rtn. Sebastian Lacson: Prime Metro BMD's Man of Steel

Aside from that, I allocate a daily time slot for a run with my two dogs and may complement that with tennis, yoga, basketball, or, from November to February, nine holes of golf. I also set aside time for reading (I keep a stash of unread books by my reading corner) and recently have started to entertain more at home and do some cooking myself.

I have recently started seeing Riza Joseph, daughter of Past President Bobby Joseph, niece of Rtn. Ralph Joseph and sister to Rtn. Robi Joseph. Life has to start over again, even for widowers like myself.



Playing golf



With Riza Joseph

RVT: What is your personal mantra?

SL: Love is the most pervasive and powerful force in the universe. It is infused in everything I do. Love today, not tomorrow.

RVT: What do you believe is your mission in life?

SL: Outside my family, I believe that my mission is to help teams deliver optimal output by sharing what I have learned in this area over the years. Helping management teams execute better is a passion.

COGS IN THE WHEEL

Rtn. Gani Macatoman Hosts GNN's Coverage of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s First State of the Nation Address



Rtn. Gani Macatoman, Undersecretary of Commission on Filipino Overseas, hosted Global News Network's coverage of the first State of the Nation Address of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

MANILA BULLETIN

DICT commits improved digital connectivity to remote areas in Q4

Published July 27, 2022, 2:18 PM
by [MB Business](#)

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) intends to deploy digital connectivity faster under the Marcos' administration's Build, Better More Program, DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy said.

Uy made this commitment during a press briefing Wednesday, July 27 at the Manila Hotel where Elon Musk's Starlink also made a presentation of their connectivity kit. Starlink plans to operate a low-Earth orbit satellite system to deliver broadband internet connectivity in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) in the country by the fourth quarter this year.



DICT X STARLINK - Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy poses with SpaceX executive Rebecca Hunter on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at the Manila Hotel, where the DICT committed to deploy faster digital connectivity in remote areas. SpaceX is a unit of Elon Musk's Starlink, which plans to operate a low-Earth orbit satellite system in the country.

COGS

IN THE WHEEL

Uy noted that Starlink would be able to reach the remote areas in the country, providing connectivity to fishermen and farmers. Initially, he said, DICT will bankroll the Wi-Fi for the remote communities. He said that Starlink has yet to come up with its costing.

The Philippines will be the first country in Southeast Asia to offer Starlink's services, which are provided through advanced, low-orbit satellites. The Starlink service is available in more than 30 countries, mainly in North America and Europe. The satellite service will have speeds between 100 to 200 Megabits per second (Mbps).

First on its Build, Better More Program is DICT's "Broadband ng Masa" where the agency works with Facebook and Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to complete the Luzon Bypass Infrastructure Project.

The 240-kilometer fiber corridor connects the archipelago's western and eastern modular information technology facilities.

Once operational, the project's two cable landing stations located in Baler and Poro Point will increase the total government capacity to 2,000,000 Mbps.

This is 50 times the current government capacity of 40,000 Mbps.

Where laying fiber cables is difficult, the department expects Starlink broadband's service can fill the gaps.

Bataan Governor Jose Enrique "Joet" Garcia, who was also present at the DICT-Starlink press conference, told Manila Bulletin they are positioning to be among the first provinces to avail of the Starlink services.

Garcia said that Starlink would be useful as alternative internet service provider not just for the locators of the Freeport Area of Bataan, but also to the remote areas in the province.

The DICT is also gearing up for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s order to prepare the country for the Fourth Industrial Revolution under the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

COGS

IN THE WHEEL

DICT's Stimulating the growth of Emerging Technologies in the Philippines (SET PH) explores Emerging Technologies to develop an enabling ecosystem to sustain the growth of the industry, according to Secretary Uy.

Already, the department has initiated Tech Trends, a self-development program to provide Filipinos with skills and know-how for jobs in ICT.

The program covers data analytics, AI, and blockchain technology.

On top of these, e-governance is vital to digital transformation, DICT Secretary Uy underscored.

"We need to harmonize information from different government agencies. The standard of operations should be the same. We have to synchronize our data base," he explained.

Hence, the DICT continues collaborating with other state offices to strengthen interoperability via the National Government Portal.

This single website for all public information and transactions can make government frontline services citizen-friendly, reduce queues and lessen, if not eliminate, opportunities for corruption.

To empower and upskill every Filipino in a digitalized DICT likewise offers training programs, such as the digital jobsPH and Tech4ED.

"We need to build up our digital workforce," Uy stressed.

"Schools are producing skillsets that are not aligned with the demands of the industry."

"Business Process Outsourcing alone is a \$29 Million sector for 2021 but our challenge is the lack of skill and talented manpower," he noted.

For this reason, "We will work with the education sector to match the skills and demands of the employers."

Dr. John Cenica is Guest Speaker at the 2022 Pan Pacific Aesthetic Institute Foundation



Dr. John Cenica was the guest speaker at the 2022 Pan Pacific Aesthetic Institute Foundation convention last July 31, 2022 at Makati Diamond Residences, with the topic "Syringe Liposuction, My Personal Experience". The conference was attended by around 400 local and international cosmetic surgeons and sponsored by local and international exhibitors.

*SDG/SAG/Dir. Albert Alday
is Member of Management Committee
of the Philippine Rotary Magazine*



SDG/SAG/Dir. Albert Alday became part of the Management Committee of the Philippine Rotary Magazine for RY 2022-2023 effective July 1, 2022.

COGS

IN THE WHEEL

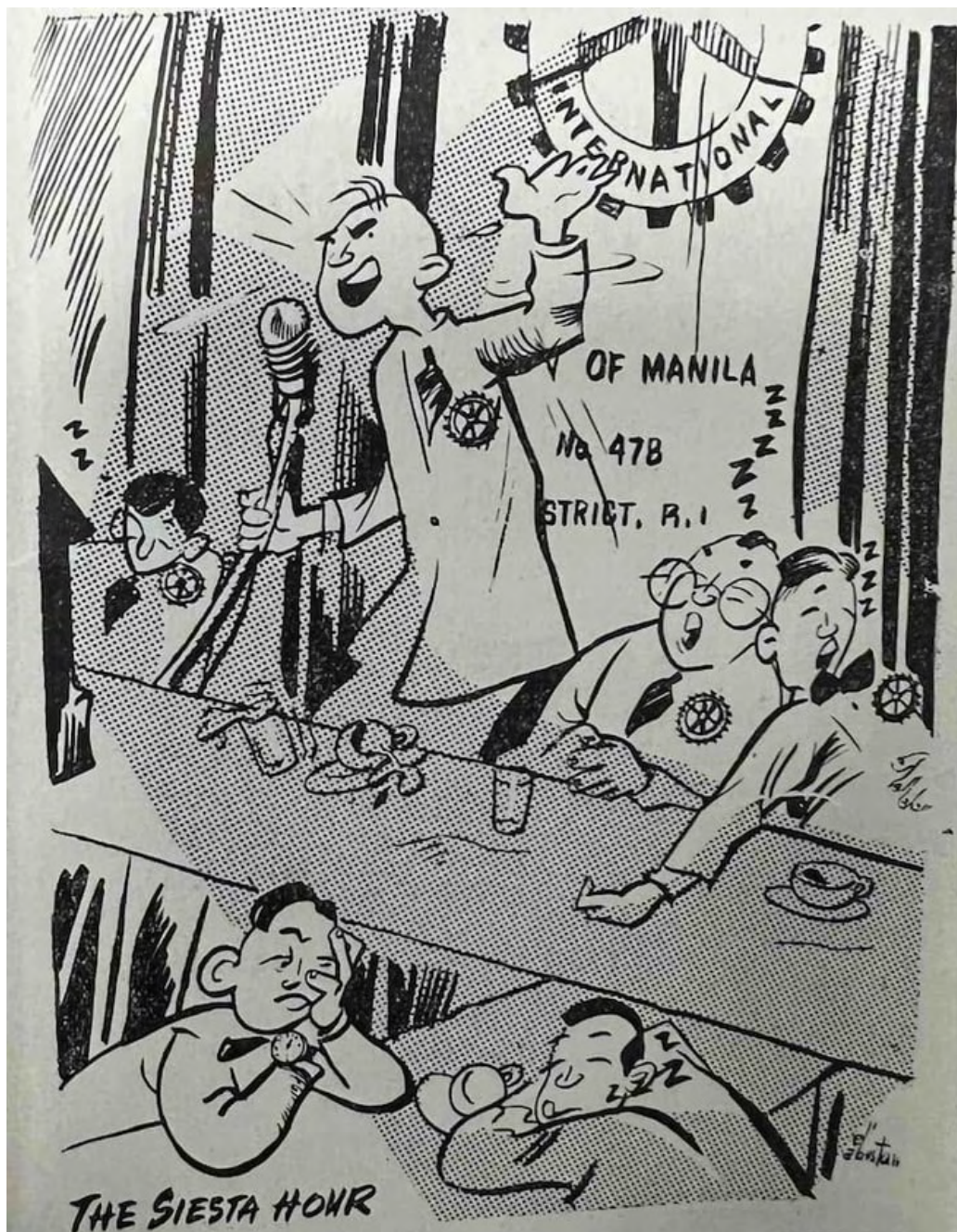
AS Michael Jaey Albaña is Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker at the University of the Philippines – Asian Institute of Tourism Commencement Ceremony



AS Michael Jaey Albaña was the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker at the University of the Philippines – Asian Institute of Tourism Commencement Ceremony last July 28, 2022 at the U.P. Film Institute. He exhorted the graduates to discover their purpose, ignite their passion and find their niche in our tourism value chain.

COMIC

RELIEF



Source: Rotary Balita, Issue No. 602, Year 1948

FELLOWSHIP

Manila Rotarians Attend Consular Corps of the Philippines Meeting



Manila Rotarians attended the Consular Corps of the Philippines meeting with Hon. Bienvenido E. Laguesma (Past President of Rotary Club of Manila), Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment, as the guest of honor and speaker. The meeting was held last Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at the Conrad Manila.

RCM members who attended were (from left) Rtn. Dong Benedicto, Programs Committee Chairman/PD Amading Valdez, Past Vice Pres. Fausto Preysler, Past District Governor Vince Carlos and Past Director Issam Eldebs.

FELLOWSHIP

Rtn. Inov Talusan Visits His Excellency Songkane Luangmuninthone, Ambassador of Lao PDR to the Philippines



Rtn. Inov Talusan paid a visit to His Excellency Songkane Luangmuninthone (Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Manila), Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Rotary Club of Manila Ranks Third in Membership Gain in Rotary District 3810

TOP ACHIEVERS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

4TH MEMBERSHIP GAIN ABSOLUTE

RC CAVITE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE - 8

3RD MEMBERSHIP GAIN ABSOLUTE

RC MANILA & RC QUIAPO PLAZA MIRANDA - 9

2ND MEMBERSHIP GAIN ABSOLUTE

RC HIYAS NG MAYNILA - 11

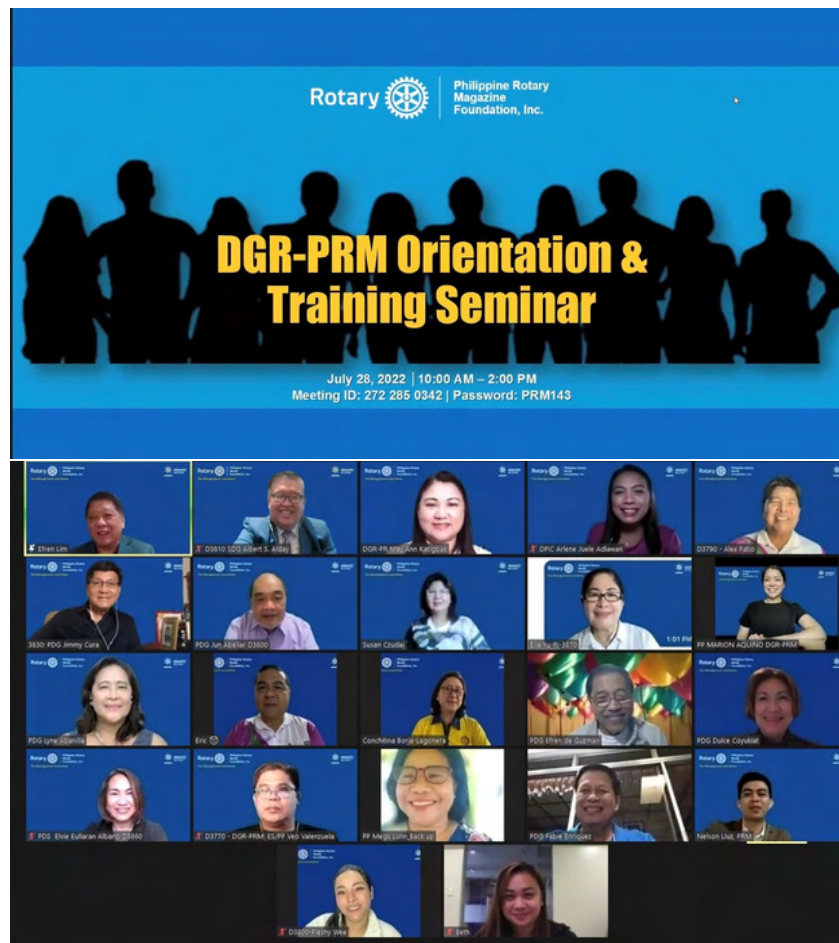
1ST MEMBERSHIP GAIN ABSOLUTE

RC MANILA BINONDO PRIME - 12

The Rotary Club of Manila ranked third (3rd) in membership gain absolute for the month of July. This was revealed at the Executive Committee Meeting of Rotary International District 3810.

INTERCLUB RELATIONS

SDG/SAG/Dir. Albert Alday Attends DGR-PRM Orientation and Training Seminar

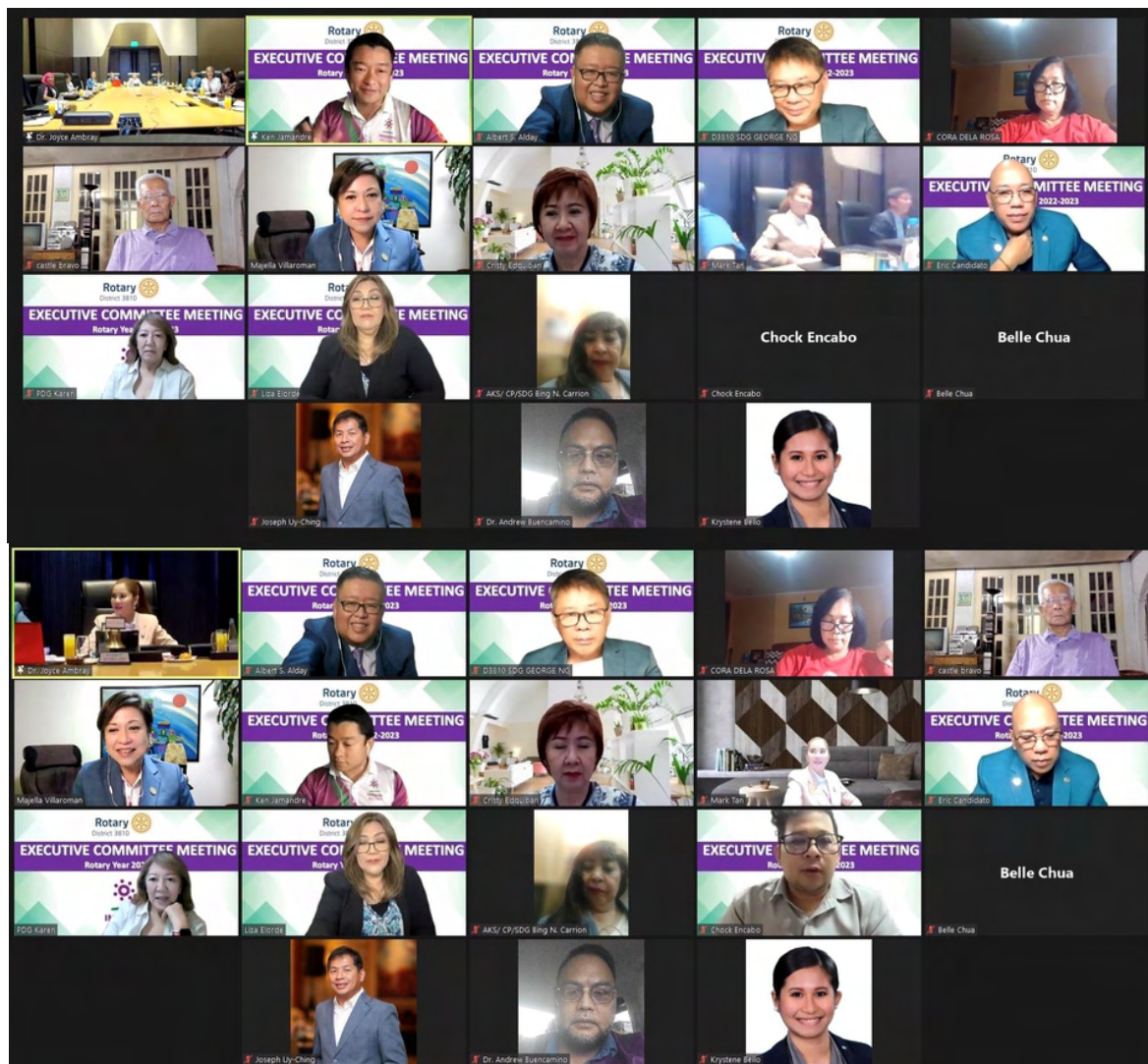


SDG/SAG/Dir. Albert Alday attended the DGR-PRM Orientation Seminar last July 28, 2022 via Zoom virtual platform. He represented Rotary District 3810.



INTERCLUB RELATIONS

SDG/SAG/Dir. Albert Alday Attends Executive Committee Meeting of Rotary District 3810



SDG/SAG/Dir. Albert Alday attended the Executive Committee Meeting of Rotary International District 3810 last August 2, 2022 via Zoom virtual platform.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

*Manila Rotarians
Hold First Friday Mass
for the Month of August*

Rotary
Club of Manila



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

05 August 2022, 5:30 PM

1st Friday Mass

Zoom Meeting ID: 8920600358; Passcode: 06011919

With: Rev. Fr. LARRY TAN, SDB



B.O.D. & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS | EDITORIAL TEAM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2022-2023

HERMINIO "HERMIE" S. ESGUERRA
President

FELIX FRANCISCO "CHITO" S. ZALDARRIAGA
Immediate Past President

REGINALD "REGGIE" T. YU
Vice President

Directors

ALBERT "HANS" C. PALACIOS
ALBERT S. ALDAY

RAFAEL "RAFFY" M. ALUNAN III
JOHNNY N. CHOTRANI

ANTONIO "TONY" S. LOPEZ
EDUARDO "JUJUT" V. ENRIQUEZ III

JOSE "PEPO" A. NUÑEZ JR.
(Ex Officio - Chairman, RCManila Foundation, Inc.)

JOSELITO "LITO" H. SIBAYAN
(Ex Officio - President, RCManila Foundation, Inc.)

EDWIN H. HERNANDEZ
Club Secretary

KARLO EUGENE JOSEF "KARLO" M. CASTRO
Club Treasurer

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Board Legal Adviser

JASON M. BOGOVICH
NAGI ZEITOUNI
Sergeant-at-Arms

MICHAEL JAEY "MIKE" C. ALBAÑA
Assistant Club Secretary

PAUL JOSEPH "PJ" M. GARCIA
Assistant Club Treasurer

JASON M. BOGOVICH
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary

EDITORIAL TEAM RY 2022-2023

SDG/PRES. HERMIE S. ESGUERRA
Publisher

BLA RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Editor-in-Chief

SDG/SAG/DIR. ALBERT S. ALDAY
Editorial Adviser

STAR RTN. SENEN T. MANGALILE
DDCC/VP REGINALD T. YU
Managing Editors

RTN. ALVIN R. AMPIL
Contributing Editor

RHEA VITTO TABORA
Editorial Consultant

RCM SECRETARIAT

ANNA KUN TOLEDO
Executive Secretary

AMIEL M. HERNANDEZ
Committee Coordinator

GRACE AQUINO-MONTES
Fund Coordinator

RCM OFFICE

543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 8-527-1886
Fax No. 8-527-1885
Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org