

Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila

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ISSUE NO. 3952 | MARCH 2, 2023

GUEST SPEAKER



PDG ROBERTO M. "OBET" PAGDANGANAN

Chairman, MEDICINES TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES
National President, BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Kabalita

One out of ten households in the Philippines are food insecure, with the country's poorest regions being more affected. This is the outcome of the food security monitoring survey conducted in October 2022 by the World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian organization operating in 120 countries. While the report stated that seven out of ten households use livelihood coping mechanisms to address food insecurity issues, the cooperative way to win this war against poverty and food insecurity is definitely worth looking into.



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

www.rcmanila.org

Table of Contents

03	Program Timetable
05	Guest Speaker's Profile
09	President's Diary
37	Editor's Note
38	28th Regular Meeting: A Recap
42	Club Administration
47	RCManila Foundation Inc.
48	Supporting the Environment
49	Youth Service
50	Recognition
51	Cogs in the Wheel
54	Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2022-2023 Editorial Board for RY 2022-2023



29TH ZOOM WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Rotary Year 2022-2023

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 12:30 PM

MODERATOR: TREASURER KARLO CASTRO

Program Timetable

Part I

12:15 PM	Registration & Zoom In Presentation of Meeting Protocol/Zoom Meeting House Rules	
12:30 PM	Call to Order Invocation and Special Prayers Philippine National Anthem The Four (4) Way Test Philippine Rotary Hymn Acknowledgment of Guests Welcome Song <u>RC Manila Birthday Celebrants for the week</u> February 17 RTN. JUN AVENTURA February 22 RTN. DANTE GIERRAN February 25 STAR RTN. TONY ECHAVEZ February 26 PSAA GUNTER MATSCHUCK March 1 PBLA RAJI MENDOZA March 2 PVP FAUSTO PREYSLER Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song President's Time	PRESIDENT HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA RTN. ALVIN AMPIL AVP of RCM Members STAR RTN. ARIK CARRANCEJA AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale PRESIDENT HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA



29TH ZOOM WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Part II INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER PD BEDA G. FAJARDO

Address

PDG ROBERTO M. "Obet" PAGDANGANAN

Chairman, MEDICINES TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

National President, BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Topic: WAGING WAR AGAINST POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

OPEN FORUM

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE
OF APPRECIATION

PRES. HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA
IPD AMADO D. VALDEZ
Programs Committee Chairman

Manila Rotary Hymn

AVP of RCM WF Music Chorale

2:00 PM **Closing Remarks and
Meeting Adjournment**

PRESIDENT HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE



PDG ROBERTO M. "Obet" PAGDANGANAN

Chairman, MEDICINES TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES

National President, BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Born on July 19, 1946 in Calumpit, Bulacan to Former Councilor Juan T. Pagdanganan, Jr. and Mrs. Rosalina M. Pagdanganan. Married to Susana Obefias- Pagdanganan, a retired Professor of Mathematics and Chemical Engineering subjects.

Children:

1. Ma Rossana P. Sicat, Executive and Leadership Coach, CEO of PIVOT UP Pte Ltd, Singapore; married to Michael Allan E. Sicat, a Civil Engineer and Chairman/CEO of MESicat Construction, Inc., with three children: Roxanne Angela, graduated with high honors with the degree Bachelor of Arts in Natural Science at Cambridge University Fitzwilliam College in June 2019; Mikaela Gabrielle and Michael Enrique, both studying at the United World College of SEA, Singapore.
2. Roberto Raymond who died in an accident in 2007

EDUCATION/TRAINING

- Calumpit Elementary School, Valedictorian, 1959
- Calumpit Institute, High School, Valedictorian, 1963
- Manuel L. Quezon University
 - BS Chemical Engineering, Summa cum Laude, (the first and so far, only Summa cum Laude graduate in the MLQU School of Engineering)
 - Bachelor of Laws, 1990
- Dela Salle University
 - Master in Business Administration, 1981
- Bulacan State University
 - Doctor of Management in Education, honoris causa, 1995
- Ashridge Management College, England
 - Industrial Marketing Course, 1977
- Unilever
 - International Management Seminar, 1980

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

- Outstanding Alumnus, Calumpit Elementary School, 1987 and Calumpit Institute, 1988
- Outstanding MBA Alumnus, Dela Salle University, 1989,
- Outstanding Alumnus, Manuel L. Quezon University, 1992,
- Outstanding Chemical Engineer in Government Service conferred by the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers, Inc. (PICHe) in 1989,
- KABISIG Award conferred by former President Corazon C. Aquino in 1992,
- Philippine Legion of Honor conferred by former President Corazon C. Aquino in 1992
- Technopreneur of the Year Award, Technology and Livelihood Resource Center conferred by former President Corazon C. Aquino in 1992
- Outstanding Columbian in Public Service, 1993
- Outstanding Government Service Award given by the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Scholarship Foundation
- Gintong Ama Award (in the field of public service) conferred by the Golden Mother and Father Foundation in 1997
- Natatanging Anak ng Bulacan awarded by Club Bulakenyo, 2015
- Rotary International D-3810 Leadership Award, 2016
- Presidential Citation Award, Rotary Club of Manila, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
- Eminent Fellow of the Council of Fellows conferred by the Philippine Public Safety College in October 2020
- Dangal ng Lipi – Paglilingkod Bayan 2022 conferred by the Provincial Government of Bulacan

Awards Received as Governor of Bulacan:

- Galing Pook Award for Bulacan Cooperative Development Program, 1993-94,
- Galing Pook Award for Bulacan Cultural and Historical Development Program, 1994-95,
- Galing Pook Award for Bulacan Health and Social Services Program, 1995-86,
- Galing Pook Award for Bulacan Youth Development Program, Lakas ng Kabataan, 1996-97
- Galing Pook Hall of Fame Award 1996-97
- Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner in Nutrition (CROWN) Award given by the National Nutrition Council (NNC)
- Gawad Pamana ng Lahi (Presidential Local Government Heritage Award) for Outstanding Local Governance in the Province Category conferred by President Fidel V. Ramos in 1996

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Government Positions:

- Appointed OIC Governor of the Province of Bulacan, March 1986 to December 1988
- Elected unopposed in January 1988 as Governor of Bulacan and served for 3 terms, 1988 to 1998
- Three- term National President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines
- Founding Chairman of the League of Leagues of Local Governments, later the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
- Four-term National President and presently, National Executive Board Member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP)

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE

Cabinet Positions:

- Presidential Adviser on Cooperatives and Chairman, Cooperative Development Authority, 2002 – 2003
- Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, 2003 – 2004
- Secretary, Department of Tourism, 2004
- Chairman and President, Philippine International Trading Corporation, and concurrent Chairman, PITC Pharma, Inc. 2004 – 2007

Private Sector:

- Union Chemicals, Inc
Laboratory Assistant, (working student), 1967-1968
- Unilever, formerly Philippine Refining Co, Inc.
Management Trainee, June, 1968
Held various senior management positions in Technical and Marketing Divisions until he retired in March 1986 when he was appointed OIC Governor of the province of Bulacan after the EDSA Revolution
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Dela Salle University Graduate School, PUP Graduate School Open University
Part-Time Professorial Lecturer
- Manuel L. Quezon University
Chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department

Other Positions Held:

- Chairman, Rotary International D3810 Council of Governors, 2020 - 2021
- Chairman, National Cooperative Movement, 1998 – 2001
- Chairman, Philippine Cooperative Center, Inc., 1999 – 2001
- Author of "An Urgent Call for Cooperative Revolution" published in 2002 and revised in 2003, and "A Pamphlet on How to Win the War Against Poverty and Attain Food Security - The Cooperative Way" published in June 2020

Present Positions:

- Chairman, EHealthCore, Inc.
- Chairman, Medicines Transparency Alliance, Inc., (MeTA Philippines)
- Chairman, Health Retirement and Tourism Alliance (HeaRT)
- Chairman, POEMS Agro-Industrial Development Company, Inc.
- Eminent Fellow, Philippine Public Safety College, 2020
- Adopted Member, Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Matatag Class of 1971 since 1995
- Honorary Member, Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. (PMAAAI), 2021
- Honorary Member, Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity
- Professorial Lecturer in MPA subjects, Polytechnic University of the Philippines Open University System
- Management Consultant
- Radio Commentator/Host of Obet P sa IZ every Saturday at 5:00 – 6:00 pm over DWIZ 882khz

ROTARY INVOLVEMENT:

- Charter President, Rotary Club of Calumpit, 1990-1991
- Director, Rotary Club of Manila, 2006-2007
- President, Rotary Club of Manila, 2012-2013
- Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Paul Harris Society, 2012
- District Governor of Rotary International District 3810 in RY 2015-2016
- Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation (TRF)
- Chairman. D3810 Council of Governors, 2020-2021

GUEST SPEAKER'S PROFILE

ROBERTO 'Obet' PAGDANGANAN was a consistent scholar graduating as valedictorian at the Calumpit Elementary School in 1959, valedictorian at the Calumpit Institute in 1963 and as Bachelor of Chemical Engineering Summa Cum Laude at the Manuel L. Quezon University (MLQU) in 1968. He completed his MBA at the De La Salle University in 1977 and Bachelor of Laws at MLQU in 1990. In 1995, he was conferred a Doctorate in Education Management by the Bulacan State University.

Obet has had extensive experience both in the private sector, (business, academe and civil society organizations), and in government service. He was a senior executive at Unilever and a part time professorial lecturer in chemical engineering and MBA subjects before he joined the government in 1986.

Obet was a most outstanding public servant, and had received numerous awards and recognitions. These include Most Outstanding Alumnus awards from all the schools he attended, the Tanglaw Kabataan Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest award, from the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and the Dangal ng Lipi conferred by the Provincial Government of Bulacan. He also received a Legion of Honor award from President Cory Aquino for his role in fighting coup attempts during her term.

Obet considers himself particularly fortunate to have led the successful struggle of local officials for local autonomy, as President of the League of Provinces, and founding Chairman of the League of Leagues of Local Government Units, later known as Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, ULAP. He is a foremost advocate of equitable national progress through good governance and cooperative development.

Obet continued his advocacy on the strengthening of cooperatives when he was appointed Presidential Adviser on Cooperative and Chairman of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and later on as Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wherein he encouraged agrarian reform beneficiaries to form cooperatives under the Agrarian Reform Communities strategy. He has also authored the book, "An Urgent Call for Cooperative Revolution" and "A Pamphlet on How to Win the War Against Poverty and Attain Food Security- The Cooperative Way"

As Tourism Secretary, Obet initiated the opening of the Tourism Office in Beijing China and signed the MOA for tourism cooperation between the Philippines and China on September 5, 2004. He was the Chairman of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (PhilSOC) when the Philippines hosted the 23rd SEA Games in 2005, and won the overall championship, for the first time.

As Chairman and President of PITC and PITC Pharma, he also spearheaded the quest to improve access to quality and affordable medicines for the Filipino people thru the Botika Ng Bayan program. He has since then been an advocate not only of access to medicines but also delivery of universal healthcare services for all Filipinos. Currently, he is Chairman of EHealthCore, Inc., Health Retirement and Tourism Alliance (HeaRT) and the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA).

Obet's humble beginnings and familiarity with the travails of the less fortunate amongst us, have strengthened his resolve to help fight poverty and to improve the quality of life of the Filipino people. He attributes much of his values formation to boy scouting having been a member for more than 60 years. He attended the Tenth (10th) World Boy Scouts Jamboree in July 1959 at Mt. Makiling as a boy scout, and the 24th World Jamboree in Virginia, USA, in August, 2019, as Contingent Head of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He is also guided by Rotary's motto "service above self".

PRESIDENT'S DIARY

My dear fellow Manila Rotarians,

I am now in Occidental Mindoro as part of my duty as President of the Rotary Club of Manila, the sponsoring club of the Rotary Club of Abra de Ilog Central, where I called to order the Charter Presentation and Induction Ceremony last Monday, February 27.



I am proud to be a part of the remarkable group of 35 Phenomenal Leader Presidents and District 3810 Officers who are participating in the Occidental Mindoro Community Service Caravan. This 5-day event, which began on Monday and will conclude this Friday, March 3rd, consists of dental missions, vaccinations for public health initiatives, Governor's Visits and Club Inductions, as well opportunities for valuable fellowship experiences. I see this as an essential part of our role as the premier club in RI District 3810.

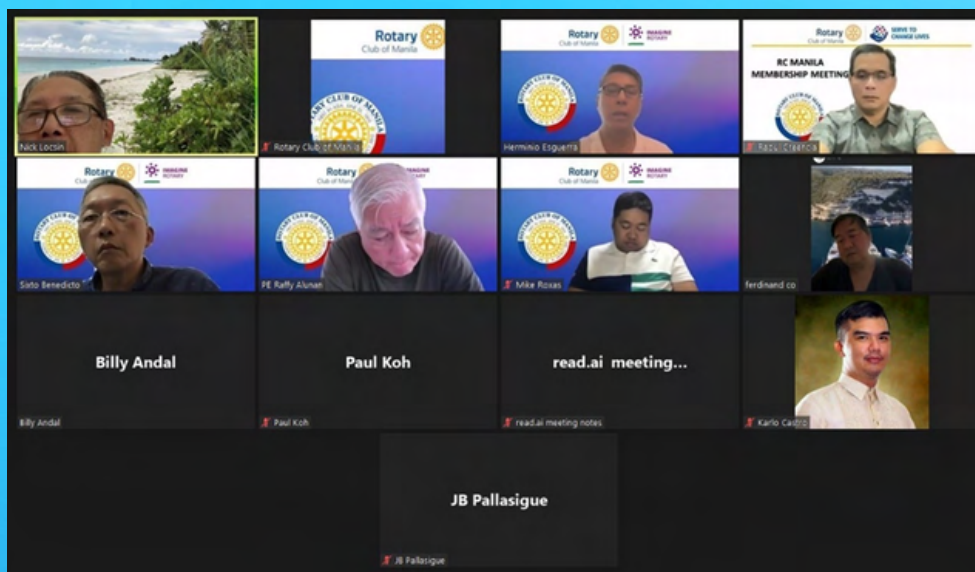
Considering this, I am uncertain if I will be able to attend and preside over our virtual 29th Weekly Membership Meeting; it all depends on how strong the internet connection is.

Meanwhile, I am happy to share with you all the activities and events I attended during the past two weeks.

Meeting of Members Attending the 53rd Charter Anniversary

Monday, 20 February 2023

RC Manila members attending the 53rd Charter Anniversary to be held from March 5 to 7, 2023 had a meeting on February 20. With me at the meeting were PE/Dir. Raffy Alunan, Treas. Karlo Castro, BLA Raoul Creencia, PDG Vince Carlos, PD Nick Locsin, PD Noy Benedicto, STAR Rtn. Billy Andal, STAR Rtn. Paul Koh, STAR Rtn. Mike Roxas, PDSAA Ferdie Co and Rtn. JB Pallasigue.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Governor's Visit at the Rotary Club of Manila 101

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

I attended the Governor's Visit at the Rotary Club of Manila 101 (PLP Maria Paz Calaguian-Mejia) on February 21 at the Philippine Red Cross.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Turning Over of Sympathy Fund to Syria through the Consulate of Syria

Thursday, 23 February 2023

I led the RCM officers and members in turning over the PHP 114,000.00 sympathy fund for the earthquake victims in Syria through Consulate of Syria's Consul General/Past Dir. Issam Eldebs

With me at the Consulate of Syria were PDG Obet Pagdanganan, Dir. Johnny Chotrani, SAA Nagi Zeitouni, Rtn. Rami Chahwan, RCMFI Board Legal Adviser Jordan Pizarra and Trustee PD Oscar del Rosario Sr.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY



RCMFI Board Legal Adviser Jordan Pizarra presented his personal donation to Syria through Consul General/PD Mohammed Issam Eldebs.



Thank you message from the Consulate of Syria

PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Turning Over of Sympathy Fund to Türkiye through the Embassy of Türkiye in the Philippines

Thursday, 23 February 2023

Together with PDG Obet Pagdanganan, VP Reggie Yu, Dir. Johnny Chotrani, SAA Nagi Zeitouni and PD Oscar del Rosario, we presented the sympathy fund donated by RCM members to His Excellency Niyazi Evren Akyol, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Türkiye to the Philippines.



With Turkish Ambassador Niyazi Akyol

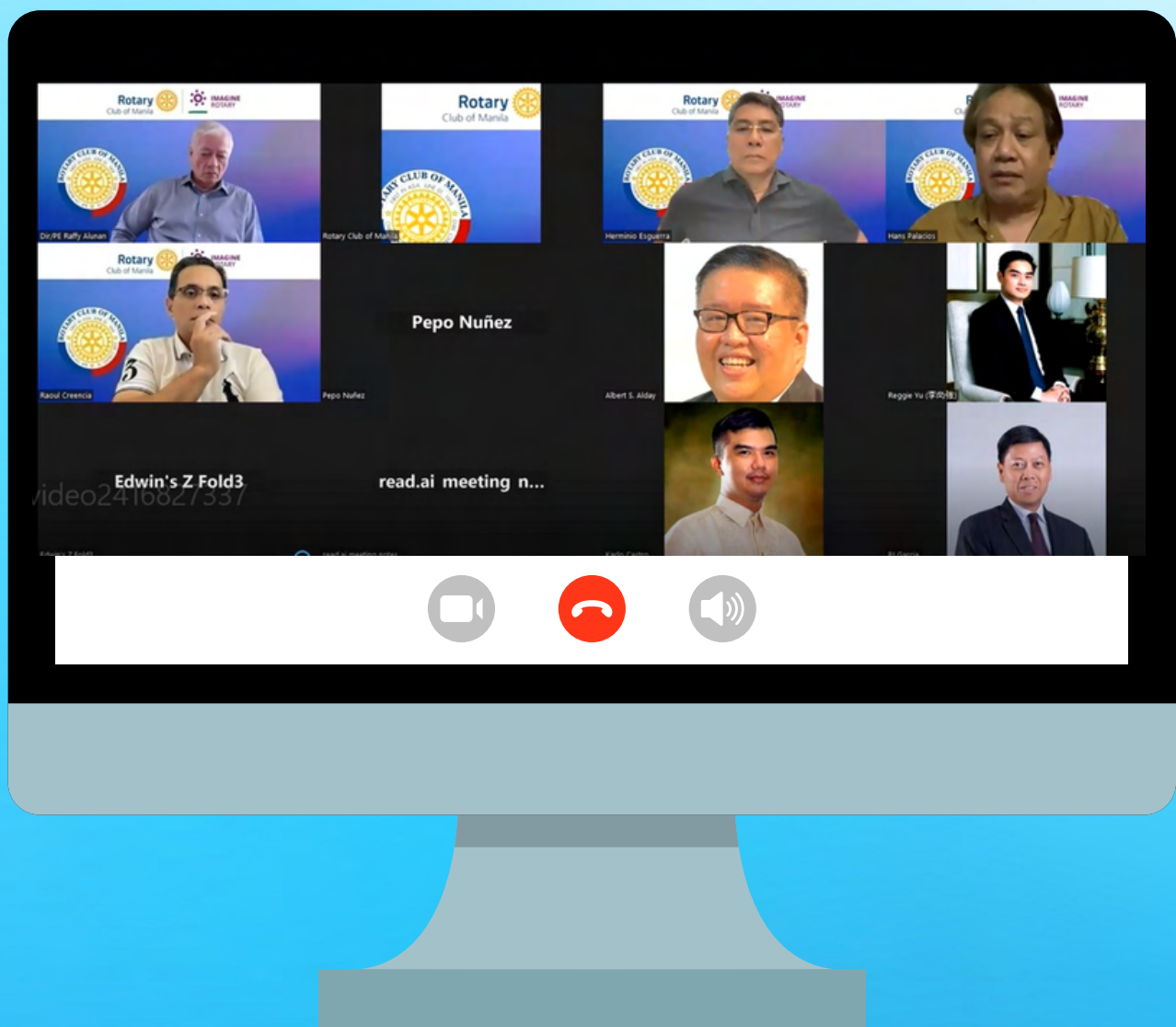


PRESIDENT'S DIARY

6th Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, 23 February 2023, 2:30 p.m.

We had our 6th Regular Board Meeting last Thursday, February 23. With me at the meeting were VP Reggie Yu, PE/Dir. Raffy Alunan, Dir. Hans Palacios, Dir. Albert Alday, Sec. Edwin Hernandez, Treas. Karlo Castro, Board Legal Adviser Raoul Creencia and Asst. Treas. PJ Garcia.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

District 3810 Meeting for the Month of February

Thursday, 23 February 2023, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

I attended the District 3810 monthly meeting last Thursday, February 23, presided by RI District 3810 DG Joyce Michelle Ambray and attended by Phenomenal Leader Presidents and District Officers.



During the meeting, I presented the Four-Way Test Video of the Rotary Club of Manila.



VP Reggie Yu presented the upcoming District Event – RYLA 2022-2023 (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), which will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Manila on March 11-12, 2023.

PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Friday Prayer and Turning Over of Donations to the Newly Constructed Masjid Al-Hidaya in Taguig City

Friday, 24 February 2023, 11:00 a.m.

The Rotary Club of Manila recently made a concerted effort to promote the Area of Focus: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention by providing four ceiling fans and six carpets for praying to Masjid Al-Hidaya, a new mosque in Taguig City. This donation helps make the mosque more comfortable for our 120 Muslim brothers and sisters. A testimony to our club's commitment to cultivating harmony, all Muslim members of RCM are also invited to visit and pray at the mosque.

On February 24, we attended their Holy Friday Prayer service. During this special occasion, I was delighted to contribute Php 100,000 for buying the construction materials needed to finish the mosque. PD Issam Eldebs also donated a Holy Quran.

The next step we are taking is to help them raise enough funds to complete the construction of the mosque.

RCM is delighted to support Masjid Al-Hidaya in providing a safe and welcoming place of worship. We hope that this gesture serves as a reminder of Rotary's commitment to creating a more peaceful world, one step at a time. We are proud to be helping Masjid Al-Hidaya in its mission to spread the message of peace and understanding among Filipinos and Muslims in our country and around the world.

Together, we can make a positive difference in the world by working toward peace, understanding, and inclusion.



Yours truly handing over my Php 100,000 donation to buy the construction materials needed to finish the mosque.

PRESIDENT'S DIARY



The Muslim congregants happily received our donation of four ceiling fans and six prayer rugs.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY



PD Issam Eldebs (Chairman, Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee), Rtn. Rami Chahwan and I attended the Holy Friday Prayer service at Masjid Al-Hidaya.



The Imam of Masjid Al-Hidayah gifted me with an essential compass to accurately point toward the Qibla (the direction in which Muslims stand before Allah to offer their daily prayers). The gift also featured a set of prayer beads and several meaningful quotes from the Holy Quran.

PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Occidental Mindoro Community Service Caravan

27 February to 3 March 2023

Day 1: 27 February 2023

Our team of 35 Phenomenal Leader Presidents and District 3810 Officers were warmly welcomed by the Rotary Club of Abra de Ilog Central.



We made a courtesy visit to the local government of the Municipality of Abra de Ilog. This photo was taken at the office of Abra de Ilog Vice Mayor Orlando "Boyot" Quito.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Our group, led by DG Joyce Ambray, had the privilege of unveiling the Four-Way Test Marker in Abra de Ilog.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

We then went to the Ministries without Borders to distribute the 30 wheelchairs donated by Phenomenal Leader President Jun Francis Pasion of RC Pasay CyberCity.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

We also distributed the eyeglasses that I donated to the local residents. It was a meaningful moment to witness the joy of the people we were able to touch through our service.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

We went to Katutubo Village in Balete, Abra De Ilog to distribute the toilet bowls donated by PP Arsenic Ong of RC Downtown Manila.



DG Joyce Ambray and yours truly installing a toilet bowl.

PRESIDENT'S DIARY



DG Joyce Ambray teaching the locals proper bathing etiquette and hygiene



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

In the evening, we held the Charter presentation of Rotary Club of Abra de Ilog Central under District Governor Joyce Ambray's guidance. I was honored to preside over the historic occasion as a new daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila came into being, an event that will be remembered by all who attended.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY



With RC Abra de Ilog Central Charter President Gemma Louise Parcia



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

Day 2: 28 February 2023

9:30 a.m. to 10:45am

We had the unveiling of the 4-Way Test Marker of RC Mamburao Central.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

I obliged to the live interview by Kang Bina, 104.1 Bambi FM local radio station in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro.



We had a quick lunch at Thalia's Events Place.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

12:30 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.

We had a meeting with the teachers and caretakers at Mamburao Central School and distributed essential goods to 54 children with learners' disability at the SPED Center.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

2:52 p.m. to 4:55 p.m.

We distributed the donation of solar power lights, vitamins, hygiene kits, lice removal shampoo, clothes, slippers, food packs and rice, and installed the Jetmatic pump in Karyandangan Elementary School in Barangay Tangkalan.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

5:15 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

We distributed the eyeglasses, wheelchair and pneumonia vaccines at Mamburao Central School.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

I attended the Governor's Visit to RC Mamburao Central.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

9:00 p.m. (Feb 28) to 12:30 a.m. (March 1)

I attended the Rotary Club of Mamburao Central Handover and Induction Ceremonies, an event that lasted past midnight.

I also donated Php 75,000 to help finance some of the projects of RC Mamburao Central.



PRESIDENT'S DIARY

I would like to share with you our itinerary for Day 3 and Day 4 of the Community Service Caravan.

Day 3: 1 March 2023

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast in Windmill resort
8:00 a.m.	Leave for San Jose
11:00 a.m.	Lunch at Grandiya
12:30 p.m.	Check in at Sikatuna or Season's Hotel
1:30 p.m.	Dispensing of eyeglasses (100), pneumonia vaccines (100) and solar lights (12) at San Jose National High School
3pm to 5pm	One-on-one and Governor's Visit at RC San Jose Downtown, RC San Jose Tamaraw and RC Sablayan Metro at Divine Word College Conference room
5:00 p.m.	Back to hotel
6:00 p.m.	Induction of 4 Rotary Clubs at Divine Word Gymnasium

Day 4: 2-3 March 2023

7:00 am	Breakfast at Sikatuna or Season's Hotel and check out, load in bus
8:00 am	Island hopping c/o PP Ciony
8:00 am	Dental care services
12:00 noon	Healthy Lunch at Sikatuna
3:00 p.m.	PLP One on One with DG
4:00 p.m.	GV of RC San Jose
5:00 p.m.	Induction and fellowship, attire: luau
9:00 p.m.	Back to Abra
1:00 a.m.	To Batangas
4:00 a.m.	Batangas to Aloha hotel
6:00 a.m.	Drop off at Aloha hotel, Roxas Blvd.

The clubs of Occidental Mindoro's needs and requests:

RC Abra de Ilog Central

1. Eyeglasses – 130 pieces at Php500 each (donated by yours truly)
2. Toilet bowls – 15 pieces (sponsored by PP Arsenic Ong of RC Downtown Manila)
3. Construction cost of toilets - 15 pieces x Php 3,000 each = Php 49,000 (paid by DG Joyce Ambray)
4. Used clothing – DES Mark Tan, SDG Michelle Khader
5. Solar light systems – 6 sets at Php 3,000 each (2 by PLP Ann Tria of RC Lubang Island and PLP Emelie Pagtakhan of RC Hiyas ng Bacoar)
6. Street lights – 5 pieces at Php 5,000 each
7. Hygiene kits – 100 packs (from AS Ana Villegas of RC San Marcelino Manila)
8. Pneumonia vaccines – 100 pieces (by DOH through USec Eric Tayag of RC Manila 101)
9. Lisa shampoo sachets (by DES Mark Tan)
10. Wheelchairs – 30 pieces (donated by PLP Jun Pasion of RC Cybercity)

PRESIDENT'S DIARY

RC Mamburao

1. Eyeglasses – 60 pieces at Php 500 each (donated by yours truly)
2. Solar light systems – 24 sets at Php 3,000 each (Php 50,000 donated by PLP Jun Pasion of RC Cybercity)
3. Hygiene kits – 60 packs (from DES Mark Tan)
4. Lunch treat for SPED students – Php 15,000
5. Pneumonia vaccines- 200 pieces (by DOH through USec Eric Tayag of RC Manila 101)
6. Lice shampoo sachets (by DES Mark Tan)
7. Wheelchairs - 2 pieces (donated by SDG MaryMei Rodrigo)

RC San Jose, RC San Joe Tamaraw and RC San Jose Central

1. Eyeglasses – 100 pieces at Php 500 each (donated by yours truly)
2. Solar light systems – 6 sets at Php 3,000 each
3. Hygiene kits – 200 packs (60 by AS Osang Blanco of RC Tondo Metro)
4. Pneumonia vaccines – 100 pieces (by DOH through Usec Eric Tayag of RC Manila 101)
5. Wheelchairs - 2 pieces (donated by SDG MaryMei Rodrigo)
6. Groceries and Rice (donated by SDG MaryMei Rodrigo)

D3810

1. Bus – Php 126,000 (sponsored by DG Joyce Ambray)
2. Used clothing (PLPs and Officers)
3. Hotel with breakfast (Rotary way)
4. Bus breakfast (by DG Joyce Ambray)
5. Dengue kits and medicines (SDG Michelle Khader)
6. Eyeglasses - worth Php 300,000 (by yours truly)

As the President of the Rotary Club of Manila, it has been a privilege to be able to represent our club in various activities and events. It is my hope that through these service projects and initiatives, we make meaningful contributions toward improving people's lives both locally and globally.

Let us continue working together for humanity, as there is still much work left ahead of us as leaders in Service Above Self.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Pres. Hermie Esguerra

EDITOR'S NOTE

Raoul C. Creencia
Editor-in-Chief, balita

Cooperativism. Cooperatives have been in existence in the Philippines since 1915. Since then, the cooperative has been the policy tool or instrument of the government in its effort to promote social justice and economic development.

The policy is well enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which provides the enactment of cooperative legislation. Notably, the provisions on National Economy and Patrimony state the goals of the national economy, which is, “a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.” “In pursuit of these goals,” Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution tells us, “all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop. Private enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall be encouraged to broaden the base of their ownership.”



Cooperatives is mentioned in the above-quoted provision; and interestingly, the Constitution in fact mentions cooperatives five times. Specifically, the fundamental law mandates Congress to allow small-scale utilization of natural resources by cooperative fish farming, prioritizing subsistence fishers and fish workers in rivers, lakes, bays, and lagoons. Under the Constitution, cooperatives are encouraged to own and operate economic enterprises to promote distributive justice. Thus, the basic law of the land envisions the promotion of cooperatives in various sectors of the economy, the expansion of economic base, and the mobilization of the less privilege members of the society to actively participate in nation-building.

Conformably with the Constitutional mandate, the Philippine Congress passed the Cooperative Code (Republic Act 6938) and Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Charter (RA 6939) on March 10, 1990.

The policy of the state, as articulated in the Cooperative Code, encourages “the creation and growth of cooperatives as practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice. The State shall encourage the private sector to undertake the actual formation and organization of cooperatives and shall create an atmosphere that is conducive to the growth and development of these cooperatives.”

Various writers have opined that, as a help-help organization, and with proper monitoring and support of the government, cooperatives can contribute to rapid economic growth because of the power of cooperatives to mobilize savings and capital which can serve as inputs in the production of goods and services of the less privileged members of the society. The various development plans crafted for the country in fact recognizes cooperatives to provide a significant contribution in the objectives of creating rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth, as well as financial inclusion and reduction of poverty. In fine, encouraging cooperatives to flourish would surely engender the shift towards an economic system that is based on collective cooperation where the marginalized sectors are drawn into the mainstream of national development, and where the people have access and control over their resources.

28TH REGULAR MEETING: A RECAP



The 28th Regular Meeting, which Manila Rotarians were able to join virtually, had **BLA Raoul Creencia** as Program Moderator/Facilitator.



Sounding the bell, **Vice Pres. Reggie Yu** called the meeting to order.



Humbly calling upon our loving Father God, **PD Raoul Villegas** led the Invocation and Special Prayer.



The singing of the **Philippine National Anthem** was made more meaningful and alive by the **Rotary Club of Manila Audiovisual Presentation**, featuring captivating images of Manila Rotarians.



STAR Rtn. Philip Brian Wombwell led the recitation of the Four (4) Way Test.

28TH REGULAR MEETING: A RECAP



Singing the **Philippine Rotary Hymn** together, everybody's Rotarian spirit was again electrified.



The Moderator acknowledged and introduced the Visiting Guests and Rotarians.



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



The week's birthday celebrants were duly acknowledged, namely **IPP Chito Zaldarriaga, PAT Willy Lim, Rtn. Tobi Rast, STAR Rtn. Nico Hallare, Rtn. Jordan Pizarras** and **Rtn. Klaus Mueller**. This was followed by the singing of the Club's unique and jolly birthday song, led by the **World Famous Music Chorale**

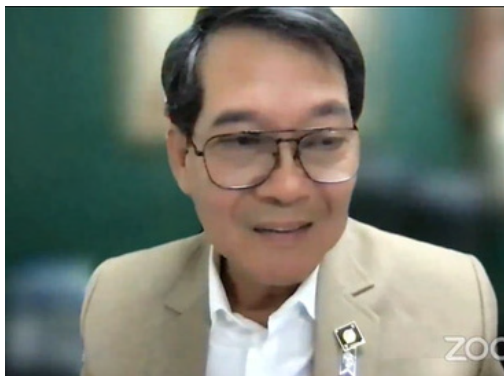
28TH REGULAR MEETING: A RECAP



Rtn. Sebastian Arsenio R. "Basti" Lacson, CEO Prime Metro BMD Corporation, delivered his classification talk.



PDG Rudy Bediones introduced the **Guest Speaker, PDG Samuel "Sammy" Pagdilao, Jr.,** Rotary Club of New Manila East, RI District 3780.



Guest Speaker PDG Samuel "Sammy" Pagdilao, Jr. delivered his speech.

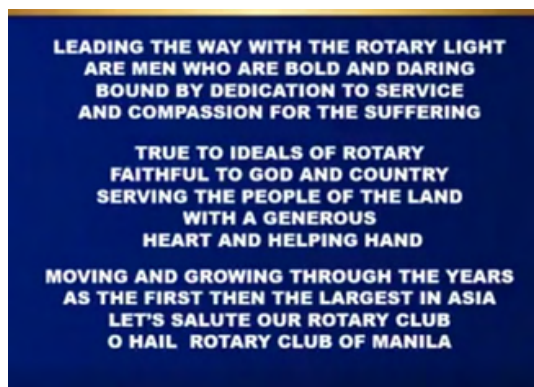


Important and interesting matters were further discussed and clarified during the open forum participated by **PD Issam Eldebs, Rtn. Inggy Bertelsen, Dir. Hans Palacios** and **Rtn. Joel Valdes.**

28TH REGULAR MEETING: A RECAP



President Hermie Esguerra and Programs Committee Chairman IPD Amading Valdez present the Certificate of Appreciation, attested by Club Secretary Edwin Hernandez, to Classification Speaker Rtn. Arsenio R. "Basti" Lacson and to Guest Speaker PDG Samuel "Sammy" Pagdilao, Jr.



The **World Famous Music Chorale** led the members in singing the **RC Manila Hymn**.

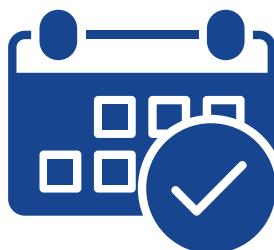


VP Reggie Yu delivered his closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2022-2023

FEBRUARY 2023	02 February 2023 PROJECT REPORT - REAP by Centennial Pres. Susing Pineda and Co-Chairman Rtn. Romy Nones	09 February 2023 House Committee Report and Classification Talk by Rtn. Emman dela Cruz	16 February 2023 PDG Sammy Pagdilaog and Classification Talk by Rtn. Basti Lacson
All Members Present	40	56	46
All Members in virtual FB	24	0	0
Make Up	6	6	7
Less: Exempt from Attendance	4	6	5
On Leave	0	0	0
Total Active Members	66	56	48
Total # of Members	239	239	239
TOTAL ATTENDANCE %:	28%	23%	20%
ROTARACTORS	0	0	0
MEDIA	0	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	1	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG/DGE	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	0	1
Visiting Rotarians	5	0	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	12	0	2
Others	0	0	0
Total attendees	81	57	49



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

(As of March 1, 2023, 11:00 AM)

FULLY PAID

1	Aboy, Valentino "Val" G.
2	Abriam, Ariel
3	Acosta, Crispiniano "Cris" G.
4	Agnes, Jerry A.
5	Albaña, Michael Jaey "Mike"
6	Alberto, Raymund Arnold S.
7	Alcantara, Isidro "Butch"
8	Alday, Albert S.
9	Alingog, Aldous "Rex" A.
10	Alunan, Rafael "Raffy" M.
11	Alvarez, Servando, Jr.
12	Ampil, Alvin
13	Ang, Richard T.
14	Angara, Marius
15	Aragon, Joshua
16	Arguelles, Pablo
17	Aventura, Avenilo, Jr. "Jun" L.
18	Balanay, Aries
19	Bartolome, Arsenio III "Archit" M.
20	Batur, Sinan
21	Bediones, Rodolfo "Rudy" P.
22	Bella, Geronimo, Jr. "Jun" Dela Paz
23	Benedicto, Sixto "Noy" T.
24	Bertelsen, Bertel Ingmar
25	Bhalla, Pardeep "Bobby"
26	Blanco, Manuel "Manny" M.
27	Biltz, Oliver
28	Bogovich, Jason M.
29	Branellec, Jacques "Jack"
30	Buendia, Carlos "Caloy" C.
31	Caasi, Urbano, Jr. "Banit" S.
32	Cabangon, Edgard
33	Cabuñag, Rogelio "Roger" R.
34	Canon, Raul
35	Campos, Joselito, Jr. "Butch" D.
36	Camus, Fernando "Nando"
37	Carlos, Vicente "Vince" J.
38	Carranceja, Arvin Arik
39	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef "Karlo"
40	Catalan, Rodillo "Teng"
41	Cenica, John T.
42	Chahwan, Rami
43	Chotrani, Johnny N.
44	Co, Ferdinand "Ferdie" C.
45	Coyiuto, Robert, Jr. "Jun" G.

46	Creencia, Raoul
47	Cruz, Avelino "Ave" V.
48	Cureg, Alexander "Alex" P.
49	Cutter, John Michael "Michael"
50	David, Virgilio "Vee"
51	Davis, Raymond "Rey" N.
52	Dayang, Juan, Jr. "Jed" E.
53	De Venecia, Jose "Joe" C.
54	Dee, Marcus L.
55	Del Rosario, Oscar
56	Del Valle, Randolph "Randy"
57	Dela Cruz, Artemio "Art"
58	Dela Cruz, Emmanuel
59	Diokno, Benjamin "Ben" E.
60	Dionisio, Rafael Ignacio "Raf"
61	Domingo, Rico V.
62	Dominguez, III, Carlos "Sonny" G.
63	Dy, Manuel "Manny" C.
64	Echavez, Antonio
65	Egan, Brendan "Bren" W.L.
66	Eldebs, Issam "Sam"
67	Engelbrecht, Francois
68	Enriquez, Eduardo III "Jujut" V.
69	Esguerra, Herminio "Hermie" S.
70	Esquivias, Joaquin Pablo "Jop" A.
71	Eugenio, John Emyl "Emyl" G.
72	Evaristo, Frank A.
73	Everingham, Richard Jack
74	Fajardo, Beda G.
75	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V. "JJ"
76	Follosco, Ceferino, Jr. "Jun" G.
77	Garcia, Herbert Joey "Joey" D.
78	Garcia, Paul Joseph "PJ"
79	Garcia, Theodore
80	Garcia, Victor
81	Gaspar, Fernando "Nando" L.
82	Gierran, Dante "Dan"
83	Go, Daniel "Danny" C.
84	Go, Henry Sy
85	Go, Michael
86	Gonzales, Michael Raymond
87	Guarin, Michael Arcatomy "Mike" H.
88	Guevara, Domingo, Jr. "Boy" S.
89	Guevara, Ricardo "Ricky" S.
90	Hallare, Delfin, Jr. "Jun" T.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

91	Hallare, Nicolo "Nic"S.
92	Hallerbach, Mathias
93	Harle, Wolfgang Kurt
94	Hernandez, Edwin
95	Hesse, Uwe
96	Hortaleza, Rolando
97	Ibuyan, Benedict Julius "Ben"
98	Jang, Jae "Jay-Jay" J.
99	Joseph, Ralph L.
100	Joseph, Robert Ian "Robi" M.
101	Jucaban, Jeric J.
102	Juico, Francis E.
103	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro IV "Teddy" A. Y.
104	Koh, Paul Anthony
105	Lacambacal, Alvin D.
106	Lacson, Sebastian "Basty"
107	La'o, Emilio Gonzalez
108	Laya, Jaime "Jimmy" C.
109	Lazaro, Juan Miguel "Miguel"
110	Ledda, Jaime Victor "Jet" B.
111	Lee, Richard "Dick" L.
112	Li, Richard Joseph Chang
113	Liamzon, Romeo Thaddeus "Thad" R.
114	Lim, David Eduardo Ty
115	Lim, Richard
116	Locsin, Arsenio "Nick" Z.
117	Locsin, Roberto R.
118	Lonzaga, Reinerio "Ner" C.
119	Lopa, Antonio "Tony" A.
120	Lopez, Antonio "Tony"
121	Lopez, Arthur "Art" M.
122	Macapagal, Michael "Mac"
123	Macatoman, Abdulgani "Gani"
124	Magbanua, Gerry
125	Magpale, Jose Paolo
126	Magsaysay, Francisco "Paco" D.
127	Manalaysay, Cesar P "Citos"
128	Mangalile, Senen
129	Martinez, Ronald
130	Masters, Lance A.
131	Matschuck, Guenter "Gunter" G.
132	Mauricio, Antonilo "Anton"
133	Mendoza, Estelito "Titong" P.
134	Mendoza, Raymund Joseph Ian "Raji" O.
135	Mommaerts, Steve "Momo"
136	Montel, Juan Manuel C.
137	Montinola, Antonio "Tony" J.
138	Mueller, Klaus
139	Narayanamoorthy, Nantha K.
140	Nolido, Ramon Alberto "Ramby" B.

141	Nones, Romeo "Romy" C.
142	Nunez, Jose, Jr. "Pepo" A.
143	Ocampo, Teodoro "Teddy" J.
144	Okajima, Hiroyuki
145	Ong, Jovee K.
146	Ong, Phillip "Phil" L.
147	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L. "Mike"
148	Pagdanganan, Roberto "Obet" M.
149	Palacios, Albert "Hans" C.
150	Pallasigue, John Brian "JB"
151	Pascual, Abraham "Abe" F.
152	Pascual, Jose Augusto "Jappy"
153	Patterson, Colin David
154	Payumo, Felicito "Tong" C.
155	Peliño, Wilfredo "Willie" M.
156	Pineda, Jr., Jesus "Susing" M.
157	Pineda, Jr., Patricio "Bebot" F.
158	Pizarra, Jordan M.
159	Preysler, Fausto, Jr. R.
160	Pujalte, Jose, Jr. "Brix" S.
161	Quisumbing, Ramon "Mon" J.
162	Ramos, Claver P.
163	Rast, Tobias "Tobi"
164	Recto, Philip H.
165	Reyes, Crispino "Babes" P.
166	Reyes, Edgardo "Ed" P.
167	Reynolds, David John "Dave"
168	Rodriguez, Gerard Sean "Sean" H.
169	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jack" H.
170	Rodriguez, Joaquin "Jackie" C.
171	Romualdez, Jose Manuel "Babe" G.
172	Rono, Marlon
173	Roxas, Michael
174	Sarmiento, Ricardo Manuel "Rocco" M.
175	Sarasola, II, Jose Ma. "Joey" I.
176	Schmitz, Steffan
177	Schneider, Bernd
178	Schoucair, Farid Alain
179	Serapio, Carlos G. "Caloy"
180	Sevilla, Luis Angelo "L.A." L.
181	Shigei, Kentaro
182	Shimoda, Shigeru
183	Sibayan, Joselito "Lito" H.
184	Sicat, Michael Allan E. "Mike"
185	So, Warren
186	Sobrepeña, Robert John "Bob" L.
187	Soler, Jose Antonio Andaya
188	Souvlakis, Nicolas
189	Stranathan, Ike
190	Syjuco, Jose, Jr. "Joey" A.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

191	Tagaysay, Hector "Chito"
192	Talampas, Jose Angel "Joel"
193	Talusan, Ferdinand "Inov"
194	Tamano, Shalimar "Shah" H.
195	Tamayo, Victor "Butch" L.
196	Tan, Eusebio "Ebot" V.
197	Tan, John
198	Tan, Lawrence "Lance" L.
199	Tang, Jimmy T.
200	Tanglao, Noel V.
201	Taylor-Dormond , Marvin
202	Tee, Jr., Teddy B.
203	Tejuma, Michael "Mike"
204	Tillmann, Hansel Joseph Michael "Hansel"
205	Uy, Ivan John Enrile "Ivan"
206	Valdes, Joel C.
207	Valdez, Amado "Amading" D.
208	Valdez, Jason
209	Valencia, John Nico "Nico" P.
210	Valencia, Rodolfo "Rod" G.
211	Vasquez, Evaristo "Junjie"

212	Vea, Reynaldo "Rey" B.
213	Villarica, Henry R.
214	Villegas, Raoul A.
215	Wombwell, Philip Brian
216	Yap, Enrique, Jr. "Rickie" Y.
217	Yu, Geoffrey "Geof" C.
218	Yu, Reginald "Reggie" T.
219	Zalamea, Enrique, Jr. "Rick" M.
220	Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco "Chito" S.
221	Zeitouni, Nagi
222	Zialcita, Xavier "Xavy" Y.
223	Zimmer, Christopher
224	Zosa, Rolando "Roy" M.

PARTIALLY PAID

1	Andal, Avelino "Billy"
2	Bolton, Wilhelm "Bollie"
3	Yujuico, Brendon

DECEASED

1	Abastillas, Celso E.
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THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

2023 Impact Philanthropists Banquet Manila



Honoring the most generous Filipino Rotarians: the AKS members of the Philippines. There are only 39 of them.



The 2023 Impact Philanthropists Banquet Manila was held last Saturday, February 18, 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Manila, Bonifacio Global City. In attendance were PDG Rudy Bediones, PDG Alex and Anna Cureg, and DGN Jackie Rodriguez. The parents of Treas. Karlo Castro were also recognized.

Both DGN Jackie Rodriguez and PDG Alex & Anna Cureg received the AKS Philanthropy Award in the presence of Past RI Pres. John Germ.

Pres. Hermie Esguerra, who was out of the country, sent his congratulations to the honorees.

RCMANILA FOUNDATION INC.

The RCManila Foundation Inc. Board of Trustees Holds Monthly Meeting



The RCManila Foundation Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting last Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in a hybrid mode at the office of Chairman PD Pepo Nuñez.

Meeting in person were Chairman/PD Pepo Nuñez, Pres/PT Lito Sibayan, Trustee/DGN Jackie Rodriguez, Trustee/PDG Vince Carlos, Trustee/PD Oscar del Rosario and Asst. Sec. Anton Mauricio. Present via Zoom were Trustee/Pres. Hermie Esguerra, Trustee/IPP Chito Zaldarriaga, Trustee/VP Reggie Yu, Trustee/Dir. Albert Alday, Trustee/Treas. Paco Magsaysay, Trustee/PD Abe Pascual, Sec Joel Valdes and Board Legal Adviser Jordan Pizaras.

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Tree Planting Initiative Along the Esteros of Binondo, Chinatown

In August last year, a meeting was held between DENR officials, Rotary Club of Manila Pasig River Clean Up Project Members led by DGN Jackie C. Rodriguez, Director Hans C. Palacios, RTN. Henry Go, EA Anna Toledo and officials of the various Barangays in the Chinatown Area, led by Barangay Captain Jefferson Lau in order to kick off a Rotary Club of Manila Pasig River Clean Up Project.

It was agreed that to start off this legacy project it would be appropriate to improve the appearance of the esteros in the Binondo/Chinatown area by conducting a tree planting program that would line the pathways of the Esteros with either Indian trees or Cherry Blossom trees.

Today, the 1st of March, the first 150 of 300 Palawan Cherry Blossom Seedlings were turned over to the League of Manila Chinatown Barangay Organizations, represented by Mr. Jefferson Lau.



From left: Rtn. Henry Go, Chairman Junjie Vasquez, DENR Regional Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan, Dir. Hans C. Palacios, DGN Jackie C. Rodriguez, Asst. Regional Director Almira Ignacio Jr.



Brgy. Captain Jefferson Lau, representing and leading the League of Manila Chinatown Barangay Organization



DGN Jackie C. Rodriguez congratulating the Program Emcee Dra. Merle Faustino of City Hall and Justice Jose Abad Santos General Hospital

YOUTH SERVICE

Manila Rotarians Attend 24th Induction and 23rd Handover Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of De LaSalle University



VPE/VP Reggie Yu, DE/Dir. Hans Palacios and AS/DE Mike Albaña attended the 24th Induction and 23rd Handover Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of De LaSalle University last Saturday, February 18, 2023 at the Lights of Love Events Place in Quezon City. The Rotary Club of Manila is the Mother Club of the Rotaract Club of De LaSalle University.

RECOGNITION



Lakan Dula Elementary School in Tondo, Manila presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Rotary Club of Manila through Grant Chairman STAR Rtn. Aries Balanay for considering their school as a beneficiary of the Rotary Global Grant Vision Care project.

COGS IN THE WHEEL

Flag Exchange with the Rotary Club of San Mateo



Flag exchange with the Rotary Club of San Mateo, California, USA President Dick Bennett (extreme right), PE John Barrett Jr. (extreme left), and fellow visiting Rtn. Rajiv's Silva of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Rotary Club of San Mateo is among the pioneer US clubs as they celebrate their centennial anniversary in 2024.

We likewise commenced our roadshow to the other Rotary Clubs in the Bay Area highlighting the award to Manila as the 2028 RI Convention venue as well as the ongoing preparations leading to it.

COGS IN THE WHEEL

Consul General at the Philippine Consulate General in New York/Rtn. Senen Mangalile Receives a Token from RC Queensborough West



A token from RC Queensborough West to Consul General at the Philippine Consulate General in New York/Rtn. Senen Mangalile

COGS IN THE WHEEL

Rtn. Jed Dayang Attends Rotary Club of Ankara Meeting and Informs Them of the Rotary Club of Manila's Donation to Türkiye



Rtn. Jed Dayang attended the Rotary International Club of Ankara meeting and informed them of RC Manila's donation to Türkiye through Türkiye Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Niyazi Evren Akyol.

RC Ankara sent their appreciation and gratitude to RC Manila.

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



Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila
balita

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