

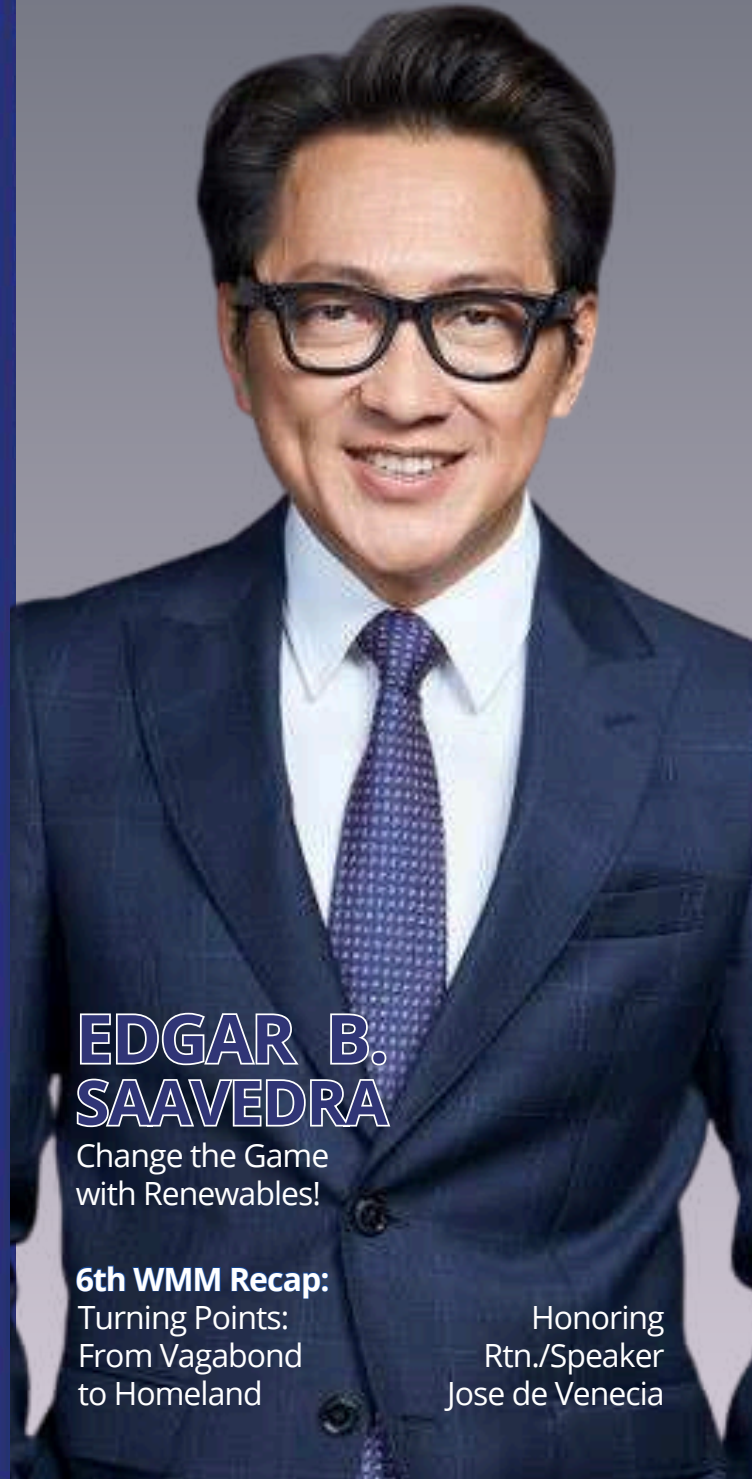
The
HERMA
Group

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila



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ISSUE NO. 4023 • SEPTEMBER 5, 2024



**EDGAR B.
SAAVEDRA**

Change the Game
with Renewables!

6th WMM Recap:
Turning Points:
From Vagabond
to Homeland

Honoring
Rtn./Speaker
Jose de Venecia

PROGRAM

7th Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2024-2025
Thursday, 5 September 2024, 12:30 PM
DUSIT THANI MANILA

Moderator: **PD AMADO “Amading” D. VALDEZ**

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PART I

- 12:00 PM Registration
- 12:15 PM Call to Order | **PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**
- Invocation
PAT KARLO EUGENE JOSEF “KARLO” M. CASTRO
- Philippine National Anthem
AVP of RCM Members
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale
- The Four (4) Way Test
AT JOSHUA RUEBEN “Josh” ARAGON
- Acknowledgement of Guests
PD AMADO “Amading” D. VALDEZ
- Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**
- Birthday Celebrant**
- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Sept 01 | Rtn. John Tan |
| Sept 02 | STAR Rtn. Chris Bello |
| Sept 05 | Rtn. Aldous Alingog |
- Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song*
RCM WF Chorale
- 12:30 PM President’s Time
PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ

PART II

- 12:35 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker
VP JOEL C. VALDES
- Guest of Honor and Speaker**
- Address:**
ENGR. EDGAR B. SAAVEDRA
Founder and Chair, Megawide – Citicore Group
- 1:15 PM Open Forum / Q.A.
- 1:25 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ

PART III

- 1:30 PM Induction of New Members
- Introduction of new members*
- PAT Karlo Eugene Josef “Karlo” M. Castro**
 - PT Joselito “Lito” H. Sibayan**
 - Jonas R. Gonzalez**
 - Valentino S. Bagatsing**
- Charging of New Members
- Oath of Membership | **PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**
- 2:00 PM Adjournment | **PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**

Edgar SAAVEDRA

Founder and Chair
Megawide-Citicore Group



EDGAR B. Saavedra is a distinguished figure in the fields of engineering and infrastructure, renowned for his role as the founder and Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Megawide Construction Corp. Since co-founding the company in 1997, Saavedra has guided Megawide to prominence, transforming it into a leading engineering and infrastructure conglomerate with significant ventures in transportation and real estate.

Under Saavedra's leadership, Megawide has not only achieved remarkable growth but has also made strategic shifts, including the divestment from the Mactan Cebu International Airport joint venture with India's GMR Infrastructure. This move has allowed the company to focus more on its core strengths and innovative projects.



In addition to his role at Megawide, Saavedra spearheads several other influential organizations. He serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PH1 World Developers, Inc., and holds prominent positions at Citicore Holdings Investment, Inc., and Citicore Energy REIT Corp., among others. His leadership extends to multiple roles,

including Chairman of Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC), the Philippines' second-largest solar energy provider by installed capacity.

Saavedra's recent ventures reflect his commitment to sustainability and renewable energy. CREC, which went public in June 2024, is a testament to his forward-thinking approach. With a robust IPO raising PHP 5.3 billion, CREC is set to expand its capacity significantly, aiming for 5 gigawatts in the next five years. This growth trajectory is supported by Saavedra's strategic partnerships and his successful track record in public offerings, including previous IPOs for Megawide and Citicore Energy REIT Corp.

His educational background includes studies at De La Salle University, and his career is marked by a series of transformative projects and successful ventures. Saavedra's vision for clean energy and infrastructure continues to drive his enterprises, contributing to the Philippines' development and sustainability goals.

With ongoing expansions into wind and hydropower, Saavedra remains a pivotal player in shaping the future of renewable energy and infrastructure in the Philippines, demonstrating unwavering dedication to innovation and growth.

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



IN the rapidly evolving landscape of renewable energy, the urgency for sustainable solutions has never been more pronounced. The world stands on the brink of a transformative shift, driven by the escalating impacts of climate change and an ever-pressing need to secure our energy future. As the conversation around energy transitions deepens, the focus must inevitably turn to the innovative efforts that are paving the way forward.

Renewable energy, though burgeoning, is not without its challenges. Regulatory hurdles, the integration of new technologies, and the inherent risks of investment create a complex web of obstacles that must be navigated with care. Yet, it is precisely within these challenges that the seeds of opportunity are sown. Understanding the delicate balance between energy production and consumption is crucial, as it holds the key to unlocking a more secure and economically stable future.

The inconsistency in energy supply, particularly from renewable sources like solar and wind, raises critical questions about how to meet growing demands without compromising reliability. As sectors across the globe ramp up their energy usage, the need for a resilient and

adaptable energy grid becomes increasingly apparent. This dialogue is not just about keeping the lights on; it is about ensuring that the shift to cleaner energy sources does not come at the expense of energy security.

At the forefront of this conversation are the industry leaders whose work is shaping the future of energy. Engr. Edgar Saavedra, with his visionary approach at Megawide Construction Corporation, exemplifies the innovative spirit needed to drive this transformation. His efforts to integrate renewable systems into existing infrastructures and fortify the energy grid are paving the way for a more sustainable and reliable energy landscape.

As the Rotary Club of Manila gathers to explore these critical issues, the discussions promise to be more than just a reflection on the current state of affairs. They will offer a forward-looking perspective, charting a course through the complexities of energy transformation. By addressing the pressing challenges, analyzing the intricate dynamics of supply and demand, and highlighting the strategic initiatives that are making a difference, this dialogue will inspire action and foster a deeper understanding of what it takes to secure a sustainable energy future.

In this pivotal moment, the insights shared will not only inform but also ignite the passion and drive needed to turn vision into reality. The world is at a crossroads, and the decisions made now will reverberate through generations. This is not just a meeting — it is a call to action, a catalyst for meaningful change in the relentless pursuit of energy sustainability.

cover story

Turning Points: From Vagabond to Homeland

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

IN the Chantara Function Room of the **Dusit Thani Manila**, where tradition and modernity converge, the **Rotary Club of Manila** convened for its **6th Weekly Membership Meeting**. The event was a testament to the enduring spirit of Rotary, marked by heartfelt addresses, engaging discussions, and the shared pursuit of service above self.

JOAQUIN "JACKI" C. RODRIGUEZ, SR.
District Governor

Rotary

District 3810



The afternoon began with **President Jujut Enriquez** calling the meeting to order with a commanding presence that set the tone for an inspiring gathering. The invocation was led by **Past Vice-President and RCManila Foundation Chairman Reggie Yu**, whose words of reflection evoked a collective sense of purpose among the attendees. The Philippine National Anthem, rendered through a stirring audiovisual presentation, followed, uniting the members in a display of national pride.



Left photo: President Jujut Enriquez called the meeting to order; Right photo: Past Vice-President and RCManila Foundation Chairman Reggie Yu led the invocation.

As the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn filled the room, the familiar cadence of commitment to the values of the organization resonated with each participant. **Past Director Oscar del Rosario** hosted the program with much flair and deadpan humor that set the tone for the afternoon. **Rotarian J Alfonso L Katigbak** then reminded the assembly of the Four-Way Test, the ethical benchmark guiding Rotarians in their endeavors. This brief yet poignant recitation served as a reminder of the core principles upheld by the Rotary community.



Left photo: Past Director Oscar del Rosario hosted the program; Right photo: Rotarian J Alfonso L Katigbak reminded the assembly of the Four-Way Test

Acknowledgments of guests were made with warmth and enthusiasm, setting the stage for a welcoming atmosphere. The Welcome Song further cemented the spirit of camaraderie that characterizes Rotary gatherings. President Jujut took the podium again for the President's Time, offering reflections and updates that underscored the dynamic and forward-thinking nature of the club's initiatives.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the Classification Talk delivered by **Star Rotarian Chris Bello**. His discourse in entrepreneurship on how he set up his now-thriving 20,000 hectare bangus (milkfish) enterprise in Bulacan, as well as his burgeoning fish feeds business, provided valuable insights into the multifaceted roles and contributions of Rotarians, setting up a context for the ensuing guest speaker's address.



STAR Rotarian Chris Bello delivered his Classification Talk.



The program also saw the much-vaunted **nomination process** for the new set of leaders to guide the club in the upcoming Rotary Year. Twenty-four names emerged as those who have demonstrated the track record, commitment, and qualifications necessary to lead the Rotary Club of Manila with integrity and vision.



Nominators: PP Archit Bartolome, PP Chito Tagaysay, PDG Alex Cureg, PDG Vince Carlos, PBLA Raoul Creencia, Dir. Albert Alday, PD Abe Pascual, Pres. Jujut Enriquez, PT Chito Tagaysay, and Dir. Henry Go

NOMINATION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ROTARY YEAR 2024-2025 HELD Thursday, August 29, 2024, at the Weekly Membership Meeting held at the Chandara Function Room of Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.

Program Moderator PD Oscar del Rosario, Sr. opened the floor for the nomination of Directors of the Board for Rotary Year 2025-2026.

	NOMINATOR		NOMINEE
1	PP Archit Bartolome	1	Dir Rod Valencia
2	PP Chito Zalardriaga	2	PD Hans Palacios
3	PDG Alex Cureg	3	PVP Reggie Yu
		4	PD Noy Benedicto
		5	PBLA Raoul Creencia
4	PDG Vince Carlos	6	Rtn Edgard Cabangon
		7	PAS Rami Chahwan
		8	PS Edwin Hernandez
5	PBLA Raoul Creencia	9	Rtn Paco Magsaysay
		10	Rtn Ricky Guevara
6	Dr Albert Alday	11	Rtn Warren So
		12	PT Karlo Castro
7	PD Abe Pascual	13	PT Lito Sibayan
		14	Rtn Caloy Serapio
8	Pres Jujut Enriquez	15	VP Joel Valdes
		16	Dir. Mike Alabaña
		17	Dir. Teddy Kalaw
		18	Dir. Henry Go
		19	Dir. Nagi Zeitouni
		20	Dir. Albert Alday
		21	Treas. Mike Roxas
9	PT Chito Tagaysay	22	SAA Jason Bogovich
		23	PD Abe Pascual
10	Dir. Henry Go	24	STAR Rtn Del Lorenzana

Upon motion by PP Archit Bartolome, and seconded, the nomination for the Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2025-2026 was closed.

ASST. SECRETARY ARVIN ARIK CARRANCEJA

The introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker was deftly handled by Past Director **Hans Palacios**, who framed the significance of the afternoon's keynote address. **Dermot Doyne, Esq.**, took the stage as the Guest of Honor, bringing with him a compelling narrative of personal and professional evolution.



Guest of Honor and Speaker was deftly handled by Past Director Hans Palacios

Dermot Doyne's story is a remarkable journey from the working-class neighborhoods of London to the halls of legal and civic influence in Boston. Born in 1962 to Irish immigrants, Doyne's early life was shaped by the cultural and economic challenges of post-war London. With little formal education and a background in mechanical work, he embarked on a transformative journey that took him across continents and through a myriad of experiences.



His speech was a candid reflection on life's pivotal decisions and the fortitude required to navigate them. Doyne recounted his adventures, from working in the Bronx to traversing the Outback of Australia and the bustling streets of New Delhi. His travels were driven by a quest for meaning and a desire to reshape his destiny.

Arriving in Boston in 1994, Doyne's initial foray into the workforce at the Parker House Hotel marked the beginning of a profound transformation. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish Penguin Pizza, which became a cornerstone of local political and business circles. Doyne's involvement in community advocacy and union politics underscored his commitment to social justice and equitable representation.

At 50, Doyne pursued a law degree, driven by a deep-seated belief in the power of education and advocacy. His career pivot to representing mental health litigants and his subsequent role in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reflected his enduring dedication to public service.

Doyne's address was marked by a powerful narrative about the impact of personal choices and the importance of seizing opportunities. His reflections on his son's health battles and his own professional transitions illustrated the broader theme of resilience and the profound impact of decisions, both big and small.

In the ensuing question and answer portion, Doyne engaged with the audience, further illuminating his perspectives on advocacy, education, and personal growth. His answers were laced with wisdom gleaned from a life of diverse experiences, resonating deeply with the Rotarians present.



Atty. Dermot Martin Doyne and STAR Rtn. Chris Bello actively engaged in an interactive conversation during the open forum.



Pres. Jujut Enriquez, Rtn. Paul Kho, and PD Oscar Del Rosario during the open forum



STAR Rtn. Chris Bello and Atty. Dermot Martin Doyne received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation, witnessed by, PD Oscar Del Rosario, PD Hans Palacios, Pres. Jujut Enriquez, and Rtn. J Alfonso A Katigbak.

As the meeting drew to a close, President Jujut adjourned the session, leaving the attendees with a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration. The gathering not only highlighted the achievements and ongoing efforts of the Rotary Club of Manila but also reinforced the universal values of perseverance, service, and the transformative power of choices.



Indubitably, the Rotary Club of Manila's Weekly Membership Meeting continues to be a testament to the enduring spirit of Rotary and the profound impact of individual decisions on the broader tapestry of human experience.

ENRIQUEZ

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**Philippine
Airlines**

The Heart of the Filipino

by PBLA Raoul Creencia



“BOARD ADVISERS”

THE RCM Board has recently appointed Board Advisers to assist “in promoting effective strategies for membership development, enhancing club fellowship, improving (the Club’s) public image, and ensuring the efficient management of projects for the Rotary Club of Manila.” Apart from appointing the regular set of officers who have been working hard in ensuring a magical year, several others were tapped to give complementary support to the Board. This is indeed a wise move on the part of President Jujut’s Board; for truly, getting inputs especially from past officers and veteran members will certainly be a helpful addition. It also shows the Board’s openness to get and perhaps adopt the views and recommendations of other RCMers.

Three Board Advisers were appointed by the Board – Past President Archit Bartolome, Past President Hermie Esguerra, and yours truly. As former presidents of the Club, PPs Archit and Hermie indeed possess the exposure and a wealth of experience (and wisdom) to assist the current Board in, among others, “promoting effective strategies” to improve the all-around performance of our Club. These two past presidents have already been at the driver’s seat and would certainly be able to help the Board this Rotary year. As for me, it was actually a big

surprise when President Jujut informed me about the appointment. As everyone knows, I am relatively new to the Club and have only served under two Presidents – PP Hermie and IPP Raffy. I can only hope that my experience in these two years (and my professional experience outside of RCM) will be enough to enable me to judiciously and competently perform my new role. This is truly a humbling appointment, and I can only say “thank you” to President Jujut and the members of the Board for trusting me enough to be of any meaningful help and assistance.

The majority of our current Board are actually veteran directors who have served for a couple of years already (some having served in the District level, in fact), and I believe that they have the experience to lead the Club. In its collective wisdom, the Board has however decided, and rightly so, to get the perspective and inputs especially on setting policies and strategies on important matters. Notably, the appointment letter identified these key areas: membership development, club fellowship, public image, and project implementation. I believe that seeking advice from our two past presidents as Board Advisers (and on occasion the Council of Past Presidents) will provide additional and helpful perspectives and options for the Board. I personally look forward to being of help the best way I can.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2024-2025

August 2024

AUGUST 2024	August 01, 2024 MR. ARTURO T. VALDEZ	August 08, 2024 RET. SR. JUSTICE ANTONIO T. CARPIO	August 15, 2024 PRID RAFAEL "RAFFY" GARCIA III	August 22, 2024 FELLOWSHIP @ MANILA YACHT CLUB	August 29, 2024 ATTY DERMOT DOYNE & CLASSIFICATION TALK
MEMBERS PRESENT	36	56	40	31	43
MEMBERS PRESENT %	15%	24%	17%	13%	18%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	22	5	12	6	3
EXEMPTED	4	5	7	4	5
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	54	56	45	33	41
Total # of Members	234	234	234	234	234
TOTAL %	23%	24%	19%	14%	18%
ROTARACTORS	2	3	2	3	2
MEDIA	2	0	0	3	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0	0
DC, DGE, DGM, PDG	0	0	0	0	0
GONS / GS	3	3	1	0	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	1	0	20	5	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	25	14	8	14	1
TOTAL ATTENDEES	67	76	71	53	47

LIST OF ATTENDEES

1	Albana, Michael Jaey C	23	Lorenzana, Delfin
2	Alday, Albert Singson	24	Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
3	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	25	Mendoza, Miguel
4	Beño, Christian Cesar P.	26	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L.
5	Benedicto, Sixto T.	27	Palacios, Albert C.
6	Carlos, Vicente J.	28	Pascual, Abraham F.
7	Carranceja, Arvin Arik B	29	Patterson, Colin David
8	Chien, Liang-Tah Steve	30	Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.
9	Chotrani, Johnny N.	31	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
10	Co, Val Constantine L.	32	Roxas, Michael D.
11	Creencia, Raoul C.	33	Serrapio, Carlos G.
12	Cureg, Alexander P.	34	Shimoda, Shigeru
13	Davis, Raymond N.	35	Simon, Juanito A.
14	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	36	So, Warren S.
15	Dela Cruz, Joseph Emmanuel A.	37	Tagaysay, Hector O.
16	Enriquez III, Eduardo V.	38	Tee, Teddy Jr. B.
17	Go, Henry S.	39	Valencia, John Nico P.
18	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	40	Yasushi, Iwata
19	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV	41	Yu, Reginald Tieng
20	Katigbak, J Alfonso L.	42	Zaldarraga, Felix Francisco S.
21	Koh, Paul Anthony T.	43	Zeitouni, Nagi
22	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.		

List of Members Who Have Paid
Their Annual Dues for RY 2024-2025

As of September 4, 2024

1	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	39	LONZAGA, REINERIO
2	ALDAY, ALBERT	40	LORENZANA, DELFIN
3	ALINGOG, ALDOUS A	41	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI
4	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M	42	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO
5	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.	43	MANALAYSAY, CESAR
6	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D	44	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G
7	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T	45	MAURICIO, ANTONIO DC
8	BLANCO, MANUEL M	46	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B
9	BRANELLEC, JACQUES	47	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
10	CAMAT, NATHANIEL	48	NONES, ROMEO C
11	CANON, RAUL JR C	49	NUNEZ, JOSE A
12	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M	50	ONG, PHILLIP
13	COYUTO, ROBERT JR. G	51	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN
14	CREENCIA, RAOU L C.	52	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM F
15	CUREG, ALEXANDER P	53	PATTERSON, COLIN DAVID
16	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL	54	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR.
17	DAYANG, JUAN E.	55	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D R
18	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR SR.	56	REYNOLDS, DAVID J.
19	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III G.	57	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C
20	DY, MANUEL C.	58	ROXAS, MICHAEL D
21	EGAN, BRENDAN W.L.	59	SCHNEIDER, BERND
22	ELDEBS, ISSAM	60	SERRAPIO, CARLOS C
23	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.	61	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L
24	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.	62	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
25	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.	63	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H
26	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR G	64	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN L.
27	GARCIA, THEODORE Q	65	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
28	GARCIA, VICTOR III G	66	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O
29	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.	67	TAMANO, SHALIMAR HOFER
30	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B	68	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
31	HALLERBACH, MATHIAS	69	TAN, EUSEBIO V
32	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F	70	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
33	IWATA, YASUSHI	71	VALDES, JOEL C.
34	JUCABAN, JERIC	72	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
35	KALAW, TEODORO	73	YU, REGINALD T.
36	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L	74	ZALDARRAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S
37	KLEBS, DAVID	75	ZEITOURI, NAGI
38	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T	76	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.

Rotary District Event: **Vibrant Club Workshop**

Third Regular Board Meeting



THE third Regular Board Meeting was held last Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Present were Pres. Jujut Enriquez, VP Joel Valdes, Directors Mike Albaña, Teddy Kalaw, Henry Go, Rod Valencia, Albert Alday, Sec. Aries Balanay (not in photo), Treas. Mike Roxas, SAAs Jason Bogovich and John Cutter, Chair of Sustainability and Innovation Anton Mauricio, RCMFI Chair Reggie Yu, and Asst. Treas. Joshua Aragon.



PRESIDENT Jujut Enriquez, Director Mike Albaña, Director Rod Valencia, and RCMFI President Reggie Yu attended the Rotary District Vibrant Club Workshop on August 31, 2024, at SMX Manila.

President Jujut Enriquez and Spouse Lia Attend the 75th Charter Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Malolos



President Jujut Enriquez delivered his message after PDG Boy Aniag of RC Malolos delivered his message. PDG Aniag's message held RC Manila in very high regard, and he repeatedly mentioned it in his speech.



President Jujut Enriquez was invited to sing the RC Malolos Hymn.



President Jujut Enriquez and Spouse Lia with D3770's DG Eduardo "Ed" T. Trajano

At the Rotary Club of Metro San Miguel



From left: Asst. Chair John Michael G dela Cruz, PE Janet A Amurao, President Jujut Enriquez, Pres. Carmencita S. Tecson, and CP Edwin P. Tecson (District Chair on RI 7 Areas of Focus)



On the occasion of Ed Cabangon's late father's birthday on August 30

Manila Rotarians with 2024 Olympic Gold Medalist Carlos Yulo



PVP Reggie Yu had the distinct honor of meeting Cynthia Lagdameo-Carrion, president of the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines, along with her mentee, Carlos Yulo. Carlos, the 2024 Olympic gold medalist in floor exercise and vault, made history last month as the first Filipino to win multiple Olympic gold medals.



Honoring Rtn./Speaker Jose de Venecia

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1142

Introduced by Senators Loren B. Legarda, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay,
Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Sherwin T. Gatchalian, Joel Villanueva,
and Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING AND HONORING FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE DE
VENECIA JR. FOR HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AND INVALUABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, the Honorable Jose Claveria de Venecia Jr., who hailed from
2 Dagupan City, has served as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic
3 of the Philippines for five terms from 1992 to 1998 and 2001 to 2008, which is
4 unprecedented in postwar Philippine Congress;

5 WHEREAS, also known as JDV, the former House Speaker was the architect of
6 the "Rainbow Coalition" in the House of Representatives, which helped unite the
7 country during the turbulent post-Martial Law years and paved the way for the smooth
8 passage of more than 200 economic, political, and social reform laws during the
9 Ramos administration;

10 WHEREAS, he co-founded the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD),
11 which became the ruling party for some 15 years, and served alternately as its
12 Secretary General, President, Chairman, and Chairman Emeritus;

13 WHEREAS, as a prolific lawmaker, he championed landmark legislation such as
14 the B-O-T (Build-Operate-Transfer) Law, the Military Bases Conversion Law, and the
15 law creating the Central Bank of the Philippines;

1



1 WHEREAS, he began his career as a Journalist, becoming Manila Bureau chief
2 and Philippine correspondent for Pan-Asia Newspaper Alliance. He also co-founded the
3 Radio Philippines Network in the 1960s;

4 WHEREAS, he also took on diplomatic duties as Minister and Economic and
5 Press Counselor of the Philippine Embassy in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam
6 during the Vietnam War, and briefly as Ambassador-at-Large under President Corazon
7 Aquino's administration;

8 WHEREAS, in 1967, he conceived the Dollar Remittance Program for Filipino
9 overseas workers, which now raises more than \$30 billion a year for the Philippines;

10 WHEREAS, the tireless peacemaker mediated with Muslim secessionists, rightist
11 military officers, and Communist insurgents, leading to peace agreements and
12 amnesty programs. He also initiated the Interfaith Dialogue in the United Nations as
13 a way of helping resolve politico-religious conflicts around the world;

14 WHEREAS, JDV likewise played a significant role in combating climate change
15 and environmental degradation when he served as Co-Chairman of the International
16 Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization (IESCO);

17 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous decorations and honors,
18 including the French Legion of Honor, high decorations from several foreign
19 governments, and honorary doctorates from universities at home and abroad;

20 WHEREAS, he has addressed the U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Security
21 Council, the Council of Europe, and various national parliaments around the world;

22 WHEREAS, he has been a relentless advocate for Asian Integration, proposing
23 initiatives such as an Asian Parliament, an Asian Monetary Fund, and an Asian Anti-
24 Poverty Fund;

25 WHEREAS, he has founded and chaired several international organizations,
26 including the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) which is
27 composed of 350 political parties in 52 countries in Asia; the International Association
28 of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) representing members of parliament from various
29 continents; the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) which is now composed of 43
30 parliaments in Asia; the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI); and
31 the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), which assists governments and
32 organizations in peace-building and conflict resolution in Asia and other areas;

2

1 WHEREAS, the Honorable JDV dedicated his life to public service, peace-
2 building, and promotion of international cooperation, inspiring leaders and future
3 generations to pursue excellence in governance and diplomacy: Now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To commend and honor
5 Former House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. for his illustrious career and invaluable
6 contributions to the country.

Adopted,

LOREN LEGARDA

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" G. EJERCITO

SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

JOEL VILLANUEVA

JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" F. ZUBIRI



OPINION

Weaver



FIRST PERSON - Alex Magno - The Philippine Star

August 31, 2024 | 12:00am

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There are weavers of dreams and there are weavers of rainbows. Then there is that one who will be long remembered as a weaver of coalitions.

When he first assumed the Speakership in 1992, Jose de Venecia (JDV) immediately recognized the operational problem posed by the multi-party system prescribed by the 1987 Constitution. A highly fragmented assembly threatened to make the House of Representatives ungovernable, making it extremely difficult to get legislation done.

Undaunted, JDV courted and cajoled the many parties represented at the House. Where partisan chaos was highly probable, the Speaker produced his "Rainbow Coalition." The multi-party caucus made legislation of vital reform measures feasible.

When Fidel Ramos sought the presidency with his ragtag Lakas-Tao party in the 1992 elections, he was supported by only four congressmen. By the time JDV accomplished his magic, the Ramos presidency enjoyed a supermajority in the Lower House.

Through the Ramos administration and beyond, the "Rainbow Coalition" made possible the passage of more than 200 pieces of economic and reform legislation. Among the most important of these were: the Military Bases Conversion Law that opened the door to the Bonifacio Global City, the Newport World Resorts, the Clark Freeport Zone and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone; the Build-Operate-Transfer Law that formed the core of today's Public-Private Partnership model and a new law that produced an independent Bangko Sentral.

In addition, JDV conceived of the Dollar Remittance Program for Filipino Overseas Workers. This program facilitates remittance inflows now running at \$30 billion a year.

On top of his regular legislative work, JDV worked hard as a peacemaker. He initiated the Interfaith Dialogue at the UN as a means for resolving religious conflicts around the world.

JDV is the founder of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) which is composed of 350 political parties in 52 Asian countries. The Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) now includes 43 parliaments in Asia. In addition, JDV was co-founder of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) which assists governments in peace-building and conflict resolution. He also led the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) with members of parliaments from across the globe.

Last Wednesday, the Senate of the Philippines unanimously passed a resolution honoring JDV as a legislator and statesman. The resolution described the five-time Speaker as one who "dedicated his life to public service, peace-building, promotion of international cooperation, inspiring leaders and future generations to pursue excellence in governance and diplomacy."

In her sponsorship speech, Sen. Loren Legarda described JDV as a "towering figure in Philippine politics and governance" whose "journey in public service is marked by steadfast dedication, results-driven leadership and a relentless pursuit of peace and lasting progress."

Many of the current crop of senators served at the House during the time JDV was Speaker. Included here, apart from Legarda, are Senate President Francis Escudero, former Senate president Juan Miguel Zubiri, Joel Villanueva, Sherwin Gatchalian, JV Ejercito, Alan Peter Cayetano, Imee Marcos, Risa Hontiveros and Juan Edgardo Angara. They all praised JDV for being like a father to his colleagues and helping them through their separate political journeys.

The tribute paid to JDV by the Senate is all well-deserved. In the twilight of his life, I am sure the man looks back at all he accomplished with much satisfaction. Few Filipino politicians can match his record.

I have known JDV for nearly three decades now, working with him in many of his advocacies and political campaigns. He found me loitering in the Palace during Ramos' presidency and invited me to join what he calls his "core group." We became fast friends and those who joined our noisy argumentative dinners became like family.

My most poignant memory was when, in the days following his defeat in the 1998 elections, his large house was as empty as it was packed with supporters during the campaign. The two of us were scrounging around his kitchen trying to find stuff we could cook for lunch. Until then, I had not realized culinary creation was one of his unspoken talents. I tried to match his skills and we ended up with a meal we thoroughly enjoyed.

It was always easy caricaturing JDV as a "traditional politician." That is a meaningless redundancy. A politician is necessarily a consensus builder and JDV exemplifies this.

Politics, it is said, is the art of the possible. As a tireless consensus builder, he made the improbable exceedingly possible.

He was a man of bold vision. Sometimes his bold ideas are taken as gross exaggeration. But he never relented in dreaming of a better Philippines.

Even as he has been slowed by age, he continues thinking up solutions for the nation's problems. I know of very few who love this country as JDV does.

Many of the pieces of legislation that JDV worked for now bear fruit for the next generations of Filipinos. The problems facing the country would have been much graver without the reforms JDV pushed for with resoluteness, with clear vision and such tireless enthusiasm.

I know of no one JDV disliked. He always found the best in everyone. He was always willing to work with anybody to find the sliver of common ground by which cooperation and joint action could be possible.

Very few Filipinos deserve to be called statesmen. JDV fits that bill eminently.

The nation is in much better footing because he served.

Honoring Rtn./Speaker Jose de Venecia



Thank you dinner after the Senate's resolution recognizing the achievements of 5-time Speaker Jose de Venecia



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