



*The*  
**HERMA**  
*Group*

Major General, AFP (Ret.)

**DELFIN N.  
LORENZANA**

Classification Talk

**9th WMM Recap:**  
Navigating the  
Turbulent Waters of  
Global Disorder and  
the Quest for Peace

RCM'S  
**ELECTION DAY:**  
Election of the Board  
of Directors for  
RY 2025-2026

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## PROGRAM

**10th Weekly Membership Meeting**  
**Rotary Year 2024-2025**  
**Thursday, 26 September 2024, 12:30 PM**  
**Manila Polo Club**

Moderator: **RTN. ANTONILO "Anton" DC. MAURICIO**

### PART I

12:00 PM Registration  
 12:30 PM Call to Order  
**PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**  
 Invocation  
**RTN. PHILLIP "Phil" L. ONG**  
 Philippine National Anthem | **AVP OF RCM MEMBERS**  
 Rotary Club of Manila Hymn | **RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE**  
 The Four (4) Way Test  
**RTN. ABDULGANI "Gani" M. MACATOMAN**  
 Acknowledgement of Guests  
**RTN. ANTONILO "Anton" DC. MAURICIO**  
 Welcome Song | **RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE**  
**Birthday Celebrants**  
 Sept 23 **Rtn. Inov Talusan**  
 Sept 24 **Rtn. Nico Valencia**

*Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song*

### PART II

12:45 PM Music Presentation | **RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE**  
 Raffle Prize  
 12:50 PM President's Time | **PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**

### PART III

12:55 PM Introduction of the Guest Speaker  
**RTN. FRANCISCO "Paco" D. MAGSAYSAY**  
Guest Speaker  
 Classification Talk:  
**STAR RTN. DELFIN "DEL" N. LORENZANA**  
 Major General, AFP (Ret.)  
 Fmr. Chairman of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)  
 Fmr. Secretary of National Defense  
 Fmr. Defense and Armed Forces Attaché in Washington D.C.  
 1:45 PM Open Forum / Q.A.  
 1:55 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation  
**PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**  
 1:57 PM Announcement of Results of RCM Elections  
**PP ARSENIO "Archi" M. BARTOLOME III**  
 Chairman – Committee on Election  
 2:00 PM Adjournment | **PRES. JUJUT ENRIQUEZ**



# Delfin N. LORENZANA

**Major General, AFP (Ret.)  
Chairman, Bases Conversion  
and Development Authority**

**M**AJOR General Delfin N. Lorenzana (Ret) was appointed Chairman of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) on 7 July 2022. BCDA is a government-owned corporation tasked with converting former US military bases into modern mixed-used communities.

Prior to this job, Major General Lorenzana was the Secretary of National Defense during the Duterte administration from 2016 to 2022. As Secretary of National Defense, he

chaired the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the National Task Force Against COVID-19.

Major General Lorenzana served as the Defense and Armed Forces Attaché in Washington D.C. from 2002 to 2004. As Defense Attaché, he oversaw and monitored military bilateral relations between the Philippines and the US on the Visiting Forces Agreement, military exercises, grants, trainings and foreign military sales. In 2002, he helped develop the Terms of Reference for the highly

successful Balikatan Exercises between the AFP and the US Pacific Command in Basilan, which aimed to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in southern Philippines. He retired from the military service in October 2004.

Immediately upon retirement, he was designated as the Special Presidential Representative and Head of the Office of Veteran Affairs (OVA) at the Philippine Embassy, Washington DC from 2004 to 2016. His task as OVA Head was to lobby for the grant of benefits to Filipinos who served under the US Army during World War II (WW2). His efforts resulted in the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund amounting to \$198M which granted a one-time payment to surviving Filipino WW2 veterans and the Congressional Gold Medal for Filipino WW2 veterans.

Major General Lorenzana graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1973. He obtained his Master of Business Administration (major in Operations Research) from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. He earned his Graduate Diploma in Defense and Strategic studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. He likewise underwent seminars for Senior International Leaders at Harvard University and the Crisis Management Course at the US State Department.

His military schooling includes the Infantry Basic Course, the Scout Ranger Course, Airborne Course, the Royal Marines Commando Course in UK, the Infantry

Advance Course in Ft Benning USA and the Command and General Staff Course. In his more than three decades of military service, Major General Lorenzana commanded a Scout Ranger Company, a Scout Ranger Battalion, an Infantry Brigade, the Army Light Armored Brigade and the Army Special Operations Command. He also held staff positions at the Brigade, Army Headquarters, Unified Commands and at the AFP General Headquarters. He served as Instructor of Ranger Tactics and Infantry Tactics at the Scout Ranger Training Unit and at the Infantry School, Army Training Command, respectively.

His awards include the Philippines Presidential Legion of Honor (Degree of Officer), the US Presidential Legion of Honor (Degree of Officer), four (4) Distinguished Service Stars, and three (3) Gold Cross Medals for Gallantry in Combat. As Secretary of National Defense, Major General Lorenzana received the Order of Lakandula Grand Cross (Bayani) from President Duterte in June 2022. In August 2022, the Indonesian Government conferred on him the Medal of Peace for his crucial role in the successful rescue of Indonesian fishermen in southern Philippines kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in 2019. Recently, on June 2023, the Japan Government conferred on him the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, for his role in strengthening the Japan-Philippines bilateral relations.

Major General Lorenzana and his wife Edith have three daughters, one son and one granddaughter.

## EDITORIAL

**Reginald T. Yu**  
Editor-in-Chief



**A**S the Rotary Club of Manila turns a page in its illustrious 106-year history, the upcoming elections for new club leaders stand as a pivotal moment. In a world increasingly defined by convenience, the return to face-to-face voting may seem anachronistic, yet it is profoundly significant. This shift not only preserves the traditions that have shaped our club but also reinforces the transparency we owe to one another.

The essence of Rotary has always been a dedication to service and leadership. Reflecting on our past leaders reveals the stark contrasts that underscore the critical importance of electing those who embody our shared values. Consider our late great leaders, whose tenures were marked by integrity and unwavering commitment and gave rise to such pioneering initiatives as the Boy Scout Movement, the Community Chest Foundation, the Philippine Cancer Society, the TOWER Awards, Welfareville, and a host of other

cooperative ventures. Under their guidance, the club flourished, inspiring members to engage more deeply in our mission. In contrast, we have also experienced periods under leaders whose decisions, though perhaps well-intentioned, led to stagnation and diminished our standing in the community. These experiences serve as reminders of the profound impact that leadership can wield.

Returning to in-person elections is more than a mere logistical change; it is a powerful reaffirmation of our democratic principles. It encourages us to gather, to discuss, to debate — fostering a sense of community that online polling cannot replicate. Each conversation, each shared laugh or spirited disagreement, weaves a richer tapestry of camaraderie. This gathering not only reinvigorates our collective spirit but also counters the apathy that can seep into any organization. When we come together to vote, we are not just participating in a ritual; we are collectively affirming our commitment to the values that bind us.

In recent years, the allure of online voting provided a convenient

alternative, yet it lacked the vital human connection inherent in our club's identity. The concerns expressed by our senior members — guardians of our traditions — regarding the transparency of virtual polls cannot be dismissed lightly. Their worries highlight a fundamental truth: leadership thrives in the light of open dialogue and shared accountability. By returning to the ballot box, we not only honor our history but ensure that every voice resonates within the decision-making process.

True leadership in Rotary transcends the act of holding a position; it is about influence, inspiration, and impact. Great leaders cultivate an environment where members feel empowered to contribute and innovate. They shape our club's trajectory, determining whether we rise to new heights or fall into obscurity. History is replete with examples of leaders whose commitment to service illuminated paths for others. Conversely, we must recognize the lessons learned during times when leadership faltered. When the vision was murky, opportunities slipped away,

and our standing in society weakened. We stand at a crossroads, and the decisions we make in this election will shape the club's future. We cannot afford to be complacent; the legacy of the Rotary Club of Manila rests upon our shoulders.

As we approach this crucial moment and return to face-to-face elections today, let us embrace the significance of each vote. This election is not merely a formality; it is a chance to ensure that our future aligns with the principles we hold dear. We must prioritize candidates who demonstrate not just competence, but a genuine passion for service, empathy, and visionary thinking.

Let us gather together, engage in meaningful dialogue, and elect leaders who will guide us with integrity, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. The legacy of the Rotary Club of Manila depends on the choices we make today, and together, we can chart a course toward a brighter, more impactful future.

**cover story**

# **Navigating the Turbulent Waters of Global Disorder and the Quest for Peace**

*by PVP Reginald T. Yu*

**O**N On September 19, 2024, the Rotary Club of Manila convened for its 9th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Year 2024-2025 at the esteemed Manila Polo Club. This gathering, moderated by Past Director Amado “Amading” D. Valdez, was marked by a blend of fellowship, reflection, and profound insights into the contemporary issues shaping our world.

Rotary  
District 3810



## The Essence of Rotary: Fellowship and Community

As the members and guests registered at noon, a palpable sense of camaraderie filled the air. The meeting commenced at 12:30 PM with an invocation followed by an audio-visual presentation of the Philippine National Anthem, resonating with pride and patriotism. The Rotary Club of Manila Hymn further cemented the spirit of unity among the members.



*PD Amado 'Amading' D. Valdez moderated the meeting.*



*PP Arsenio "Archit" M. Bartolome III called the meeting to order.*



*Ambassador Victor "Vic" G. Garcia delivered the Four-Way Test.*

The first segment of the program featured the Four-Way Test delivered by Ambassador **Victor "Vic" G. Garcia**, a guiding principle that reminds Rotarians of the ethical dimensions of their actions. This was followed by an acknowledgment of distinguished guests, reinforcing the club's commitment to inclusivity and collaboration. As members celebrated birthdays, the camaraderie was accentuated with songs of joy and well-wishes, demonstrating the club's emphasis on personal connections.

## Leadership and Transition

With President **Eduardo “Jujut” Enriquez** out of the country and Vice-President **Joel Valdes** recuperating, the responsibility of leading the meeting fell to Past President **Arsenio “Archit” Bartolome**. He shared announcements regarding upcoming events, including the invitation from the Rotary Club of Taipei for their 76th Charter Anniversary, and updates on the forthcoming elections for the Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors for the Rotary Year 2025-2026.

Bartolome’s leadership exemplified the spirit of Rotary: resilience in the face of challenges and a steadfast commitment to service.



*Past President Arsenio “Archit” Bartolome took the floor for President’s Time.*



*PD Issam Eldebs invited RC members to the 76th Charter Anniversary of RC Taipei.*





*Mr. Mark Soriano, The ONE Philippines (Grand Winner) Humanitarian Awardee, pleaded for support for their “A Fund Raising by Rotaract of Manila” to help the fire victims of Aroma, Tondo, Manila”.*



*Rtn. Jordan M. Pizarra introduced the guest of honor and speaker.*

## A Dialogue on Global Disorder

During his compelling address, former Chief Justice **Reynato S. Puno** confronted the multifaceted crises of contemporary global disorder, weaving a narrative that illuminated the persistent shadows of conflict in the modern world. His discourse began with a historical overview, illustrating how the quest for peace has often been thwarted by the realities of human conflict. He invoked the words of historians and military strategists, reminding the audience that since the end of World War II, warfare has never truly ceased; rather, it has transformed, taking on new forms that challenge existing frameworks of understanding and resolution.

Puno highlighted specific conflicts that exemplify this ongoing struggle for peace. The war in Ukraine, now stretching into its third year, stands as a stark reminder of the devastating human and geopolitical costs of

modern warfare. He noted that this conflict has not only inflicted significant suffering on the Ukrainian populace but has also led to profound repercussions for global security and economic stability. As nations grapple with the ramifications of such conflicts, Puno emphasized the urgent need for dialogue and diplomacy—tools that are often overshadowed by the clamor for military solutions.



The former Chief Justice also addressed the escalating tensions in the West Philippine Sea, illustrating how maritime disputes can escalate into broader geopolitical conflicts. He emphasized that while these issues may appear localized, their implications resonate across global alliances and power dynamics. The failure of peaceful arbitration mechanisms has left nations like the Philippines feeling vulnerable against more powerful adversaries. Puno's analysis served as a stark reminder of how historical grievances and territorial disputes can spiral into larger conflicts if not managed with foresight and collaborative strategies.

As Puno delved into the legal frameworks surrounding warfare, he underscored the limitations of international law in addressing the complexities of contemporary conflicts. While the United Nations Charter and subsequent treaties have sought to outlaw war and promote peaceful resolutions, the realities on the ground often reveal a disconnect between legal principles and political will. He urged Rotarians to recognize that the proliferation of armed conflict and lawfare—using legal systems as a weapon—has made traditional diplomatic approaches increasingly ineffective.

Puno's reflections culminated in a poignant observation: the mechanisms designed to promote peace are often undermined by the very nations that created them. This paradox raises critical questions about the effectiveness of global governance and the need for reforms that can address the imbalances and inequities inherent in current international relations.

### A Call to Action

In the latter part of his address, Puno issued a clarion call for action, urging members of the Rotary Club to embrace their roles as stewards of peace and advocates for justice. He articulated the need for a paradigm shift in how nations approach conflict resolution, emphasizing cooperation over competition and mutual respect over unilateral action. Puno's call to action was not merely rhetorical; it challenged each member to reflect on their capacity to effect change, both locally and globally. He encouraged Rotarians to leverage their networks and resources to

foster dialogue within their communities and beyond. By cultivating an environment of understanding and collaboration, they can address the root causes of conflict—poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation—that often fuel discord.

He highlighted the importance of education and awareness, positing that informed citizens are better equipped to advocate for just policies and hold leaders accountable. Puno emphasized the role of organizations like Rotary in mobilizing communities to engage with these pressing issues, creating platforms for discussion and action that transcend political and cultural boundaries.

Moreover, Puno underscored the need for solidarity among nations, particularly in addressing shared challenges such as climate change, public health crises, and economic instability. He urged the club to engage in initiatives that promote international cooperation, fostering partnerships that prioritize collective well-being over national interests.

In closing, Puno's message resonated deeply: the responsibility for building a more peaceful world lies not solely with governments but with individuals and organizations committed to the principles of service above self. The Rotary Club of Manila, with its rich legacy of community service, stands poised to be a catalyst for change, transforming the ideals of fellowship and service into tangible actions that can help address the global disorder he so eloquently outlined.

## Open Forum



*Former Chief Justice Puno engaged in an interactive conversation with PDG Alex Cureg, PD Beda Fajardo, DSAA John Cutter, Rtn. Ed Cabangon, and Rtn. Vic Garcia.*



*Retired Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation, witnessed by PD Amado "Amading" D. Valdez, Rtn. Jordan Pizarra, PP Arsenio "Archit" M. Bartolome III, Rtn./Program Chair Carlos "Caloy" G. Serapio, and Rtn. Victor "Vic" G. Garcia III.*

As members departed, they carried with them a renewed sense of purpose, inspired to contribute to the dialogue on peace and to take actionable steps towards fostering a world that values cooperation, understanding, and justice for all.

### The Next Generation of Leaders

Notably, the meeting was graced by 13 Rotaractors from various institutions, embodying the Rotary spirit of nurturing future leaders. Their presence highlighted the club's commitment to fostering a new generation equipped to tackle the complex challenges of the 21st century.



### Conclusion

As the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM, the members of the Rotary Club of Manila departed with renewed purpose. The insights shared and connections forged during this gathering reaffirmed the club's mission: to serve, to lead, and to advocate for peace in a world increasingly fraught with division.

In a time where the complexities of warfare and governance demand our attention, the Rotary Club of Manila stands as a beacon of hope and service, dedicated to building a better future for all.



*PP Arsenio "Archit" M. Bartolome III adjourned the meeting.*



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report  
RY 2024-2025

September 2024

| SEPTEMBER 2024               | September 05, 2024<br>ENGR. EDGAR B. SAAVEDRA | September 12, 2024<br>WENDELL ADRIAN R. TAMAYO | September 19, 2024<br>RET. CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO S. PUNO |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| MEMBERS PRESENT              | 50                                            | 33                                             | 41                                                       |
| MEMBERS PRESENT %            | 21%                                           | 14%                                            | 17%                                                      |
| MAKE UP ATTENDEES            | 12                                            | 23                                             | 9                                                        |
| EXEMPTED                     | 5                                             | 5                                              | 4                                                        |
| ON LEAVE                     | 0                                             | 0                                              | 0                                                        |
| Total Active Members         | 57                                            | 51                                             | 46                                                       |
| Total # of Members           | 236                                           | 236                                            | 236                                                      |
| TOTAL %:                     | 24%                                           | 22%                                            | 19%                                                      |
| ROTARACTORS                  | 3                                             | 0                                              | 5                                                        |
| MEDIA                        | 2                                             | 1                                              | 3                                                        |
| EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS | 0                                             | 1                                              | 0                                                        |
| DG, DGE, DGN, PDG            | 0                                             | 0                                              | 0                                                        |
| GOHS / GS                    | 4                                             | 7                                              | 9                                                        |
| VISITING ROTARIAN            | 3                                             | 0                                              | 0                                                        |
| Guests of RCM MEMBERS        | 13                                            | 1                                              | 23                                                       |
| TOTAL ATTENDEES              | 73                                            | 41                                             | 78                                                       |

LIST OF ATTENDEES

|    |                               |    |                           |
|----|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1  | Bartolome III, Arsenio M.     | 21 | Macatoman, Abdugani M.    |
| 2  | Benedicto, Sixto T.           | 22 | Nolido, Ramon Alberto B.  |
| 3  | Bogovich, Jason M.            | 23 | Nomura, Kazuhiro          |
| 4  | Bolton, Wilhelm               | 24 | Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L. |
| 5  | Cabangon, Edgard A.           | 25 | Pascual, Abraham F.       |
| 6  | Carlos, Vicente J.            | 26 | Patterson, Colin David    |
| 7  | Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M. | 27 | Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.   |
| 8  | Chahwan, Rami                 | 28 | Pizarra, Jordan M.        |
| 9  | Co, Val Constantine L.        | 29 | Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.  |
| 10 | Cureg, Alexander P.           | 30 | Recto, Philip H.          |
| 11 | Cutter, John Michael          | 31 | Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C. |
| 12 | Eldebs, Issam                 | 32 | Serapio, Carlos G.        |
| 13 | Fajardo, Beda G.              | 33 | Simon, Juanito A.         |
| 14 | Garcia, III Victor G.         | 34 | So, Warren S.             |
| 15 | Go, Henry S.                  | 35 | Tagaysay, Hector O.       |
| 16 | Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.      | 36 | Tamano, Shalimar H.       |
| 17 | Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV | 37 | Valdez, Amado D.          |
| 18 | Lazaro, Juan Miguel G         | 38 | Yasushi, Iwata            |
| 19 | Locsin, Arsenio Z.            | 39 | Yu, Geoffrey C.           |
| 20 | Lonzaga, Reinerio C.          | 40 | Yu, Reginald Tieng        |
|    |                               | 41 | Gonzales, Jonas R.        |

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

As of September 25, 2024

|    |                                    |     |                                |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | ABOY, VALENTINO G                  | 69  | LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B          |
| 2  | ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.             | 70  | LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T           |
| 3  | ALBANA, MICHAEL JAEY C             | 71  | LIM, RICHARD                   |
| 4  | ALCANTARA, ISIDRO C                | 72  | LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.             |
| 5  | ALDAY, ALBERT                      | 73  | LONZAGA, REINERIO              |
| 6  | ALINGOG, ALDOUS A                  | 74  | LOPEZ, ARTHUR M                |
| 7  | AVENTURA, AVENILO JR L             | 75  | LORENZANA, DELFIN              |
| 8  | BAGATISING, VALENTINO S            | 76  | MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.          |
| 9  | BALANAY, ARIES B                   | 77  | MACATOMAN, ABDUGANI            |
| 10 | BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.          | 78  | MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.        |
| 11 | BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.               | 79  | MANALAYSAY, CESAR P            |
| 12 | BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D              | 80  | MANGALILE, SENEN T             |
| 13 | BENEDICTO, SIXTO T                 | 81  | MARTIREZ, RONALD I             |
| 14 | BLANCO, MANUEL M                   | 82  | MATSHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G    |
| 15 | BOGOVICH, JASON M                  | 83  | MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC          |
| 16 | BRANELLEC, JACQUES                 | 84  | MENDOZA, ESTELITO P            |
| 17 | CABANGON, EDGARD A.                | 85  | MENDOZA, MIGUEL                |
| 18 | CAMAT, NATHANIEL                   | 86  | NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B        |
| 19 | CANON, RAUL JR C                   | 87  | NOMURA, KAZUHIRO               |
| 20 | CARLOS, VICENTE J                  | 88  | NONES, ROMEO C.                |
| 21 | CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B           | 89  | NUNEZ, JOSE A                  |
| 22 | CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M       | 90  | OBRADO, DANIEL CALZADO         |
| 23 | CATALAN, RODILLO R                 | 91  | ONG, PHILLIP L                 |
| 24 | CENICA, JOHN T                     | 92  | PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M         |
| 25 | CHAHWAN, RAMI                      | 93  | PALACTOS, ALBERT C.            |
| 26 | CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.             | 94  | PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN         |
| 27 | CORTEZ, LORENZO R                  | 95  | PASCUAL, ABRAHAM F             |
| 28 | COYUTO, ROBERT JR. G               | 96  | PATTERSON, COLIN DAVID         |
| 29 | CREENCIA, RAOUL C.                 | 97  | PATUMO, FELICTO C              |
| 30 | CUREG, ALEXANDER P                 | 98  | PELINO, WILFREDO               |
| 31 | CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL               | 99  | PINEDA, JESUS JR M             |
| 32 | DAVIS, RAYMOND N                   | 100 | PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F         |
| 33 | DAYANG, JUAN E.                    | 101 | PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.      |
| 34 | DE CASTRO, JUAN ARTURO ILUMINADO C | 102 | RECTO, PHILIP H.               |
| 35 | DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR SR.             | 103 | REYNOLDS, DAVID J.             |
| 36 | DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III G.           | 104 | RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY H   |
| 37 | DY, MANUEL C.                      | 105 | RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C       |
| 38 | EGAN, BRENDAN W.L                  | 106 | ROXAS, MICHAEL D               |
| 39 | ELDEBS, ISSAM                      | 107 | SCHMITZ, STEFAN                |
| 40 | ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.           | 108 | SCHNEIDER, BERND               |
| 41 | ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.              | 109 | SERAPIO, CARLOS C              |
| 42 | ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A         | 110 | SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L         |
| 43 | FAJARDO, BEDA G                    | 111 | SHIMODA, SHIGERU               |
| 44 | FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.   | 112 | SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H            |
| 45 | FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR G            | 113 | SIMON, JUANITO                 |
| 46 | GARCIA, THEODORE Q                 | 114 | SO, WARREN                     |
| 47 | GARCIA, VICTOR III G.              | 115 | SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN L.      |
| 48 | GO, HENRY S                        | 116 | SVILCO, JOSE, JR. A            |
| 49 | GONZALES, JONAS R                  | 117 | TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O             |
| 50 | GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY H.        | 118 | TALAMPAS, JOEL ANGEL L         |
| 51 | GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.               | 119 | TALUSAN, FERDINAND E           |
| 52 | GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.              | 120 | TAMANO, SHALIMAR HOFER         |
| 53 | HALLARE, DELFIN JR. T              | 121 | TAMAYO, VICTOR L.              |
| 54 | HALLARE, NICOLLO S                 | 122 | TAN, EUSEBIO V.                |
| 55 | HALLERBACH, MATHIAS                | 123 | TAN, JOHN G                    |
| 56 | HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.                | 124 | TAN, LAWRENCE L                |
| 57 | HESSE, UWE                         | 125 | TEJUMAL, SHAM MICHAEL          |
| 58 | HORTALEZA, ROLANDO B               | 126 | TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL |
| 59 | IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F          | 127 | VALDES, JOEL C                 |
| 60 | IWATA, YASUSHI                     | 128 | VALDEZ, AMADO D                |
| 61 | JOSEPH, RALPH L                    | 129 | VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.         |
| 62 | JUCABAN, JERIC J                   | 130 | VALENCIA, RODOLFO G            |
| 63 | KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV J.     | 131 | YU, GEOFFREY C                 |
| 64 | KATIOBAK J ALFONSO L               | 132 | YU, REGINALD T.                |
| 65 | KLEBS, DAVID                       | 133 | ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S |
| 66 | KOH, PAUL ANTHONY T                | 134 | ZEITOUNI, NAGI                 |
| 67 | LACAMBACAL, ALVIN D.               | 135 | ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y             |
| 68 | LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL                | 136 | ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER            |

## Membership Committee Meeting



**T**HE Membership Committee met with the invite Mr. Peter Rankl on September 12, 2024 at the Chantara Room, Dusit Thani Manila.

Present from the Membership Committee were Chairman/PVP Fausto Preysler, Co-Chair/PT Lito Sibayan, PDG Vince Carlos, and Dir. Teddy Kalaw (not in the photo), witnessed by proposer Rtn. Bernd Schneider.



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## Rotary Briefing Information session



A Rotary Briefing Information session was held last September 18, 2024 for Messrs. Ingill Ra and Peter Rankl.

Present to provide a glimpse of Rotary and Rotary Club of Manila were Chairman/PDG Obet Pagdanganan and Rtn. Romy Nones.

# ENRIQUEZ

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# Nominees for Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2025-2026



**Rtn. RICARDO "Ricky" SB GUEVARA**  
Inducted 2012, Filipino, Paul Harris Fellow 2018  
President & CEO, GUEVENT INVESTMENTS DEVELOPMENT CORP.  
Chairman, RCM Sunshine Committee RY 2023-2024



**Dir. MICHAEL JAEY "Mike" C. ALBAÑA**  
Inducted 2020, Filipino  
Vice President / General Manager  
SMX CONVENTION CENTER  
Board Director, Rotary Club of Manila, RY 2022-2025



**SAA JASON M. BOGOVICH**  
Inducted 2017, American, Paul Harris Fellow 2020  
Independent Consultant, Asian Development Bank  
Sergeant at Arms 2024-2025; DSAA 2019-22  
Co-Chairman, Disease Prevention and Treatment –  
Oral and Dental Care, Rotary Year 2022-2025



**PD ALBERT "Hans" C. PALACIOS**  
Inducted 2018, Filipino, Paul Harris Fellow (1000PTS) 2018  
Chairman, HOLY APP VENTURES, INC.  
RCM Director of the Board, Rotary Year 2020-23



**PS EDWIN H. HERNANDEZ**  
Inducted 2020 Filipino  
President, JARDINE DISTRIBUTION, INC.  
Club Secretary, Rotary Year 2022-2024



**DSAA RAMI CHAHWAN**  
Inducted 2021, Lebanese-Canadian, Paul Harris Fellow 2023  
COO, STARBREAK INC. (Pickup Coffee)  
Deputy Sergeant at Arms, RY 2024-2025  
Assistant Secretary, RY 2023-2024



**PBLA RAOUL C. CREENCIA**  
Inducted 2021 November 25, Filipino, Paul Harris Fellow 2021  
Managing Partner, THE FIRM CREENCIA, CARILLO &  
VELASCO  
Board Adviser, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, RY 2024-2025  
Board Legal Adviser, RY 2022-2024



**Rtn WARREN S. SO**  
Reinstated 2010, Filipino, Paul Harris Fellow +1  
Leon Lambert 2019; RCM Member 1996, 2004  
President, A.D.P. DESIGN GROUP

# Committee on Election Meeting



THE Committee on Election met last Tuesday, September 24, 2024 10 AM via Zoom to finalize the election day proceedings. Present at the meeting were Pres. Jujut Enriquez, Committee on Election Chairman/PP Archit Bartolome, Vice Chairman PDG Alex Cureg, and members PDG Rudy Bediones and Rtn. Colin Patterson.



**September 24, 2025**

**ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA ANNUAL MEETING TO VOTE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026**

**RCM Election Advisory RY 2025-2026**

The election of Directors for Rotary Year 2025-2026 will be on September 26 (Thursday) 2024. It will be held at the Manila Polo Club.



**QUORUM VALIDATION:**

- VIRTUAL PRESENCE:** You can sign into RCM ZOOM Account # 892 060 0358 (NO PASSWORD REQUIRED) Any RCM member can sign-in to be counted for quorum. Simply sign in to register your virtual presence.
- PHYSICAL PRESENCE:** At the Manila Polo Club and register your presence with the committee on election

**QUALIFICATION TO VOTE:** PAID 2024-2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES OF AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER IN AMOUNT OF PHP 20,000

**EARLY VOTING**

Following tradition, we shall allow early voting starting at 10:30 in the morning of September 26, 2024.



**STEPS TO VOTE AND BALLOTING:**

RCM members will be directed to the polling room to register and the RCM Committee on Election will determine his eligibility to vote. If eligible,

- he will be given a pre-numbered ballot with an acknowledgement stub.
- he will cast his vote. He must vote for not less than **5 candidates**.
- he will sign the acknowledgement stub; tear it off from the ballot and drop it in the **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BOX**.
- he will drop his ballot at the **BALLOT BOX**.

At 1:45 pm on September 26, the Committee on Election (COMELEC) will determine if there is a quorum or none.



If there is a quorum, the COMELEC will open the ballot boxes; and count the number of ballots to determine that the number of ballots reconciles with the number of registered voters.

All ballots will be distributed equally to 3 teams as organized by COMELEC. The teams will read, record and determine the final results of the election.

| Team 1 | Captain  | PDG Alex Cureg   | Team 2 | Captain  | PDG Vince Carlos    |
|--------|----------|------------------|--------|----------|---------------------|
|        | Reader   | PD Alex Pascual  |        | Reader   | PD Nen Lontaga      |
|        | Recorder | PD Boris Pineda  |        | Recorder | Rtn Colin Patterson |
|        | Reserve  | PD Amador Valdez |        | Reserve  | PD Jun Hallare      |

| Team 3 | Captain  | PDG Rudy Bediones  |
|--------|----------|--------------------|
|        | Reader   | PT Chito Tagresny  |
|        | Recorder | Rtn Caloy Serapio  |
|        | Reserve  | PP Chito Zaldivara |



However, if there is NO QUORUM by 1:45 pm on September 26, COMELEC will seal off with masking tapes on the ballot boxes. Inform President Jujut Enriquez that a quorum does not exist and request President Jujut Enriquez not to adjourn the meeting and election; declare a recess until October 3, 2024. This practice was done in the past. The **BALLOT BOXES** will be placed in the safe, care of, Comelec Chair, PP Archit Bartolome and will be opened only if and when a quorum exists.

Should you need any clarification on the above, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

*Archit*

**PP ARSENIO M. BARTOLOME, III**  
Chairman, Committee on Election

## Update: PH-US Strategic Security and Economic Engagement



*Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez with US-Philippines Executive Director Hank Hendrickson, moderator of the discussion. 11 September 2024, Embassy of the Philippines Washington DC.*

**A**t a September 11 briefing, Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez provided his perspective on recent developments and near-term plans regarding Philippines-U.S. strategic engagement following a series of high-level meetings, congressional visits and trade missions between the two countries in the recent months. Following his presentation, Ambassador Romualdez opened discussion with members of the diplomatic corps, media, and representatives of the U.S. State Department, US-Philippines Society, private equity firms and non-government organizations, that covered a broad range of topics from trade priorities, U.S. investments in the Philippines and the November presidential election, evolving regional security architecture, managing disputes in the South China Sea, and this month's 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Ambassador Romualdez reported on the Philippines continued strong economic performance projected at 6% annual real GDP growth amid global disruptions and slowing down of the economy of the People's Republic of China, Philippines' largest trade partner.

While high-level bilateral meetings have been put on hold until after the November 5 U.S. presidential election, talks on space and cyber-digital proceeded in May and July, along with exchanges on democracy and a maritime dialogue in Manila. Ambassador Romualdez reiterated his view that there is bipartisan U.S. congressional support for the Philippines, and commitments in security, defense and recently in the country's economic prosperity led by Commerce Secretary Raimondo who visited Manila on a presidential trade mission. With the announcement of the Luzon Economic Corridor, the U.S., Japan and the Philippines trilateral commitment is taking a bold initiative to invest in the country's infrastructure focusing in priority areas including clean energy, seaport modernization, telecommunications, logistics and food security. The Philippines values expanding engagements with like-minded countries, utilizing U.S. financial instruments and tools, multilateral platforms, and mobilizing the private sector.

Ambassador Romualdez also emphasized that with a strengthened defense and economic alliance that is more credible and operationally capable, the Philippines is an increasingly strong alliance partner of the United States. Consultations advance forward looking policies that embrace the rule of law, cooperation and democracy, human rights,

combating the transnational crimes and maritime law enforcement, including through capacity building for prosecutors and criminal investigations.

On the South China Sea, the Philippines leadership in managing transparency and tensions in the South China Sea has received worldwide attention. The Philippines and China reached provisional agreement involving the Philippine rotational mission to provide humanitarian supplies to a Philippine Navy outpost and ongoing monthly or quarterly PH-China dialogue on the situation in the West Philippine Sea including in Escoda Shoal, was a hopeful sign.

"The objective of these meetings is to clarify the arrangement and not to bring this level of conflict with China, where the result (is no) turning back," the Ambassador stated.

Ambassador Romualdez concluded his presentation highlighting investment opportunities in the green energy sector and critical minerals and stressing the importance of the reauthorization of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and continued discussions on a possible free trade agreement.

As the discussion continued, former U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Thomas Hubbard made a general observation about a growing positive interest in the importance of the Philippines in Washington as well as in much of Asia, notably by South Korean business executives. He attributed these developments to President Marcos leadership and the country's strategic geographical location as a gateway to the Asia-Pacific. The audience raised other issues, including the



*Photo: (l-r): Ambassador Thomas Hubbard, Executive Director Hank Hendrickson, U.S. State Senator Rita Sanders (Nebraska), Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez, Ambassador Paul Jones and President Emeritus Amb John F. Maisto. 11 September 2024.*

opening of U.S. markets and the need for more tangible investments, and attracting American investors and foreign direct investments in the Philippines, the role of private sector partnerships in infrastructure including the Manila International Airport and new airport construction led by the private sector.

Ambassador Romualdez discussed additional diplomatic approaches to reduce tensions in the South China Sea, including recent agreement between the Philippines and Vietnam on strengthening cooperation in humanitarian aid at sea and disaster relief, and conduct of joint coast guard maritime exercise promoting cooperation. The Philippine Embassy in Washington, as current Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Washington DC (ACW) from September – December 2024 will lead discussions on these regional security issues.

Remarking on the upcoming conversations on the sidelines of 79th session of the UNGA, the Ambassador stated, "it's an opportunity for us

(Philippines) to be able to interact with many countries, especially like-minded countries that have expressed their concerns over the South China Sea or the West Philippine Sea. We have a major problem and it's a global problem." Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo will lead the Philippine delegation in the UNGA summit.

"We hope for peaceful relations, but the only way is to continue to make sure that many countries with the same values that we have will continue to speak and say that you (China) are not going to go that far while we continue to try peacefully and have a discussion at the very least," the Ambassador added. He underscored President Marcos foreign policy as "friends to all, but when a country challenges our territorial and sovereign rights, then we have to defend ourselves."

The program's co-hosts, the Philippine Embassy and the US-Philippines Society welcomed Senator Rita Sanders and recognized her commitment to Filipino American communities in Nebraska, and her contributions in the return by the U.S. of the Bells of Balangiga and the ship naming of USS Telesforo Trinidad, a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer in honor of Telesforo Trinidad, the only Filipino in the U.S. Navy to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

The event also provided opportunities to taste Philippine pastries and engage in networking after the briefing.

## ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear esteemed brothers in Rotary.

Please join us in the Medical Mission by RCM, RCMFI, Rotary E-Club of Sta. Rosa and Distribution of the 40 units Wheelchairs.

**What:** Medical Mission and Distribution of Wheelchairs by the Rotary E - Club of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija, RCM and RCMFI

**When:** September 27, 2024 (Friday)  
9:30AM onwards

**Where:** Sta. Rosa Municipal Plaza

This activity is made possible through the collaborative efforts of RC MANILA, RCMFI, Rotary E-Club of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija and the Office of the Vice Mayor of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija

With your support, we will make this event a great success. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Rotary,

PDG Alex Cureg  
Project Chair-Wheel Chair Distribution in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija

**Meeting place:** 1st Petron NLEX Starbucks at 7:30AM to 8:00AM Northbound

## ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear Esteemed brothers in Rotary,

Please join us in the **Formal Turnover of Molecular Laboratory Equipment** donated by PD John Cenica for the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC).

**When:** October 7, 2024 (Monday) 10:00 AM

**Where:** Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC)  
Banawe corner Maria Clara Sts., Brgy  
Lourdes, Quezon City

Thank you very much.

Rtn/Dr. Brix Pujalte  
Medical Center Chief II POC

## ANNOUNCEMENT



Gentlemen,

President Jujut Enriquez warmly invites you to join us in supporting our very own District Governor, Gov. Jackie Rodriguez, at the upcoming “**Mid-Autumn Festival**” hosted by RC Chinatown. As valued members of RCM, we are excited to offer TWELVE (12) exclusive slots reserved just for us!

The registration fee is ₱2,500.00, payable to the following account:

Rotary Club of Manila  
Metrobank, Anda Circle Branch  
Account No: 151-7-15151486-0

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to come together and show our support at this exciting District event!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you.



**SERVICE  
ABOVE SELF**

**Rotary**



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**THE FOUR-WAY TEST**  
of the things we think, say or do

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- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

# TINIG KULTURA AT PAG-IBIG

An illustration of a man and a woman in traditional Filipino formal wear. The woman is wearing a black dress with white star patterns and a white shawl, holding a white fan. The man is wearing a white shirt and a white shawl. They are standing on a stylized, colorful wave-like base. The background of the illustration is a warm, orange and yellow gradient.

**Tinig, Kultura, at Pag-ibig: A Fundraising Concert**  
**September 19, 2024, 7:00 PM**  
**Metropolitan Theatre**



**R**CM WF Chorale joined the Rotary Fellowship of International Voices for a spectacular evening of music and culture where they showcase the rich Filipino musical heritage, from traditional songs to contemporary pieces.

The choir sang: “*Ay, Ay, Ay... O Pag-ibig*,” a Tagalog traditional folk song arranged by George G. Hernandez; and “*Tagumpay Nating Lahat*,” a song composed by Gary Granada and popularized by Lea Salonga in 1992.

This event was held to support the Rotary’s End Polio Now drive. Every ticket helped fund vital polio eradication efforts worldwide.



## Kuya Mark's Triumph: A *Victory* for the Children



***N***OT all heroes wear capes” – a common adage that is brought to life by the most recent **Grand Winner of THE ONE Philippines Humanitarian Award, Mr. Mark Martin Soriano.**

Mr. Soriano, or Kuya Mark as he is more fondly known by his community, bested twenty-three (23) other candidates from all over the Philippines.

Kuya Mark has been serving the underprivileged, at-risk, and out-of-school-youth of Tondo, Manila for the past nine (9) years. As part of Young Focus, an organization dedicated to providing education and holistic support to the neglected youth of Tondo, Kuya Mark has headed several programs catering to the needs of their students such as Young Unlimited.





Kuya Mark's unwavering dedication to helping children and his community for almost a decade is an echoing example of Rotary's motto "service above self". The grant that Kuya Mark won will be used to renovate and create more classrooms in Young Focus Catch Up center, allowing them to serve even more students in the future. In Kuya Mark's own words: "It's not about me, it's for the kids!" This victory is not only his but belongs to the entire Young Focus community, to all those whose lives he's touched, and to the future we are all building together. The Rotaract Club of Manila couldn't be prouder to have played a small role in elevating his incredible work and commitment.



**THE ONE Philippines Humanitarian Award**, a subsidiary project of **THE ONE International Humanitarian Award**, seeks to find and honor unsung heroes in the Philippines who are doing good for and within the community.

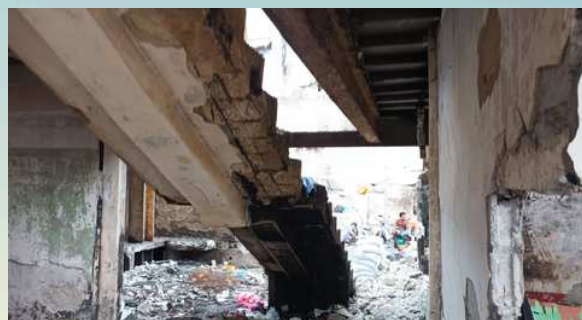
The Rotaract Club of Manila is the only Rotaract Club that nominated a candidate for The One Humanitarian Awards 2024.





ON September 14, a devastating fire swept through Aroma, Tondo, displacing 2,000 families, including many of the students of Young Focus. As these families face the challenge of rebuilding, Rotaract Manila and Rotary Manila are joining forces with Young Focus to step up relief efforts.

Together with IPP Arvin Reyes, Community Service Director Sherlene Ramos of Rotaract Club of Manila, Pres. Barbara Pauli from Rotaract Club of Weimar, Germany, Dr. John Cutter from Rotary Club of Manila, and 15 volunteers from Rotaract Club of STI College Pasay-EDSA, we're committed to helping the affected residents, who are being served three meals a day by Young Focus.





ON Saturday, September 21, 2024, members and officers of the Rotaract Club of Manila, Rotaract Club of STI College Pasay-EDSA, together with RCM representation, gathered at the Young Focus Recovery Center under the supervision of its Director, Mark Soriano. Throughout the day, they toured the destruction from Aroma Tondo's fire; sorted donated clothing; and helped prepare hot meals for the 47 families (approximately 160 individuals) currently being sheltered in the Young Focus facility. To date, of the 2,000 displaced individuals, Young Focus has provided hot meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for over 1,200 people.



# BusinessMirror

## Warfare, Lawfare, A World of New Disorder

BusinessMirror • September 24, 2024 • 9 minute read

By Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno (ret.)

*Speech delivered at the Rotary Club of Manila,  
September 19, 2024*

### I: Prefatory Statement

PEACE is the predicate of progress. Since time immemorial mankind has searched for peace. Their ceaseless search for peace has always ended in the peace of the graveyard.

In the book entitled **Conflict**, the authors General David Petraeus and Andrew Roberts stated that warfare has never ended ... “Conflict has continued at least somewhere on the globe every year since the end of the Second World War. The 20th Century was the most brutal of all the many centuries of human existence; it is estimated that more people have already perished violently in the first half of the 20th century than in all the previous centuries put together” (p. 2.).

Two decades inside the 21st century, peace continues to elude us. Consider the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. It is now running to 2 ½ years. Ukraine is in near total devastation given the kind of bombs dropped on it by Russia. But its cost to Russia is also bewildering. According to Petraeus and Roberts, “within a month of the invasion of Ukraine, Russia had lost as many military personnel killed as the US had in 20 years in Iraq and by March 2023, the

Russian death toll is thought to have reached five times the 13,300 soldiers that the USSR lost after a decade in Afghanistan in the 1980’s” (*Ibid.*, p. 2).

The war appears to be escalating. A few days ago, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Joe Biden discussed the possibility of allowing Ukraine to use long-range missiles against Russia. Putin warned it could unhinge a nuclear conflict.

Or consider the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. This war is on its twelfth month. It was precipitated by Hamas’s surprise attack on Israel that resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians. They also seized 251 hostages, including two Filipinos. Israel retaliated and in its aftermath, some 41,000 have died. Israel has rejected all calls by the international community for cease-fire until all hostages have been freed.

Yesterday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres released a statement that condemned what he called “**collective punishment of the people of Gaza by Israel**”. Other nations have come to the succor of both Israel and the Hamas. With Israel holding a nuclear card, the conflict can also incinerate the world unless contained.

Or consider the ongoing conflict between China and the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea. It started as a maritime dispute between two countries alone, a dispute which could have been settled under the peaceful mechanism set forth in UNCLOS. Their Arbitration failed. Since then, China has claimed **sovereignty** and occupied Scarborough Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and threatens to do the same on Escoda Shoal. All shoals are within the EEZ of the Philippines, hence, at the very least, it has **sovereign rights** on the shoals. In

this maritime dispute, the Philippines is fighting a Goliath. The Chinese Coast Guard, Navy and militia have succeeded in blocking almost all efforts of the Philippines to claim sovereign rights on these shoals. China has used water cannons, rammed boats, boarded a Philippine Navy boat, seized firearms of Filipino sailors, etc. All diplomatic protests have proved futile. Consequently, the Philippines has sought the assistance of other countries to protect itself from what it considers as aggression by China. Notably, it has concluded an Enhanced Defense Agreement with the US. Again, this conflict can escalate into an international dispute with some of the countries wielding weapons of mass destruction. The South China Sea is a very important waterway for trade that is vital to the whole world.

### II: Evolution of the Legal Regime on Warfare

MANKIND'S peace has always been broken by the use of force and by declarations of war. It is interesting to note that from the time of the Roman Republic to the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, war was as an instrument of policy and considered lawful among nations. Albeit, there was the doctrine of "just wars" of St. Augustine that imposed certain restrictions before States can declare war.

After the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, however, States no longer followed the doctrine of just war. States considered themselves sovereign and equal and they held that no State had the right to determine whether a war is just or not. By the end of the 18th century and throughout the 19th century, customary international law placed no limitation on the rights of States to resort to war to settle their disputes (*Ireland, Public International Law*, p. 679, et. seq.).

The devastation of World War I changed this State notion of its unlimited right to declare war. The League of Nations was established and its Covenant outlawed "war of aggression." The 1928 General Treaty for the Renunciation of War, also known as the Kellogg-Briand Pact, was the first universal treaty that outlawed war. **However, it did not provide for sanctions against its violation.**

With this soft stance on war, the covenant of League of Nations failed to prevent WWII. The horrors of World War II saw the birth of the UN. **Its Charter totally banned the threat and use of force. Article 2 (4)** of the Charter states that all members of the UN "shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations." Further, **Article 2 (3)** of the Charter provides: "All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered." These Articles, however, should be read in conjunction with Article 51 of the Charter which reads: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against Members of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security".

It took centuries for States to dump their right to wage war and agree to a total prohibition of war.

### III: Application of Article 2 (3) in relation to Article 51 and its problems

SINCE 1945 and for nearly seven decades, these articles in the UN Charter have set the legal regime that determines the propriety of the use of force and validates the exercise of self-defense in interstate relationship. The outlawing of war by the UN Charter may have prevented the occurrence of WWII but certainly, it failed to solve the problem of obliterating mini wars or the illegal use of force as well as unlawful claims of the right of self-defense in inter-state relationship. Consequently, international peace remains a chimera in the world today.

It will require volumes to dissect the problems States have encountered in the implementation of these provisions and why they failed to prevent wars among our States. Let me just mention some of the major ones. **First**, there is the controversy on the meaning of “**armed attack**”. Under Article 51 of the Charter, it is an “**armed attack**” that will trigger the right of self-defense. Literally, it contemplates the use of “**armed**” force. Some States, however, take the view that economic measures or non-violent actions that can infringe other provisions of the UN Charter or customary international law on State obligations should justify the invocation of the right to self-defense. Second, there is the controversy on whether there is a de minimis threshold on the scale and effects of the “**armed attack**”. There is what is known as “**accumulation of events**” theory or needle prick theory that posits the view that several minor attacks or incidents may be accumulated and used to justify the exercise of the right of self-defense.

**Third**, there is the controversy on the **timing** of the armed attack which will trigger the exercise of the right of self-defense. Again, literally read, the right of the self-defense can be exercised only “if an armed attack **occurs**.” The 9/11 attack on the United States as well as the availability of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist groups, gave birth to the concept of **anticipatory self defense**. According to this school of thought, an imminent use of force, especially involving weapons of mass destruction, can trigger the right of self-defense of the targeted state. In other words, the targeted State need not wait for the armed attack to occur.

A corollary school of thought, known as **preemptive self-defense**, goes further. It posits the theory that even if the armed attack is not imminent but may take place at some point in the future if no action is taken, that should justify the exercise of the right of self-defense.

This position was taken by Israel in attacking an Iraq nuclear reactor that was still under construction but designed to produce nuclear weapons that would subsequently be used against it.

Let me just refer to one more controversial area in the application of Article 51 of the Charter.

Customary international law further requires two conditions to be fulfilled to justify the exercise of self-defense: **proportionality** and **necessity**. The requirement of proportionality demands that self-defense measures should be geared towards stopping or repelling the armed attack. If the attack has ceased, the alleged self-defense actions of the victim state will be dismissed as punitive or retaliatory and will be qualified as reprisal and no longer acts of self-defense. In other words, they cannot justify the need to deter **future attacks or**

**eliminate their danger.**

*Quare:* Does this apply to the Israel-Hamas ongoing dispute?

Also, there is the requirement of **necessity** as a restriction on the right to exercise the right of self-defense. This requirement means that the right can only be used as a **last resort**, only when peaceful means have been reasonably exhausted or when diplomatic efforts have proved futile. The requirement also demands that self-defense should be undertaken while the original armed attack is still in progress; there should be a close proximity in time between the start of the armed attack and the response in self-defense (*Ireland, supra*).

These different interpretations have proved detrimental to mankind's search for international peace. They have been used by some powerful countries to avoid the State duty not to use force or threat of force. They have been used by other countries to violate the requirements for the legitimate use of the right of self-defense. They have violated the norms set by Article 51 of the Charter especially with the use of their veto power in the UN Security Council.

Thus today, we suffer from a world of new disorder.

#### **IV: We Need a New World Order**

AS discussed, the legal regimen provided in the UN Charter has not eliminated the threat or the use of force, hence, the proliferation of inter-state wars. **In the coming years**, the existing legal regimen will prove to be more useless considering the novel means of warfare being brought by technology, especially artificial intelligence. As well put by author Mark Galeotti, *viz.*

*Economic sanctions, targeted assassinations and political-influence campaigns are becoming more common, more alluring and, in some cases, less detectable than actions on the usual battlegrounds of land, sea, air and space. Perpetual low-level conflict masked by plausible deniability both de-intensifies war and make it more ubiquitous. Disconnected from traditional battlefields, such actions comprise a form a warfare where computers, currencies and public opinion become primary battlegrounds, with little definitive indication of final success or failure. This has been termed 'the weaponization of everything', and we can assume it to be a growing phenomenon.*

Needless to state, we need to change our world order to eliminate the use of force, violence and wars in inter-state relationship. Our present world order does not work because it is founded on power imbalance—only a handful of powerful countries dictate its direction, more specifically the five (5) countries that wield the veto power in the UN Security Council. It excludes the legion of powerless nations in decision-making. Our world order does not work because it fails to appreciate the interconnectedness of all nations and the commonality of the problems they face like climate change, poverty, pandemic, etc. Our world order does not work because it continues to perpetuate narrow national interest instead of recognizing divergent values and interests. Our world order does not work because it is built on the values of competition, not cooperation, secrecy instead of transparency and accountability.

This is our challenge and it is a challenge that needs our urgent attention.

Good day to all.

# NEWS CLIPPINGS





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**PALAWANPAY  
CASH IN / OUT**



**PERA PADALA**



**SANGLA**



**JEWELRY SELLING**



**INTERNATIONAL  
REMITTANCE**



**BILLS PAYMENT**



**INSURANCE**



**PADALA TO BANK  
ACCOUNT**



**E-LOADING**



**MONEY CHANGER**



**CASH CARD/  
ATM WITHDRAWAL**

**MAY PANGANGAILANGAN?**

**I-PALAWAN MO NA!**

Supervised by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

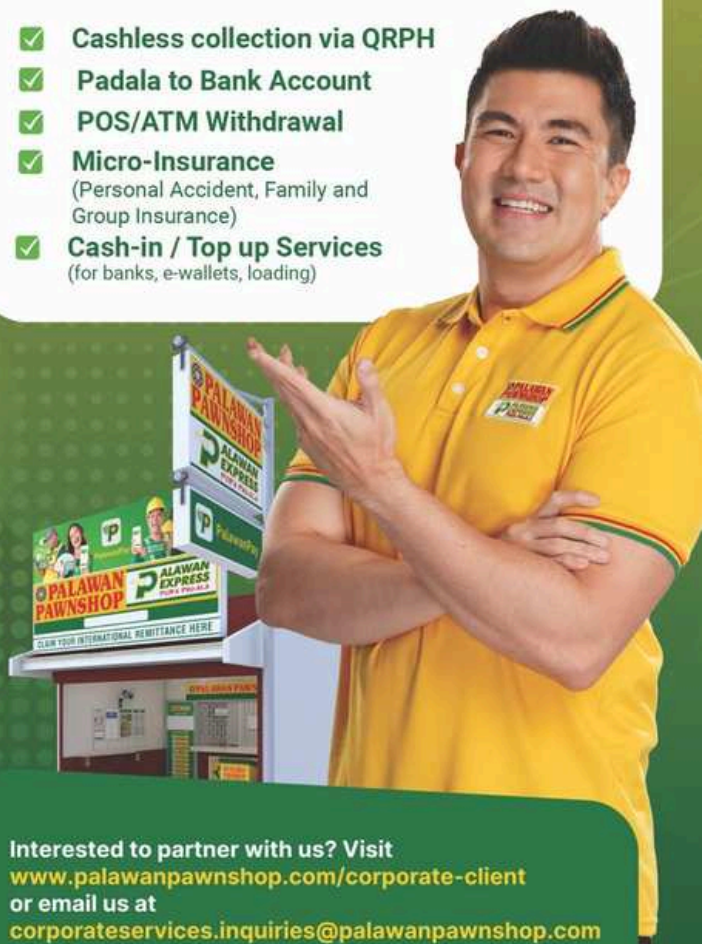


## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **✓ CASH MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS**

- **Corporate Collection**  
(Dealer/ Distributor, Salesman/ Collector, Unit/Member)
- **Bulk Disbursement**  
(Salaries, Bonuses, Loans, Funds, Incentives, Commissions)
- **Bills Payments**  
(electricity, water, telecommunications, others)

- ✓ **Cashless collection via QRPH**
- ✓ **Padala to Bank Account**
- ✓ **POS/ATM Withdrawal**
- ✓ **Micro-Insurance**  
(Personal Accident, Family and Group Insurance)
- ✓ **Cash-in / Top up Services**  
(for banks, e-wallets, loading)



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