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balita

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TERESO O. PANGA

*Director General
Philippine Economic
Zone Authority (PEZA)*

**RECLAIMING
FISCAL INTEGRITY:
Benjamin Diokno's
Ten Commandments
for the Nation's Purse**

**Investing in Futures
of Young Learners:
RCM, RCMFI and
Dualtech Partnership
Empowers Scholars**

**Oktoberfest 2025:
A Symphony of
Fellowship Beneath
the Neon Glow**

**Typhoon Opong
Relief and Recovery
Operation in Masbate**

**RCMFI Donates P200,000
to Support Teacher
Training Program**

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PROGRAM



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 11th Weekly Membership Meeting Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: PD AMADO D. "Amading" VALDEZ

PART I

11:00 PM Registration

12:30 PM Call to Order | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

Invocation

**RTN. ABDULGANI M. "Gani"
MACATOMAN**

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale

The Four (4) Way Test
PD PHILLIP "Phil" ONG

Acknowledgment of Guests
PD AMADO D. "Amading" VALDEZ

Welcome Song
RCM WF Music Chorale

Birthday Celebrants:

Oct. 19	Rtn. Teng Catalan	Oct. 26	Dir. Mike Albana
	Rtn. Pablo Arguelles		Rtn. Junjie Vasquez
Oct. 23	IA Nick Locsin	Oct. 28	DE Del Lorenzana
	STAR Rtn. Ingill Ra	Nov. 02	Rtn. Steve Chien
		Nov. 04	PD Beda Fajardo

Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Chorale

Induction of New Member

Introduction of New Member
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

***Mr. Jason Romeo C. Valderrama**
President & CEO, JCV & Associates*

*Proposer: **Pres. Raoul C. Creencia***

Oath of Membership
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA



PART II

12:55 PM President's Time
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

- Signing of Sister Club Agreement with RC Jinju Jeil

1:00 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker
**PP FELIX FRANCISCO S. "Chito"
ZALDARRIAGA**

Guest of Honor and Speaker

HON. TERESO O. PANGA
Director General, PEZA

1:30 PM Open Forum / Q & A

1:45 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

2:00 PM Adjournment
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



IN the story of the Philippine economy, special economic zones have long stood as experiments in controlled ambition — spaces where order and opportunity were meant to coexist. Conceived as islands of efficiency in a sea of bureaucracy, they have weathered political transitions and shifting tides of global capital.

At the helm of this enduring enterprise is **Tereso "Theo" O. Panga**, Director-General of the

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), a man tasked with redefining an institution that has outgrown its old vocabulary. Panga's challenge is not merely to attract investors; it is to reimagine what a "zone" means in a world that now measures progress in sustainability, not smokestacks.

Under Panga's leadership, PEZA has begun to stir. Investment approvals have more than doubled since last year, reaching nearly ₱91 billion by mid-2025 — a sign that confidence, once fractured, is slowly being restored. Two hundred new and expansion projects now promise tens of thousands of jobs across the country.

But numbers, however promising, are only the surface of the story. Growth sustained by incentives can be as fragile as it is impressive. The real test is whether PEZA can convert these gains into structural strength: better jobs, stronger linkages, and a deeper local economy that does not depend solely on tax holidays and cheap labor.

Panga's blueprint departs from the

EDITORIAL

old industrial template. His “smart, green, and inclusive zones” are designed not as enclaves but as ecosystems — where manufacturing coexists with research, digital infrastructure, and renewable energy.

From Pampanga’s reclassified agro-industrial park to Cebu’s envisioned “aerotropolis,” the direction is clear: PEZA is moving toward mixed-use, future-ready zones that mirror the needs of a diversified economy. It is a vision aligned with the global pivot toward cleaner, smarter, more human-scaled industrial landscapes.

Yet ambition must meet asphalt. Connectivity, energy reliability, and digital access remain the silent determinants of success. A zone may be beautifully planned on paper, but without infrastructure, it is a map without roads.

The obstacles are familiar. Infrastructure gaps, bureaucratic delays, and the fragile equilibrium between incentives and revenue discipline all persist. PEZA’s famed “one-stop shop” remains vulnerable

Yet ambition must meet asphalt. Connectivity, energy reliability, and digital access remain the silent determinants of success. A zone may be beautifully planned on paper, but without infrastructure, it is a map without roads.

to the slow gears of coordination across agencies.

Still, Panga’s style is pragmatic rather than rhetorical. He knows that the hardest reforms are not legislative but cultural — persuading institutions to move faster, think longer, and measure success by outcomes, not paperwork.

His brief resignation earlier this year, and the groundswell of support that reversed it, revealed both his credibility and the volatility

EDITORIAL

of technocratic leadership in a politicized bureaucracy. Even good policy, in the Philippines, is only as stable as the politics that surround it.

If Panga's agenda succeeds, PEZA will cease to be a mere promoter of industrial enclaves and become an architect of national competitiveness. The idea is simple but transformative: to move from counting investors to cultivating industries; from hosting factories to building innovation corridors.

This will demand partnerships — with universities for talent, with LGUs for community linkages, with agencies for green infrastructure. It will also require courage to phase out dependency on fiscal incentives and to shift toward productivity, transparency, and performance.

What makes Panga's work compelling is its quiet audacity. In a time of fatigue and distrust, he represents the fading belief that bureaucracy, done right, can still build nations. His optimism is not naive; it is methodical, shaped by decades inside an institution that still delivers when much of government stumbles.

If PEZA can transform its zones into sustainable engines of innovation and employment, it will not simply add numbers to the GDP. It will redefine the geography of hope — creating bridges between local communities and the global economy, between growth and dignity.

If PEZA can transform its zones into sustainable engines of innovation and employment, it will not simply add numbers to the GDP. It will redefine the geography of hope — creating bridges between local communities and the global economy, between growth and dignity.

Theo Panga's task is immense, but so is the promise. For now, the map of ambition he draws for the Philippines remains unfinished — but at last, it points in the right direction.

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

TERESO O. PANGA

Director General
Philippine Economic
Zone Authority (PEZA)

TERESO O. Panga—known as “Theo” in PEZA and industry circles—was appointed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. as the first homegrown Director General of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) on 23 March 2023.

He began his career in PEZA in 1998 as a Planning Officer III and steadily rose through the ranks, serving as Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning from 2010 until his appointment as Director General. Over the years, he has led key initiatives in policy and planning, ecozone development, digital transformation, special programs and projects, and eco-industrial efforts.

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

TERESO O. PANGA

Director General
Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)

Theo holds a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature (1991) and a Master's degree in Industrial Relations (2000), both from the University of the Philippines Diliman. He also completed an executive course in Urban, Industrial, and Environmental Management at the National University of Singapore in 2009.

He was a Top 10 National Finalist in the 2015 Presidential Gawad Career Executive Service Awards, which recognizes outstanding career officials in government.



In 2020, he received the Best Policy Foresight Paper award under the Executive Course on Leadership, Innovation, Communication, and Knowledge Management (CLICK) by the Development Academy of the Philippines. In 2023, he was honored as a Heroes' Outstanding Leader in Economic Development by Asia's Modern Hero Awards Council. In 2024, he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni by the University of the Philippines.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON October 20, the Rotary Club of Manila, in partnership with the Department of Justice - Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (DOJ-OADR), and the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators, launched the inaugural LEAP Awards, or the Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking Awards.

Peacebuilding and conflict prevention is one of Rotary's Areas of Focus, and I believe that the Leap Awards, a project which has been judiciously and diligently pursued by Committee Chairman / DE Teddy Kalaw, is a flagship undertaking that is worth fully supporting. Indeed, the project exemplifies and gives due recognition to organizations and individuals who are inspiring passion in promoting peace, dialogue, and conflict resolution.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

During the awarding ceremony, I was given the opportunity to give the welcome address, and I would like to share the message that I delivered during this eventful occasion.

Welcome Remarks during the LEAP Awards ceremony:

To our distinguished guests, esteemed partners from the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution, fellow Rotarians, members of the legal and peacebuilding community, and most especially, our honorees — Good Morning!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Manila, I welcome you all to this inaugural Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking, or LEAP Awards. Today's activity is not just a simple awarding ceremony, but a celebration of vision, integrity, and leadership in the noble pursuit of peace, and the alternative modes of resolving disputes.

Rotary has always believed that peace is the highest form of service — one that calls for empathy, dialogue, and respect for our shared humanity. These same values are at the heart of alternative dispute resolution, where understanding replaces confrontation, and collaboration triumphs over conflict.

Indeed, peace is at the heart of Rotary's mission. From local communities to global initiatives, Rotary believes in creating understanding, building trust, and promoting dialogue.

Today, we honor those who exemplify these ideals — men and women whose quiet courage and steadfast commitment to harmony

strengthen the very fabric of our communities and our nation.

To our awardees, we extend our warmest congratulations. Your work embodies Rotary's enduring principle of Service Above Self, and your example reminds us that peace is not a distant goal, but a daily choice we must all make.

May this milestone inspire us to continue working hand in hand — government, the legal community, civil society, and Rotary — to build a culture of peace, justice, and understanding for all.

Thank you, and good day.



RECLAIMING FISCAL INTEGRITY: *Benjamin Diokno's Ten Commandments for the Nation's Purse*

by PE Reginald T. Yu

WHEN the gavel struck at the Manila Polo Club, the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting came to life with the crisp resonance of purpose. President Raoul C. Creencia called the assembly to order, setting the tone for an afternoon steeped in insight and gravitas. Beneath the soft glimmer of chandeliers and the murmur of Rotarians and guests, one could sense anticipation — for the guest speaker that day was not merely a man of numbers, but of principles: Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno, Member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and one of the nation's most seasoned economic minds.



Treasurer Paul Joseph M. "PJ" Garcia moderated the meeting.



PD Issam Eldebs led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.



President Raoul C. Creencia called the meeting to order.



President Raoul C. Creencia delivered his message during the President's Time.



STAR Rtn. Valentino S. "Val" Bagatsing led the invocation.



PVP Joel C. Valdes introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The Anatomy of a Budget

In his calm, professorial cadence, Dr. Diokno began not with figures but with philosophy. “The national budget,” he declared, “is the most consequential task of Congress — its justification for existence.”

Having crafted thirteen of the thirty-nine national budgets since the 1986 People Power Revolution, Diokno spoke with the rare authority of one who has not merely studied fiscal policy but shaped it. His narrative spanned four presidencies — **Aquino, Estrada, Duterte, and Marcos Jr.** — each chapter yielding lessons on prudence, discipline, and political will.

He recounted his authorship of the first-ever **Multi-Year Fiscal Program** — a six-year roadmap for national expenditure and development. “A president serves for six years,” he explained. “He must focus on what can be done within those six years. Not on who will succeed him.” That document, later adopted by Congress, set ambitious but clear targets: to reduce the deficit-to-GDP ratio to 3%, bring debt down to 60% of GDP, and attain upper-middle-income status by 2028.

“But today,” Diokno cautioned, “all

those targets are now in doubt.” The deviation, he said, was not due to economic impossibility — but to political compromise.

When Congress Plays Architect

It was here that his tone sharpened, his economist’s neutrality giving way to quiet conviction. “In recent years, the President’s budget has been routinely mangled by Congress,” he lamented. “The clear winner: the Department of Public Works and Highways.”



Guest of Honor and Speaker Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno, Member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

He revealed that in successive years, Congress inflated the DPWH budget by as much as 34% in 2023, 21% in 2024, and 21% again in 2025—while slashing the Department of Transportation’s allocations by over 50%. “That is why our infrastructure dreams — the North-South Railway, the Metro Subway — remain dreams. They have no funds for right-of-way acquisitions. Congress cut them out.”

Equally troubling was the ballooning of **“unprogrammed appropriations”** — a fiscal catch-all that grew unchecked from ₱588 billion to over ₱800 billion in a single year. “And you know why,” Diokno said pointedly. “That’s where they get their post-projects.”

The Ten Commandments of Fiscal Integrity

Then came what Diokno called his **“Ten Commandments”** — a distilled manifesto for restoring fiscal responsibility, forged from decades of experience and disillusionment alike.

1. Respect the Process. “The DBCC — the Development Budget Coordination Committee — crafts the budget aligned with macroeconomic targets. Tinkering after that undermines months of technical work.”

2. Defend the President’s Budget.

“If a Secretary cannot live within his ceiling, he should be fired. Lobbying Congress for more funds is an act of disloyalty.”

3. Honor Foreign-Assisted Projects.

“They are well-studied, high-yield, and ready for execution. Replacing them with local, politically motivated projects delays progress and wastes borrowed money.”

4. Accept Congress’s Right to Amend — but Wisely.

“Amendments are allowed only if they improve the President’s proposal.”

5. Make the Budget Public.

“Transparency begins with uploading the House-approved General Appropriations Bill for all citizens to see.”

6. Respect the Senate’s Role. “Let the Senate propose amendments — but require that these be transparent and justified, not concealed in technical jargon.”

7. Publish the Senate Version.

“Accountability thrives in sunlight. The public must know what changes were made, and by whom.”

8. Open the Bicameral

Conference to the Public. “The bicam should reconcile differences, not invent new provisions. Minutes should be public, proceedings recorded, and the Budget Secretary allowed to observe.”

9. Use the Line-Item Veto. “Our President has the power to surgically remove pork from the budget. He must use it.”

10. Uphold Checks and Balances. “Congress may override a veto — but at great political cost. The Constitution designed it that way, not for convenience, but for courage.”

It was a manifesto not of theory but of practice — a plea for institutional memory in a system that too easily forgets.

The Moral Mathematics of Governance

In the hush that followed, Diokno’s final words hung in the air like a quiet challenge. “When you deviate from the plan,” he said, “you delay the nation’s progress. You trade sustainability for expediency. And in the end, it is the Filipino people who pay the price.”

His lecture was less an indictment

than a moral equation — a reminder that economics, when stripped to its essence, is an ethical discipline. “Budgeting,” he seemed to suggest, “is not about numbers, but about choices — what we value, and who we serve.”



Open Forum: Dr. Diokno engaged in an interactive conversation with Treasurer PJ Garcia, Rtn. Gani Macatoman, PDG Alex Cureg, PD Amading Valdez, PD Beda Fajardo, PD Oscar Del Rosario, DE Del Lorenzana, PVP Joel Valdes, PD Tony Lopez, and PD Issam Eldebs.





Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation, presented by President Raoul C. Creencia, and witnessed by Treasurer PJ Garcia, PVP Joel Valdes, PD Issam Eldebs, and PD Amading Valdez

A Rotarian's Legacy

For many Rotarians present, the afternoon was also a homecoming of sorts. Few remembered that Benjamin Diokno once served as Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Manila, long before the corridors of power beckoned. Yet in his speech, that Rotarian spirit — the commitment to truth, transparency, and service — shone undimmed.

President **Raoul Creencia** presented the Certificate of Appreciation amid warm applause, but the greater applause came in the silence that followed — the silence of reflection, of

a room momentarily stilled by clarity.

As the meeting adjourned, one could sense that the Rotarians did not merely hear a lecture on fiscal policy — they witnessed a masterclass in civic conscience.

Epilogue

In an era when political noise often drowns out reason, Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno's message resounded as both caution and compass: that integrity, not ideology, must anchor our nation's budget. And that in the ledger of history, it is not the numbers that will endure — but the values they represent.

Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT
October 2025

OCTOBER 2025	October 02, 2025 RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC. DAY	October 09, 2025 AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE PHILIPPINES H.E. ENDO KAZUYA	October 16, 2025 FORMER BSP GOVERNOR & MONETARY BOARD MEMBER BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO
MEMBERS PRESENT	21	39	29
MEMBERS PRESENT %	10%	18%	14%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	22	9	0
EXEMPTED	3	3	4
ON LEAVE	0	0	0
Total Active Members	43	48	29
Total # of Members	213	213	213
TOTAL %:	20%	23%	14%
ROTARACTORS	0	14	0
MEDIA	0	2	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	1	7
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	1	1
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	1	10	4
TOTAL ATTENDEES	22	65	41



LIST OF ATTENDEES
October 16, 2025

- LIST OF ATTENDEES
- 1 Bagatsing, Valentino S.
 - 2 Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
 - 3 Benedicto, Sixto T.
 - 4 Carlos, Vicente J.
 - 5 Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.
 - 6 Creencia, Raoul C.
 - 7 Cureg, Alexander P.
 - 8 Davis, Raymond N.
 - 9 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
 - 10 Edebs, Issam
 - 11 Fajardo, Beda G.
 - 12 Garcia, Paul Joseph M.
 - 13 Katigbak, J Alfonso L.
 - 14 Locsin, Arsenio Z.
 - 15 Lopez, Antonio S.
 - 16 Lopez, Arthur M.
 - 17 Lorenzana, Delfin
 - 18 Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
 - 19 Ocampo, Teodoro J.
 - 20 Pascual, Abraham F.
 - 21 Pineda, Jr., Jesus M.
 - 22 Recto, Philip H.
 - 23 Reynolds, David J.
 - 24 Serapio, Carlos G.
 - 25 Tagaysay, Hector O.
 - 26 Valdes, Joel C.
 - 27 Valdez, Amado D.
 - 28 Valencia, John Nico P.
 - 29 Yu, Reginald Tieng

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of November 4, 2025

1	ABOY, VALENTINO G.	56	FAJARDO, BEDA G.	111	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.
2	ABRIAM, ARIEL	57	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.	112	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.
3	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	58	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.	113	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.
4	AGNES, JERRY A.	59	GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY	114	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM
5	ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY	60	GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.	115	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.
6	ALDAY, ALBERT S.	61	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.	116	PELIÑO, WILFREDO
7	ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.	62	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.	117	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.
8	ALUNAN, RAFAEL M.	63	GO, DANNY C.	118	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.
9	ANDAL, AVELINO L.	64	GO, HENRY S.	119	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.
10	ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.	65	GONZALES, JONAS R.	120	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
11	ARGUELLES, PABLO C.	66	GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL	121	PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.
12	AVENTURA, AVELINO JR. L.	67	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY	122	RA, INGILL
13	BAGATSING, VALENTINO	68	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.	123	RAMOS, CLAVER P.
14	BALANAY, ARIES B.	69	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.	124	RANKL, PETER
15	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.	70	HALLARE, DELFIN JR.	125	RECTO, PHILIP H.
16	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.	71	HALLARE, NICOLÒ	126	REYNOLDS, DAVID
17	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.	72	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.	127	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
18	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.	73	HESSE, UWE	128	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
19	BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.	74	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.	129	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
20	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.	75	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.	130	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
21	BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR	76	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L	131	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
22	BLANCO, MANUEL M.	77	KLEBS, DAVID	132	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
23	BOGOVICH, JASON M.	78	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY	133	SCHNEIDER, BERND
24	BRANELEC, JACQUES	79	LACAMBACAL, ALVIN	134	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
25	BUENDIA, CARLOS	80	LAUREL, RICARDO P.	135	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
26	CABANGON, EDGARD	81	LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL	136	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
27	CABUNAG, ROGELIO	82	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.	137	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
28	CAMAT, NATHANIEL	83	LEE, RICHARD L.	138	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
29	CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.	84	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.	139	SO, WARREN
30	CANON, RAUL JR C.	85	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.	140	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
31	CARLOS, VICENTE J.	86	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.	141	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
32	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.	87	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.	142	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
33	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.	88	LOPEZ, ANTONIO	143	TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.
34	CATALAN, RODILLO	89	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.	144	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
35	CHAHWAN, RAMI	90	LORENZANA, DELFIN	145	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
36	CHAN, ROBERT JR.	91	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.	146	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
37	CID, DEAN	92	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.	147	TAN, JOHN G.
38	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.	93	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.	148	TAN, LAWRENCE L.
39	COYIUTO, ROBERT JR. G.	94	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.	149	TEE, TEDDY JR. B.
40	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.	95	MANGALILE, SENEN	150	TEJUMAL, MICHAEL
41	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.	96	MARTINEZ, RONALD	151	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L.
42	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL	97	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.	152	VALDES, JOELC.
43	DAYANG, JUAN E.	98	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC	153	VALDEZ, AMADO
44	DAVIS, RAYMOND N.	99	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO C.	154	VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
45	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR	100	MENDOZA, MIGUEL	155	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
46	DIONISIO, RAFAEL	101	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.	156	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.
47	DOMINGO, RICO, V.	102	MOMMAERTS, STEVE	157	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.
48	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS G.	103	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.	158	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
49	DY, MANUEL	104	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO	159	YAP, ENRIQUE JR.
50	EGAN, BRENDAN	105	NONES, ROMEO C.	160	YORDANOV, STEFAN
51	ELDEBS, ISSAM	106	NUÑEZ, JOSE A.	161	YU, GEOFFREY C.
52	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III	107	OBRADO, DANIEL	162	YU, REGINALD T.
53	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.	108	OCAMPO, TEODORO J.	163	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
54	ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A.	109	ONG, PHILIP	164	ZETTOUNI, NAGI
55	EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.	110	ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.	165	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
				166	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Prospective Members Attend Rotary Information Committee Briefing Via Zoom



THE Rotary Information Committee held a briefing on October 17, 2025, via Zoom for prospective members: Messrs Eric G. Eugenio, Oliver L. Pantaleon, and Jason Romeo C. Valderrama.

Rotary Information Chairman PDG Obet Pagdanganan, along with Co-Chairman PP Boy Guevara, PP Ebot Tan, and Rtn. Romy Nones provided essential information about Rotary. This included the organization's vision, mission, and objectives, as well as the history and ongoing projects of the Rotary Club of Manila.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Fifth Monthly Regular Board Meeting



THE fifth monthly regular board meeting was held on October 22, 2025 at Meeting Room 14 of the SMX Manila Convention Center.

President Raoul Creencia, Director Jason Bogovich, Director Hans Palacios, Director Edwin Hernandez (via Zoom), Director Mike Albaña, Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay, Director-Elect/ Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, Treasurer PJ Garcia (via Zoom), Vice President-Elect/Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro, and Internal Auditor Nick Locsin were present at the meeting.

Our outsourced Bookkeeper Ms. Glennies Racuya and Ms. Diana Del Rosario also attended and presented the financial report.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Meeting with Onstrike Library Solutions Corporation to Discuss RCM Website



A Zoom meeting with Onstrike Library Solutions Corporation (OLSC) President Jerwyn Fernandez and Mr. Ram Migrino was held on October 27, 2025 to discuss updates and other relevant information regarding the RCM website.

Representing RCM were President Raoul Creencia, Directors Edwin Hernandez and Jason Bogovich, Director-elect/Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, Consultant Anna Kun-Toledo, and RCM Executive Secretary Lhea Lozano.



ENVIRONMENT



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Rotary Club of Manila and Apl.de.Ap Foundation International Explores Partnership for 'Environment' and 'Community Economic Development' Projects



Audie Vergara of Apl.de.Ap Foundation International met with President Raoul Creencia and Director Jason Bogovich on October 23, 2025 to discuss updates on the planned partnership to pursue environmental and community economic development projects.



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



Investing in Futures of Young Learners: RCM, RCMFI, and Dualtech Partnership Empowers Scholars

THE Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) and the RCManila Foundation, Inc. reaffirmed their commitment to basic education and literacy by presenting scholarship funds to the Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. On Friday, October 17, 2025, this meaningful event celebrated the continuation of a program that invests in the technical skills and futures of young learners.



Investing in Futures of Young Learners:

RCM, RCMFI, and Dualtech Partnership Empowers Scholars

The day began with a tour of the Dualtech Training Center campus at Carmelray Industrial Park 1 in Calamba, Laguna. RCM President Raoul Creencia and RCM Manila Foundation Chairman/Past District Governor Alex Cureg led the Rotary delegation. They were warmly welcomed by Dualtech representatives, including Head of Learning Mr. Moises Fajardo, Consultant Mr. Leo Calderon, and Learning Facilitator Jan Denver Penetrante.



Tour of Dualtech Training Center, Don Ramon A. Yulo Campus, Carmelray Industrial Park 1, Productivity Drive, Calamba, Laguna. RC Manila President Raoul Creencia and RCM Manila Foundation, Inc. Chairman/PDG Alex Cureg were welcomed by Mr. Jan Denver Penetrante (Learning Facilitator, left) and Mr. Moises Fajardo (Head of Learning, far right).





Investing in Futures of Young Learners: RCM, RCMFI, and Dualtech Partnership Empowers Scholars

A highlight of the program was a heartfelt message of gratitude from a scholar, who spoke on behalf of all ten beneficiaries. His insights underscored the profound impact of the RCM-Dualtech Scholarship Program, which was launched by the late Past President Bobby Joseph in December 2021.



An RCM–RCMFI-Dualtech scholar shares a message of gratitude and insights on behalf of the 10 scholars.

During the ceremony, RCM and RCMFI leaders delivered brief, powerful remarks. President Creencia, Chairman Cureg, and RDSP Chair/Secretary Anton Mauricio spoke on the importance of strong partnerships, skills development, and the life-changing impact of educational support. Mr. Calderon of Dualtech acknowledged the vital and continuous support from RCM and RCMFI.



RCM President Raoul Creencia, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman/Past District Governor Alex Cureg, and RDSP Chair/Secretary Anton Mauricio deliver brief remarks on the project's impact and partnership.





Investing in Futures of Young Learners: RCM, RCMFI, and Dualtech Partnership Empowers Scholars



Mr. Leo Calderon, Consultant of Dualtech, acknowledges the support of the Rotary Club of Manila and the RCManila Foundation, Inc..

The core of the event was the presentation of the scholarship check. The funds will cover a two-year electro-mechanic course for ten scholars, with each receiving Php 65,000. As a gesture of gratitude, Mr. Fajardo presented a token of appreciation to RCM and the Foundation through Secretary Mauricio, witnessed by President Creencia, Mr. Calderon, Rotarian Romy Nones, Chairman Cureg, and Mr. Penetrante.

This collaboration is a testament to the power of providing technical education. By equipping young people with in-demand skills, the RCM-RCMFI-Dualtech Scholarship Program not only empowers individuals but also helps build sustainable livelihoods, creating a ripple effect of progress for families and communities.





BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

Investing in Futures of Young Learners: RCM, RCMFI, and Dualtech Partnership Empowers Scholars



Mr. Moises Fajardo, Head of Learning of Dualtech Training Center, presents a token of appreciation to the Rotary Club of Manila and RCManila Foundation, Inc. through Secretary Anton Mauricio. Present were Pres. Raoul Creencia, Mr. Leo Calderon, Rotarian Romy Nones, RCMFI Chair/PDG Alex Cureg, and Mr. Jan Denver Penetrante (Learning Facilitator).



RCManila Foundation Inc. Donates P200,000 to Support Teacher Training Program

PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia, Secretary Anton Mauricio, and Teacher Training Committee chair Nico Hallare presented a P200,000 check from the RCManila Foundation to Reading Specialist Program Director Ms. Jolee Feria Montinola and Ms. Raquel Syquia Neri. This donation is earmarked for the teacher training program scheduled for November 2025.

The turnover was held on October 20, 2025, at the office of Reading Specialists Inc. (RSI) in Alabang, Muntinlupa.



RCManila Foundation Inc. Donates P200,000 to Support Teacher Training Program



Following a site inspection and the check presentation, RSI graciously hosted a dinner for those in attendance.





BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

Manila-based Rotary Clubs Meet for the “Reading Room” Project



THE Rotary Club of Manila led the meeting with the presidents of other Manila-based Rotary Clubs to discuss the joint project, the **Reading Room**, which is scheduled to be launched on November 14.

Presidents from the following clubs were present: RC Manila Bay, RC Fort Santiago, RC Manila Villamor, RC Bagumbayan, RC Manila Binondo Prime, RC Intramuros, RC Quiapo Plaza Miranda, RC Aseana Manila, and RC Raha Sulayman.

Rotary Club of Manila

UNITE FOR GOOD

RCM'S ANNUAL SPORTSFEST 2025

SAVE THE DATE
11.15.25
PALMS COUNTRY CLUB
1410 Laguna Heights Dr, Muntinlupa

REGISTRATIONS @ 8:00 AM
FEE: P3,500.00 / ALL IN
WITH LUNCH/DINNER

SCHEDULE:

• Ping Pong (8-9am)	• Futsal (2-3pm)
• Tennis (9-10am)	• Pickle Ball (3-4pm)
• Badminton (10-11am)	• Tag-of-War (4-4:30)
• Self-defense (11-12pm)	• Bowling (5:30pm)
• Lunch Buffet (12-1pm)	• Billiard (5:30pm)
• Basketball (1-2pm)	• Dinner Buffet (7-10pm)



WASH Project

THE Rotary Club of Manila, headed by President Raoul Creencia, conducted an ocular inspection for a joint project involving a mini library and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities at Tukod Elementary School in San Rafael, Bulacan. He was accompanied by project partners from the Rotary Club of Makati, headed by President Eddie Galvez, and the Rotary Club of Makati-West, led by President Dino Dumatol. Also in the photo is school Principal Joselito Bautista.



This room will be converted into a mini library.

The site of the handwashing station





CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT



President Raoul C. Creencia served as one of the guest speakers representing the Rotary Club of Manila at the Climate Change Summit held on October 24, 2025, at Rizal Technological University, Mandaluyong City.

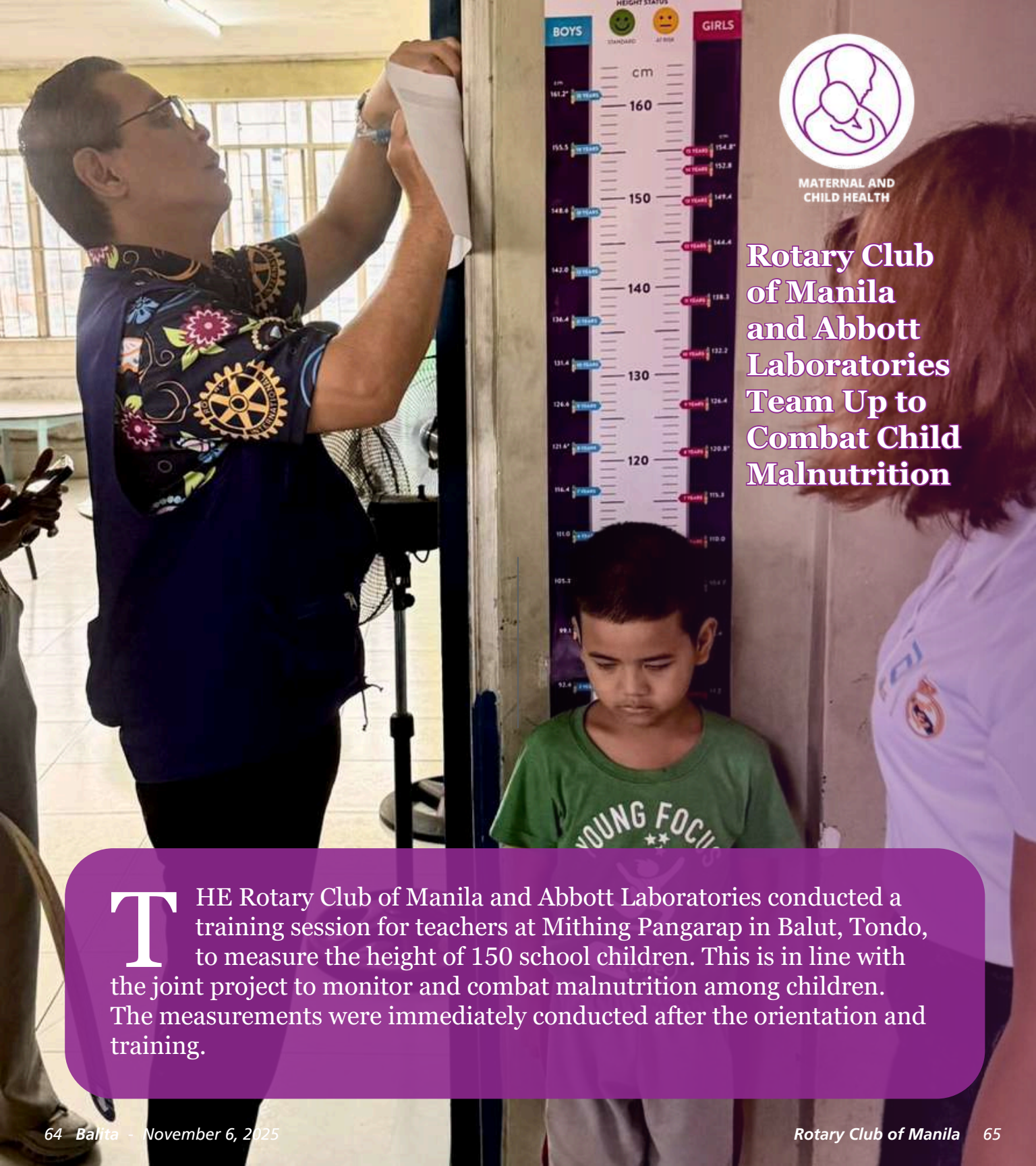


Rotary recognizes that climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. Through its focus on protecting the environment, Rotary mobilizes people of action to promote sustainability, support renewable energy, restore ecosystems, and build resilient communities. By combining service, innovation, and global collaboration, Rotary helps turn awareness into action—creating lasting solutions for a cleaner, healthier planet.

President Raoul C. Creencia



President Raoul C. Creencia with the Commissioner of Climate Change Commission, Albert de la Cruz



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Laboratories Team Up to Combat Child Malnutrition

THE Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Laboratories conducted a training session for teachers at Mithing Pangarap in Balut, Tondo, to measure the height of 150 school children. This is in line with the joint project to monitor and combat malnutrition among children. The measurements were immediately conducted after the orientation and training.



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Laboratories Team Up to Combat Child Malnutrition



President Raoul Creencia, together with Director Jason Bogovich and Chairman John Cutter, represented RCM, while the Abbott Laboratories team was headed by Sharon Mak (from Abbot Singapore) and Dr. Jun Dimaano.



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Rotary Club of Manila and Abbott Laboratories Team Up to Combat Child Malnutrition





COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Artisans of Hope 2025



The Rotary Club of Manila led by President Raoul Creencia, Past Director and Persons with Special Needs Chair Phillip Ong, Co-Chair Ray Davis, and RCManila Foundation Chairman/Past District Governor Alex Cureg, together with various Manila Rotarians attended the opening of the Art Exhibit — “*Artisans of Hope 2025*” curated by Celestino Palma III, held on November 4, 2025, at 4:00 PM, at LRI Design Plaza, Makati City.

The proceeds of the sale of these meaningful art pieces will be donated to Hospicio de San Jose and will help fund RCM projects.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Artisans of Hope 2025



TYPHOON OPONG RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION IN MASBATE

#BangonMasbate

THE Rotary Club of Manila, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Masbate, joined forces with two other clubs — the Rotary Club of Tacloban and the Rotary Club of Mandaluyong Uptown — to distribute relief goods to victims of Typhoon Opong.



Typhoon Opong Relief and Recovery Operation in Masbate

Our distribution began at the **Magallanes Coliseum**, where we served 165 individuals who are the immediate frontline heroes of the City of Masbate: the dedicated **garbage collectors, street sweepers, and traffic enforcers**. While the community reeled from the storm, these tireless workers were at the forefront of the clearing operations, making roads safe and restoring sanitation. It is right that we recognize their vital efforts by making them the focus of this relief. We extend our deepest thanks to the City Government of Masbate, led by Hon. Mayor Atty. Olga “Ara” T. Kho, and to Mr. Rayner Abelita, OIC of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, and their staff for their seamless coordination in preparing the venue and gathering our beneficiaries.



The operation continued at the **Masbate Provincial Hospital**, where we extended gratitude to 35 vital **Institutional Workers**. These dedicated personnel are the invisible pillars of the hospital, whose work is absolutely essential when disaster victims arrive. Their duties, which include cleaning and disinfecting, assisting in patient transfers, and managing medical waste, ensure that the hospital environment remains safe and functional, allowing the doctors and nurses to focus entirely on critical care for those injured by Typhoon Opong. This specific distribution was spearheaded by **Rtn. Ma. Leny Arcenas**. We offer our gratitude to PHO OIC Dr. Jovan Lim, through Administrative Officer Mr. Henry Dacdac and Ms. Aileen Duano, for their vital coordination, and to Dr. Vicente



Typhoon Opong Relief and Recovery Operation in Masbate

Samosa for helping during the distribution. We also acknowledge and thank Ma'am Mary Jane Dalanon, PHO DRRMH Coordinator, and Dr. Jingly Bayaga for providing the Hygiene Kits that were distributed alongside our food packs.

Across both sites, the **200 beneficiaries** each received a vital relief package containing five kilos of rice, instant noodles, coffee, and assorted canned goods.





**END
POLIO
NOW**



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



The Rotary Club of Manila, along with other clubs in the area, is leading the End Polio campaign. Our commitment to a polio-free world drives us to take meaningful action. The motorcade on October 25, 2025 from Quirino Grand-stand and the vaccination activity at Sta. Ana Hospital demonstrate our shared mission: protecting every child, raising awareness, and bringing communities together in service and hope.



Oktoberfest

Preparations



A committee meeting for the upcoming Oktoberfest event, scheduled for October 22, 2025, was held via Zoom on October 13, 2025. Attending the session were President Raoul Creencia, Fellowship Chair/District-Elect Nico Valencia, Director Mike Albaña, and Past President Hermie Esguerra.



A coordination meeting was held at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club to discuss updates and finalize preparations for the upcoming District Oktoberfest. In attendance were President Raoul Creencia, Fellowship Committee Chair/DE Nico Valencia, along with members of the Secretariat Team.

You're Invited!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of food, music, and beer.

Rotary District 3810 **DISTRICT 3810** UNITE FOR GOOD

OKTOBERFEST

Hosted by:

Rotary Club of Manila



OCTOBER 22, 2025 | 5PM

FUNCTION ROOM 4, SMX CONVENTION CENTER
MOA COMPLEX, PASAY CITY

Attire: Bavarian

Registration Fee:	Bank Details:
Co-Host - Php 20,000 (10 persons)	Metrobank
Individual - Php 2,000	Account Name: Rotary Club of Manila
Deadline of Registration: 10/10/25	Account Number: 151-7-15151486-0

Please send proof of payment to Mareth Batoto (RCM Secretariat) 0929-4305543

OKTOBERFEST 2025

A Symphony of Fellowship Beneath the Neon Glow

By PE Reginald T. Yu





IT began with a hum — a low, rising murmur that swelled into laughter and song. The SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, known for hosting trade expos and summits of industry, was transformed for one radiant night into a sea of camaraderie, clinking glasses, and golden hues of fellowship.

From the moment the clock struck five, **Rotarians from every corner of District 3810** began streaming into Function Room 4, their name pins gleaming beneath warm lights, their faces glowing with the joy of reunion. Nearly **three hundred strong**, they came not as mere club representatives, but as brothers and sisters bound by the same creed — *Service Above Self*.

OKTOBERFEST 2025

The air was thick with anticipation, mingling the aroma of Bavarian delights and the effervescent promise of a night to remember. At one corner, laughter erupted from a table of Past Presidents sharing stories from decades past; in another, new members marveled at how quickly strangers could feel like family. The **District's heartbeat** — steady, proud, and joyful — pulsed through every handshake, every toast, every song.



Behind the scenes, months of preparation converged into this single evening. The **Rotary Club of Manila**, host of the event, had envisioned not just a festive gathering, but a celebration that mirrored the spirit of Rotary itself — inclusive, jubilant, and unifying. With the dynamic leadership of **District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo** and the steady guidance of **Chairman John Nico Valencia**,

OKTOBEFEST 2025 promised to be more than a social event; it would be a fellowship renaissance — a living testament that in a world often divided by noise, Rotarians can still harmonize in purpose and joy.

As the opening chords from **DJ Bernard's** set filled the hall, the crowd erupted into applause. Beer mugs were raised high in gleeful salute, the lights shimmered like stars caught in motion, and for a few unforgettable hours, District 3810 became one big family under the banner of unity.

It was a night when service found its song, when fellowship found its rhythm, and when the Rotary wheel — ever turning — seemed to spin a little faster with happiness.



OKTOBERFEST 2025

As twilight descended over the **MOA Complex**, its skyline shimmering with city lights reflected on Manila Bay, the hum inside SMX grew into a symphony of clinking glasses, cheerful greetings, and familiar laughter. The grand hall was now alive — a kaleidoscope of colors and conversations, where each Rotary Club banner stood like a flag of friendship fluttering proudly in the crowd.



The scent of freshly poured beer mingled with the aroma of grilled fare, and every corner of the room pulsed with fellowship — animated by the smiles of Rotarians, the rhythm of live music, and the unmistakable spirit of unity that defines **District 3810**.

And so, as the emcees called the evening to order and the spotlight fell on the stage, the celebration truly began — not merely as a social gathering, but as a living portrait of Rotary at its most radiant.

The Opening: Tradition Meets Toast

By 6:45 PM, the atmosphere shifted from casual merriment to ceremonial pride as emcees **President Raoul C. Creencia** of the Rotary Club of Manila and **President Lani Jose-Sison** of RC Manila Bay guided the formal opening program.

District Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo, radiant in her signature blue, struck the Rotary bell—its chime echoing through the hall like a call to unity. “This evening,” she declared, “we celebrate not only fellowship but the enduring ties that make District 3810 strong, vibrant, and one.”



OKTOBERFEST 2025

Rtn. John Nico P. Valencia, the indefatigable **Chairman of OKTOBEFEST 2025**, led the invocation—his words weaving gratitude and grace into the hum of anticipation. As the Philippine National Anthem played through an audiovisual presentation, Rotarians stood in solemn respect, hands over hearts, reaffirming love for country and community.



Rtn. John Nico P. Valencia, the indefatigable Chairman of OKTOBEFEST 2025, led the invocation.

Then came the **Opening Remarks** from **Pres. Raoul Creencia**, whose wit and warmth perfectly captured the mood. “Tonight,” he said, “we raise our mugs not just for beer, but for brotherhood.”



President Raoul Creencia delivered his opening remarks.

Governor's Message: A Toast to Fellowship and Service

When **Governor Mary Mei** returned to the podium, the room hushed with



Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo's message centered on Rotary's enduring mission to “unite for good” — the theme of her term.

OKTOBERFEST 2025

admiration. Her message, delivered with the poise of a leader and the heart of a friend, centered on Rotary's enduring mission to “unite for good” — the theme of her term. “Service may be our purpose,” she reflected, “but fellowship is our glue.”

As applause thundered, the ceremonial “**Prost!**” commenced. The **Host Club** led the beer-opening ritual, golden foam cascading like sunlight in motion, while the **District Governor** raised her mug in salute to collective joy. “To friendship, to fellowship, and to Rotary!” rang through the hall as hundreds echoed, “Prost!”



Music, Merriment, and the Rotary Beat

At 7:15 PM, the lights dimmed and the stage ignited with the first notes of the



band's second set—a medley of classics and dance anthems that bridged generations. Dinner followed, an indulgent spread paired perfectly with laughter and storytelling.

Rotarians from different clubs — RC Intramuros, RC Chinatown-Manila, RC Paco, RC Pasay Silangan, RC Cavite East, RC Occidental Mindoro, and many more — mingled freely, discovering in every conversation a new friend or a future collaborator.



OKTOBERFEST 2025



Games, Laughter, and Awards of Joy

The 8:30 PM segment erupted into cheers as the emcees launched the **Fun Games and Awarding of Prizes**.

- **The Best Outfit (Male & Female)** contest turned the venue into a parade of dirndls, lederhosen, and Filipino-Bavarian hybrids.
- **Raffle draws** kept everyone on their toes — minor prizes eliciting roars of delight, while the **Grand Prizes** later in the night brought the house down.

Each laughter, each cheer, reaffirmed the fellowship that defines District 3810.

A Dance Floor of Rotarians and Rhythms

As the **third band set** took over, inhibitions dissolved into rhythm. Rotarians — governors and presidents, past and present—filled the dance floor, embodying the Rotary ideal of balancing service with joy.

When the final note faded, **Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo** returned for the **Closing Remarks and Bell Ringing**. Her smile said it all: satisfaction, gratitude, and pride. “Tonight,” she said, “we didn’t just hold an event — we created memories that will echo through every service project this Rotary Year.”

OKTOBERFEST 2025



Epilogue: The Night Rotary Remembered

Long after the final song had faded and the beer mugs stood half-empty on linen-draped tables, a quiet warmth lingered in the air — the kind that only true fellowship leaves behind. As Rotarians slowly made their way out of the **SMX Convention Center**, the laughter that had filled the hall seemed to echo still, carried by the night breeze over Manila Bay.

It had been a night of music and mirth, yes — but more than that, it was a night of meaning. Beneath the shimmer of lights and the laughter of friends, **OKTOBERFEST 2025** revealed the enduring essence of what makes **District 3810** extraordinary: its people. Diverse in profession, united in purpose, they came not to escape their call to service, but to celebrate it — to toast the bonds that make service possible and fellowship inevitable.

Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo had said it best during her closing remarks: *“We serve with our hands, but we lead with our hearts.”* And that night, every heart in the room beat in rhythm with Rotary’s creed — Service Above Self.

As the crowd dispersed, many paused for one last photograph, one last toast, one last hug — each gesture a silent promise that the same energy which



OKTOBERFEST 2025



filled that room would fuel the months of service ahead. For in Rotary, celebrations are never just endings; they are beginnings wrapped in joy.

Under the moonlit Pasay sky, the Rotarians of District 3810 walked away with smiles that would last well beyond the evening — carrying with them the glow of fellowship, the laughter of friends, and the renewed conviction that wherever the Rotary wheel turns, it brings with it the music of hope, the rhythm of unity, and the light of enduring service.

***Prost to Rotary.
Prost to Fellowship.
Prost to the spirit that binds us all.***



DISTRICT 3810
OKTOBERFEST

Sponsors



The Election Results Are Out: PP Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra is the District Governor Nominee-Designate of District 3810 for Rotary Year 2028-2029

Simply Voting 5160 Decarie Boulevard, Suite 502
Montreal, QC, H3X 2H9 Canada
1 (800) 585-9694

Oct.22, 2025

Rotary International
1560 Sherman Ave
Evanston, IL
60202 United States

To Whom It May Concern:

The following election results are certified by Simply Voting to have been securely processed and accurately tabulated by our independently managed service.

Respectfully yours,



Brian Lack
President
Simply Voting Inc.

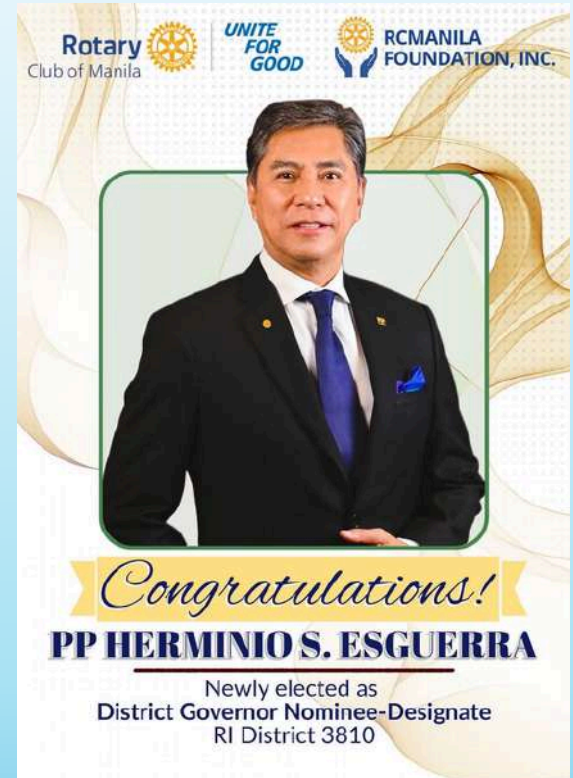
Results - District 3810 DGND E-voting 28-29

Start: 2025-10-07 20:07:00 America/Chicago
End: 2025-10-22 20:00:00 America/Chicago
Turnout: 93 (96.9%) of 96 electors voted in this ballot.
Note: 128 (97.7%) of 131 weighted votes were cast in this ballot.

DG Selection Rotary Year 2027-28

Option	Votes
HERMINIO "HERMIE" S. ESGUERRA - RC Manila	109 (85.2%)
KERWIN "KERWIN" D. FERRER - RC Cavite Premier	19 (14.8%)

VOTER SUMMARY
Total Weight Voted 128



THE Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Members take pride in the overwhelming victory of one of Rotary Club of Manila's distinguished sons, Past President HERMINIO "Hermie" ESGUERRA, in the recently concluded elections for District Governor who will serve during the Rotary Year 2028-2029.

The massive turnout of the elections is a clear manifestation of the mandate of the

district membership that will, undoubtedly, lead to a very impactful term.

His strides are not merely causes for celebration, but indelible marks in a legacy he continues to build to this very day, truly a living testament to the kind of excellence of Asia's First Rotary Club! Congratulations DGND! The Rotary Club of Manila is very much elated to have him in its distinguished roster of fine gentlemen!

District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo Officially Announces the Selection of Past President Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra as the District Governor Nominee-Designate of District 3810 for Rotary Year 2028-2029

Rotary

District 3810

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Manila • Pasay • Cavite

• Occidental Mindoro

Rotary

District 3810

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Manila • Pasay • Cavite

• Occidental Mindoro

DG MEMORANDUM NO. 006

Rotary Year 2025-2026

TO:

Rotary Clubs, R.I. District 3810

THRU:

United Chosen Presidents, R.I. District 3810

FROM:

District Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo

SUBJECT:

Notice to Clubs of District Governor Nominee Designate Selection Results

DATE:

23 October 2025

Greetings in the name of Rotary!

On 23 October 2025, the district officially received the report of Rotary International's secure e-voting provider Simply Voting, certifying the results of the recently concluded election for District Governor Nominee Designate.

The report provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

Results - District 3810 DGND E-voting 28-29

Start: 2025-10-07 20:07:00 America/Chicago

End: 2025-10-22 20:00:00 America/Chicago

Turnout: 93 (96.9%) of 96 electors voted in this ballot.

Note: 128 (97.7%) of 131 weighted votes were cast in this ballot.

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VOTER SUMMARY

Total Weight Voted 128

OFFICE OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR MARY MEI V. RODRIGO

Mother's Way Overseas Mangowest Specialist, 3053 Remedios St., Corner Benitez St., Malate, Manila

Mobile No.: +63917-5839818; Email: govmarymei2025@gmail.com

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENRIQUE S. CANDIGATO: Mobile No.: +639174856077; Email Address: ericcandigato@gmail.com

Rotary

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• Occidental Mindoro

I extend my sincere congratulations to both PP Herminio "Hermie" S. Esguerra and PP Kerwin "Kerwin" D. Ferrer on the successful conduct of this year's DGND selection, and commend both on embodying the highest aspirations and principles of Rotary.

Please be informed that Past President Herminio S. Esguerra is hereby officially declared as the District Governor Nominee-Designate (DGND) of Rotary International District 3810 to serve in Rotary Year 2028-2029, having been duly elected in accordance with Rotary International and District 3810 Election Guidelines. We extend our warmest congratulations to PP Hermie for this well-deserved recognition and look forward to his continued commitment and exemplary leadership in serving Rotary and our communities.

I would also like to extend my deepest thanks to the entire District 3810 for participating wholeheartedly in this activity. The successful selection of our DGND is a feather in the District's cap and the selection process is an achievement that we can all take pride in.

Attached herewith is the certified results from simply voting.

Yours in Rotary Service,



Mary Mei V. Rodrigo

Rotary International District 3810

District Governor, RY 2025-2026

Copy furnished:

Andrew Best, Supervisor, Programs & Member Experience, RISPP0

Mary Jayne Desmond, Coordinator, Club and District Support, RISPP0

SDG Danny Pelagio, Rules and Procedures and Election Committee Chairman

DES Enrique S. Candidato, District Executive Secretary

OFFICE OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR MARY MEI V. RODRIGO

Mother's Way Overseas Mangowest Specialist, 3053 Remedios St., Corner Benitez St., Malate, Manila

Mobile No.: +63917-5839818; Email: govmarymei2025@gmail.com

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENRIQUE S. CANDIGATO: Mobile No.: +639174856077; Email Address: ericcandigato@gmail.com

108 Balita - November 6, 2025

Rotary Club of Manila 109



Rotary Club of Eisenhower
 Oct 24 · 🌐

Congratulations, DGND Herminio "Hermie" S. Esguerra!

The Rotary Club of Eisenhower, District 3800, extends its warmest congratulations to DGND Herminio "Hermie" S. Esguerra on his well-deserved election as District Governor Nominee-Designate (DGND) of Rotary International District 3810 for Rotary Year 2028-2029.

The club also takes great pride in having him as an Honorary Member, and in the fact that he is the father of our Club Past President and Past Assistant Governor of District 3800, Jose Exiquel "EJ" Esguerra—reflecting a family legacy deeply rooted in leadership, fellowship, and service to the community.





Final List of Nominees for Board of Trustees of RY 2026-2027

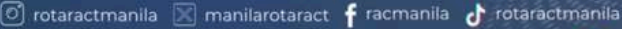
Nominated by	Nominee/s
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CONGRATULATIONS!



PP HERMINIO ESGUERRA
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NOMINEE-DESIGNATE OF RI DISTRICT 3810



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Celebrating Philanthropy: A Rotary Foundation Evening

THE Rotary Foundation's Recognition Night, held on October 18, 2025 at the Winford Resort & Casino Manila, gathered dedicated Rotarians from across RI District 3810 to honor exceptional philanthropy. Members of the Rotary Club of Manila were among those celebrated, their unwavering commitment significantly strengthening the Foundation's mission.



From the Rotary Club of Manila, President Raul Creencia was recognized as a Major Donor, Director Mike Albaña as a new Paul Harris Fellow, while VPE/Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro and Rotarian Nate Camat were both acknowledged as Multiple Paul Harris Fellows.

District Secretary General/Past President Herminio S. Esguerra and PDG Joyce Ambray received the prestigious AKS Chair Circle honor.

TRF Chair Holger Knack presented well-deserved acknowledgments to the evening's distinguished donors.



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Celebrating Philanthropy: A Rotary Foundation Evening



Rotary District 3810 | UNITE FOR GOOD

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION *Recognition Night*

Joining us in recognizing our donors is none other than **Past Rotary International President** and current **TRF Trustee Chair Holger Knaack**.

 **18 October 2025 at 5 pm**

 **Venue**
Winford Resort & Casino Manila

Attire:
Dark Suit with Tie
Long Gown

Hosted by:
RC Manila Metro



Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY)
Award for the Rotary Club of Manila

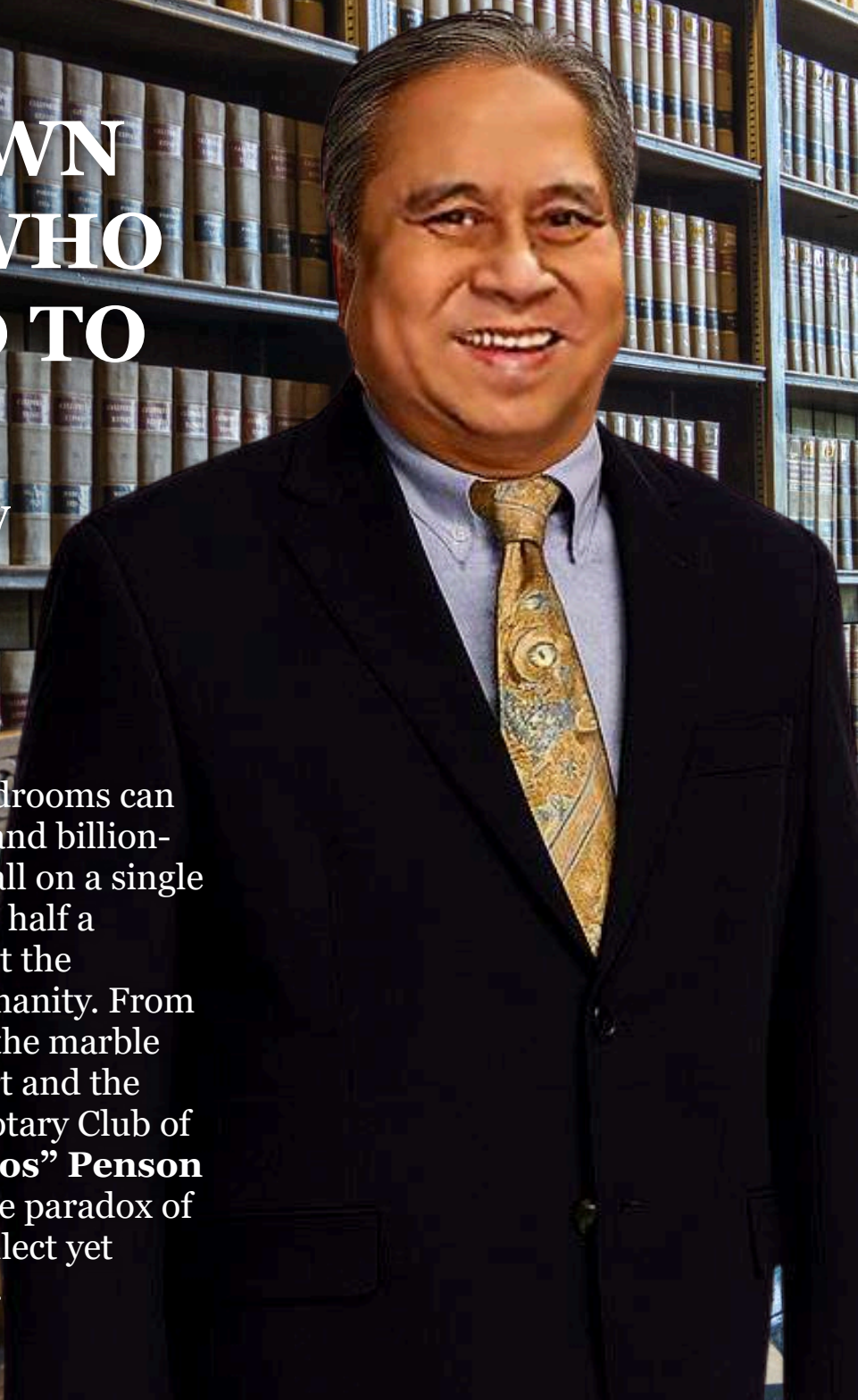
PEOPLE

THE CROWN PRINCE WHO LEARNED TO SERVE

The Life and Law
of Cesar Penson
Manalaysay

By PE Reginald T. Yu

IN a world where boardrooms can resemble battlefields and billion-peso empires rise or fall on a single ruling, one man has spent half a century standing quietly at the crossroads of law and humanity. From the cloisters of Ateneo to the marble halls of the Supreme Court and the fellowship tables of the Rotary Club of Manila, **Atty. Cesar “Citos” Penson Manalaysay** has lived the paradox of power — to lead with intellect yet remain anchored in grace.



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The Night Before the Bench

The fluorescent lights of Makati burned late that evening. Inside a glass-walled office at **Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako**, papers were neatly arranged across a mahogany desk. The next day, Atty. Cesar P. Manalaysay and his team were prepared to face the Supreme Court over a case that would determine the future of Equitable Bank and Banco de Oro.

The issue was urgent — two boards of directors were claiming legitimacy, creating confusion within the bank and among regulators. A paralysis loomed over the financial sector. “We carefully studied for long hours until early mornings,” he recalled, “on how to file a Petition straight to the Supreme Court and ignore the hierarchy of courts.”

But the day did not unfold in the theatrics of open-court arguments. The justices, recognizing the gravity of the matter, decided to forgo the formal hearing in the main chamber. Instead, they invited counsel into their expansive conference room — a space heavy with quiet authority. “We were ready with a PowerPoint presentation,” he remembered, “but the justices preferred a direct dialogue. There were no heated debates — only thoughtful questions and careful answers.”

The Court’s restraint reflected the delicacy of the case. Soon after, a restraining order was issued, calming the turmoil. The paralysis was averted; the legal equilibrium restored. Years later, that same stability would pave the way for BDO’s rise as the country’s largest universal bank.

For Citos, the episode was a testament not to victory but to balance. Law, he believed, was less about drama and more about discernment.



During the Supreme Court proceedings in August 2005 on the landmark Banco de Oro takeover of Equitable Bank, Atty. Citos Manalaysay participated in the oral arguments that shaped one of the most pivotal cases in Philippine banking history.

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The Dethroned Crown Prince

“I was born a Crown Prince,” Citos Manalaysay would say, half-smiling, “being the first child and apo.” His early life was steeped in affection; his parents, grandmother, and a circle of spinster aunts doted on him with unrelenting devotion. But the throne, as he liked to tell the story, was not to last. “After five years, when my siblings started being born, I was dethroned and experienced trauma at an early age.”

It was an awakening — an early rehearsal for the realities of a world where privilege must always yield to purpose.

From his earliest days, he learned how to navigate both affection and adversity with humor. That humor would become a defense mechanism, a form of grace that lightened the heavy seriousness of legal life. “The best family value I received,” he reflected, “was the lesson to learn how to mingle and enjoy with everyone — from the lower class of society to those on top.”

The tension between curiosity and conscience — between the daring mind and the disciplined heart — would define him for life.

His father, though not a lawyer, sowed the first seeds of ambition. “He



Wearing an Ateneo T-shirt on Atty. Citos Manalaysay's sixth birthday, young Citos stands beside his classmate Dr. Alex Yap, now a renowned San Francisco-based heart surgeon. Many of the country's taipans seek Dr. Yap's expertise — either visiting him in the U.S. or flying him and his team to Manila for delicate cardiac operations.

On the far left is the daughter of their neighbor-congressman — Citos's first innocent “lips-to-lips” kiss, prompted by their playful yayas. She would later grace the runway as a Pitoy Moreno model.

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brainwashed me,” Citos joked, “telling me lawyering is the best profession because when he goes to law offices, he sees his lawyer friends just receiving and signing checks or papers.” The young man believed him — until the real world intervened. “When I became a lawyer,” he said, laughing, “I was horrified at how much hard work, blood, sweat, and tears the profession requires.”

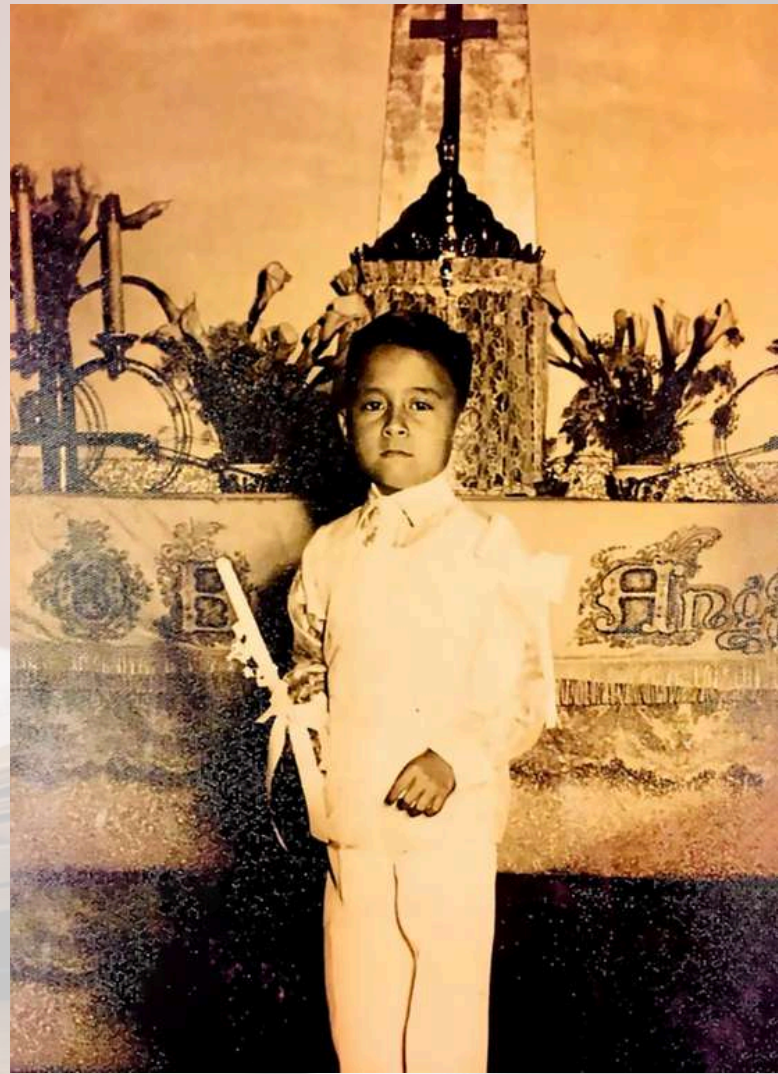
From the trauma of dethronement to the rigors of Jesuit formation, the boy who began as a “Crown Prince” was already learning the paradox that would later define his success: that greatness begins in humility, and mastery begins in service.

The Jesuit Forge

Ateneo de Manila was both sanctuary and crucible. “Our Jesuit mentors were mainly Americans from New York,” he recalled. “We were taught how good democracy is and how bad communist countries are.” The lessons were moral as much as academic: the dignity of service, the discipline of conscience.

One episode, however, became a legend of its own. “A week before graduation, someone brought a Penthouse magazine and passed it around,” he said, amused. “Those who looked at it — about ten classmates — were expelled. Luckily, I was busy reading the Bible.” He smiled. “So, I graduated.”

It was the perfect Atenean parable: temptation, choice, and consequence.



A young Citos Manalaysay during his First Communion at the Ateneo de Manila — a cherished milestone in his early years of faith and formation.

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Among his mentors, one stood out — the revered **Onofre Pagsanghan**. “He enabled me to have deep respect for the Pilipino dialect, the arts, poetry, and drama,” Citos said. From Pagsanghan he absorbed rhythm, empathy, and a love for words — the very tools of advocacy. The Jesuits, meanwhile, opened his world to English literature and Western civilization. Between them, they forged a hybrid mind: Filipino in heart, cosmopolitan in reason.

At Ateneo, he also saw the strange geometry of success. “My journey from school to law practice is full of contradictions,” he reflected. “Classmates with medals filled wheelbarrows with awards, while some were kicked out for failing grades. To my astonishment, those who had lackluster performance became billionaires with yachts and choppers.” He would later joke that he arrived at reunions by hitching rides on their helicopters. Beneath the humor was insight — that life rewards not only brilliance but resilience.

During his law studies at Ateneo, Citos joined the **Fraternal Order of Utopia**, a brotherhood of future lawyers bound by the ideals of excellence, integrity, and service. The fraternity deepened his sense of camaraderie and discipline — values that would mirror his later years in corporate practice and leadership. “Utopia strengthened our brotherhood

beyond the classroom,” he recalled, “and taught us to live our ideals both in law and in life.”

The Jesuit creed of men for others took root quietly. It would resurface decades later in courtrooms, boardrooms, and Rotary meetings, guiding every argument and act of charity.



With his mother, Gloria, on Ateneo Law School graduation day — Atty. Citos Manalaysay proudly received a silver medal, his first and only academic medal, marking a moment of quiet triumph and gratitude.

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The Berkeley Mind

In 1973 he graduated LL.B. with honors; by 1976 he was in California, walking beneath Berkeley's eucalyptus groves. The shift from civil law orthodoxy to American common-law pragmatism was seismic. "American law education was mind-altering," he said. "In Ateneo, we were taught what the law is. In UC Berkeley, ten minutes was spent on what the law is — and the rest on its loopholes."

The method was exhilarating. "We were taught how to argue for or against anything in an organized and clear manner." Professors like Richard Buxbaum and Lawrence Friedman drilled precision into every sentence. "They shared not only the law but numerous facts that provoke confusion and train you to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant."

Berkeley in the 1970s was alive with protest, intellect, and experiment. The young Filipino, far from the discipline of Jesuit classrooms, found himself in seminars on constitutional theory one day and in debates over human rights the next. "It gave me a roadmap on how to handle trials," he said. More than that, it broadened his moral lens: law was not a fortress but a conversation across cultures.

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When he returned home, martial law was in full force. Many of his contemporaries stayed abroad. He came back, quietly determined to practice in a country still learning the language of reform. What Berkeley had taught him — critical thinking, humility before complexity — would become his compass in the turbulent years ahead.

The House of Siguion Reyna

In 1975, Citos walked through the doors of **Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako**, a law firm already woven into the history of Philippine jurisprudence. It was more than an office; it was an academy of minds. The portraits on the walls told stories — of **Perkins** and **De Witt**, American founders who had built both fortunes and philanthropy; of bar topnotchers who would later become senators, justices, and business icons.

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“I had both challenges and fun in my fifty years in SRMO,” he said. “Challenge because I needed to live up to the legacy of our American forefathers... They were accomplished lawyers who also struck gold through business insights from clients.” He admired how they channeled their success into service — De Witt’s scholarships, Perkins’ philanthropy — and saw in them a model of law fused with conscience.

His recruiter was **Art Brion**, fresh from placing first in the bar exams. “He later became Labor Secretary and Supreme Court Justice,” Citos noted with pride. The firm’s alumni roll was dazzling: **Juan Ponce Enrile, Ike Belo, Henry Gozon** — names etched into both legal and national history.

The culture at SRMO was rigorous yet companionable. “Our work centered on businessmen and big corporations — labor law, taxation, mergers, arbitration,” he said. “We worked long hours but also shared hours of fun. Work becomes easier when lawyers in a team understand each other even without talking.” That silent understanding, born of endless strategy sessions and late-night drafting, became the firm’s rhythm.

He loved the camaraderie as much as the challenge. “I’m still having fun,” he said decades later, “because I’m with friends and meet many people — mostly clients with different minds, characters and emotions. Many have become richer and some poorer.” To him, every case was a window into human behavior. Law, he realized, was not only about codes but about character.

By the late 1980s, as the economy liberalized, the firm’s cases spanned industries — banking, telecommunications, mining, oil, real estate. The young associate who once worried about living up to legends was now writing new chapters of his own.



Atty. Citos with a fellow guest at the Beit Yaacov Synagogue during the celebration of Purim.

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Wars of the Boardroom

The Philippines of the 1980s and 1990s was a volatile experiment in capitalism — a nation learning the grammar of free enterprise amid the noise of politics and power. Mergers, hostile takeovers, and bankruptcies unfolded like high-stakes chess matches played on an uneven board. By the time the decade turned, corporate law had become its own theater of war — not always televised, but always consequential.

At the center of this arena stood **Citos Manalaysay**, a man companies called when boardrooms fractured and fortunes trembled. His reputation was one of quiet command — a strategist who understood that every crisis, no matter how complex, was human at its core. “Simply make the client happy,” he once said of his guiding rule. The simplicity was deceptive. Behind it lay the relentless discipline of a man who researched until dawn, crafted pleadings with surgical precision, and listened with empathy — to both the anxious entrepreneur and the ambitious conglomerate.

For Citos, the boardroom was not a battlefield but a proving ground — **where intellect met instinct, and principle met pragmatism.**

The Equitable–BDO Takeover

Among the cases that cemented his legend was the **hostile takeover of Equitable Bank by Banco de Oro** — a saga that combined corporate intrigue, legal ingenuity, and national consequence. “We carefully studied for long hours until early mornings,” he recalled, “on how to file a Petition straight to the Supreme Court and ignore the hierarchy of courts.”

He smiled at the recollection — not boastful, merely reflective. “We described our Petition as one imbued with transcendental importance.”

The gamble worked. The Supreme Court restrained the hostile board from acting, halting a paralysis that threatened the entire banking system. “Equitable Bank then was one of the biggest banks,” he said. “Two boards of directors were claiming legitimacy. Officers, employees, and the public were confused as to who was steering the bank. Paralysis was imminent.” His tone softened as he recounted what came next. “The Supreme Court heard our oral argument, restrained the board hostile to us, and an amicable settlement was reached. BDO eventually purchased the controlling interest.”

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Behind that measured retelling was the patience of a craftsman who saw law not as a contest of egos but as **an act of restoration — the reordering of chaos into coherence.**

The Global Stage

That same steadiness carried him beyond the archipelago. When he joined the legal team representing **Fraport AG of Germany** in its decade-long arbitration battle over **NAIA Terminal III** before the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Washington, D.C., Citos found himself navigating the dense terrain of international investment law and national sovereignty.

“We were for ten years having hearings in the World Bank,” he said. “We had meetings in Hong Kong, Washington, Frankfurt, Munich, and Berlin.”

The work was intricate — a tangle of treaties, statutes, and geopolitical nuance. Yet what he remembered most were the interludes of humanity. “During rest days, executives of Fraport would drive us — sometimes in vintage convertible Mercedes Benz — around scenic rivers and castles. We would relax and enjoy wine at vineyards.”

For him, it was a paradox beautifully lived: **that even in the cold corridors of arbitration, law could still be personal — almost pastoral.**



One of Atty. Citos Manalaysay's office trips to Europe with his law firm partners and staff — a memorable journey blending work, camaraderie, and discovery.

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The Craftsman's Reach

Back home, his practice expanded across an ever-widening field — **taxation, customs, power, trade, and finance**. He handled BIR assessments, Customs disputes, and local government taxation. He guided Siemens AG through a 1,500-megawatt power generation project, steered Unilever into the Philippine ice-cream market through a joint venture, and advised Nestlé Philippines on distribution issues. He counseled companies through listings in Manila and Singapore, and even defended the **Philippine Stock Exchange** itself in a precedent-setting case over its right to deny listings — a victory that quietly fortified ethical governance.

His rule in all these battles was consistent: clarity anchored in integrity. “I use a technical approach on the law to achieve a practical result,” he explained. “That’s how I balance the two.”

The Age of Ambiguity

The 2000s brought new dimensions — **multinational compliance, foreign arbitration, and cross-border mergers**. But through the shifting tides, his equilibrium held. “The evolution of Philippine law is both good and bad,” he observed. “Good because its complexity

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means investors need lawyers. Bad because foreign investors could be turned off. Even a simple question on whether the Philippines applies the grandfather rule or control test in corporate investments cannot be answered with a short yes or no.”

He saw in this ambiguity both peril and promise — the hallmark of a legal system still finding its maturity, and of a profession that demanded not just intellect but moral stamina.

For Citos Manalaysay, the wars of the boardroom were never truly about conquest. They were about clarity — **the quiet triumph of order over confusion, reason over impulse, and ethics over expedience**.

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From the Battlefield to the Bridge

By the time Citos emerged from those boardroom wars, he had become more than an advocate — he was an architect of order. The lessons of those years had refined him: that precision without empathy leads to arrogance, and that intellect without integrity breeds only clever chaos. Each negotiation, each sleepless night before a Supreme Court argument, became part of an unspoken apprenticeship in leadership. When he eventually assumed the mantle of **Managing Partner at Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako**, he carried with him not the swagger of victory but the calm of understanding. He had seen how power could distort purpose, and how principle — quietly practiced, not loudly professed — could restore balance. The same steadiness that once tamed the chaos of corporations would now guide a century-old firm through the uncharted age of digital lawyering and generational change.

The Mentor Who Led by Listening

As Citos ascended to the helm of the firm, he inherited not only its name but its weight — a century-old institution that had withstood wars, coups,

recessions, and reforms. Yet the greatest test awaiting him would not come from the battlefield or the courtroom, but from the digital frontier and the generational divide it unleashed.

Law itself was changing. Technology was reshaping the tools of advocacy; speed had become the new currency; and a new breed of lawyers thought, spoke, and drafted in digital shorthand. The firm's survival would depend not on nostalgia but on adaptation. Citos understood that he was leading a venerable house into a restless century — one where wisdom had to learn to speak the language of youth.

He chose reflection over rigidity. “We train our lawyers not only to listen,” he said, “but more importantly, to ask questions.” It was a subtle but seismic inversion of hierarchy — the senior partner as mentor, not monarch. “We encourage them to disagree,” he added, “but supported by law, reason, and logic.”

In rooms lined with casebooks and LED screens, he would spar with his young associates in mock debates. He delighted in their boldness in the way they questioned precedent and challenged assumptions. “We pretend that we are teaching them,” he confessed with a quiet smile, “when in truth, they are the

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ones teaching us the latest trends and developments.” It was not false modesty. To Citos, **knowledge was never possession; it was motion — a current flowing between generations.**

The Craft and the Code

His philosophy of leadership was exacting but humane. “Clients don’t like long discussions,” he would tell his juniors. “They want the bottom line: can it be done, and if not, what are the alternatives?” Yet he was a craftsman of persuasion, careful with form as much as with substance. “Form and substance are both important,” he reminded them. “If you ride an airplane, would you rather see your pilot in T-shirt and sandals, or in his splendid uniform?”

At SRMO, integrity was not a slogan framed on a wall but a **discipline practiced in the ordinary rhythms of the day.** “We cultivate integrity through regular discussion of the latest rules and jurisprudence on the code of ethics,” he said. “We promote teamwork through lunch meetings, evening socials, and trips to our beach house in Nasugbu.”

There was a wisdom in the balance — knowing when to invoke doctrine and

His philosophy of leadership was exacting but humane. “Clients don’t like long discussions,” he would tell his juniors. “They want the bottom line: can it be done, and if not, what are the alternatives?”

when to exercise empathy. For Citos, ethics was not an elective in law; it was the invisible spine that held the profession upright. “The stock market is premised on transparency and a level playing field,” he would explain. “Our Philippine Stock Exchange and SEC are at par with Singapore in regulatory compliance. However, we are unable to attract foreign direct investments due to difficulties in approvals and perceived corruption.”

It was not a complaint, but a diagnosis — spoken by someone who had spent half a century **navigating the fragile intersection between law and nation**, and still believed that reform was possible, not through outrage but through competence.

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The Heart Behind the Hierarchy

In time, he became known not just for his legal acumen but for his tradition of taking the entire firm — partners, associates, and even underbars — on annual travels abroad. “Our annual travels include all our young lawyers and even our under-bars waiting for results,” he said. “Sometimes results are released when we are in Greece or France, and we celebrate with those who place first or second. Once, someone failed. We cried with her in Italy and encouraged her to take the bar again. She is now a successful lawyer.”

Those moments revealed **the human beneath the hierarchy — a managing partner who understood that compassion was as essential to leadership as competence.** For him, the law was never meant to harden the heart; it was meant to refine it.

The Honors of a Gentleman

Recognition found Citos in the same quiet way he practiced law — without fanfare, but with inevitability. In 2025, he was named **Managing Partner of the Year** by *Asian Legal Business (ALB)* at the Philippine Law Awards, an accolade that distilled decades of

leadership into a single evening of applause. The hall was filled with the country’s brightest legal minds, but when his name was called, he simply smiled — modest, composed, almost amused at the pageantry of it all.

For **eight consecutive years**, he has also been listed in the *Asia Business Law Journal’s A-List* of the **Top 100 Philippine Lawyers**, joining the ranks of those who shaped the nation’s jurisprudence. Yet, for him, these distinctions were never currency for prestige. They were milestones of stewardship — proof that consistency and conscience can coexist in an industry often defined by ambition.

Those who have worked under his guidance describe him as both anchor and compass. “The true test of success,” he once mused, “is when the people you taught begin to surpass you.” In a field where sharpness is often mistaken for brilliance, Citos stood for something rarer — discernment. He could command a boardroom without raising his voice; he could win arguments by listening longer than anyone else. To his peers, he is a rainmaker whose success comes not from chasing clients, but from earning their trust. To the generation he mentored, he remains proof that mastery need not abandon humility.

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Each award, each recognition, was merely a mirror reflecting what had always been there: a life of balance, intellect, and grace — the quiet power of a gentleman who made the law not just his profession, but his art.

The Measure of a Life

As he looked back on his long career, his measure of success was disarmingly simple. “A lawyer is successful when he enjoys what he is doing,” he said. “And I am enjoying it.”

There was no bravado in the statement — only quiet fulfillment. After decades of trials, reforms, and reinventions, **Citos Manalaysay remained, at his core, a student of life — a man who led by listening, taught by learning, and found in the law not just a profession, but a purpose.**

The Gentleman Rotarian

Long before philanthropy became fashionable among professionals, Citos Manalaysay lived it quietly through the **Rotary Club of Manila**, Asia’s oldest Rotary chapter. “Our office has a long tradition with RCM,” he explained. “Our American lawyer forefathers were members. At one time, Atty. Siguion Reyna was the longest living member.”



Atty. Citos Manalaysay with his fellow Manila Rotarians at the 2025 Handover and Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors and Officers, held at Solaire Resort and Casino.

He joined on June 1, 1994, endorsed by another legend, **Atty. Maning Montecillo**, who had placed first in the bar exams decades earlier. Montecillo’s own grade of 100 percent in Civil Law — under bar examiner Alfonso Ponce Enrile, father of former Philippine Senate President **Juan Ponce Enrile** — had become part of legal lore.

For Citos, Rotary offered something the courtroom could not: a community bound not by contracts but by conscience. “Rotary attracted me

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because of its global organized reach to do good,” he said. “For those who are more blessed in life, it’s a way to share with the less fortunate.”

Among all RCM’s advocacies, one stood out: **Clean the Pasig River.** “It runs through Manila,” he said, “and any filthiness reflects on RCM.” The statement was more than metaphor. To him, the river symbolized conscience — the waterway that carried both the city’s waste and its hope of renewal.

Rotary, he said, “complemented my professional life because I meet leading persons from varied fields. I learn from

their ideas and thought processes. Some are amiable and some are not — which makes Rotary exciting.”

He never joined any other civic club. “I see RCM as the shining star in Asia, which is now the focus of the business world,” he said. To his peers, he embodied the motto Service Above Self with the same quiet dignity he brought to court — no grandstanding, only steady work.

The Circle of Home

Away from law books and boardrooms, Atty. Citos’ world narrows into something profoundly human — the companionship of marriage, the pride of fatherhood, and the laughter of grandchildren half a world away.

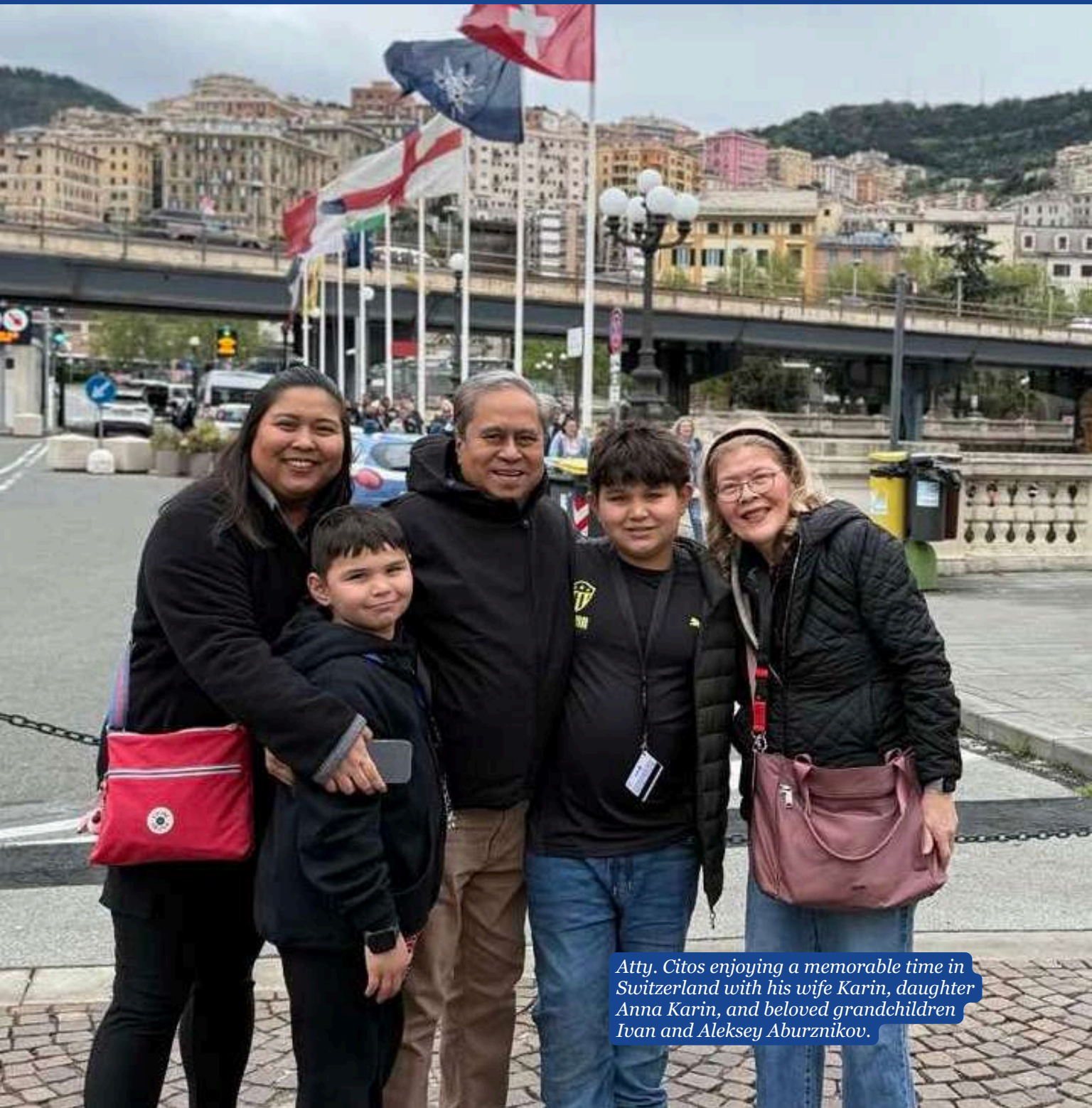
“My family is mostly confined to my wife and I,” he said, “since our only child, a daughter with her husband and our two apos, live in New York.” The distance, bridged by calls and visits, only deepened their bond. “Our lawyer-daughter is a partner in an American law firm and is assigned in its London office,” he said. His eyes lit up as he added with comic honesty, “I make sure my wife is happy, otherwise she might go to New York to be with the apos who are more adorable than me.”



Atty. Citos Manalaysay with his fellow Rotarians at the book launching of Manila Rotarian Atty. Amado “Amading” Valdez — an event celebrating a life of service, scholarship, and shared fellowship within the Rotary Club of Manila.

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Atty. Citos enjoying a memorable time in Switzerland with his wife Karin, daughter Anna Karin, and beloved grandchildren Ivan and Aleksey Aburznikov.

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The humor concealed a discipline of love — a balance he had perfected after years of balancing cases. “It’s really easy,” he said. “I enjoy my work, and I enjoy my time when not working.”

Raising an only child, he resisted indulgence. “Though she’s the only child, we treated her as if she was one out of a dozen fictitious children,” he said. “We did not spoil her. We taught her how to work and deal with both disappointments and triumphs.” The result was self-reliance, grace, and quiet pride.

His generosity extended beyond blood. “My father and mother were always very helpful to the less fortunate,” he said. “Our maids and houseboys have become landowners. One consulted me about trust agreements. We have excellent rapport with our household helpers who’ve been with us for decades.” He spoke tenderly of one who showed him her new house in Bicol — “built by her salary from us.”

When asked his proudest accomplishment, he didn’t hesitate. “I met my excellent wife, we produced a fantastic daughter, who met an awesome husband, and they produced the best grandsons. Those are my biggest and most rewarding accomplishments.”

Legacy, Reflection, and Life Lessons

Five decades in law have given Citos Manalaysay both perspective and peace. The moments that fulfill him now are not victories before tribunals but quiet evenings shared with family and colleagues.

But the moral tests of a career are never forgotten. “The most difficult decision,” he admitted, “was a crisis which had only two options — leave our law firm or stay. I decided to stay, and I think I made the right decision.” The choice defined his loyalty: to people, to heritage, to principle.

His leadership style evolved, he said, by “constantly learning, adjusting, and evolving to changing times.” It is a philosophy born of observation rather than dogma. “Be prepared for hard work,” he advised young lawyers. “Do not concentrate on legal fees alone; look for investment opportunities through clients’ ideas.” Some of his predecessors, he recalled, “earned more from dividends than legal fees.”

Then came the counsel that reveals the heart behind the intellect: “Spend time with businessmen of varied businesses. They think differently from lawyers. If

THE CROWN PRINCE WHO LEARNED TO SERVE

The Life and Law of Cesar Penson Manalaysay

you know how they think, you'll know how to answer their questions with precision — and you'll transcend legal fees income and give more to charity.”

If he could distill his philosophy into one sentence, it would be this: **“Learn how to convert failures into triumphs.”**



Nothing brings Atty. Citos greater joy than being with his grandchildren. Captured here is a heartwarming, playful moment with Ivan and Aleksey Aburznikov.

And how would he like to be remembered? His answer is disarmingly human: “A happy guy to be with.”

It is the through-line of his life — from the dethroned crown prince to the enduring counselor of giants.

And how would he like to be remembered? His answer is disarmingly human: **“A happy guy to be with.”**

Epilogue: The Forest and the Trees

In the twilight of every case, when the verdict is rendered and the papers are archived, what remains is not the judgment but the journey — the quiet dignity of those who upheld the law without losing their laughter.

Citos Manalaysay has lived that balance. For half a century he has looked, as he says, “at the forest, then the trees,” guiding corporations, colleagues, and

THE CROWN PRINCE WHO LEARNED TO SERVE

The Life and Law of Cesar Penson Manalaysay

communities with an equilibrium rare in his field. He has argued before justices and dined with janitors, quoted Latin maxims and cracked jokes over lunch, trained lawyers who now train others, and built bridges across rivers both literal and moral.

His story is not one of relentless ambition but of **grace through constancy** — a life that proves intellect need not eclipse kindness, and power need not silence laughter. In his world, the true counsel is not merely the man who wins cases, but the one who keeps faith with people.

When future generations of lawyers study the evolution of Philippine corporate law, they will find his name in the footnotes of major decisions. But those who knew him will remember something greater — the warmth of his humor, the steadiness of his hand, and the wisdom of a man who never stopped believing that every failure can indeed be turned into triumph.

And perhaps that is his truest triumph — to have navigated a profession built on conflict without ever losing his humor or humanity. He has seen fortunes rise and fall, companies crumble and resurrect, laws written and rewritten — yet through it all, he has remained steadfast, seeing always “the forest, then the trees.”



With his two ever-loyal “bodyguards,” beloved grandsons Ivan and Aleksey Aburznikov — Atty. Citos Manalaysay enjoys a moment of lighthearted affection with his only apos.

In an age when brilliance often burns too fast, Atty. **Cesar Penson Manalaysay** endures — proof that wisdom is not the loudest voice in the courtroom, but the calm that follows when justice, finally, is heard.



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking (LEAP) Awards



THE Rotary Club of Manila, in partnership with the Department of Justice – Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) and the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIArb), proudly held the inaugural LEAP (Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking) Awards at the Manila Hotel.

This meaningful celebration honored exemplary individuals and organizations who embody the spirit of peacebuilding, dialogue, and service through just and compassionate conflict resolution.

Through the LEAP Awards, Rotary continues its enduring mission to promote peace, understanding, and goodwill among all people.



Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking (LEAP) Awards



The LEAP Awards was held on October 20, 2025 at the Maynila Room of the Manila Hotel.

Present from the Rotary Club of Manila were (from left) Incoming Secretary/Past Director Albert Alday, Director-Elect/LEAP Awards Chair Teddy Kalaw, President Raoul Creencia, and Secretary Anton Mauricio.



LEAP Awards Chair/PBLA Teddy Kalaw opened the program as the event host.



President Raoul Creencia delivered his welcome remarks.



Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking (LEAP) Awards



LEAP Awards Chair/Director-Elect
Teddy Kalaw gives a brief orientation
about the LEAP Awards.





Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking (LEAP) Awards



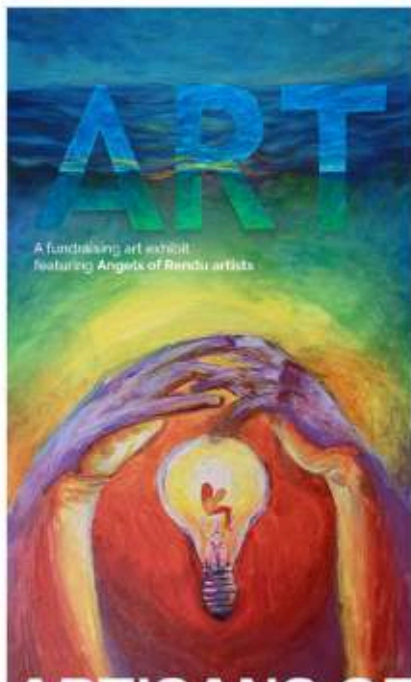


From left: Secretary Anton Mauricio, Director-Elect/LEAP Awards Chair Teddy Kalaw, President Raoul Ceeencia, President-Elect Reggie Yu, Incoming Secretary/Past Director Albert Alday, and Past Secretary Aries Balanay.



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION





A fundraising art exhibit
featuring Angels of Rendu artists

**ARTISANS OF
HOPE**
Curated by:
Celestino Palma III



Experience the creativity of the Angels of Rendu Art Group in an exhibit of artworks of children under the care of Hospicio de San Jose.

The funds raised from this exhibit will be used in the flood mitigation and environmental improvement of Hospicio de San Jose Island on the Pasig River.

Due to recent climate events, floods again inundate this home for those residents with special need of Hospicio de San Jose. This river, once a source of Hope, has become a threat to their safety. Be part of the advocacy of the Rotary Club of Manila by providing HOPE in patronizing this art show.

**NOVEMBER
4 - 30, 2025**

LRI Design Plaza
Makati City

Art Collection Inventory and Labeling at Hospicio Sacred Heart Hall



A dedicated team gathered on October 25, 2025, at the Hospicio Sacred Heart Hall for the inventory and labeling of art pieces in preparation for the upcoming exhibit.

Present were Immediate Past President Jujut Enriquez, Past Director Phil Ong, STAR Rotarians Rowel Ong and Ingill Ra, and Rotarian Ray Davis. They were joined by exhibit curator Mr. Celestino Palma to meticulously prepare the collection.



Art Collection Inventory and Labeling at Hospicio Sacred Heart Hall

*We warmly invite everyone to
preview this remarkable
display of artistry.*



SUPPORT FOR THE YOUTH

Rotary Club of Manila Sponsors the Chartering of the Rotaract Club of San Beda University



From left: Rotaract Club of San Beda University organizers X Bayarong and Jace Cuña, DRR Monica Serrano, RAC Manila IPP Summer Bonifacio, and President Raoul Creencia

The Rotary Club of Manila is sponsoring the chartering of the Rotaract Club of San Beda University. A meeting was held on October 28 at the office of President Raoul Creencia.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Cavite Uptown's 3rd Handover and 4th Induction Ceremonies



President Raoul with RC Cavite Uptown President Maria Teresita Elvira Antonio

President Raoul Creencia attended the 3rd Handover and 4th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Cavite Uptown.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Manila 101's 19th Induction Ceremonies



DSG Hermie Esguerra and President Raoul Creencia attended the 19th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila 101 last October 16, 2025 at the Relish, Hello Happiness! Restaurant in Quezon City where UCP Melissa Oreta was inducted.



President
Raoul
Creencia with
Rotary Club of
Manila 101
President
Melissa Oreta

DSG Hermie Esguerra Inducted as Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Manila 101



DSG Hermie Esguerra was inducted together with Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Chairperson/ DRFC PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray as Honorary Members of the Rotary Club of Manila 101 during its 19th Induction Ceremonies last October 16, 2025 at the Relish, Hello Happiness! Restaurant in Quezon City.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Manila South's 39th Charter Anniversary and 40th Induction Ceremonies



DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the 39th Charter Anniversary and 40th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila South last October 21, 2025 at the Aberdeen Court in Quezon City.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, last October 23, 2025 at the Gloria Maris Shark's Fin Restaurant, Mall of Asia Arena Annex Building, Pasay City.



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra (above) and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday (below) receiving the token of appreciation from United Chosen President Allen Rios of the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila at the end of the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila



12th Handover & 11th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise



President Raoul Creencia with RC Pasay Metro Sunrise President Alex Rodrigo

President Raoul Creencia attended the 12th Handover and 11th Induction of the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise on October 24, 2025.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise last October 24, 2025 at the Soliya Hall, Leisure Park, Multinational Village, Parañaque City.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra conducting the Charging of Officers during the Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise where UCP/FG Alexander Rodrigo was inducted last October 24, 2025 at the Soliya Hall, Leisure Park, Multinational Village, Parañaque City.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda last October 28, 2025 at the Networkl Hotel Spa and Casino, Pasay City.



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda

DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday with fellow members of the Executive Committee and other district officers of Rotary District 3810 before the start of the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda last October 28, 2025 at the Networld Hotel Spa and Casino, Pasay City.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday in a group photo at the end of the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Manila Binondo Prime



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Manila Binondo Prime last October 28, 2025 at the private room of Cafe Belmont, Belmont Hotel Manila, Pasay City.



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Manila Binondo Prime.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Manila Binondo Prime.

INTERCLUB EVENT

28th Handover and 29th Induction Ceremonies of the Joint Effort of Pasay Rotary Clubs (JEPROCS)



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the 28th Handover and 29th Induction Ceremonies of the Joint Effort of Pasay Rotary Clubs (JEPROCS) last October 29, 2025 at the Hilton Manila, Newport World Resorts, Pasay City.



DISTRICT EVENT

DSG Hermie Esguerra Hosts Luncheon in Honor of The Rotary Foundation Chair Holger Knaack and Lady Susanne Knaack



DISTRICT Secretary General Hermie Esguerra tendered a luncheon in honor of The Rotary Foundation Chair Holger Knaack and Lady Susanne Knaack last October 21, 2025 at the Private Dining Room, Mireio Restaurant, 9th Floor, Raffles Makati, Makati City.

Among those present were Past Rotary International Director Raffy Garcia III, Lady Minda Garcia, Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Chairperson and District Rotary Foundation Chairperson PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray, Endowment Major Gift Adviser PDG Edna Sutter with Martin Sutter, Past Rotary Public Image Coordinator of Zone 10A PDG Ernie Choa, DG Mary Mei V. Rodrigo, FG/UCP Alex Rodrigo and Rotary International Fund Development Specialist Gretchen Laurel.

**DSG Hermie Esguerra Hosts Luncheon in Honor of
The Rotary Foundation Chair Holger Knaack
and Lady Susanne Knaack**



DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for the month of October last November 3, 2025 via Zoom virtual platform.



FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast Fellowship



Aleco breakfast fellowship, hosted by PP Jackie Rodriguez, was held on October 20, 2025.

Present were Past Director Beda Fajardo, Past Director Abe Pascual, Past President Jackie Rodriguez, former member Francis Juico, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay, Rotarian Willie Peliño, Past Director Jun Hallare, Past Director Ner Lonzaga, Past President Archit Bartolome, Past Director/Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, and former member Jorge Salazar.

In Memoriam

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

BILLY ANDAL

10 NOVEMBER, 1949 -
06 OCTOBER, 2025

POPE FRANCIS BUILDING
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI PARISH,
SARIAYA QUEZON

JCI
Makati

REST IN PEACE

JCI SEN. FELICITO C. PAYUMO

1937 - 2025

1972 JCI Makati President
1987-1998 Bataan 1st District Congressman
1998-2004 Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairman
2011-2012 Base Conversion and Development Authority Chairman



in loving memory of



SONJA HABANA RODRIGUEZ

AUGUST 4, 1941 - OCTOBER 16, 2025

Wake Details

Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio
McKinley Rd, Makati City

October 21, Tuesday : 4PM - 10PM
October 22, Wednesday : 10AM - 10PM
Mass to be held at 6PM both days

Requiem Mass

October 23, Thursday
Main Church at 9AM



The Rotary Club of Manila, led by President Raoul Creencia, at the wake of First Lady Sonja Habana Rodriguez (spouse of Past District Governor Jackie Rodriguez and mother of Rotarian Jack Rodriguez).



RECOGNITION CORNER

PD Beda Fajardo Honored by Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc.



Attorneys Victor Lazatin and Rogelio Nicandro, Chairman of the Board and President of PDRCI, respectively, presented the plaque of appreciation to PD Beda Fajardo.

PD Beda Fajardo was honored by the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc. (PDRCI) during his retirement celebration on October 23, 2025, at Shangri-La Makati, Makati City. As one of the founders of PDRCI, he received recognition and appreciation from its officers and Board of Trustees.



The PDRCI is the only Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center for commercial disputes in the Philippines and one of the most respected and competitive ADR entities in Asia. Its foundational concept was developed by a special committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and, after considerable determination and support from its parent organization, evolved into the established institution it is today. PDRCI now arbitrates domestic and international commercial cases involving billions of pesos.



OPINION

Lawyers in demand amid scandal-serye



EYES WIDE OPEN - Iris Gonzales - The Philippine Star ①

October 26, 2025 | 12:00am

So this is where we are since this flood control corruption scandal erupted – construction projects are down, infrastructure spending has slowed and luxury buyers have laid low.

But there is one profession that is having its best season ever – lawyering.

At a time when the spotlight is on crooks and their merry band of looters who pocketed taxpayers' money meant for flood control projects, it's no wonder that the best lawyers are now fully booked. If this were showbiz, they'd be the celebrity managers cleaning up after their clients' "image problems."

At the recent hearings at the Senate, we've seen the names of legal counsels representing some of those at the center of the scandal. There's hotshot lawyer Raymond Fortun, for instance, representing ex-DPWH engineer Brice Hernandez. The lawyers' gallery is starting to look like a casting call for *Suits*: Philippine Edition.

A lawyer-source said most of the legal counsels being tapped by flood control clients are prominent individual defense lawyers because some of the biggest law firms in the country are politely saying "No, thank you." Perhaps it's due to fear of political backlash.

Although, word is that one of the two suspected masterminds of this grand theft hired a top-tier law firm, among the best in the country.

Just the past couple of weeks, a column I wrote about ghost flood control projects in Masbate generated two responses from lawyers of opposing parties – proof that lawyers are indeed the most active sector in this whole mess.

If the late Estelito Mendoza were still around, I bet everyone would be scrambling to hire him. He was, after all, the original "super lawyer," the one you call when the going gets tough and the tough becomes impossible.

It's no secret that in the Philippines, lawyers will not only represent you in court but also help you navigate our dizzying and corrupt justice system.

Of course, hiring a lawyer doesn't come cheap.

The usual rates, according to Respicio & Co, are as follows:

Monthly retainer fees for general corporate advisory: P20,000 to P50,000 per month for small businesses; P150,000 to P500,000+ per month for larger firms.

Hourly rates: from about P1,000 to P3,000 per hour for junior lawyers; P6,000 to P15,000+ per hour for senior partners or specialists.

Up-front "acceptance" or engagement fees: maybe P20,000 to P100,000+ for routine civil cases; can go much higher in big litigation or complex matters.

I can imagine, it's twice or thrice the amount for flood control cases. I guess the more involved you are, the higher the lawyer's fee. But then again, with all the money you've pocketed, you can afford the best lawyer that money can buy.

I can't help but wonder though – how could lawyers defend people they know are guilty?

"Simple," my lawyer-source said. "Everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty and everyone has the right to be defended in court."

Fair point. But still, doesn't the conscience call, especially when their clients have wronged our society? Again, my lawyer source said, everyone has the right to be represented in court.

"It's now up to the lawyer if his conscience can take it," said a source.

As Perlman & Cohn, a law firm, puts it, a lawyer's highest duty is not to the client but to the court.

"This means, amongst other things, that when representing the defendant, the lawyer must not knowingly lie to the court."

It's complicated for sure but only lawyers themselves fully understand their profession.

'They Will Be in Heaven Before the Devil Knows'

Speaking of the law profession and their moral universe, those who want to read more about lawyering can get some invaluable insights in the recently published book, *'They Will Be in Heaven Before the Devil Knows'* by Atty. Amado Valdez, one of the country's most distinguished lawyers.

The book is a novel about the law profession as a battlefield.

Setting this tone is its edge-of-your-seat opening, which targets the Chief Justice.

"There was bedlam in the lobby. Debris littered the floor. A man burnt beyond recognition lay there, barely breathing."

The book is for anyone interested in what happens when the defenders of the law become its victims. And how does one uphold duty in a system that sometimes rewards the opposite?

It is a "story where justice and injustice are locked in relentless struggle."

For the author, the legal profession "is an adventure."

Said Valdez: "The book gives some romantic color to the lives of people who are lawyers...To be a lawyer is a unique status. It's a noble profession."

But more importantly, the book is also a call to lawyers, students and to anyone who believes in justice not as an abstract ideal but as a living, breathing mission.

Many people have become cynical about lawyers, Valdez admits.

With his novel, he hopes people will understand why a lawyer would be fighting for justice.

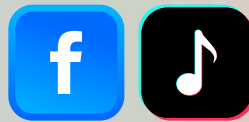
"Why he (wants) that somebody who has equal rights should also have equal opportunities in life. This is what we want to create in the social order – that everybody should have an opportunity in life. It is one of the missions of lawyers...to get that into fruition."

And those who remain steadfast in their duty, Valdez said, may themselves be in heaven before the devil knows.

* * *

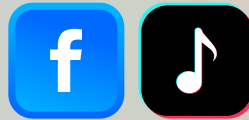
PUBLIC IMAGE

Rotary Club of Manila's End Polio Project at Sta. Ana Hospital Featured on DWIZ News



PUBLIC IMAGE

2025 Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacemaking (LEAP) Awards Featured on DWIZ News





LEAP Awards: Service in Communities

October 21, 2025 PILIPINO Mirror



Leaders Excelling in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peacemaking (LEAP) has raised the bar once again in recognition of exemplary service in communities and institutions in the country.

Four winners emerged victorious in their respective field in the Provision of Barangay Justice, Advocacy in Community Peacemaking, Negotiation Assistance, and Designing or Implementing a Dispute Resolution System.

This is an annual recognition set by the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) and the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIArb).



This year's host is the RCM Program Chair, Teodoro Kalaw IV who presented the 2025 Finalist and Winners.

RCM President Raoul Creencia welcomed this year's finalist and winners and reiterated that "Peace" is the highest form of service.

A Congratulatory Remarks was given by PIArb President Dranyl Jared Amoroso and stressed that the work of an ADR practitioner is truly thankless and boring.

Amoroso said, "LEAP seeks to change this paradox. This is why we recognize, trumpet and study successful ADR and peacekeeping process."



He is happy to see each and everyone who have devoted their lifetime and efforts silently advancing peace in their respective communities.

This year, these ADR practitioners are recognized in an award ceremony at Maynila Ballroom of Manila Hotel.

The first LEAP Award for Excellence in the Provision of Barangay Justice went to Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay Baan KM3, Butuan City.

It accomplished Quality of Conciliation and Durability of Settlements, High Rate and Significance of Amicable Settlement or Resort to Arbitration, Innovation and Proactive Initiatives, Operational Efficiency and Procedural Compliance and Community Confidence and Engagement.

The second LEAP Award for Excellence in Advocating Community Peacemaking was given to a former journalist, Irene Morada Santiago.

Santiago ranked first in the following criteria: Committed and Enduring Engagement Despite the Complexity of a Conflict, Culturally Sensitive and Inclusive Methodologies, Demonstrable and Sustainable Peace Outcomes, and Capacity-Building and Community Empowerment.

The third LEAP Award for Excellence in Negotiating a Mediated Settlement was gladly accepted by Atty. Earl D.F. Larroder.

Larroder was evaluated on the following criteria: Innovative and Durability of the Resolution, Exemplary Professionalism, Strategic and Constructive Engagement, Complexity and Significance of the Dispute and Broader Impact and Contribution.

The last LEAP Award for Excellence in Designing or Implementing a Dispute Resolution System went to Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) Office of the Dispute Resolution Administrator.

An impressive achievement by WESM, helped them ranked first in the following criteria: Innovative and Purpose-Driven Design, Accessibility, Fairness and Procedural Integrity, Excellence in Implementation and Stakeholder Engagement, Demonstrated Effectiveness and Efficiency, and Sustainability and Scalability.

A worthy closing remarks was delivered by Deputy Executive Director Krista Gem, M. Santos: "This occasion is made even more significant as it follows the recently concluded National Alternative Dispute Resolution Convention 2025, where we renewed and strengthened our commitment to collaboration with our partners. At that convention, we affirmed that the future of ADR lies in partnerships that are active, strategic, and transformative."

Story and Photos by Riza Zuñiga



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