



PALAWANPAY
CASH IN / OUT



PERA PADALA



SANGLA



JEWELRY SELLING



**INTERNATIONAL
REMITTANCE**



BILLS PAYMENT



INSURANCE



**PADALA TO BANK
ACCOUNT**



E-LOADING



MONEY CHANGER



**CASH CARD/
ATM WITHDRAWAL**

MAY PANGANGAILANGAN?

I-PALAWAN MO NA!

Supervised by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4097 • JULY 16, 2026



Guest of Honor and Speaker

DR. RAYMUND E. NARAG

*Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director
School of Justice and Public Safety
South Illinois University Carbondale, USA
Health Care Community Expansion and
Support Organization (PresO)*

**"Congress-Meow" Headlines RCM'S
First Weekly Membership Meeting**

**Highlights from
District 3810
Handover at
Okada Manila**

**District 3810's Public
Image Team Meets
to Finalize Vibrant
Seminar Program**



CONTENTS



6 Editorial: Just Deserts

14 Guest of Honor & Speaker: Dr. Raymund E. Narag: From Prison Cell to Prison Reformer

22 "Congress-Meow" Headlines RCM'S First Weekly Membership Meeting

52 Highlights from District 3810 Handover at Okada Manila on July 11, 2026

62 24th Handover and 25th Induction Ceremonies of RC Quirino Manila Central

64 RI District 3810's Public Image Team Meets to Finalize Vibrant Seminar Program

66 Know Your Rotary

68 Manila Rotarian Dr. Jose S. Pujalte Jr. is New Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH)



SECOND WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

DR. RAYMUND E. NARAG

Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director
School of Justice and Public Safety

Thursday, July 9, 2026, 12:15 p.m.
Ballroom 1, Fairmont Makati

Moderator: STAR RTN. CHRIS TAMESIS

PROGRAM

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
- 12:15 PM Call to Order
President Reginald T. Yu
- Invocation
Dir. John Nico P. Valencia
- Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- The Four-Way Test
STAR Rotarian Winston Ginez
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Rotarian Ingill Ra
- Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- 12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**
- July 17 Rtn. Jack Branellec
 - July 19 PDG Obet Pagdanganan
- Birthday Song**
RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE

PART II

- 12:55 PM **President's Time**
President's Report
- 1:00 PM **Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker**
- Director Michael Jaey C. Albana
- Address:
Dr. RAYMUND E. NARAG
Associate Professor &
Graduate Program Director
School of Justice and Public Safety
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA
Head Consultant, Prisoners' Enhancement
and Support Organization (PRESO)
- 1:30 PM **Open Forum**
- 1:55 PM **Response**
- Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation**
- 2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

EDITORIAL

Just Deserts

ONE of my strongest motivations for leading a law-abiding life was the quality, or lack of it, of prison food. When I was preparing for the priesthood many pounds and locks of hair ago, my seminary classmates and I used to regularly visit Lex, the ominously named provincial jail of Bulacan, as part of our apostolate. We interacted with the detainees, talked a little about Jesus and a lot about themselves and their loved ones, and spent the rest of the visit playing basketball with



Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

them. We believed that our visit allowed them to have a casual conversation with someone from outside the prison walls so that they would feel like ordinary human beings instead of numbers on a list and wards under supervision by the State.

One afternoon, as we were preparing to leave, a delivery of the ingredients for that evening's dinner was taking place. I noticed one big plastic bag of pechay/pak choi, but instead of the green leafy parts of it, only the tougher white stems, most of them still with some roots protruding, were in the bag. They were obviously the discarded parts, perhaps from a big restaurant's kitchen, and 'donated' to the jail.

EDITORIAL

Naively, I asked the one receiving the ingredients what he intended to do with them and his curt reply was “*Lulutu in siempre; buti nga at may gulay kami ngayon.*” (We will cook them of course; we’re fortunate that we have veggies for tonight.)

The question of what to do with those who violate norms, inflict harm, and cause damages has been central to the development of moral philosophy and criminal justice. What just deserts should offenders get for their transgressions against individuals or society itself has defined various approaches to penology from the earliest days of human civilization. Surviving legal codes from Mesopotamia such as those from Ur-Nammu and Hammurabi outlined various crimes and their corresponding punishments. Book 18 of Homer's Iliad, in describing the design of Achilles' armor, gave glimpses of penal practices in ancient Greece. The epic Mahabharata and the legal code Manusmriti provided insights into the social and moral norms of ancient Indian culture.

There are basically four approaches to crime and punishment in current penology. First is retributive justice

which focuses on exacting punishments that are proportional to the criminals' actions. Lex talionis, or "an eye for an eye" ensures fairness through strict proportionality. Chopping off an arm for thievery or capital punishment for murder are fine examples of the retributive approach.

Second is restorative justice, which focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime through restitution. By emphasizing accountability and rebuilding relationships between offenders and victims, future harm is prevented and the community is protected. The payment of blood money to the family of a homicide victim is one example of restorative justice.

The third approach is the theory of deterrence. By intimating what punishments are reserved for criminal behavior, society is giving would-be offenders pause, allowing them to weigh the consequences of their actions before they actually commit them. It must be noted, however, that deterrence requires effective policing and a high probability of arrest and conviction for it to work.

The fourth approach is rehabilitation,

EDITORIAL

which presupposes an individual's capacity to change as a result of interventions that address the root causes of criminal behavior.

Rehabilitation prevents future crimes by helping offenders become useful members of society through education, work training, counseling and religious guidance. It takes into account societal factors such as drug dependency or poverty as causes of criminality and introduces programs that address those specific issues.

As is often the case, a state may use any or a combination of these approaches in preventing criminality. A common denominator among the four is incapacitation by which society seeks to protect itself by removing the offender from the rest of the population and restricting his or her freedom. This is achieved through various modes such as house arrest, imprisonment, and, in extreme cases, execution. However, the jury is still out debating the effectiveness of incapacitation, particularly imprisonment, in controlling criminality. In many cases, those imprisoned and placed in close proximity day in and day out with hardened criminals may end up upgrading their criminal enterprise instead of getting rehabilitated. Outside

the prison's walls, other offenders can easily take the place of those imprisoned, taking advantage of the vacancy afforded by the former's incarceration.

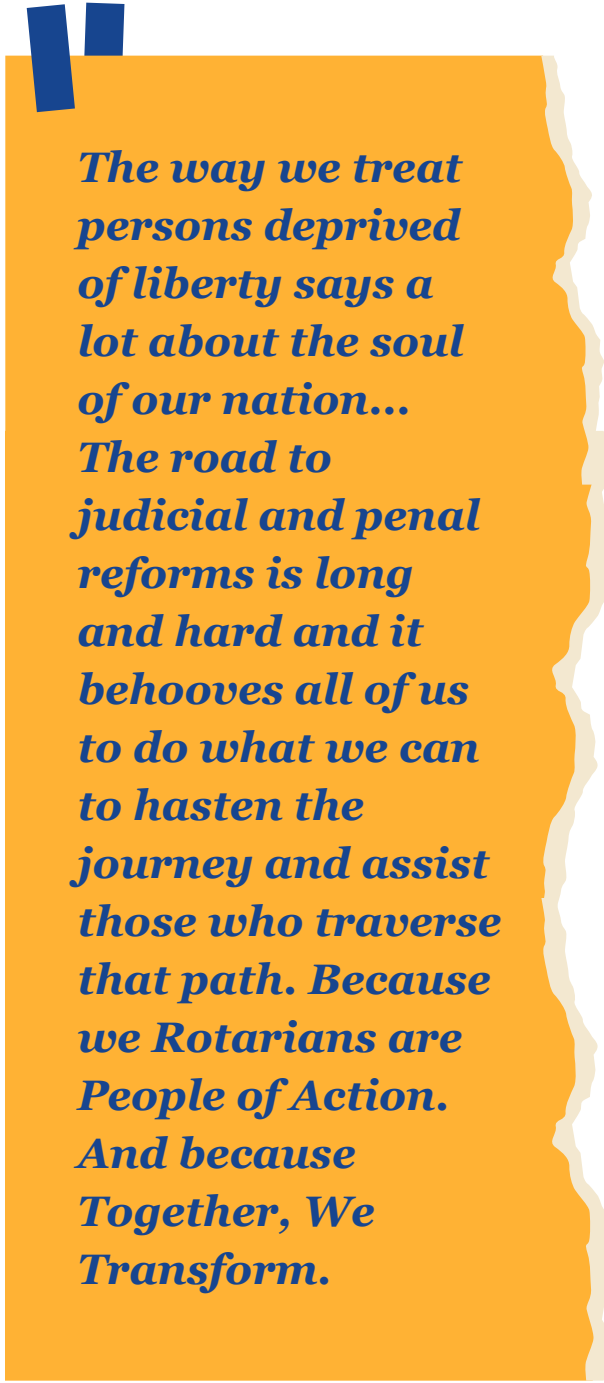
Conditions in any Philippine prison should be enough of a deterrence for committing crimes. Inadequate ventilation, gross overcrowding, lack of potable water, poor food quality, poor sanitation, and lack of access to medical care are just some of the observations reported by entities such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Committee of the Red Cross. One UNODC report cited Manila City Jail prisoners having to sleep on their sides and on the concrete floor in neat rows of maybe 200 from one end of a dormitory to the other just to accommodate everyone, as the jail is overcrowded by whopping 168 per cent. A 2024 report ranked the Philippines alongside the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Uganda in terms of prison congestion. Susmaryosep, as the late great Max Soliven would say.

In 2023, the Philippines joined over 50 other states in the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules which aims

EDITORIAL

to promote humane conditions of imprisonment through the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. By doing so, the Philippines has committed to undertaking prison and penal reform such as by resolving cases quickly to reduce the number of pre-trial detainees, offering better health and education facilities, preventing inhumane treatments in enforcing discipline, and improving record-keeping to aide early release of those who qualify.

The way we treat persons deprived of liberty says a lot about the soul of our nation. It also has practical implications on our efforts to make our communities safer, as what happens to people during their imprisonment and following their release will affect the rise or fall of criminality. The road to judicial and penal reforms is long and hard and it behooves all of us to do what we can to hasten the journey and assist those who traverse that path. Because we Rotarians are People of Action. And because Together, We Transform.



The way we treat persons deprived of liberty says a lot about the soul of our nation...

The road to judicial and penal reforms is long and hard and it behooves all of us to do what we can to hasten the journey and assist those who traverse that path. Because we Rotarians are People of Action. And because Together, We Transform.

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

Dr. RAYMUND E. NARAG From Prison Cell to Prison Reformer

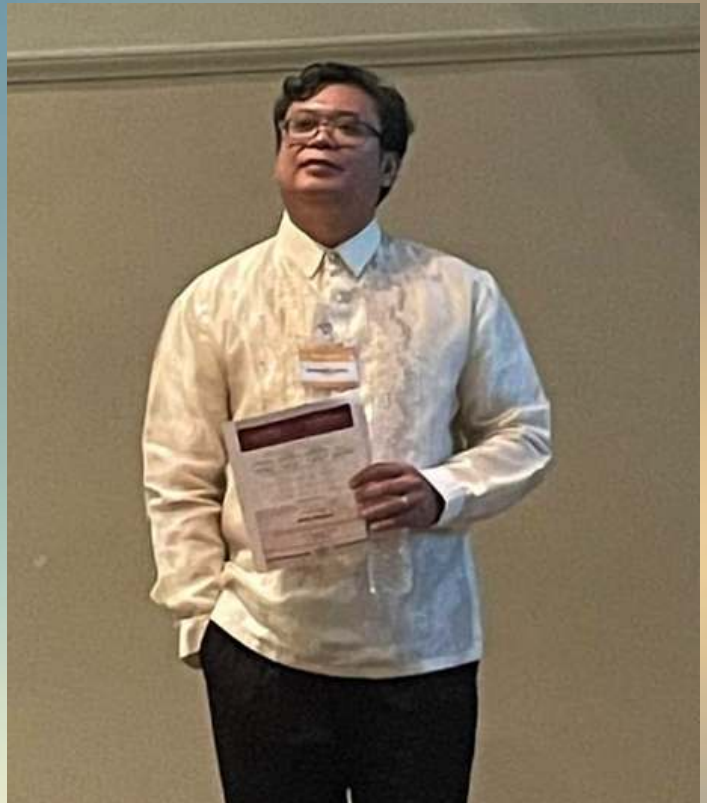
THERE are scholars who study the criminal justice system.

There are policymakers who attempt to improve it.

And then there are those whose understanding was shaped not merely by books or classrooms, but by life itself.

Dr. Raymund E. Narag belongs to this extraordinary and exceedingly rare group.

Today, he is internationally recognized as one of the foremost Filipino authorities on corrections, prison reform, parole and probation, criminal



DR. RAYMUND E. NARAG

Associate Professor &
Graduate Program Director
School of Justice and Public Safety

justice administration, and human-rights-based correctional management. Governments, international organizations, universities, and justice institutions around the world seek his expertise. Yet his remarkable journey toward becoming one of the country's leading criminologists began in perhaps the least likely of places: a prison cell.

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

As a young University of the Philippines student, Dr. Narag's life changed dramatically when he was wrongfully implicated in a fraternity-related killing in 1994. Although he was eventually acquitted, he spent seven years in detention awaiting justice. Those years exposed him to the harsh realities of Philippine incarceration, including overcrowded cells, inhumane living conditions, prolonged court delays, disease, violence, and the daily struggle for dignity among persons deprived of liberty. It was an experience that forever altered the course of his life.

Most people would have emerged from such an ordeal consumed by bitterness.

Dr. Narag emerged with purpose.

Upon regaining his freedom, he resolved to devote his life to transforming the very system that had once failed him. Those seven years behind bars became not a prison for his future, but the foundation upon which he built an extraordinary career dedicated to justice. His life stands as a remarkable testament to resilience, demonstrating how profound personal adversity can be transformed into a lifelong mission of public service.

His academic journey reflects that same determination.

After graduating cum laude from the University of the Philippines Diliman, he pursued graduate studies at Michigan State University, earning both his Master's and Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice as a Fulbright Scholar. Today, he serves as Graduate Program Director and Associate Professor at the School of Justice and Public Safety of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he teaches criminology, corrections, juvenile justice, comparative criminal justice, criminological theory, and research methods. Beyond the classroom, he mentors graduate students from around the world who will one day shape justice systems in their own countries.

Yet to describe Dr. Narag simply as an academic would be to tell only half of his story.

Unlike many scholars, he never forgot what it felt like to stand on the other side of the justice system.

His research has consistently focused on the most urgent and complex issues confronting criminal justice, not because they are academically fashionable, but because he has personally witnessed their human consequences. His work spans prison overcrowding, prolonged pretrial detention, inmate classification, prison

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

governance, juvenile justice, restorative justice, parole and probation, violent extremist offender management, and the development of correctional systems that protect public safety while preserving human dignity.

His scholarship has produced landmark books, including *Freedom and Death Inside the City Jail*, *Behind Bars at the New Bilibid Prison: A Call for Integrated Reforms*, and *Decongesting Philippine Jails*. These works have become essential references for policymakers, correctional administrators, and scholars seeking evidence-based approaches to prison reform. His research has likewise appeared in leading international journals and books published by some of the world's most respected academic presses, firmly establishing his reputation as one of the leading voices in comparative criminology and corrections.

Yet his research rarely ends with publication.

Instead, it becomes policy.

Over the years, Dr. Narag has served as consultant and adviser to the Philippine Supreme Court, the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Corrections, the Philippine Commission on Human

Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Asian Development Bank, and numerous other institutions committed to strengthening justice systems around the world.

His studies have directly influenced initiatives on jail decongestion, modernization of the parole and probation system, court case management, prison health, inmate risk assessment, human-rights-based prison administration, and correctional rehabilitation. Through international research grants and collaborative reform projects, he has translated rigorous scholarship into practical solutions that have improved the administration of justice for thousands of Filipinos.

His influence extends even further.

Dr. Narag has become one of the country's foremost educators of criminal justice practitioners. Over the years, he has personally trained thousands of jail wardens, correctional officers, parole and probation officers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, volunteers, and policymakers through seminars, workshops, and capacity-building programs conducted

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

throughout the Philippines. His work has helped professionalize correctional management while promoting evidence-based policies grounded in accountability, rehabilitation, and respect for human rights.

His contributions have earned him numerous honors and distinctions, including the Judge William Holmes Cook Fellowship, the Living Hero Award from the J. Amado Araneta Foundation, the Outstanding Citizen of Quezon City Award, the Dangal ng Lahing Cagayano Award, and several academic and leadership recognitions from Michigan State University and other institutions.

Yet awards alone cannot capture the significance of his life's work.

What truly distinguishes Dr. Narag is the unique perspective from which he speaks.

He understands incarceration not merely as a subject of academic inquiry but as a lived experience. He appreciates the importance of law enforcement, public safety, and accountability, while also recognizing the devastating human cost of delayed justice, overcrowded detention facilities, and ineffective correctional systems. Few experts possess both the

empirical rigor of a world-class scholar and the moral authority of someone who has personally endured the very system he now strives to improve.

His journey reminds us that justice is not measured solely by convictions or punishments.

It is measured by how faithfully a society upholds the rule of law, protects the innocent, treats the accused fairly, rehabilitates offenders, and preserves the dignity of every human person.

In an era when conversations about crime are often dominated by emotion, politics, or ideology, Dr. Raymund E. Narag offers something increasingly rare: a voice grounded in lived experience, rigorous scholarship, empirical evidence, and unwavering compassion.

His life is more than an inspiring story of personal redemption.

It is a powerful reminder that our deepest wounds can become our greatest calling, and that even from the confines of a prison cell can emerge a visionary whose work would one day help reshape the future of criminal justice in the Philippines and beyond.

"Congress-Meow" Headlines RCM'S First Weekly Membership Meeting

By President Reginald T. Yu



THE First Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2026–2027 marked far more than the beginning of another Rotary calendar. It represented the first opportunity for Club President Reginald Yu to translate his vision of *"Rotary T.U.R.N. — Toward a Unified Rotary Nation"* into meaningful action.

Coming just one week after the Club's historic 107th Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies, the meeting drew an encouraging turnout of more than one hundred Rotarians and guests. The strong attendance reflected the members' enthusiasm to reconnect, engage in meaningful dialogue, and actively participate in the life of the world's first Rotary club in Asia.

The afternoon commenced with the traditions that have distinguished the Rotary Club of Manila for more than a century — the invocation, the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, the Club Hymn, the recitation of the Four-Way Test, and the recognition of visiting Rotarians and guests. While officers may change from year to year, these enduring traditions continue to remind members that Rotary's values remain constant.



President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order.



Club Internal Auditor Abdulgani Macatoman led the invocation.



Director Carlos "Caloy" G. Serapio moderated the meeting.



STAR Rotarian Myles Tan led the recitation of The Four-Way Test.



Director Michael D. Roxas introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests.

One of the most heartwarming portions of the meeting was the recognition of the Club's birthday celebrants, followed by the President's Time, during which President Reggie welcomed everyone to a new Rotary year and expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming support extended during the historic induction ceremonies.

He then invited Induction Chairman Past District Governor Alexander Cureg to present a brief report on the successful culmination of the 107th Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies. The report was complemented by a professionally produced audio-visual presentation that allowed members to relive many of the memorable moments from that historic evening.

A particularly moving highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of Past Internal Auditor Dr. Jaime "Jimmy" Laya, who achieved the extraordinary milestone of Fifty Years of Rotary Service.

In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Laya reflected on the priceless friendships that Rotary had given him throughout five decades of service. He fondly recalled fellow Rotarians who stood beside him



A highlight of the meeting was the warm recognition of club members celebrating their birthdays.



The strong attendance reflected the members' enthusiasm to reconnect, engage in meaningful dialogue, and actively participate in the life of the world's first Rotary club in Asia.

during some of the most challenging periods of his distinguished career in public service and spoke warmly of Rotary's unique ability to cultivate lifelong fellowship built on trust and shared ideals.

He also reaffirmed Rotary's enduring commitment to serving the poorest of the poor through meaningful community service. Concluding his remarks, Dr. Laya expressed the heartfelt wish that every Rotarian present would one day receive the same Fifty-Year Service Award — a sentiment that resonated deeply throughout the ballroom and served as an inspiring reminder of Rotary's enduring legacy of commitment.



During the President's Time, President Reggie Yu welcomed everyone to a new Rotary year and expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming support extended during the historic induction ceremonies.



Induction Chairman Past District Governor Alexander Cureg presented a brief report on the successful culmination of the 107th Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies.



A particularly moving highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of Past Internal Auditor Dr. Jaime "Jimmy" Laya, who achieved the extraordinary milestone of Fifty Years of Rotary Service.

The centerpiece of the afternoon was the address of Guest-of-Honor and Speaker, Former Congressman Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga.

Few contemporary public figures have generated as much discussion as the former legislator. Elected to Congress at only twenty-seven years of age, he became one of the youngest members of the House of Representatives and among the earliest representatives of Generation Z to serve in the national legislature.

In 2025, however, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly adopted the recommendation of its Committee on Ethics and Privileges to expel him for disorderly behavior and conduct unbecoming of a Member. Among the cited violations were unauthorized live social media broadcasts inside the session hall, repeated interruptions during important budget deliberations, sarcastic remarks directed at House leadership, and actions deemed disruptive to legislative proceedings.

Yet despite the controversy, Congressman Barzaga demonstrated that his convictions remain unchanged.

During both his formal address and subsequent conversations with members, it became evident that he



Assistant Board Legal Adviser Hansel Joseph Michael Tillman introduced the Guest of Honor & Speaker.



Guest of Honor and Speaker, former Congressman Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga

continues to view those events through the lens of principle rather than political consequence. He likened his confrontation with the House leadership to the biblical story of David and Goliath, explaining that he knowingly accepted the personal cost of standing up for what he believed was right.

As he poignantly remarked:

"I fought against the Speaker knowing the consequences to myself and my family. A soldier does not go to war believing he will return home safely; he fights for his country no matter the cost."

Whether one agrees with his methods or not, there is little doubt about the depth of his conviction.

Rotary does not exist to endorse political positions, nor does it seek ideological conformity. Instead, it provides a forum where differing viewpoints may be expressed respectfully, examined thoughtfully, and discussed with civility. One of Rotary's greatest strengths has always been its ability to bring together people of diverse perspectives in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual respect, and constructive dialogue.

In his formal address, Congressman Barzaga underscored the indispensable role of non-government organizations in nation-building. Drawing upon his experience in public service, he observed that government — both local and national — often relies upon civic organizations to help

address societal needs that public institutions alone cannot fully meet.

He described philanthropy, particularly as exemplified by Rotary, as one of the highest expressions of moral responsibility, emphasizing that those who have been blessed with greater resources likewise bear a greater obligation to uplift those with less, especially during periods of economic uncertainty.

The Open Forum that followed became one of the liveliest and most engaging portions of the afternoon.

While members naturally raised questions concerning governance, leadership, and current national issues, one particularly memorable exchange revolved around a subject that has become inseparable from Congressman Barzaga's public identity — his affection for cats.

Known by many on social media as "*Congress-Meow*," Congressman Barzaga explained that his advocacy for animal welfare extends well beyond the online world. His love for feline companions has become a defining aspect of both his personal life and public service. He spoke passionately about rescuing abandoned cats, promoting responsible pet ownership, and encouraging stronger animal welfare legislation. It offered members a refreshing glimpse into the more personal side of a public figure often viewed only through political headlines.



The Open Forum that followed became one of the liveliest and most engaging portions of the afternoon.



One of the most meaningful moments of the day, however, unfolded after the meeting had officially concluded.

Long after most members and guests had departed, Congressman Barzaga graciously accepted President Reggie's invitation to stay for a late lunch while waiting for his next appointment — a Taekwondo training session later that



President Reginald T. Yu presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Guest of Honor and Speaker, former Congressman Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga.

afternoon. Away from the podium, microphones, and cameras, the conversation became candid, relaxed, and remarkably introspective.

They spoke at length about his journey in public service, his reflections on recent political developments, and his thoughts regarding his future plans. Naturally, the discussion also touched upon the ongoing impeachment proceedings that continue to dominate national discourse. While much of that conversation remains appropriately private, it provided an opportunity to understand the individual behind the headlines through direct and honest

dialogue rather than through public commentary alone.

The conversation eventually shifted to subjects far removed from politics — his lifelong passion for Taekwondo, his unwavering commitment to animal welfare, and the personal values that continue to guide his decisions. Like many conversations among Rotarians, the exchange was less about agreement than about understanding.

That unexpected lunch served as a quiet reminder of one of Rotary's most enduring lessons: behind every public office, every headline, and every

controversy is a fellow human being whose story is often far more complex and nuanced than public perception alone can reveal.

For President Reggie, the First Weekly Membership Meeting could not have provided a more fitting beginning to Rotary Year 2026–2027.

The afternoon embodied the very qualities that have defined the Rotary Club of Manila for more than a century — meaningful fellowship, recognition of exemplary service, respectful dialogue, and the willingness to engage even the most challenging and controversial issues with civility, open-mindedness, and mutual respect.

The Club honored fifty years of faithful Rotary service through Dr. Jimmy Laya, welcomed a guest speaker whose life and career have sparked vigorous national discussion, encouraged thoughtful questions rather than unquestioning agreement, and demonstrated that genuine fellowship often continues long after the formal meeting has ended.

If the First Weekly Membership Meeting is any indication of the year ahead, the Rotary Club of Manila is well positioned to continue building

bridges, fostering meaningful conversations, strengthening friendships, and creating opportunities for service that transcend differences.

Together, the Club moves forward in the spirit of the Rotary International theme, "Create Lasting Impact," while advancing President Yu's own vision of *"Rotary T.U.R.N. — Toward a Unified Rotary Nation."*



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2026-2027



ATTENDANCE REPORT July 2026

JULY 2026	July 02, 2026 ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 107TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION CEREMONY	July 09, 2026 FORMER CONGRESSMAN FRANCISCO "KIKO" A. BARZAGA
MEMBERS PRESENT	88	40
MEMBERS PRESENT %	43%	20%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	6	1
EXEMPTED	3	3
ON LEAVE	0	0
Total Active Members	94	41
Total # of Members	203	203
TOTAL %:	46%	20%
ROTARACTORS	11	5
MEDIA	0	1
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	3
VISITING ROTARIAN	18	21
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	195	17
TOTAL ATTENDEES	312	86



LIST OF ATTENDEES July 9, 2026

1	Albaña, Michael Jaey C	21	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
2	Alday, Albert Singson	22	Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC.
3	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	23	Ong, Phillip L.
4	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	24	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L.
5	Carranceja, Arvin Arik B	25	Pagdanganan, Roberto M.
6	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.	26	Pangilinan, Manuel E.
7	Creencia, Raoul C.	27	Pantaleon, Oliver
8	Cureg, Alexander P.	28	Parwani, Raj
9	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	29	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
10	Egan, Brendan W.L.	30	Recto, Philip H.
11	Eldebs, Issam	31	Roxas, Michael D.
12	Esguerra, Herminio S.	32	Serapio, Carlos G.
13	Garcia, Herbert Joey	33	Shimoda, Shigeru
14	Garcia, Theodore Q	34	Sibayan, Joselito H.
15	Gesmundo, Job	35	Simon, Juanito A.
16	Go, Henry S.	36	Tan, Myles
17	Hiroyasu, Kanda	37	Tee, Teddy Jr. B.
18	Koh, Paul Anthony T	38	Tillmann, Hansel Joseph Michael L.
19	Laya, Jaime C.	39	Valdez, Amado D.
20	Magsaysay, Francisco D.	40	Yu, Reginald Tieng

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2026-2027

As of July 14, 2026



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

1	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
2	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK
3	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
4	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
5	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
6	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
7	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
8	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
9	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
10	TILLMANN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL



**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**

Upcoming Weekly Membership Meetings



Rotary
Club of Manila

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

3RD WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR R.Y. 2026-2027

TRUTH. JUSTICE. ACCOUNTABILITY. NO-HOLDS-BARRED. THE ISSUES THAT MATTER.

A candid, in-depth discussion on the most controversial and urgent cases under the watch of the National Bureau of Investigation and what it means for our nation.

Guest of Honor and Speaker
ATTY. MELVIN A. MATIBAG
Director
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)

A forthright briefing on the high-profile investigations shaping public discourse and the pursuit of truth and justice.

KEY TOPICS

-  **Flood Control Investigation**
Uncovering irregularities and holding accountable those behind the flood control anomalies.
-  **Human Trafficking Cases in Pasig KTV**
The disturbing realities, ongoing operations, and the fight against modern-day slavery.
-  **The Alleged Senate Shootout**
What really happened? Latest findings and the pursuit of those responsible.
-  **Ateneo Student-Athlete Deaths**
The facts, the investigation, and the quest for answers and accountability.

**THURSDAY
JULY 23, 2026**

12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Registration starts at 11:45 AM

FAIRMONT MAKATI
Makati City, Metro Manila

DRRESS CODE
Business Attire / Rotary Pin

ATTY. MELVIN A. MATIBAG

- Director, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)
- Seasoned law enforcement leader and litigator
- Committed to truth, justice, and public service

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY
Bring a Prospective Rotarian.
One Guest. One Future Rotarian.

 Lhea Lozano
(+63) 995-991-2933
rotaryclubofmanila@gmail.com

TURN
TOWARD A UNIFIED ROTARY NATION

CONNECT • LEARN • SERVE • LEAD
ASIA'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB SINCE 1919

 rcmanila.org  Rotary Club of Manila  rcmanila1919



Rotary
Club of Manila

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

4TH WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR R.Y. 2026-2027

OUR CHILDREN. OUR FUTURE. THE FIRST 1,000 DAYS MATTER.

Ending child malnutrition and stunting through strong laws, collective action, and every Rotarian's commitment.

Join Guest of Honor and Speaker
ATTY. JOSE "JOEY" D. LINA JR.
District Governor Nominee, R.I. District 3830
National Project Chairman
Children's First 1,000 Days Coalition (CFDC)

Championing the First 1,000 Days Law and leading a nationwide movement to combat child malnutrition and stunting for a healthier, stronger Philippines.

KEY INSIGHTS

-  **The Power of the First 1,000 Days**
Why nutrition in a child's early years shapes a lifetime.
-  **From Law to Impact**
Implementing the First 1,000 Days Law through partnerships and accountability.
-  **Stunting: A National Challenge**
The current situation, the cost of inaction, and the path forward.
-  **What Rotarians Can Do**
Practical ways to make a difference in our communities.
-  **NETWORK WITH LEADERS**
From health, government, business, NGOs, and civil society.

**THURSDAY
JULY 30, 2026**

12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Registration starts at 11:45 AM

FAIRMONT MAKATI
Makati City, Metro Manila

DRRESS CODE
Business Attire / Rotary Pin

ATTY. JOSE "JOEY" D. LINA JR.

- District Governor Nominee, R.I. District 3830
- National Project Chairman, Children's First 1,000 Days Coalition (CFDC)

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY
Bring a Prospective Rotarian.
One Guest. One Future Rotarian.

 Lhea Lozano
(+63) 995-991-2933
rotaryclubofmanila@gmail.com

TURN
TOWARD A UNIFIED ROTARY NATION

CONNECT • LEARN • SERVE • LEAD
ASIA'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB SINCE 1919

 rcmanila.org  Rotary Club of Manila  rcmanila1919

DISTRICT EVENTS

Highlights from District 3810 Handover at Okada Manila on July 11, 2026



RCM President Reggie Yu poses with District 3810 Governor Bing Carrion during the 2026 Rotary District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies at the Okada Manila Grand Ballroom on July 11, 2026, celebrating the official transition of district leadership for Rotary Year 2026–2027.



Immediate Past President Raoul Creencia and President Reggie Yu proudly display their respective Rotary Club of Manila presidential banners before leading the Club's delegation in the opening march of the Rotary International District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies at the Okada Manila Grand Ballroom on July 11, 2026. The symbolic handoff reflected Rotary's seamless continuity of leadership — from Unite for Good to Create Lasting Impact.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Highlights from District 3810 Handover at Okada Manila on July 11, 2026



District Governor Bing Carrion takes her oath of office before Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Karl B. Miranda, Chairperson of the Third Division, during the Rotary International District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies at the Okada Manila Grand Ballroom on July 11, 2026. Witnessed by her family, the solemn oath formally marked the beginning of her stewardship as District Governor for Rotary Year 2026–2027 under the theme, Create Lasting Impact.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Highlights from District 3810 Handover at Okada Manila on July 11, 2026



Immediate Past President Raoul Creencia hands over the official Rotary International District 3810 presidential banner to Rotary Club of Manila President Reggie Yu during the District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies at the Okada Manila Grand Ballroom on July 11, 2026. The ceremonial presentation formally recognized President Reggie's leadership of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2026–2027 under Rotary International's theme, Create Lasting Impact.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Highlights from District 3810 Handover at Okada Manila on July 11, 2026



Rotary Club of Manila officers, members, and their spouses and guests gather in fellowship during the Rotary International District 3810 Handover and Induction Ceremonies at the Okada Manila Grand Ballroom on July 11, 2026. United in support of District Governor Bing Carrion and the new district leadership, the delegation exemplified the camaraderie and enduring spirit of the Rotary Club of Manila.

IN HER OWN WORDS

DISTRICT 3810 GOVERNOR BING CARRION



Photo credit: Jerkerly So Tang

WHEN the heart is full, the lips cannot speak. But tonight, I shall make an exception.

This journey to become your District Governor, was a dream.

Rotary allows us to work hard. Reach out to all the communities. Uplift them with respect and dignity.

And we walk out of there, feeling ten feet tall. Because we have changed the lives of these people.

I promise you that when we walk out of the year in June 2027, you will be new persons: transformed, becoming better Rotarians, and most of all, confident, assured, and people with love, respect and compassion in your hearts. This is what I want to do in my life. I found my life's calling. And of serving the dispossessed, the depressed, the needy, the lonely; I promise I will be there for them.

We are going to leave this earth with nothing. And the only thing that matters most, are the lives with touch, that changes them and us forever.

I love you all. Mabuhay ang Rotary!

DISTRICT EVENTS

24th Handover and 25th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Quirino Manila Central



President Reggie Yu attended the 24th Handover and 25th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Quirino Manila Central last July 10, 2026 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Manila.



PDG Rudy Bediones and PDG Vince Carlos (not in photo) in attendance at the 24th Handover and 25th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Quirino Manila Central.



President Reggie Yu with fellow Impact Creating Presidents

DISTRICT EVENTS

Rotary International District 3810's Public Image Team Meets to Finalize Vibrant Seminar Program for RY 2026-2027



*The District Public Image Team
right after the meeting*

ADPIC/PP Jujut Enriquez,
DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert Alday
and Director of Public Image
Strategy Aries Balanay together in a
meeting with the District Public
Image Team for the finalization of
the program for the Vibrant Seminar
of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2026-
2027 last July 13, 2026 at Manmaru
Japanese Restaurant in Makati City.

The rest of the team present were
Public Image SDG Majella
Tumangan-Villaroman, Rotary
Club of Manila 101 President Glen
Villaroman (host club)
Entrepreneurship SDG Sherill
Quintana and ADPIC Richard Tan.

ROTARY INFORMATION

Know Your Rotary

Rotary



KNOW YOUR ROTARY

WHO WAS THE "5TH ROTARIAN"?

When Rotary historians talk about the "5th Rotarian," they are referring to **Harry L. Ruggles**.

Ruggles, a printer by trade, joined the club at its second meeting on March 9, 1905, just two weeks after it was founded.

Ruggles was pivotal to the club's early culture because he introduced singing to Rotary meetings.



HARRY L. RUGGLES
— PRINTER —
THE 5TH ROTARIAN



The story goes that he once jumped on a chair and started leading the group in a song to drown out a particularly long-winded and boring speaker!



To this day, many Rotary clubs around the world still incorporate singing into their meetings as a direct result of Ruggles's influence.

THE ORIGINAL FOUR FOUNDERS

Before Ruggles made five, the first historic meeting took place on February 23, 1905, in **Room 711** of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago.

The original four men, brought together by attorney **Paul P. Harris**, represented different professions, a core tenet of Rotary to this day.



PAUL P. HARRIS

Attorney

An attorney who wanted to recreate the friendly, connected spirit of the small towns he grew up in.



SILVESTER SCHIELE

Coal Dealer

A coal dealer and the club's first president.



GUSTAVUS LOEHR

Mining Engineer

A mining engineer (it was his office where they first met).



HIRAM SHOREY

Merchant Tailor

A merchant tailor who served as the first recording secretary.



THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME "ROTARY"

The snippet mentions that it became difficult to gather in offices once the membership grew to 30.

Initially, the club's defining characteristic was that meetings



ROTATED



among the members' places of business each week. This practice gave the club its name: **ROTARY**.



**MEETINGS ROTATED
AMONG MEMBERS'
PLACES OF BUSINESS**

Once the club expanded past a handful of men, cramming two or three dozen professionals into a small Chicago office was no longer feasible. They transitioned to holding weekly lunch or dinner meetings at hotels and restaurants—a format that almost all of the 36,000+ modern Rotary clubs still follow today.



**MEETINGS AT HOTELS
& RESTAURANTS
BECAME THE NORM**

OVER A CENTURY OF FELLOWSHIP. A LIFETIME OF SERVICE.

Service Above Self

RECOGNITION CORNER

Manila Rotarian Dr. Jose S. Pujalte Jr. is New Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH)



Bongbong Marcos

11h · 🌐

Dr. Jose S. Pujalte Jr. has dedicated more than three decades to public healthcare, caring for patients, leading hospitals and strengthening our health system. Today, he takes on an even greater responsibility as *Secretary of Health*.

I am confident that his experience, integrity and lifelong commitment to public service will help advance our shared goal of making quality healthcare more accessible to every Filipino.

Malacañan Palace, Manila | 14 June 2026



Source: www.facebook.com/BongbongMarcos

RECOGNITION CORNER



Office of the President of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
TANGGAPANG PAMPANGULUHAN SA KOMUNIKASYON
MALACANANG



President Marcos appoints Dr. Pujalte Jr. as new DOH chief

July 13, 2026



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has appointed Dr. Jose S. Pujalte Jr. as Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) to further strengthen the country's healthcare system, ensure the delivery of quality healthcare services, and promote better health outcomes for all Filipinos.

During a Palace press briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Under-secretary and Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Pujalte is expected to bring to the DOH his more than three decades of experience as a physician, hospital administrator, educator, and public servant dedicated to advancing public healthcare.

“Itinalaga ng Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ngayong araw bilang Kalihim ng Department of Health si Dr. Jose S. Pujalte Jr., baon ang malawak na karanasan at natatanging pamumuno bilang doktor, hospital administrator,

guro, at lingkod-bayan na may mahigit na tatlong dekada sa pagsusulong ng pampublikong pangkalusugan,” Castro said.

Castro said Pujalte will replace outgoing Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, who tendered his resignation due to health reasons.

The Palace Press Officer noted that Pujalte joined the DOH in 1991 and completed his orthopedic residency at the Philippine Orthopedic Center in 1994. He earned his medical degree from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and later obtained a Master's degree in Hospital Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

In 2008, Pujalte was recognized as a Career Executive Service Eligible, reflecting his competence in both medicine and public administration, and served as a faculty member at the University of the Philippines Manila, FEU Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation, and San Beda College of Medicine.

According to Castro, Pujalte is expected to lead the DOH in continuing the Marcos administration's efforts to strengthen the country's healthcare system, improve access to quality health services, and promote better health outcomes for all Filipinos.

“Sa kaniyang pagpasok sa DOH, inaasahang pangungunahan ni Dr. Pujalte Jr. ang ahensya sa pagpapatuloy ng mga hakbang ni Pangulong Marcos Jr. upang higit na mapatatag ang healthcare system ng bansa, maisulong ang de-kalidad na serbisyong pangkalusugan at maisulong ang mabuting kalusugan para sa lahat,” Castro added. | PND

RECOGNITION CORNER

PD Art Lopez, Vice Chairman of Waterfront Philippines Inc. and President of Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA)

GET TO KNOW YOUR
PHOA BOARD OF DIRECTOR

CORPORATE MEMBERS





ARTHUR LOPEZ
*Vice Chairman
Waterfront Philippines Inc.*

OWNER'S VISION FOR PHOA:
My strategic vision for the Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA) is to transform our organization into a dominant force in advocacy, asset optimization, and robust investment growth.

Under my leadership, PHOA will actively steer national tourism and economic policy rather than merely reacting to it, engaging directly with government stakeholders to foster a highly favorable investment climate. Furthermore, I am committed to future-proofing our members' investments by launching high-value growth programs, delivering the cutting-edge market insights and strategic asset-management initiatives necessary to maximize long-term asset value in an evolving global market.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY
A career highlight was serving as the first Filipino General Manager appointed overseas by an international hotel chain. Leveraging five decades of global hospitality experience, I focus on driving institutional resilience, proactive crisis management, and robust labor relations to protect both investors and the workforce.

Drawing on my consulting background with the country's top conglomerates, I aim to foster strategic investments and sustainable tourism infrastructure in emerging destinations like Siargao and Davao. By merging international operational expertise with deep local roots, I am committed to mentoring the next generation of hospitality leaders, championing fair enterprise standards, and elevating the Filipino brand of excellence on the global stage.



IN THE NEWS

RCM Past President/Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's Column in Philippine Daily Inquirer

FEEDBACK@INQUIRER.NET

INQUIREROPINAME/AGE/CITY/MESSAGE TO4467

@INQ_OPINION

MONDAY / JULY 13, 2026
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Independence for the SC and BSP

Last July 3, I had the distinct honor of being invited by the brilliant economists and seasoned bankers of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to celebrate the BSP's 33rd anniversary with the launch of the book, "Risk and Resilience in the Philippine Financial System: How Much Has Changed?" Against the backdrop of the crashing waves on the book's cover, BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona Jr. stressed that "[b]uffers must be built before a crisis..." This kept me wondering: What has been our nation's, and for that matter, the world's most reliable defensive "buffer" against decades of relentless waves of financial crises?

HISTORY'S ANSWER, I BELIEVE, points to the institutional independence of central banks. For instance, the United States Federal Reserve (Fed) has been shaped by a "long tradition of independent central banking."

The Fed emerged from the realization that "calamities could arise from even the suspicion of political manipulation of monetary policy." Thus, it was deliberately insulated from political control so that monetary policy would be guided by economic realities rather than by partisan expediencies.

Very recently, this independence was put to the acid test when mercurial US President Donald Trump tried to remove Fed Governor Lisa Cook from her office in 2025. The Supreme Court of the US, in *Trump v. Cook* (June 29, 2026)—speaking through Chief Justice John Roberts, Jr.—ruled by a narrow 5-4 vote that members of the Fed's Board of Governors may be removed only "for cause," and after notice and an opportunity to contest the removal, as opposed to "at will" by the president. The landmark decision explained that even the nation's highest political office has constitutional limits when dealing with independent institutions.

AT THIS POINT, let me explain what this ruling entails for our country, and specifically for the BSP.

First, the Fed and the BSP share a remarkably similar evolution. Just as repeated



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

financial crises prompted reforms that led to the creation of the Federal Reserve System in 1913, the joint Philippine-American Finance Commission recommended the establishment of the Central Bank of the Philippines (CBP) in 1948. Since then, both institutions have undergone legislative reforms to adapt to changing economic realities while preserving their institutional independence.

Our 1987 Constitution mandates "Congress [to] establish an independent central monetary authority..." (Article XII, Sec. 20). Unlike our Supreme Court, which sourced its independence directly from the Constitution as a coequal branch of government, the BSP's independence is derived from, and its powers defined, by statutes.

Accordingly, Republic Act No. 7653 (the New Central Bank Act) implements the constitutional mandate by providing that "[t]he State shall maintain a central monetary authority that shall function and operate as an independent and accountable body corporate..." This law led to the abolition of the CBP and the creation of the BSP in 1993, which, as its newly launched book aptly notes, was "armed with operational independence" capable of steadying the severe volatility of the 1997 world financial crisis.

Second, if the independence of the Fed can be tested by political pressures, so too can the independence of the BSP. What would happen

if the BSP were stripped of its independence and bowed to partisan interference? In my humble opinion, our country would return to the structural weaknesses that once made it vulnerable to recurring crises. Such unwanted vulnerability could gradually erode monetary policy, encourage heavy short-term borrowing, diminish our macroeconomic buffers, and ultimately destabilize the economy.

VERILY, WITHOUT AN INDEPENDENT MONETARY AUTHORITY, our long-term economic stability would inevitably yield to short-term political convenience. The nation's financial "buffer" would become increasingly fragile against the crashing waves of future crises.

Remolona made a relevant observation during the Supreme Court's 125th anniversary celebration (quoted in my June 22, 2026 column), "The [SC's] independence is a condition sine qua non to the independence of all other institutions." As he succinctly put it, "The BSP pursues the same stability... when we remain independent."

As a once-upon-a-time chief justice, I humbly say that institutional independence is never permanently secured. It must continually be earned, protected, and reaffirmed. Were I in the position of our central bankers, I would defend the BSP's independence in the same pugnacious way in which the Supreme Court safeguards its judicial independence—through unwavering fidelity to the rule of law, steadfast institutional integrity, and the courage to resist partisan pressures.

To close, independent institutions remain the bedrock of our democracy. Whether it is the Supreme Court protecting our liberty or the BSP safeguarding our economic prosperity, both serve as anchors that enable the nation to conquer the tempests of the present and the future.

Ultimately, nations are fortified by the buffers of independent institutions, while the rule of law charts their enduring aspirations of liberty and prosperity.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



OPINION

Arbital Award: A path to peace, not conflict



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ⓘ
July 12, 2026 | 12:00am

Earlier this week, the Philippine embassy in Washington commemorated the 10th anniversary of one of the most consequential legal milestones in Philippine history – the landmark Arbital Award rendered under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Commemorating this important anniversary with us were fellow ambassadors in Washington, members of the diplomatic circle, senior US officials, scholars and friends from many countries.

The ruling was handed down by the Arbital Tribunal on July 12, 2016 – and 10 years later, its importance has reached far beyond the West Philippine Sea, standing as a shining beacon for the rule of law and peaceful dispute settlement. Most significantly, it serves as enduring proof that international disputes can be resolved through law rather than force, through reason rather than intimidation.

As the late Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario stated when he faced the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2015, the Philippines has “respected and implemented its rights and obligations under the Convention in good faith.” The filing of the case in January 2013 was a message to the global community that the Philippines has chosen to take the path of law to protect its maritime territory in a peaceful manner.

Looking around the room during the commemorative occasion, I was reminded that it was not simply a Philippine event. It was an affirmation by the international community that respect for international law remains the cornerstone of peace and stability. Certainly, the gathering reflected a shared belief that rules – not power alone – must guide relations among nations.

At a commemorative conference led by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City the other day, Secretary Tess Lazaro told guests that the gathering was “not merely to look back at a page in history” but to “look forward, bound by a fundamental, enduring truth: that the rule of law is, and must always remain, the ultimate guarantor of global peace.”

To be clear, the 2016 Arbital Award was never about humiliating another country or declaring winners and losers. The ruling demonstrated that even the most difficult disputes can be brought before an impartial tribunal within the framework of UNCLOS. It reinforced the principle that competing maritime claims and disagreements of member-states over the interpretation of maritime laws should be addressed peacefully through established legal mechanisms.

That lesson has become even more relevant today. Around the world, vital waterways continue to be affected by geopolitical tensions. The war in the Middle East and the consequent situation in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most vital maritime chokepoints, is a vivid example of this reality. Nearly one-fifth of the world’s oil supply passes through this narrow corridor. And whenever tensions rise, energy prices react instantaneously, shipping costs increase, inflation follows, causing global markets to become uncertain and unsettled. The consequences are felt not only in the Middle East but all across Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The same principle applies in the Indo-Pacific. Freedom of navigation and secure sea lanes are essential to global commerce. Every nation, whether large or small, ultimately benefits when maritime disputes are managed peacefully and in accordance with international law.

The Arbital Award therefore offers a broader template. While each dispute has unique facts, the underlying principle is universal: dialogue, diplomacy and impartial legal processes provide a far better path than confrontation. The Philippines has consistently maintained that adherence to UNCLOS strengthens stability, encourages responsible conduct and reduces the danger of miscalculation.

As ASEAN chair, the Philippines is well positioned to champion these principles. ASEAN has long supported peaceful settlement of disputes and a rules-based regional order, and the Arbital Award complements these aspirations by demonstrating that law can be an effective instrument for managing complex maritime issues.

Let’s not also forget the compelling economic dimension – investors seek stability, and businesses expand where the rule of law prevails. Manufacturers, insurers and shipping companies depend on open sea lanes. Every unnecessary confrontation therefore imposes additional costs that ultimately fall on ordinary citizens due to higher prices, disrupted supply chains and slower growth. As I have often said, economic security and national security are inseparable.

The award is also a reminder to smaller and middle powers that international law gives every nation a voice. There may be great disparity between nations in terms of military strength or economic influence, but legal principles establish standards that apply equally to all.

Here in Washington, conversations after our embassy commemoration reflected quiet optimism. Many guests are of the opinion that while disagreements among nations are inevitable, conflict is not. They also expressed hope that the discipline of diplomacy and the authority of international law will continue to prevail over coercion.

History has shown us that wars are costly, but history also teaches that wise diplomacy can prevent conflict. The global community has every reason to support peaceful legal mechanisms that reduce tensions before they escalate into crises. The Arbital Award reminds us that justice and stability are mutually reinforcing, not mutually exclusive.

The Strait of Hormuz offers a timely reminder of what is at stake. When strategic waterways become flashpoints, the entire world pays the price. When nations choose dialogue over confrontation, everyone benefits.

Ten years after the Arbital Award, its greatest legacy is not merely what it resolved for the Philippines. Its greater contribution is the example it offers humanity – that even the most difficult disputes need not be settled by intimidation or conflict. The rule of law remains far less costly than the price of war, and peace still remains the strongest foundation for prosperity.

* * *



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2026-2027

REGINALD T. YU
President

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Immediate Past President

KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M. CASTRO
Vice President

MICHAEL JAEY C. ALBAÑA
MICHAEL D. ROXAS
CARLOS G. SERAPIO
JOHN NICO P. VALENCIA
TEODORO ALEJANDRO Y. KALAW IV
DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Directors

ALBERT S. ALDAY
Secretary

ARVIN ARIK B. CARRANCEJA
Treasurer

JONAS R. GONZALES
Assistant Secretary

XAVIER Y. ZIALCITA
Assistant Treasurer

ABDULGANI M. MACATOMAN
Internal Auditor

JOSHUA RUEBEN G. ARAGON
Assistant Internal Auditor

JOAQUIN PABLO A. ESQUIVIAS
Board Legal Adviser

HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L. TILLMANN
Assistant Board Legal Adviser

NAGI ZEITOUNI
Sergeant-at-Arms

STEFAN YORDANOV
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila
balita

EDITORIAL BOARD RY 2026-2027

PRES. REGINALD T. YU
Publisher

RTN. SENEN T. MANGALILE
Editor-in-Chief

DDPIC/SEC. ALBERT S. ALDAY
Managing Editor

PAS FRANCISCO D. MAGSAYSAY
Associate Editor

DSAA JOHN M. CUTTER
Contributing Editor

RHEA V. TABORA
Editorial Consultant

RCM SECRETARIAT

LHEA J. LOZANO
Executive Secretary

RCM OFFICE

543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
Ermita, Manila

Tel. No. 8527-1885
Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org



www.rcmanila.org



Rotary Club of Manila