



**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. 4101 • AUGUST 13, 2026



Guest Speaker

Abdulmari "Toym" L. Imao Jr.

*Visual Artist and Educator
Dean, UP College of Fine Arts*

**Rotary Club of Manila Champions
Children's First 1,000 Days,
Welcomes Global Peace Advocate
at Fifth Weekly Membership Meeting**

**Investing in
Potential,
Building the
Future**

**From Manila Bay
to the Merlion:
A Rotary Friendship
Renewed**



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6th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Guest Speaker

Abdulmari "Toym" L. Imao Jr.

Visual Artist and Educator | Dean, UP College of Fine Arts

Thursday, August 13, 2026, 12:15 PM | Isabella C, Makati Shangri-La, Manila

Moderator: STAR Rotarian Myles Seymour Y. Tan

PROGRAM

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
- 12:15 PM Call to Order
President Reginald T. Yu
- Invocation
Past Director Sixto "Noy" T. Benedicto
- Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- The Four-Way Test
Internal Auditor Abdulgani M. Macatoman
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Rotarian Raymond "Ray" Davis
- Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- 12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**
- Aug 5 Rtn. Ray Davis
 - Aug 9 Rtn. John Simon
 - Aug 13 Rtn. Mike Guarin
 - Aug 17 Rtn. Val Aboy, Rtn. Joey Garcia
- Happy Birthday Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale

PART II

- 12:45 PM **President's Time**
President Reginald T. Yu
- 1:00 PM **Introduction of the Guest Speaker**
Past Director Albert "Hans" C. Palacios
- Address:
Abdulmari "Toym" L. Imao Jr.
*Visual Artist and Educator
Dean, UP College of Fine Arts*
- 1:15 PM **Open Forum**
- 1:20 PM **Response**
- Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation**
- 2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

Nourishing the Nation's Soul

IN a recent exhibition of his artworks at the Philippine Center in New York, Filipino master and preeminent watercolorist Rafael "Popoy" Cusi began his remarks by saying, "Ang isang bansang walang sining ay isang bansang walang kaluluwa." **A nation without art is a nation without soul.**

Indeed, art is essential to being human, and this is no novel proposition — the ancients had already settled the matter millennia before us. Aristotle, in his *Poetics*, held that the aim of art is not to mimic the outward appearance of things but to reveal their inward



Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

significance, their essential truth beneath the surface. Plato, ever wary of the poets, nonetheless conceded in the *Republic* that rhythm and harmony steal into the innermost recesses of the soul, taking the firmest hold there and bringing grace to those rightly trained. Confucius, too, taught that ritual and music together cultivate virtue — that a people schooled only in utility, without beauty, remains unrefined, a jade uncarved. Across civilizations and centuries, philosophy converges on this singular verity: that art is not ornament appended to existence but the very marrow of it.



Balita Editor-in-Chief Senen Mangalile discusses the contemporary art scene in the Philippines with the watercolor master Rafael "Popoy" Cusi.

But in an impoverished nation, art can seem an otiose extravagance — a luxury ill afforded when food, shelter, and livelihood remain elusive for so many. Why fund a gallery when a classroom leaks? Why subsidize a sculptor when a farmer needs irrigation? These are not unreasonable questions, and any editorial that dismisses them out of hand does the nation a disservice.

Yet this should not be the calculus. Art, as one of the principal foundations and tangible expressions of culture, is indispensable to a nation's identity, its humanity, and ultimately its success.

Culture and the arts help define who we are, who we aspire to become, and the path by which we might get there. They furnish meaning to our collective existence — a meaning that infrastructure and GDP, however necessary, cannot by themselves supply. A people fed but unmoored from beauty and memory is a people merely surviving, not truly living.

It is this conviction that animates the work of our Guest of Honor and Speaker, Abdulmari De Leon Imao, Jr. — known to nearly everyone simply as Toym. An artist of unquestionable pedigree, being the son of National Artist Abdulmari Asia Imao, the first National Artist hailing from Mindanao, Toym has nonetheless carved (quite literally, given his extensive list of sculptural installations in the Philippines and beyond) a distinguished path of his own. Mentored by no less than National Artists Napoleon Abueva and his own father, honed in the science of architecture and fine arts at the University of the Philippines, and later at the Rinehart School of Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art, his journey has been, by any measure, a formation of rare breadth: equal parts discipline and daring.

Today, as Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, Toym bears the weighty charge of forming the nation's next generation of artists — instructing them in the classical disciplines while urging them to break

EDITORIAL

free, to unleash their imagination in service of their own vision and that of the country. He oversees art programs across the UP System and is developing a curriculum on art conservation and programs on art and culture education.

Beyond the academy, Toym is an indefatigable champion of artists' rights and of drawing non-professionals into creative life. He continues to campaign for legislation that would uphold the rights of Filipino artists and establish robust national arts and culture programs and policies.



Jose Rizal's bust created by Toym Imao in 1998 for the Philippine Center in New York.



Editor-in-Chief Senen Mangalile and Abdulmari De Leon Imao, Jr. at the Philippine Center in New York.

It is our hope that through Toym's labors, and those of other advocates of art and culture who share his zeal and commitment, art shall cease to be regarded as a mere add-on — an afterthought tacked onto the margins of governance — and instead be accorded its rightful share of importance in national policy-making. For it is art, ultimately, that helps define our people's identity, sets our collective aspirations, and nourishes the nation's soul, lending meaning to our shared existence. As Aristotle might remind us, we do not merely live; we must learn to live well — and no nation has ever done so without its art.

GUEST SPEAKER

TOYM DE LEON IMAO is an arts teacher, rights advocate, storyteller, and artist experienced in various creative media and artistic styles. Starting his career as an architectural designer, Toym developed his craft into building Philippine historical monuments for both public and private installations, also creating large-scale public art installations that serve as political commentaries of the times. He is also an experienced production and set designer.

Spanning an art career of more than 40 years, Toym is a multi-awarded and distinguished artist whose works have been exhibited and can be permanently found in major cities and institutions in the Philippines, such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Ayala Museum, and Lopez Music. He also has works abroad - displayed in Asia, the USA, and Europe.



Abdulmari "Toym" L. Imao Jr.

Visual Artist

Dean, UP College of Fine Arts (UP-CFA)

Chair, UP President's Committee on Culture and the Arts

Toym was mentored in both sculpture and painting by National Artists Napoleon Abueva and Abdulmari Asia Imao, his father. He studied at the University of the Philippines (Architecture, MFA Fine Arts) and graduated with honors and distinction at the Maryland Institute College of Arts (MFA Sculpture) under a Fulbright Scholarship. Toym also took up film making and apprenticed under director Marilou Diaz-Abaya, and credits Alejandro Roces for his grounding in Philippine history and culture - whom he has also worked under in the Manila Times as a features writer and illustrator.

GUEST SPEAKER

He is a multi-awarded artist who has collaborated extensively with other art disciplines. He was conferred “Artist I” under the UP System Arts Productivity System. Aside from this, he has received the “Distinguished Alumni Award for the Visual Arts” by the UP Alumni Association in 2022; the “Gawad Lampara ng Kultura at Sining” in 2021; the “Metrobank MADE Achievement in Sculpture” in 2017; a “Para sa Sining Biswal Citation”, given by the Centre of UNESCO- International Theatre Institute in 2017; the “Gawad Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan”, given by the City of Manila in 2017, and; the “Gawad Parangal para sa Sining, sa Larangan ng Eskultura”, given by Quezon City in 2010. For his work in theater and film, he was awarded the Cinemalaya Best Production Design for “K’na the Dreamweaver”, and was a two-time Gawad Buhay awardee for Scenic Design for Tanghalang Pilipino’s (TP) “Mabining Mandirigma” and “Anak Datu”.

Toym actively champions artists’ rights and the development of non-professionals into the arts. He was a pioneering mentor at the “Angat Sining” program of the Angat Buhay Foundation last 2023, and continues to campaign for and participate in legislation for the

development of Philippine laws to uphold the rights of and protect Filipino artists, and develop national arts and culture programs and policies. He was appointed as a member of the Technical Panel for Fine Arts of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in 2024. Last 2025, he helped establish the foundations for the creation of a Collective Management Organization (CMO) for the visual arts under the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

Toym was appointed the Dean of the UP College of Fine Arts (UP-CFA), where he works as an Assistant Professor and co-chair of a comprehensive master development plan for the college, while co-developing its new programs - in particular institutionalized programs on Arts Conservation and Arts and Culture Education (for public school teachers). He continues to serve as the current Chair of the UP President’s Committee on Culture and the Arts (UP-PCCA), which oversees all arts and culture programs across all nine UP constituent universities around the country. Toym also sits at the board of directors of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) resident theater group - Tanghalang Pilipino (TP).

Source: www.toymimao.com



Rotary Club of Manila Champions Children's First 1,000 Days, Welcomes Global Peace Advocate at Fifth Weekly Membership Meeting

By President Reginald T. Yu

THE Rotary Club of Manila underscored its commitment to addressing issues of long-term national significance during its Fifth Weekly Membership Meeting, where members gathered at the Fairmont Makati for an afternoon that combined public policy, humanitarian advocacy, international fellowship, and the transformative power of music.



President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order.



Rotarian Val Co led the recitation of The Four-Way Test.



Director Charlie Serapio moderated the Weekly Membership Meeting.



Internal Auditor Gani Macatoman introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.



STAR Rotarian Joey de Venecia led the invocation.



Last week's birthday celebrants



During the President's Time, President Reggie Yu shared the Club's continuing commitment to make every Weekly Membership Meeting more than a luncheon gathering. "It is our vision to transform these meetings into platforms where meaningful conversations inspire action, strengthen fellowship, and encourage every Rotarian to become part of causes that create lasting impact."



PDG Alex Cureg introduced the guest of honor and speaker.

The meeting featured **District Governor Nominee Atty. Jose D. "Joey" Lina, Jr.** as Guest of Honor and Speaker. A former Senator, Governor of Laguna, Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and National Project Chairman of the Children's First 1000 Days Coalition, Lina delivered a compelling presentation highlighting one of the country's most pressing yet often overlooked challenges: childhood malnutrition during the first one thousand days of life.

Addressing members, spouses, visiting Rotarians, and guests, Lina explained that the period from conception until a child's second birthday is the most critical stage of human development. It is during this brief window that the foundations of physical growth, brain development, learning capacity, and lifelong health are established. He





emphasized that inadequate nutrition during these formative years results in irreversible developmental setbacks that ultimately affect not only individual lives but also the country's future.

Lina stressed that malnutrition extends far beyond the issue of hunger. It weakens the immune system, increases vulnerability to disease, impairs cognitive development, limits educational achievement, and diminishes productivity in adulthood. Consequently, he said, the challenge should concern not only health professionals and government agencies but every sector of society.

He further noted that ensuring proper

nutrition during a child's earliest years represents one of the country's most important investments in nation-building. Every child who receives a healthy start contributes to a stronger workforce, a more productive economy, and a brighter future for the Philippines.

Despite outlining the magnitude of the challenge, Lina expressed optimism that meaningful progress can be achieved through collaboration among government, civil society, and organizations such as Rotary. He highlighted the work of the Children's First 1000 Days Coalition in supporting the implementation of Republic Act No. 11148 and advancing the shared vision of raising Filipino children who are Brighter, Taller, and Stronger.

The presentation resonated strongly with the Rotary Club of Manila's commitment to creating lasting impact by addressing the root causes of societal challenges rather than merely responding to their consequences.

As a tangible expression of its support, the Rotary Club of Manila announced that it would become part of the Children's First 1000 Days Coalition. Club President Reginald T. Yu and Past District Governor Alexander Cureg also committed to working with fellow advocates in identifying meaningful opportunities through which Rotary can contribute to the nationwide movement. To formally demonstrate its commitment, the Club presented an initial ₱100,000 donation to help jumpstart the Coalition's programs and initiatives.



District Governor Nominee Joey Lina responded to questions during the open forum.



Director Mike Roxas engaged our Guest of Honor and Speaker with insightful questions.

Left photo: President Reggie Yu presented a donation check for Php 100,000 to the Rotary Club of Makati Central Foundation in support of the "Children's First 1000 Days of Life" project. Co-presenting the check were District Governor Nominee Hermie Esguerra and Rotary Club of Sydney Past President Geoffrey Little.



Visiting Rotarian and Rotary Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro captivated the audience with a stirring cello performance, transforming our Weekly Membership Meeting into a moment of quiet reflection and inspiration.

The afternoon's focus on building healthier communities was complemented by a message of peace delivered through the universal language of music.

The Club welcomed Diego Carneiro, a visiting Rotarian from Brazil, Rotary Peace Fellow, internationally acclaimed cellist, conductor, composer, and founder of AmazonArt. Having performed and taught across five continents, Carneiro shared his Rotary Fellowship initiative promoting peace through music, an advocacy that has gained momentum through performances and collaborative programs in the United States and South America.

Speaking about music as a vehicle for understanding and reconciliation, Carneiro emphasized its unique ability to transcend borders, cultures, and languages while fostering friendship among people from diverse backgrounds.

He later captivated the audience with a moving cello performance that transformed the ballroom into a moment of quiet reflection. As the music filled the venue, conversations ceased and attendees listened attentively, experiencing firsthand how music can communicate emotions and inspire unity beyond what words alone can achieve.



Taken together, the day's presentations highlighted two complementary dimensions of Rotary service. One emphasized nurturing the body by ensuring every child receives the nutrition necessary for a healthy beginning. The other focused on nurturing the human spirit through peace, friendship, and cultural understanding. Although different in approach, both advocacies reflected the shared conviction that lasting impact begins by investing in people.

The Fifth Weekly Membership Meeting also reaffirmed the Rotary Club of Manila's continuing vision of transforming its weekly gatherings into forums where meaningful conversations lead to purposeful action. Rather than serving merely as luncheon meetings, the Club's Weekly Membership Meetings continue to provide opportunities for members to engage with pressing national issues, build strategic partnerships, and translate ideas into concrete service initiatives.

By embracing the Children's First 1000 Days advocacy while promoting peace through international fellowship and the arts, the Rotary Club of Manila demonstrated that creating lasting impact extends far beyond this Rotary year's theme. It remains an enduring commitment to building stronger communities, developing future generations, and fulfilling Rotary's mission of *"Service Above Self."*



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2026-2027

ATTENDANCE REPORT August 2026

AUGUST 2026	August 06, 2026 ATTY. JOSE "JOEY" D. LINA JR.
MEMBERS PRESENT	30
MEMBERS PRESENT %	15%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	5
EXEMPTED	3
ON LEAVE	0
Total Active Members	35
Total # of Members	203
TOTAL %:	17%
ROTARACTORS	6
MEDIA	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0
GOHS / GS	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	8
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	6
TOTAL ATTENDEES	51

LIST OF ATTENDEES August 6, 2026

- Albaña, Michael Jaey C
- Alday, Albert Singson
- Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- Carlos, Vicente J.
- Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.
- Co, Val Constantine L.
- Cureg, Alexander P.
- Cutter, John Michael
- De Venecia, Joey III
- Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- Eldebs, Issam
- Enriquez III, Eduardo V.
- Esguerra, Herminio S.
- Gesmundo, Job
- Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
- Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV
- Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
- Lorenzana, Delfin
- Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
- Mauricio, Antonilo DC
- Pangilinan, Manuel E.
- Pascual, Abraham F.
- Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- Recto, Philip H.
- Reynolds, David J.
- Roxas, Michael D.
- Serapio, Carlos G.
- Simon, Juanito A.
- Tamesis, Chris C.
- Yu, Reginald Tieng

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

As of August 11, 2026

1	ALDAY, ALBERT S.
2	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
3	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.
4	BLANCO, MANUEL M.
5	CAMPOS, JOSELITO D. JR.
6	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK
7	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
8	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE
9	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
10	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
11	DAVIS, RAYMOND
12	DE VENECIA, JOEY
13	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III
14	ELDEBS, ISSAM
15	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.
16	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
17	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
18	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
19	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
20	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
21	GONZALES, JONAS
22	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY H.
23	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR. S.B.
24	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
25	HALLARE, NICO GIUSEPPE S.
26	HESSE, UWE
27	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.
28	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV

29	KATIGBAK, J ALFONSO L
30	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
31	LAYA, JAIME C.
32	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEOS P.
33	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
34	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.
35	NOMURA, KAZU
36	NONES, ROMEO C.
37	OBRADO, DANIEL
38	ONG, PHILIP
39	PARWANI, RAJ
40	PELIÑO, WILFREDO M.
41	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR.
42	RECTO, PHILIP
43	REYNOLDS, DAVID JOHN
44	ROXAS, MICHEAL D.
45	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
46	SCNEIDER, BERND
47	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
48	TAMESIS, CHRIS
49	TAN, MYLES
50	TILLMANN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
51	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
52	VILLARICA, HENRY
53	YU, REGINALD T.
54	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
55	ZIALCITA, XAVIER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Meeting with Camara, Custodio & Co. Regarding Treasury Concerns



President Reggie Yu, Vice President Karlo Castro, Director Mike Roxas, Director Mike Albaña, and Secretary Albert Alday presented the key points of the treasury reports to Atty. Mark Camara and Atty. Niersen Custodio.

President Reggie Yu and Director Mike Roxas presented the job expectations for an outsourced bookkeeper.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Membership Committee Meeting



The Membership Committee met on August 6, 2026 to meet the prospective new members. Present were Chairman/Past Vice President Fausto Preysler, Director Teddy Kalaw, Past District Governor Vince Carlos, Director Del Lorenzana, Past District Governor Alex Cureg, Past President Jujut Enriquez, Past Secretary Anton Mauricio, and Executive Secretary Lhea J. Lozano.



From Manila Bay to the Merlion: A Rotary Friendship Renewed

THE Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) and the Rotary Club of Singapore reaffirmed their longstanding ties on August 10, 2026, with the signing of the renewal of their Sister Club Agreement at The Last Chukker of the Manila Polo Club.

The signing took place over a luncheon hosted by **RCM President Reggie Yu**, bringing together leaders of two of Asia's historic Rotary clubs to renew their commitment to friendship, international fellowship, and collaborative service.

Representing the Rotary Club of Singapore were **Club President Raj Kumar** and **International Service Clubs Director Victor Jose Africa**.

From Manila Bay to the Merlion: A Rotary Friendship Renewed

The Rotary Club of Manila delegation was composed of President Reggie, **Director for International Service Mike Roxas, Director for Club Administration Mike Albaña, Club Secretary Albert Alday, Immediate Past Club Auditor Nick Locsin, and Immediate Past Club Secretary Anton Mauricio.**

The partnership carries particular historical significance. The Rotary Club of Manila was established in 1919, while the Rotary Club of Singapore was founded in 1928, only nine years later. Nearly a century after both clubs helped establish Rotary's early presence in Asia, their relationship continues through successive generations of Rotarians.

Under the renewed agreement, the two clubs reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen fellowship among their members, pursue joint humanitarian, educational, environmental, and health initiatives, welcome visiting Rotarians from each club, and maintain active communication and cooperation in advancing Rotary service.

President Reggie emphasized that a Sister Club agreement should go beyond ceremonial signings and become a living partnership — one that translates international friendship into opportunities for fellowship, collaboration, and meaningful service.

The renewal also reflects the Rotary Club of Manila's continuing effort to strengthen its international relationships and deepen cooperation with Rotary clubs beyond Philippine shores.

With the signing, the two clubs not only honored a friendship built by generations of Rotarians before them but also committed themselves to carrying that relationship forward through new opportunities for service.

From Manila Bay to the Merlion, a historic Rotary friendship begins another chapter — bound by fellowship, strengthened by cooperation, and united by "*Service Above Self*."

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

By President Reginald T. Yu



Rotary Club of Manila and Colegio de Calumpit forge scholarship partnership to provide five deserving students with access to higher education and a pathway toward brighter futures.

THE Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) has formally entered into a scholarship partnership with Colegio de Calumpit, Inc.,

marking the beginning of a long-term initiative aimed at expanding educational opportunities for deserving but financially disadvantaged students while helping equip them for productive careers and future leadership.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

The partnership was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement at Colegio de Calumpit, bringing together officials of the two institutions, faculty members, community representatives, and the five students selected as the inaugural beneficiaries of the Rotary Club of Manila Scholarship Program.

More than a ceremonial signing, the agreement represents a shared commitment to make higher education accessible to young people whose academic potential and determination might otherwise be constrained by financial circumstances.

RCM President Reginald T. Yu led the Manila Rotarians at the ceremony, where he emphasized the transformative role education can play not only in the life of an individual student, but also in the future of families and communities. He was accompanied by **Vice-President Karlo Castro**, **Club Secretary Albert Alday**, **Club Treasurer Arik Carranceja**, and **District 3810 Governor-Nominee and Past President Hermie Esguerra** who is a co-benefactor.

The partnership was warmly welcomed by Colegio de Calumpit, led by its owner and President, **Past Director Dr. Oscar A. Del Rosario, Sr.**, together

with **Dr. Yolanda T. Cruz**, Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Dr. Edna Liza M. Victoria**, College Dean; and members of the institution's faculty and staff.



Every signature represents more than a document. It represents a promise.

As President Reggie finalized the Memorandum of Agreement with Colegio de Calumpit, he formalized the Rotary Club of Manila's commitment to invest in the education and future of deserving scholars. Partnerships like these remind us that meaningful service begins not only with generous intentions, but with concrete action and a shared vision for lasting impact.

This is where hope takes shape, one commitment at a time.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

Five Scholars, One Shared Commitment

Following a rigorous screening process conducted by Colegio de Calumpit's academic leadership, five students were selected as the first beneficiaries of the program. The selection considered not only academic performance and financial need, but also character, determination, and the potential of each student to make productive use of the opportunity entrusted to them.

For the first academic year, the Rotary Club of Manila will sponsor three scholars, while District Governor Nominee Hermie will personally sponsor two.

What began as an initial scholarship commitment took on even greater significance when DGN Hermie pledged to shoulder the tuition and mandatory school fees of all five scholars for the remainder of their college education, subject to their continued compliance with the scholarship requirements.

The commitment effectively gives the five students the opportunity to pursue their degrees with greater financial security, while placing upon them the responsibility to maintain the standards of academic performance and character expected under the program.



Five deserving scholars. Two institutions united by a shared vision. One commitment to transform lives through education.

The Rotary Club of Manila is honored to partner with Colegio de Calumpit, led by Past Director Dr. Oscar A. del Rosario, in opening doors of opportunity for these remarkable young men and women. Together, we celebrate not just the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement, but the beginning of a journey that will empower future leaders, strengthen communities, and create lasting impact.

Because every scholarship is more than financial assistance. It is a vote of confidence in someone's potential, an investment in tomorrow, and a reminder that the greatest legacy we can leave is the opportunity for others to succeed.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

The scholars are required to carry their prescribed academic load, maintain satisfactory academic standing, demonstrate good moral character, and continue exhibiting the qualities that earned them their scholarships.

The initiative was originally presented by the RCM Community Service Committee as a four-year scholarship commitment valued at approximately ₱884,500, covering tuition and mandatory school fees for the five students.

Rather than treating the program as a one-time act of financial assistance, however, the Club envisions the scholarship as the foundation of a broader and more enduring partnership with Colegio de Calumpit.

Future components could include mentoring, leadership development, entrepreneurship training, internships, community service, and other opportunities intended to prepare the scholars not simply to graduate, but to become productive professionals and responsible community leaders.

Education as a Pathway Out of Poverty

The initiative supports Rotary's commitment to Basic Education and Literacy by expanding access to learning



Before the Memorandum of Agreement was signed, the Manila Rotarians were given a tour of Colegio De Calumpit, where every classroom, laboratory, and learning space reflected the institution's unwavering commitment to educating and empowering the next generation.

It was an opportunity to better understand the environment where their scholars will learn, grow, and pursue their dreams. Seeing the campus firsthand reinforced our shared conviction that education is not simply about buildings or facilities. It is about creating spaces where potential is nurtured, character is formed, and futures begin.

This partnership is more than a scholarship program. It is a shared investment in young people whose success will one day uplift their families, strengthen their communities, and inspire others to dream even bigger.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

opportunities and helping reduce educational disparities created by financial hardship.

It likewise advances Community Economic Development by recognizing education as one of the most sustainable means of addressing poverty. By enabling young people to acquire the knowledge, skills, and qualifications necessary for productive employment and entrepreneurship, scholarships can create an impact extending far beyond their immediate beneficiaries.

A college education can improve the prospects of an individual student, but its effects can eventually reach an entire household. Graduates who secure meaningful employment can help support their families, while future entrepreneurs can create jobs and economic opportunities within their communities.

For the Rotary Club of Manila, the five scholars therefore represent more than five students receiving financial assistance. They represent five potential agents of change whose eventual success may benefit many more people in the years ahead.

The multiplier effect is central to the philosophy behind the program. A scholar given an opportunity today



President Reggie shared the Rotary Club of Manila's commitment to investing in education during the Scholarship MOA Signing with Colegio De Calumpit.

In his message, he emphasized that scholarships are far more than financial assistance. They are an expression of trust in a young person's potential and a commitment to creating opportunities that can transform not only individual lives but entire families and communities.

The Rotary Club of Manila believes that the greatest impact Rotarians can create is by empowering people to build better futures for themselves. Through education, RCM is not simply supporting students for today; they are helping shape the leaders, professionals, and change-makers of tomorrow.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

could eventually become an entrepreneur creating jobs, a professional supporting a family, a leader serving a community, or even a future benefactor extending the same opportunity to another deserving student.

A Pledge to the Future

The significance of the partnership was reflected in the theme of the MOA signing ceremony, "Igniting Potential: Far Beyond Aid, A Heartfelt Pledge to the Future."

President Reggie delivered the Special Message during the program, while the ceremony also included messages from Colegio de Calumpit officials, a response from the community beneficiary, and closing remarks from the College Dean.

The program underscored a recurring theme throughout the event: that a scholarship should not be regarded simply as the payment of tuition, but as an investment in human potential and an expression of confidence in a student's future.

For many financially challenged students, the uncertainty surrounding tuition and other educational expenses can follow them from one semester to



One of the most meaningful moments of the ceremony was introducing the five pioneering scholars who will become the first beneficiaries of the Rotary Club of Manila–Colegio de Calumpit Scholarship Program.

As they stood before school owner Dr. Oscar A. del Rosario, the audience saw more than students. They saw determination, resilience, and limitless potential waiting to be nurtured. These young men and women now carry not only the opportunity to pursue a college education but also the responsibility to make the most of the confidence that has been placed in them.

May this scholarship become more than a means to earn a degree. May it inspire them to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and one day extend the same opportunity to others.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future



RCM's visit to Colegio De Calumpit began with a warm and gracious welcome from its administrators, faculty, officers, and students. Their hospitality immediately reflected the vibrant community and values that define the institution.

The delegates are deeply grateful for the heartfelt reception and look forward to a meaningful partnership that will create opportunities, empower deserving scholars, and inspire future generations through the transformative power of education.

The best collaborations always begin with a warm welcome and a shared purpose.

the next. The scholarship partnership seeks to ease that burden and allow the beneficiaries to concentrate on their studies, personal development, and preparation for their future careers.

Behind each scholar, the organizers also recognized the families whose sacrifices

often remain unseen. Parents, grandparents, and siblings frequently share the financial and emotional burden of keeping a student in school. In this sense, the scholarship provides assistance not only to an individual beneficiary but also to the family supporting that student's aspirations.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

A Partnership Beyond the Classroom

The **Rotary Club of Manila** and **Colegio de Calumpit** see the MOA as the beginning rather than the culmination of their collaboration.

Under the broader vision for the partnership, scholars could eventually gain access to Rotarians and professionals who can provide mentorship, practical guidance, leadership formation, exposure to entrepreneurship, and opportunities to participate in meaningful community service.

Such engagement reflects the belief that education should prepare students not only to earn a living but also to understand their responsibility to society.

Past Director Dr. Oscar A. Del Rosario, Sr.'s leadership and commitment to education provided an important foundation for the partnership. His shared belief in opening educational opportunities to deserving young people helped bring together the resources of Colegio de Calumpit and the service mission of the Rotary Club of Manila.

RCM also expressed appreciation to Dr. Yolanda T. Cruz, Dr. Edna Liza M. Victoria, and the college's faculty and



Dr. Oscar A. del Rosario formally introduces the campus administration and leadership to the visiting delegation from the Rotary Club of Manila laying the foundation for a partnership built on shared values, mutual respect, and a common commitment to expanding educational opportunities. The gathering marked an important step toward a collaborative effort to empower deserving students through scholarship, leadership, and community service.

staff for overseeing the selection process and for their continuing role in guiding and monitoring the scholars throughout their academic journey.

Special recognition was given to DGN Herminio S. Esguerra, whose decision to sustain all five scholars through the remainder of their college education significantly expanded the reach of the original initiative.

Investing in Potential, Building the Future

His commitment transforms what could have been a limited period of assistance into a longer-term promise of educational opportunity, provided the scholars continue to uphold their responsibilities under the program.

Creating Futures Through Service

For the Rotary Club of Manila, the scholarship partnership reflects the enduring meaning of Service Above Self.

Service is often associated with projects that produce visible and immediate results. Scholarships offer a different kind of impact, one that may take years to fully unfold. Its success will ultimately be measured when the students complete their degrees, establish careers, support their families, contribute to their communities, and perhaps one day help another young person pursue the same dream.

The five inaugural scholars now begin that journey carrying both an opportunity and a responsibility. They have been entrusted with the confidence of their school, the Rotary Club of Manila, their benefactors, and their families.



Rotary Club of Manila's R.I. 3810 District Governor-Nominee and co-benefactor Herminio "Hermie" Esguerra delivers his message during the Scholarship Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony, reaffirming the Club's enduring commitment to making quality education more accessible. His remarks underscored Rotary's belief that every scholarship is more than financial assistance — it is an investment in human potential, empowering young people to transform their lives, uplift their families, and become future leaders in their communities.



DGN Herminio Hermie Esguerra shares words of encouragement and inspiration with the five scholars, reminding them to embrace the opportunity before them, pursue their education with determination, and one day pay forward the generosity they have received by becoming a source of hope and service to others.

The hope of those behind the initiative is that the scholars will respond by pursuing their studies with diligence, leading with integrity, and remembering the people who invested in them before their potential had been fully realized.

And perhaps years from now, one or more of them will return the gesture by opening a door for someone else.

In that possibility lies the deeper purpose of the Rotary Club of Manila-Colegio de Calumpit partnership. Its legacy will not ultimately be found in the Memorandum of Agreement signed or the amount of scholarship funds committed, but in the lives transformed, the families uplifted, and the opportunities created by five young people who were given the chance to build a better future.

Rotarian Cesar "Citos" P. Manalaysay

Inducted: June 1, 1994

Paul Harris Fellow 2000

Membership Classification:

Senior Active (Law - Corporation Law)



If you could have dinner with one person—living or dead—who would it be, and why?

I'd like to have dinner with Paul Harris and ask him what he thinks about the small professional group which he founded to relieve loneliness in Chicago which developed into a well-respected global organization.

What's one hobby or interest that most people in Rotary probably don't know you have?

I'm a frustrated architect and interior decorator. I love looking at beautiful modern buildings, old French castles, German half-timbered and Japanese houses including their interior designs. I admire minimalist style and love more the opposite, which is maximalist layered interiors.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

The best way to test friendship is to irritate people. If you are still liked, then that's a true friend.

If you had one free day with no meetings, emails, or responsibilities, how would you spend it?

I will spend time in a dance class to learn Latin dances, salsa, bachata & even the very romantic Argentine tango just like my idol Al Pacino in Scent of a Woman.

What's one item on your bucket list that you hope to accomplish someday?

In all humility and because my desires are cheap, I think I have accomplished all of them already.

What is your favorite part of Rotary?

The Viber group when members disagree, quarrel and then resume camaraderie at meetings, fellowships and parties.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Rotary Leadership Institute - Part 1



Rotary Leadership Institute - Part 1

Multi-District, Grassroots Leadership Development Program organized in various parts of the world

NOW OPEN FOR THE FIRST 50

Philippine RLI Division Head Chairman

PDG Ernie Choa

Majella Villaroman
RLI Communications & Marketing Officer

Course Materials :

- My Leadership in Rotary / My Rotary World
- Ethics and Vocational Service
- Foundation 1 - Our Foundation
- Engaging Members / Creating Service Projects

Event Schedule

- 08:00 am Opening Plenary
- 08:05 am Welcome Remarks & Governor's Message
- 08:15 am RLI Introduction
- 09:00 am Breakout Topics and Discussions
- 12:00 am Lunch Break
- 13:00 pm Foundation 1 & Engaging Members
- 15:30 pm Snacks & Creating Service Projects
- 16:30 pm Closing Session & awarding of certificates

Saturday
8 August 2026

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Susana Dalaguete
Vice-Chair Speaker's Bureau

Dr. Eric Tayag
SDG for Operations

Mark Tan
RLI Moderator



Dir. Nico Valencia and Dir. Mike Roxas attended the Rotary Leadership Institute Part 1 last August 8, 2026 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City.



Dir. Nico Valencia and Dir. Mike Roxas as part of the group picture of the Rotary Leadership Institute Part 1.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

DGN Hermie Esguerra at the Rotary Club of Manila Alpha's Planning and Fellowship Event



DGN Hermie Esguerra, Club Adviser of the Rotary Club of Manila Alpha, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, shared his insights to club members during the Club Planning and Fellowship last August 8, 2026 at the Esguerra Farms and Stud, Lipa City.



DGN Hermie Esguerra, Rotary Club of Manila Executive Secretary Emeritus Anna Kun Toledo, and BALITA Editorial Consultant Rhea Vitto Tabora during the Club Planning and Fellowship of the Rotary Club of Manila Alpha. Both Anna and Rhea are members of the Rotary Club of Manila Alpha, while DGN Hermie Esguerra is its Club Adviser.

DISTRICT EVENTS

26th Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Carmona



PDG Rudy Bediones and DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 26th Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Carmona last August 5, 2026 at the Carmona Community Center in Carmona, Cavite.

DISTRICT EVENTS

26th Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Carmona



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of New Members at the 26th Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Carmona.



DISTRICT EVENTS

35th Induction and Handover Ceremonies and 34th Charter Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Paco Manila



President Reggie Yu attended the 35th Induction and Handover Ceremonies and 34th Charter Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Paco Manila last August 6, 2026 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Malate, Manila.



DISTRICT EVENTS

22nd Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay



PDG Rudy Bediones and President Reggie Yu attended the 22nd Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay last August 7, 2026 at the Kingsford Hotel Manila in Parañaque City.



PDG Rudy Bediones with district officers led by PDG Josie Ang

DISTRICT EVENTS

15th Induction and 14th Handover Ceremonies of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary District 3810



PDG Rudy Bediones, DGN Hermie Esguerra and PD Oscar del Rosario attended the 15th Induction and 14th Handover Ceremonies of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary District 3810 last August 10, 2026 at the Golden Bay Seafood Restaurant in Pasay City.



PDG Rudy Bediones inducted the new set of officers of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary District 3810.

DISTRICT EVENTS

51st Handover and 52nd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman Manila, Daughter Club of the Rotary Club of Manila



DGN Hermie Esguerra and President Reggie Yu attended the 51st Handover and 52nd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman Manila, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, last August 10, 2026 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Malate, Manila.



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of New Members during the 51st Induction and 52nd Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman Manila.

DISTRICT EVENTS

10th Club Charter Anniversary and 11th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila Premier



President Reggie Yu attended the 10th Club Charter Anniversary and 11th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila Premier last August 11, 2026 at The Flash Grand Ballroom, Elorde Sports Center, Sucat, Parañaque City.



PDG Rudy Bediones and PDG Vince Carlos greeting each other upon arrival at the Rotary Club of Manila Premier Induction.



PDG Rudy Bediones and PDG Vince Carlos attended the Rotary Club of Manila Premier event.



PDG Rudy Bediones as part of the group photo during the Rotary Club of Manila Premier Induction

RCM President Reginald Yu Among University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA)'s Awardees

≡ **SECTIONS** Wednesday, August 12, 2026

INQUIRER.NET

UPAA to Recognize 67 Outstanding Alumni, Alumni Chapters and Families at its 2026 Awards Ceremony

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) honors 49 individual awardees, two outstanding UP alumni chapters, three recipients of the Presidential Service Award, and 13 awardees of the Multigenerational Alumni Family Award. The 2026 UPAA Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at 4:00 PM at Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman.

Leading this year's roster of Outstanding Alumni Awardees is Jorge L. Araneta (BS Business Administration '58), the recipient of the 2026 UPAA Most Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is being honored for his lifelong dedication to nation-building, philanthropy, and community development. By consistently championing social progress, cultural preservation, and grassroots humanitarian aid, Araneta embodies the highest ideals of excellence and civic duty, making him an exemplary reflection of this lifetime achievement honor.

The UPAA Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awards will be given to Dr. Lorna Ramos-Abad (BS'75; MD'80, MSEpi'01), Dr. Virgilio Bautista (BSBA'67), Dr. Rex B. Demafelis (MS'90; PhD'16), FCJ. Teresita Leonardo-de Castro (ABPolSci'68; LLB'72; JD'22), Ms. Lenore Raquel Santos Lim (BFA'67), Ms. Carmen F. Martinez-Pascual (BFA'71), Dr. Marita V. Tolentino-Reyes (AA'59; BS'61; MD'64), Hon. Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. (BSGeo'84).

These awards celebrate alumni who have shown honor, excellence, and service, and who continue to make a positive impact through their leadership, contributions to society, and achievements in their fields—both in the Philippines and abroad.

As UPAA President and Alumni Regent Robert Lester Aranton remarked: While professional excellence is worthy of recognition, what truly distinguishes our honorees is the way they have led with integrity, served with purpose, and created meaningful and lasting impact."

The UPAA Distinguished Alumni Awards will be conferred to

Brig. Gen. Peter C. Suchianco in Human Capital Development; Assoc. Justice Jaime Fortunato A. Caringal, Usec. Felix William Buquid Fuentebella, Sec. Sharon S. Garin, Justice Karl B. Miranda, Atty. Gerardo P. Sirios, Atty. , Carlos D. Sorreta, Atty. Francis Saturnino C. Juan, Atty. Raissa Herradura Jajurie in Good Governance; Mr. Rey Claro C. Casambre in Peace and Order; Jacqueline Abing Caancan, Neil Aldrin D. Mallari, Norben T. Mata, Jr., Yari Thomas A. Miralao in Environmental Conservation; Romina A. Angangco-Danguilan, Jack Domingo G. Arroyo, Jr., B. Januario Antonio Dolorico Veloso Jr. in Public Health Promotion; Raymundo W. Lo, Jean Anne B. Toral, Rogelio G. Laraya, Gerald Glenn Fidel Panganiban, Edward Wang in Science and Technology; Perfecto Ray Bayo Jr., Ericson N. Dela Cruz, Alpha Faith G. Macailing, Eric Gene C. Pilapil, Mariella Sugue-Castillo, Melvin John Mondejar Tan, **Reginald Tieng Yu in Community Empowerment**; Elizabeth Orteza-Siguion Reyna, Agnes M. Inventor in Culture and Arts; Marisol De Luna Anenias, Alvina Pauline D. Santiago in Education; Lilian Concepcion Maligalig Castro-Selda, Elenita Trinidad De Manuel, Edilberto D. Elegado, Teresita Serquina Ladanga, Stella Marie B. Santos in Entrepreneurship.

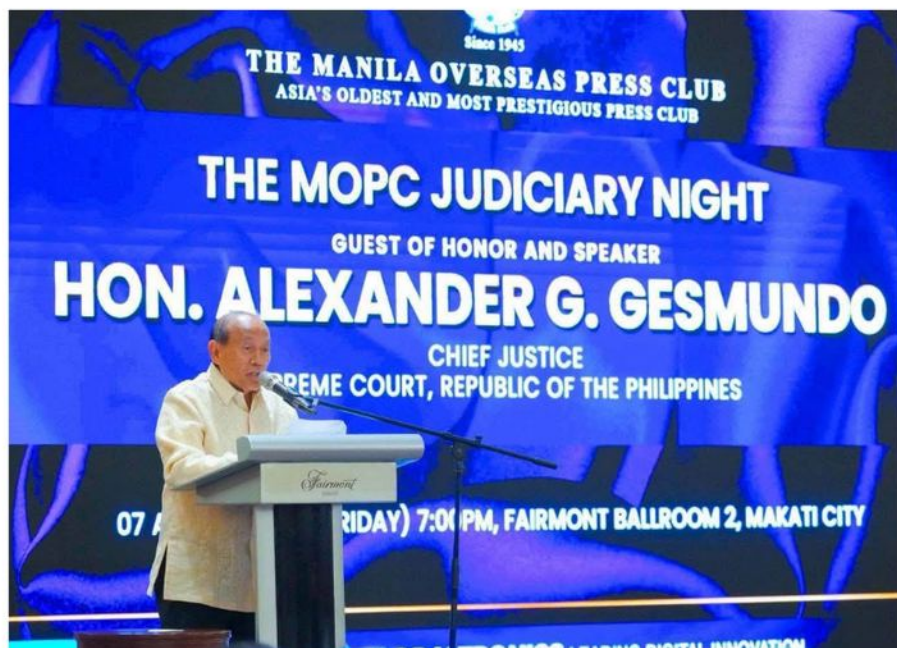
The UPAA Distinguished Service Award for Alumni Chapters will recognize two chapters this year. Meanwhile, the UPAA Distinguished Service Award for an Alumna will be given to Rosalina S. Calderon and Lilia Ronquillo-Bautista and The UPAA Distinguished Service Award for an Alumnus is given to Rodrigo B. Libunao Jr.

This year's UPAA Presidential Awardees are Constancia E. Angeles, Nilo Thaddeus P. Rodriguez, and Luis Enano Yee Jr. The UP Alumni Association will honor families whose commitment to the University spans multiple generations through the UPAA Multigenerational Alumni Family Award.

This year, we proudly recognize the Añonuevo Family, Caluag-Santos Family, Jose Family, Padua Family, Samson-Reyes Family, Soliven Family, Tomas Family, Yap Family, and Yasol Family as Three-Generation Awardees. Navarrete-Flores Family, Puyat Family, Reyes Family, and Samson-de Padua Family as Four-Generation Awardees.

IN THE NEWS

The MOPC Judiciary Night



Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) held its Judiciary Night on August 7, 2026, at the Fairmont Makati, featuring Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo as the guest of honor and keynote speaker and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos as guest of honor.

In appreciation, I gifted First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos my color drawing of her portrait during the MOPC Judiciary Night.
- Past Director Tony Lopez (MOPC Head | BizNewsAsia publisher)



Left photo: A RARE EVENT. Nine Supreme Court justices, led by the Chief Justice, Alexander Gesmundo, including an entire SC division, attended the MOPC Judiciary Night. Also in attendance: The First Lady, a lawyer; the Justice Secretary; the ARTA Secretary; retired SC Chief Justice Art Panganiban; the NBI Chief; and members of the Impeachment Prosecution led by Lorna Kapunan, and many pro-Duterte elite lawyers.

Photo credit: First Lady Liza Marcos's Facebook page

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

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OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Sara's options

The en banc resolution of the Supreme Court in *Torreon v. House committee on justice* (Aug. 5, 2026) dismissing the petitions challenging Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment by the House of Representatives is a turning point in this political-legal saga. Though the ground relied upon is mootness, it could also be a signal that this time, the high court no longer wants to be dragged unnecessarily into partisan dramas grabbed in shimmering crimson. Unless grave abuse of discretion (which is judicially defined as "whimsical or arbitrary or capricious" action) is committed by the impeachment court, the highest court of the land, in my view, will not participate in political showmanship.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE VP HAS AT LEAST THREE MAJOR OPTIONS that, strange as it may seem, may be complementary to one another: (1) to defend herself to the sweet or bitter end, (2) to resign, and/or (3) to rally public support to avert her conviction.

On the first, the VP's team has focused on challenging the admissibility of the prosecution's evidence and on questioning the relevance of several allegations in the articles of impeachment.

The more intriguing queries are: Will VP Sara take the witness stand? If so, will she adopt an aggressive demeanor (as she had done in confronting a sheriff who was merely serving a court order)? Or will she keep a calm, careful, and measured stance? Will she be lined up as the last witness? Who among the prosecutors would dare cross swords with her? Will the senator-judges ask leading questions in the guise of "clarificatory" queries? How will she explain her alleged threats to the First Family, confidential funds, unexplained wealth, bank deposits, and tax records?

SECOND, VP SARA MAY RESIGN AMID THE ONGOING TRIAL. Will the senator-judges have the guts to continue the trial given that there are two penalties provided under the Constitution: removal from office and perpetual disqualifi-



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

cation from holding any public office. True, the case for removal would have become moot. Nonetheless, she could still run for the presidency in 2028, as she had previously announced, unless the senator-judges, by majority vote, continue the trial. And, by a two-thirds vote, impose the second penalty of perpetual disqualification that would bar her from running.

Recall that the Senate impeachment court expressly imposed in 2012 on then Chief Justice Renato C. Corona "the penalty of removal from office and disqualification to hold any office under the Republic of the Philippines." In contrast, then Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno, who was unseated through an 8-6 quo warranto decision, was not disqualified from holding other public offices because no such penalty was imposed.

Incidentally, then United States President Richard Nixon voluntarily resigned in 1974 through a one-sentence letter that read: "I hereby resign as President of the United States." In this way, he avoided impeachment by the US House of Representatives and removal by the US Senate over his participation in the Watergate scandal. He resigned because it became clear to him that he had lost the trust of the American people.

KNOWING THAT THIS US PRECEDENT has a very persuasive effect on Philippine jurisprudence, VP Sara may—like former US President Bill Clinton, who also had high ap-

proval ratings—choose the **THIRD** option, that is, to rally public support to her cause to avoid conviction and removal.

While governed by the Constitution, impeachment cases are tried before a political body. Conviction requires the votes of two-thirds of all senators, and public sentiment often plays a decisive role. (Exactly how many senators constitute "two-thirds" deserves a future column.)

As I earlier said, Clinton also used this third option in facing the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. Though the US House of Representatives impeached him, the US Senate acquitted him in 1999. Throughout the proceedings, his public approval ratings consistently remained above 60 percent, enabling him to retain public opinion and secure acquittal.

The same political dynamic may arise here, especially if former President Rodrigo R. Duterte returns to the Philippines dead or alive. Alive, if acquitted. Dead, if by some cause, he dies in detention in The Hague and his mortal remains are paraded along the main avenues of the country a la former Sen. Ninoy Aquino. Whether such a pivot would apply to the current setting remains an interesting variable.

To conclude, VP Sara's trial transcends the political fortunes of all public officials. Impeachment is a constitutional mechanism designed to preserve the integrity of governance and to reaffirm the sacred principle that "a public office is a public trust."

VP Sara may choose one or all of her options: mount a vigorous defense, resign, and/or rally public sentiment. At all events, this impeachment saga will eventually reach its final act. Other impeachments may follow, future officials may resign, and the tides of public approval may wax and wane, but the Constitution must endure. As the impregnable citadel of liberty and prosperity, it must remain our ultimate compass under the rule of law.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



OPINION

Alex Eala: The true Filipino spirit



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez - The Philippine Star ⓘ

August 9, 2026 | 12:00am

All throughout history, there have been several moments in sports that transcend victory and become symbols of a nation's hopes and aspirations. Alex Eala has become one of those rare figures who have catalyzed Filipinos all over the world with her grit and determination. Watching her compete against the world's finest, one cannot help but feel immense pride not merely because she is winning tennis matches – achieving the biggest record-setting victory of her career so far by capturing the 2026 Mubadala DC Open title – but because she carries herself with humility, discipline and that unmistakable pride in being Filipino.

Her success reminds us that greatness is never accidental; it is the product of sacrifice, perseverance and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Behind every victory are years of waking up early, many times at the break of dawn, going through exhausting training sessions, heartbreaking defeats and the determination to come back stronger every time. Her journey embodies the true Filipino spirit: resilient, hardworking and never afraid to dream big.

Alex's rise did not happen overnight. She left home at a young age to obtain world-class training, embracing both opportunity and hardship. Imagine this: a bubbly 13-year-old girl leaving everything that was familiar to pursue her dream. She had to learn a new language, adjust to a different culture and show that she has what it takes to stand among the world's most promising young players.

Wherever and whenever she competed, she proudly carried the Philippine flag. And in an age when success is often measured by instant results, her story reminds us that genuine achievement is built patiently, one step at a time.

She joins a remarkable list of Filipino champions who have inspired our nation. Manny Pacquiao fought his way out of poverty to become one of boxing's all-time greats. Hidilyn Diaz lifted not only a barbell but also the hopes of an entire nation when she delivered our first Olympic gold medal. Carlos Yulo demonstrated that a Filipino gymnast could stand atop the world. EJ Obiena has become one of the world's elite pole vaulters through extraordinary dedication despite setbacks and criticism.

Different sports. Different journeys. Yet all share common values: discipline, sacrifice, resilience and the belief that they belong among the very best. These qualities are deeply Filipino.

Those same qualities can also be found far from stadiums and arenas. Every day, millions of overseas Filipino workers represent our country with distinction. They serve as nurses, doctors, engineers, teachers, caregivers, seafarers, hotel professionals, construction experts and entrepreneurs. Wherever they go, they earn admiration for their competence, integrity, dedication and compassion.

Time and again, Filipinos have proven that they can compete with anyone in the world when given the opportunity. Employers seek them because they are dependable. Communities welcome them because they contribute positively. They become leaders in companies, respected professionals and trusted members of society. Their success is no accident – it springs from the same determination that drives our athletes.

This raises an important question. If Filipinos consistently excel overseas, why can't the Philippines itself become one of Asia's very best nations?

The answer is not the dearth of talent, because we have it in abundance. It is not for lack of intelligence, creativity or perseverance. We have repeatedly demonstrated that we have these.

The challenge lies in creating an environment where excellence can flourish. Champions require good coaches, modern facilities, proper support and institutions that reward merit. Nations are no different. Countries prosper when they have honest governance, quality education, efficient institutions, sound economic policies and leaders who unite rather than divide.

Our greatest athletes have shown what is possible when talent meets opportunity. Imagine if every young Filipino enjoyed quality education, reliable health care, safe communities and equal opportunities to succeed. Imagine if every entrepreneur could grow a business free from unnecessary obstacles and very often some kind of petty corruption. Imagine if every public servant viewed leadership as a sacred trust and not as a license to steal.

Choosing the right political leaders therefore matters. Leadership sets the tone for a nation just as a coach sets the direction for a team. Wise leaders encourage excellence, reward integrity and create conditions where people can realize their full potential. Poor leadership does the opposite. It discourages initiative and wastes precious talent.

Alex Eala's victories remind us that excellence begins with a dream that is sustained by discipline, sacrifice and opportunity. Every time the Philippine flag is raised after one of her victories, every Filipino stands a little taller. She reminds us that our country's greatest resource has never been its natural wealth but its people.

The Filipino has already proven that he or she can compete with the best in the world. Our athletes have done it, many times over. Our overseas workers have done it; our professionals, artists and entrepreneurs continue to do it every day.

The challenge today is to build a Philippines worthy of their talent – a nation where every young Filipino has the opportunity to become the next Alex Eala, the next Manny Pacquiao, the next Hidilyn Diaz, the next Carlos Yulo or the next EJ Obiena.

Champions do not emerge by accident. They are shaped by values, nurtured by opportunity and inspired by a belief that greatness is possible. Alex Eala has shown us what one determined Filipino can achieve. Let her story inspire us to create a nation where millions more can do the same. That is the true Filipino spirit, and it is the foundation upon which an even greater Philippines can be built. Yes, we can and we must!

* * *



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543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
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