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ISSUE NO. 4102 • AUGUST 20, 2026



Guest Speaker

Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan

*Private Prosecutor, House Prosecution Panel
Impeachment Trial of VP Sara Duterte*

**ART, IMAGINATION
AND THE SOUL OF A NATION**

**TeethCloud and Rotary Club of Manila
Unite to Bring Oral Health Care
to Students in Cavite**



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7th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Guest Speaker

Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan

Private Prosecutor, House Prosecution Panel, Impeachment Trial of VP Sara Duterte

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 12:15 PM | Makati AB, Makati Shangri-La, Manila

Moderator: Director Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV

PROGRAM

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
- 12:15 PM Call to Order
President Reginald T. Yu
- Invocation
STAR Rotarian Jason Romeo C. Valderrama
- Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- The Four-Way Test
Secretary Albert S. Alday
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Rotarian Francisco Roberto DC. Mauricio
- Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- 12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**
- Aug 22 Rtn. Richard Ang
 - Aug 25 Rtn. Pablo Arguelles
- 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**
STAR Rotarian Joseph Benedict G. Gesmundo
- Address:
Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan
Private Prosecutor
House Prosecution Panel
Impeachment Trial of VP Sara Duterte
- 1:15 PM **Open Forum**
- 1:20 PM **Response**
- Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation**
- 2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

EDITORIAL

The Weight of a Promise

A man walks into a lawyer's office and asks, "How much do you charge for legal advice?" The lawyer replies, "\$500 for three questions." The man, startled, says, "Isn't that a bit steep?" The lawyer answers, "Yes it is. What's your third question?"

How many lawyers does it take to change a light bulb? Three - one to bill for the hour, one to argue over who broke the old bulb, and one to draft a memorandum on whether the new one creates any liability.

These are old, gentle jabs - and every lawyer in the Rotary Club of Manila has



Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

heard a version of these at a family dinner, usually from an uncle who then asks for free advice on getting his previous marriage annulled.

Jokes like these persist for a reason. They are the public's way of processing an old anxiety: that the profession entrusted with truth and fairness might, in the wrong hands, traffic in neither. That anxiety is precisely why the profession does not simply *license* lawyers - it makes them *swear an oath*. A license regulates conduct. An oath conscripts conscience. Today, in the presence of fellow Rotarians,

EDITORIAL

guests, and a Guest Speaker who are lawyers, it behooves asking what exactly that oath demands, where it came from, and why — jokes notwithstanding — it still matters.

Every lawyer admitted to practice in the Philippines takes an oath prescribed and administered under the authority of the Supreme Court. Its current form, the Revised Lawyer's Oath adopted under the 2023 Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA), replaced the older, more archaic formulation that had stood largely unchanged for generations. It is worth setting the operative elements out plainly, because each clause is a distinct promise, not decoration.

First, the lawyer swears to accept "the honor, privilege, duty, and responsibility of practicing law in the Philippines as an Officer of the Court, in the interest of our people." This opening line does something quietly radical: it frames the profession not as a private trade but as a public office, undertaken in the interest of people who are not paying clients.

Next, the lawyer professes fealty to the Constitution, the fundamental law of the Republic, and a commitment to "promoting the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace." The inclusion of values like love and equality alongside the more familiar invocations of truth and justice marks a deliberate departure from the



Marcus Tullius Cicero. "Cicero Condemns Catiline." A painting by Cesare Maccari, painted in 1882–1888. Credit: snl.no/Cicero (Store norske leksikon/Great Norwegian Encyclopedia)

EDITORIAL

oath's older, more austere language. I just hope new lawyers will not use it as an excuse when they get caught up in complicated romantic entanglements.

Then, the lawyer commits to work for justice and to "safeguard the rights and meaningful freedoms of all persons, identities, and communities," and to work toward "greater and equitable access to justice." This is the clause that reaches beyond the courtroom into the reality that most people who need a lawyer cannot afford one. This is followed by a promise to do no falsehood, and not to twist the law to unjustly favor or prejudice anyone. This is the clause that guards against the very caricature lawyer jokes rely on.

Finally, the lawyer pledges to faithfully perform these responsibilities "to the best of my ability, with integrity, and utmost civility," binding the lawyer not only to competence but to decency, including toward adversaries, "without mental reservation nor purpose of evasion."

The Supreme Court has been explicit that the lawyer's oath is a sacred covenant, not a ceremonial observance. In *Re: Petition of Al Argosino to Take the Lawyer's Oath* (B.M. No. 712, March 19, 1997), the Court made clear that the

oath is a standard against which a lawyer's conduct must be measured at all times, and that its breach is itself a ground for discipline. The oath does not merely open the door to the profession; it remains, for as long as one practices, its foundation.

The Court has not left that principle in the abstract. In a disbarment decision released in February 2024 (A.C. No. 13674), the Supreme Court struck a lawyer's name from the Roll of Attorneys



Sir William Blackstone. Credit: [Picryl.com](https://www.picryl.com)

EDITORIAL

for abandoning his wife and child to cohabit with, and later bigamously marry, another woman, and perhaps most damningly, for flaunting the affair publicly. The Court was unambiguous about why private conduct triggered a professional consequence: a lawyer who cannot honor the vows and laws that bind him in his own household forfeits the standing to be trusted with fidelity to the law in anyone else's affairs. It is a sobering illustration of just how far the oath's demand for integrity reaches, not merely in the courtroom or conference rooms, but into the whole of a lawyer's conduct, public and private alike.

The impulse to bind advocates by solemn promise is almost as old as advocacy itself. In the Roman Republic, orators like Marcus Tullius Cicero argued cases before the Senate and the courts, and in doing so helped invent the very vocabulary - *advocatus*, one called to stand beside another - the origin of the word "advocate". Cicero's defense of the accused, and his willingness to speak inconvenient truths to power at real personal cost, established a template still cited in law schools two thousand years later: that eloquence divorced from principle is merely noise, but eloquence in service of justice is the beginning of civilization.

Centuries later, in eighteenth-century

England, Sir William Blackstone took the scattered, unwritten customs of the common law and organized them into his *Commentaries on the Laws of England* — a work so foundational that it shaped not only English jurisprudence but, through the American founders who read it closely, the constitutional architecture of the United States and, by extension, much of the common-law world the Philippines itself inherited. Blackstone did not merely practice law; he made law legible, teachable, and therefore accountable.



Mohandas Gandhi. Credit: Elliott & Fry via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

EDITORIAL

In the twentieth century, two barristers turned their legal training into instruments of liberation. Mohandas Gandhi, called to the English bar at the Inner Temple, practiced law in South Africa and India before turning the virtues his legal discipline taught him - patience, clarity in reasoning, uncompromising principles - into the architecture of a nonviolent movement that ended nearly two centuries of colonial rule. Nelson Mandela, one of South Africa's first Black lawyers, opened a law practice offering the poor a service they could otherwise never afford, before emerging from twenty-seven years of unjust imprisonment and leading his country on the road to reconciliation rather than revenge. Both men treated the lawyer's oath's oldest element - service in the interest of the people, not merely the client who can pay - as a life's mission rather than an empty promise.

Cicero, Blackstone, Gandhi, Mandela: an orator, a scholar, a liberator, a reconciler. Different eras, different continents, different fights. What unites them is that each, in his own way, answered the same question the oath still poses to every new lawyer: will the law you practice serve power, or will it serve people?

It is in that spirit that we welcome today's guest speaker, Amando Virgil Ligutan, Esq. While we should not



Nelson Mandela. © Copyright John Mathew Smith 2001, CC BY-SA 2.0, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

expect him to fully match Cicero's eloquence, Blackstone's rigor, Gandhi's patience, or Mandela's fortitude all at once, we do hope that in the causes he has championed, the clients he has served, and the counsel he has given, Attorney Ligutan will prove himself a worthy inheritor of the oath those luminaries lived by: to do no falsehood, to serve the interest of the people before the interest of the few, and to treat the practice of law not as a trade to be practiced, but as a promise to be kept.

GUEST SPEAKER

ATTY. Ligutan is the Managing Partner of SALiGAL Law, a Cebu-based law firm. He previously worked as Junior Associate of Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz (ACCRA) Law Offices.

He is a topnotch court litigator who has successfully handled various high-profile cases that have gained national attention. One of the most recognizable and sought-after lawyers in the country today, he is a leading private prosecutor in the ongoing impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte.

He is also actively engaged in the academe as professor of Labor Law, Remedial Law, Public International Law, among others, in the University of the Philippines College of Law in its Diliman and BGC campuses, University of San Jose-Recoletos School of Law, and University of Cebu School of Law.

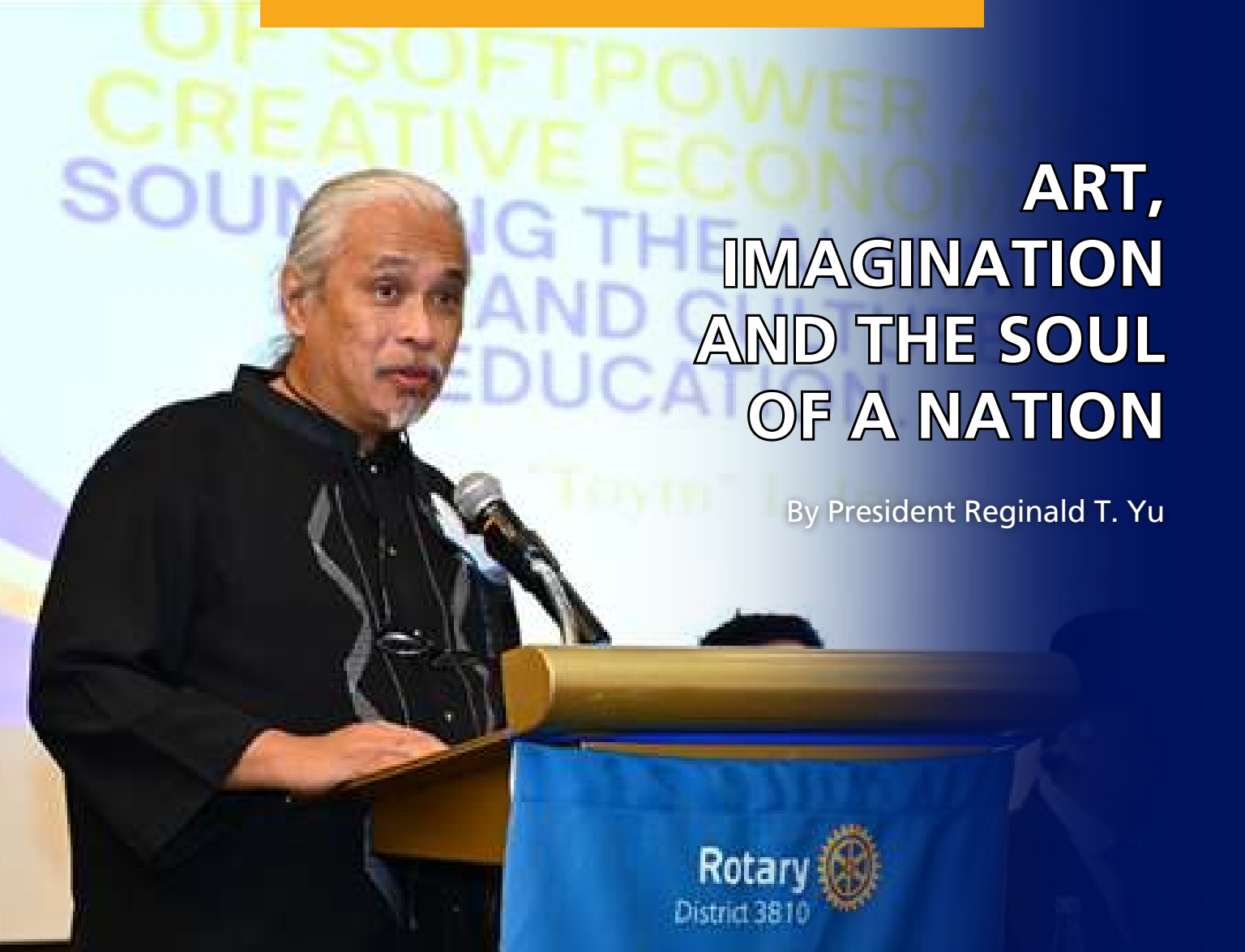
Atty. Ligutan is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law. He was a member of the UP Law Jessup Team, the UP Law Team that won as national champion in the 2008 National Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law, and a member of the Philippine Team that



Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan
Managing Partner, SALiGAL Law

competed in the 7th Asia-Pacific International Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law held in Hong Kong, and in the 2009 Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition held in Evian-Les-Bains, France.

He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 2003 from the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. He is a Gawad sa Mag-Aaral outstanding student awardee of the University of the Philippines in 2009. Aside from his law practice, Atty. Ligutan is a sought-after legal expert. He appears regularly on several media outlets to give his legal opinion on the various raging legal issues of the day.



ART, IMAGINATION AND THE SOUL OF A NATION

By President Reginald T. Yu

THE Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) took a refreshing departure from the political and national policy discussions that had characterized its recent weekly gatherings as it turned the spotlight on art, culture, creativity and education during its 6th Weekly Membership Meeting, held on August 13, 2026, at Isabella C of the Makati Shangri-La.

With distinguished visual artist and educator Dean Abdulmari "Toym" D. Imao, Jr., Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, as Guest of Honor and Speaker, the afternoon explored a different but equally important dimension of nation-building: the role of imagination, cultural identity and the creative economy in shaping the Philippines' future. The meeting asked what happens when creativity is pushed to the margins of education and how artificial intelligence may affect the Filipino imagination and the country's ability to tell its own stories.

The meeting opened with the familiar traditions of Rotary, including the invocation, Philippine National Anthem, RCM Hymn and the Four-Way Test, with the RCM World-Famous Music Chorus lending its voices to the gathering. The Club also celebrated the birthdays of Rotarians Ray Davis, John Simon, Mike Guarin, Val Aboy and Joey Garcia.



STAR Rotarian Myles Tan moderated the Weekly Membership Meeting.



Past Director Noy Benedicto led the invocation.



President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order.



Internal Auditor Gani Macatoman led the recitation of The Four-Way Test.



Rotarian Ray Davis introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.



During the President's Time, President Reggie Yu updated the membership on the week's activities and events, as well as the club's upcoming programs and activities.



Rotarians John Simon and Ray Davis were treated to a heartfelt rendition of the RCM Birthday song, led by the RCM Chorale.



Past Director Hans Palacios introduced the guest of honor and speaker.



Introducing Imao was Past Director Hans Palacios, whose connection to the speaker carried a personal dimension: Palacios' sister is married to Imao's brother, Kim. The familial connection lent warmth to an introduction of a speaker whose artistic and academic career has spanned sculpture, painting, public installation, theater, film and cultural advocacy.

Imao opened his presentation in a lighthearted manner, describing his rapid tour through his artistic portfolio as a kind of “speed dating.” Images of installations, historical works, public art and experiments with popular culture flashed before the audience as he explained his belief that art should not be confined to galleries and museums,

but should reach ordinary Filipinos in the spaces where they live and encounter their own history.

The tone soon deepened.

In his presentation, “Of Softpower and Creative Economies: Sounding the Alarm for Art and Culture Education Reform,” Imao raised a fundamental question that extended well beyond the arts: What kind of Filipino is the country educating for the future?

He warned that arts and cultural education are increasingly being pushed toward the margins of the Philippine educational system. Proposals to restructure general education, he said, could dilute the independent place



Guest of Honor and Speaker, visual artist and educator Dean Abdulmari "Toym" Imao Jr., Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts

occupied by Art Appreciation and other humanities subjects. For Imao, simply integrating art into other subjects cannot replace the sustained encounter with literature, culture and artistic expression that develops imagination, empathy, cultural literacy, critical thinking and a deeper sense of identity and nationhood.

To illustrate the point, Imao turned to literature. A student encountering *Romeo and Juliet* in childhood, he observed, does not read it in quite the same way upon reaching college, after experiencing rejection, failure, longing and perhaps love. Likewise, *The Little Prince* acquires different meanings as readers mature. The humanities, he

suggested, are therefore not subjects that can simply be “finished”; they invite people to return to enduring human questions with the deeper perspective that comes from lived experience.

The discussion inevitably arrived at artificial intelligence, but Imao did not frame AI as an enemy to be resisted. Instead, he warned of what could happen if technology advances without an equally strong grounding in culture and creativity. Without that foundation, he said, AI risks becoming dehumanizing, homogenizing and even culturally colonizing. If Filipinos become merely consumers of technologies trained largely on narratives produced elsewhere, the country risks diminishing the visibility of its own stories, languages and ways of seeing the world.

Imao then broadened the discussion from education to economics, arguing that culture itself can become a source of national power. He pointed to Singapore's investments in creativity, museums and cultural institutions following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and to South Korea's sustained support for writers, artists, filmmakers, television and entertainment. The global phenomenon of Korean popular culture, he noted, grew from an ecosystem that treated creative

industries as a serious long-term national investment rather than an ornamental sector.

For the Philippines, Imao maintained that the fundamental problem is not a lack of creative talent. Filipinos have long demonstrated their ability to sing, perform, design, animate, write, build and improvise across the world. What is needed is the infrastructure, education and institutional support that will allow that creativity to flourish.

One of the afternoon's most memorable metaphors was the jeepney. Its origins may be American, its engine Japanese, and the religious imagery on its dashboard reflective of centuries of Spanish Catholic influence, yet its exuberant colors, lettering, humor and ornamentation are unmistakably Filipino. In Imao's telling, the jeepney became an illustration of the country's creative genius: the ability to absorb different influences and transform them into something distinctly its own.

As Dean of the UP College of Fine Arts, Imao also discussed initiatives to strengthen the country's cultural infrastructure, including efforts toward an institution devoted to art conservation and another focused on art and cultural education, with the aspiration of providing dedicated training for public-school teachers. His larger argument was



clear: the Philippines cannot hope to develop a thriving creative economy while weakening the educational foundations that produce creators, audiences and cultural memory.

The open forum brought the subject closer to home for several Rotarians. Past Director Tony Lopez, in particular, was visibly moved as he recalled his childhood days making illustrations for newspapers to earn additional income. His recollection transformed the discussion from an academic argument about creative education into something personal, demonstrating how art can become livelihood, opportunity and a formative part of one's life.

Toward the conclusion of his presentation, Imao offered perhaps his most evocative reflection of the afternoon through an unlikely subject: vinyl records.

He described the ritual of taking a record from its sleeve, cleaning it, preparing the turntable, lowering the needle, dimming the lights and deliberately sitting down to listen. In an age when almost any song can be summoned instantly from a phone, the apparent inconvenience of that ritual was precisely its point. The waiting, the vibrations and the deliberate act of listening reconnect people with something increasingly threatened by the relentless acceleration of modern life: their humanity.



Dean Abdulmari "Toym" Imao engaged in an interactive exchange of ideas with members, including Past Directors Tony Lopez and Amading Valdez.



It was an appropriate ending to a meeting that had deliberately slowed the pace of RCM's recent conversations.

The Club had not turned away from national affairs. Rather, it had approached nation-building through another door. A nation, the discussion suggested, is defined not only by its laws, elections, institutions, budgets and political debates, but also by the songs its children remember, the stories passed from one generation to another, the films through which it sees itself, the architecture it preserves and the imagination through which its people envision a better future.



President Reggie Yu presented the Certificate of Appreciation to guest speaker Dean Abdulmari "Toym" Imao Jr. in recognition of his insightful and engaging presentation.

Following the formal meeting, RCM President Reginald Yu continued the conversation with Imao over lunch, extending the exchange on art, education, Filipino identity and the implications of technological change.

The 6th Weekly Membership Meeting ultimately offered RCM members a different lens through which to view service and nation-building. Amid the urgency of politics, economics and public affairs, Imao's message underscored that a prosperous country without memory risks losing its identity, while technological advancement without imagination can produce efficiency without meaning. A society that continues to teach its people to imagine, create, question, remember and tell their own stories, however, preserves something that no algorithm can easily replicate.

For one Thursday afternoon at the Makati Shangri-La, the Rotary Club of Manila stepped away from the noise of the headlines and listened instead to the quieter but enduring language of art, culture and the Filipino imagination.



President Reginald Yu continued the conversation with Dean Toym Imao over lunch.



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



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Understanding Your Personality,
Money Habits & Financial Future



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Communication • Self-awareness



PART 2 – KNOW YOUR MONEY

Financial Literacy Workshop

Money Habits • Budgeting •
Responsible Investing • Market Basics •
Introduction to Cryptocurrency



Myles Tan, RFP, CTA

Chief Operating Officer
Ilyon Industrial Corporation



29 AUGUST
2026



2:00 PM



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Your Voice Matters! Workshop

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2026-2027

ATTENDANCE REPORT August 2026

AUGUST 2026	August 06, 2026 ATTY. JOSE "JOEY" D. LINA JR.	August 13, 2026 UP COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS DEAN TOYM LEON IMAO
MEMBERS PRESENT	30	31
MEMBERS PRESENT %	15%	15%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	5	5
EXEMPTED	3	4
ON LEAVE	0	0
Total Active Members	35	36
Total # of Members	203	203
TOTAL %:	17%	18%
ROTARACTORS	6	5
MEDIA	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0
GOHS / GS	1	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	8	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	6	5
TOTAL ATTENDEES	51	42

LIST OF ATTENDEES August 13, 2026

- 1 Albaña, Michael Jaey C.
- 2 Alday, Albert S.
- 3 Bartolome, Arsenio M. III
- 4 Benedicto, Sixto T.
- 5 Carlos, Vicente J.
- 6 Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.
- 7 Cenica, John T.
- 8 Creencia, Raoul C.
- 9 Cureg, Alexander P.
- 10 Davis, Raymond N.
- 11 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- 12 Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V.
- 13 Gesmundo, Joseph Benedict
- 14 Go, Henry S.
- 15 Guevara, Domingo SB, Jr.
- 16 Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y. IV
- 17 Lopez, Antonio S.
- 18 Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
- 19 Magsaysay, Francisco D.
- 20 Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
- 21 Palacios, Albert C.
- 22 Peliño, Wilfredo M.
- 23 Preysler, Fausto R. Jr.
- 24 Ra, Ingill
- 25 Roxas, Michael D.
- 26 Serapio, Carlos G.
- 27 Shimoda, Shigeru
- 28 Sibayan, Joselito H.
- 29 Simon, Juanito A.
- 30 Valdez, Amado D.
- 31 Yu, Reginald T.

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

As of August 18, 2026

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

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

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RC Manila's Third Regular Board Meeting and Second Planning Meeting



The third Regular Board Meeting and second Planning Meeting was held on August 14, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Vice President Karlo Castro hosted it at the Palawan Group office, located on the 7th Flr, Cybergate Plaza, EDSA Pioneer, Mandaluyong City.



Present during the meeting were (standing from left): Assistant Internal Auditor Joshua Aragon, Treasurer Arvin Carranceja, Assistant Secretary Jonas Gonzales, Director Mike Roxas, Director Teddy Kalaw, Director Nico Valencia, and Director Mike Albaña; (seated from left): Director Caloy Serapio, Secretary Albert Alday, President Reggie Yu, Vice President Karlo Castro, and District Governor Nominee Hermie Esguerra.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RC Manila's Third Regular Board Meeting and Second Planning Meeting



Dr. Raymund Narag joined the Board of Directors and Officers during the Planning Meeting via Zoom from Michigan to present a Peace and Conflict Prevention project to the Board.



RCMANILA FOUNDATION INC.

RCMFI's First Board Meeting



The Board of Trustees RY 2026-2027 convened its first Board meeting, led by Chairman Raoul Creencia. The meeting was held on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 2:30pm in Pasay B Room at the Makati Shangri-La.

Present were Chair Raoul Creencia Pres. Mike Roxas, Sec. Anton Mauricio Treas. Mike Albaña, BLA Chris Tamesis, ABLA Caloy Serapio, IPC Alex Cureg, Trustee Karlo Castro, Trustee Del Lorenzana, Trustee Chito Zaldarriaga, and Trustee Noy Benedicto.





DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

TeethCloud and Rotary Club of Manila Unite to Bring Oral Health Care to Students in Silang, Cavite

By PD John M. Cutter



THE Philippines' tropical storms on August 8 could not deter the commitment of the students and educators of the Sisters of Mary Banneux, Inc. in Silang, Cavite, as a team from TeethCloud.org provided an oral health outreach.

TeethCloud is a not-for-profit collaborative represented in 42 nations by 82 Thought Leaders, with an online following of 205,000+ individuals, whose goal is to decrease global oral health inequalities through Dental Informatics, including dental data science, artificial intelligence, teledentistry, and public oral health.

TeethCloud and Rotary Club of Manila Unite to Bring Oral Health Care to Students in Silang, Cavite

Led by John M. Cutter, DDS, Rotary Club of Manila's Past Director and Past Chair of the Medical Prevention and Treatment Committee, who is a Co-Founder of TeethCloud and is its President for Human Resources and Development, the team was composed of 3 dentists; 1 dental assistant; 1 dental student; and, 9 Rotaract volunteers, including President Angel Macasieb and Past President Summer Bonifacio of Rotaract Club of Manila, as well as PP Barbara Pauli of Rotaract Club of Weimar, Germany.

The Sisters of Mary Banneux campus has entered into a 3-year MOU to serve as the first of TeethCloud's global Virtual Research Hubs and will bring oral health benefits to over 5,000 students there.

As of the August 8th program, a survey of 3,100+ has already taken place; training for 90 faculty members has been completed; and an awareness/oral hygiene education/materials distribution program has reached 2,800 students.



TeethCloud and Rotary Club of Manila Unite to Bring Oral Health Care to Students in Silang, Cavite

“We’re extremely happy that our first Research Hub is beginning in the Philippines where TeethCloud got its start! The faculty and students of the Sisters of Mary have been immensely supportive of our initial efforts, and their cooperation has influenced similar programs in Cebu, Canada, El Salvador, and Brazil to express an interest in duplicating this model,” said Dr. Cutter.

With three years (and hopefully more), this outreach offers the service ethic of Rotarians worldwide to support and care for this population and others.



Past Director Beda G. Fajardo

Inducted: March 1, 1996

Paul Harris Fellow, 1996

Leon Lambert, 2019

Membership Classification: Senior Active
Club Positions:

- Director, RY 2002-2004
- Assistant Secretary, RY 2001-2002



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

With Leni G. Lobredo to assist in convincing her to run for the Presidency in 2028. Personally, the country's surest chance for better and more patriotic governance based on proven performance and honesty by example.

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

Reading history books and visiting museums.

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

Face all challenges to your level best through just and honest toil, and what is good for the greatest number.

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

With family.

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

I hope to witness at least one of my children and grandchildren serve their country patriotically and make a difference for future generations.

What is your favorite part of Rotary?

Camaraderie and fun.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Rotary
District 3810



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

PAGSIKLAB

THE VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR

"Heart of Heritage, Driven by Purpose in Service, Fueled by Innovation"



DATE

August 22, 2026



TIME

Registration - 8AM
Program - 9am-5PM



VENUE

Philippine Trade
Training Center
Pasay City

**SCAN
ME!**



BPI

RC MANILA 101
FERDINAND ANDRES
CLUB TREASURER

EARLY BIRD RATE: PHP 1,500
Until Aug 8

REGULAR RATE: PHP 1,700
Until Aug 21



**NO ONSITE
REGISTRATION**

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Club of Manila 101

**DISTRICT PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM
MEMBERSHIP & TRF COMMITTEE TEAM**

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Core Group Planning Meeting of Rotary District 3810 under DGE Jun Pasion for RY 2027-2028



DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday attended the core group planning meeting of Rotary District 3810 under DGE Jun Pasion for RY 2027-2028 last August 14, 2026 at Barcino S'Maison Mall, Pasay City.



DISTRICT EVENTS

31st Charter Anniversary and 32nd Induction of the Rotary Club of Manila Bay



President Reggie Yu attended the 31st Charter Anniversary and 32nd Induction of the Rotary Club of Manila Bay last August 13, 2026 at the Chardonnay by Astoria in Pasig City. He was with his fellow Impact Creating Presidents in this photo.



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 31st Charter Anniversary and 32nd Induction of the Rotary Club of Manila Bay, where he is an Honorary Member. He also conducted the Charging of New Members in the said induction.



DISTRICT EVENTS

42nd Handover and 43rd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA



President Reggie Yu attended the 42nd Handover and 43rd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA last August 18, 2026 at the Hilton Manila, Newport, Pasay City.



President Reggie Yu congratulating the Impact Creating President of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA during the induction



President Reggie Yu with his fellow Impact Creating Presidents at the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA Induction

DISTRICT EVENTS

42nd Handover and 43rd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 42nd Handover and 43rd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA. He is shown in the photo with fellow District Governors, DGE Jun Pasion, EMGA PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray, IPDG Mary Mei Rodrigo, PDG Lai de la Cruz, and PDG Paco Atayde.



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of New Members at the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA Induction.



DGN Hermie Esguerra in a group photo with the members of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA during the induction.

RECOGNITION CORNER

RCM President Reginald Yu: UPAA Distinguished Alumni Awardee in Community Empowerment



President Reginald Yu holding the 2026 *UP Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in Community Empowerment* at Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman



President Reginald Yu with his family at the 2026 UPAA Awards Ceremony at Ang Bahay ng Alumni



President Reginald Yu receiving the 2026 *UPAA Distinguished Alumni Award in Community Empowerment* from UPAA President Robert Lester F. Aranton and UP President Angelo A. Jimenez

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast



Aleco breakfast held on August 10, 2026. Eric Severino, an ATM pioneer in the Philippines, presented digital payments technology. Non-Aleco guests also attended the fintech presentation. IPVP Ricky Guevara and PD Jun Hallare were not in the photo.



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

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Two-thirds



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, the presiding officer of the Senate impeachment court, has ruled that 16 votes—in a chamber of 24—are needed to convict and remove Vice President Sara Duterte, regardless of whether some senators are detained, in hiding, sick, or otherwise unable to participate in the proceedings. His position appears to be anchored on a literal understanding of the Constitution: "No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate."

I AM NOT A POLITICIAN AND CANNOT DIVINE THE SENATE'S POLITICAL WISDOM in computing its math. But I can offer a legal and judicial perspective on how the Supreme Court determines its majority—on how it ascertains the voting denominator when resolving cases.

To be precise, the Court does not always compute its majority from its full complement of 15 members. The Internal Rules of the Court provide that an en banc case requires a quorum of at least eight members, and a decision on a case is attained with the "concurrence of the majority of the Members of the Court who actually took part in the deliberations" and voted thereon. Consequently, the computation of the mathematical denominator shifts depending on ACTIVE participation. Let me cite some examples:

One, let us consider the notorious flip-flops in "League of Cities v. Comelec" (Dec. 21, 2009, per J. Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., en banc). After initially declaring the "Cityhood Laws" unconstitutional in 2008 through a narrow 6-5 vote, the Court reversed course in 2009 by declaring them constitutional via a 6-4 vote. The reversal succeeded because two vacancies and three abstentions reduced the denominator to only 10 justices. A year later, the Court, voting 7-6, reinstated its original ruling (of unconstitutionality) using the denominator of 13 because two justices "took no part."

Two, the Court in "Cruz v. DENR Secretary" (Dec. 6, 2000, per curiam) illustrated again how this changing denominator can alter outcomes,

showing how a case is often "won or lost on the basis of one vote." Thus, when the constitutionality of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 was challenged in that case, the Court en banc had only 14 members due to the retirement of J. Fidel P. Purisima. The vote was deadlocked at 7-7. Failing to obtain a majority of the 14 justices (which is eight), the petition was deemed unmeritorious and the constitutionality of the law was thereby upheld.

Three, citing the Cruz case, the Court in "De Castro v. Judicial and Bar Council" (Mar. 17, 2010, per J., later CJ Lucas P. Bersamin, en banc) emphasized that the constitutional prohibition on midnight presidential appointments does not extend to the appointment of the members of the judiciary.

Moreover, the Court stressed that "[m]ore than the vote, Court deliberation is the core of the decision-making process, and one voice less is not only a vote less but a contributed opinion, an observation, or a cautionary word less for the Court." It added that a court without a chief justice is not a whole Supreme Court with only 14 members who could not effectively act and vote on critical matters that "may gravely affect the nation."

BE THAT AS IT MAY, THESE EXAMPLES DO NOT NECESSARILY ANSWER the question we are taking up. Unlike the Supreme Court, which reviews only questions of law on facts

proven in the trial courts, or admitted as true by the parties, or otherwise "judicially noticed," the Senate impeachment court conducts riveting, if not entertaining, trials, receives evidence, hears witnesses, and observes their demeanor on the stand to excavate the facts.

To stress, the Supreme Court is not a trier of facts. Its function is limited to reviewing errors of law that may have been committed by the lower courts and/or determining whether a governmental act has been attended by grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction.

Thus, the analogy I propose is not for the Senate to follow blindly the Court's method of ascertaining the voting denominator. Rather, my thesis is that the two-thirds voting requirement cannot be understood or enforced without first identifying the correct mathematical denominator.

THE TWO-THIRDS RULING OF ESCUDERO IS NOT WRITTEN IN STONE. He could reverse himself at any time, or the impeachment court can reverse or modify his ruling at the proper time. I believe that such ruling is merely interlocutory and does not become final until the decision is reached. Moreover, its reversal or modification requires only a simple majority, not two-thirds.

Nonetheless, the issue will impel the highest tribunal to act only after it determines that the Senate committed grave abuse of discretion. If it was merely discharging its constitutional prerogatives, as contradistinguished from "gravely" abusing its discretion, the Court will not interfere.

At bottom, though granted the power to chart its own course, the impeachment court remains susceptible to the shifting moods of public sentiment. It is therefore the duty of the Supreme Court to anchor, when properly petitioned, the exercise of such power to the rule of law and not to concede it to unreliable partisan passion.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



Pax Silica: Will it be good for the country, or not?



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
August 16, 2026 | 12:00am

For the past few weeks, questions about Pax Silica have been brought forward. Is it really good for the Philippines? Will it bring investments and jobs as promised? What about the environment, water and electricity requirements and questions involving Philippine sovereignty?

These are definitely legitimate questions that deserve factual answers. However, we should not reject outright an opportunity before examining what it can actually bring or do. Our electronics and semiconductor industry is significant, and we have a technically capable workforce. Pax Silica presents an opportunity to move further up the value chain and not be stuck with lower-value activities because our engineers and scientists are capable of doing more.

Trade Undersecretary Perry Rodolfo described the proposed hub as a “win-win,” framing economic security in terms of improving the lives of Filipinos and increasing Philippine participation in emerging industrial supply chains. Economic analysts say Pax Silica can strengthen Philippine resilience and industrialization; it’s a manufacturing and high-technology endeavor rather than a war-driven project.

While we were one of the first to be chosen, there are those quick to speculate on the downside instead of examining the potential upside. Some concerns raised are legitimate, but quite a number of those mouthing criticisms are obviously advancing other interests, totally not serving our own.

Global interest has been growing on Pax Silica, a US-led initiative aimed at strengthening secure technology supply chains among trusted partners. The initiative reaches across core sectors that are critical to the global technology ecosystem: critical minerals, semiconductors and electronics, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, computing and data infrastructure.

Launched last December, membership has since rapidly expanded to over 30 countries, with many others eager to join the initiative. The Philippines formally joined Pax Silica in April. Under the framework, the US and the Philippines plan to establish an Economic Security Zone spanning approximately 4,000 acres in New Clark City within the Luzon Economic Corridor (LEC). The proposed site is the first AI-native industrial acceleration hub under Pax Silica and will also serve as a platform for allied manufacturing. It’s an ecosystem that would connect technology companies, research institutions and government agencies, and attract high-value investments.

The initiative is important because the world economy is going through a massive transformation, shifting away from traditional globalization to a model that is focused on the twin objectives of national and economic security – essentially two sides of the same coin.

Artificial intelligence is no longer simply about computers providing smart or clever answers. AI, and the technologies surrounding it, are going to increasingly influence how factories operate, how medicines are discovered, how logistics networks function, how financial systems work and, ultimately, how competitive nations will become. Secure supplies of semiconductors, critical minerals, energy, computing capacity and advanced manufacturing are going to become matters of



Pax Silica: Will it be good for the country, or not?



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economic security and commercial policy.

Modern supply chains proved vulnerable during the pandemic. And with the situation in the Middle East, governments and companies are looking for reliable locations to manufacture, process, store and move critical products. The Philippines' geographic position, longstanding alliance with the US, the LEC and a large English-speaking workforce are advantages that should not be underestimated. However, enthusiasm for investment should never prevent us from insisting on safeguards that protect Philippine interests. We should aim for Filipino engineers designing technology, Filipino scientists conducting research, Filipino graduates working in advanced manufacturing and AI and Filipino companies eventually becoming suppliers and innovators in their own right.

Environmental concerns must be addressed directly, particularly massive requirements for water and electricity, plus questions on land use, surrounding communities and environmental protection – issues that responsible planning must solve before and during construction.

The answer is not to choose between development and environmental protection as though the Philippines can have only one. The answer is to design the project properly: identify sustainable power sources, establish credible water-management plans, require environmental compliance, protect surrounding communities and

make the standards and monitoring mechanisms transparent. A project advertised as representing the technological future should also aspire to modern environmental standards.

An important point: there will be no AI and hyper-scale data centers inside New Clark City because the location does not have the required electricity supply, according to BCDA president and CEO Jake Bingang, who disclosed that an interested AI company has chosen Malaysia instead.

Which brings to mind something I have publicly emphasized: the Philippines is not the only country capable of hosting advanced technology investment. If we “drop the ball,” there are other Asian countries ready to take it on and move quickly without hesitation. The US and allied groups may see advantages in the Philippines, but we should never assume that investments will wait forever while we go into the typical “paralysis by analysis.” The old saying “he who hesitates is lost” brings to mind the time when we “dropped the ball” on the Pfizer vaccines at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. We had 10 million vaccines that were coming our way, but by taking our time signing a prerequisite requirement, a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) which was so simple and could have possibly saved lives – we ended up at the end of the line.

We have been talking for decades about advancing the Philippines into a modern industrial and technological nation. Yes, we should scrutinize Pax Silica and insist on safeguards. However, the bigger danger may not be Pax Silica coming to the Philippines but watching investments, technology and jobs going elsewhere – realizing years later that we once again missed out on a significant opportunity and allowed the future to pass us by.



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**543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
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