



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. 4103 • AUGUST 27, 2026



Guest of Honor and Speaker

SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

*Senator of the Republic of the Philippines
Defender of Women, Children, and Vulnerable Sectors
Champion of Good Governance, Health, and Education*

**When Power
Meets
Accountability**

**Call for Nominations
for RY 2027-2028**

**Transformative
Medical Mission 2026**

**PAGSIKLAB:
The Vibrant
Club Seminar**



CONTENTS

6 Editorial: The Lonely Fight

14 Guest of Honor and Speaker:
Senator Ana Theresia “Risa” N. Hontiveros

18 When Power Meets Accountability

52 Transformative Medical Mission 2026

60 In Focus: Past RCMFI President
Wilfredo “Willie” Peliño

64 District Activities and Events

82 Fellowship

88 In The News

8th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Guest of Honor and Speaker
Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" N. Hontiveros
*Senator of the Republic of the Philippines
Defender of Women, Children, and Vulnerable Sectors
Champion of Good Governance, Health, and Education*

Thursday, August 27, 2026, 12:00 PM | Makati A&B Room, Makati Shangri-La, Manila

Moderator: Assistant Secretary Jonas R. Gonzales

PROGRAM

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
- 12:00 PM **Call to Order**
President Reginald T. Yu
- Invocation
- Rotarian Wilfredo M. Peliño**
- Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- The Four-Way Test
Rotarian J Alfonso L Katigbak
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
STAR Rotarian Hridesh "Raj" Parwani
- Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- 12:15 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**
- Aug 30 Rotarian Emil Lao
 - Sept 1 Rotarian John Tan
- Happy Birthday Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale

PART II

- 12:20 PM **Club Nomination of Officers**
Chairman, Election Committee
Immediate Past President Raoul C. Creencia
- 12:30 PM **Introduction of the Guest of Honor & Speaker**
Rotarian Victor G. Garcia III
- Address:
Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" N. Hontiveros
*Senator of the Republic of the Philippines
Defender of Women, Children, & Vulnerable Sectors
Champion of Good Governance, Health, and Education*
- 12:50 PM **Open Forum**
- 1:15 PM **Response**
- 1:25 PM **Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation**
- 1:30 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

The Lonely Fight

ONE of the most beloved musicals both onstage and on-screen is *The Sound of Music*, which won five Tony Awards and five Oscars, including Best Musical and Best Picture. Its songs and storyline have since become a staple in many a school production, such that many viewers gloss over the social messages embedded in it. Set amid the harsh realities of impending war and the emergence of a fascist, repressive regime, it offers a lens onto realities of that point in history as seen through the life of a relatable family.



Rotarian Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

The protagonists chose to sacrifice status, comfort, security, and potentially their own lives, to stand up for what they believed was right, despite urging from close friends to comply, ignore, and look out for oneself - a position taken by so many from that milieu.

Recent developments in the Philippines also reveal harsh realities: the aftermath of a bloody drug war, a political landscape dominated by dynasties, natural disasters that transform communities into lakes and neighborhoods into raging rivers,

EDITORIAL

public funds allegedly finding their way from infrastructure projects into suitcases if the stories are to be believed, and an infectious indifference to a bullying neighbor's encroachment upon the nation's patrimony.

Meanwhile, solo parents raise families with little institutional support. LGBTQIA+ Filipinos still have no national law shielding them from discrimination. The elderly, already deemed uninsurable, do not get much from what was supposed to be universal healthcare. Filipino pupils and students,

Jose Rizal's fair hope for the Motherland, rank among the lowest in the region, if not the world, when it comes to basic competencies such as reading and comprehension.

Into this landscape steps Senator Ana Theresia Navarro Hontiveros Baraquel, Risa Hontiveros to most Filipinos, a figure whose career has been defined less by political comfort than by persistence in uncomfortable rooms. Incidentally, she performed in Repertory Philippines' '80s production of *The Sound of Music* alongside Leah Salonga, siblings Menchu and Raymond Lauchengco, and Monique Wilson.



*The young Risa Hontiveros as Louisa in *The Sound of Music*. Credit: Repertory Philippines*

Hontiveros's legislative record is not built on speeches alone. She served as a young Akbayan party-list representative in the House from 2004 to 2010, and is now in her second term in the Senate - a term that currently includes a role as Senator-Judge in the impeachment trial of the Vice President. She focused early on health and social justice - groundwork for a Senate career that would later produce the Expanded Maternity Leave Law (RA 11210) and the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act (RA 11861), a measure she authored after becoming a solo parent to four children herself following her husband's death in 2005. It is rare for a law to be so plainly

EDITORIAL

autobiographical; rarer still for that law to pass.

The Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313), which protects Filipinos - especially women - from gender-based harassment in public spaces, the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children Law (RA 11930), which boosts government efforts to end online abuse and exploitation of Filipino children, and the Mental Health Law (RA 11036), which provides the first legal framework for mental health care in the country, are the fruits of her advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable. Her most stubborn fight, however, remains unfinished. For years she has authored and re-filed the SOGIESC Equality Bill, seeking basic protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The measure has repeatedly stalled, blocked by those who favored a vaguer alternative and referred back to committee.

What distinguishes Hontiveros from many of her colleagues is not simply what she has proposed, but the isolation in which she has often had to propose it. During her first term as a senator, she was a vocal critic - one of very few - of the Duterte administration and its war on drugs. After the 2022 elections swept in a Senate dominated by the Uniteam, she emerged as the lone opposition

candidate to win a seat — a distinction that sounds like an honor but functions, in practice, as a burden. Without a reliable bloc, her leverage comes almost entirely from committee work, procedural persistence, and public pressure rather than vote-counting.

That isolation has abated with developments after the 2025 mid-term elections and the leadership changes in the Senate. She is now a member of the majority, chairperson of three major committees, and a more audible fiscalizer both on the Senate floor and at the hearings of the powerful Commission on Appointments.

However, the fight rages on, whether over press freedom, the West Philippine Sea, or dismissive remarks about her



Senator-judge Risa Hontiveros. Credit: ANC 24/7

EDITORIAL

lack of a law degree. Being the last woman standing has its costs: red-tagging, condescension, even death threats, and the simple exhaustion of relitigating the same fights year after year with little or no reinforcement.

That track record — legislative substance paired with unwavering persistence — is precisely what her supporters now cite as she weighs a 2028 presidential run. The "Risa Na" movement, launched by Akbayan and allied groups, argues that her record of advocacy and integrity makes her a natural standard-bearer for a campaign still searching for a single, winnable candidate.

The obstacles, though, are real and worth stating plainly. Early polling has been unkind: surveys through mid-2026 place her well behind frontrunner Vice President Sara Duterte, sometimes by margins as wide as 60 to 21 percent in head-to-head matchups. She has also trailed other opposition figures like Leni Robredo and Bam Aquino in multi-candidate surveys. Critics — including allies of the Dutertes — have dismissed her confrontational Senate style as calculated positioning for exactly this moment, rather than principle. And the lay of the land remains unclear, with no consensus yet on whether Hontiveros, rather than someone else, should be the opposition's unifying figure.

Whether her allies' efforts translate into a viable campaign remains to be seen. What is not in question is the labor that precedes it: that of a legislator who has spent over two decades converting personal and political conviction into law, often as the only person in the room willing to do so. Whether Philippine voters reward that exertion with the presidency, or whether the numbers simply prove too steep to overcome, remains one of the more consequential open questions of the 2028 race.



Credit: Instagram / hontiverosrisa

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

*Senator of the Republic of the Philippines
Defender of Women, Children, and Vulnerable Sectors
Champion of Good Governance, Health, and Education*

SENATOR Risa Hontiveros is known for her tireless work in promoting public health, women's rights, and the welfare of the Filipino family. She is a multi-awarded public servant, community organizer, and journalist elected to the Senate in 2016.

In her first term, she successfully championed landmark laws, including the historic Expanded Maternity Leave Law that gives working moms 105 days of paid maternity leave, and the Philippine-Mental Health Law, the country's first ever national policy to care for Filipinos' mental health.

As a longtime health advocate, she pushed for the passage of the Universal Healthcare Law and the Expanded Anti-



Credit: Senate of the Philippines

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

hospital Deposit Law to ensure the Filipino family's well-being before profit, and to make health more accessible to all.

Even amidst the pandemic, Senator Risa pushed for free dialysis for senior citizens and for the timely release of benefits and salaries for health workers.

As Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Women, Senator Hontiveros also authored the Safe Streets and Public Spaces Law or the *Bawal Bastos* Law that protects all Filipinos, particularly women, from gender-based harassment in the streets, public transportation, schools, and the workplace. During the biggest public health crisis of our time, she also pushed for the Maternity Benefit for Women in the Informal Economy Act, to help ease the multiple burdens of women exacerbated by the pandemic.

Senator Hontiveros worked on expanding the Solo Parents' Act to further help single moms and dads in providing for their families. The Senator is also pushing for an increase on the monthly pension of senior citizens through the *Lingap Para Kayo Lolo at Lola Bill*.



Even before becoming a legislator, in 2005, she was one of 27 Filipinas who earned a nomination to the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize for her work in the peace movement.

Senator Hontiveros is a loving and hands-on solo mother to 4 children - Kiko, Issa, Helena and Sinta.

When Power Meets Accountability

By President Reginald T. Yu



THE Rotary Club of Manila placed one of the country's most consequential constitutional issues at the center of its civic forum on August 20, 2026, as Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan, Private Prosecutor of the House Prosecution Panel in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte, addressed the Club's 7th Weekly Membership Meeting of Rotary Year 2026–2027 at Makati Shangri-La, Manila.

With RCM Director Atty. Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV serving as moderator, the gathering moved beyond the personalities and political divisions surrounding the impeachment and into a broader examination of accountability, public trust, equality before the law, and the resilience of Philippine democratic institutions.



Director Atty. Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV moderated the meeting.



President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order.



STAR Rotarian Jason Valderrama led the invocation.



RCM members and guests paid tribute to the Philippine flag, honoring it as a symbol of our nation's pride, unity and freedom.



Club Secretary Albert S. Alday led the recitation of The Four-Way Test and warmly welcomed the guests and visiting Rotarians.



RCM World-Famous Music Chorale serenaded the members and guests with a heartfelt Welcome Song.



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.



STAR Rotarian Atty. Job Gesmundo introduced the guest speaker.

Ligutan opened his address by acknowledging the Rotary Club of Manila as an institution whose members have, for generations, helped shape the country's civic, economic, and moral landscape. An invitation to speak before Rotary, he said, demanded more than the delivery of prepared remarks; it required an accounting of one's principles, beliefs, and convictions.

He then described the Philippines as being at an important crossroads, confronting profound questions about governance, accountability, and the durability of democracy.

According to Ligutan, these questions transcend partisan politics because they test whether institutions are strong enough to withstand scrutiny, whether leaders are willing to accept oversight, and whether democratic systems remain capable of correcting themselves.

"Accountability is not politics even when politics tries to make it look that way," he said, describing it instead as a democratic necessity and impeachment as one of the constitutional mechanisms through which it is enforced.

Ligutan stressed that impeachment should neither be treated as spectacle nor as an instrument for merely targeting political opponents. Rather, he described it as a serious constitutional inquiry into the conduct of officials occupying the highest levels of government.



Guest Speaker Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan, Private Prosecutor of the House Prosecution Panel in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte

At its core, he said, impeachment asks a solemn question: Are the country's highest officials still worthy of the public trust?

A Call That Changed the Course of His Career

Beyond the constitutional arguments, Ligutan gave RCM members a personal account of how he became involved in the impeachment proceedings.

He recalled receiving a telephone call from a priest sometime in December 2024 asking whether he would help file an impeachment complaint against Vice President Duterte.

Ligutan said he did not hesitate.

He subsequently represented a group of

priests, nuns, civic leaders, and lawyers seeking accountability from the Vice President. When the first impeachment proceeding was dismissed, Ligutan said the setback gave him time to reflect more deeply on the gravity of his responsibility and the reasons behind his decision to pursue the case.

Months later, the group approached him again.

"Attorney, will you lawyer for us once more?" he recalled being asked.

Again, his answer was yes.

For Ligutan, accountability could not be optional, seasonal, or dependent upon convenience. It demanded persistence and sacrifice, particularly when those being subjected to scrutiny occupied positions of considerable power.

He argued that the impeachment therefore represented more than a trial of Vice President Duterte. It was also a test of the country's systems, democratic norms, expectations of leadership, and collective commitment to truth.

Even the senator-judges who would sit in judgment, Ligutan argued, faced their own institutional test: whether they would permit transparency, withstand political pressures, and remain faithful to both the letter and spirit of the Constitution.



A Dream Born During the Estrada Impeachment

One of the most personal moments of Ligutan's address came when he traced his interest in accountability to another defining chapter in Philippine political history.

As a young college student, Ligutan watched the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada unfold on national television. He remembered watching the prosecutors walk out and the senators vote 11–10 against opening the controversial second envelope.

While millions of Filipinos watched the same historic events, the proceedings left a particular impression on the young Ligutan.

“Someday, I want to be there,” he remembered thinking. “Someday, I want to stand in that arena. Someday, I want to help hold power accountable.”

At the time, Ligutan said he had neither political connections nor powerful patrons. He instead pursued the long route of study, legal practice, litigation and teaching, building his professional life “brick by brick, case by case, student by student.”

Years later, when the House of Representatives asked him to serve as one of the private prosecutors in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Duterte, the ambition first formed while watching the Estrada trial had come full circle

The account offered RCM members a glimpse into how an event witnessed by a young student decades ago would eventually influence the direction of his professional life — until he was no longer watching an impeachment from outside the arena but participating in another chapter of the country's constitutional history.

Justice for the Powerful and the Powerless

The moral center of Ligutan's address emerged from a story far removed from the halls of political power.

He recalled reading a news report about a public school teacher who was convicted and ordered imprisoned for 11 years for stealing ₱5,000.

The case prompted him to ask what justice demands when those accused are powerful and the amounts involved are exponentially greater.

"If the law can be this unforgiving, this absolute toward a teacher who stole ₱5,000," he asked, what should happen when the accused is powerful and the sums involved reach hundreds of millions of pesos?

For Ligutan, equality before the law meant that justice could not become harsh toward the powerless while becoming timid in the presence of power.

"The true test of justice is not how it treats the powerless, but how it confronts the powerful," he said.

He distilled the principle further: "The law must be big enough to protect the small, and strong enough to confront the big."

From there, Ligutan widened the discussion beyond the impeachment itself.

Who guards those entrusted with guarding the country's institutions? Who protects the public coffers? Who ensures that confidential funds remain confidential for legitimate reasons rather than becoming mechanisms for concealing wrongdoing? And who ensures that accountability does not stop with ordinary government employees, barangay treasurers, or school teachers but extends to the highest offices of the land?

Ligutan also rejected the idea that pursuing one major controversy should require ignoring another. Referring to allegations involving flood-control projects alongside controversies over confidential funds, he argued that government should pursue wrongdoing wherever evidence leads.



His message was clear: accountability loses its moral credibility when its application depends upon the political identity of the person involved.

The People Are Not Mere Spectators

Ligutan further argued that the significance of the impeachment extends far beyond the Vice President.

Its consequences, he said, touch the “architecture” of Philippine democracy, the credibility of institutions, and the future direction of governance. A nation incapable of holding its leaders accountable, he warned, cannot move forward.

But responsibility, he emphasized, does

not rest solely upon prosecutors, defense lawyers, legislators, or senator-judges.

The Filipino people also have a role.

Every document, witness, video, audit report, and piece of evidence presented in the proceedings should challenge citizens to think critically rather than simply choose a political camp, he said. Citizens should neither assume that every accusation establishes guilt nor automatically dismiss accusations as persecution.

Instead, Ligutan urged the public to weigh the evidence and demand substantive answers, describing this responsibility as part of the people’s

right to determine the kind of society they wish to live in and eventually leave to their children.

For the Rotary Club of Manila, the discussion resonated naturally with the principles of the Four-Way Test, particularly its first two questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned?

The Four-Way Test offers no verdict on an impeachment proceeding. But its emphasis on truth and fairness provides a useful civic discipline: facts must be examined, evidence must be weighed, and standards should remain consistent regardless of the personalities or political affiliations involved.

The Danger of ‘Moral Favoritism’

Near the end of his address, Ligutan turned to what he described as a quieter danger confronting Philippine society: “moral favoritism.”

He questioned whether wrongdoing should ever become acceptable simply because people happen to admire or support the individual accused of committing it. Such selective morality, he suggested, risks weakening the very standards citizens expect government to uphold.

The larger question, he said, was whether the country would regress or



Atty. Ligutan engaged in an interactive exchange of ideas with members and guests.



“turn the page” and move forward.

For Ligutan, the impeachment was therefore not merely a legal contest between prosecution and defense. He framed it as a struggle over accountability and equality before the law, over progress rather than regression, and ultimately as “a fight for the soul of the nation.”

RCM as a Forum for Consequential Conversations

The presence of Ligutan at the RCM podium also underscored the Club’s continuing role as a civic forum where difficult national issues may be discussed without requiring institutional endorsement of a speaker’s position.

The Rotary Club of Manila is not a political party, and hosting a prosecutor, public official, opposition figure, advocate, or critic does not in itself signify the Club’s adoption of that individual’s views. Rather, such meetings provide members an opportunity to hear consequential arguments firsthand, subject them to questions, and arrive at their own informed conclusions.

That tradition was evident during the open forum that followed Ligutan’s address, with the official program providing for an exchange between the



guest speaker and members before the presentation of the Club’s Certificate of Appreciation and adjournment.

For more than a century, the Rotary Club of Manila has brought presidents, legislators, jurists, diplomats, business leaders, academics, reformers, artists and advocates before its membership. They have not always agreed with one



President Reggie Yu presented the Certificate of Appreciation and a hardbound copy of the 107th Anniversary Souvenir Program to guest speaker Atty. Amando Virgil D. Ligutan.

another, nor have RCM members necessarily agreed with every position expressed from its podium.

The enduring value of the forum lies precisely in that independence. On August 20, the Club heard from a lawyer directly involved in one of the most consequential constitutional controversies of the day. Behind the private prosecutor, however, was also the story of a college student who had once watched another impeachment trial through a television screen and quietly imagined that he might someday enter that arena himself.

Decades later, he did.

And inside Makati Shangri-La that Thursday afternoon, the discussion ultimately transcended the fate of any

one public official. It returned instead to a principle that applies equally to government, civic institutions, business and individual citizenship:

When power meets accountability, the true test is whether the same principles still apply regardless of who holds that power.



President Reggie Yu adjourned the meeting.



Atty. Amando Virgil Ligutan fields questions from the mainstream press and media following the Rotary Club of Manila's 7th Weekly Membership Meeting. His appearance drew considerable media interest given his central role in the impeachment proceedings, with journalists seeking further insights into the legal, constitutional, and institutional issues surrounding the case.



Meeting Fellowship



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.	August 13, 2026 UP COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS DEAN TOYM LEON IMAO	August 20, 2026 ATTY. AMANDO VIRGIL D. LIGUTAN
MEMBERS PRESENT	30	31	36
MEMBERS PRESENT %	15%	15%	18%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	5	11	4
EXEMPTED	3	4	3
ON LEAVE	0	0	0
Total Active Members	35	42	40
Total # of Members	203	203	203
TOTAL %:	17%	21%	20%
ROTARACTORS	6	5	5
MEDIA	0	0	4
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	1	1	6
VISITING ROTARIAN	8	0	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	6	5	2
TOTAL ATTENDEES	51	42	49

LIST OF ATTENDEES August 20, 2026

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Albaña, Michael Jaey C. | 19 | Ke, Eric C. |
| 2 | Alday, Albert S. | 20 | Kho, Ralph Valentin L. |
| 3 | Bella, Geronimo P. Jr. | 21 | Lonzaga, Reinerio C. |
| 4 | Benedicto, Sixto T. | 22 | Manalaysay, Cesar P. |
| 5 | Carlos, Vicente J. | 23 | Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G. |
| 6 | Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M. | 24 | Mauricio, Antonilo DC. |
| 7 | Co, Val Constantine L. | 25 | Mauricio, Francisco Roberto DC. |
| 8 | Cureg, Alexander P. | 26 | Peliño, Wilfredo M. |
| 9 | Cutter, John Michael | 27 | Preysler, Fausto R. Jr. |
| 10 | De Venecia, Jose III | 28 | Rodriguez, Joaquin C. Sr. |
| 11 | Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A. | 29 | Schneider, Bernd |
| 12 | Eldebs, Issam | 30 | Serapio, Carlos G. |
| 13 | Enriquez, Eduardo V. III | 31 | Simon, Juanito A. |
| 14 | Esguerra, Herminio S. | 32 | Tamesis, Chris C. |
| 15 | Gesmundo, Joseph Benedict | 33 | Valderrama, Jason Romeo C. |
| 16 | Guevara, Domingo SB. Jr. | 34 | Valencia, John Nico P. |
| 17 | Guevara, Ricardo S. | 35 | Yu, Reginald T. |
| 18 | Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y. IV | 36 | Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco S. |



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

As of August 25, 2026

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

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



LEAD. SERVE. INSPIRE.
Your Leadership. Our Future.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FOR ROTARY YEAR 2027-2028

The Rotary Club of Manila invites all qualified and dedicated members to step forward and be part of our leadership team as we continue to **T.U.R.N. Toward a Unified Rotary Nation** and Create Lasting Impact in our community and beyond.



NOMINATION DAY

Thursday, August 27, 2026
Makati Shangri-la, Manila



ELECTION DAY

Thursday, September 24, 2026
Hybrid Elections

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC)



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
RAOUL CREENCIA
Chairman



PAST PRESIDENT
ARCHIT BARTOLOME
Co-Chairman

MEMBERS



PAST PRESIDENT
CHITO ZALDARRIAGA



IMMEDIATE PAST
VICE-PRESIDENT
RICKY GUEVARA



ROTARIAN
NICO HALLARE



STAR ROTARIAN
WINSTON GINEZ



DIRECTOR
CHARLIE SERAPIO

Nominate. Lead. Make a Difference.
BE PART OF THE CHANGE.



TURN

TOWARD A UNIFIED ROTARY NATION

TRANSFORMATIVE MEDICAL MISSION 2026

Transforming Lives Through Collaborative Service.

AN INVITATION TO CO-HOST OUR FLAGSHIP HUMANITARIAN PROJECT

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Rotary Club of Makati East invites your club to become an Official Co-Host of our flagship humanitarian initiative, the Transformative Medical Mission 2026.

Together with Rotary clubs, healthcare professionals, universities, corporate partners, and volunteers, we will deliver integrated healthcare and community development services to underserved communities.

	DATE	22 August 2026 (Saturday)
	VENUE	Lyceum of the Philippines University – Laguna
	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	1,200+ individuals
	COMMUNITIES SERVED	Six (6) Barangays in Calamba, Laguna
	ESTIMATED PROJECT VALUE	₱3–5 MILLION worth of medical services, medicines, diagnostics and healthcare interventions

DELIVERING IMPACT ACROSS ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS

-  **DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT**
Medical consultations, specialist care, laboratory diagnostics, medicines, minor procedures, and patient referrals.
-  **MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**
OB-Gynecology, Pediatrics, prenatal and child wellness consultations, and maternal health education.
-  **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Financial wellness seminars, financial literacy, savings and investment education, and family financial planning.
-  **BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY**
Health education, preventive healthcare awareness, nutrition, and wellness sessions.

MEDICAL SERVICES

-  General Medicine
-  Pediatrics
-  OB-Gynecology
-  Surgery
-  Ophthalmology
-  Dentistry
-  Laboratory Tests
-  ECG
-  Ultrasound
-  X-ray
-  Pharmacy
-  Minor Procedures
-  Health Education
-  Financial Wellness
-  Patient Referral

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

-  **₱3–5M**
ESTIMATED HEALTHCARE VALUE
-  **1,200+**
TARGET BENEFICIARIES
-  **6**
COMMUNITIES SERVED
-  **50+**
DOCTORS & HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
-  **20+**
ROTARY CLUBS & PARTNERS
-  **₱20,000**
CO-HOSTING FEE

WHY CO-HOST?

Your club directly contributes to a high-impact project that transforms lives while strengthening interclub collaboration and expanding Rotary's reach in our communities.

CO-HOST BENEFITS

- ✓ Official recognition as a Co-Hosting Club
- ✓ Club logo featured in event publicity and project materials
- ✓ Recognition during opening and closing ceremonies
- ✓ Certificate of Appreciation
- ✓ Inclusion in the official post-project impact report
- ✓ Opportunity to participate through volunteers and club members
- ✓ Strengthened fellowship through collaborative service



TOGETHER, WE CREATE A RIPPLE OF IMPACT.

One consultation. One diagnosis. One family empowered. One community transformed.

Let's transform lives—together.



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Transformative Medical Mission 2026

By PD Henry Go



With Rotarian Nunnatus Jr. Cortez, President of the Rotary Club of Makati East, and our fellow RCMer, Rami Chahwan, during the Transformative Medical Mission 2026, held on August 22, 2026, at Lyceum University Laguna.

Co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Manila, several other Rotary clubs and civic organizations, and the Chahwan family, the medical mission brought together doctors, nurses, medical

professionals, Rotarians, volunteers, and community partners in a shared commitment to serve.

I participated in this meaningful mission, representing the Rotary Club of Manila as Chair of its Rotary Community Corps.

Approximately 1,200 patients benefited from a wide range of free medical services, including chest X-rays and sputum examinations, dental services, blood extraction and laboratory tests, cardiovascular and

Transformative Medical Mission 2026

heart health screening, women's health and wellness services, endoscopy and colonoscopy, minor surgery, and surgical procedures for hernia and cleft lip.

Beyond the numbers and the range of medical services, what made the day truly meaningful was seeing people come together to make healthcare accessible to those who may otherwise have difficulty obtaining it.

Every consultation, examination, procedure, and act of assistance

represented more than medical care. It was an expression of compassion—of giving people not only treatment, but also the reassurance that they are cared for and not forgotten.

As Rotarians, we often speak of “Service Above Self.” On this day, that principle came alive through the generosity of the medical professionals who shared their expertise, the volunteers who gave their time, the organizations that provided support, and everyone who helped make the mission possible.



ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Rotary
Club of Manila



CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

TOGETHER, WE CAN *RISE*

FUND-RAISING DRIVE FOR

CALUMPIT, BULACAN FLOOD VICTIMS



Several areas in **Calumpit, Bulacan** were hit with severe floods following continuous rains in the province.

- ✓ At least **29 barangays** were flooded.
- ✓ Floodwaters in some areas still reach as deep as **1.8 meters (6 feet)**.
- ✓ Thousands of families are displaced and in urgent need of assistance.



The Rotary Club of Manila plans to distribute
READY-TO-CONSUME FOOD ITEMS to

150 FAMILIES

in the most affected areas of

BARANGAYS BULUSAN, CALIZON, AND BALUNGAO

where floodwaters still reach as deep as 1.8 meters (6 feet).



TARGET DATE FOR
GOODS DISTRIBUTION:
**FIRST WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 2025**

HOW YOU CAN HELP



DONATE

Your generous donations will provide food, hope, and strength to families in Calumpit.



JOIN

Be part of our relief distribution team. Every helping hand makes a difference.



SHARE

Help us spread the word and encourage others to extend compassion to those in need.

PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS THROUGH:



Rotary Club of Manila
Metrobank, Anda Circle Branch
151-7-15151486-0

Your donation will go a long way in restoring hope and rebuilding lives. Thank you for your generosity!



All donations will be used exclusively for the purchase of ready-to-consume food items and related expenses for this relief initiative.

*“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.”*
– Helen Keller



For those who wish to join in the distribution or wish to know more details about this initiative, please contact our Executive Secretary,
Ms. Lhea Lozano at +639171523041

*Thank you for your
kindness and support!*



TURN
TOWARD A UNITED
ROTARY NATION



TOGETHER,
we uplift



TOGETHER,
we rebuild



TOGETHER,
we create
lasting impact.

Past RCMFI President Wilfredo “Willie” Peliño

Paul Harris Fellow: RY 2008-2009

Membership Classification:

Education - Private University

Club Position: Past President, RCManila

Foundation Inc., RY 2023-2024

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

Pope Leo XIV - to know and talk with a Holy man. 🙏

If I were being naughty, I would like to have dinner with Jackie Kennedy and ask her what attracted her to Aristotle Onassis? Hahaha.

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

Long drives in the countryside, discovering a good place to eat serving local delicacies.

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

Our pursuits should be aimed at progress, however little it’s possible for us to make.

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

In the fairways or on the beach. 🏊 🌴

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

Camino de Santiago walk with my kids.

What is your favorite part of Rotary?

Fellowship and camaraderie that lead to projects helping the needy.



A ROTARY YOUTH & VOCATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE

KNOW YOURSELF, KNOW YOUR MONEY

Understanding Your Personality,
Money Habits & Financial Future



PART 1 – KNOW YOURSELF

Youth Development Workshop

DISC Personality • Leadership •
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



**ZERO TEN PARK,
MAKATI**

REGISTER NOW >



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Your Voice Matters! Workshop

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Launching of the 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain

Rotary
District 3810

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

On-To Barcelona

LAUNCHING OF THE
2027 ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
in Barcelona, Spain

HOST CLUB:
ROTARY CLUB OF
PASAY SOUTHEAST

Attire:

 SEPTEMBER 22, 2026	 5:00 P.M.	 Traje de <i>Flamenca</i> FOR WOMEN	 Traje de <i>Corto</i> FOR MEN
------------------------	---------------	--	---

Major Co Host: P22,500 (inclusive of 10pax)	Minor Co Host: P12,000 (inclusive of 5pax)	Individual: P2,500
--	---	------------------------------

Deadline of Registration and Payment will be on Sept. 15, 2026

DG Maria Rosa N. Carrion
District Governor
RY 2026-2027

ICP Rayner C. Lorenzo
Impact Creating President
RY 2026-2027

You may deposit your payment to:

Bank: BDO	Account Name : ROTARY CLUB OF PASAY SOUTHEAST DISTRICT 3810	Account No.: 007518002884
---------------------	---	-------------------------------------

Send proof of payment via viber to
Club Treasurer, Rhea Castaneto
(0927-7776057)

Venue: **CASINO ESPAÑOL,**
Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar




PAGSIKLAB

THE VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR

HEART OF HERITAGE. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE IN SERVICE. FUELED BY INNOVATION.

DATE August 22, 2026
TIME 8AM - 5PM
VENUE Philippine Trade Training Center Pasay City

Hosted by:  **Rotary Club of Manila 101**
District Public Image, Membership and The Rotary Foundation Team





PAGSIKLAB

THE VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR

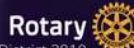
HEART OF HERITAGE. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE IN SERVICE. FUELED BY INNOVATION.

MASTERS OF CEREMONY
ADPIC Juliet Enriquez, Asst District Public Image Coordinator, DPIC Team
Dr. Anna Montesa, RC Manila 101

DISTRICT 3810 PRESENTS

TIME	ACTIVITY	HOST/COORDINATOR
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Registration	
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Call to Order Rotary Protocols	
9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Welcome Remarks	ICP Glen Villaroman, RC Manila 101
9:10 AM - 9:20 AM	Opening Remarks from District Governor	DG AKS Dr Maria Rosa "Bing" Carrion
9:20 AM - 9:30 AM	Vibrant Club Seminar Overview	SDG Majella Tumangan-Villaroman RID 3810 District Public Image Chair RC Manila 101
STATE OF THE NATION: ZONE 11A		
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Membership Reimagined: Growing and Retaining Members in New Ways	RMC PDG Anna Bumagat Zone 11A Rotary Membership Coordinator
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	The Rotary Foundation: Fueling Service with Purpose through the Rotary Foundation	RRFC PDG Rodel Riaz Reyes Zone 11A Rotary Foundation Coordinator
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Overview of Zone 10A Public Image Campaign for RV2025-2026	ARPIC Majella Tumangan-Villaroman Zone 10A Asst Rotary Public Image Coordinator
	Public Image: Rotary Visibility: Building Trust as People of Action	ARPIC Marilen Tronqued-Lagniton Zone 11A Asst Rotary Public Image Coordinator
RI District 3810 Response: "A cohesive action plan where Public Image STRENGTHENS Rotary that SUPPORT TRF"		
11:00 AM - 12 NOON	PANEL MODERATOR	ARPIC Marilen Tronqued-Lagniton Zone 11A Asst Rotary Public Image Coordinator
	PANELISTS	EMGA PDG Joyce Ambray, Zone 11A Endowment and Major Gifts Adviser, Rotary International PDG Ernesto Choa, District TRF Chair PDG Ernesto Yuyek, District Membership Chair SDG Majella Tumangan-Villaroman, District Public Image Chair

HOSTED BY:  **Rotary Club of Manila 101**
DISTRICT PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM - MEMBERSHIP & TRF COMMITTEE TEAM




PAGSIKLAB

THE VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Hosted by:  **Rotary Club of Manila 101**
District Public Image, Membership and The Rotary Foundation Team

DRA ANNA MONTESA PP JUBUT ENRIQUEZ
 ADPIC FORMER
 DISTRICT PRESIDENT - RC MANILA




PAGSIKLAB

THE VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR

HEART OF HERITAGE. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE IN SERVICE. FUELED BY INNOVATION.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCH

4:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Building Brands That Inspire Loyalty and Trust

PANEL MODERATOR

SDG Sherill R. Quintana, CFA
Chair, District Entrepreneurship Program
Chairman, Philippine Franchise Association

PANELISTS

Rommel Juan, CEO, Binalot Foods
Melodee Isaguirre, CEO, Tapa King
Miguel Aman, COO, Miguelitos
Cherry Kho, CEO, Blusthumb

BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

PUBLIC IMAGE	MEMBERSHIP	TRF
MY ROTARY STORY: How Rotary changed who I am and the Impact I have witnessed DGN Hermilio "Hermie" Esqueria ENHANCING THE ROTARY BRAND SDG Majella Tumangan-Villaroman District Public Image Chair RID 3810 WORKSHOP: CREATIVITY IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND AI INNOVATIONS DirAries Balanay, Public Image Strategies, DPIC TEAM	ARMG PDG Joji Tan, Zone 11A, Asst Rotary Membership Coordinator, Rotary International WORKSHOP: WORLDWIDE: INTERCONNECTING ROTARY RESOURCES FOR GLOBAL GOOD RRFC PDG Rodel Riaz Reyes Zone 11A Rotary Foundation Coordinator ARRFC PP Erwin T. Alomendras Zone 11A Asst Rotary Foundation Coordinator Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo	"PAGBUKLOD: ROTARY'S 7 AREAS OF FOCUS" SYNTHESIZED SDG Mike Soliman, GML RC Chinatown Circle WORKSHOP: WORLDWIDE: INTERCONNECTING ROTARY RESOURCES FOR GLOBAL GOOD RRFC PDG Rodel Riaz Reyes Zone 11A Rotary Foundation Coordinator ARRFC PP Erwin T. Alomendras Zone 11A Asst Rotary Foundation Coordinator Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo

RI District 3810 Response:
THE HEART OF HERITAGE, DRIVEN BY PURPOSE IN SERVICE, FUELED BY INNOVATION

4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Rotary's 3 Strategic Pillars and D3810 Public Image Campaign Theme	DDPIC Albert Aldey, Deputy District Public Image Chair, DPIC Team
4:30 PM - 4:40 PM	RI Zone 11A Regional Public Image Awards	ADPIC Charlotte Maliki, Asst District Public Image Chair, DPIC Team
4:40 PM - 4:50 PM	Sustaining Rotary Ambassadors with the District Public Image Campaign	DGE Francis "Jun" Pasion District Governor-Elect, RID 3810
4:50 PM - 5:00 PM	CLOSING CEREMONIES	
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	CERTIFICATES FELLOWSHIP	
6:30 PM	END	

HOSTED BY:  **Rotary Club of Manila 101**
DISTRICT PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM - MEMBERSHIP & TRF COMMITTEE TEAM

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar



PP Jujut Enriquez, ADPIC for Manila of Rotary District 3810, as one of the Masters of Ceremonies during “*PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar*”.



Manila Rotarian delegates to “*PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar*” with DG Bing Carrion



Manila Rotarians, namely, President Reginald Yu, Vice President Karlo Castro, Past President Jujut Villa-Real Enriquez, DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday, Club Treasurer Arvin Arik B. Carranceja, Dir. Caloy Serapio, Dir. Mike Albaña, Global Grants Chairman Aries Balanay, STAR Rtn. Job Gesmundo and STAR Rtn. Hridayesh Raj Parwani attended “*PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar*” last August 22, 2026 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar



Public Image Strategies Director/Global Grants Chairman Aries Balanay delivering his talk on “*Creativity in the Age of Social Media and AI Innovations*” during the Breakout Workshop on Public Image.



Left photo: DGN Hermie Esguerra delivering his talk, “*My Rotary Story: How Rotary Changed Who I Am and the Impact I Have Witnessed*”, during the Breakout Workshop on Public Image.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar



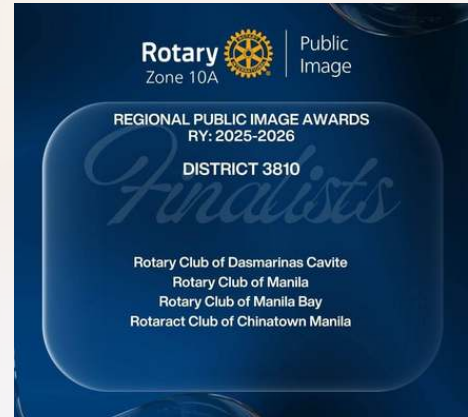
DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday delivering his talk on *“The 3 Strategic Pillars and D3810 Theme, ‘The Heart of Heritage, Driven by Purpose in Service, Fueled by Innovation’, during ‘PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar’.*

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

PAGSIKLAB: The Vibrant Club Seminar



DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday introducing Public Image SDG Majella Tumangan Villaroman and ARPIC Marilen Tronqued-Lagniton



Rotary Club of Manila is one of the finalists in the Regional Public Image Awards for RY 2025-2026.



Manila Rotarians as part of the group photo at the end of the seminar

DISTRICT EVENTS

47th Handover and 48th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Cavite East



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 47th Handover and 48th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Cavite East last August 19, 2026 at the Fynn Boutique Hotel in Bacoor, Cavite.



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the charging of new members.

DISTRICT EVENTS

34th Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Bacoor



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 34th Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Bacoor on August 21, 2026 at the Elijah Hotel in Dasmariñas City, Cavite. He also conducted the charging of new members.



FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast



Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship held on August 17, 2026, hosted by Legal Luminary PP Ebot Tan.

Resolved, that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will greatly determine our paths in all aspects of life; therefore, the earlier we adopt and learn, the more meaningful our destiny.

Present were Past Director Ner Lonzaga, Past Director Abe Pascual, former member Tony Montinola, former member Eric Severino, Past Vice President Ricky Guevara, Past Director Jun Hallare, Past President Ebot Tan, Past President Archit Bartolome, Rotarian Willie Peliño, and Rotarian Cris Acosta.

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast



Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship, held on August 24, 2026, hosted by PDG Jackie Rodriguez.

An exceptionally interesting morning learning about the roots, history, and remarkable legacy of the Rodriguez family—from its deep Davao beginnings to its vast property, energy, and other business undertakings. The family's 700-hectare development in Taytay and the fascinating story of Harry Stonehill being buried at their family home in Málaga, Spain added extraordinary dimensions to the narrative.

Indeed, the Rodriguez story seems bigger than a conglomerate—it is a story of generations, enterprise, influence, and legacy.

Present were Rotarian Romy Nones, PD Ner Lonzaga, PD Abe Pascual, PD Dave Reynolds, PDG Jackie Rodriguez, former member Eric Severino, former member Jorge Salazar, PS Anton Mauricio, PD Rod Valencia, PD Jun Hallare, PP Ebot Tan, PP Archit Bartolome, PD Nick Locsin, former member Raoul Villegas, and Rotarian Willie Peliño.



SATURDAY
AUGUST 29, 2026



6:00 PM



FIFTH ON 5TH
5TH FLR. PSE TOWER
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY



SMART CASUAL
COCKTAILS & FELLOWSHIP



REGISTER NOW
₱ 800.00

BRING A CANDIDATE.
SHARE ROTARY.
CHANGE MORE LIVES.

**TOGETHER WE
CREATE LASTING IMPACT.**

FIRST DISTRICT 3810

INVITATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

DISCOVER. CONNECT. BELONG.

Rotary
District 3810



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



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

FEEDBACK: @INQUIRER.NET

INQUIREROPINAME/AGE/CITY/MESSAGE TO 4467

@INQ_OPINION

MONDAY / AUGUST 24, 2026
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Is Quiboloy extraditable immediately?

The request of the United States for the extradition of pastor Apollo Quiboloy to face criminal charges in California reminds me of the first extradition decision of the Supreme Court 24 years ago involving the late Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez. "USA v. RTC Judge Purganan" (Sept. 24, 2002, en banc, that I had the honor of writing) was passed by a divided Court, 8-3-3, because of the due process question raised in the dissent of my bosom friend, Justice Jose C. Vitug.

TO BEGIN WITH, EXTRADITION IS NO LONGER LIMITED TO POLITICAL OFFENSES. Neither is it a facility for asylum. Nor is it to be confused with deportation of undesirable aliens, which is a unilateral prerogative of states. It has become an indispensable tool to suppress crimes, including ordinary crimes.

To curb interminable proceedings and establish clearer standards, the Court commendably codified and streamlined our extradition framework through the "Rules on Extradition Proceedings" ("Extradition Rules" or simply, "Rules") on April 8, 2025. Let us examine the salient procedural changes.

First, the new Rules expressly provide for an ex parte process for the issuance of an arrest warrant. In the case I decided, Judge Purganan set for hearing the application for a warrant of arrest of Jimenez. The Court ruled that the judge was wrong because a notice or hearing prior to the issuance of the arrest warrant "would give [Jimenez] ample opportunity to escape and, thus, to frustrate and defeat the very purpose of extradition."

Thus, upon receipt of the petition, the trial court—also referred to as the extradition court—shall conduct an ex parte review of the petition—that is, without any hearing and without the participation of the extraditee—and determine (1) the petition's sufficiency in form and substance, (2) compliance with the law and the extradition treaty, and (3) the existence of probable cause. If satisfied, the court may issue an arrest warrant enforceable anywhere in the Philippines.



WITH DUE RESPECT
ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

Second, the Extradition Rules formalized the conditions for bail and affirmed my decision that "bail is a matter of discretion" and not a matter of right. Extraditions are not criminal proceedings where the presumption of innocence applies. Hence, bail may be granted only when the extraditees prove by clear and convincing evidence that they are not flight risks and would abide by the trial court's orders.

Third, appeals under the Extradition Rules now terminate at the Court of Appeals (CA). In contrast, Jimenez's extradition case reached the highest tribunal precisely because extradition was then fraught with complexities and its procedural contours had not been clearly defined.

Today, an appeal to the CA suspends the execution of the lower court's judgment of extradition. But the CA must decide with finality within 90 calendar days, and its decision is immediately executory. The extraditee may then be surrendered to the requesting state. No appeal to the Supreme Court is allowed, although a separate petition for certiorari alleging grave abuse of discretion may still be entertained.

The Extradition Rules accomplished what the Court earlier sought to achieve through jurisprudence. They clarified procedures, shortened timelines, and limited the avenues for delay.

OBVIOUSLY, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS

GRANTED DISCRETION to resolve Quiboloy's predicament vis-à-vis his pending domestic charges. Under Article 11 of the RP-US Extradition Treaty, the Philippine government may either (1) postpone extradition until local cases are concluded or (2) temporarily surrender the accused to the US to face the charges there.

Obviously also, under the treaty, our laws, and the Rules, Quiboloy may be extradited. But not immediately because he is currently detained via an order of the Pasig Regional Trial Court (RTC) in connection with a non-bailable qualified human trafficking case. Importantly, the Pasig RTC ordered his arrest and detention in the exercise of its criminal jurisdiction, not in its extradition powers.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) may, if it wants to, hasten Quiboloy's prosecution to its conclusion. If convicted, Quiboloy may appeal in the ordinary manner. If acquitted, the DOJ may still proceed with immediate extradition. Given the snail pace of prosecutions, the faster way is for the DOJ to pray for the case's archiving (so it will not be counted in the trial court's docket) or for indefinite postponement.

AS EMPHASIZED IN MY EARLIER DECISION, the judiciary—the bulwark of human rights—should nonetheless guard against legal contortions and "overdue process," lest our country become a dubious haven where fugitives can delay, frustrate, and defeat the pursuit of justice.

Ultimately, the executive branch—as the chief architect of foreign policy—is called upon to enforce this process with firmness, fairness, and fidelity to the rule of law. Whether it chooses to hasten Quiboloy's extradition by expediting his local trial or by temporarily surrendering him to US custody, the sound exercise of its discretion will be the true measure of how far our extradition framework has followed the first extradition decision promulgated over two decades ago.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



Rain, rain go away – but the flood control scandal will never go away



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
August 23, 2026 | 12:00am

“Rain, rain go away, come again another day.”

This is a nursery rhyme we learned as children. But for millions of Filipinos today, particularly those living in Metro Manila and other flood-prone communities, there is nothing amusing about seeing dark clouds gather. The rains have again brought flooded streets, monstrous traffic jams, stranded commuters, damaged homes and businesses forced to close.

Certainly, climate change has a great deal to do with increasingly intense and unpredictable weather. We are seeing extreme rainfall not only in the Philippines but across the world. But climate change cannot be blamed for everything. No matter which way we look at it, the floods keep coming back despite billions upon billions of pesos supposedly spent on flood-control projects over the years. And every time the water rises, the flood-control scandal rises with it.

For ordinary Filipinos, the question is painfully simple: “We paid for flood control; why are we still flooded?” That question becomes even more infuriating when people hear about “ghost” or unfinished projects, defective infrastructure and allegations that public money intended to protect communities ended up in private pockets.

The government’s own report indicates the scale of the problem. Of the flood control projects inspected, thousands were found to have issues, including projects classified as defective, unfinished or ghost. Authorities have also frozen, preserved or recovered

billions of pesos in funds and assets linked to the investigation.

That there has been progress should be acknowledged. Cases have been filed, contractors, senior government officials and lawmakers have been charged or detained. The Sandiganbayan is now handling numerous flood-control and infrastructure-related cases. The Department of Justice reported that P841 million in cash from anomalous projects had been recovered and remitted to the National Treasury.

In his fifth State of the Nation Address last July, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. revealed that nearly P25 billion in public funds and assets had been recovered, frozen or preserved in connection with the scandal.

More importantly, the President made a declaration that went straight to the heart of public concern: “Hindi ako pangulo ng aking pamilya. Hindi ako pangulo ng aking kaibigan. Ako ay pangulo ng Pilipinas.”

Those words carried particular weight because Filipinos want to believe that friendship, family connections, wealth, political influence or position will not put anyone above the law.

But there is another reality government must recognize: people are becoming impatient. Investigations, hearings, affidavits and court proceedings are necessary. Due process must always be observed. We cannot convict anyone through publicity, congressional hearings or social media. Evidence must be gathered properly, and cases must be strong enough to stand in court.

But at the same time, justice cannot move so slowly that people begin to believe nothing will eventually happen. President Marcos himself said the work is



Rain, rain go away – but the flood control scandal will never go away



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
August 23, 2026 | 12:00am

not finished, and put it very clearly: “Unfortunately, the more we look, the more we find.”

That is precisely why the government cannot afford to lose momentum. The flood control scandal has become much more than an investigation into questionable infrastructure contracts. It has become a test of public confidence in our institutions and, ultimately, in government itself.

People need to see that those who stole public money, if proven guilty in court, will actually go to jail. They need to see illegally acquired assets recovered. Contractors who have cheated the government should never again be allowed to profit from taxpayers.

But accountability cannot end with prosecution – the system that had allowed this to happen must be fixed. Every flood control project should be transparent, properly engineered, independently inspected and publicly monitored. Technology can allow citizens to know where a project is located, how much it costs, who built it, when it was completed and whether it actually exists.

And we should remember that solving Metro Manila’s flooding requires more than building concrete walls and pumping stations. Drainage systems need modernization. Waterways must remain clear. Garbage disposal must improve. Local and national governments must coordinate. Urban planning must recognize that Metro Manila has grown enormously while much of its basic infrastructure was designed for another era.

Climate change makes these challenges more urgent, but it must not become a convenient excuse for corruption, incompetence or neglect.

Filipinos understand that government cannot stop the rains and that exceptionally severe weather can overwhelm even properly designed infrastructure. What is unacceptable is discovering that infrastructure meant to protect them was poorly constructed, unfinished or worse – existed only on paper.

The issue cannot be treated as yesterday’s political controversy. Flooding affects rich and poor alike, but its heaviest burden falls on ordinary families who can least afford to lose a day’s wages, furniture, appliances or livelihood. For them, effective flood control is not politics – it is protection.

That is why this scandal will not simply disappear from public consciousness. Every downpour reminds people of it. Every flooded street, and every Filipino wading through dirty floodwaters brings back questions on where those billions went. The President deserves credit for exposing the scandal and allowing the investigation to follow the evidence wherever it leads. Now comes the harder and more important part: finishing what was started.

The rains will eventually stop. The floodwaters will recede. The streets will dry and life will return to normal. But the flood control scandal must never be allowed to simply recede with the water. Government cannot stop the rain – but it can stop the stealing.

And until Filipinos see justice served and flood control projects that actually work, every storm will bring back the same question: The rains came down, the water went up. Where did our money go?

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

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

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2026-2027

REGINALD T. YU
President

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
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