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CASH IN / OUT**



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SANGLA



JEWELRY SELLING



**INTERNATIONAL
REMITTANCE**



BILLS PAYMENT



INSURANCE



**PADALA TO BANK
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E-LOADING



MONEY CHANGER



**CASH CARD/
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MAY PANGANGAILANGAN?

I-PALAWAN MO NA!

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balita

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Guest Speaker

ATTY. ANGELO A. JIMENEZ

22nd President, University of the Philippines

**A Full House
For Hope**

**Braving the Storm,
Building Financial
Futures**

**First District 3810's
Membership Invitational Fellowship**



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9th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Guest of Honor
Atty. Angelo "Jijil" Azura Jimenez
22nd President, University of the Philippines

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 12:00 PM
 Ballroom 1, Fairmont Hotel

Moderator: Past President Arsenio "Archit" M. Bartolome

PROGRAM

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
 12:15 PM **Call to Order**
President Reginald T. Yu
 Invocation
Internal Auditor Abdulgani M. Macatoman
 Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
 Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
 The Four-Way Test
Rotarian Shigeru Shimoda
 Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Rotarian Dean Y. Cid
 Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
 12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**

- Sept 5 – Rtn. Rex Alingog
- Sept 6 – Rtn. Jae J Jang, Rtn. Emyl Eugenio
- Sept 9 – Rtn. Bollie Bolton

 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**
Rotarian Romeo "Romy" C. Nones
 Address:
Atty. Angelo "Jijil" Azura Jimenez
 22nd President
 University of the Philippines
 1:15 PM **Open Forum**
 1:20 PM **Response**
Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
 1:50 PM **Exchange of Bannerettes**
Rotary Club of Manila and Rotary Club of Kangjin Tamjin
 2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

Honor, Excellence, and Now, Service

THERE is a particular kind of debt that comes with a state-funded education. Every Iskolar ng Bayan - every scholar of the people - sits in a lecture hall sustained, in some measure, by a nation of ordinary Filipinos whose own children will likely never set foot on the university's campuses themselves. This is the quiet arithmetic behind the word "Service": it is not a slogan, but a form of repayment. And nowhere in the Philippines is that debt more visible, or more consequential, than at the University of the Philippines.



Rotarian Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

Service to humanity is the wider, older impulse - the doctor who treats a stranger, the volunteer who rebuilds after a typhoon, the teacher who stays after class for a struggling student. It asks nothing of citizenship or geography; it is simply what it looks like to take another person's wellbeing seriously. Service to the country is not a separate, competing loyalty. It is what that same impulse looks like when it is channeled through the particular, imperfect, still-consolidating collective a person happens to belong to — in this case, a republic still working out questions of inequality, historical

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memory, and institutional trust. The nation, in other words, is simply where the average Filipino's need for a doctor, a teacher, or a rebuilt home is most concentrated and most within reach.

UP has always tried to educate its students toward that fuller circle - humanity, yes, but with the country as the nearest and most urgent place to practice

it. Its graduates are found staffing rural health units in Mindanao and negotiating trade agreements in Geneva, drafting the Constitution and organizing labor unions, teaching in barrio schools and running multinational hospitals abroad. The university's founding purpose - to produce not just professionals but a class of Filipinos equipped to lead a nation newly emerging from colonial rule - was always the same purpose extended outward: prepare people whose competence could serve anyone, anywhere, and then give them enough reason to direct much of it home.

For over a century, UP's motto asked only for 'Honor and Excellence'. It was a fitting motto for an institution built to prove that Filipinos could match the intellectual rigor of any colonial power's universities. But it was, by the university's own recent admission, incomplete.

In May 2024, at the instance of our Guest Speaker, UP President Angelo A. Jimenez, the University formally added a third word to its seal, unveiling the new motto: Honor, Excellence, Service. Announcing the change himself, Atty. Jimenez wrote that this was the university's reason for being - service to the nation, plain and simple. The change was not cosmetic. In his 2023 turnover speech as incoming president, Jimenez had already argued that honor and excellence, on their own, were not



Oblation Plaza, UP Diliman.
Credit: [University of the Philippines](#)

EDITORIAL

enough - that skill and distinction mean little without genuine compassion for one's fellow Filipinos. "Our guiding principle must be service to our people and to humanity at large... Honor and excellence inhere in the individual, but service looks beyond the individual and locates him or her in our nation and society. It reminds all of us that a UP education has been paid for by the sweat and the sacrifice of our people, and that every UP graduate has a lifelong responsibility to pay back that debt through service to society," he said.

Jimenez has since described the new motto as something closer to a vow than a rebrand: service, he has said, is UP's true calling, a sacred commitment made by every member of the community the moment they step onto campus. The framing matters. Service, in this telling, is not an elective activity for the civic-minded few - it is the price of admission.

UP's new motto can be seen as exemplified by the life of the man who proposed it. Angelo Azura Jimenez, Datu Mankalagan to his Manobo family and Jijil to his friends, is notably the first Mindanaoan to hold the office and the first student regent ever to later become UP President. He has described himself as someone who spent decades on the receiving end of the public education system. Coming of age under the shadow of martial rule, he learned that even

under adverse circumstances, there was much that could be done through learning and collective action. As a student leader, he felt and understood that in the heart of every Isko and Iska a



UP President Angelo A. Jimenez accepting the University President's mace from outgoing UP President Danilo L. Concepcion in February 2023. Photo by Misael Bacani (UPMPRO)

spark can be lit, the desire to serve and to make a difference in the lives of the people. That beyond talent, the true hallmark of a UP native is “the service gene that seems to have been coded into our DNA.”

He spent much of his early career as a labor attaché in Japan, Kuwait, and Iraq, work that put him on the front lines of protecting Filipino migrant workers during regional crises. As the University's 22nd President, he believes that Jimenez believes that the Philippines' premier state university must be a hub for transformational change and that this is best done by engaging communities and helping solve real-world problems. His vision is for UP to become a global university that asks the consequential questions of the time and, acting locally, strives to address the serious issues confronting the country and the world.

Skeptics are right to note that a word added to a logo changes nothing on its own. Service must show up in curricula that expose students to communities beyond their own, in scholarships that keep working-class Filipinos from dropping out, in research agendas that answer to public health and food security rather than only to publication counts, and in graduates who choose to practice law, medicine, and engineering where the need is greatest, not only where the pay is best.

But mottoes are not nothing, either. They are public promises, and public promises can be held to account. UP has now told the entire country, in three words stamped on its official seal, what it believes its own excellence is for. That is a standard the university has invited the public to measure it against — in Diliman and in Iloilo, in Baguio and in Cebu, in every classroom where an Iskolar ng Bayan is being formed.

The obligation, though, does not rest with UP alone. A university this dependent on public funding, this central to the country's professional and civic life, cannot fulfill a motto by itself. It needs a citizenry and a government willing to invest in it - in scholarships that let a fisherman's daughter compete on equal footing with a senator's son, in research budgets that do not shrink the moment a crisis passes, in the basic premise that a nation still busy building itself despite decades of trying needs an institution unafraid to produce both its harshest critics and its most capable public servants.

Honor and excellence brought UP this far. Service is the harder promise — the one that asks not what the university has achieved, but whom it has actually helped. It deserves, from every Filipino who believes in what UP represents, more than applause. It deserves support.

GUEST SPEAKER

ATTY. Angelo A. Jimenez is the 22nd President of the University of the Philippines and the first UP President to come from Mindanao. A labor lawyer and expert in global worker migration, he played a key role in establishing the Philippines' Department of Migrant Workers and previously served as Labor Attaché in Japan, Kuwait, and Iraq. He earned recognition for protecting Filipino workers during international crises, including the Israel-Lebanon conflict and a hostage rescue operation in Iraq.

His government service includes leadership roles at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Department of Labor and Employment, and the Office of the President. He has also lectured and published on ethical recruitment and gender-responsive migration.

President Jimenez earned his Bachelor of Laws and BA Sociology degrees from UP Diliman, a master's degree from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, and was a Lee Kuan Yew Fellow at Harvard University.



Credit: University of the Philippines

ATTY. ANGELO A. JIMENEZ

*22nd President
University of the Philippines*

A Full House For Hope

By President Reginald T. Yu



Senator Risa Hontiveros addresses a jam-packed audience at the Rotary Club of Manila's 8th Weekly Membership Meeting, delivering a compelling call for strong institutions, accountable leadership, shared prosperity, and service guided by conscience.

AT the Rotary Club of Manila's most heavily attended weekly meeting of the year, Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" N. Hontiveros challenged Rotarians, business leaders, professionals, and civic organizations to help build a Philippines where institutions work, opportunities are shared, and leadership answers not only to the law but also to conscience. The occasion also marked a new chapter in civic cooperation as the Rotary Club of Manila and JCI Manila formalized their commitment to pursue meaningful programs together.

The Makati Rooms A and B of Makati Shangri-La were filled to capacity on August 27, 2026, as the Rotary Club of Manila welcomed Senator Risa as Guest of Honor and Speaker at its 8th Weekly Membership Meeting.

With more than 100 Rotarians, Rotaractors, JCI members, civic leaders, distinguished guests, and representatives of the media in attendance, it became the Club's most jam-packed weekly meeting of Rotary Year 2026–2027 thus far.

Long before RCM President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order at noon, the room was already alive with anticipation. Conversations moved from table to table, Rotaractors mingled with senior Rotarians, media representatives prepared their equipment and coordinated their coverage, and guests eagerly awaited the opportunity to hear directly from one of the country's most prominent legislators at a particularly consequential moment in national life.

The extraordinary turnout reflected not only the stature of the guest but also something deeper: Filipinos continue to hunger for serious, direct, and principled conversations about the future of their country.

It was more than a well-attended luncheon. It was a gathering of people who understood that the issues confronting the nation cannot be left



Senator Risa Hontiveros is warmly welcomed to the Rotary Club of Manila's 8th Weekly Membership Meeting at Makati Shangri-La, Manila. Before addressing the Club's most jam-packed gathering of the Rotary year, Senator Risa shared her vision of a better Philippines where institutions genuinely work, laws protect the vulnerable, opportunities are more widely shared, and leaders exercise their influence with integrity, courage, and a deep sense of responsibility toward the common good.



Assistant Club Secretary Jonas Gonzales skillfully served as the afternoon's moderator and host, guiding the packed program and facilitating the meaningful exchange between Senator Risa Hontiveros and the audience with warmth, composure, and professionalism.

entirely to politicians, bureaucrats, or government institutions. They require the participation of business leaders, professionals, civic organizations, young people, the media, and ordinary citizens.

For the Rotary Club of Manila, the first Rotary club in Asia, this is precisely what its weekly meetings seek to accomplish. The Club aims not merely to bring distinguished personalities before its members, but to create a forum where national concerns can be examined thoughtfully, different perspectives can be heard respectfully, and ideas can ultimately be translated into purposeful action.

Under the Club's theme, T.U.R.N., or Toward a Unified Rotary Nation, and Rotary International's call to Create Lasting Impact, the afternoon became a powerful reflection on what a better Philippines should look like and what citizens and institutions must do to help build it.

A Meeting Grounded in Rotary's Values

President Yu formally called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Past RCMFI President Wilfredo M. Peliño led the invocation, followed by the Philippine National Anthem and the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn. The RCM World-Famous Music Chorale once again



Past RCMFI President Willie Pelino solemnly leads the invocation, opening the Rotary Club of Manila's 8th Weekly Membership Meeting with a prayer for divine wisdom, guidance, and unity. His invocation set a reflective tone for an afternoon devoted to principled leadership, accountable institutions, and our shared responsibility to serve our communities and help build a better Philippines.



Rotarian J Alfonso L Katigbak leads the recitation of The Four Way Test, reaffirming Rotary Club of Manila's enduring commitment to truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit. Its timeless principles provided a fitting moral framework for an afternoon centered on ethical leadership, accountable institutions, and the shared pursuit of a better Philippines.

lent dignity, warmth, and fellowship to the proceedings.

Rotarian J. Alfonso L. Katigbak led the recitation of The Four-Way Test, while STAR Rotarian Hridesht “Raj” Parwani welcomed the visiting Rotarians and guests. The Chorale also serenaded the week’s birthday celebrants, Rotarian Emil Lao and Rotarian John Tan.

These traditions may be familiar to those who regularly attend Rotary meetings, but on this particular afternoon, The Four-Way Test assumed even greater significance.

“Is it the truth?”

“Is it fair to all concerned?”

“Will it build goodwill and better friendships?”

“Will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

These questions provided an appropriate moral framework for the address that followed. Senator Risa would later speak about truth, fairness, institutional integrity, due process, public accountability, and leadership that places the common good above personal or partisan advantage.

Her message demonstrated how relevant The Four-Way Test remains not only to the conduct of Rotarians but also to the manner in which institutions are governed, businesses are managed,



STAR Rotarian Hridesht Raj Parwani warmly acknowledges the distinguished guests, visiting Rotarians, VIPs, Rotaractors, JCI members, and media representatives who joined RCM’s most heavily attended weekly meeting of the Rotary year. His gracious welcome reflected the fellowship and hospitality that remain hallmarks of the Rotary Club of Manila.



The RCM World-Famous Music Chorale fills the venue with fellowship, harmony, and unmistakable Rotary spirit during the opening ceremonies of the Club’s 8th Weekly Membership Meeting. Through their stirring rendition of the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn and warm musical welcome for our guests, the Chorale once again brought dignity and vitality to the program while proudly sustaining one of the Club’s most cherished and enduring traditions.

public authority is exercised, and citizens participate in democracy.

Practicing Democracy Within the Institution

The meeting also marked an important moment in the continuing democratic life of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Immediate Past President Raoul C. Creencia, chairman of the Club's Commission on Elections, formally opened the nomination proceedings for the Rotary Club of Manila's officers for Rotary Year 2027–2028.

This part of the program may have been brief, but its institutional importance could not be underestimated. Even as the Club prepared to hear from a national leader about the demands of democracy and accountable government, its members were attending to the orderly succession of leadership within their own organization.

Leadership in Rotary is never a permanent entitlement. It is a trust conferred for a limited period. Each president and Board of Directors is given an opportunity to strengthen the institution, expand its service, preserve its traditions, and prepare the next generation to assume responsibility.

The opening of nominations reminded members that institutions endure when



Immediate Past President and COMELEC Chairman Atty. Raoul C. Creencia formally leads the nomination proceedings for the Rotary Club of Manila's officers for Rotary Year 2027–2028. The exercise marked an important moment in the Club's democratic life, ensuring an orderly leadership succession and inviting members to help identify the next generation of Rotarians who will carry forward RCM's proud traditions and commitment to Service Above Self.

their stakeholders respect established processes, develop future leaders, and recognize that the organization must always remain greater than any individual who temporarily occupies its highest office.

Asking What “Better” Really Means

Former Philippine Ambassador to Russia Victor G. Garcia III introduced Senator Risa, whose career in public service has been closely associated with the defense of women, children, workers, consumers,



Former Philippine Ambassador to Russia, Rotarian Victor Garcia takes the honor of introducing the afternoon's Guest of Honor and Speaker, Senator Risa Hontiveros. He highlighted her distinguished record of public service and steadfast advocacy for women, children, workers, consumers, good governance, and the country's most vulnerable sectors.

and other vulnerable sectors, as well as with health, education, good governance, and human rights.

Assistant Club Secretary Jonas R. Gonzales served as moderator and host for the featured portion of the program.

The theme of Senator Risa's address was *"Legislating Hope. Building a Better Philippines."*

As a legislator, she could easily have devoted her entire address to enumerating the laws she had helped pass, the measures she continues to pursue, and the reforms she believes Congress should prioritize. Instead, she focused on the final three words of the theme: "a better Philippines."

She asked a deceptively simple but profoundly important question: What does "better" actually mean for an ordinary Filipino?

For far too many Filipinos, she observed, the idea of a better life has become painfully modest. Sometimes, it simply means surviving until the next day. It means paying the bills, staying within a very limited budget, avoiding illness, making it to the next payday, or finding enough food to place on the family table for one more night.

For families constantly living on the edge, hope may be reduced to a quiet prayer before going to sleep that tomorrow will not be as difficult as today.

Her words compelled the audience to look beyond abstract indicators of development. Economic growth, legislative productivity, infrastructure expenditure, and investment statistics mean little if Filipino families remain unable to experience greater security, dignity, and hope in their daily lives.

As Senator Risa declared:

"A better Philippines is one where people can reasonably expect that if we work hard, life tomorrow can be less difficult, induce less anxiety, allow for more space for hope than today."

A better Philippines, in her vision, is one



Credit: Senator Risa Hontiveros

where a person does not need wealth, political access, a powerful surname, or the right connections to receive fair treatment.

It is a country where entrepreneurs can establish businesses without cultivating patrons; where women can go to work without fear of harassment; where consumers are protected instead of treated as prey; where employees receive a fair share of the value they help create; and where families can plan for the coming year instead of constantly worrying about whether they can survive

the coming week.

These should not be extraordinary privileges. They should be ordinary expectations in a country whose institutions genuinely serve its people.

Institutions Must Work

At the center of Senator Risa's message was a straightforward but demanding proposition: the country's institutions must work.

Filipinos should not have to know someone powerful for government to

work for them. The rules should not change according to a person's surname, wealth, political connections, or whoever happens to occupy Malacañang.

Corruption and impunity, she reminded the audience, are not issues separate from economic development. They directly weaken every system they touch.

When corruption is tolerated, infrastructure becomes slower and more expensive. Public services become thinner. Opportunities narrow. Trust deteriorates. Long-term planning gives way to short-term survival.

No national development strategy, regardless of how ambitious or carefully designed, can prosper if the institutions responsible for implementing it have been hollowed out by patronage, impunity, and the theft of public trust.

When institutions function properly, however, talent, hard work, entrepreneurship, and innovation are given a fighting chance against inherited privilege and political access.

This message was particularly relevant to the business executives, professionals, civic leaders, and institution-builders in the room.

A level playing field is not merely an academic concept. It determines whether businesses compete on merit, whether small suppliers receive genuine opportunities, whether employees are treated fairly, and whether investors can

make long-term decisions based on stable and consistently enforced rules.

True prosperity cannot be measured by growth figures alone. It must travel, as Senator Risa said, "from the boardroom to the factory floor," from financial centers to farms, communities, cooperatives, and small enterprises, until it finally reaches the family table.

The real evidence of progress can be found in better wages, more affordable household expenses, good schools, decent health care, reliable public services, and the confidence of families that tomorrow can genuinely be better than today.

Turning Principles Into Real Protection

Senator Risa situated her legislative work within this broader vision of human dignity and institutional responsibility.

She spoke about the Safe Spaces Act, more popularly known as the Bawal Bastos Law, which seeks to protect dignity and safety in streets, schools, workplaces, public spaces, and online environments.

She discussed the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act, which recognizes that families come in different forms and that individuals raising children largely on their own deserve meaningful assistance and protection.

She also referred to initiatives to strengthen consumer protection as scams, fraud, and other forms of exploitation increasingly move into digital spaces. She highlighted the importance of supporting cooperatives and micro, small, and medium enterprises, promoting affordable and reliable energy, and ensuring that new technologies and economic opportunities reach communities that are often the last to benefit.

At first glance, these may appear to be separate legislative concerns. Women's safety, family welfare, consumer protection, energy, livelihood, technology, and small-business development may fall under different committees and government agencies.

Yet Senator Risa brought them together under one coherent principle: institutions must protect people from abuse, give everyone a fair opportunity to prosper, and enable every Filipino to live with dignity.

The Space Between Law and Conscience

Perhaps the most compelling part of Senator Risa's address was her acknowledgment of the limitations of legislation itself.

Good laws can protect rights, correct injustice, open opportunities, and



Senator Risa Hontiveros delivers a compelling address before a packed audience at the Rotary Club of Manila's 8th Weekly Membership Meeting. She challenged Rotarians, business leaders, and civic organizations to help build a better Philippines by defending strong institutions, demanding accountability, creating fair opportunities, and exercising leadership guided not only by what the law permits, but also by what conscience and the common good demand.

restrain abuses of power. But even the best-written law cannot manufacture every virtue that a nation requires.

Society can legislate against corruption, but it cannot legislate integrity into the human heart.

It can prohibit harassment, but it cannot manufacture respect.

It can protect fair competition, but it cannot force every business leader to place the common good above every short-term advantage.

As Senator Risa memorably stated:
“The law can establish the floor; it cannot, by itself, build everything that must rise above it.”

This insight resonated deeply with the Rotarians in attendance.

The decisive tests of leadership often take place in the vast space between what the law permits and what conscience demands. Not everything that is legally permissible is necessarily fair, ethical, or beneficial to society. Conversely, some of the most courageous decisions leaders must make are not compelled by law but arise from a deeper sense of duty.

Leadership rarely presents perfectly clear choices. The most consequential decisions often involve competing interests, incomplete information, intense pressure, and consequences that cannot be predicted with certainty.

In such moments, leadership requires patience to understand a problem before rushing toward a solution. It requires clarity to separate what is true from what is merely loud, popular, or convenient. It requires the humility to listen to people with whom one disagrees and the honesty to change course when evidence shows that one is wrong.

Most of all, it requires the courage to choose the responsible course even

when the easier choice is more personally advantageous.

This was where Senator Risa’s message converged most powerfully with Rotary’s ideal of Service Above Self.

A Challenge to Business and Civic Leaders

Senator Risa did not place the entire burden of nation-building on Congress, Malacañang, the courts, or government agencies.

She directed her challenge to the business executives, professionals, civic leaders, and community builders in the room.

Many of those present lead companies, professional associations, civic organizations, and community institutions. They decide whom to employ and promote, which suppliers to support, where to invest, what standards to enforce, and which practices to tolerate.

Some have access to rooms that most Filipinos will never enter. With that access comes a responsibility to use influence deliberately and conscientiously.

Senator Risa challenged business and civic leaders to demand clear and equal rules from government, reject special

arrangements created for the well-connected, and refuse to treat corruption as merely another cost of doing business.

She urged them to create workplaces where misconduct has real consequences, give small and local suppliers a genuine opportunity to compete, pay people fairly, invest in their development, protect consumers, and use their voices in shaping public policy.

Most significantly, she asked them not merely to advocate for policies that make business easier, but to support policies that make the Philippines better.

When institutions are tested, citizens and leaders must defend those institutions. They must insist on evidence, due process, and accountability regardless of the personalities involved, the political interests at stake, or whether a particular result favors their preferred side.

Democracy does not require unanimity. It requires principled disagreement within a shared commitment to truth, fairness, due process, and institutional integrity.

Service Above Self, therefore, cannot be confined to philanthropy. Feeding the hungry, educating children, responding to disasters, protecting communities, and caring for the vulnerable remain indispensable expressions of Rotary service.



President Reginald Yu in an engaging discussion with Senator Risa Hontiveros before her address, exchanging thoughts on principled leadership, strong and accountable institutions, and the shared responsibility of government, business, and civic organizations in building a better Philippines.



Past District Governor Jackie Rodriguez shares a warm and animated conversation with Senator Risa Hontiveros before the start of the program, tracing the longstanding connections between their families and adding a personal touch of friendship and familiarity to the afternoon's gathering.

But Service Above Self also asks those who possess influence how they exercise that influence when no law forces them to do what is right.

Bringing Together Two Traditions of Service

The afternoon acquired additional institutional significance when the Rotary Club of Manila and JCI Manila signed a Memorandum of Agreement establishing a framework for cooperation on future community-service and civic initiatives.

JCI Manila President Edison “Eds” Ke signed on behalf of JCI Manila, while President Yu signed on behalf of the Rotary Club of Manila.

The partnership carried special personal meaning for President Yu because he is not only President of the Rotary Club of Manila but also a JCI Senator. He previously served three terms as an officer of the JCI Manila Board of Directors and later became President of JCI Senate Manila. The values and experiences he gained through the Junior Chamber movement profoundly influenced his understanding of leadership, active citizenship, and community service.

JCI teaches that leadership is best developed through action. It calls upon young active citizens to identify



Rotarian Luis Angelo Sevilla, JCI World Congress Director, invites members and guests to take part in the 2026 JCI World Congress Clark, Philippines, which will bring together young leaders and active citizens from around the globe at New Clark City, Pampanga, from November 11 to 15, 2026.

problems, mobilize people, develop solutions, and create positive change. Rotary, meanwhile, brings together established leaders in business, the professions, and public service under the enduring principle of Service Above Self.

The two organizations come from distinct traditions, but they share a common passion: improving lives through organized, purposeful, and sustainable community service.

For President Yu, the signing represented more than an agreement between two civic organizations. It created a bridge between two important chapters of his own leadership journey.

He had witnessed how JCI develops young people by entrusting them with real responsibility. He had likewise experienced how Rotary transforms professional fellowship into sustained humanitarian action.

By bringing these two institutions together, the partnership creates opportunities for the energy, imagination, and leadership potential of JCI members to work alongside the experience, networks, and service infrastructure of Rotarians.

The agreement provides an umbrella framework through which JCI Manila and RCM may identify and pursue measurable initiatives in such areas as disaster preparedness and resilience, education, health, environmental protection, livelihood development, peacebuilding, animal welfare, and other mutually approved community concerns.

Each specific undertaking will be separately evaluated, approved, and documented, with clearly defined objectives, beneficiaries, responsibilities, resources, safeguards, and measures of success.

This structure is intended to ensure that the partnership will not be merely ceremonial. It seeks to produce well-governed projects with meaningful, measurable, and lasting results.



The Rotary Club of Manila, represented by President Reginald Yu, and JCI Manila, represented by President Eds Ke, officially sign a Memorandum of Agreement establishing JCI Manila as an affiliate partner of RC Manila. The partnership brings together two proud traditions of leadership and service to jointly undertake meaningful, measurable, and sustainable projects that will strengthen communities and create lasting impact.

The signing also carried a message for the Rotaractors who attended the meeting. Civic leadership is not confined to one organization, one generation, or one institutional tradition. Communities benefit most when service organizations cooperate, learn from one another, and combine their complementary strengths.

JCI Manila can help engage a younger generation of active citizens. The Rotary Club of Manila can provide continuity, professional expertise, institutional experience, and access to Rotary's wider network of clubs and service partners.



JCI Senate Manila members and officers who are now proud members of the Rotary Club of Manila turn out in full force at RCM's 8th Weekly Membership Meeting, proudly giving the JCI Manila hand sign. Their presence celebrates the strong bond between two distinguished institutions united by fellowship, leadership development, active citizenship, and a shared passion for creating lasting impact through community service.

Together, the two organizations can extend the reach of their programs and create a stronger leadership pipeline for civic involvement.

At a meeting devoted to building a better Philippines, the Memorandum of Agreement gave concrete form to the principle that nation-building does not belong to government alone. It demonstrated the willingness of both organizations to move beyond conversation and begin constructing partnerships capable of turning shared ideals into shared action.

Dialogue in a Crowded Room

The open forum that followed Senator Risa's address allowed the overflowing audience to engage with her ideas in the setting Rotary provides best: a candid but civil exchange among people from different professions, generations, and perspectives.

With Rotarians, Rotaractors, JCI members, guests, and members of the media all present, the discussion affirmed the continuing relevance of civic organizations as conveners of meaningful democratic dialogue.

The audience had not come merely to see a nationally prominent personality. Its members came to listen, reflect, and examine their own responsibilities.

For the young leaders and Rotaractors present, the meeting offered a close view of public leadership exercised on the national stage. For business and professional leaders, Senator Risa's address presented a more personal challenge: to consider whether their own decisions strengthen or weaken the fair, humane, and accountable society they expect government to create.

The presence of the media extended the reach of the conversation beyond the walls of Makati Shangri-La. The meeting's deepest impact, however, was felt inside the room, in the encounter between public policy and personal responsibility.

Senator Risa's message allowed no one the comfort of believing that government alone is responsible for the country's failures or that government alone can secure its future.

A Defining Meeting for the Rotary Year

Before the meeting concluded, President Yu presented Senator Risa with the Rotary Club of Manila's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her presence and thought-provoking address.



Senator Risa Hontiveros thoughtfully fields questions from the audience during the lively open forum, while yours truly looks on. Her candid and substantive responses deepened the afternoon's conversation on accountable governance, principled leadership, inclusive progress, and the shared responsibility of government, business, and civil society in building a better Philippines.



Clockwise from top left: DGN Hermie Esguerra, PP Chito Zaldarriaga, VP Karlo Castro, and PD Amading Valdez

President Yu adjourned the formal meeting at 1:30 p.m., but the ideas raised that afternoon remained with the audience.

The 8th Weekly Membership Meeting was a significant milestone for Rotary Year 2026–2027. The more than 100 people who filled the venue demonstrated the Rotary Club of Manila's continuing convening power and the public's appetite for direct engagement with national leaders.

Attendance, however, becomes truly meaningful only when it is converted into attention, reflection, cooperation, and action.

The gathering also illustrated the deeper promise of T.U.R.N., or Toward a Unified Rotary Nation.

Unity does not require uniformity of opinion. It means gathering people of different backgrounds and perspectives around shared democratic principles, a commitment to truth and fairness, and a willingness to place the common good above narrow advantage.

It means creating a space where dissent remains respectful, leadership remains accountable, and service grows from charitable activity into ethical citizenship.

The agreement with JCI Manila brought that aspiration into the realm of



President Reginald Yu presents Senator Risa Hontiveros with the Rotary Club of Manila's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her presence and thought-provoking address.

Credit: Senator Risa Hontiveros

concrete action. By joining forces with an organization that shares its passion for community service and leadership development, the Rotary Club of Manila widened the circle of people capable of creating lasting impact.

Senator Risa concluded her address by reminding the audience that every generation inherits institutions it did not create, problems it did not choose, and possibilities uniquely its own. The responsibility of each generation is to meet that inheritance with clarity and foresight and to leave behind a country more capable, more just, and more humane than the one entrusted to it.

That challenge lingered after the final gavel.

A better Philippines will require better laws and stronger institutions. But it will also be built in workplaces, boardrooms, professional organizations, youth movements, civic clubs, and communities. It will be built wherever Filipinos possess the power to influence what comes next.

On an afternoon when every seat seemed spoken for, the Rotary Club of Manila did more than host its biggest weekly gathering of the year.

The Club listened to a national leader explain that hope must be supported by



Rotarian Ronald Alan Ko, Director Warren So, Rotarian Philip Recto. Three generations of architectural excellence within the Rotary Club of Manila come together in fellowship: a distinguished veteran, an accomplished senior practitioner, and a promising rising member. Their warm exchange reflects how RCM brings together experience, established leadership, and emerging talent in the shared pursuit of professional excellence and Service Above Self.



institutions, that law must be strengthened by conscience, and that influence must be exercised with responsibility.

It carried out its own democratic process through the nomination of future Club officers.

It opened its doors to Rotaractors, JCI members, the media, and the wider community.

Through its agreement with JCI Manila, it affirmed that shared service can unite organizations, bridge generations, and transform goodwill into measurable action.

For President Yu, both as President of the Rotary Club of Manila and as a JCI Senator, the occasion carried deeply personal meaning. It brought together two institutions that had helped shape his understanding of leadership and service.

More importantly, it served as a reminder that titles, affiliations, and achievements matter only to the extent that they are used to improve the lives of others.

The question left with the audience was therefore both national and personal: Given the influence, opportunities, and responsibilities entrusted to each person, what kind of Philippines are they helping to leave behind?



One of the many tables that filled the venue during the Rotary Club of Manila's most jam-packed weekly meeting of the Rotary year. More than 100 Rotarians, Rotaractors, JCI members, civic leaders, guests, and media representatives gathered to hear Senator Risa Hontiveros share her vision of a better, fairer, and more accountable Philippines.



District Governor Nominee Herminio Hermie Esguerra delivers a stirring call for unity at the conclusion of the meeting, urging Rotarians to set aside differences, rally around their shared purpose, and translate the afternoon's message into collective action. His appeal strongly echoed RCM's theme, T.U.R.N. — Toward a Unified Rotary Nation — and our commitment to serve together in building a better Philippines.

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	August 27, 2026 SENATOR ANA THERESA "RISA" NAVARRO MONTVEROS BARAQUEL
MEMBERS PRESENT	30	31	36	50
MEMBERS PRESENT %	15%	15%	18%	25%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	5	11	4	0
EXEMPTED	3	4	3	5
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	35	42	40	50
Total # of Members	203	203	203	203
TOTAL %:	17%	21%	20%	25%
ROTARACTORS	6	5	5	5
MEDIA	0	0	4	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	1	1	6	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	8	0	0	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	6	5	2	28
TOTAL ATTENDEES	51	42	49	84

LIST OF ATTENDEES August 27, 2026

ALBERT ALDAY	TEDDY KALAW
JOSHUA ARAGON	J ALFONSO L KATIGBAK
ARIES BALANAY	PAUL KOH
ARCHIT BARTOLOME	NICK LOCSIN
NOY BENEDICTO	NER LONZAGA
VINCE CARLOS	DEL LORENZANA
ARIK CARRANCEJA	GUNTER MATSCHUCK
KARLO CASTRO	ANTON MAURICIO
ROBERT CHAN	DAN OBRADO
VAL CO	ROEL ONG
RAOUL CREENCIA	RAJ PARWANI
ALEX CUREG	WILLIE PELIÑO
JOHN CUTTER	BEBOT PINEDA
RAY DAVIS	FAUSTO PREYSLER
OSCAR DEL ROSARIO	INGILL RA
ISSAM ELDEBS	PHILIP RECTO
JUJUT ENRIQUEZ	JACKIE RODRIGUEZ
HERMIE ESGUERRA	CALOY SERAPIO
VIC GARCIA	L.A. SEVILLA
JOB GESMUNDO	LITO SIBAYAN
WINSTON GINEZ	MYLES TAN
HENRY GO	CHRIS TAMESIS
JONAS GONZALES	NICO VALENCIA
BOY GUEVARA	AMADING VALDEZ
RICKY GUEVARA	REGGIE YU

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

As of September 1, 2026

1	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO
2	ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY
3	ALDAY, ALBERT S.
4	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO
5	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
6	BELLA, GERONIMO, JR. D.P.
7	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.
8	BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR
9	BLANCO, MANUEL M.
10	CAMPOS, JOSELITO D. JR.
11	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK
12	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
13	CATALAN, RODILLO
14	CHAHWAN, RAMI
15	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE
16	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
17	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
18	DAVIS, RAYMOND
19	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR
20	DE VENECIA, JOEY
21	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III
22	ELDEBS, ISSAM
23	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.
24	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.

25	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
26	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
27	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
28	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
29	GESMUNDO, JOSEPH BENEDICT
30	GO, HENRY SY
31	GONZALES, JONAS
32	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY H.
33	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR. S.B.
34	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
35	HALLARE, NICO GIUSEPPE S.
36	HESSE, UWE
37	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.
38	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV
39	KATIGBAK, J ALFONSO L
40	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
41	KUNACK, LUTZ
42	LAYA, JAIME C.
43	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEOS P.
44	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
45	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.
46	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
47	NONES, ROMEO C.
48	OBRADO, DANIEL

49	ONG, PHILIP
50	PARWANI, RAJ
51	PELIÑO, WILFREDO M.
52	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR.
53	RECTO, PHILIP
54	REYNOLDS, DAVID JOHN
55	RODRIGUEZ, JACKIE SR.
56	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
57	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
58	SCNEIDER, BERND
59	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
60	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
61	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
62	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR
63	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
64	TAMESIS, CHRIS
65	TAN, MYLES
66	TILLMANN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
67	VALDES, JOEL C.
68	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
69	VILLARICA, HENRY
70	YU, REGINALD T.
71	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
72	ZIALCITA, XAVIER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Membership Committee Meeting



The Membership Committee convened on August 27, 2026, after the weekly membership meeting at Makati A&B, Makati Shangri-La, Manila.

Present were Past Secretary Anton Mauricio, Past Treasurer Lito Sibayan, Director Del Lorenzana, Director Teddy Kalaw, Chair/Past Vice President Fausto Preysler, Past President Jujut Enriquez, Past District Governor Vince Carlos, and Past District Governor Alex Cureg.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Election Meeting



The Committee on Election met on August 27, 2026 at the lobby of Makati Shangri-La, Manila.



Present were (from left) Past Vice President Ricky Guevara, Director Caloy Serapio, Co-chairman/Past President Archit Bartolome, Chairman/Immediate Past President Raoul Creencia, and STAR Rotarian Winston Ginez.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION



Nomination Advisory for BOD 2027-2028

August 28, 2026

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

Warm Rotary greetings!

The Committee on Elections is pleased to announce the results of the nomination for the members of the Board of Directors

of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2027–2028, conducted during our regular weekly meeting on Thursday, 27 August 2026, at the Makati A & B Rooms of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The following members were nominated:

	NAME		NAME
1	Vice Pres. Karlo Castro	12	Dir. Mike Albaña
2	Treas. Arik Carranceja	13	Dir. Caloy Serapio
3	Dir. Teddy Kalaw	14	Dir. Del Lorenzana
4	Dir. Nico Valencia	15	Dir. Mike Roxas
5	Rtn Willie Peliño	16	SAA Nagi Zeitouni
6	Rtn Daniel Obrado	17	Asst. Internal Auditor Joshua Aragon
7	Sec. Albert Alday	18	Board Legal Adviser Jop Esquivias
8	Internal Auditor Gani Macatoman	19	Asst. Board Legal Adviser Hansel Tillmann
9	Past Asst. Sec. Paco Magsaysay	20	Asst. Secretary Jonas Gonzales
10	Past Dir. Ner Lonzaga	21	DSAA Stefan Yordanov
11	Past Treas. Lito Sibayan	22	Asst. Treas. Xavy Zialcita

CLUB ADMINISTRATION



Nomination Advisory for BOD 2027-2028

Pursuant to our election guidelines, members in good standing shall be eligible to vote and to be voted upon.

For members whose annual membership dues are currently being processed or remain unpaid, kindly arrange payment at your earliest convenience (but before election day - September 24) and send a copy of the payment transaction to rotaryclubofmanila@gmail.com for proper recording and verification.

The nominees are required to fully pay the annual dues no later than September 10.

Payment Details

Payee: Rotary Club of Manila
Bank: Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) – Anda Circle Branch
Account No.: 151-7-15151485-1

We encourage all eligible members to participate actively in the forthcoming election and to exercise their right and responsibility in choosing the members who will help lead our Club in the coming Rotary Year.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to the Rotary Club of Manila.

Yours in Rotary,

(original copy signed)
IPP Raoul C. Creencia
Chairman, Committee on Election





Braving the Storm, Building Financial Futures

DESPITE heavy rains and a sharply reduced turnout, “Know Yourself, Know Your Money” pushed through to equip young participants with practical life and financial skills.

August 29, 2026. Despite continuous heavy rains brought by the southwest monsoon in the days following Tropical Storm Wipha, the Rotary Club of Manila’s youth development and financial literacy seminar, “Know Yourself, Know Your Money,” successfully pushed through on August 29, 2026, at Zero-Ten Park in Makati City.

Braving the Storm, Building Financial Futures

The inclement weather reduced attendance to only a handful of participants. Nevertheless, organizers proceeded with the program, ensuring that those who braved the difficult conditions received the full benefit of the seminar's lessons on personal development, financial responsibility and informed decision-making.

The activity formed part of the Youth Service projects of the Rotary Club of Manila and was undertaken together with the Rotaract Club of Manila, River Valley Irregulars, Zero-Ten Park and Myles Tan Ministries. Designed as a Rotary Youth and Vocational Service initiative, the program sought to help young people understand how their personalities influence their habits, decisions and financial futures.

The seminar was graced by Rotary Club of Manila President Reginald Yu, Club Auditor Undersecretary Gani Macatoman, and Rotaract Club of Manila President



Angel Macasieb, whose presence demonstrated the organizations' shared commitment to empowering the next generation through practical education and mentorship.

Resource speaker STAR Rotarian Myles Yeo Tan, RFP, CTA, Chief Operating Officer of Ilyon Industrial Corporation, anchored the workshop on a central idea: sound financial decisions begin with a clear understanding of oneself.

The first part of the program introduced participants to the DISC personality framework, which identifies four broad behavioral styles: Dominant, Influential, Steady and Conscientious. The discussion examined the strengths and potential blind spots associated with each style, particularly in communication,



Braving the Storm, Building Financial Futures

leadership, decision-making and risk-taking.

Participants were encouraged to recognize how traits such as impulsiveness, optimism, caution, patience and perfectionism can shape the way they earn, spend, save and invest. The session emphasized that financial literacy is not merely about learning formulas or market terminology, but also about understanding the person making the financial decisions.

Building on this foundation, Myles discussed five common money

personalities: the Saver, Spender, Maker, Worrier and Indifferent. Through relatable scenarios, participants reflected on how different people might respond to the same financial opportunity. Some may preserve their money, while others may spend it immediately, pursue maximum returns, postpone making a decision or choose to give it away.

The exercise reinforced the workshop's central progression: personality influences habits, habits shape decisions, and decisions ultimately determine one's financial future.



Braving the Storm, Building Financial Futures

Participants were also guided in setting one-year goals for their families and friendships, finances, fitness, careers and contributions to society. The activity encouraged them to translate broad aspirations into specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound commitments.

The second part of the program turned to practical financial literacy. Topics included money habits, budgeting, responsible investing, financial planning and generational wealth. The presentation distinguished among saving, investing and trading while underscoring the importance of aligning financial strategies with one's goals, circumstances and tolerance for risk.

The session on generational wealth highlighted that lasting prosperity involves more than transferring assets. Financial knowledge, sound values and responsible habits must likewise be passed from one generation to the next. As the workshop stressed, wealth becomes truly generational only when wisdom also becomes generational.

Myles also introduced participants to basic market concepts, including price trends, support and resistance levels, and the characteristics of bull and bear



Braving the Storm, Building Financial Futures

markets. Drawing from his experience in cryptocurrency, stocks, foreign exchange, precious metals and non-fungible tokens, he discussed both the opportunities and the considerable risks involved in trading and investing.

Particular attention was given to the dangers of fear of missing out, emotional decision-making and financial scams. Participants were reminded that no investment is free from risk and that impressive past returns do not guarantee future results. The more sustainable objective, the discussion emphasized, is not to predict every market movement but to become sufficiently informed and prepared to respond responsibly.

The workshop concluded with a call for young people to resist chasing every emerging investment trend and instead develop competence in financial instruments suited to their personalities, objectives and risk profiles.

Although the severe weather limited the size of the gathering, it did not diminish the program's purpose or the organizers' resolve to carry it forward. Through "Know Yourself, Know Your Money," the Rotary Club of Manila reaffirmed its commitment to Youth Service by helping young people develop the self-awareness, discipline and financial knowledge needed to build more secure and responsible futures.



Membership Committee Meeting



The first Golf Committee Meeting, led by Golf Committee Chair Rami Chahwan, was held on August 27, 2026, at 6 PM at the Barcino Uptown Parade, BGC, Taguig City.

Present were Vice Chair Edwin Hernandez, Chair Raoul Creencia, President Mike Roxas, Past Chair Lito Sibayan, Vice President Karlo Castro, Director Nico Valencia, Past Treasurer, and Rotarian Ingill Ra.

RCMFI Assistant Treasurer/Internal Auditor Dean Cid

Inducted on: January 16, 2025

EREY & TRF Giving: RY 2025-2026

Membership Classification:

Hotels - Franchisee Operations Management

Club Position: RCMFI Assistant Treasurer |

Internal Auditor

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

I would like to share a table with Ramon Ang to learn from his street-smart approach to becoming a successful businessman. From his humble beginnings, he continues to stay grounded. Dresses simply.

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

I still find happiness in eating in *karinderias*. If I have a chance, I still look for or go to the same places I used to go when I was growing up. I am a very simple person and can be pleased with simple things.

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

When I joined the Microtel Group in 2005, I wanted to resign after only 3 months, until my friend who recruited me advised me to stay a little bit longer. I did, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. I have achieved and experienced so much by staying with the group until now.

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

To be with my family. Play golf with my daughter in the morning. Then have dinner in the house with my wife, daughter and son and his kids.

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

Play a round of golf at St. Andrew's Golf Club. One of the oldest golf courses in the world and the home of golf.

What is your favorite part of Rotary?

My favorite part is really meeting new friends and building relationships. By doing so, you also widen your network and can do projects that help others.



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.

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 *Flamenca* FOR WOMEN

Traje de *Corto* FOR MEN

Major Co Host: **P22,500**
(inclusive of 10pax)

Minor Co Host: **P12,000**
(inclusive of 5pax)

Individual: **P2,500**

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

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

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

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 EVENTS

First District 3810's Membership Invitational Fellowship



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended RI District 3810's Membership Invitational Fellowship on August 29, 2026 at Fifth on Fifth in BGC, Taguig City, with the theme “Discover. Connect. Belong.”



DGN Hermie Esguerra delivering his message:

We do not recruit people into Rotary merely to increase our numbers. We invite people into Rotary because we believe they have something to contribute—and because we believe Rotary can make life more meaningful through service.

Every Rotarian was once a prospective Rotarian. Somebody saw something in you. Somebody believed you could make a difference.

Now, we have the opportunity to do for someone else what someone once did for us.

That makes recruitment personal rather than numerical.

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast



Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship on a holiday, August 31, 2026, on a holiday, celebrating the birthday of our host, sugar baron and philanthropist Tony Montinola (rightmost), former President of Republic Bank.

Resolved, that banks should provide easier access to capital for agriculture, and that the government (especially LGUs) should not unnecessarily delay the processing of permits and licenses.

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

FEEDBACK: @INQUIRER.NET

INQUIREROPINAME/AGE/CITY/MESSAGE TO4467

@INQ_OPINION

MONDAY / AUGUST 31, 2026
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Liberal jurisprudence on bigamy

Under the Revised Penal Code, a person commits bigamy by contracting a second marriage during the existence of a valid first marriage. In earlier Supreme Court rulings, bigamy had two consequences for the offending spouses: (1) they cannot remarry, and if they do, (2) they cannot use the invalidity of the prior marriage as a defense unless they have secured a prior judicial declaration of its nullity.

HOWEVER, IN PULIDO v. PEOPLE (July 27, 2021, per J Ramon Paul L. Hernando, en banc), the Supreme Court unanimously modified item (2), holding that a prior void ab initio (from the beginning) marriage is a valid defense even without a judicial declaration of its invalidity. Recently, the Court—in *Lapira v. Fariscal* (Feb. 26, 2026, per J Alfredo Benjamin S. Caguioa, Third Division)—reiterated this change by acquitting a woman convicted of bigamy in the lower courts.

Let me briefly explain the facts in the recent decision. Imelda Lapira and Jimmy Fariscal married in a civil ceremony in 2001. In 2004, Imelda went to Japan ostensibly to work. Unfortunately, Jimmy lost communication with her and later discovered, to his disappointment, that his wife had married a Japanese national, Takahiko Sato, in 2000, before their marriage in 2001.

Charged with bigamy, Imelda claimed that her marriage to Sato was a “sham,” allegedly arranged only to facilitate her entry into Japan. She maintained that no marriage ceremony took place and that she merely signed a blank paper at the instruction of “Jo” who arranged her travel documents.

Nevertheless, the regional trial court convicted her of bigamy as there was no evidence that her marriage to Sato had been dissolved legally. The Court of Appeals affirmed, holding that she remained criminally liable since, per existing jurisprudence, her first marriage had not been judicially declared void prior to contracting her second marriage.

THE SUPREME COURT RULED with three significant aspects.



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

First, it held in *Lapira*, as it did in *Pulido*, that though Article 40 of the Family Code requires a court declaration of nullity for “purposes of remarriage,” it did not prohibit the accused from collaterally attacking the validity of a prior void marriage.

Therefore, the accused in a prosecution for bigamy can freely raise the defense of a prior void ab initio marriage without first securing a court declaration. Imelda was acquitted because her prior marriage to Sato lacked the essential and/or formal requisites to a contract of marriage—like a valid marriage license and marital ceremony.

Second, citing settled jurisprudence, the Court in *Lapira* further clarified that a marriage certificate is “prima facie evidence of its contents” and may be used to prove bigamy when the offending spouse appears in two marital certificates. However, such prima facie evidence may be rebutted by “substantial evidence.”

Thus, the prima facie validity of the marriage certificate of Imelda’s first marriage to Sato was effectively overthrown by the certification of the Local Civil Registrar, stating that it did not issue the certificate; in fact, no marriage license had been applied for. This rebuttal was sufficient to overcome the prima facie presumption and to justify the acquittal of the accused.

Third, the *Lapira* ruling adopts a liberal view

on the civil aspects of marriage. It noted that the alleged first marriage of Imelda to Sato was non-existent, and the subsequent marriage to Jimmy was solemnized in a civil ceremony. Because no sacramental union was celebrated, the Church had no reason to interfere. The acquittal of Lapira of bigamy was a purely civil action.

DRAWING FROM JUSTICE HERNANDO’S RULING in *Pulido*, Justice Caguioa in *Lapira* clarified that: first, a judicial declaration of nullity of a prior void marriage is no longer necessary to secure an acquittal in a prosecution for bigamy; second, the prima facie validity of the contents of a marriage certificate may be rebutted by a certification by the Local Civil Registrar that no marriage certificate was issued; and third, a prior declaration of nullity is nonetheless necessary to enable any of the erstwhile spouses to remarry.

These principles recognize that while our courts are duty-bound to defend the inviolability of marriage, they cannot—and should not—impose the heavy criminal penalties based on a marital bond that, from the very beginning, was nothing but a phantom. Indeed, our civil institutions cannot protect a covenant that never was.

These latest decisions do not transgress the constitutional protection of the sanctity of marriage as an “inviolable social institution.” Likewise, they do not infringe upon the Catholic Church’s doctrine of marriage as a sacrament because the ecclesiastical aspects were untouched.

To conclude, the defense of a void ab initio marriage without prior court declaration balances our constitutional reverence for matrimony with the demands of criminal justice. Moreover, our jurisprudence harmonizes the strictures of temporal law with the rhythms of divine justice: guarding the sacred rings of a valid marriage, while freeing the innocent from the shackles of a void union.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



Himalayan landslide can very well happen to us



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

August 30, 2026 | 12:00am

The horrific videos from the Himalayan border of Nepal and Tibet were harrowing. A wall of ice, mud and rock came crashing into a mountain river, unleashing a flash flood that swallowed homes, roads, bridges and communities. Hundreds have been reported dead, with many more missing as rescuers confront broken roads, unstable slopes and the threat of further flooding.

For Filipinos, the disaster should not be treated as a distant tragedy in a faraway mountain range – it is a warning.

Scientists are still examining the precise chain of events. Early assessments indicate a massive ice-and-rock avalanche collapsing into a river, generating the destructive surge. Experts have cautioned against attributing any single disaster solely to climate change but aver that rising temperatures are destabilizing high-mountain environments. Glaciers are retreating, freeze-and-thaw patterns are changing and slopes once held together by ice are becoming more vulnerable.

The Philippines has no Himalayan glaciers, but the basic lesson applies directly to us: when extreme weather meets weakened terrain, the result can be catastrophic.

Our country is one of the most disaster-prone in the world. An average of 20 tropical cyclones enter the Philippine area of responsibility every year. PAGASA's latest climate projections indicate heavy daily rainfall becoming more frequent, with extreme

rainfall increasing in parts of Luzon and the Visayas. We don't have to imagine what rain-induced landslides and flash floods look like. We have witnessed them in Leyte, Benguet, Cebu, Davao de Oro and many other provinces.

But too often, we describe these events as natural disasters when it is human actions that have made them deadlier. Illegal logging strips mountains of roots that help hold soil together and absorb rainfall. Kaingin and uncontrolled land conversion expose slopes to erosion.

Mining and quarrying can destabilize terrain when laws, engineering standards and environmental safeguards are ignored. Roads and settlements are built in areas classified by geohazard maps as highly susceptible. Rivers are narrowed or clogged, while watersheds lose their capacity to slow and store water. Then the rains come – and government officials act surprised.

The connection is not complicated. Forests cannot prevent every landslide, especially those driven by earthquakes or immense geological forces. Neither can every flood be blamed on logging or mining. Healthy forests and watersheds are among our strongest natural defenses. When they are destroyed, rain runs off faster, soil erodes more easily, rivers fill with sediment and communities downstream face greater danger.

A DENR-supported assessment of the Laguna de Bay basin, for example, warned that rapid deforestation in the watershed is causing soil erosion and sedimentation, reducing the lake's storage capacity and increasing flood risk for Metro Manila. This is precisely why environmental protection is not an abstract concern for activists. It is public safety, economic security and national survival.

We already possess much of the information needed



Himalayan landslide can very well happen to us



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

August 30, 2026 | 12:00am

to reduce the danger. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has geohazard maps identifying areas susceptible to floods and landslides. Local governments know which families live below unstable slopes, beside swollen rivers or in places where evacuation routes can quickly become impassable. The real question is whether we act before the disaster – not after it.

Enforcement must be relentless against illegal logging, illegal mining and irresponsible quarrying. Financiers and protectors of these operations must be prosecuted, not just poor workers caught onsite. Mining permits and environmental compliance certificates must never become shields for destructive practices. Local officials who ignore hazard warnings or allow construction in no-build zones must be held accountable. At the same time, legal and responsible mining should be distinguished from operations that disregard science and the law.

The Philippines needs minerals for industry, energy transition and national development. But no investment can justify endangering communities or sacrificing watersheds that took generations to form. Responsible development means rigorous assessment, transparent monitoring, proper use of rehabilitation funds (if they exist) and swift suspension when safety standards are violated.

Reforestation should be more than ceremonial tree planting, with the right native species, planted in the right places, protected long enough to mature. Critical watersheds and remaining old-growth forests should be defended as national

infrastructure. A forested mountain is as essential to flood control as a concrete dike, and often more enduring.

Barangays in high-risk areas should have practical evacuation plans that residents understand. Warning systems must reach people quickly, including those without smartphones. Roads, bridges, schools and evacuation centers should be designed according to hazards shown on government maps. Families in highly dangerous areas must be given realistic relocation options, not simply ordered to leave without livelihood, transport or basic services.

Climate change is no longer a prediction for the next generation – it is an amplifier of dangers we already face. Stronger rainfall on denuded mountains, silted rivers and poorly planned communities are a formula for tragedy.

The heartbreaking scenes from the Himalayas show how quickly a familiar landscape can be transformed into a field of mud and debris. Homes disappeared, roads were erased and families were separated in just minutes. Geography offered no mercy, and there was hardly any time for escape.

We cannot stop every typhoon, earthquake or landslide, but we can stop people from cutting protected forests, tearing into unstable slopes and building where danger is already identified. We can enforce the law before lives are lost. We can treat warnings as instructions, not suggestions.

The Himalayan catastrophe can very well happen to us – not in exactly the same way, but with the same terrifying speed and human cost. If that happens, we can no longer say that nature gave us no warning – it is already before our eyes.

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?

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