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SANGLA



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BILLS PAYMENT



INSURANCE



**PADALA TO BANK
ACCOUNT**



E-LOADING



MONEY CHANGER



**CASH CARD/
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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. 4106 • SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



Guest of Honor & Speaker
ATTY. ROSELLER "BOOTS" RODRIGUEZ
Mayor, Municipality of Capas, Tarlac

**Find the Courage
to Say No**

**A Lifeline
for Newborns**

**Where Skill
Becomes Hope**

**Kalinga
sa Kalumpit**

**Results of the
Nominations for
Board of Directors
for RY 2027-2028**



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11th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Guest Speaker
Atty. Roseller “Boots” Rodriguez
Mayor, Municipality of Capas, Tarlac
Thursday, September 17, 2026, 12:15 PM
Pasay Rooms A & B, Makati Shangri-La Manila

Moderator: Past Director Issam “Sam” Eldebs

PROGRAM

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
12:15 PM **Call to Order**
President Reginald T. Yu
Invocation
STAR Rotarian Myles Seymour Y. Tan
Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
The Four-Way Test
Vice President Karlo Eugene Josef M. Castro
Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Past Director John M. Cutter
Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**

- Sept. 11 – PT Lito Sibayan
- Sept. 23 – Rtn. Inov Talusan

Maligayang Bati / 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 Rowel Janson S. Ong
Address:
Atty. Roseller “Boots” Rodriguez
*Mayor, Municipality of Capas
Tarlac*
1:15 PM **Open Forum**
1:20 PM **Response**
Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

A Healthy Tension: Balancing National Ambition and Local Autonomy

EVERY Philippine president since 1987 has inherited the same unresolved argument. The Constitution promises local autonomy in one breath and, in the next, hands the national government the instruments of planning, funding, and regulation that make autonomy conditional rather than absolute. The Local Government Code of 1991 tried to formalize the compromise: national agencies must consult local government units before undertaking projects that affect them, and in some cases must secure the



Rotarian Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

consent of the local council itself. In practice, that compromise is tested anew every time an infrastructure budget is drawn up in Manila, a tourist destination is oversold, a mining permit is filed, or a hydropower project is proposed in an ancestral domain. The country does not lack a framework for balancing national programs against local concerns. What it lacks is the habit of using that framework honestly.

The flood control scandal that has consumed the past year of Philippine politics is, at its root, a story about what happens when a national program loses its connection to local accountability.

EDITORIAL

Complaints about unfinished or nonexistent flood control works in Bulacan and elsewhere surfaced from residents and local officials as early as 2024, well before the Commission on Audit's findings, President Marcos's 2025 State of the Nation Address, and Senator Panfilo Lacson's privilege speech forced the issue into the open. By October 2025, the Department of Public Works and Highways had confirmed that hundreds of inspected flood control projects, out of thousands nationwide, were "ghost" projects that existed only on paper. The engineers who signed off on them were national government appointees; the lawmakers implicated were allegedly pocketing a share of the contract value. What was missing was not central planning but a working channel for local complaints to trigger scrutiny before billions of pesos and, eventually, lives were lost to entirely preventable flooding. A national infrastructure program requires local consultation and, eventually, verification.

Boracay illustrates the opposite failure mode: a national government setting a standard that a local government has neither the incentive nor, at times, the capacity to enforce. After the island's 2018 closure, government scientists fixed its carrying capacity at roughly 55,000 people a day, with tourist arrivals capped near 19,000. The cap was a national determination, issued by the Department

of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, resting on a study conducted with the University of the Philippines Los Baños. But its implementation fell to the municipality of Malay and the province of Aklan, whose local economy depends on precisely the volume the cap was designed to restrain. Years later, breaches during peak seasons would draw warnings from the national agencies to local officials. The tension is structural, not personal: a coastal town cannot be expected to police against its own short-term revenue interest without either a genuine stake in the long-term payoff of conservation or a credible enforcement partnership with the national government. Setting a number in Manila is the easy part; enforcement on the ground is something else.



Algal bloom in Boracay on April 25, 2018, a day prior to the resort island's closure. Photo by Rom Dulo for the Philippine News Agency

EDITORIAL

Nowhere is the national-local balance more explicit, or more contested, than in mining. The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 requires that large-scale mining projects secure the endorsement of the local government unit concerned, a legal foothold that gave Palawan's provincial board grounds, in March 2025, to pass a unanimous fifty-year moratorium on new mining permits and a twenty-five-year pause on renewals, a decision its proponents argued Manila could not simply override. The national government, meanwhile, has been courting nickel investment as global demand for electric-vehicle battery minerals rises, and the Chamber of Mines warned that the ban would constrain the country's ability to plan its mineral wealth strategically. The Supreme Court, in a January 2025 ruling on a separate mining moratorium in Occidental Mindoro, tried to draw the line: local autonomy is real but "limited and confined within the extent allowed by the national government," meaning an LGU cannot use a blanket ordinance to prohibit an activity the state has already authorized nationally. At the same time, the Court affirmed that the Local Government Code obliges national agencies to consult LGUs

before environmentally critical projects proceed, and requires the local council's prior approval project by project. The upshot is a balance built into the law itself: local governments cannot foreclose national policy outright, but national policy cannot proceed without a genuine, project-specific local reckoning. Whether that reckoning happens in good faith, or is reduced to a signature collected in passing, determines whether the law's balance is real or cosmetic.

None of these cases argues for a weaker national government or for



*Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) operating in Palawan.
Credit: Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc.*

EDITORIAL

local governments empowered to veto anything inconvenient. Infrastructure shows that national programs fail when they operate deaf to local witnesses. Tourism shows that national standards fail when local governments carry the enforcement burden without the resources or incentives to match it.

Mining shows that the law already anticipates the tension between national strategy and local consent, and that the courts, despite their monumental caseloads, have the onus of adjudicating it. The common failure is procedural: consultation reduced to a formality, oversight left to whichever level of government happens to be watching, and consent treated as an obstacle to route around rather than a check against unintended consequences.

The fiscal ground for a more genuine balance already exists. Since the Supreme Court's *Mandanas-Garcia* ruling expanded the share of national tax revenue that flows automatically to local governments, LGUs have had more resources - and a stronger claim - to participate as partners in programs affecting their territory, not as afterthoughts to be briefed once decisions are made. What the country

needs is not a new law reassigning power from Manila to the LGUs or back again, but the discipline to use the consultation and consent mechanisms already written into law as more than procedural checkpoints. National government sets policy and direction; local government supplies policy input, feedback from the ground, and the consent that makes a program legitimate to the people who live with its consequences. Monitoring and enforcement are jointly undertaken, and accountability resides at both levels.

A country that keeps treating this balance as an either-or equation will keep relearning the same lesson, in a new sector, every few years.



*Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) operating in Palawan.
Credit: Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc.*

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

A member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, graduated a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at St. Louis University and a Bachelor of Laws at the University of the East.

A four term Vice-Mayor of the Municipality of Capas and in 2022, he succeeded in the race for mayoralty.

He is best admired to his battle cry “Batas at Reporma”. He believes that abiding by the law shall lead to better reforms. He strongly believes in this program and that he lives by it—that an honest government will lead Capas on a steady path to progress.



**ATTY. ROSELLER "BOOTS"
RODRIGUEZ**

Mayor, Municipality of Capas, Tarlac

Find the Courage to Say No

By Pres. Reginald T. Yu



Veteran broadcast journalist Karen Davila takes center stage before a jam-packed audience of close to a hundred attendees at the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting. Drawing from more than three decades of truth-seeking, storytelling, and navigating the evolving media landscape, she delivered a clear and compelling message: lasting success rests not only on talent, but on preparation, courage, and an unwavering commitment to integrity.

AWARD-WINNING broadcast journalist Karen Davila underscored the importance of integrity, preparation and moral courage during the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Rather than delivering a conventional account of her professional success, Davila drew from her 33-year career in broadcast journalism to challenge Rotarians to identify the principles they would never compromise in pursuit of recognition, influence or advancement.

She said success is shaped not only by the opportunities a person accepts but also by the temptations, compromises and questionable arrangements one has the courage to reject.

Before Davila's address, the Rotary Club of Manila renewed its Memorandum of Agreement for the Legal Education and Advancement Program Awards with the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Philippine Institute of Arbitrators.

The agreement reaffirmed the Club's commitment to peace, responsible citizenship and institutions that promote dialogue, fairness and public trust.



President Reginald Yu called the 10th Weekly Membership Meeting to order, formally commencing the day's proceedings.



Rotarian Coco Mauricio serves as the program host for the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting.



Past Director Henry Go led the invocation, offering a reflective and meaningful opening.



Deputy Sgt. At Arms Stefan Yordaov led the Rotarians in reciting the Rotary Four-Way Test.



The Rotary Club of Manila's World-Famous Music Chorale fills the hall with harmony and fellowship, once again demonstrating how music can uplift the spirit, unite people, and bring the Rotary family together in joyful celebration.



*RCM World Famous Chorale led the membership in serenading the week's birthday celebrant, **PDSAA Bollie Bolton**, adding a joyful and festive touch to the fellowship.*



*Rotarian **Philip Recto** welcomes the visiting Rotarians and guests, extending the club's warm hospitality.*



*Rotary Club of Manila **Director Atty. Teddy Kalaw** introduces the Leaders Excelling in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peacemaking (L.E.A.P.) Awards Program, outlining its mission to recognize exemplary leaders who advance dialogue, mediation, arbitration, and peaceful conflict resolution in the Philippines.*





The formal signing of the Annual Supplemental Agreement among the Rotary Club of Manila, the [Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution \(OADR\)](#), and the [Philippine Institute of Arbitrators](#) formally launches Season 2 of the Leaders Excelling in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peacemaking (LEAP) Recognition Program. The renewed partnership advances a shared commitment to recognizing exemplary leaders and promoting mediation, arbitration, and peaceful conflict resolution throughout the country.



[STAR Rotarian and Fellowship Chairman Chris Tamesis](#) energizes the membership as he announces an exciting lineup of fellowship activities for September, promising a vibrant month of music, entertainment, camaraderie, and memorable shared experiences for Rotary Club of Manila members and their families.





Past Director Amading Valdez introduces the guest speaker, Ms. Karen Davila, setting the stage for her participation in the program.

Past Director Amado D. Valdez introduced Davila, while Rotarian Francisco Roberto “Coco” DC. Mauricio moderated the open forum.

The Power of Saying “No”

Davila recalled her longstanding connection with the Rotary Club of Manila through The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines awards. Rotary Club of Manila President Reginald T. Yu had encouraged and assisted her in preparing her application, but recognition did not come immediately. She was nominated more than once before finally receiving the award on her third attempt in 2008.

She cited the experience as proof that failure and delay can form part of the preparation for eventual success. It also



Karen Davila speaks with characteristic candor and conviction before the Rotary Club of Manila, reminding the audience that professional longevity is built upon clearly defined values and boundaries. “We often equate success with what we say yes to,” she reflected, “but very few ever really teach us the power of saying no.”

became a lesson she would later impart to her sons: an unsuccessful first attempt should never be a reason to give up.

Davila then turned to what she described as a more fundamental requirement of professional life: deciding in advance what one would never do to succeed.

When she joined GMA Network in 1993, Davila earned a monthly salary of ₱5,000. Her father drove her to work in an old Volkswagen that occasionally broke down. Long before she became one of the country’s most recognizable broadcast journalists, she had already resolved never to dishonor her profession for money, influence or personal advancement.

That early decision, she said, became a form of protection throughout her career.

Davila reminded the audience that credibility is a journalist's most valuable capital. It may take decades to establish but only one compromised decision to destroy. She added that the principle applies equally to business, government, civic leadership and private life.

Ethical failure, she warned, does not always begin with one dramatic act. It can develop gradually through seemingly minor accommodations, concealed conflicts, dishonest transactions and compromises justified as necessary for survival.

Values must therefore be settled before temptation arrives, she said. If principles remain negotiable until the moment they are tested, temptation itself may determine the outcome.

Preparation Transforms Talent

Davila identified preparation as another indispensable principle of professional excellence.

While natural talent may open doors, she said it cannot sustain a career without discipline. In live journalism, there is no substitute for reading the material, researching the subject, studying its history and understanding the context needed to ask meaningful questions.



*Veteran broadcast journalist **Karen Davila** addresses the Rotary Club of Manila, drawing from 33 years in the media industry to emphasize the foundations of an enduring and honorable career: integrity, preparation, and courage.*

"Our main asset is our credibility. It takes years to build and is easy to destroy," she declared. "You can never be courageous if you are compromised."

Beyond professional success, she invited everyone to reflect on a deeper measure of achievement: "How did I live and lead my life? Is it a life I can be proud of?"

Preparation, she added, is not merely a professional requirement but an expression of respect for one's audience, colleagues and the people affected by a public conversation.

After years of hosting as many as two or three live programs in one day, Davila said she had learned that there were no shortcuts to readiness. Whether circumstances were favorable or difficult, the responsibility remained the same: to arrive prepared and perform the work faithfully.

Integrity as the Foundation of Courage

Davila's third principle was courage, which she described not as the absence of fear but as a consequence of integrity.

A compromised person cannot be entirely courageous, she explained, because hidden obligations create constraints. They weaken a person's voice, limit the questions that can be asked and compel individuals to protect private arrangements instead of defending the truth.

She offered a simple measure of personal integrity: whether a person can still look at oneself in the mirror. Even when compromises remain hidden from others, the individual who made them knows they exist. That knowledge, she said, can diminish the moral authority from which courage must speak.

As she approached her 56th birthday, Davila said her understanding of success had also evolved. Awards, wealth, professional titles and public recognition remain meaningful, but they no longer constitute the ultimate measure of a life.

She now places greater importance on what she called an "eternal investment," referring to choices and contributions whose value extends beyond applause and professional recognition.

Drawing from a reflection by tennis champion Roger Federer, she said greatness can be found not only in extraordinary achievements but also in balancing meaningful work with time devoted to one's family.

Turning Imperfection as a Distinctive Voice

During the open forum, Davila spoke candidly about the distinctive raspiness of her voice.

She revealed that she had been diagnosed with hyperthyroidism in her twenties and later underwent radioactive iodine treatment. For years, she considered her voice a "thorn in the flesh" and admitted that she had never particularly liked it.

Over time, however, she learned to accept what she could not change and make the best use of what she had been given. The vocal quality she once regarded as an imperfection eventually became one of the most recognizable voices in Philippine broadcasting.

Her experience, she said, demonstrated that people may not always choose the instruments entrusted to them, but they remain responsible for using those gifts faithfully.

No Plans to Seek Public Office

Asked whether she would consider running for public office in 2028, Davila immediately said no.

She acknowledged the dignity of public service and the privilege of serving the country. She also expressed confidence that she possessed the competence to perform the work, particularly when compared with officials who hold office without demonstrating sufficient ability or commitment.

Her hesitation, she explained, concerned the vast financial and political machinery required to mount a serious electoral campaign, as well as the compromises and personal costs that often accompany it.

Davila said she was unwilling to surrender her peace of mind or risk everything she had built unless the call to public office became unmistakably clear.

Her response reinforced one of the central arguments of her address: leadership does not require accepting every available platform. Influence may sometimes be exercised more authentically outside elected office.

Public Figures Who Left An Impression

When asked which Filipino interviewee had inspired her most, Davila named Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, citing his



Ms. Karen Davila graciously responded to the questions raised during the open forum, offering thoughtful insights and engaging candidly with members and guests.



integrity, clarity of vision and determination to change the practice of governance.

His example, she said, showed that public office does not create character but reveals and tests the character a person has already formed.

Davila also recalled memorable encounters with the late senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, former Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and former vice president Leni Robredo.

She described Santiago as an unforgettable subject because of her intensity, while noting Enrile's intellectual alertness and habit of remaining well-read despite his advanced age. Robredo, meanwhile, represented what Davila regarded as a certain purity in public life and a sincere desire to serve beyond political calculation.

Journalism Under Pressure

Addressing the state of Philippine journalism, Davila acknowledged the industry's historical problems, including corruption and the practice known as "attack-collect, defend-collect."

She said, however, that one of the more serious present dangers comes from the political environment surrounding the press.

Davila cited the failure to renew the ABS-CBN franchise as a development

that sent a chilling message to media organizations and businesses. The shutdown demonstrated how political power could be used against institutions that refused to conform, she said, fostering fear and self-censorship among journalists.

She also expressed concern about politicians acquiring interests in media organizations. Ownership, she noted, can influence not only which stories are reported but also which issues are deliberately ignored.

The challenge has become more complex with the growth of social media, artificial intelligence and politically controlled online platforms. Fabricated stories can now imitate legitimate journalism and reach millions of people before verified information can catch up.

Even intelligent and educated citizens may be deceived by false reports presented through professional-looking platforms, she warned.

In this environment, media literacy has become a civic responsibility, while credible journalism has become even more necessary at precisely the time it is most vulnerable.

Discipline in Reporting Complex Issues

Davila was also asked about the two-thirds threshold in a possible Senate



President Reginald T. Yu presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a bouquet to guest speaker Ms. Karen Davila in recognition of her insightful and engaging presentation.

impeachment trial.

She outlined the legal and practical questions surrounding the definition of the Senate's total membership, particularly when senators may be absent, suspended, resigned, deceased or unable to take their oaths as senator-judges.

While describing retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's position as reasonable and substantial, Davila distinguished between a journalist's responsibility to examine a legal argument and the judiciary's authority to resolve it. She said any disputed interpretation would likely reach the Supreme Court.

Her answer reflected the journalistic discipline of clarifying an issue, examining competing arguments and refraining from presenting personal opinion as final judgment.

Leadership Begins with Self-Command

District Governor-Nominee Hermie Esguerra posed the final question, asking Davila to identify the most difficult question she had ever asked herself and what its answer had taught her about leadership.

Davila said she regularly evaluates her performance after an interview. She asks whether she could have done better,



Guest speaker [Karen Davila](#) receives a bouquet of roses as a heartfelt token of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Manila for sharing her time, wisdom, and inspiring reflections on truth-seeking, courage, credibility, and principled leadership.

whether she missed an important question, whether she could have spoken more clearly or whether she might have responded with greater composure.

She then discussed the influence of Don Miguel Ruiz's "The Four Agreements" on her personal and professional life: be impeccable with one's word, do not take things personally, do not make assumptions and always do one's best.

Davila acknowledged that she had occasionally become emotional or raised her voice during interviews. Maria Ressa, her former supervisor, had reminded her that journalists must not allow personal reactions to control an exchange.

She also stressed the need to seek clarity instead of relying on assumptions, particularly in political journalism, where reducing people to simplistic categories of good and evil can obscure the systems and pressures influencing their actions.

Davila recalled a demanding period in which she hosted a morning program, covered stories in the field, conducted an afternoon radio show, returned home for dinner with her children, rested briefly and then anchored a late-night newscast. She maintained the schedule for about 12 years because she regarded work and access to a national platform as privileges that should never be wasted.

She did not claim to be the country's

best journalist and readily acknowledged that others might possess greater natural gifts. What she could say with confidence, however, was that she consistently tried to give her best.

Her message offered a broader lesson for leadership: before governing an organization, community or country, a leader must first learn to govern personal ego, appetites, reactions, assumptions and fears.

Davila's appearance at the Rotary Club of Manila ultimately became more than a discussion about journalism. It was a reflection on the moral foundations of leadership and a reminder that credibility cannot be improvised, courage cannot thrive in compromise and influence must be treated as a trust rather than a personal possession.

Her closing message was clear: establish one's non-negotiable principles, prepare relentlessly, remain free enough to act courageously and use one's voice in service of something greater than oneself.



*Veteran broadcast journalist **Karen Davila** poses beside the digital event display during the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting at Makati Shangri-La, Manila on September 10, 2026. Her presentation, "The Anatomy of an Interview: 30+ Years of Truth-Seeking, Digital Evolution, and Media Integrity," offered a compelling reflection on responsible journalism, the changing media landscape, and the enduring importance of courage, credibility, and truth in public discourse.*



Representatives of the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution and partner institutions share a moment of fellowship during the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting, following the formal signing of the Annual Supplemental Agreement for Season 2 of the Leaders Excelling in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peacemaking Recognition Program (L.E.A.P.) Awards.



Rotary Club of Manila officers, directors, and distinguished guests gather for a commemorative photograph following the Club's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting, celebrating an afternoon marked by meaningful dialogue, renewed partnerships, and fellowship in service.



Past District Governors of RI District 3810, together with distinguished Rotary International officials and leaders, came in full force to hear veteran broadcast journalist Karen Davila speak at the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting. Their strong presence reflected the Rotary family's shared commitment to truth, responsible leadership, and informed public discourse.

Meeting Fellowship



Past District Governors Mary Mei V. Rodrigo and Ernesto Y. Choa share a warm moment of fellowship with members of the Rotary Club of University District Manila and fellow Rotaractors during the Rotary Club of Manila's 10th Weekly Membership Meeting.



President Reggie Yu with President Philip Edquiban of the Rotary Club of Manila Alpha, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila



Left photo: Proposer PP Jujut Enriquez greets his recruit, DSAA Stefan Yordanov; right photo: proposer PP Boy Guevara with his recruit, Rotarian Kazu Nomura



From left: RC Manila Alpha President Philip Edquiban, Charter President Cristy Edquiban, PDG Josie Ang, and DGN Hermie Esguerra

Meeting Fellowship



From left: Past President Jujut Enriquez, Ms. Gretchen Laurel (Rotary International's only Philippine-based staff), Past District Governor Josie Ang, Past District Governor Ernest Yuyek, Past Director Oscar del Rosario, District Governor Nominee Hermie Esguerra, District Governor-elect Jun Pasion, Past Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Bollie Bolton, Rotary Club of Manila Alpha's Charter President Cristy Edquiban and President Philip Edquiban



From left: RC Manila Alpha President Philip Edquiban, Charter President Cristy Edquiban, District Governor-elect Jun Pasion, Past District Governor Josie Ang, Rotarian Philip Recto



From left: District Governor-elect Jun Pasion, Past District Governor Ernest Yuyek, President Reggie Yu

Rotary
Club of Manila



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Quezon Club

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
DINNER SHOW



A STAR STUDDED PERFORMANCE

CARLA GUEVARA & DAVID EZRA

Performing songs of

BARBRA STREISAND & FRANK SINATRA



PLS SAVE DATE
SEPTEMBER 23
WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM



QUEZON CLUB
in
SOLAIRE
NORTH QC



SPOUSES ARE
ENCOURAGED TO JOIN



ROTARY WAY
Minimum order of
P1500/pax



RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2026-2027

ATTENDANCE REPORT September 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026	September 03, 2026 ATTY. ANGELO "JUIL" AZURA JIMENEZ	September 10, 2026 KAREN DAVILA
MEMBERS PRESENT	37	42
MEMBERS PRESENT %	18%	21%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	0	0
EXEMPTED	5	3
ON LEAVE	0	0
Total Active Members	37	42
Total # of Members	203	203
TOTAL %:	18%	21%
ROTARACTORS	5	4
MEDIA	1	2
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0
GOHS / GS	2	2
VISITING ROTARIAN	16	10
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	2	7
TOTAL ATTENDEES	64	65

ATTENDEES September 10, 2026

MIKE ALBAÑA
ALBERT ALDAY
NOY BENEDICTO
BOLLIE BOLTON
VINCE CARLOS
KARLO CASTRO
VAL CO
ALEX CUREG
RAY DAVIS
OSCAR DEL ROSARIO
JUJUT ENRIQUEZ
HERMIE ESGUERRA
JOB GESMUNDO
HENRY GO
BOY GUEVARA
EDWIN HERNANDEZ
TEDDY KALAW
PAUL KOH
GUNTER MATSCHUCK
ANTON MAURICIO
COCO MAURICIO

KAZU NOMURA
PEPO NUÑEZ
PHIL ONG
ABE PASCUAL
AJ PANGILINAN
BEBOT PINEDA
JORDAN PIZARRAS
FAUSTO PREYSLER
PHILIP RECTO
MIKE ROXAS
CALOY SERAPIO
WARREN SO
CHRIS TAMESIS
MYLES TAN
AMADING VALDEZ
NICO VALENCIA
STEFAN YORDANOV
REGGIE YU
CHITO ZALDARRIAGA
PACO MAGSAYSAY
TEDDY TEE

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

As of September 8, 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	JUCABAN, JERIC J.
39	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV
40	KANDA, HIROYASU
41	KATIGBAK, J ALFONSO L
42	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
43	KUNACK, LUTZ
44	LAYA, JAIME C.
45	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.
46	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEOS P.
47	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
48	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI
49	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.
50	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.
51	NONES, ROMEO C.
52	OBRADO, DANIEL

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

CLUB ADMINISTRATION



Results of the Nominations for Members of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2027–2028

September 13, 2026

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

Warm Rotary greetings!

The Committee on Elections is pleased to announce the results of the nominations for members of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2027–2028. The nominations were 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 is the final list of nominees for consideration as Directors of the Board for Rotary Year 2027-2028:

	NAMES		NAMES
1	Caranceja, Arvin Arik B.	5	Macatoman, Abdulgani
2	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y. III	6	Albaña, Michael Jaey
3	Valencia, John Nico V.	7	Roxas, Michael D.
4	Alday, Albert S.	8	Yordanov, Stefan

CLUB ADMINISTRATION



Pursuant to the Club's election guidelines, **members in good standing are eligible to vote and to be voted upon.**

Members whose annual membership dues are currently being processed or remain unpaid are kindly requested to settle their dues at their earliest convenience, **but no later than 23 September 2026.**

Payment Details

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

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

Your participation is vital to ensuring a meaningful and successful election process and to strengthening the continued service and fellowship of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Thank you for your cooperation, support, and continued commitment to our Club.

Yours in Rotary,

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



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

COMELEC Holds Virtual Meeting to Ensure Credible Electoral Process



The Committee on Elections (COMELEC) convened via Zoom on September 15, 2026, bringing together its members to fulfill their respective responsibilities and further the Club's commitment to a fair, transparent, orderly, and credible electoral process.

Participating in the deliberations were Chairman/IPP Raoul Creencia, Co-Chair/PP Archit Bartolome, PP Chito Zalzarriaga, Director Caloy Serapio, and PVP Ricky Guevara.

Also participating in the determination were STAR Rotarian Winston Ginez and E-Balloting Chair/Rotarian Nico Hallare, who, although not present during the virtual meeting, had conveyed their respective positions and decisions to Chairman/IPP Raoul Creencia. Their votes were duly considered and formed part of the official determination of the COMELEC.

Custodian of Memory



UNDER the unforgiving glare of the Manila sun, 69-year-old Eduardo Agustin stands watchful among the promenaders of Rizal Park. To generations of park-goers, he is simply "Tatay Eduardo," a fixture of the historic grounds who has spent four decades as a litratista, carrying a camera and preserving the fleeting milestones of ordinary lives.

For 40 years, Agustin turned everyday park visits into tangible keepsakes. Through his lens passed courtships, family reunions, homecomings, and quiet Sunday afternoons. His prints found their way into albums, bedside frames, and faded wallets across the archipelago. In an era when having a portrait taken was an intentional family event, Agustin was a custodian of personal histories.

Yet time and technology rarely pause for tradition. Over the decades, darkrooms yielded to memory cards, and digital cameras eventually surrendered to smartphones. Today, nearly every passerby carries a high-resolution lens in

Custodian of Memory

their pocket, rendering instant photography a casual reflex rather than a specialized trade. For traditional street photographers like Agustin, the shift was not merely a cultural evolution—it was the near-total erosion of a livelihood.

Still, the aging photographer remains at his post, driven by an enduring sense of duty to provide for his family. With customer traffic dwindled to a fraction of its former glory, the daily earnings are unpredictable, but the dignity of his honest labor remains intact.

His quiet perseverance reached a wider audience when veteran broadcast journalist Doris Bigornia featured his life on DZMM TeleRadyo's public service program, *Mutya ng Masa*. The broadcast served as a stark reminder of the human cost of rapid technological change, highlighting the vulnerable workers left in the wake of modernization.

The story prompted swift community action. Coordinated by DZMM TeleRadyo Public Service Lead Paul Bea, the Rotary Club of Manila stepped



forward to offer relief. On September 5, 2026, representatives from the civic organization joined the program via video conference to present Agustin and his family with essential grocery assistance.

While the aid cannot roll back the tide of technological disruption or restore the bygone golden age of Luneta's street photographers, it delivered immediate relief and a vital message of solidarity. For a man who dedicated 40 years to ensuring others were never forgotten, the gesture served as proof that his own lifelong labor remains seen, respected, and deeply valued.



A Lifeline for Newborns

International partnership equips the country's leading public hospital with specialized technology for critically ill newborns.

Rotary leaders and members from the Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin, together with representatives of UP-Philippine General Hospital, gather around the newly donated life-saving neonatal equipment. The turnover marked the fulfillment of Global Grant No. 2682583 and a shared international commitment to give critically ill newborns a stronger beginning and a fighting chance at life.

THE Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin in South Korea have turned over two units of specialized neonatal hyperbaric equipment to the University of the Philippines–Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH), strengthening the hospital's capacity to care for newborns facing severe and potentially life-threatening medical conditions.



**DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT**



**MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH**

A Lifeline for Newborns

The approximately US\$50,000 donation was made through Rotary Global Grant No. 2682583, titled “Strengthening Neonatal Intensive Care Through Life-Saving Equipment Support.” The project brought together Rotarians from the Philippines and South Korea, Rotary International Districts 3810 and 3610, The Rotary Foundation World Fund, and UP-PGH physicians and administrators.

The turnover ceremony marked the culmination of more than a year of planning, international coordination, grant preparation, procurement, and delivery. It was witnessed by hospital officials, medical professionals, district leaders, and an 18-member delegation from the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin.

While the ceremony recognized the institutions and individuals behind the undertaking, its central purpose was the welfare of the critically ill infants treated at PGH and the families who depend on the country’s premier public tertiary hospital for specialized care.



President Reginald Yu delivers a message during the formal turnover of the life-saving neonatal equipment to UP–Philippine General Hospital, emphasizing that the project represented far more than a donation of advanced technology. It embodied the shared commitment of Rotarians from Manila and Korea to give critically ill newborns, regardless of their families’ circumstances, a stronger beginning and a fighting chance at life.

Responding to an Urgent Neonatal Need

Among the serious conditions confronting neonatal specialists is hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, or HIE, a type of brain injury caused by insufficient oxygen and blood flow

A Lifeline for Newborns

around the time of birth. Without prompt and appropriate medical intervention, the condition can result in permanent neurological disability or death.

Figures presented by UP-PGH underscored the urgency of strengthening neonatal care. The hospital recorded six HIE cases in 2024, with a case-fatality rate of 33.33 percent. In 2025, the number rose to 22 cases, ten of which resulted in death, raising the fatality rate to 45.5 percent.

For the hospital's medical personnel, such statistics represent far more than clinical data. Each case involves a newborn struggling to survive and a family abruptly confronted with fear and uncertainty during what should have been a joyful time.

The donated equipment is intended to give trained medical teams an additional option in carefully selected cases requiring treatment under controlled hyperbaric conditions. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy uses a



President Reginald Yu with Dr. Gerardo "Gap" Legaspi, the prominent neurosurgeon and distinguished public-health leader at the helm of the Philippine General Hospital. Our handshake beside the newly donated neonatal equipment symbolizes a shared commitment between Rotary and PGH to harness advanced medical technology in giving critically ill newborns greater hope for survival and a healthier beginning.



Dr. Gerardo "Gap" Legaspi, Director of the Philippine General Hospital, delivers his message during the turnover ceremony, expressing the institution's appreciation for Rotary's investment in advanced neonatal care. A prominent neurosurgeon and respected public-health leader, Dr. Legaspi affirmed the importance of partnerships that equip PGH's medical professionals with better tools to serve the country's most vulnerable patients.

A Lifeline for Newborns

pressurized environment to increase the amount of oxygen delivered to tissues suffering from inadequate circulation or oxygenation. Depending on the condition and the clinical judgment of specialists, it may be used as an adjunctive intervention to support tissue recovery, reduce inflammation, and protect areas threatened by serious injury.

Treating a newborn in a hyperbaric environment presents exceptional challenges. Premature and critically ill

infants may weigh only a few kilograms, have immature lungs and organs, and require uninterrupted monitoring, temperature control, and respiratory support. The placement of medical lines, transportation of the patient, maintenance of body heat, and management of changing pressure must all be handled with exacting care.

Unlike conventional hyperbaric facilities, which are generally designed for adults, the donated units were developed to meet the highly specialized requirements of neonatal patients. Their controlled environment allows infants to remain closely monitored and properly supported throughout treatment.

Hospital officials and project partners emphasized that hyperbaric oxygen therapy is not a routine treatment for newborns and must not be administered indiscriminately. Its use requires strict medical judgment, trained specialists, and careful evaluation of the risks associated with oxygen exposure, pressure, transportation, and thermoregulation. In appropriate cases, however, it may offer additional support for serious conditions involving ischemia, thrombosis, compromised tissue, difficult surgical wounds, and certain injuries linked to oxygen deprivation.



Immediate Past President Raoul C. Creencia recounts how Global Grant No. 2682583 began and developed into a life-saving partnership with the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin. His vision and initiative, together with Korean counterpart Immediate Past President Bang Jae Nam (방재남), laid the groundwork for bringing advanced neonatal equipment to UP-Philippine General Hospital.

A Lifeline for Newborns

A Project Spanning Two Rotary Years

The partnership began in July 2025 through the shared vision and initiative of then-Rotary Club of Manila President Raoul C. Creencia and his South Korean counterpart, then-Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin President Bang Jae Nam.

Recognizing an urgent need at PGH, the two leaders began discussions on how their clubs could combine their resources, experience, and international goodwill. Those conversations led to the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement and the preparation of an application to The Rotary Foundation.

The Global Grant was approved in May 2026, transforming the proposal into a formal commitment. Rotary International District 3610 in South Korea, Rotary International District 3810 in the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin, and The Rotary Foundation World Fund pooled their resources for the project.

As a new Rotary year began, responsibility for completing the undertaking passed to Rotary Club of Manila President Reginald T. Yu and Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin President Kim Hong Un.

The transition demonstrated the



President Reginald Yu and Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin President Kim Hong Un seal the continuing partnership with a handshake before the newly installed permanent marker at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Philippine General Hospital. The marker commemorates Global Grant No. 2682583 and the enduring commitment of our two clubs to protect vulnerable newborns through international fellowship and service.

continuity essential to major service initiatives. Although club presidents and boards change at the end of each Rotary year, projects of lasting importance must retain their momentum. Creencia and Bang conceived and initiated the partnership, while Yu and Kim carried it through to completion.

The equipment's journey to Manila was not without setbacks. Deliveries had to be completed in stages, and a typhoon disrupted an initial shipment. Despite the delay, the participating clubs and their partners continued coordinating until both units reached PGH.

A Lifeline for Newborns



President Reginald Yu with Rotary International District 3810 Governor Bing N. Carrion during the official turnover of the life-saving neonatal equipment to the Philippine General Hospital. Her presence was a meaningful manifestation of the District's support for Global Grant No. 2682583 and for the enduring partnership between the Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin.

International Friendship to Service

The turnover was made more significant by the presence of the 18-member delegation from Kangjin-Tamjin, led by President Kim and joined by Immediate Past President Bang, several past presidents, club members, and spouses.

Their visit affirmed that the initiative was more than a transfer of medical equipment. It reflected a friendship between two Rotary clubs whose members were separated by geography and language but united by a shared concern for vulnerable children.



President Reginald Yu meets Dr. Edilberto Garcia, Chair, Department of Pediatrics of the Philippine General Hospital, as Immediate Past President Raoul C. Creencia formally introduces us during the turnover ceremonies. The warm exchange reflected the spirit of cooperation between Rotary and PGH, united by a shared commitment to bring advanced, life-saving care within reach of the country's most vulnerable newborn patients.

During the ceremony, Creencia traced the project's beginnings and recounted the partnership formed with Bang. UP-PGH medical professionals, meanwhile, explained the clinical need for the equipment and its potential role in the hospital's neonatal services.

The program culminated in the unveiling of the Global Grant and Four-Way Test Marker. Creencia and Bang, who initiated the undertaking, were joined by Yu and Kim, the incumbent presidents who oversaw its completion.

The marker records the participating clubs, districts, and project partners,

A Lifeline for Newborns



President Reginald Yu with Rotary Club of Manila Auditor Undersecretary Abdulgani "Gani" Macatoman beside the newly donated neonatal equipment at the Philippine General Hospital. His presence at the turnover reflected our Board's solidarity behind Global Grant No. 2682583 and our collective commitment to strengthening specialized care for the hospital's most vulnerable newborn patients.

but it also stands as a reminder of the principles underlying their collaboration: recognizing a genuine need, responding fairly to patients with limited means, building goodwill across national boundaries, and undertaking action beneficial to the most vulnerable.

The Korean delegates and their Filipino hosts also shared meals, conversations, music, and fellowship during the visit. Such exchanges deepened the trust that enables international service projects to endure beyond formal agreements and funding arrangements.



President Reginald Yu pauses beside a newborn receiving care at the UP-Philippine General Hospital, a deeply moving encounter that gave human meaning to every meeting, document, and contribution behind the Global Grant. In this fragile young life, I was reminded why access to advanced neonatal care matters and why even the smallest patient deserves our greatest measure of compassion, hope, and service.

Expanding the Possibilities

UP-PGH serves as a national referral center and a vital lifeline for Filipinos who cannot afford highly specialized private medical treatment. Its physicians and nurses routinely manage some of the country's most complex cases, including critically ill and premature newborns.

Medical expertise, however, must be supported by technology equal to the complexity of the conditions being treated. By providing equipment



Members of the Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin, together with Rotary district leaders and representatives of UP–Philippine General Hospital, celebrate the successful completion of Global Grant No. 2682583. Their shared gesture of goodwill captures the friendship, unity, and international cooperation that brought life-saving neonatal equipment to the country's premier public hospital.

designed specifically for newborn patients in a hyperbaric setting, the Rotary partnership expands the range of interventions that PGH specialists may consider in rare and critical cases.

The donation also reinforces a fundamental principle of equitable health care: a child's chance of survival should not be determined by the family's financial circumstances. Illness does not discriminate according to income, and neither should access to potentially life-saving treatment.

Long after the speeches and ceremonial photographs have faded from memory, the equipment will remain at PGH for the moments when a medical team must explore every appropriate option to save a newborn. Its most important work will likely take place away from the cameras—in the middle of the night, under the supervision of trained specialists, while anxious parents wait outside the neonatal intensive care unit.

The Rotarians who made the project possible may never know the names of

A Lifeline for Newborns



President Reginald Yu confers with Dr. Jo Borallo, Chief Resident Physician of the Neonatal Unit, as the medical team performs a delicate bedside procedure on an indigent premature infant suffering from complications of prematurity and suspected neonatal sepsis. Dr. Borallo explained that, as the country's primary tertiary referral government hospital, UP-PGH routinely receives the nation's highest-risk pregnancies and most critically ill newborns. With 15 percent of infants admitted for suspected infections succumbing to their conditions, donated specialized equipment provides vulnerable patients, whose families could not otherwise afford such advanced care, a fighting chance at survival.

every child who benefits from the donation. They may not witness the moment an infant begins breathing without assistance, grasps a parent's finger, or is finally declared stable enough to go home. Yet those unseen outcomes will be the project's true measure of success.

Every newborn life preserved carries countless possibilities: first steps, school



President Reginald Yu offers words of comfort to the young mother of a jaundiced premature infant battling meningitis, accompanied by Head of the Human Milk Bank and Lactation Unit, Dr. Aurora Gloria I. Libadia and outgoing Chief Fellow Dr. Val Vaquilar. The poignant encounter gave a human face to our mission, reminding us that behind every piece of donated equipment is a fragile life, an anxious family, and the enduring hope that compassionate, advanced medical care can bring them through their most difficult hour.

days, birthdays, friendships, families, and future acts of service that have yet to be written.

Global Grant No. 2682583 is therefore more than a story about medical technology. It is a story of leadership sustained across successive terms, an international friendship transformed into concrete action, and two Rotary clubs joining their resources to protect lives at their most fragile beginning. At UP-PGH, that partnership has placed advanced equipment in the hands of

A Lifeline for Newborns

skilled medical professionals and extended another measure of hope to critically ill newborns and their families. In doing so, the project has given lasting meaning to Rotary's commitment to service—not merely changing lives, but helping life itself continue.

Right photo: President Reginald Yu with the 18-member delegation from the Rotary Club of Kangjin-Tamjin before the newly installed permanent marker at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Philippine General Hospital.



President Reginald Yu pauses in quiet reflection while surveying PGH's neonatal charity ward, where rows of fragile newborns fight battles far greater than their tiny bodies should ever have to bear. The equipment we turned over will save lives, but the scene before me was a sobering reminder that much more remains to be done. As long as a child's chance of survival is diminished by poverty, our work cannot be considered finished.

Where Skill Becomes Hope



A Dualtech trainee demonstrates an industrial automation system to members of the Rotary Club of Manila during their tour of the training facilities. The encounter offered the delegation a firsthand view of how scholars transform technical concepts into practical, industry-ready skills through disciplined, hands-on learning—affirming the Club’s belief that vocational education can open doors to dignified employment, self-reliance, and lasting hope.

THE Rotary Club of Manila reaffirmed its commitment to expanding vocational education opportunities for underprivileged youth during an ocular visit to the Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc..



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Where Skill Becomes Hope

The RCM delegation was composed of Club President Reginald T. Yu, Immediate Past President Raoul Creencia, and Project Chair and Past Club Secretary Anton Mauricio. The visit sought to assess how the Club could sustain its support for its current scholars and extend similar opportunities to more deserving students.

The delegation was welcomed by Dualtech President Engr. Jerry Webb Muhi and consultant Leo Calderon, who led the Rotarians through the institution's classrooms, workshops, and technical training facilities.

Inside the workshops, trainees demonstrated practical skills in operating machinery, installing electrical systems, and performing industrial processes. Beyond technical competence, the students are taught the discipline, responsibility, and work ethic needed to succeed in actual workplaces.

Established in 1982, Dualtech pioneered the dual training system in the Philippines. Its educational model combines classroom instruction with



The Rotary Club of Manila delegation stands alongside the top officers of Dualtech Training Center Foundation Inc. and two of the ten deserving scholars sponsored by the Club. Through this continuing partnership, RCM is helping provide underprivileged young people with practical skills, quality technical education, and meaningful opportunities for employment. More than a scholarship, this support is an investment in human potential, empowering each scholar to build a dignified future, uplift their family, and contribute productively to society.

supervised training in industrial companies, helping bridge the gap between technical education and employment.

The institution primarily serves young people from financially disadvantaged

Where Skill Becomes Hope

families who may not have the means to pursue a conventional college degree. Many of its trainees are sons of farmers, laborers, drivers, fishermen, vendors, and other hardworking parents whose limited incomes barely cover their families' daily needs.

Dualtech's Electromechanics Technology Program offers one-year and two-year pathways. Students undergo six months of school-based instruction before proceeding to six to 18 months of in-plant training with



President Reginald Yu and fellow delegates from the Rotary Club of Manila examine Dualtech Center's industrial automation training equipment as a scholar explains its operation. The visit offered a closer look at how classroom knowledge is translated into hands-on technical competence, equipping young trainees with the discipline, confidence, and industry-ready skills needed to secure meaningful employment and build better futures for their families.



Members of the Rotary Club of Manila observe Dual Tech scholars receiving hands-on training in precision machining. Inside the workshop, technical knowledge is transformed into practical skill, discipline, and confidence, preparing these young men not merely for employment, but for lives of dignity, self-reliance, and service to their families and communities.

industry partners. During their company training, they receive modest allowances that help support their daily expenses.

The program also prepares trainees for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority certifications in machining, mechatronics, electrical installation, welding, and related fields. Graduates may also pursue professional qualifications such as Registered Master Electrician and Certified Plant Mechanic.

Where Skill Becomes Hope

A full Dualtech scholarship requires approximately ₱65,000. The amount covers ₱30,000 in tuition, ₱27,000 for six months of meals, ₱6,000 for boarding, and ₱2,000 for uniforms, insurance, and other necessary expenses.

While modest compared with the cost of a traditional college education, the amount remains beyond the reach of many low-income families. Scholarship assistance can therefore determine whether a young person remains constrained by poverty or acquires the skills needed to secure stable and dignified employment.

The Rotary Club of Manila formalized its partnership with Dualtech through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 3, 2025. Under the agreement, Dualtech recommends qualified scholars based on its established criteria, while RCM mobilizes financial support through individual sponsorships, pooled contributions, corporate partnerships, and potential Rotary grants.

The partnership also seeks to connect graduates with companies and organizations capable of offering meaningful employment after the completion of their training.



Leaders of the Rotary Club of Manila and Dualtech Training Center engage in a meaningful dialogue on strengthening their longstanding partnership and expanding scholarship opportunities for deserving young Filipinos. Their shared commitment reflects a common conviction: that access to quality technical education can transform lives, uplift families, and build a more skilled and productive nation.

During the previous Rotary year, the Club began supporting 10 Dualtech scholars. The September 7 visit affirmed RCM's commitment to continue funding their education until they complete their respective programs.

Yu emphasized that scholarship assistance must be sustained through graduation to achieve its intended purpose. Inviting a young person to begin the journey toward a better future, he said, also carries the responsibility of helping that scholar reach the other side.

Where Skill Becomes Hope

The presence of Creencia and Mauricio likewise underscored the continuity of the undertaking across successive Rotary administrations. Although Club officers and leadership teams change every year, the educational needs of scholars continue without interruption.

The initiative is being further strengthened through the Leon J. Lambert Foundation and the generosity of Past Rotary International Director Rafael “Raffy” Garcia, whose ₱1-million contribution is expected to provide educational assistance to more poor but deserving students.

Garcia’s donation represents more than financial support. It is an investment in young people whose acquired skills may eventually transform not only their own lives but also the circumstances of their families.

For the Rotary Club of Manila, Dualtech’s training model reflects the value of an education closely connected to the demands of everyday life. Students apply what they learn in school within actual industrial environments, where they develop punctuality, humility, perseverance, accountability, and respect alongside technical competence.



A Dualtech trainee explains the mechanics of a simple digitally powered elevator system. The demonstration showcased how scholars apply classroom principles to functional, real-world technology, developing the technical competence, discipline, and confidence needed to meet the evolving demands of modern industry.

The trainees are prepared not merely to operate machines but to become reliable workers, responsible family members, and productive citizens.

RCM also stressed the important place of technical workers in national development. Electricians, welders, machinists, mechanics, and industrial technicians maintain the systems, equipment, and facilities that allow businesses and industries to operate. Every qualified technician strengthens a company, sustains a household, and contributes to the country’s productive capacity.

Where Skill Becomes Hope



Members of the Rotary Club of Manila receive a firsthand demonstration of Dualtech Center's advanced CNC machining equipment and the precision components produced by its trainees. The visit highlighted how modern technology, disciplined instruction, and hands-on experience come together to prepare scholars for the demands of industry and open pathways toward stable employment, self-reliance, and a brighter future.

For many scholars, however, their aspirations remain deeply personal. They hope to obtain stable employment, ease the financial burdens of their parents, keep younger siblings in school, improve their family homes, and provide food and security for their loved ones.

The Club said these goals, while seemingly ordinary to families accustomed to financial stability, represent dignity, independence, and the freedom to imagine a future beyond poverty.

The ocular visit was therefore more than an inspection of Dualtech's facilities. It served as a renewed pledge to the 10 scholars already supported by the Club and strengthened RCM's resolve to extend the program to additional beneficiaries.

The Club acknowledged that financial assistance alone would not complete the mission. Contributions must be transformed into tuition, meals, shelter, training, mentorship, and, eventually, meaningful employment.

RCM also intends to remain involved throughout the scholars' educational journey by encouraging them through difficulties and reminding them that the opportunities they receive come with a responsibility to help others when they are able.

Upon completing their training, the scholars are expected to leave Dualtech with more than technical certificates. They will carry practical skills, workplace experience, personal discipline, and the confidence to establish their place in society.

Some may eventually become master technicians, supervisors, entrepreneurs, or educators. Many may return home with their first salaries and share their earnings with the parents who sacrificed to give them a better future.

Where Skill Becomes Hope

The Club hopes that the scholars will one day remember that people they had never met chose to invest in their potential. In time, some may sponsor another student, employ a fellow Dualtech graduate, or guide another struggling young person along the path they once traveled.

When that happens, the scholarship will have grown beyond a single act of assistance. It will have become a continuing legacy of opportunity and generosity passed from one life to another.

Through its partnership with Dualtech, the Rotary Club of Manila is doing more than funding technical education. It is helping restore choices to young people whose opportunities have long been limited by poverty.

Inside Dualtech's workshops, hope is transformed from an abstract promise into something studied, practiced, tested, and perfected. With sustained support, that hope will eventually leave the campus in the person of a skilled graduate ready to work, support a family, and build a future that once seemed beyond reach.

The Rotary Club of Manila has pledged to walk beside its scholars until that day arrives.



The Rotary Club of Manila delegation concludes its meaningful visit to Dualtech Training Center Foundation Inc.'s Excellence Center in Canlubang, Laguna, reaffirming the Club's commitment to expanding vocational scholarships for deserving young Filipinos. Through this continuing partnership, RCM seeks to open more pathways from education to employment, empowering scholars to build dignified lives, support their families, and become productive members of society.



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

Where Skill Becomes Hope

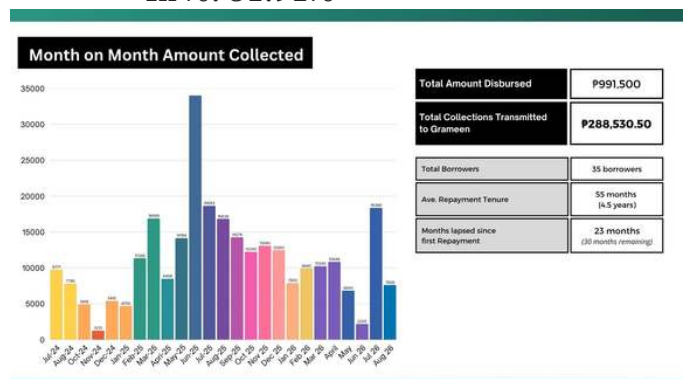


RCMFI Chair Raoul Creencia, InvestEd project's Romy Nones, and RCMFI Secretary and RCM Dualtech Scholarship Program (RDSP) Chair Anton Mauricio met on September 14, 2026 to discuss funding for Dualtech scholarship and study-now-pay-later programs.

Rotarian Romy later forwarded the performance of the InvestEd/ARAL study-now-pay-later fund of PHP 1 million from RY 2025-2026. This is under the guidance of CP Susing Pineda.

As of August 31:

- Total disbursed: ₱991,500
- Collected and transmitted: ₱288,530.50
- In %: 31.91%



Kalinga Sa Kalumpit

By President Reginald Yu



A resident of Barangay Bulusan tows his much-needed relief goods home on an improvised raft made from used plastic containers, carefully wading through murky floodwaters from the designated relief center. What may appear to be a remarkable act of ingenuity has become a daily struggle for many families here, forced to find ways to survive in a community where even bringing food home requires courage, strength, and determination.

THE Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Calumpit delivered relief assistance to hundreds of families in flood-stricken communities in Bulacan and Pampanga reaching areas that remained inaccessible to ordinary relief vehicles.

Under the “Kalinga sa Calumpit” relief initiative, the two Rotary clubs distributed 210 relief packs to families in Barangay Gugo, Barangay Santa Lucia and Barangay Bulusan. Later that afternoon, the mission was extended to communities near Macabebe and Masantol in Pampanga, where rice packs were prepared for an additional 70 families.

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit

The Rotary Club of Manila delegation was led by its president, Reginald T. Yu, together with Past District Governor Obet Pagdanganan, Past Director Dr. Oscar del Rosario, Director Mike Roxas and Past Director Anton Mauricio.

Despite the cessation of heavy rains, severe flooding continued to affect the three Calumpit barangays. Muddy water reached depths of up to five feet in some areas, turning roads into waterways and leaving homes isolated.

Residents were forced to wade through contaminated floodwater to obtain rice, drinking water, medicine and other necessities. Beneath the water were mud, garbage, broken glass, open drainage canals and other hazards. Prolonged exposure also placed residents at risk of leptospirosis, a potentially fatal bacterial disease commonly associated with contaminated floodwater.

For families living far from established relief centers, securing basic supplies required a dangerous journey through waist-deep water, followed by the equally difficult task of carrying the provisions home.

The situation was especially challenging for elderly residents, children and families without access to boats, protective boots or money for transportation.



When streets become rivers, service must find another way forward. The Rotary Club of Manila delegation travels by boat through a flood-stricken community, passing homes still surrounded by water to reach families beyond the usual routes of assistance.



United in service, strengthened by fellowship. The Rotary Club of Manila delegation was warmly welcomed by Rotary Club of Calumpit President Aurelio Catalan, whose invaluable local knowledge and on-the-ground coordination helped us reach communities still surrounded by floodwaters. This handshake symbolizes more than partnership between two Rotary clubs. It represents a shared promise to stand with those in need and bring help wherever it is needed most.

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit



Boatloads of hope, ready to reach those left beyond the flooded roads. Packed with essential relief items, these vessels prepared to journey into the remote barangays of Gugo, Sta. Lucia, and Bulusan in Calumpit, where many families remained isolated and underserved. When conventional routes disappear beneath the water, compassion must find another way.

The three communities have a combined estimated population of more than 6,700. Barangay Bulusan has approximately 2,564 residents, Barangay Santa Lucia about 2,206 and Barangay Gugo around 1,960.

Because the barangays are located far from the main roads, reaching them required boats, protective equipment and detailed knowledge of local waterways.

Local Partnership Makes Mission Possible

The Rotary Club of Calumpit, led by



When floodwaters stand between help and the people who need it, service must wade through. Members of the Rotary Clubs of Manila and Calumpit unload relief goods directly into the flooded community, carrying each bag by hand to families awaiting assistance. No road too difficult, no water too deep when compassion leads the way.

President Aurelio Catahan, provided critical logistical support for the operation. Club members guided the Manila delegation through the submerged communities and arranged the water transportation needed to reach isolated neighborhoods.

Local volunteers identified passable routes and helped determine which areas had received limited assistance.

Relief packs were loaded onto small boats and transported through waterways that had previously served as streets. The

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit

vessels passed submerged fences, utility poles, rooftops and homes surrounded by floodwater.

At several points, volunteers had to steady the boats as they carried passengers and relief supplies through the flooded neighborhoods.

Families gathered at accessible locations along the routes as the boats approached. Some residents stood in waist-deep water, while others waited on elevated doorways or aboard improvised vessels.

Each relief pack contained essential provisions intended to reduce the need for residents to make another hazardous trip through contaminated water. The assistance provided food for families, particularly those with children and elderly members who were unable to leave their homes safely.

Yu said the conditions demonstrated how flooding had transformed an emergency into a prolonged daily struggle for affected residents.

While the relief operation lasted only a day for the volunteers, many families had already endured days of disrupted livelihoods, limited mobility and uncertainty over when the floodwaters would recede.



Our first stop was Barangay Gugo in Calumpit, Bulacan, where floodwaters remained knee-deep in several areas and an estimated 900 homes had been affected. At the barangay gymnasium, the community's only elevated refuge untouched by the flooding, we distributed bags of relief goods to 70 grateful families. Amid the hardship, their warm smiles reminded us that even the simplest act of compassion can bring renewed hope to families who have endured so much.

The three barangay leaders assisted in coordinating the distribution: Chairwoman Carlota Marcelino of Barangay Gugo, Chairman Rolan San Angel of Barangay Santa Lucia and Chairman Danilo Marin of Barangay Bulusan.

The Rotary Club of Manila acknowledged their role in ensuring that the relief goods reached intended recipients in their respective communities.

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit



Service means going wherever the need is greatest. Yours truly personally hands relief goods to a resident of Barangay Bulusan in Calumpit, Bulacan, where floodwaters continue to surround homes and disrupt daily life. More than a bag of essential supplies, each handover carries a simple but vital message to every affected family: you are seen, you are remembered, and you are not alone.

Relief Effort Extended to Pampanga

The mission took an unexpected turn later in the afternoon when Selin Bautista Hernandez alerted the Rotary volunteers to the plight of flood-affected residents in nearby Pampanga who remained outside the reach of regular government relief operations.

Responding to the appeal, the delegation traveled approximately 12 kilometers toward Macabebe and Masantol.

A bag of relief goods, a smile of gratitude, and a moment that captures the true meaning of service. Yours truly hands essential supplies to a resident of Barangay Gugo in Calumpit, offering not only immediate assistance but also the reassurance that her community is remembered. In the aftermath of hardship, compassion placed directly into someone's hands can help restore hope.

Reports indicated that 19 barangays in Macabebe and 26 barangays in Masantol remained flooded, with water levels ranging from 0.3 to 1.5 meters. An estimated 52,056 families were affected by the flooding in the two municipalities.

By that time, the relief packs originally prepared for Calumpit had already been distributed. With no supplies allocated in advance for a second operation, the volunteers purchased rice and assembled additional packs for 70 families.

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit

Although the emergency allocation represented only a small portion of the overall need, organizers said the urgent conditions required an immediate response using the resources available at the time.

The operation highlighted the widespread effects of the flooding across Central Luzon, where families faced damage to homes, interrupted employment, suspended schooling and limited access to food, medicine and clean water.

For isolated residents, boats had become essential transportation, while basic commodities such as rice and drinking water had become critical forms of security.

Reaching Communities Beyond the Main Roads

The Rotary Club of Manila said the operation demonstrated the need to bring assistance beyond accessible evacuation centers and distribution points.

“Kalinga,” the Filipino word for care, was reflected in the effort to cross difficult and potentially dangerous conditions to reach families who could not safely travel to obtain aid.

The mission also underscored the



In a barangay surrounded by floodwaters, its gymnasium remained the only patch of dry ground and became a refuge for service and hope. Here in Barangay Gugo, Calumpit, the Rotary Club of Manila distributed relief packs to 70 affected families. Each bag offered immediate sustenance, but the gathering itself carried a deeper message: even amid widespread flooding, compassion can still find firm ground.

importance of cooperation among civic organizations, local leaders, volunteers, boat operators and donors during disasters.

The 210 relief packs distributed in Calumpit and the rice assistance prepared for 70 families in Pampanga could not address the full extent of the emergency. They could not drain the floodwaters, restore livelihoods, reopen schools or eliminate the threat of waterborne disease.

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit



A simple pack of rice can mean the next meal for a family the world has too easily overlooked. Handing much-needed rice directly to underserved residents of Macabebe, Pampanga, we were reminded that genuine service begins by going beyond the familiar routes and reaching those who have waited too long to be seen, heard, and helped.

However, Rotary organizers stressed that the scale of the disaster should not discourage immediate action. For the families reached during the mission, the assistance meant food, reduced exposure to contaminated water and reassurance that their communities had not been forgotten.

Yu said leadership in a service organization must extend beyond meetings, speeches and official titles. It requires a willingness to enter difficult conditions and personally reach people



Service is most meaningful when offered with one's own hands. Past Club Secretary Anton Mauricio assists a resident of Barangay Gugo in carrying much-needed relief goods during RC Manila's flood-relief mission in Calumpit, Bulacan. Each bag represents immediate help for a family in need, but the compassion behind it carries something equally important: the reassurance that they are not facing this hardship alone.

separated from assistance by distance, flooding and lack of transportation.

The Rotary Club of Manila expressed its appreciation to the Rotary Club of Calumpit and President Catahan, as well as the participating barangay officials, volunteers, boat operators, donors and residents who supported the operation.

The Club also thanked Hernandez for calling attention to the conditions in Macabebe and Masantol, enabling the

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit

volunteers to extend the relief effort beyond its original scope.

Yu said the courage and patience shown by residents throughout the flooded communities served as a reminder that difficult access must never cause vulnerable families to disappear from public concern.

Through “Kalinga sa Calumpit,” the Rotary Club of Manila reaffirmed its commitment to seek out communities beyond the main roads and reach residents whom conventional transportation and relief operations could not readily serve.



At Barangay Sta. Lucia in Calumpit, Bulacan, residents patiently lined the waterlogged streets as Rotary volunteers distributed much-needed relief goods. Amid the lingering floodwaters, every bag passed from hand to hand became a small measure of comfort and a powerful reminder of what becomes possible when compassion is transformed into action.



Left photo: Where roads have disappeared beneath the floodwaters, boats become lifelines. From the community's elevated gymnasium, relief bags bearing the Rotary Club of Manila emblem were loaded aboard small boats and carried deeper into the submerged neighborhoods. Each vessel brought more than essential supplies. It carried hope to families cut off by the flood and the assurance that they had not been forgotten.

Kalinga Sa Kalumpit



Our final stop brought us to the Colegio De Calumpit Annex, which Past Director Dr. Oscar A. del Rosario made available as a temporary refuge for families displaced by severe flooding across Calumpit.

For more than two weeks, the school, its teachers, and staff provided the evacuees with food and shelter as they waited for the waters to subside. Six of Dr. Oscar A. del Rosario's Colegio De Calumpit batchmates, including Rotary Club of Manila Past President and former Bulacan Governor Obet Pagdanganan, also supported the feeding effort by providing breakfast and lunch for four days, with Governor Obet sponsoring two meals on the Friday of our visit. The families' smiles, especially those of the children, reminded us that compassion is measured not only by the assistance delivered in a single day, but by the constancy of care extended until they can safely return home.

The initiative embodied Rotary's principle of "Service Above Self" and its call to "Create Lasting Impact," conveying a clear message to families living behind the floodwaters: no community should be forgotten simply because the road leading to it has disappeared.



A well-earned reward after a long day of service. Following hours of navigating floodwaters and delivering relief, the Rotary Club of Manila volunteers paused for a quick meal at KFC along MacArthur Highway before each received a pack of Calumpit's famous longganisa, courtesy of "Kalinga sa Calumpit" Project Chair Oscar A. del Rosario. Tired bodies, full hearts, and warm smiles made this simple local treat taste all the more special.

Rotary
Club of Manila



Where constraints become expressions, and boundaries become starting points. Discover how grit, imagination, and relentless dedication soar past every barrier.



BEYOND LIMITS

The 5th Annual Art Exhibit of the Angels of Rendu

Join Us for the Vernissage & Opening Night

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Venue: LRI Design Plaza, Makati City

Public Viewing: October 2 – 25, 2026

A joint fundraising initiative by the Rotary Club of Manila and Hospicio de San Jose to support Physical Therapy PT Rehabilitation of Manila's oldest social welfare institution.

The sky is the limit. Look up and believe.

#BeyondLimits2026 | www.angelsofrendu.org

Rotarian Eric G. Eugenio

Inducted on: November 20, 2025

Membership Classification: Printing and Publishing - Educational Materials



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

If I could have dinner with one person, I would choose my Dad, who has passed. It wasn't until after he was gone that I truly understood the lessons he gave me, the kind that stand the test of time. Values like integrity, character, respect, emotional control, compassion, and self-awareness, the things that, to me, are what makes a man and a gentleman. I'd want one more dinner just to tell him that.

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

Something most people in Rotary don't know is that I go to the gym every morning. It's less about fitness and more about discipline. It gives me space for quiet reflection before I step out into the day and start showing up for other people.

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

"Cutting corners is a slope, not a cliff." I learned this from one of my professors at AIM. It means that compromising your standards is rarely one big, sudden fall, it's a gradual slide of small shortcuts that erode you over time. In a world that keeps selling "get rich quick," I've held on to the belief that anything worth achieving takes patience, grit, and consistency, and that the journey matters as much as the destination.

Rotarian Eric G. Eugenio

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

As a young executive, it's easy to get buried in work and lose sight of the bigger picture. If I had a day with nothing on the calendar, I'd spend it traveling, ideally somewhere outside the country, with my wife. Travel has a way of resetting how I see things; it pulls me out of the routine and forces me to look at problems, people, and priorities from a completely different vantage point.

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

I've always wanted to climb Mount Everest and reach the summit, my personal BHAG. I want to find out how far I can push myself, and what it reveals about my character and persistence.

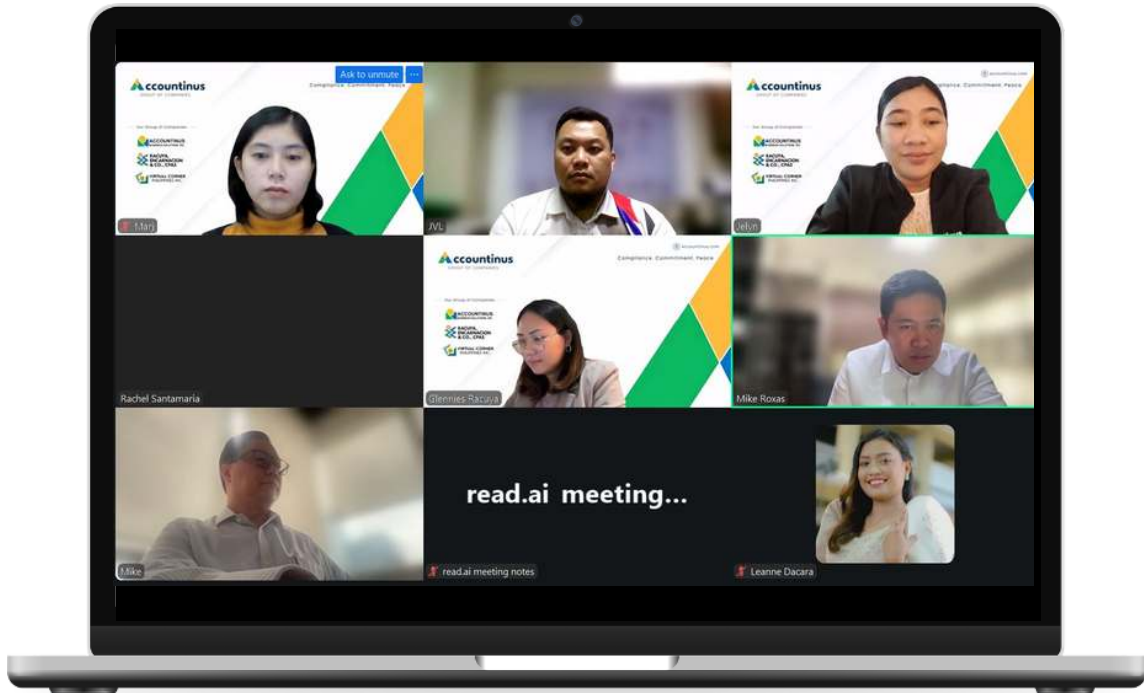
What is your favorite part of Rotary?

My favorite part of Rotary is the learning, sitting with seasoned, experienced leaders and hearing how differently they see the world. What strikes me most is that in Rotary, nothing is simply right or wrong; it's the exchange of perspectives and the way each Rotarian's thought process challenges your own that makes the room so valuable.



RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

Planning Meeting for the Audit of Financial Statements for RY 2025-2026



RCManila Foundation, Inc. held a planning meeting for the audit of financial statements for RY 2025-2026 on September 10, 2026, Thursday, at 10 AM via Zoom. The meeting was led by President Mike Roxas and Treasurer Mike Albaña.

The discussion covered the audit requirements, scope of work, necessary documentation, and the proposed timeline for completing the audit.

Representatives from Racuya, Encarnacion & Co. CPAs and Teodoro Santamaria & Co. also attended.

COGS IN THE WHEEL

**Board Legal Adviser
Atty. Chris Tamesis is a Finalist
for Managing Partner of the Year
at the Asia Legal Business
Philippine Law Awards 2026**



ATTY. CHRIS C. TAMESIS IS A FINALIST
AT THE ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS (ALB)
PHILIPPINE LAW AWARDS 2026

**Managing
Partner of
the Year**



The winners will be announced on
September 24, 2026 at Makati Shangri-La.

Rotary ZONES 1B, 9 & 10

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18-22 NOVEMBER 2026
Royal Cliff Beach Hotel, Pattaya City, Thailand



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September 26, 2026
(Saturday)



8:00 AM to 12:00 NN



F.G. Calderon Integrated School
Hermosa St., Tondo, Manila



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Co-Hosting:

₱2,500

(inclusive of 10 participants)

The contribution includes participation for up to 10 individuals, whether Rotarians or non-Rotarians. You may invite your club members, family members, household staff, or community volunteers to participate and become better prepared to protect themselves and others during emergencies.

Host Club:

Rotary



Club of Manila Midtown

Service Above Self



PAYMENT DETAILS:



Bank: Asia United Bank (AUB), Pasay-Leveriza Branch
Account No.: 548-01-778899-9
Account Name: Rotary Club of Manila Midtown Inc.



GCASH Bank Transfer to AUB: 09178589589 (Edward A)

- Bank transfer
- Over-the-counter bank deposit
- GCash bank transfer to AUB



Please send your proof of payment, clearly indicating your **club name only** to:
Club Treasurer, Angie Angtuaco (0917-8852468)



BE AWARE.



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BUILD A KIT.



WORK TOGETHER.

People of Action.

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2026



HOST CLUB:

ROTARY CLUB OF CHINATOWN MANILA

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 3, 2026 | 5:30PM

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REGULAR PRICE ₱3,000 PER PERSON FROM SEPT 24 TO SEPT 30, 2026 LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION

MAJOR CO-HOSTING FEE: ₱33,600.00 PER TABLE

LESS ₱1,600 PER TABLE (12) PERSON: ₱32,000.00 FOR EARLY BIRDS UNTIL SEPT 23, 2026

MINOR CO-HOSTING FEE: ₱16,000.00 HALF TABLE (6) PERSON

Deposit payments via Bank Account: BDO (Banco De Oro)
ACCOUNT NAME: ANNABEL TAN GAN OR WILLIAM UY
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 003950200783

ATTIRE: CASUAL ATTIRE

Rotary
District 3810



CREATE
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On-To Barcelona

LAUNCHING OF THE
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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
Corta
FOR MEN

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

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

Minor Co Host:
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Individual:
P2,500

ICP Rayner C. Lorenzo
Impact Creating President
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

Rotary Zone 10A Joint Regional Membership, Rotary Foundation and Public Image Awards



DGN Hermie Esguerra, IPP Raoul Creencia, Dir. Mike Albaña, DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday, President Reggie Yu and IPS Anton Mauricio attended the Rotary Zone 10A Joint Regional Membership, Rotary Foundation and Public Image Awards last September 12, 2026 at Casa Ibarra, MOA, Pasay City.



DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday received the Distinguished Sponsor Club Award on behalf of the Rotary Club of Manila during the Membership Awards portion.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Rotary Zone 10A Joint Regional Membership, Rotary Foundation and Public Image Awards



The Distinguished Sponsor Club Award Plaque



DGN Hermie Esguerra received the Top 2 in Contribution and Major Gift Donor to the Annual Fund Award during The Rotary Foundation portion.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Rotary Zone 10A Joint Regional Membership, Rotary Foundation and Public Image Awards



Manila Rotarians trooped to the stage to receive the Top 3 in Annual Fund for Rotary Zone 10A Award during The Rotary Foundation portion.



DISTRICT EVENTS

Meet and Greet with the District Team for RY 2027-2028



DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday, DGN Hermie Esguerra and Dir. Mike Albaña attended the Meet and Greet with the District Team for RY 2027-2028 which likewise served as the First Presidents-Elect Fellowship last September 13, 2026 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Malate, Manila.

Dir. Mike Albaña and DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday receiving their prizes as part of Table 1 during the raffle.



DISTRICT EVENTS

Meet and Greet with the District Team for RY 2027-2028



DGN Hermie Esguerra, DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday and Dir. Mike Albaña as part of the group picture of District Officers for RY 2027-2028



DGN Hermie Esguerra receiving his prize together with tablemates during the raffle.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Planning for the Meet and Greet with the District Team for RY 2027-2028



ISDG Albert S. Alday as part of the planning for the Meet and Greet with the District Team for RY 2027-2028

District Executive Committee Core Group Meeting for RY 2027-2028



ISDG Albert S. Alday attended the District Executive Committee Core Group Meeting for RY 2027-2028 last September 10, 2026 at the Networld Hotel in Pasay City.

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast



Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship on September 14, 2026, hosted by IPP Raoul Creencia, former Government Corporate Counsel (Justice- rank) and Department of Transportation Usec, discussing the impact of AI on the legal profession.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA PRESENTS

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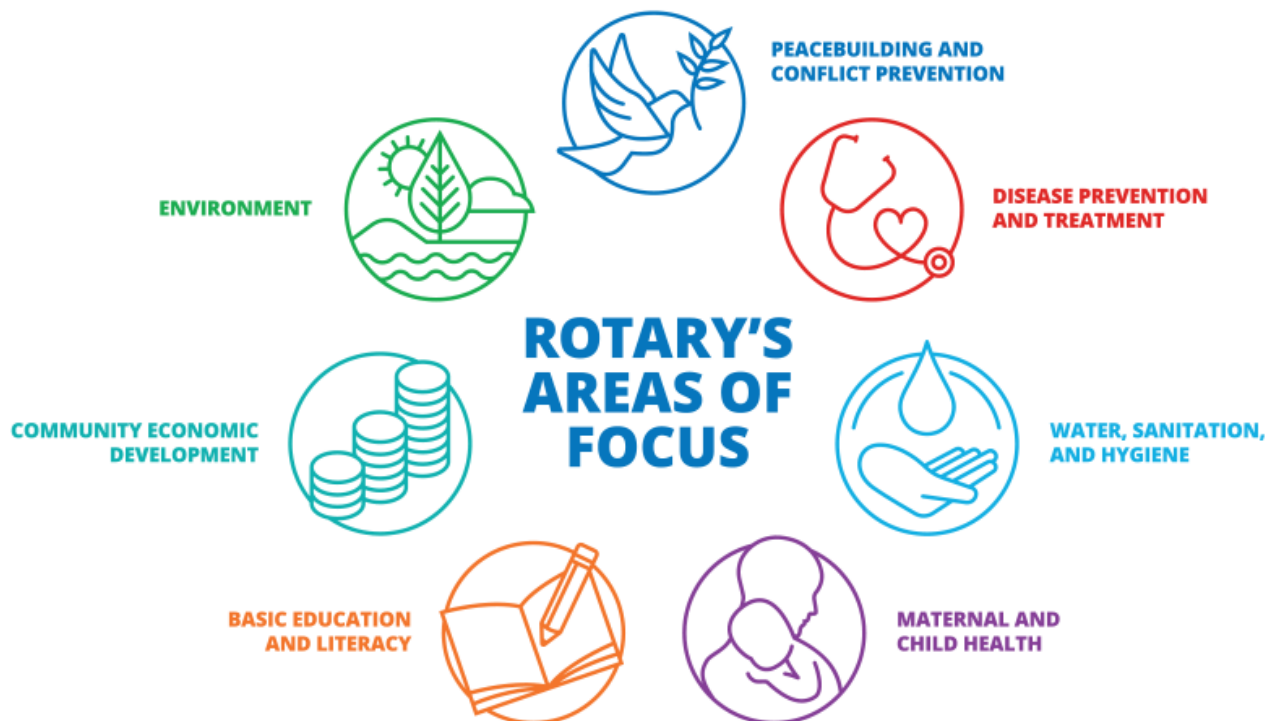
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RCM Past President/Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's Column in Philippine Daily Inquirer



After 10 years, where are FLP's scholars now?

The Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity (FLP) proudly marks 10 years of its law scholarship program (LSP) this year. Looking back at its success, I am reminded of why and how this journey began in 2016. While immensely proud of my family's accomplishments, I have been, quite frankly, a bit disappointed that none of my five children—and, so far, none of my 10 grandchildren—have taken an interest in a law career. Without a lawyer-heir, I sought to find my successors among the best and brightest minds of the next gen.

TO BEQUEATH MY LIFELONG LEGACY of safeguarding liberty and nurturing prosperity under the rule of law, I encouraged the FLP to launch the LSP in 2016 in partnership with the Tan Yan Kee Foundation (TYKFI), where I also serve (until now) as a trustee. The program supports exceptional third- and fourth-year law students who must pass the scrutiny of our board of judges headed by the incumbent chief justice. Scholars who maintain excellent academic standing receive renewed funding. Thus far, the TYKFI has generously donated over P43 million to this initiative, with individual grants growing from the original P200,000 to P250,000 per scholar per year.

Happily, our first batch (2016-2017) produced two bar toppers: Sean James Borja (first place), now connected with Quisumbing Torres Law Office, and Katrina Monica Gaw (fifth place), currently the chief executive officer and general counsel of Alliance Towers Corp.

As an aside, FLP has set up three other educational initiatives: (1) professorial chairs on liberty and prosperity in partnership with the Metrobank Foundation, (2) a dissertation writing contest (DWC) in partnership with the Ayala Group, and (3) a Master of Business Administration (MBA) major in entrepreneurship, sustainability, management, and business law or "Esmel Fellows" in partnership with the Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

This tradition of academic excellence has flourished exponentially. To date, we have



WITH DUE RESPECT
ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

awarded scholarships to 106 stellar law students out of 234 applicants, with the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) and the University of the Philippines (UP) producing the highest number of awardees at 15 scholars each for the past decade.

AS OUR SCHOLARS NOW REALIZE, their road to success is formidably arduous. I know from personal experience that the first five years of law practice are brutally difficult. It is an intense, character-building struggle to establish a name, master the labyrinthine intricacies of our justice system, and consciously resist the insidious temptations of societal evils.

Where are they now? Who are undergoing these tough foundational years? Let us look at the notable paths they have chosen.

Following our first batch of toppers, our second batch of LSP scholars in school year 2017-2018 also had bar placers: Kenneth Manuel from the University of Sto. Tomas (sixth place) and Dexter Rojas from Polytechnic University of the Philippines (ninth place). Manuel, now a court attorney at the Court of Tax Appeals, also teaches law.

Rojas, currently with the Public Attorney's Office, is also a professor of law. He recently asked me to write the foreword to his book "Top Notes in Commercial Law." I am happy that, despite the demands of public service, he has found the time to share his

knowledge with the next gen of lawyers.

Commendable also are our other law scholars: Micah Celine Carpio-Bibi (batch 2017-2018), a Court Attorney VI in the Chamber of Supreme Court Justice Jose Midas P. Marquez; Ricka Abigail Dumelod (batch 2019-2020), an Executive Assistant VI in the Chamber of Court of Appeals Justice Walter S. Ong.

OTHER NOTABLE FEATS of our law scholars include George Mariano A. Soriano (batch 2019-2020) from UP, as vice consul at the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong.

Many of them are with the private sector, like bar toppers Kyle Christian Tutor (first placer, 2024 bar) who is now with the Poblador Bautista & Reyes (PBR) Law Office and Maria Lovelyn Joyce Quebrar (sixth placer, 2024 bar), who found career fulfillment as a banker-lawyer at Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Our latest additions to the roster of toppers, batch 2024-2025, are associates in prestigious law firms: Ignacio Lorenzo Villareal (UP) is currently with PBR also, while Enrico Gabriel Pagaia (ADMU) is with Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz (ACCR) Law Office, and Chinzhen Viernes (UP) is with SyCip Law Center.

And so, like their proud "loko," I watch our scholars continually demonstrate that the practice of law is never confined to a single path. Whether in public service, private practice, or corporate work, they are building a better nation to operationalize our philosophy of liberty and prosperity under the rule of law to uplift our people.

My children and grandchildren have their own beautiful destinies to fulfill. As for my legal legacy, my heart is full knowing that it will live on vibrantly through these brilliant young men and women who are courageously carrying on the torch of justice, defending our democratic institutions, and championing our enduring ideal of liberty and prosperity under the rule of law.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



Remembering 9/11: We must stand together



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
September 13, 2026 | 12:00am

There are moments in history that we never forget. Sept. 11, 2001, is one of them.

Twenty-five years have passed, yet the images remain painfully vivid: a passenger plane slicing into the World Trade Center, flames consuming the towers, terrified people running through streets covered in ash and finally those mighty buildings collapsing before the eyes of a stunned world. Another aircraft tore into the Pentagon, while passengers aboard United Flight 93 fought back against their hijackers, sacrificing their lives and preventing an even greater tragedy.

Nearly 3,000 innocent people from many nations died that day. They were office workers, firefighters, police officers, airline crews, travelers, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Among them were Filipinos who had gone to America in pursuit of opportunity and a better future. Their families carried a grief that no passage of time can ever completely erase.

I unabashedly wept with emotion as I watched the attacks unfold on TV. This was not simply an assault on buildings or symbols of American power. It was a calculated attack on innocent human beings and on the values of freedom, tolerance and open society.

In one of my earlier columns following the attacks, I expressed my support for President George W. Bush under the title “When Bush comes to shove.” America had been attacked, and the world was being asked where it stood.

Addressing a joint session of Congress nine days after the attacks, President Bush declared: “Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists.” It was a line that would define his presidency and the global campaign against terrorism.

For the Philippines, there was never any doubt. We were with the United States.

Then-president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo strongly condemned the attacks, ordering heightened security for the United States embassy in Manila and other possible targets, extending the solidarity of the Filipino people. She was the first Asian leader to telephone President Bush after 9/11. Her government offered Philippine airspace and facilities in support of the campaign against terrorism and said the country was prepared to go every step of the way with its longtime treaty ally.

That response reflected more than official diplomacy. Filipinos grieved with Americans because our connections are deeply personal. Millions of our countrymen live and work in the United States. Filipino nurses, doctors, caregivers, teachers, servicemen and ordinary workers are woven into the life of American communities. Many Filipino families have loved ones on both sides of the Pacific. When America mourned, the Philippines mourned with it.

Our solidarity also came from experience. Long before 9/11, the Philippines had confronted violent extremism and terrorism, particularly in the southern Philippines. We understood that terror respects no border, nationality or religion. It feeds on fear, exploits grievance and targets the innocent. But ignoring such evil would never make it disappear.



Remembering 9/11: We must stand together



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
September 13, 2026 | 12:00am

The struggle that followed was long, difficult and controversial. But nothing that came afterward should blur the enduring moral truth of Sept. 11: the deliberate murder of civilians can never be justified by any political cause or religious claim.

The attacks also transformed the Philippine-American alliance. Only weeks later, President Arroyo visited Washington as the two countries marked the 50th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty. President Bush thanked her for her uncompromising leadership and for the moral support and assistance extended by the Philippines. The two leaders declared that Americans and Filipinos stood together in the campaign against terrorism.

That cooperation helped strengthen our own capacity to confront extremist groups. Our alliance, forged in war and sustained through generations, found renewed purpose against a threat neither nation could defeat alone.

Today, the strategic landscape is very different. Terrorism remains a danger, but nations must also contend with cyberattacks, disinformation, coercion, armed conflict and challenges to the rules-based international order. The lesson of 9/11 is therefore not confined to the past. Security cannot be taken for granted. Alliances must be nurtured. Intelligence must be shared. Preparedness must be constant, and nations must stand together when peace and human dignity are threatened.

Remembering is more than security. At the 9/11 Memorial in New York, the names of the dead are carved in bronze, each representing a life, a family and a future stolen.

Twenty-five years later, a new generation has grown up with no personal memory of that clear September morning. We owe it to them to tell the story truthfully: how hatred produced unimaginable destruction, but also how courage answered terror. Firefighters climbed stairways while others fled downward. Police officers and emergency workers ran toward danger. Strangers carried strangers. Passengers fought back in the sky. Across the world, people lit candles, offered prayers and stood with America.

For Filipinos, remembering 9/11 also means remembering who we chose to be at a decisive moment. We did not hesitate. We did not look away. As a friend, treaty ally and a nation that values freedom, we stood beside the American people in their darkest hour.

The smoke over New York and Washington has long since cleared, but our obligation to remember has not. Buildings can be rebuilt and cities can heal, but memory is the sentinel that guards against complacency.

On this 25th anniversary, we honor those who perished, those who rushed in to save victims and those who still bear the wounds of that terrible day. And we reaffirm a simple truth that emerged from the ashes: when evil strikes at innocent people, friendship cannot be neutral. Freedom cannot be silent – and the Philippines and the United States must always stand together.



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