



The
HERMA
Group

#BUILTOLAST

PETROLEUM AND SUPPLY CHAIN | BUNKERING | SHIPPING
SHIP BUILDING / SHIP REPAIR | AGRI BUSINESS VENTURES
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



ESGUERRA FARMS & STUD INC.

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4075 • JANUARY 15, 2026

Classification Talk



**ROWEL JANSON S.
ONG**

*Real Estate Professional
Services - Agency*



**JASON ROMEO C.
VALDERRAMA**

*Engineering -
Project Management*

**Restoring Confidence,
Renewing Fellowship**
The 16th Weekly Membership
Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila

**RC Manila
Board of Directors,
Executive Officers and
Advisers for RY 2026-2027**
Pay a Courtesy Call to
Mayor Isko

THE STEWARD
Dominic Edgard
Angeles Cabangon
and the Empire
He Chose to Carry

Presidential Theme for RY 2026-2027

CONTENTS



Program	4
Editorial	6
President's Message	10
Restoring Confidence, Renewing Fellowship The 16th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila	16
Club Administration	32
Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers for RY 2026- 2027 Pay a Courtesy Call to Mayor Isko	38
Presidential Theme for RY 2026-2027	52
Rotary International President-elect Olayinka Babalola's 2026-27 Presidential Message	54
THE STEWARD: Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry	62
District Events	156
Recognition Corner	160
Fellowship	162
Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2025-2026	166
Editorial Board for RY 2025-2026	167



PROGRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 17th Weekly Membership Meeting Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: RTN. INGILL RA

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch

12:30 PM Call to Order | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

Invocation | **RTN. JUANITO A. "John" SIMON**

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale

The Four (4) Way Test
STAR RTN. CHRIS C. TAMESIS

Acknowledgement of Guests
RTN. INGILL RA

Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**

Birthday Celebrants

Jan. 9 Rtn. Jherry Zheng
Jan. 10 Rtn. Paul Kho

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Chorale

Report on the Financial Status of RCMFI
AIA MICHAEL D. "Mike" ROXAS
(RCMFI Treasurer)

Announcement of the RCMFI Election
of BOT for RY 2026-2027
PE REGINALD T. "Reggie" YU
(RCMFI NOMELEC Chairman)

PART II

12:55 PM President's Time
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

1:00 PM Classification Talk
STAR RTN. ROWEL JANSON S. ONG
STAR RTN. JASON ROMEO C. VALDERRAMA

1:30 PM Open Forum / Q&A

1:45 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

2:00 PM Adjournment
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



THIS week's Weekly Membership Meeting calls us to pause, not merely to listen, but to reflect on what truly lies behind the classifications we so often recite with ease. In Rotary, a classification is never just a label; it is a life's work distilled into a calling. When we give space to a Classification Talk, we are reminded that behind every professional title is a story of struggle, discipline, risk, conviction, and, ultimately, service.

We are privileged to feature two of our own STAR Rotarians: **Rowel Janson S. Ong** of Real Estate Professional Services (Agency) and **Jason Romeo C. Valderrama** of Engineering (Project Management). Their journeys, though rooted in different fields, converge on the same Rotary ideals — integrity, competence, and a commitment to uplift others. From the volatile, trust-driven world of real estate to the exacting, high-stakes realm of engineering and project execution, their experiences speak of leadership forged in pressure, decisions made in uncertainty, and the constant balancing of profit with principle, ambition with responsibility, and success with service.

Classification Talks are, in essence, mirrors. They allow us to see how vocation becomes vocation in the truest sense of the word — a calling, not just a career. They remind younger members that excellence is built patiently, often quietly, and that credibility is earned through consistency, ethical choices, and the courage to stand by one's values when compromise would be easier. They remind senior members that our stories, when shared, become mentorship in its most human form.

EDITORIAL

Yet this meeting is not only about individual journeys; it is also about the life of the institution we steward. The presentation of the **RCMFI Financial Report** is a solemn and necessary exercise in accountability. Numbers, after all, are moral documents. They tell the story of trust given and trust honored, of resources received and resources deployed for service, of generosity translated into concrete impact. Transparency in finances is not mere compliance — it is a reflection of the integrity that undergirds our mission and the confidence that allows our partners, donors, and beneficiaries to believe in what we do.

The **NOMELEC's announcement of the RCMFI Board of Trustees for Rotary Year 2026–2027**, meanwhile, marks another quiet but profound transition. Leadership in Rotary is never about possession; it is about succession. It is about the careful, deliberate passing of responsibility from one set of stewards to another, ensuring that the flame of service burns brighter rather than flickers. In these moments, we witness the continuity of vision, the renewal of

commitment, and the enduring strength of institutions that outlive any single term or personality.

Taken together, the elements of this meeting — personal narratives, financial stewardship, and the affirmation of future leadership — form a single, coherent message: Rotary is built on the convergence of character and structure, of individual excellence and collective governance. It is where professional life meets moral purpose, where personal success is measured by public good, and where leadership is defined not by prominence but by responsibility.

As we gather once more, we are reminded that our classifications are not just what we do; they are how we serve. Our reports are not just figures; they are testimonies of trust. Our elections are not just processes; they are pledges of continuity. In listening, in accounting, and in entrusting, we renew the covenant that binds us as Rotarians — to place our talents, our time, and our treasures at the service of something greater than ourselves.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preparing Today for Tomorrow: The Advantage of Early Leadership Transition in Rotary

OUR Rotary Club's strength has always been its continuity -- its ability to maintain momentum year after year, while continuously welcoming fresh ideas and new energy. This continuity is nowhere more evident than in the early selection of leaders for the succeeding Rotary year – with PE Reggie Yu chosen to take the helm in July.

As early as October last year, with eight months still to go in the current Rotary year, a new team was elected, setting the stage for a smooth transition and a promising year ahead. This early selection is more than just an administrative formality. It represents a strategic foresight that allows the incoming team to prepare,



Raoul C. Creencia
President

plan, and align their goals well before they officially assume office. While the current Rotary year continues in full throttle, the new team is able to study ongoing projects, engage with current and past leaders, and begin to lay out initiatives for the year to come. This overlap period creates a rare and valuable opportunity: a seamless blend of continuity and renewal.

For the current leadership, this overlap provides reassurance. Projects underway are carefully monitored and supported, knowing that guidance and mentorship are being extended to the next team. The ongoing momentum is preserved, and the risk of disruption is minimized.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the incoming leaders, the early transition period offers a running start. They have ample time to take a fresh look at the club's strengths and challenges, engage with fellow members, and fine-tune their strategies. They can envision the year ahead with clarity and creativity, rather than rushing into office with little preparation.

Beyond logistics, this early overlap nurtures a culture of collaboration and consultation. The outgoing leaders can share insights and lessons learned. At the same time, the new leaders bring fresh perspectives, new energy, and innovative ideas, enriching the dialogue and enhancing the club's collective vision. This dynamic interaction strengthens the organization as a whole, creating an intergenerational transfer of wisdom that is central to Rotary's ethos.

The benefits extend to the club's community impact as well. With two teams -- one executing ongoing projects and the other planning future initiatives -- and with a good number of personalities being part of both, our Rotary Club is able to operate on multiple planes simultaneously. Current programs

continue without interruption, while new programs are carefully designed for maximum relevance and sustainability. This dual approach allows us to serve and operate more effectively, ensuring that both present and future needs are addressed.

In practical terms, the early selection and preparation of leaders also encourage strategic planning. Incoming officers have the time to set clear objectives, identify potential partnerships, and organize resources efficiently. They can anticipate challenges and devise solutions. This planning horizon strengthens accountability, improves execution, and increases the likelihood that identified goals will be achieved.

Ultimately, the early transition period reflects Rotary's commitment to excellence in leadership. It demonstrates that effective service requires foresight, preparation, and collaboration. By ensuring that new leaders have ample time to prepare, the organization fosters continuity without stagnation, innovation without disruption, and mentorship without hierarchy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this overlap period unfolds, it becomes clear that our Rotary Club operates on a principle of thoughtful stewardship. Today's leaders steward ongoing projects with diligence, while tomorrow's leaders prepare to carry forward the mission with vision. The Rotary year thus becomes not just a sequence of months, but a continuum of leadership, service, and growth.

Indeed, the early selection of our Club leaders, far from being a mere procedural step, is a strategic advantage. It allows RCM to run at full speed while simultaneously preparing for the future. It balances continuity with renewal, experience with innovation, and service with vision. With more than enough overlap time, RCM ensures that each year builds seamlessly on the last—strengthening its impact, expanding its reach, and reaffirming its enduring commitment to “Service Above Self.”

AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

cover story

Restoring Confidence, Renewing Fellowship ***The 16th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila***

***A Joint Meeting
with the Rotary Club
of Makati West***

*Manila Polo Club
8 January 2026*

by PE Reginald T. Yu

MARY MEI V. RODRIGO
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
ROTARY YEAR 2025-2026

Rotary 
District 3810

T HERE are Rotary meetings shaped by ceremony — and there are those distinguished by continuity, foresight, and quiet institutional memory. The 16th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila, conducted jointly with the Rotary Club of Makati West, belonged emphatically to the latter category.

Held at the **Manila Polo Club** on the second Thursday of the new year, the gathering carried with it a weight of expectation. For decades, it has been a deeply rooted tradition of the Rotary Club of Manila to invite the Governor of the **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** — formerly the Central Bank of the Philippines — as Guest of Honor and Speaker at the first Weekly Membership Meeting of the year. It is a tradition anchored on the belief that

Rotarians should begin each year grounded not only in fellowship, but in a clear-eyed understanding of the nation's economic condition and institutional health.

The year 2026 did not disappoint.

A Program Anchored by Leadership and Fellowship

The meeting unfolded under the steady and gracious moderation of Treasurer **Paul Joseph M. “PJ” Garcia**, whose measured pacing ensured that a program rich in content remained fluid and attentive.



Treasurer Paul Joseph M. “PJ” Garcia moderated the meeting.

The invocation was led by Past President **Antonio “Dax” Carlos** of



VP Ricardo S.B. “Ricky” Guevara (RC Manila) and Pres. Christopher C. “Dino” Dumatol (RC Makati West) called the meeting to order.

the Rotary Club of Makati West, setting a reflective and solemn tone. Music followed as a unifying force: the **RCM World-Famous Music Chorale** rendered the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn with reverence, while members of the Rotary Club of Makati West offered their own club hymn — an exchange emblematic of partnership rather than protocol.

The Four-Way Test, Rotary’s ethical compass, was led by Rotarian **Antonio “Tonito” Payumo** of RC Makati West, a quiet yet firm reminder that even conversations on markets, money, and macroeconomic policy must ultimately return to truth, fairness, and integrity.

Acknowledgment of guests was delivered by Treasurer **PJ Garcia**,



PP Antonio “Dax” Carlos (RC Makati West) led the invocation.



Rtn. Antonio “Tonito” Payumo (RC Makati West) led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.



VP Ricardo S.B. “Ricky” Guevara (RC Manila) and Pres. Christopher C. “Dino” Dumatol (RC Makati West) jointly led the President’s Time.

followed by a welcome song once again offered by the **RCM WF Music Chorale**. Birthday and wedding anniversary celebrants from both clubs were joyfully recognized — affirming that Rotary’s institutional strength is inseparable from its human bonds.

President’s Time: Setting the Bearings for the Year

The President’s Time was jointly led by Vice President **Ricardo S.B. “Ricky” Guevara** of the Rotary Club of Manila (in the absence of President **Raoul C. Creencia**, who was in Canada for another Rotary project) and President **Christopher C. “Dino” Dumatol** of the Rotary Club of Makati West. Their remarks were calm, forward-looking, and purposeful — less about proclamation, more about posture. It was a moment of alignment,

signaling a Rotary year to be guided by attentiveness, collaboration, and service grounded in realism.

A Tradition Renewed

The formal introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker was delivered by Past Vice President **Joel C. Valdes**, who situated the moment within the Rotary Club of Manila’s long-standing tradition of engaging the country’s top monetary authority at the start of the year — not for reassurance, but for clarity.



Past Vice President Joel C. Valdes introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Taking the podium was **Eli M. Remolona Jr.**, Chairman of the Monetary Board and Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, who addressed the assembly on the theme:

“Restoring Confidence to Gain Momentum.”

The Governor’s Address: Restoring Confidence to Gain Momentum

Governor Remolona began with quiet familiarity, acknowledging the joint fellowship of Manila and Makati West and his return engagement with Rotarians who have long regarded the Bangko Sentral as both sentinel and steward of the nation’s economic stability.

He framed his address with deliberate balance.

“I will talk about good news,” he said, *“and then I will talk about bad news.”* After a brief pause, he added, almost conversationally, *“The bad news is not that bad.”*

Inflation: Stability Where It Matters Most

The first piece of good news was inflation.

The Governor emphasized that the Bangko Sentral does not view inflation merely as a headline figure. It examines how price movements are actually experienced — particularly by those most exposed to volatility. As of December 2025, **headline inflation stood at 1.8%**, while inflation for the **bottom 30% of income households** registered an even lower **1.1%**.

This distinction mattered. It meant that price stability had been achieved not only in aggregate, but where purchasing power is most fragile. While inflation was expected to rise modestly in the coming year, the decisive success lay in breaking the inflationary momentum of the past two years.

Banking System Resilience: Quiet Strength Beneath the Surface

From prices, Governor Remolona turned to financial stability itself.

Philippine banks, he reported, were operating with **capital adequacy ratios of 16.4%**, far above the international benchmark of 10%. **Liquidity coverage ratios stood at 180%**, nearly double the global standard. These were not abstract ratios; they were deliberate buffers —



Guest of Honor and Speaker Eli M. Remolona Jr., Chairman of the Monetary Board and Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

designed to absorb shocks and sustain confidence even under stress.

Beyond domestic banking indicators, the Governor highlighted the country's **gross international reserves**, which had reached **USD 110.9 billion** by December 2025. This translated to more than **seven months' worth of imports and approximately four times the country's short-term external debt** — placing the Philippines well above international safety thresholds.

"We are in good shape to withstand shocks," he said — not as reassurance, but as a conclusion grounded in metrics.

Growth Slows: The Cost of Shaken Confidence

Only then did the Governor pivot to

the more sobering assessment.

Economic growth for 2025 was now projected at **4.6%**, down from earlier expectations of 5.7%. The slowdown, he explained, was driven largely by **weakened investor sentiment** following the flood-control scandal in the latter half of the year.

Confidence, he reminded the audience, is measurable. It shows up in **Purchasing Managers' Indices**, which began declining as early as July, and in market indicators such as stock prices and exchange rates. Encouragingly, these indicators had begun to stabilize and recover—tentative signals that sentiment may have reached its trough.

Perspective and the Path Forward

Despite the setback, the Philippines remained regionally competitive. Growth projections for 2025 and 2026 continued to outperform those of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, trailing only Vietnam. The Bangko Sentral projected growth of **5.6% in 2026** and **6.3% by 2027**, provided confidence could be steadily rebuilt.

The Limits of Monetary Policy

Perhaps the most sobering moment

came when Governor Remolona spoke plainly about what the Bangko Sentral cannot do.

The central bank had reduced policy rates in December to support demand, but monetary policy, he stressed, has limits. It can influence demand, but it cannot repair broken trust nor address supply-side failures. The Bangko Sentral was nearing the end of its easing cycle.

Confidence, once shaken, requires more than liquidity. It requires **governance reforms, accountability, and institutional credibility** — areas beyond the central bank's mandate.

It was a moment of rare institutional humility — and one that resonated deeply with a Rotary audience long accustomed to ethical leadership frameworks.

Governor Remolona closed not with optimism for its own sake, but with realism: the Philippines was not in crisis, but neither could it afford complacency. The foundations were strong; confidence needed to be patiently rebuilt.



BSP Gov. Remolona engaged in Q&A session with Rtn. Ramesh Dargani (RC Makati West), Sec. Anton Mauricio (RC Manila), PVP Joel Valdes (RC Manila), PIA Jordan Pizarros (RC Manila), PD Abe Pascual (RC Manila), PE/Sec. Paul Daza (RC Makati West), PD Beda Fajardo (RC Manila), PD Tony Lopez (RC Manila), Rtn. Geoffrey Yu (RC Manila), Dir. Lars Wittig (RC Makati West), and Treas. Judd Balayan (RC Makati West)



Dialogue, Appreciation, and Continuity

The open forum that followed was concise yet substantive, marked by thoughtful questions and disciplined exchange. A **Certificate of Appreciation** was presented by Vice-President **Ricky Guevara** and President **Dino Dumatol**, formally closing a segment that reaffirmed Rotary's enduring engagement with national institutions.



Vice-President Ricky Guevara and President Dino Dumatol presented the Certificate of Appreciation to BSP Governor Eli Remolona, Jr.

Subsequent announcements — including those concerning the **RCMFI Board of Trustees elections for Rotary Year 2026–2027** — served as a reminder that Rotary itself thrives on orderly transition and shared accountability.

Setting the Tone for the Year Ahead

As members dispersed and conversations resumed in quieter clusters, it was evident that this had been no ordinary luncheon meeting. It was a **ritual of orientation** — a way of beginning the Rotary year grounded in clarity rather than comfort, in confidence earned rather than assumed.

By honoring its tradition of inviting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor to open the year's Weekly Membership Meetings, the **Rotary Club of Manila** once again affirmed its role as a civic forum where leadership listens, reflects, and learns.

In **2026**, that tradition was not merely observed — it was **vindicated**.



RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT
January 2026

JANUARY 2026	January 08, 2026
	BSP GOVERNOR ELI M. REMOLONA JR.
MEMBERS PRESENT	49
MEMBERS PRESENT %	22%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	16
EXEMPTED	4
ON LEAVE	0
Total Active Members	69
Total # of Members	218
TOTAL %:	32%
ROTARACTORS	9
MEDIA	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	24
GOHS / GS	7
VISITING ROTARIAN	39
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	3
TOTAL ATTENDEES	107



LIST OF ATTENDEES
January 8, 2026

1	Acosta, Crispiniano G.	26	Lorenzana, Delfin
2	Agnes, Jerry A.	27	Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
3	Bartolome II, Arsenio M.	28	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
4	Benedicto, Sixto T.	29	Obrado, Daniel Caizado
5	Bogovich, Jason M.	30	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L.
6	Carlos, Vicente J.	31	Pascual, Abraham F.
7	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.	32	Peliño, Wilfredo M.
8	Chotrani, Johnny N.	33	Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.
9	Cid, Dean Y.	34	Pizarra, Jordan M.
10	Co, Val Constantine L.	35	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
11	Cureg, Alexancer P.	36	Recto, Philip H.
12	Davis, Raymond N.	37	Reynolds, David J.
13	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	38	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
14	Egan, Brendan W.L.	39	Schneider, Bernd
15	Fajardo, Beda G.	40	Serapio, Carlos G.
16	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	41	Shimoda, Shigeru
17	Go, Henry S.	42	Sibayan, Joselito H.
18	Guevara, Ricardo S.	43	Valdes, Joe C.
19	Hallare, Nicolo S.	44	Valdez, Amado D.
20	Ibuyan, Benedict Julius F.	45	Yu, Geoffrey C.
21	Katigbak, J Alfonso L.	46	Hiroyasu, Kanda
22	Koh, Paul Anthony T	47	Pantaleon, Oliver
23	Locsin, Arsenio Z.	48	Ginez, Winston M.
24	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.	49	Tamesis, Chris C.
25	Lopez, Antonio S.		

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of January 13, 2026

1	ABOY, VALENTINO G.	46	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR
2	ABRIAM, ARIEL	47	DIONISIO, RAFAEL
3	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	48	DOMINGO, RICO, V.
4	AGNES, JERRY A.	49	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS G.
5	ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY	50	DY, MANUEL
6	ALDAY, ALBERT S.	51	EGAN, BRENDAN
7	ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.	52	ELDEBS, ISSAM
8	ALUNAN, RAFAEL M.	53	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III
9	ANDAL, AVELINO L.	54	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
10	ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.	55	ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A.
11	ARAMBULO, JOAQUIN JR. L.	56	EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.
12	ARGUELLES, PABLO C.	57	EUGENIO, ERIC
13	AVENTURA, AVELINO JR. L.	58	FAJARDO, BEDA G.
14	BAGATSING, VALENTINO	59	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
15	BALANAY, ARIES B.	60	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
16	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.	61	GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY
17	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.	62	GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.
18	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.	63	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
19	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.	64	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
20	BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.	65	GASPAR, FERNANDO
21	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.	66	GINEZ, WINSTON M.
22	BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR	67	GO, DANNY C.
23	BLANCO, MANUEL M.	68	GO, HENRY S.
24	BOGOVICH, JASON M.	69	GONZALES, JONAS R.
25	BRANELEC, JACQUES	70	GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL
26	BUENDIA, CARLOS	71	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY
27	CABANGON, EDGARD	72	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.
28	CABUNAG, ROGELIO	73	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
29	CAMAT, NATHANIEL	74	HALLARE, DELFIN JR.
30	CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.	75	HALLARE, NICOLÒ
31	CANON, RAUL JR C.	76	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
32	CARLOS, VICENTE J.	77	HESSE, UWE
33	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.	78	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.
34	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.	79	JUCABAN, JERIC J.
35	CATALAN, RODILLO	80	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.
36	CHAHWAN, RAMI	81	KANDA, HIROYUSI
37	CHAN, ROBERT JR.	82	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L
38	CID, DEAN	83	KHO, RALPH VALENTIN
39	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.	84	KLEBS, DAVID
40	COYIUTO, ROBERT JR. G.	85	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
41	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.	86	LACAMBACAL, ALVIN
42	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.	87	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS M.
43	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL	88	LIM, RICHARD
44	DAYANG, JUAN E.	89	LAUREL, RICARDO P.
45	DAVIS, RAYMOND N.	90	LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL
		91	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of January 13, 2026

92	LEE, RICHARD L.	137	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
93	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.	138	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
94	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.	139	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
95	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.	140	ROÑO, MARLON
96	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.	141	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
97	LOPEZ, ANTONIO	142	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
98	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.	143	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
99	LORENZANA, DELFIN	144	SCHNEIDER, BERND
100	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.	145	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
101	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.	146	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
102	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.	147	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
103	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.	148	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
104	MANGALILE, SENEN	149	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
105	MARTINEZ, RONALD	150	SO, WARREN
106	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.	151	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN
107	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC	152	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
108	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO ROBERTO C.	153	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
109	MENDOZA, MIGUEL	154	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
110	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.	155	TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.
111	MOMMAERTS, STEVE	156	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
112	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.	157	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
113	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO	158	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
114	NONES, ROMEO C.	159	TAMESIS, CHRIS
115	NUÑEZ, JOSE A.	160	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
116	OBRADO, DANIEL	161	TAN, JOHN G.
117	OCAMPO, TEODORO J.	162	TAN, LAWRENCE L.
118	ONG, PHILIP	163	TEE, TEDDY JR. B.
119	ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.	164	TEJUMAL, MICHAEL
120	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.	165	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L.
121	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.	166	VALDES, JOELC.
122	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.	167	VALDEZ, AMADO
123	PANTALEON, OLIVER	168	VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
124	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM	169	VALDERRAMA, JASON ROMEO
125	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.	170	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
126	PELIÑO, WILFREDO	171	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.
127	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.	172	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.
128	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.	173	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
129	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.	174	YAP, ENRIQUE JR.
130	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.	176	YORDANOV, STEFAN
131	PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.	177	YU, GEOFFREY C.
132	RA, INGILL	178	YU, REGINALD T.
133	RAMOS, CLAVER P.	179	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
134	RANKL, PETER	180	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
135	RECTO, PHILIP H.	181	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
136	REYNOLDS, DAVID	182	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers for RY 2026-2027 Pay a Courtesy Call to Mayor Isko

by

IS/Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday



A historic courtesy call at the seat of the nation's capital: the Board of Directors-Elect, Incoming Executive Officers and Incoming Board Advisers of the Rotary Club of Manila are received by Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso at the Mayor's Office, beneath the seal of the Lungsod ng Maynila. Gathered in formal Filipino attire, the delegation represents Asia's first and oldest Rotary club as it prepares to usher in a new Rotary year and a new chapter of leadership and service.

Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers for RY 2026-2027 Pay a Courtesy Call to Mayor Isko

THE Board of Directors and Executive Officers of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2026-2027 paid a courtesy call on Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, Mayor of the City of Manila, last January 12, 2026. The purpose of the said courtesy call was for the said Board of Directors and Executive Officers to invite the Manila Mayor to be the inducting officer of the club on the occasion of its 107th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the club set on July 2, 2026. The solemn induction to be officiated by the said Mayor will take place at the foot of the Rizal Monument at Rizal Park, or what we commonly know as “Luneta” at dawn of the said day in meaningful ceremonies befitting of an icon of Service Above Self in the country before the dinner reception takes place at the historic Manila Hotel, a long time home of Asia’s First Rotary Club where its first meeting was held way back in 1919.



A moment of affirmation and shared commitment at the heart of Manila’s civic leadership: As Rotary Club of Manila’s President-Elect, Reggie Yu is warmly received by Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso at the Mayor’s Office, sealing the latter’s acceptance to serve as Inducting Officer of the Rotary Club of Manila’s 107th Induction and Handover Ceremonies on July 2, 2026. Set against the official seal of the City of Manila, the handshake symbolizes more than a formal courtesy call. It marks the convergence of Asia’s oldest Rotary club and the capital city’s highest elected official in a partnership rooted in service, leadership, and nation-building.

Gathering at half past the hour of ten in the morning of that day, Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers, all clad in their white polo barong, met at the quadrangle of the historic Manila City Hall. In attendance were PE Reggie Yu,

Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers for RY 2026-2027 Pay a Courtesy Call to Mayor Isko

Board Adviser DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, Board Adviser IPP Jujut Enriquez, RCManila Foundation, Inc. Chairman and Induction Chairman PDG Alex Cureg, VPE Karlo Castro, DE Mike Albaña, DE Mike Roxas, DE Nico Valencia, DE Delfin “Del” Lorenzana, DE Caloy Serapio, IS/Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert Alday, IT/PAS Arik Carranceja and IABLA Hansel Tillmann.

As the group mounted the staircase towards the Bulwagang Katipunan in the second floor of the edifice which houses the Office of the Mayor, all were filled with utter excitement eager to exchange pleasantries with one of Manila’s most popular mayors whose no nonsense way of governance in getting things done has earned him the respect of his constituents.

The group was met first by his Chief of Staff, Cesar Chavez, who gladly led the way to the Office of the Mayor where the members of the group were all seated while awaiting the arrival of the Manila Mayor, an Active Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, from a Mancom Meeting of the city.



A candid and light-hearted moment amid the formality of protocol: Rotary Club of Manila President-Elect Reggie Yu shares a warm exchange with Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko” Moreno Domagoso during the courtesy call of the incoming officers of Asia’s first and oldest Rotary club at the Mayor’s Office in Manila City Hall.

As the dashing Manila Mayor entered the room in his Monday’s best, donning a light blue modern polo barong, a sharp contrast from his usual shirt, cap and jeans getup, each of the members of the group personally introduced himself as the mayor made his way to his office table. PE Reggie Yu wasted no time in making a short remark while handing the formal letter of invitation to be the inducting officer for the July induction

Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers for RY 2026-2027 Pay a Courtesy Call to Mayor Isko

for which the Mayor graciously accepted the said invitation, quipping that it was his honor to do so to Asia's First Rotary Club, even to the point of suggesting the most ideal time in the morning for the induction shoot.

The courtesy call took a good forty-five (45) minutes of his time, gamely interacting with members of the group and discussing important topics of relevance to the City of Manila. From fiscal wounds, delayed obligations and structural weaknesses to a firm resolve in the path of recovery, he regaled his accomplishments in all humility. He laid down very striking figures such as the Php 900 million in unpaid obligations to a waste management contractor, a Php 4.6 billion budget deficit and nearly Php 10 billion meant for medicines, social aid, garbage hauling and the ordinary mercies of government, ready yet restrained by debts of past. He critiqued the systems that had forgotten their purposes.

For him, the mishandling of business permits, the stripping of mandate from the Bureau of Permits, the creation of parallel processes that caused delay and drove enterprise away are the wounds he identified that should be healed. To reclaim trust, he spoke of reviving the FACTS Task Force – Fiscal



Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso in a moment of focused engagement at his desk in the Mayor's Office, during the courtesy call of the Incoming Executive Officers, Incoming Board Advisers and Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila. Framed by the seal of the Lungsod ng Maynila and the Philippine and city flags, the image captures the city's chief executive in the midst of dialogue—listening, reflecting, and responding with the attentiveness that has come to define his hands-on style of leadership.

Accountability, Cost Transparency, and Speding – because numbers, like history, do not lie, and a city that wishes to survive must first confront the truth of its own books. He revealed unauthorized cash advances running into the hundreds of millions and even billions. From the first days of his return to office, he had signed executive orders calling for



At the heart of Manila's seat of power, the Board of Directors-Elect, Incoming Executive Officers and Incoming Board Advisers of the Rotary Club of Manila gather for an official group photograph with no less than Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso, seated at the center, during their formal courtesy call at the Mayor's Office.

dignity and proper conduct among city employees, protection for the young through curfew, the weekly clearing of clogged canals by barangay leaders, the regulation of noise that frays the nerves of a crowded city, and the long-overdue untangling of "spaghetti wires" that scar Manila's skies. He likewise laid out a vision both near and far: drainage and underground cabling, public spaces and transport, smart-city systems and disaster resilience, the preservation of heritage alongside the creation of vertical homes and the rebuilding of hospitals and classrooms, among others.

With intellectual conversations forming part of the group interaction, the Mayor was visibly in high spirits as the group had a photo opportunity with him at the end of the courtesy call. Indeed, it was an opportunity to listen as partners in city building with key takeaways to tickle the group's innovative ways of service. All is well that ends well as the group proceeded to the Emerald Restaurant along Roxas Boulevard, celebrating the gains of a courtesy call that was more than just a greeting, it was an insight into the gaps in service of the city which Asia's First Rotary Club resolves to fill in as the coming Rotary year beckons.

Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors, Executive Officers and Advisers for RY 2026-2027 Pay a Courtesy Call to Mayor Isko



A moment of purposeful dialogue and partnership: Reggie Yu, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Manila, formally introduces the Board of Directors-Elect, Incoming Executive Officers and Incoming Board Advisers of Asia's first and oldest Rotary club to Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso during their courtesy call at the Mayor's Office.



A moment of focused attention and meaningful exchange: the Board of Directors-Elect, Incoming Executive Officers and Incoming Board Advisers of the Rotary Club of Manila listen intently as Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso outlines his administration's plans, priorities, and ongoing programs during their courtesy call at the Mayor's Office.



Celebrating the gains of a meaningful courtesy call, the Board of Directors-Elect, Incoming Executive Officers and Incoming Board Advisers breaking bread over lunch at the Emerald Restaurant in Manila.



Gathered in one of the most storied spaces of Manila City Hall, the Board of Directors-Elect, Incoming Executive Officers and Incoming Board Advisers of the Rotary Club of Manila pose for a commemorative photograph at the so-called "Oval Room," an informal yet historically resonant meeting area within the Office of the City Mayor, more formally known as the Bulwagang Villegas (Villegas Hall). This hall, which has witnessed decades of civic deliberations, state functions, and moments of public history, now becomes the backdrop for a new chapter in the life of Asia's first and oldest Rotary club. Against walls that have heard the voices of generations of city leaders, the incoming Rotary leadership stands as stewards of a 107-year legacy of service, integrity, and nation-building.

Presidential Theme for RY 2026-2027

Our 2026-27 message, ***Create Lasting Impact***, encourages all of us, as people of action, to work together to make a meaningful difference in our communities and around the world. It builds on the ways in which members have strengthened their connections to each other and to their communities to Unite for Good, the 2025-26 message. Now, Create Lasting Impact will harness those connections and inspire our members, participants, and the public to take collective actions that lead to a sustainable difference - globally, locally, and personally.

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Rotary International President-elect Olayinka Babalola's 2026-27 Presidential Message

Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, described how joining a Rotaract club as a teenager enlarged his perspective beyond the limited, privileged outlook he'd once had. That change in awareness came from observing the lasting impact his club had in the community, particularly from teaching people to read and write.

“As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future,” he said. “To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact.”

Change and impact are not the same, he added: “Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures.”

Understanding impact

Rotary members have made an impact by expanding early childhood education in Knysna, South Africa, and increasing access to prenatal care in Nigeria, Babalola said. The Rotary Club of Knysna empowered local women to open and manage early childhood education centers.

“The project has reached thousands of children and families, and it will continue to provide education in those communities for generations,” Babalola



2026-27 Rotary International President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola speaks at the opening general session of Rotary's International Assembly, 12 January 2026. He introduced the 2026-27 presidential message, Create Lasting Impact. “As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future,” he said. “To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves.”

said. “We can recreate this kind of impact in other parts of the world, and in doing so we can earn the trust and recognition of our neighbors in the communities we serve. And when more communities trust Rotary, more people want to join.”

Babalola also described the wide-ranging impact of Together for Healthy

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka Babalola's 2026-27 Presidential Message

Families in Nigeria. The initiative to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates received a US\$2 million Rotary Programs of Scale grant in 2022.

“Before Rotary’s intervention, many women avoided prenatal care, which is essential to ensuring a safe birth for both mother and child,” he said. “After working with Rotary, systems were put in place to help expecting mothers receive prenatal care. The community was involved. Attendance went up. Mortality went down. That project [will] transform lives across Nigeria for decades.”

Extending a welcome

Babalola urged members to take a more open, welcoming attitude toward newcomers to their clubs. He described how, when he was a Rotaract club member eager to join a Rotary club, the president of the Rotary club treated him with scorn.

“He said, ‘What audacity! You cannot just join. You need an invitation,’” Babalola recalled. “I could have walked away. Instead, I said, ‘I didn’t know a child needed an invitation to enter his parents’ home.’”

While things have changed since that time, Babalola said, they haven’t changed enough. Some clubs close themselves off instead of “embracing the world with open arms,” he said. Young people aren’t necessarily treated with respect, he added, and people with different ideas and backgrounds aren’t always made to feel welcome. He urged members to think about how they could better welcome others.

“You never know whose Rotary story might begin — or end — based on the way you make them feel at a meeting or service project,” he said.

Another way members can focus on personal change, he said, is to aim to do better than their best. He urged district leaders to examine their past successes in raising funds, planning projects, and recruiting members. Then, he said, they should challenge themselves to surpass their past triumphs.

“When we change ourselves, we change our clubs and districts,” he concluded. “When we change our districts, we change the communities we serve. And when we change our communities, we create lasting impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka Babalola's 2026-27 Presidential Message



2025-26 Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo speaks during the opening general session of Rotary's International Assembly, 12 January 2026. "When you stand in this room, when you serve through Rotary, you share one calling: You are peace builders," he said. "Not peace as the absence of conflict, but peace as opportunity, as dignity, as connection."



Stella Dongo, a member of the Rotary Club of Highlands, Harare, Zimbabwe, speaks about effective partnerships at the third general session of Rotary's International Assembly, 13 January 2026 in Orlando, Florida, USA. Photo by Monika Lozinska. Credit/Copyright: Rotary International



Attendees enjoy the second general session of Rotary's International Assembly, 12 January 2026 in Orlando, Florida, USA. Photo by Monika Lozinska. Credit/Copyright: Rotary International.



Attendees enjoy the second general session of Rotary's International Assembly, 12 January 2026 in Orlando, Florida, USA. Photo by Monika Lozinska. Credit/Copyright: Rotary International.



Rotary President-elect Olayinka Babalola revealed the 2026-27 presidential message, *Create Lasting Impact*, on January 12, 2026:

"As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future," he said. "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact."

Source: Rotary International (LinkedIn)

PHILIPPINE DISTRICT GOVERNORS-ELECT TAKE ON ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2026!

JANUARY 11-15, 2026



The Philippine District Governors for RY 2026-2027 are attending the Rotary International Assembly 2026 in Orlando, Florida, USA, from January 11-15, 2026, to prepare for a year of impactful leadership and service.

PEOPLE

THE STEWARD

**Dominic
Edgard Angeles
Cabangon and
the Empire
He Chose
to Carry**

By PE Reginald T. Yu



THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

HE was never meant to be the heir — but when destiny called, he answered with humility, grit, and an unwavering sense of duty. From a gas station attendant in America to a steward of a business empire, Edgard Cabangon built his legacy not on spectacle, but on silence, sacrifice, and the quiet courage to do what is right.

In the quiet hours before Manila wakes, when the city's neon lights flicker against the thinning night, **Dominic Edgard “Ed” Angeles Cabangon** often finds himself drawn to memory — those shadowed corners of the past where a boy walked a few paces behind a man who built an empire from the ruins of his childhood. It is in these moments, when the world is still, that he confronts the magnitude of what it means to carry a legacy shaped by hardship, discipline, and an unwavering sense of purpose.

His father, the late **Ambassador Antonio “Ka Tony” Lim Cabangon Chua**, was not born into privilege. He was the shoeshiner who once polished the boots of American soldiers for coins, the boy who sold magazines and *pandesal* to keep his family alive after war tore their home apart. From that stark beginning, he clawed his way into



Ed's father, Antonio L. Cabangon-Chua served as Philippine Ambassador to Laos under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and distinguished himself as one of the country's most successful businessmen. Renowned for his leadership, vision, and philanthropy, he built a diverse business empire while remaining committed to public service and nation-building.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

business — a pawnshop first, then insurance, banking, media, real estate, security, automotive, hotels — until his name became synonymous with perseverance and entrepreneurship.

The rest of the country saw him as the tycoon who defied fate.

Ed saw him as a father, a mentor, and the one man whose expectations would shape the trajectory of his life.

Growing up as his son meant learning early that the world does not hand out kindness freely. In their household, success was not celebrated with extravagance, nor was it the measure of a person's worth. What mattered was the work — how thoroughly one did it, how consistently one showed up, how deeply one understood that every employee, every customer, every branch humming in the background was connected to a livelihood, a life, a family depending on the ALC Group's stability. This was the school in which Ed was raised, far more than any classroom he would later enter.

During his high school years at Don Bosco Mandaluyong, while classmates looked forward to afternoons of leisure, Ed spent his time in the company of his father — walking through pawnshops, checking hotel lobbies, observing the



One of Ed's earliest memories is of regular family photo sessions, captured with his brothers in the unmistakable groovy flair of 1970s attire.

editorial bustle inside newsrooms. The routine exposures became a kind of apprenticeship, one that didn't declare itself but worked quietly on his character. He learned not as an heir but as an assistant, absorbing every detail of how a business lived and breathed.

Yet his father did not raise him to inherit effortlessly. He raised him to understand. He raised him to endure.

This became even clearer when, after he finished his college at De La Salle University, Ed was sent to the United States — not for comfort or prestige, but

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

to run two gasoline stations. For four years, he worked as a gas station boy, scrubbing restrooms, stocking shelves, manning pumps, counting change at midnight. The experience stripped him of any illusion of entitlement, grounding him in the dignity of work at its most strenuous. Nothing in his future life as chairman would ever be abstract to him again — because he had lived the work from the bottom.

He returned to the Philippines with a dream of becoming a lawyer, entering the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law. For three years he absorbed

the intellectual rigor of torts, contracts, and jurisprudence — until the day his father called him back to take on greater responsibilities. Without drama, without hesitation, he stepped away from law school. The decision required sacrifice, but it also revealed the quiet resolve that had always guided him: when duty called, he answered.

For a time, he remained beside his father's shoulder, supporting him as the conglomerate expanded across industries. And when the patriarch died in 2016, the responsibility that had long been prepared for him finally became his.



Mommy Benny and her five pre-teens, photographed in the 1970s, reflecting a season of youthful energy and maternal warmth.



Along Kennon Road in Baguio in the late 1960s, Mom Benny is pictured with her four sons—an early chapter of family life preserved in time.

THE STEWARD

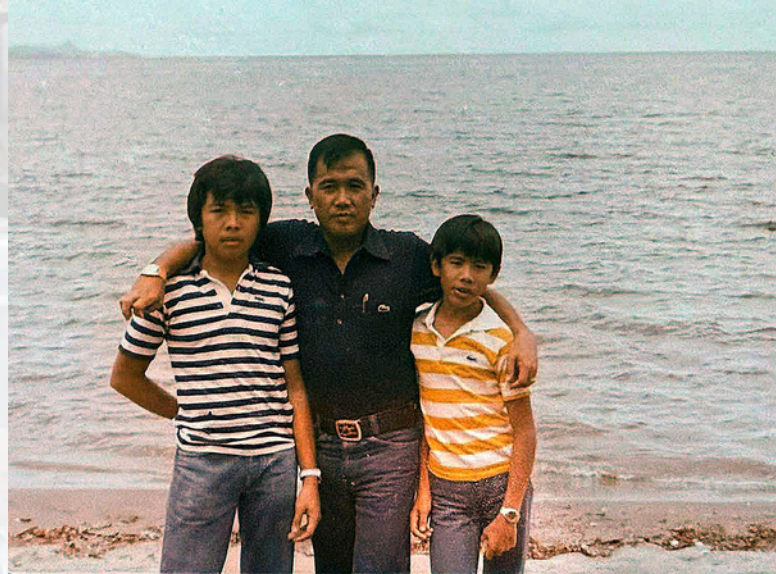
Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

For a time, he remained beside his father's shoulder, supporting him as the conglomerate expanded across industries. And when the patriarch died in 2016, the responsibility that had long been prepared for him finally became his.

If there is a question that hangs over the life of any successor, it is this: *What happens when the man who built the empire is no longer there to guide it?*

Ed's response came not in pronouncements but in action. He steadied the organization, made difficult decisions, modernized operations, preserved the culture his father built, and led with a humility that surprised many who knew only the magnitude of the empire and not the temperament of the man who now carried it.

Then came the pandemic — a global catastrophe that tested leaders to their core. Instead of closing doors and retreating into caution, Ed opened his hotels to frontliners and COVID patients, offering them free shelter at a time when fear ruled the world. Citystate Tower Hotel became a sanctuary for overworked PGH doctors and nurses. In a moment when others counted losses, he placed people first. In Congress, his actions were praised; in communities, they were quietly remembered.



A seaside memory from their teenage years: Edgard and Edward with their father at the beach.

This was not the flamboyance of a public hero.

It was the quiet generosity of a man shaped by his father's life and his own lived humility.

Today, Ed stands not as a replica of the founder, but as the steward of his memory. He carries the same torch, but in his own manner — calmer, more measured, deeply compassionate. He has expanded the conglomerate without losing sight of its origins; he has stepped into the responsibilities thrust upon him while honoring the man who came before him; and he has guided thousands through uncertainty with the steadiness of someone who once stood on gas station pavements, learning the mechanics of life from the ground up.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

This is not the story of a businessman.

This is the story of a life refined by responsibility, shaped by service, and bound by a legacy that began long before he was born — on a street corner where a young boy once knelt with a shoeshine box and the determination to build something better.

This story does not begin with triumph. It begins with a burden embraced — and a journey still unfolding.

The Shoeshiner's Son

Long before the ALC Group of Companies took shape as a sprawling business empire, before its newspapers landed on breakfast tables and its hotels colored the skylines of Manila and Palawan, the story began in a place so far removed from boardrooms that it is almost difficult to reconcile with what came after.

The story began with a boy.

He lived on Leveriza Street in Malate, at a time when Manila was still recovering from the devastation of the Second World War. His father, Tomas Chua, had been executed at Fort Santiago, and his mother, Dominga Lim Cabangon, was left widowed with nothing but a fierce will to survive. Their house was gone. Their savings vanished. Their security erased in the span of a single war.

The boy, **Antonio Cabangon Chua**, was only eleven when he became the family's breadwinner. He polished the boots of American soldiers for coins, sold pandesal at dawn, and hawked magazines wherever he could. What he lacked in age he compensated for in grit. There was no dramatic epiphany or inspirational mentor — just the day-to-day resolve of someone who understood that survival relied on effort, not hope.

This history, harsh as it was, would later become the moral spine of the next generation. And for **Ed**, Ka Tony's story was not a distant tale. It was the air he breathed growing up, the context behind every instruction his father gave him, and the reason he never allowed privilege to soften him.



A cherished family moment: Ambassador Tony Cabangon Chua and his wife, Benny, with their seven children (and counting) in the early 1980s.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

To understand Ed, one must first understand the narrative that molded him. He entered the world as one half of a pair — **a fraternal twin**, born alongside his brother **Edward**, just a few inches shorter but every bit as deeply woven into the fabric of their family's identity. The twins belonged to a clan whose roots were defined by perseverance, faith, and an unyielding work ethic. Their father, Ka Tony, rose from the ashes of wartime poverty to build what would become the **ALC Group of Companies**, a conglomerate spanning insurance, media, real estate, security, retail, hospitality, automotive distribution, and more. Their mother, **Bienvenida Angeles**, anchored the home with quiet dignity and unwavering presence.

In a family as large as theirs — six boys and one sister — the twins grew up in an environment where individuality had to be earned rather than assumed. Life was not easy, nor was it meant to be. The elder Cabangon Chua was a man molded by hardship — losing his father during the war, working as a shoeshine boy and *pandesal* vendor to support his mother, clawing his way out of poverty through grit and God-centered diligence. He raised his children with the same uncompromising standards that had carried him through life. But beneath the strictness lay a fierce love and a desire to see his children become responsible stewards of the legacy he continued to build.

For the twins, that tutelage began early — not as a privilege but as a responsibility.

Edgard and Edward never blended into each other's shadows. Their mother had never dressed them alike, nor encouraged them to mirror each other. From the start, they developed distinct personalities: Ed — the warm, approachable one with a ready smile — and Edward — the quieter, more serious twin, a man who preferred the comfort of home, music, and family.

Still, they were inseparable in the ways that mattered. They shared classrooms, childhood meals, whispered plans, and the unique closeness that only twins



Twins Edward and Edgard share a warm and elegant moment with their mother, Bienvenida Angeles — a graceful family portrait that reflects unity, affection, and the enduring closeness that defines their family.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

born into a bustling household could have. The two began their schooling together at **Don Bosco Mandaluyong**, a place whose Salesian values of discipline, kindness, and technical competence would leave a lasting imprint on them both.



Ed is a proud high school graduate of Don Bosco Technical Institute–Makati, where he was shaped by the school's strong foundation in discipline, technical excellence, and values formation.

Though he grew up in a family that had already begun to climb out of poverty, the echoes of his father's early struggles remained loud in their home. Ka Tony was not the kind of man to forget where he came from. He made sure none of his children did, either.

The elder Cabangon Chua had eventually finished his studies at the University of the East, passed the CPA board exam, and founded Filipinas Pawnshop in 1958. It was not glamorous work, but it was honest, and from that pawnshop he began building what would later become a diversified empire. While the businesses expanded, his values remained unchanged. Hard work was non-negotiable. Humility was expected. Compassion was a duty.

Ed grew up watching this transformation firsthand. He saw the pawnshop expand. He saw insurance companies rise. He saw the early stirrings of media acquisitions. But what left the deepest mark on him was not the growth of the businesses, but the daily routine that his father lived by. Ka Tony left early and returned late. He visited branches himself. He negotiated with clients face-to-face. He treated employees with respect, yet demanded excellence.

There were no shortcuts. There was only work.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

By the time Ed reached high school at Don Bosco Mandaluyong, he was already accustomed to accompanying his father on business rounds. The visits were not ceremonial. Ka Tony never used these trips to impress anyone. They were lessons disguised as errands, subtle instructions passed from father to son without elaborate speeches.

Ed observed how his father checked inventory not through spreadsheets, but by looking into storerooms and asking questions that revealed whether staff were paying attention to details. He watched how Ka Tony listened more than he spoke, how he treated customers politely regardless of their social standing, how he reprimanded mistakes without humiliating anyone, and how he always shook hands firmly as if sealing each moment with purpose.

These small moments accumulated into something larger. They formed a foundation that no textbook could replicate.

Even then, Ka Tony sensed something different in Ed. He was not the eldest child, but he possessed a quiet steadiness that set him apart. He did not demand recognition or question instructions. He observed keenly, absorbed quickly, and carried himself with a seriousness uncommon in boys his age. Leadership



A distinguished portrait of Ambassador Tony Cabangon Chua alongside his son, Ed — a quiet testament to their shared legacy of leadership, vision, and service to both industry and community.

— for him — was not an ambition but a responsibility, one he carried even before he fully understood it.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

There were afternoons when he would sit in a corner of a pawnshop branch, watching customers negotiate loans with the same desperation his father once knew. There were mornings inside hotel lobbies when he saw staff preparing for the day with the discipline of performers before a show. There were evenings in newspaper offices where the clatter of keyboards and the urgency of editors painted a picture of a world where information had weight.

All of it seeped into him.

The Don Bosco formation provided its own kind of influence. The Salesian values of work, faith, and service blended seamlessly with the lessons he learned from his father. It was as though his schooling and his upbringing existed in harmony, reinforcing the same truths: that work was a duty, that dignity was universal, and that success meant nothing if it did not uplift others.

As the years passed, the rhythm of his life became familiar. School in the mornings, apprenticeship in the afternoons, reflection in the quiet moments in between. By the time he graduated from high school, he had seen more of the inner workings of business than most graduates in their twenties. He understood the difference between managers who cared and managers who merely complied. He recognized inefficiencies instinctively. And he had

developed an empathy that would later shape his leadership.

He was being prepared for something — not with announcements, not with promises, but with immersion.

His father never told him directly that he was the chosen successor. Ka Tony was not the type to declare his intentions. But he revealed them in other ways — in the trust he placed in Ed, in the responsibilities he gradually handed over, in the unspoken expectation that



Ed is seen accompanying his father, Ambassador Tony Cabangon Chua, as they descend the steps of New World Hotel in Makati — a quiet yet dignified moment reflecting respect, closeness, and the enduring bond between father and son.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

his son would someday carry the torch without faltering.

In hindsight, it is clear that these years — these patient, formative, hardworking years — were the first chapter of a long apprenticeship. They shaped the man Ed would become, long before he knew he was being shaped.

What he learned beside his father was not how to inherit a business.

What he learned was how to build one.

How to understand one.

How to care for one.

And more importantly, how to treat the people within it.

These were the lessons that would guide him through decisions no one could have prepared him for, through crises that would test him, and through moments when he would have to stand alone, carrying on his father's legacy with the same humility and strength that built it from nothing.

This chapter of his life was not defined by dramatic events or sudden revelations. It was defined by consistency — the unwavering mentorship of a father, the steady presence of a son learning to walk in the footprints left before him, and the quiet realization that

he was being shaped for a future larger than himself.

It was the beginning of a journey. A journey that started not in a boardroom, but in a pawnshop, a newsroom, a hotel lobby, and a father's unspoken trust.



A snapshot of Ed presiding over a management meeting, exemplifying his steady leadership, clear direction, and hands-on approach. The scene reflects a culture of professionalism, collaboration, and disciplined decision-making under his guidance.



Ed is surrounded by his devoted office staff, whose steadfast support has been a constant pillar throughout his journey.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

The Apprentice at Don Bosco

In many families, childhood ends gradually, marked by small shifts in responsibility. But in the Cabangon Chua household, childhood had a way of ending all at once. The halls of Don Bosco Mandaluyong were filled with the usual energy of teenage boys — laughter bouncing against concrete walls, friendly jostling in corridors, competitive shouts from the basketball court. But for Ed, high school life was never quite confined to those boundaries. While he blended in with classmates during school hours, the bell that signaled dismissal marked the start of a different kind of education.

To others, the two teenage boys trailing behind the Ambassador may have seemed out of place—uniformed Don Bosco students listening as adults talked numbers and operations—but to their father, they were apprentices. He believed a business dynasty was not inherited; it was learned.

Every afternoon, when most boys gathered around canteens or headed straight home, Ed stepped into a car that whisked him not toward leisure but into the moving world his father was building. He entered pawnshops filled with customers negotiating loans that meant groceries, rent, tuition. He walked

into newspaper offices where editors debated headlines that would shape public opinion by morning. He watched hotel staff move with the well-practiced choreography that hospitality demands.

His father brought him everywhere — not to indulge him, but to expose him to the pulse of the business. It was an unspoken apprenticeship, one that did not begin with declarations but with repetition. Ka Tony did not sit him down to explain concepts in corporate governance or market competition. Instead, he let his son absorb it all through presence, listening, and early responsibility.



Ed enjoys a relaxed and cheerful exchange with his office staff at the Dominga Building — a simple yet meaningful scene that reflects his approachable leadership style and the camaraderie he cultivates within the workplace.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

Ed watched the way his father spoke to people. Ka Tony treated a security guard with the same respect he gave to an investor. He asked questions directly, listened with full attention, and made decisions without theatrics. The quiet gravity he carried — a combination of discipline and empathy — became a model for Ed, who observed everything with the curiosity of a boy and the seriousness of a future steward.

The Don Bosco ethos complemented these lessons perfectly. The Salesians emphasized work as a calling, discipline as a form of love, humility as strength, and service as the highest expression of leadership. Those teachings were not slogans in Ed's life; they were daily experiences. He saw them in the way his father treated employees, in the way the company supported families, and in the way business decisions were always anchored in the belief that success should uplift the Filipino.

During these early years, Ed began developing an instinct that could not be taught in textbooks. He learned to sense when a branch needed improvement, even before numbers reflected it. He noticed patterns in customer behavior. He learned to read people — how their tone shifted when nervous, how their shoulders stiffened when they feared financial uncertainty. He understood the importance of accuracy, empathy, and clear communication. These were not

lessons he consciously catalogued; they became part of him through constant observation.

There were days when his father tested him without warning. Ka Tony would point to a ledger and ask him what the numbers meant. He would ask how Ed thought a manager handled a customer complaint. He would quiz him on operational lapses and ask how he would fix them. It was never done in a confrontational way. Instead, it was a quiet challenge — a way of sharpening his son's instincts long before Ed even realized he was being prepared.



Ed's down-to-earth leadership shines through as he freely mingles with his employees during a dinner event — a genuine display of humility, warmth, and the approachable style that endears him to the people he leads.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

Even in those early years, Ka Tony saw something in Ed that went beyond birth order. He saw steadiness, a grounded temperament, and a willingness to work without fanfare. Ed was never one to boast. He listened before he spoke. He approached roles with seriousness. These qualities — more than age, more than titles — made his father gravitate toward him.

Most young people grow into responsibility. Ed grew under its constant shadow.

And yet, there was nothing burdensome about it. There was pride in being trusted. There was clarity in knowing he was learning something vital, something

meaningful, something that would define the trajectory of his life long after his high school days were over.

The rhythm of his days became routine yet transformative. School shaped his mind. Business immersion shaped his character. Faith shaped his purpose. Little by little, the pieces of his identity settled into place. He learned how to speak to employees without condescension, how to examine problems from multiple angles, and how to appreciate the dignity in every kind of work. From locksmiths to tellers, from room boys to mechanics, from gravediggers to engineers, he saw the interconnectedness of the organization.



A glimpse of a twenty-something Ed Cabangon engaging with employees during a company event — a moment that reflects his early involvement in the family enterprise and his natural rapport with the people who helped shape its growing legacy.



A quiet, heartfelt exchange between Ambassador Tony Cabangon and his son, Ed, captured during a formal function. The moment reflects not only their deep familial bond but also the mutual respect and enduring legacy shared between father and son.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

There was one afternoon he would remember years later: standing in a pawnshop branch, watching a mother pawn her jewelry to pay for her daughter's tuition. She clutched the pawn ticket the way one holds a fragile hope. Ed understood then — perhaps more deeply than any lesson he learned in school — that businesses like theirs existed not for luxury but for need. They mattered in the lives of ordinary people who came to them in their most vulnerable moments. That realization stayed with him, shaping decisions he would make decades later.

This was the true beginning of his path — quiet, steady, deeply human. These formative years were not painted with dramatic revelations. Instead, they were marked by countless small moments that built his understanding of work, people, and purpose. They prepared him for the roles he would eventually carry, not by overwhelming him but by exposing him to the inner gears of a world he would one day lead.

By the time he graduated from Don Bosco, he carried within him a foundation forged from routine, repetition, and genuine exposure. He knew the businesses from the ground up. He knew how employees felt, how customers struggled, how operations lived and breathed. He had already walked behind his father long enough to see the difference between leadership

born from authority and leadership rooted in understanding.

He might not have known it then, but these afternoons spent shadowing his father were the earliest steps toward becoming the man who would someday guide the conglomerate through crises his father never lived to see. They were the quiet beginnings of a leader shaped not by privilege, but by immersion.

The apprenticeship that began in those teenage years would follow him for the rest of his life — through law school, through his years abroad, through the challenges of succession, and through the trials that would test his resolve as



Noted radio broadcaster Rey Langit, Ambassador Tony Cabangon, healing priest Fr. Fernando Suarez, and Ed share a warm and lighthearted moment — a rare gathering of respected figures whose camaraderie reflects friendship, faith, and mutual regard.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

chairman. These early experiences formed the lens through which he would eventually see the world: grounded, compassionate, and deeply aware of the responsibility woven into every business decision.

What began at Don Bosco did not end when he left its classrooms. It became the enduring foundation of a life lived in continuity with a legacy larger than himself.

Lessons in the Field

When Ed boarded the plane for the United States after completing his Business Administration degree, he carried no illusions about what awaited him. His father had made the purpose of the trip unmistakably clear. This was not a leisure expedition or an extended vacation. It was an assignment — one that would test discipline, humility, and endurance far more than any classroom had done.

Two Arco gasoline stations, each paired with a convenience store and located in San Gabriel and Pasadena, California, were placed under his watch—along with an eight-door apartment in West Covina, California. It sounded straightforward enough when described on paper, but the reality was far more unforgiving. From the moment he arrived, Ed understood that this was not management in the

traditional sense. This was work at its most unvarnished and physical.

He became, quite literally, a gas station boy.

The job consumed every hour of his day. He stood under the California sun pumping fuel, wiping windshields, and greeting customers whose moods swung with the weather and the price of gasoline. When equipment malfunctioned, he was the one to roll up his sleeves and fix it. When the restrooms needed cleaning, he scrubbed them. When deliveries arrived, he unloaded them. When the night shift grew quiet, he restocked shelves in the



Ed and his father, Ambassador Tony Cabangon Chua, share a distinguished moment with then Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte — a notable gathering that reflects mutual respect, warm engagement, and the significance of their connection during this period.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

convenience store, counted inventory, updated ledgers, and prepared for the next day's rush.

There were no shortcuts. The work was repetitive, physically tiring, and often thankless. Yet it was precisely the kind of environment his father had intended for him — a place where entitlement dissolved, where leadership could only emerge from participation, and where responsibility became instinct rather than a theory.

Ed learned to read the rhythms of the businesses with the precision of someone

whose livelihood depended on it. Morning crowds were predictable, lunch hours brought brief lulls, and late-night customers arrived with impatience or exhaustion. He began to anticipate problems before they arose: the sudden spike in gasoline demand before long weekends, the erratic behavior of customers who needed cash advances, the fluctuations in inventory caused by temperature changes. The stations became, in a way, living organisms whose patterns he grew to understand.

He was far from home, stripped of comforts, immersed in a world where no



REd shares a joyful moment on the dance floor with his staff during the Isuzu Motors San Pablo branch anniversary — a lighthearted celebration that reflects his approachable leadership, team spirit, and ability to connect with employees beyond the workplace.



Ed speaks animatedly with his Isuzu Motors team, capturing a dynamic moment of collaboration, shared enthusiasm, and the strong leadership that continues to inspire those he works with.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

one cared about his surname or the businesses waiting for him in the Philippines. Customers knew him only as the Filipino attendant who worked long shifts and treated them with a consistent politeness that did not waver even when they were in a hurry or complaining about prices. His coworkers respected him not for his background, but because he shared their workload rather than delegating it.

This experience was transformative. He saw labor not from a distance but from the ground level. Hard work became something he felt in his back, his fingers, and his bones. He developed empathy for

workers whose jobs demanded patience and strength. He understood operational efficiency not as a concept but as the difference between a smooth shift and a chaotic one. And he realized that businesses succeed not solely because of strategy, but because of people who wake up every day willing to do the difficult, necessary work that keeps operations running.

For four years — from 1986 to 1990 — he lived this rhythm as an overseas Filipino worker, with no cellphone to communicate easily with his family. These were the years that carved humility into him permanently. They were also the years that allowed him to see the world through the eyes of employees who had little choice but to endure difficult conditions day after day. That understanding would later shape how he treated his own personnel in the Philippines. He did not romanticize labor. He respected it.

Despite the grueling routine, Ed made time for introspection. In the quiet moments between shifts, he thought about his future. He began to dream not only of helping run the family businesses but also of equipping himself with a legal education. The American years sharpened his interest in law, exposing him to contracts, liability issues, labor rights disputes, and customer claims that



Ed addresses the Court Stenographers Association of the Philippines, offering insightful remarks that highlight the vital role of stenographers in upholding justice, accuracy, and the integrity of the judicial process.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

occasionally escalated into more complicated confrontations. The experience revealed the power of legal knowledge in resolving or preventing problems.

By the time his American chapter was nearing its end, he felt a stirring he could no longer ignore — the desire to enter law school. When he returned to the Philippines in 1990, he enrolled in the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law. He attended classes diligently despite already being involved in managing some of the family's enterprises. His days were divided between academic rigor and corporate responsibility, and for a time, he balanced both worlds with determination.

He did not pursue the law for prestige. He pursued it for understanding — believing that a leader armed with legal knowledge could navigate his father's increasingly complex conglomerate with sharper clarity and better protection for employees and clients.

But life has a way of presenting crossroads without warning. During his third year of law school, the businesses began demanding more of him. His father, recognizing the complexity and scale of the enterprises growing under the ALC Group, needed a steady hand by his side.



Ed shares a warm and nostalgic moment with his UST Law classmates during a reunion — a meaningful gathering that honors enduring friendships, shared experiences, and the formative years that shaped their professional paths.



Ed and his father, Ambassador Tony Cabangon, share a distinguished moment with then Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte — a notable gathering that reflects mutual respect, cordial engagement, and the significance of their meeting.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

The decision that followed was not easy. Law school had become meaningful to him. But his father's request carried the weight of responsibility and legacy. With quiet acceptance, he stepped away from the dream of becoming a lawyer and committed himself fully to the family businesses.

It was a sacrifice, but never a resentful one. In choosing duty, he chose the path that had always been unfolding before him, even in childhood.

Looking back, Ed never regretted the years he spent abroad. They had shaped him in ways no management course could. They taught him the dignity of every job, the value of humility, and the strength found in consistency. They prepared him for the crises he would one day face as chairman. And most importantly, they taught him that leadership grounded in lived experience carries a weight and credibility that formal titles alone can never provide.

The gas station years were not a detour.

They were preparation — unpolished, demanding, and profoundly formative.

They transformed him from a potential successor into someone who truly understood what it meant to build, manage, and serve.

It was a chapter his father had

orchestrated with precision, and one Ed would someday pass forward in his own way.

In the Shadow of a Titan

The death of a patriarch changes the air inside a family. Even before the final rites are completed, the world seems to rearrange itself, shifting weight toward those expected to stand where a giant once stood. For Ed, the day his father passed away in March 2016 marked the quiet turning of that weight — an inheritance not of wealth, but of responsibility.



Ed shares a distinguished moment with Speaker Joe de Venecia and fellow colleagues against the backdrop of the Makati skyline — a gathering that reflects camaraderie, shared purpose, and the stature of leaders shaping industry and public life.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

But years before that moment arrived, Ed had already been living in the long shadow cast by Ka Tony — a man whose reputation in business and public service made him one of the Philippines' most respected figures. Working beside him was both a privilege and a test, a daily reminder that expectations did not need to be spoken to be understood.

Ka Tony had built the ALC Group from the rough edges of adversity, carving his rise from struggle rather than comfort. To work with him meant absorbing his pace, his precision, his instincts. Ed understood early on that his father viewed business not simply as a means to profit but as a commitment to service. Each company existed because it answered a need — insurance for families, pawnshops for emergencies, real estate for stability, media for information, hotels for livelihood, automotive and banking for growth.

Understanding this philosophy required more than observation. It required immersion, patience, and years spent walking behind a man whose standards were exacting. Ed found himself learning the nuances of leadership in subtle, everyday moments: the way his father reviewed financial reports line by line, the way he insisted on visiting branches personally, the way he made decisions only after considering how they would affect the ordinary employee.



Ed warmly welcomes Senator Grace Poe during one of his company's special occasions — a distinguished moment that reflects mutual respect, cordial engagement, and the significance of her presence at the gathering.



Ed is captured in a thoughtful exchange with Senator Frank Drilon — a quiet, reflective moment that highlights mutual respect, considered dialogue, and the depth of their professional rapport.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

There was nothing romantic or grand about these lessons. They were often delivered in passing — during drives between meetings, while inspecting construction progress, or at the end of a long day when his father would speak more frankly about the realities of business. Ka Tony spoke of loyalty as a currency more valuable than capital, of trust as the cornerstone of every partnership, and of humility as the only defense against arrogance. He reminded his son repeatedly that power is dangerous when left unchecked, and that success must always be met with gratitude rather than pride.

For Ed, these lessons took root slowly but deeply. He developed the habit of listening more than he spoke, of assessing situations quietly before acting, of giving deference to those with more experience. This disposition made him not only dependable but calm — a trait his father valued. Ka Tony would often delegate sensitive tasks to him, the kinds that required discretion and steadiness.

The long apprenticeship was not without friction. There were moments when Ed wondered whether he should have pursued law more aggressively, finishing the degree he had begun with such conviction. But every time he entertained this thought, the demands of the businesses resurfaced, revealing

how deeply he was needed. He moved through this period with a sense of quiet duty, aware that the time for him to assume greater roles was approaching more quickly than he had anticipated.

What made the experience even more challenging was the stature of the man he was learning from. Ka Tony was admired not only in business but also in public life. As a diplomat, benefactor, media advocate, and community leader, he commanded respect from all sectors of society. Walking behind a figure of that magnitude required humility and self-assurance in equal measure. It meant understanding that one's worth did not depend on being seen, but on being ready.



Ed and Sharon are seen flanked by Senator and former DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, capturing a poised and cordial moment shared among respected leaders in public service and industry.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

The father never announced that Ed would be his successor. He simply acted as though the fact was already decided. Responsibilities accumulated, expectations sharpened, and the gravitational pull toward leadership became unavoidable. Ed grew into the role not by formal designation but by gradual, deliberate preparation.

When Ka Tony's health began to decline, Ed instinctively stepped forward. He found himself taking on more decisions, overseeing more divisions, coordinating more executives. The transition was not dramatic; it was steady, almost natural.

By the time the patriarch passed away, Ed was no longer simply the son of the founder. He had become the custodian of the empire.

The days that followed were filled with a surreal combination of grief and responsibility. On one hand, he mourned the loss of the man who shaped every contour of his life. On the other, he had to ensure that the conglomerate — the living embodiment of his father's struggles and triumphs — would remain stable. There were meetings to attend, employees to reassure, and operations to review. Grief had to wait.

What many did not see was that leadership, for Ed, was deeply personal. Each company contained echoes of his father's journey — from the pawnshop



Ed addresses the Eternal Gardens Sales Conference Awards Night with a heartfelt message, recognizing the dedication of the sales force and inspiring them toward continued excellence and achievement.

that had been Ka Tony's first venture, to the insurance companies that promised families a measure of security, to the media outlets that upheld public discourse and defended the freedom of expression. Running the conglomerate was not just managing businesses; it was preserving the narrative that had shaped his entire identity.

To step into his father's place meant assuming the weight of that narrative.

And yet, even in the shadow of a titan, Ed did not falter. He knew that legacy is not continued by imitating the founder but by understanding the principles behind

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry



Ed joins Cardinal Chito Tagle and other Archbishops in a distinguished group photo — a moment that reflects reverence, fellowship, and his longstanding support for the Church and its mission.

every decision. He realized that leadership is not about size, volume, or spectacle; it is about steadiness, character, and a willingness to serve.

He would later face crises his father never did, challenges shaped by a modern world moving at unprecedented speed. But he faced them with the same quiet strength instilled in him since youth. He had been prepared for this succession long before he realized he was being prepared.

This chapter of his life — working in the shadow of his father — was not merely a period of learning. It was the crucible that shaped the leader he would become, the foundation upon which his own legacy would eventually stand.

Building the Modern ALC Empire

When Ed assumed the mantle of leadership after his father's passing, the transition did not unfold with spectacle or

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

sweeping declarations. It was quiet — almost understated — yet unmistakably decisive. Those who worked within the ALC Group of Companies recognized the shift not through announcements but through his presence, his decisions, and the steadiness with which he moved through boardrooms and corridors once dominated by his father.

The conglomerate he inherited was vast. It stretched across industries that rarely intersected except in the hands of a leader with a panoramic sense of purpose. Insurance, media, pre-need services, real estate, hospitality, automotive distribution, banking, pawnshops, memorial care — each division had its own culture, its own rhythms, its own demands. Holding all of it together required not only managerial competence but an instinctive understanding of why these companies existed in the first place.

For Ed, the answer had always been clear. He remembered the story of a young boy from Malate who shined shoes to survive, the teenager who sold pandesal to keep his family fed, and the man who built an empire not to flaunt wealth but to give everyday Filipinos access to services that gave dignity to their lives. To run these companies was to protect that original intent. His father had built enterprises that touched people from birth to the final moments of life. Ed saw the entire conglomerate not as a portfolio but as a continuum of service.



Ed joins his entire Eternel Gardens staff for a group photo — a meaningful portrait that reflects unity, teamwork, and the shared commitment that drives the organization's continued growth and success.



A vibrant Gatsby-themed celebration brings together Eternel Gardens employees in an evening of elegance, camaraderie, and spirited festivity — a joyful gathering that highlights the company's culture of unity and shared enjoyment.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

In the early years of his chairmanship, his approach was rooted in pragmatism. He resisted the temptation to make sweeping changes simply to mark a new era. Instead, he observed, listened, and absorbed the concerns of executives who had long been part of the company's fabric. ALC was not a corporate construct to him; it was a living legacy. And like any living organism, its survival depended on stability, not disruption.

His first months were spent visiting branches — banks, hotels, insurance offices, editorial rooms — echoing the way his father had done before him. He wanted to see operations up close, to understand employee morale, customer behavior, and market challenges. He sat in on editorial meetings at BusinessMirror, discussing the evolving media landscape. He walked floors of Eternal Gardens to understand customer service needs. He inspected rooms in the Manila Grand Opera Hotel, asking questions about occupancy trends. He met with loan officers at Citystate Savings Bank, reviewing loan portfolios and risk mitigation strategies. He immersed himself in the details without micromanaging, ensuring he grasped the pulse of each company.

This groundwork informed the decisions he made as he slowly strengthened the structures his father had built. He introduced more deliberate governance systems across divisions, expanded

oversight mechanisms, and recalibrated business models to keep pace with market shifts. He did all this without fanfare — choosing precision over pomp.

Nowhere was the shift more visible than in the media arm of the ALC Group. Media had always been special to his father, who saw it not solely as a business but as a responsibility. Running DWIZ, Home Radio, Aliw Channel 23, BusinessMirror, Philippines Graphic, Cook Magazine, Pilipino Mirror, the former CNN Philippines, and other publications required balancing editorial freedom with operational realities. The landscape was changing rapidly: advertising was migrating online, consumption habits were shifting, and competition had grown fierce.



Ed is pictured with his executives at Aliw Broadcasting Corporation — a moment that highlights strong leadership, collaborative teamwork, and the shared commitment to advancing the network's mission of delivering credible and impactful broadcasting.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry



Ed delivers a thoughtful and inspiring message at the 46th Catholic Mass Media Awards, emphasizing the enduring value of ethical storytelling, responsible journalism, and media grounded in faith, truth, and integrity.

Ed responded with a sense of duty rather than fear. He invested in digital modernization for the newspaper operations, equipped newsrooms with updated technology, and ensured that DWIZ continued to uphold credibility in a time when misinformation was rampant. He made decisions grounded in public service, believing that media's highest obligation was to the truth, not profit.

In hospitality, he modernized operations at the Citystate hotels while preserving their accessibility. He saw the hotels not as luxury brands but as reliable, service-oriented establishments for everyday travelers, OFWs, civil servants, and local tourists. Maintaining cleanliness, affordability, and service quality remained paramount.



Ed delivers an insightful message at the Global Peace Media Forum in 2023, emphasizing the crucial role of media in fostering understanding, promoting dialogue, and advancing the cause of global peace.

Real estate, automotive distribution through Isuzu Gencars, financial institutions like PlanBank and Citystate Savings Bank, pre-need services, and memorial care — each required the same consistency. Ed ensured they continued to operate with the foundational values his father instilled: empathy, integrity, and the unwavering belief that business should uplift.

In the automotive industry, Ed has been part of Isuzu Gencars since his high school days, learning the business from the ground up—its operations, dealership standards, expansions, and most recently, rolling out the Isuzu Outlet Standard across all branches. His leadership extends beyond strategy; he leads by presence, listening, observing, and collaborating closely with his team.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

Yet among the milestones of Isuzu Gencars, one chapter stands out with deep meaning.

In mid-2014, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates “Soc” Villegas reached out with an extraordinary request: could Isuzu Gencars build the vehicle that would carry Pope Francis during his pastoral visit to the Philippines? Edgard responded with humility and devotion: “Thank you, Excellency. We will be honored and consider ourselves blessed to do it.”

It became one of the proudest moments in the company’s history.

Working with Almazora Motors, the team transformed an Isuzu D-MAX into a simple, elegant, and secure Popemobile featuring a redesigned cabin, banig-accented Italian leather seats, safety railings, a plexiglass windscreen, and recessed lighting. The unit passed rigorous Vatican inspections and was blessed by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

On January 15, 2015, Pope Francis rode the Popemobile through Manila, later telling Gencars founder Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, “This is a beautiful car.”

Later that year, when a second Popemobile was created as a gift to Pope Francis at the Pontiff’s request, Edgard did more than lead the initiative—he



On October 14, 2015, in Vatican City, Ed officially turned over the second Isuzu Popemobile to the Holy Father, Pope Francis — a momentous occasion that underscored his commitment to service, his company’s contribution to the Church, and the honor of presenting a vehicle destined for the Pontiff’s pastoral missions.

personally delivered the unit to the Vatican. This marked his only work-related trip abroad that year, a rare exception, as he normally refrains from traveling to stay and address the demands of the companies he manages. The gesture reflected not only the company’s commitment but also his own sincerity of faith and service.

Employees noticed his leadership style almost immediately. He did not enter rooms with intimidation. He spoke calmly, asked questions thoughtfully, and allowed others to explain before offering his perspective. His steadiness had a grounding effect. He made decisions after

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

careful listening, not impulsive judgment. And he treated employees — whether executives or custodial staff — with dignity, a trait he inherited from his father.

He led through presence, not theatrics.

Yet, while he maintained stability, he also recognized the need for innovation. He strengthened digital operations across companies, supported automation where useful, and encouraged divisions to future-proof themselves without abandoning the personal touch that had always distinguished ALC brands. His vision was not to modernize for the sake of appearing progressive, but to ensure the conglomerate's longevity in a world that changed faster than ever before.

Service Above Self

Amid all this, Ed became a quiet but impactful figure in civic life. In 2022, he joined the **Rotary Club of Manila** at the invitation of Past President Joaquin “Jackie” Rodriguez. He was not a regular attendee — running dozens of companies left little room for weekly meetings — but he compensated in meaningful ways. DWIZ offered free coverage for Rotary events. *BusinessMirror* provided full-spread features on service projects. He donated generously to fundraising activities, often as a major benefactor. And he hosted numerous membership meetings at the Citystate Tower Hotel,

supporting the club's activities without seeking attention.

He embodied Rotary's creed — “Service Above Self” — in the same understated manner he led the conglomerate. He did not seek praise. He simply acted where he could help.

As the years progressed, the businesses remained resilient. The continuity he provided allowed employees to feel secure despite the rapid pace of global change. He strengthened institutions not through disruption, but through thoughtful stewardship. He did not see himself as the



DWIZ is honored with the Most Outstanding Radio Station of the Year award in 2014 by the Rotary Club of Manila — a prestigious recognition of the station's excellence in broadcasting, public service, and journalistic integrity.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

owner of the empire, but as its guardian — protecting his father's life's work while preparing it for the world beyond his own tenure.

This period became the defining arc of his early leadership: the transformation of the founder's conglomerate into a modern yet grounded enterprise, guided by a man who understood not only its financial heartbeat but its moral purpose.

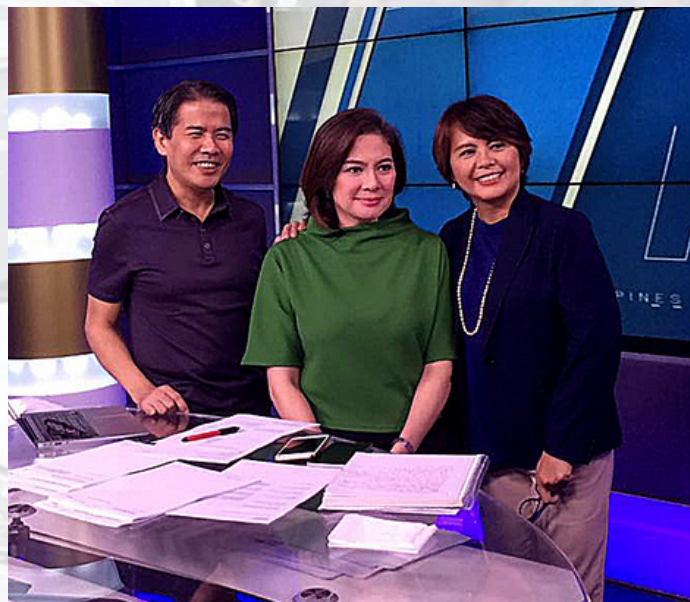
He maintained the soul of the ALC Group, even as he built the framework that would carry it into the future.

The Pandemic and the Rise of a Modern Hero

In early 2020, when the first murmurs of a strange virus began to surface, few could imagine how profoundly the world was about to change. For most people, the shift came gradually — news reports turning grim, airports emptying, cities slipping into silence. But for those responsible for thousands of employees, businesses, and dependents, the change felt immediate, heavy, and unmistakably urgent.



Cely Bueno was honored as Female Broadcaster of the Year in 2017 by the Rotary Club of Manila, a recognition that highlighted her exceptional professionalism, integrity, and contribution to Philippine broadcast journalism.



Ed extends a warm welcome to Pia Hontiveros as she joins the CNN Philippines team — a moment that underscores the network's commitment to excellence, credibility, and strengthening its roster with respected voices in broadcast journalism.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry



Ed addresses the Eternal Gardens General Membership Meeting with an uplifting and motivational speech — a moment that reflects his leadership, vision, and commitment to guiding the organization toward continued growth and excellence.

For Ed, the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic were a test of leadership unlike anything he had encountered before. The bustling offices of the ALC Group fell eerily quiet. Hotels that once held conferences, weddings, reunions, and family vacations suddenly had empty lobbies and silent hallways. Daily operations across industries — insurance, media, pawnshops, banking, real estate, security agencies, and automotive dealerships — were thrown into uncertainty.

He faced a question no business manual had prepared him for: **How do you protect people — employees, communities, and the public — when the world itself has stopped moving?**

From the moment the lockdowns were announced, Ed understood that his decisions over the next weeks would define not only the trajectory of the ALC Group but the wellbeing of thousands of families who depended on it. There was no precedent to consult, no case study to model after, and no time to hesitate. He knew instinctively that leadership in such a moment could not begin with profit; it had to begin with humanity.

The most immediate concern was how to help health workers and local government units who were scrambling for resources. Hospitals overflowed. Quarantine facilities were insufficient. Medical

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

frontliners were sleeping in hallways, tents, and their cars out of fear of bringing the virus home. Ed could not erase the haunting contrast: empty hotel rooms on one side of the city, and exhausted doctors resting on concrete floors on the other.

He made a decision that would define this chapter of his life.

He opened the doors of the ALC Group's hotels — all of them — to frontliners and COVID patients who needed isolation facilities. There was no negotiation over cost, no hesitation about revenue loss, no question about risk. He offered the rooms for free.

In total, the ALC Group lent 10 of its hotels to local government units for more than a year at no charge: five in Manila, one in Mandaluyong, three in Pasig, and one in Puerto Princesa. They were the first to respond to the government's call.

Citystate Quipo, Citystate Palanca, Manila Grand Opera Tower Hotel, Vista Hotel, and Citystate Tower Hotel in Manila, as well as Daisy, Dahlia, Orchids, and Rosal in Pasig, Bermuda in Mandaluyong, and Citystate Asturias in Puerto Princesa, were opened free of charge for more than a year starting at the onset of the pandemic, providing vital support to frontliners and those in need of isolation. Local government units were suddenly able to isolate infected residents without burdening families or crowding hospitals.



Ed, serving as Chairman, stands with the distinguished members of the Catholic Mass Media Awards Board — a testament to his leadership, commitment to ethical media, and dedication to upholding the values and mission of the CMMA.



A steadfast supporter of Caritas Manila, Ed is seen here with President Fr. Anton Pascual and the organization's officers — a meaningful moment that underscores his enduring commitment to humanitarian service, faith-driven advocacy, and uplifting communities in need.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

In those months when fear governed public life, when even the simple act of leaving the house felt dangerous, Ed took a step toward the crisis rather than away from it. And he did so quietly, without cameras, press releases, or announcements. The rooms were made available because it was the right thing to do — not because it would look admirable.

Word of his decision eventually reached Congress during discussions of the Bayanihan Act. Lawmakers cited the ALC Group's actions as an example of genuine corporate responsibility at a time when some companies were raising prices or

shutting doors to avoid losses. Ed did not expect recognition, but the acknowledgment affirmed what his father had always believed: businesses that serve the Filipino become part of the country's moral fabric.

Still, inside the company, the emotional toll was real. Employees who kept essential branches open — like pawnshops, banks, and media outlets — faced the daily anxiety of exposure. Ed insisted on strict health protocols, hazard support, and continuous communication to reassure staff that they were not being left alone. He kept salaries flowing even in



Ed and his mother, Bienvenida Angeles, share a gracious moment with Cardinal Chito Tagle — a meaningful encounter that reflects faith, respect, and the family's longstanding support for the Church and its mission.



Ed shares a warm and elegant moment with his wife, Sharon, and his mother, Bienvenida Angeles — a graceful family portrait that reflects love, unity, and the enduring strength of their bond.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

divisions where operations were halted or severely reduced. His main concern was always the same: **How do we keep our people safe, secure, and hopeful?**

In media, the work never stopped. DWIZ reporters continued delivering news under dangerous circumstances, covering developments on the ground even when movement was restricted. Through his leadership, they were provided protection, resources, and the constant reminder that their work was essential. *BusinessMirror* and *Philippines Graphic* remained active, informing the public about the pandemic with responsible reporting and human-centered stories.

His decisions during this time were not dramatic gestures meant for public display. They were deliberate, compassionate actions grounded in the values he had absorbed throughout his life — from the gas station years, from his father's relentless example, and from the belief that business should exist not for its own sake but to serve.

One small but telling detail also surfaced during this period. While many businessmen found creative ways to celebrate birthdays amid lockdowns, Ed chose not to mark his with lavish deliveries or private gatherings. Instead, he quietly made donations to churches — simple acts that reflected a personal faith guiding him through a time of profound uncertainty.



A heartfelt family moment featuring Ed and his siblings together with their mother, Bienvenida Angeles — a portrait of unity, affection, and the strong familial foundation that shaped their lives.

The pandemic revealed a dimension of Ed's leadership that had always been present but often understated: his instinct for compassion. In an era of crisis, it rose to the forefront — steady, clear, and unmistakably sincere.

By the end of 2020, when restrictions began to ease, the ALC Group stood battered but intact. Many companies had collapsed during those months; others had retrenched aggressively. Ed kept his workforce whole. He steadied the organization through the worst economic storm of the modern era and emerged recognized as a “Modern Hero” by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

Industry during the Asia's Modern Hero Awards of 2024.

The award recognized corporate heroism during the pandemic, but to Ed, it was a reminder of something much larger: the belief that the purpose of a business cannot be separate from the welfare of people.

In the long arc of his life, the pandemic became a defining crucible. It revealed who he was as a leader when everything familiar collapsed around him. It showed the depth of his empathy, the clarity of his values, and the strength of the foundation laid by a father who had once survived war and taught his children that survival must always be paired with compassion.

The crisis had demanded courage. Ed answered not with spectacle, but with humanity — offering rooms, offering shelter, offering stability, offering hope.

In the darkest moments of the pandemic, he embodied the legacy of his father while forging a legacy of his own.

The Leader as Father, Son, and Steward

Leadership is rarely a single role. It is a composite of identities — some inherited, some chosen, some thrust upon a person by circumstance. After steering the ALC Group through the pandemic, Ed found himself standing at a crossroads where his

duties as a businessman, father, son, and custodian of a legacy converged more visibly than ever before.

There was a noticeable quietness to him during this period, not of fatigue but of contemplation. The demands of the conglomerate continued as they always had — meetings, decisions, operational concerns — but there was now also a deeper internal work taking place, one shaped by everything he had endured over the last years. He had carried thousands of employees through uncertainty, opened his hotels to strangers in need, and steadied the empire his father had built from the ground up. Somewhere in all of this, he



Ed is presented with the Outstanding Civic Leader Award by Public Attorney's Office Chief Atty. Persida Rueda-Acosta — a distinguished recognition of his enduring commitment to public service, community upliftment, and civic responsibility.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

realized that leadership was no longer just about what he achieved. It had become a reflection of who he was and the values he was responsible for passing on.

At home, this transformation was quietly noticed by the two people who mattered most to him outside the company — his children, **Maritoni, Giannina Eunice, Dannica Nicole**, and **Antonio Carlos**.

They were no longer children, but young adults forming their own view of the world and their place in it. They saw their father not as the chairman of a business empire, but as a man who carried responsibility without theatrics, who treated people with respect without needing to announce it, and who took decisions that weighed on him not because they were profitable, but because they were right.

Even years after the elder Cabangon Chua's passing, Ed would sometimes walk through a company building and be struck by the memory of how his father



A meaningful celebration marking Ed's 55th year, shared with Sharon and their children. Surrounded by family, the occasion highlighted the grace of togetherness, the warmth of home, and the blessings of a life guided by purpose and gratitude. Wishing Ed continued success, good health, and enduring joy in the years ahead.



A warm family portrait capturing brothers Edward and Edgard sharing a cherished moment with their mother — a simple yet heartfelt testament to their close-knit bond and enduring affection.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

once inspected the same hallways. Sometimes, while reviewing company reports late at night, he would catch himself wondering how Ka Tony would have approached a particular decision. Leadership had become, in a way, a dialogue between the past and the present.

But Ed understood something vital about legacy: to honor a father's life is not to replicate it, but to continue it in ways relevant to a new era. He had to interpret the values he inherited within the context of a modern world — one shaped by digital transformation, shifting markets, and crises his father never had to navigate. He could not lead by imitation. He had to lead by internalizing his father's principles, then applying them in his own way.



Ed delivers an inspiring address at the Eternal Gardens Annual Awards Night in 2014, honoring outstanding employees and recognizing their dedication, hard work, and invaluable contributions to the organization's continued success.

This became especially clear in the responsibilities he faced outside the business. In 2022, when he accepted the invitation from Past President Joaquin “Jackie” Rodriguez to join the **Rotary Club of Manila**, he stepped into civic life in a manner that complemented his



Ed delivers a heartfelt message during his 60th birthday celebration at the CityState Tower Hotel — a moment filled with gratitude, reflection, and appreciation for family, friends, and the many milestones that have shaped his journey.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

corporate duties. He was not the type who could attend weekly meetings religiously — business demanded too much of him — but he found his own way to contribute. He offered DWIZ to provide free coverage of Rotary activities. He opened the pages of BusinessMirror to highlight the club's service projects. He donated quietly — but generously — to fundraising programs, often becoming one of the major supporters. And he hosted meetings at Citystate Tower Hotel, ensuring RCM had a reliable venue whenever needed.

He participated in the organization not

through visibility, but through meaningful support. For him, service did not require spotlight; it required sincerity.

His approach to leadership — whether in business, family, or civic life — reflected a character that had been shaped not by ambition but by purpose. He did not see himself as the owner of the ALC Group, but as its steward. He did not treat employees as subordinates, but as partners. He did not make decisions to elevate himself, but to preserve the dignity of those whose lives were intertwined with the company.



Ed shares a warm and distinguished moment with Ramon Ang, a close friend of his late father, Ambassador Tony Cabangon — a meeting that reflects enduring ties, mutual respect, and the lasting bonds between their families.



LT Group Founder and Chairman Emeritus Lucio Tan is flanked by his daughter, Sharon, and Ed — a distinguished moment that reflects family unity, respect, and the privilege of sharing time with one of the nation's most esteemed business leaders.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

This stewardship mindset influenced everything he touched. He moved with the awareness that every decision carried consequences for families he might never meet. This sense of responsibility — not financial ambition — defined his management style. It is what set him apart from many of his contemporaries. While others relied on charisma or bold gestures, Ed led with consistency, moderation, and humility.

Carrying the Flame – Legacy and the Next Generation

He reaches an age where the past and future seem to speak to each other more often. He can feel the weight of history behind him and the looming expectation of continuity ahead. In many ways, he now stands at the midpoint of a story far larger than himself — a story his father began decades before, and one that his own children might someday continue.

His four children are growing into thoughtful young adults, each carrying their own dreams while becoming increasingly aware of the legacy they are born into. Ed never pressures them to join the businesses or to follow any predetermined path. He believes, as his father believed, that leadership must come from desire, not obligation. Yet he also understands that they will eventually confront the reality of their family's responsibilities.



Ed and his son share a reflective moment inside the mini-museum dedicated to his father, Ambassador Tony Cabangon Chua — a quiet tribute to legacy, memory, and the values passed down through generations.

He raises them with steady guidance — not through grand speeches or forced expectations, but through the example of how he lives: patiently, quietly, purposefully. They see him leave for work before sunrise and return long after the rest of the house falls silent. They watch him shoulder crises without bitterness, respond to challenges without panic, and help people without broadcasting his generosity. They live through the pandemic years with him and see how he handles fear and uncertainty, not with bravado but with compassion.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

He often wonders how his children will understand this inheritance, and whether they will feel its weight or see its beauty. He does not presume to know. He does not attempt to script their futures. What he can do — and what he believes he must do — is shape the company into something they can be proud of: an institution that serves the Filipino with dignity, treats its workers with compassion, and keeps its priorities rooted in purpose rather than prestige.

He wants them to understand that the ALC Group is not merely a business empire; it is a living testament to endurance. And he hopes that, whether or not they choose to join it, they will carry forward the values that built it.

The Measure of a Man

There comes a point in every long journey when a man begins to look back — not to linger in the past, but to understand the road that has brought him to where he now stands. For Edgard Cabangon, that moment arrives quietly, without ceremony, sometime in the years after the pandemic and the gradual stabilization of the ALC Group. It does not strike him in a single event or revelation. It comes instead in small, steady realizations — moments when he finds himself pausing at the end of a long meeting, or standing alone in an elevator, or watching the city pass through the tinted windows of his car.



Ed and Sharon strike a glamorous pose in their beautifully crafted kimonos — a refined blend of style, culture, and sophistication that highlights their effortless grace and shared appreciation for timeless elegance.

These are moments when he begins to see the arc of his life with a clarity that only time can provide.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

He has not sought prominence, yet leadership continues to find its way to him. He was once a gas station attendant in America, pumping fuel into strangers' cars in the heat of summer and the cold of early mornings. He once dreamed of becoming a lawyer, sitting on the University of Santo Tomas campus with thick books and a determined heart. He once believed that his path would be built slowly, on his own terms.

But life had other plans. His father asked him to take on responsibilities that could not wait. The family businesses needed guidance. Decisions had to be made. And so, he set aside law school in his third year — not out of resignation, but out of devotion to the man who trusted him more than anyone else.

Through the decades that follow, he often recalls the moment he was asked to step in. That decision — quiet, uncelebrated, almost invisible to the outside world — becomes the pivot of his life. It is the moment when he exchanges one dream for a greater duty. It is the moment when he steps into a legacy he had not chosen but embraces fully.

Looking back, he understands that this is how many legacies are passed on: not through grand declarations, but through simple acts of obedience, loyalty, and readiness to serve.



A warm and candid exchange as Ed shares a light moment with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, both enjoying a copy of Philippine Graphic featuring her on the cover. A simple yet memorable scene that captures camaraderie, respect, and the ease of genuine conversation.



Ed and Sharon share a distinguished moment with former First Lady Imelda Marcos and her daughter, Senator Imee Marcos — a notable gathering that reflects cordial ties, gracious exchanges, and a shared presence at an important social occasion.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry



Ed is presented with a special oil painting of himself and his father, Ambassador Tony Cabangon, during his 61st birthday celebration. Surrounded by his family, the moment stands as a moving tribute to legacy, gratitude, and the enduring bonds that shape a life of purpose.

When his father died in 2016, the weight of the empire settles on his shoulders. It is a burden measured not merely in assets but in expectations, history, and the memory of a man who rose from poverty to build a conglomerate with nothing but grit and faith. Ed does not respond with ambition. He responds with stewardship. He knows that he is not being asked to surpass his father. He is being asked to

preserve what has been built and prepare it for the future.

He does so quietly, year after year, bearing crises without dramatics and carrying responsibilities without complaint. He modernizes divisions, expands others, and protects the company through storms — economic downturns, digital disruption, and the pandemic that brings the world to its knees.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

EDGARD@61
April 9, 2025 • Wack Wack Golf and Country Club



Jose Cardinal Advincula, Archbishop of Manila, together with President Bongbong Marcos and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, graced Ed's 61st birthday celebration as distinguished VIP guests — a testament to the high regard and enduring respect accorded to him by leaders of church and state.



Manila Mayor Erap Estrada shares a cordial moment with Ed and his DWIZ team during a courtesy call — a distinguished visit that reflects mutual respect, warm engagement, and the strengthening of ties between media and local government leadership.



Former Senator and boxing legend Manny Pacquiao is flanked by Ed and his entourage — a remarkable moment shared with one of the nation's most iconic athletes, reflecting camaraderie, admiration, and the significance of the occasion.



Ed shares a cordial and engaging moment with then Manila Mayor Lito Atienza — a meeting that reflects mutual respect and their shared commitment to civic and community development.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry



Ed shares a warm and memorable moment with the King of Comedy, Dolphy — a cherished encounter with one of the Philippines' most beloved and iconic entertainers.



Ed shares a memorable moment with iconic Filipino musician Freddie Aguilar — a meeting that brings together leadership and artistry in a warm and respectful encounter.



Renowned singer Gino Padilla delivers a heartfelt serenade for Ed during the Eternal Gardens Awards Night — a memorable highlight that added elegance, warmth, and a touch of celebration to the evening's festivities.



Ed shares a distinguished moment with Eduardo Manalo, Executive Minister of the Iglesia ni Cristo — a respectful encounter that reflects mutual regard and the significance of their meeting.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

The employees who stay with the ALC Group through the years do so not simply because of salary or tenure, but because they feel they belong to something that matters. Government officials who seek assistance during the pandemic find in him a partner who understands urgency and compassion. Communities touched by the company's services — those who insure their families, bury their loved ones, build their homes, or rely on ALC's media networks for information — experience the quiet reach of his decisions without ever knowing his name.

Perhaps that is the truest measure of his leadership: the number of lives improved by actions carried out without fanfare.

There is a particular kind of strength found in leaders who do not seek to be remembered. They build without needing applause. They serve without needing acknowledgment. They continue the work because they understand that legacy is not a monument but a responsibility.

As Ed looks toward the future — toward the years that will eventually belong to the next generation — he feels no need to define how he should be remembered. He has long since stopped thinking in terms of recognition or public image. If anything, he hopes only that those who come after him will continue the work with integrity, compassion, and courage.



Former Senate President Nene Pimentel and his wife, Lourdes dela Llana, share a warm and distinguished moment with Ed and his family — a gathering that reflects mutual respect, friendship, and the bonds formed through years of public service and civic engagement.



Ed is surrounded by the beautiful contestants of Miss Earth Philippines — a vibrant and elegant moment that highlights the pageant's advocacy for environmental awareness and the gracious camaraderie shared during the event.

THE STEWARD

Dominic Edgard Angeles Cabangon and the Empire He Chose to Carry

He hopes that his children will inherit the values, not the pressure; the principles, not the burdens.

He hopes, above all, that the flame lit by his father decades ago will continue to burn — not because of a name or an empire, but because of the countless people whose lives depend on that light.

In truth, the life of Dominic Edgard A. Cabangon reflects a truth often overlooked in stories of leadership: greatness does not always appear in bold strokes or sweeping gestures. Sometimes, it lives in the quiet hours, the unseen decisions, the loyalty to a promise made long ago.

His journey — shaped by sacrifice, grounded in values, and guided by a steady moral compass — stands as a reminder that legacy is not about rising above others, but about lifting others with you. It is about carrying forward the best of those who came before, while shaping a path for those who will come after.

And so, he stands today, not at the end of a story, but in the steady continuation of one — a son honoring a father, a leader protecting a people, and a steward preparing an inheritance of integrity for the generation still waiting to take its place.



Ed playfully dons a reindeer headband during the company Christmas celebration — a charming moment that showcases his warm personality, sense of humor, and the festive spirit he brings to the workplace.



Ed and Sharon share a heartfelt moment with his mother, Bienvenida Angeles — a touching family portrait that reflects love, gratitude, and the enduring strength of their familial bond.

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do

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

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DISTRICT EVENT

District Monthly Meeting of Rotary District 3810



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the District Monthly Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for the month of January last January 7, 2026 at the Gloriamaris Shark's Fin Restaurant, Mall of Asia Arena Annex (MAAX) Building, Pasay City.



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday received the Certificate for Top 2 Contribution to The Rotary Foundation for the month of December 2025 on behalf of the Rotary Club of Manila from District Governor Mary Mei V. Rodrigo in the presence of SDG for The Rotary Foundation James Tan and DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra last January 7, 2026 during the District Monthly Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for the month of January.



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday won a LED Wireless Charging Speaker in the raffle which took place during the District Monthly Meeting of Rotary District 3810.



DISTRICT EVENT

6th Handover and 7th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Raxabago Manila



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the 6th Handover and 7th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Raxabago Manila last January 11, 2026 at the Admiral Hotel in Manila.



RECOGNITION CORNER

Asia Business Law Journal Names ACCRALAW as Law Firm of the Year for Three Consecutive Years

ASIA BUSINESS LAW JOURNAL



LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

ACCRALAW

ACCRALAW, formally known as Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices, is one of the leading and most established full-service law firms in the Philippines. The firm has been named Law Firm of the Year for three consecutive years, in recognition of its ongoing and significant contributions to shaping the Philippine legal landscape.

As a recognised arbitration powerhouse, ACCRALAW is currently representing the country's largest power utility in multiple arbitration cases against its contestable customers, concerning Fuel Cost Recovery Adjustments (FCRAs) amounting to at least USD23.8 million. The disputes, arising from global fuel price surges linked to geopolitical and market factors, raise novel regulatory and contractual issues that could set an important precedent. On the advisory front, ACCRALAW served as legal counsel to the joint issue managers, joint lead underwriters and joint bookrunners in connection with Megawide Construction Corporation's offering of up to PHP6 billion (USD102 million) series 6 preferred shares, which were listed and traded on the main board of the Philippine Stock Exchange on 14 April 2025.

The preferred shares are cumulative, non-voting, non-participating and redeemable, and were issued by Megawide to raise funds for refinancing and real estate project financing.

ACCRALAW has delivered innovative solutions to address clients' needs and concerns across all areas of IP rights protection and management. The firm successfully represented Teeg Australia in opposing the registration of the "TIMETONE" mark, which the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) determined to be confusingly similar to Teeg's well-known "TIMEZONE" mark.

In addition, the firm successfully acted for Alpinestars Research in opposing the registration of the "Star Device" mark, which the IPOPHL found to be confusingly similar to Alpinestars' "A+STAR Device" mark.

"ACCRALAW makes a supreme effort to partner with in-house general counsel to provide high-quality, comprehensive legal advice that will respond to the needs and objectives of the client," says Jazel Calvo-Cariño, legal director at Sanofi-Aventis Philippines in Metro Manila.

"The lawyers make an effort to understand the client's business by fostering strong client relationships that will level-up mere legal opinions to a true business partnership. I value their innovative legal solutions that address current realities and the collaborative approach they take with general counsel in risk management or mitigation."



*Past Pres Eusebio "Ebot" V. Tan
Of Counsel, ACCRALAW*



*STAR Rtn. Oliver Pantaleon
Senior Partner and Head -
Litigation and Dispute
Resolution Department
ACCRALAW*

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship



Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship held on January 12, 2026, hosted by AS Paco Magsaysay

Present were PD Ner Lonzaga, former member Raoul Villegas, PD Abe Pascual, AS Paco Magsaysay, former member Francis Juico, DE/BLA Caloy Serapio, PD Rod Valencia, former member Eric Severino, PP Archit Bartolome, Rtn Willie Peliño, VP Ricky Guevara, PD Jun Hallare, and former member Jorge Salazar.

91st Birthday Celebration of Rotary District 3820 PDG Rafael “Paeng” Tantuco



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Chairperson/DRFC PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray, PDG Rudy Bediones and Lady Sharon Bediones attended the 91st Birthday Celebration of Rotary District 3820 PDG Rafael “Paeng” Tantuco last January 10, 2026 at the East Ocean Palace in Parañaque City.



Rotary 
District 3810

District Chinese New Year Celebration

Hosted by:

Rotary 
Clubs of Bagumbayan Manila
Downtown Manila
& Quirino Manila Central

FEBRUARY 2026

TUESDAY **10** AT 06:30 PM

GOLDEN BAY RESTAURANT

Dress Code: Chinese Traditional or Festive Red

**2,000 PER HEAD
24,000 PER TABLE OF 12 PAX**

PAYMENT DETAILS:

SECURITY BANK
0861-038512-001

ROTARY CLUB OF DOWNTOWN MANILA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION INC.

Kindly Viber the proof of payment to 09612910852 c/o Adsec Nica



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2025-2026

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
President

EDUARDO V. ENRIQUEZ, III
Immediate Past President

RICARDO SB. GUEVARA
Vice President

MICHAEL JAEY C. ALBAÑA
JASON M. BOGOVICH
RAMI CHAHWAN
EDWIN HERNANDEZ
ALBERT PALACIOS
WARREN SO
Directors

ANTONIOLO DC. MAURICIO
Secretary

PAUL JOSEPH M. GARCIA
Treasurer

JASON M. BOGOVICH
Sergeant-at-Arms

CARLOS G. SERAPIO
Board Legal Adviser

FRANCISCO D. MAGSAYSAY
Assistant Secretary

KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M. CASTRO
Assistant Treasurer

ARSENIO Z. LOCSIN
Internal Auditor

MICHAEL D. ROXAS
Assistant Internal Auditor

JOHN M. CUTTER
DAVID J. REYNOLDS
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms



Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila
balita

EDITORIAL BOARD RY 2025-2026

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Publisher

SDG REGINALD T. YU
Editor-in-Chief

RTN. SENEN T. MANGALILE
Managing Editor

SEC. ANTONILO DC. MAURICIO
Associate Editor

SDG ALBERT S. ALDAY
Editorial Consultant

DSAA JOHN M. CUTTER
Contributing Editor

RHEA V. TABORA
Editorial Consultant

RCM SECRETARIAT

LHEA J. LOZANO
Executive Secretary

RCM OFFICE

543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 8527-1885
Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org

www.rcmanila.org