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Gen. Gregorio Pio P. Catapang Jr.
Bureau of Corrections

Baylight and Brotherhood:

The Rain-Kissed
Fellowship that
Sparked RY 2025
–2026

An Evening of Unity and Fellowship:

Rotary Spouses & Inner
Wheel Club of Manila
Ladies Unite for Good

Typhoon Relief Operations

Council of Past
Presidents Honors
RCM BOD & Officers
for RY 2025–2026

LUCEAT LUX: THE QUIET RADIANCE OF PURPOSE

The Gentle Power of
Phillip Lipoco Ong and a
Life Anchored in Service



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PROGRAM

4th Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2025-2026
Thursday, August 7, 2025, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: VP RICARDO “Ricky” S.B. GUEVARA

PART I

12:00 NN Registration

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

Invocation | **TREAS. PAUL JOSEPH “PJ” M. GARCIA**

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn | **RCM WF Music Chorale**

The Four (4) Way Test | **STAR RTN. STEFAN YORDANOV**

Acknowledgement of Guests | **VP RICARDO “Ricky” S.B. GUEVARA**

Birthday Celebrants

July 19 PDG Obet Pagdanganan	July 28 Rtn. Stefan Schmitz
July 21 Rtn. Cons Roberts	July 30 Rtn. Senen Mangalile
July 24 Rtn. Philip Recto	Aug 3 PD Johnny Chotrani
July 25 Rtn. JJ Fernandez	Aug 5 Rtn. Henry Villarica
Rtn. Emman Dela Cruz	Rtn. Ray Davis
July 26 Rtn. Ivan Uy	Aug 07 Dir. Edwin Hernandez

Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song | **RCM WF Chorale**

PART II

12:50 PM Nominations of the Board of Directors for the Rotary Year 2026-2027 | **PP ARSENIO “Archit” M. BARTOLOME III** (Election Committee Chairman)

PHYLA Search | CP Melchor “Chock” Encabo (*Charter Pres., Rotary Metro Escolta*)

PART III

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

1:00 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker
SEC. ANTONILO “Anton” D.C. MAURICIO

Guest of Honor and Speaker

GEN. GREGORIO PIO P. CATAPANG JR., AFP (Ret)
Director General, Bureau of Corrections

1:30 PM Open Forum/Q&A

1:50 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



AS the Rotary Club of Manila welcomes Director General Gregorio Pio P. Catapang Jr. of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) to its prestigious forum, we are reminded that the essence of penology must be more than barbed wire and iron gates. The presence of the nation's highest prison official at our gathering should not merely prompt polite applause — it must awaken in us a deeper reckoning with a question long buried beneath bureaucratic dust: Are we reforming persons, or just containing problems?

For decades, the Philippine penal system has groaned under the weight of its contradictions. While our laws speak loftily of rehabilitation, our prisons too often reflect the harsh face

of neglect — overcrowded, underfunded, and rife with corruption and criminal syndicates that thrive behind walls meant to suppress them. The New Bilibid Prison, long considered the flagship of our penal institutions, has become more infamous for shabu laboratories and VIP treatment than for success stories of redemption.

General Catapang assumed leadership of the BuCor with both a military strategist's discipline and a reformer's resolve. Under his watch, long-neglected issues have been brought into the light: ghost employees, prison-based cartels, and decaying facilities. His efforts to professionalize the ranks, introduce digitization, and restore integrity in custodial service are commendable. But the road ahead remains steep and pockmarked by systemic rot.

Penology cannot simply be about punishment. If we are to believe in justice, then we must also believe in the capacity of individuals to change. Rehabilitation programs — be they vocational training, education, faith-based outreach, or mental health support — must be robust, funded, and constantly measured for impact.

True reform does not end with removing contraband from jail cells; it begins with restoring dignity in the lives of those who've lost their way.

Moreover, justice should not be a privilege of the influential nor a death sentence for the poor. The stark imbalance in the composition of our prison population — largely composed of indigent, uneducated, and powerless individuals — betrays not just the failure of our penal system, but the failure of our society to address the roots of criminality: poverty, inequality, and institutional dysfunction.

The Rotary Club of Manila, as the country's oldest and most distinguished civic institution, cannot afford to be a passive observer. We must use our platforms, our networks, and our collective influence to push for a new national conversation on penology — one rooted in restorative justice, human rights, and modern correctional science. We must urge lawmakers and policymakers to rethink the very structure of our penal system, not just repaint its walls.

Director General Catapang's appearance is not only a ceremonial



The Rotary Club of Manila, as the country's oldest and most distinguished civic institution, cannot afford to be a passive observer. We must use our platforms, our networks, and our collective influence to push for a new national conversation on penology — one rooted in restorative justice, human rights, and modern correctional science.

event — it is a challenge. A challenge to all Rotarians to lend their voice to the voiceless, to extend hope beyond the prison gates, and to participate in building a system where justice does not end at sentencing but begins with transformation.

It is said that the measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members — and yes, that includes those behind bars. If we can turn our prisons from warehouses of despair into laboratories of second chances, then perhaps we may yet claim to be a nation that truly believes in justice — not only for the righteous, but for the redeemed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AS July's final sun spilled its farewell over the city's restless skyline, 22 fine gentlemen of the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) gathered at the Manila Golf Club, not to banter and laugh about a just concluded golf game, but to discuss how they could all collectively redefine the destiny and re-stamp the legacy of their 106-year-old organization. The exchange was carried in a manner that was light, convivial, and lovingly blended with fraternal bond. Organized by the Council of Past Presidents (COPP) through its Chairman PP Archit Bartolome, the meeting drew the attendance of 10 past presidents, 7 current members of the Board, and 5 executive officers.

The gathering reaffirms my belief that leadership in any organization is not confined to a single term of office -- it is a lifelong commitment to the vision, values, and vitality of such an organization. Nowhere is this more evident than in the continued presence, guidance and support of our past



Raoul C. Creencia
President

presidents. Though they may have passed on the gavel, their influence remains deeply embedded in the life of the club, especially in the mentorship they offer to the current officers.

Past presidents carry with them the weight of experience -- of having faced challenges, made tough decisions, and navigated change. This experience becomes an invaluable resource for me and the current Directors and Officers. I remember meeting the COPP within weeks from becoming a President-Elect last year. Indeed, their individual and collective counsel is often quiet but steady, and rooted in wisdom.

More than mentors, past presidents are

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

also stewards of institutional memory. They help preserve the traditions that define the club's identity while encouraging innovation to keep it relevant. They act as a bridge between generations, connecting the lessons of the past with the aspirations of the present.

Their continued support sends a powerful message: that leadership is not a competition, but a continuum. By standing behind the current officers—not to overshadow, but to uplift—they foster an environment of unity, trust, and shared purpose. In doing so, they ensure that the club does not simply move forward, but moves forward wisely, and together.

Indeed, the true legacy of a president is not only measured by what was accomplished during their term, but by how they continue to nurture the leaders who come after them. In their quiet yet constant way, past presidents remain essential partners in the journey—always present, always guiding, always believing.

Hence, last July 31, over sumptuous food and unlimited drinks, stories were shared, laughter echoed, and words of encouragement flowed freely.



The true legacy of a president is not only measured by what was accomplished during their term, but by how they continue to nurture the leaders who come after them. In their quiet yet constant way, past presidents remain essential partners in the journey—always present, always guiding, always believing.

The event was more than just a tribute -- it was a reaffirmation of the club's enduring spirit of fellowship and service.

As toasts were made and memories exchanged, the past presidents expressed their appreciation for the leadership being shown by the current board, recognizing their dedication and commitment to continuing the club's proud legacy. I and the current Directors and Officers were truly humbled by this meaningful gesture.

Truly, it was a gathering that honored the past, celebrated the present, and looked forward with hope to a bright future.

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER



Gen. Gregorio Pio P. Catapang Jr.

*Director General, Bureau of Corrections
October 21, 2022 up to present*

Consultant, Bases Conversion and
Development Authority
September 2016 to January 18, 2022

Director, Bases Conversion and Development
Authority
October 2015 to September 2016

Director, Fort Bonifacio Development
Corporation
October 2015 to September 2016

GENERAL Gregorio Pio Punzalan Catapang Jr., AFP (Ret), CESE, CCLH was the 45th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), a post he held from 18 July 2014 to 10 July 2015.

He entered the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1977 and a member of PMA "Dimalupig" Class of 1981. In 1983, he took up a Master's Degree in Political Science Studies at the University of the Philippines (UP) and pursued further military training locally and overseas. These include an Executive Course on National Security at the National Defense College of the Philippines in 2004; Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian Defense College in 2006; and attended a Symposium on National Security and Strategy at the National Defence University of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, China in 2007. He is a Career Executive Service Eligible and a licensed real estate broker.

He also attended the 2019 National Sports Safety and Security Conference and Exhibition (July 9-11) in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA in preparation for the Conduct of the

South East Asian (SEA) Games of 2019 in the Philippines where he was designated as the Director for Safety and Security.

His diligence and dedication led to the conferment of prestigious awards. He was recognized by the Armed Forces of Indonesia in 2015, and was given the *Bintang Yudha Dharma Utama* (Grand Meritorious Military Order) Award, the highest credit granted to foreign nationals for invaluable services rendered not only to the Tentara Nasional Indonesia/National Defense Armed Forces but also to the Republic of Indonesia, in general.

Other awards include the Philippine Legion of Honor Medal (Degree of Chief Commander), Distinguished Conduct Star Medal, Gold Cross Medals, Distinguished Aviation Cross, Outstanding Achievement Medals, and Gawad sa Kaunlaran Medals. Honorary Flag Rank Command Badge (Marines and Air Force) and the AFP Civil Military Operations and Comptrollership Badges.

In recognition of his invaluable commitment and contribution to the success of the 30th South East Asian

Games, he was awarded the certificate of appreciation by the Phil SEA Games Organizing Committee, SEA Games Federations, and the Philippine Sports Commission.



Photo by Ernie Peñaredondo, Philippine Star

General Catapang (RET.) was born in Manila on 11 July 1959 to the late Atty. Gregorio L. Catapang Sr. and Lourdes T. Punzalan. His father was a former Director at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), while his mother was a former Chief Accountant at the Department of Finance (DOF).

Baylight and Brotherhood: The Rain-Kissed Fellowship that Sparked Rotary Year 2025–2026

by PVP Reginald T. Yu



ON the morning of July 24, 2025, the sun barely peeked through the thick drapes of cloud that loomed over the capital. The tropical air, heavy with salt and silence, hinted at something brewing over the horizon. News alerts flashed warnings of twin typhoons — Crising and Dante — barreling toward Luzon, and yet, amidst forecasts and flood bulletins, a determined spirit stirred within members of the Rotary Club of Manila.



This was no ordinary Thursday. This was the first fellowship of the new Rotary Year — a chance to inaugurate a season of service, camaraderie, and continuity. A celebration was set to unfold at the stunning Encaramada Rooftop Bar of TRYP by Wyndham, a coveted perch above the city that promised a front-row seat to the Manila Bay sunset. But as fate would have it, nature had other plans.

Still, Rotarians are not ones to surrender to storms. They are, after all, the kind who plant trees knowing they may never sit in their shade.

The Shift: From Rooftop Dreams to Lobby Light

With the rooftop winds howling and rain pelting in all directions, the event's venue was gracefully moved down to the hotel's second floor. Far from a compromise, this proved to be serendipitous. The 2nd Floor Lobby at TRYP was an unexpected gem — intimate yet elegant, its minimalist interiors exuded a quiet sophistication. Sleek furniture formed clusters of conversations, and its floor-to-ceiling glass walls offered a panoramic, albeit moody, view of the bay under a weeping sky.



The lobby, bathed in dim ambient lighting, transformed into a space of comfort and reflection. Outside, the city braved the elements; inside, a fellowship bloomed in warmth.

More than 30 Rotarians arrived, umbrellas dripping and spirits soaring. They greeted each other not merely with handshakes but with the kind of laughter reserved for those who have weathered many storms—both literal and metaphorical—together.

Of Wine, Warmth, and Witty Stories

Glasses of red and white flowed as guests eased into the rhythm of the evening. The Fellowship Chair, Rotarian Nico Valencia, moved with practiced grace, ensuring everyone felt welcome. STAR Rotarian Dean Cid played host with his signature blend of class and charm. Conversations ranged from current events and Rotary projects to musings on life and the beauty of a well-aged wine.





For all its sophistication, the mood was never stiff. One could spot spontaneous laughter erupting from various corners of the room. Some recalled typhoons of years past; others traded updates on family, career, or causes close to heart. At the center of these pockets of warmth was the quintessential Rotary essence — service through friendship.

Some members took to the mic in an impromptu turn of entertainment, belting out their favorite songs to a cheerfully encouraging audience. The lounge had morphed into a cabaret of sorts, with no less than the Rotary Club of Manila as its cast.





Secretary Anton Mauricio welcoming Rtn. David Klebs

A Night for David: Farewell to a Friend

The night's beating heart, however, belonged to one man: Dr. David Ferdinand Klebs.

After three years of committed service in the Philippines as Economic Counsellor at the German Embassy in Manila — and as an active RCM member — David was slated to return to Germany by the end of July. The fellowship thus doubled as a heartfelt send-off, a chance for his Rotary family to toast not just his departure, but his legacy.



Rtn. David Klebs shares a heartfelt message as he reflects on his 3-year journey with the Rotary Club of Manila.



Soft applause filled the room as **VP Ricky Guevara**, standing in for President Raoul Creencia who had to attend another Rotary event, stepped forward. Accompanied by **Secretary Anton Mauricio**, he addressed the assembly:

“Rotary is not simply about projects — it’s about people. Tonight, we honor one of our own who has quietly, but impactfully, embodied the Rotary spirit in everything he does.”



VP Ricky Guevara, on behalf of Pres. Raoul Creencia and the Board, thanks Rtn. David Klebs for being more than just a member of the Rotary Club of Manila—he has been a brother to all.

David, visibly moved, stepped forward. With a steady smile and that unmistakable spark of humility, he accepted the "Unite For Good" commemorative Rotary pin, a gesture that needed no fanfare. For those who knew him, the pinning symbolized more than appreciation — it marked an indelible place in the tapestry of RCM’s brotherhood.



A toast to Rtn. David Klebs

Then came an unexpected treat. With a guitar slung across his shoulder, David took to the mic and sang — his voice mellow and melodic, a soulful counterpoint to the storm raging outside.



Rtn. David Klebs sang his tribute songs to his brothers in the Rotary Club of Manila.

He performed two songs, both filled with gentle longing and grateful reflection, leaving many in the room misty-eyed.

“Thank you,” he said after the last note lingered. “The Philippines has changed me more than I can say. And for that, I’ll be forever grateful.”

Beside him stood his elegant wife, Mrs. Farah Hasan Klebs, quietly radiant in her support.

As David prepares for his next posting at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, he leaves behind not just diplomatic footprints but heartfelt memories in Manila’s civic heart.

Rotary by the Bay: A Spirit that Withstands

One could be forgiven for thinking the rain would dampen such an event. But the truth is — it only magnified what Rotary truly stands for.

What began as a weather-worn gathering blossomed into a tapestry of shared moments, spontaneous joy, and meaningful reflections. The fellowship reminded every Rotarian present that while venues may change, and skies may darken, the light within Rotary endures.

It is not always about the grandeur of

the setting, but the genuineness of the gathering. The 2nd Floor Lobby — with its ambient lighting and welcoming lounge — turned into a sanctuary of kindness, purpose, and belonging.

And outside, beyond the dripping glass, the city braved the storm. Yet within, hearts were fortified by laughter and lifted by song.



Unite For Good Rotary commemorative pin being awarded to German embassy Economic Counselor and RCMer Dr. David Klebs (accompanied by his wife Farrah).

On hand for the pinning were VP Ricky Guevara and Secretary Anton Mauricio, along with 30 RCMers and guests led by Fellowship Chair Nico Valencia and host STAR Rotarian Dean Cid.



Portraits in Fellowship: Moments Captured, Memories Preserved

As cameras clicked and group photos were taken, a peculiar thing happened — smiles became stories. Every photograph from the evening captured not just faces, but connections. The kind that last long after the party ends.

There was the table of seasoned Rotarians, sharing insights and sipping wine like sages. There were the younger members, wide-eyed and eager, absorbing the legacy they were now part of. There were guests who were inspired just by watching. There were gestures — arms slung over shoulders, a light toast raised, the shared rhythm of spontaneous laughter.

In the center of many of these shots stood David, his gentle smile framing the evening in a narrative of transition — of

leaving, but not losing; of bidding farewell, but never goodbye.

Reflections and Forward Steps

As the evening drew to a close, there was no formal closing bell. Just the soft tapering off of music, the hush of final hugs, and whispered promises to see each other again soon.

But beyond the twilight and the tides, something lingered. A collective affirmation that the year ahead — RY 2025–2026 — was off to a beautiful beginning.

It began not in grand halls or sprawling ballrooms, but in a lobby lit with sincerity and spirit. It began not under clear skies, but in defiance of wind and rain. And it began with a song — from a departing friend, for a family that remains.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026

ATTENDANCE REPORT

July 2025

JULY 2025	JULY 06, 2025 ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 20TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION CEREMONY	JULY 13, 2025 FIRST CLUB ASSEMBLY PROLOGUE & DIALOGUE	JULY 20, 2025 RUMILAMENOR FRANCOISE "NINO" MORENO COINAGADO	JULY 27, 2025 TELEPHORIP	JULY 27, 2025 K
MEMBERS PRESENT	80	53	39	29	9
MEMBERS PRESENT %	42%	25%	18%	13%	0%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	0	0	0	0	9
EXEMPTED	0	4	2	1	9
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0	9
Total Active Members	84	49	37	26	9
Total # of Members	215	215	215	215	215
TOTAL %	39%	23%	17%	12%	0%
ROTARYACTORS	20	0	14	0	9
MEDIA	0	0	0	0	9
EMBASSIES/DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0	9
DE, DGE, DON, PDC	0	0	0	0	9
DOHS / GS	0	0	3	0	9
VISITING ROTARIAN	75	0	10	1	9
Guests of RCMEMBERS	132	0	13	3	9
TOTAL ATTENDEES	287	53	79	33	9



LIST OF ATTENDEES

July 24, 2025

1	Albaña, Michael Jaey C
2	Benedicto, Sixto T.
3	Chahwan, Rami
4	Chan, Robert Sy Jr.
5	Cid, Dean Y.
6	Creencia, Raoul C.
7	Davis, Raymond N.
8	Eldebs, Issam
9	Esquivias, Joaquin Pablo A.
10	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.
11	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
12	Guevara, Ricardo S.
13	Hernandez, Edwin H
14	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV
15	Klebs, David
16	Locsin, Arsenio Z.
17	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
18	Núñez, Jr., Jose A.
19	Ong, Rowel Janson S.
20	Ra, Ingill
21	Reynolds, David J.
22	Rodríguez Sr., Joaquin C.
23	Roxas, Michael D.
24	Serapio, Carlos G.
25	Sibayan, Joselito H.
26	Tee, Teddy Jr. B.
27	Valdez, Amado D.
28	Valencia, John Nico P.
29	Yu, Reginald Tieng

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of August 5, 2025

1	ABRIAM, ARIEL
2	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.
3	AGNES, JERRY A
4	BAGATSING, VALENTINO
5	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.
6	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.
7	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D
8	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T
9	BLANCO, MANUEL M.
10	CANON, RAUL JR C
11	CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.
12	CARLOS, VICENTE J.
13	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M
14	CHAN, ROBERT JR
15	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
16	CUREG, ALEXANDER P
17	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL
18	DAVIS, RAYMOND N
19	ELDEBS, ISSAM
20	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
21	EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G
22	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
23	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
24	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.
25	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
26	HALLARE, DELFIN JR.
27	HALLARE, NICOLÒ
28	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
29	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F
30	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.
31	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L
32	KLEBS, DAVID

33	LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL
34	LEE, RICHARD L
35	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T
36	LOPEZ, ANTONIO
37	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M
38	LORENZANA, DELFIN
39	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G
40	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC
41	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO C.
42	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B
43	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
44	NONES, ROMEO C.
45	NUÑEZ, JOSE A
46	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.
47	PAYUMO, FELICITO C
48	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F
49	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M
50	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
51	RANKL, PETER
52	SCHNEIDER, BERND
53	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
54	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H
55	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
56	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
57	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O
58	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
59	YORDANOV, STEFAN
60	YU, REGINALD T.
61	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S
62	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
63	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay 128
Balut, Tondo
Manila
July 23, 2025



ON July 23 at 3:30 PM, Rotary Club President Raoul Creencia and Spouse Atty. Mylene Creencia personally led the Typhoon Crising Emergency and Disaster Relief operations at the Tondo Evacuation Center located in Brgy. 128 Permanent Housing, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

In response to the urgent needs of displaced families affected by the storm, President Raoul and Atty. Mylene spearheaded the distribution of 400 plastic mats, providing

comfort and basic shelter support to evacuees.

The relief effort, part of the Club's swift humanitarian response, underscored the spirit of 'Service Above Self' and the importance of direct community engagement in times of crisis.

President Raoul and Atty. Mylene's hands-on leadership brought not just supplies but hope to families weathering adversity. Their presence served as a reassuring reminder that Rotary remains a steadfast ally of communities in need, especially in moments when compassion matters most.

TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay 128, Balut, Tondo, Manila



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay 128, Balut, Tondo, Manila



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS



FOLLOWING the successful relief operation in Brgy. 128, the Rotary Club of Manila extended its Typhoon Crising Emergency and Disaster Relief efforts to Barangay 105 in Tondo, Manila.

Led once again by President Raoul Creencia and Spouse Atty. Mylene Creencia, the team distributed bed mats to families displaced by the storm. This initiative continued the Club's commitment to providing immediate support and comfort to affected communities, reinforcing Rotarians' dedication to 'Service Above Self.'



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay 105, Tondo, Manila



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay 105, Tondo, Manila



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS



Brgy. Ligdong
Rosario,
Cavite
July 24, 2025

ON July 24, 2025, the Rotary Club of Manila, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Cavite Export Processing Zone, RC Cavite Uptown, RC Dasmariñas, and RC Rosario, carried out a disaster relief operation in Brgy. Ligdong, Rosario, Cavite. The joint effort also included the participation of RC Cavite Premier, RC Imus Independencia, RC Malate Prime, and RC Tagaytay City, showcasing the power of collective action in addressing urgent community needs.



Dubbed “Sagip Mangingisda,” the initiative focused on supporting 100 families of fishermen whose livelihoods were severely impacted by Typhoon Crising.

TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay Ligtung, Rosario, Cavite



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay Ligtung, Rosario, Cavite



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

**Brgy. Calizon
Calumpit
Bulacan**

July 27, 2025



ON July 27, 2025, the Rotary Club of Manila, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Calumpit, conducted a disaster relief operation in Brgy. Calizon, Calumpit, Bulacan.

Led by President Raoul Creencia and Spouse Atty. Mylene Creencia, alongside Secretary Anton Mauricio, Director Rami and Spouse Flor Chahwan, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, and Rtn. Inov Talusan, the initiative provided essential relief goods to 100 families affected by the recent typhoon.

The event was further supported by Rtn.

Edgard Cabangon and DWIZ Media team, ensuring the effort reached a wider audience and inspired collective action.



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay Calizon, Calumpit, Bulacan



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay Calizon, Calumpit, Bulacan



President Raoul and Spouse Atty. Mylene Creencia, Director Rami and Spouse Flor Chahwan, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, and Rotarian Inov Tallusan at the Rotary Center of Rotary Club of Calumpit



RC Calumpit President Joan "Anjo" Cortez with RC Manila President Raoul Creencia during the latter's visit to the RC Calumpit Clubhouse in Calumpit, Bulacan, on July 27, 2025.



Some of the recipients of the relief operation

TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS



Brgy.
Catanghalan
Obando, Bulacan
August 2, 2025

ON Saturday, August 2, 2025, the Rotary Club of Manila, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Obando Centro, organized a disaster relief operation in Brgy. Catanghalan, Clareidades St., Obando, Bulacan. The initiative focused on the distribution of essential medicines to families affected by Typhoon Crising, addressing the urgent health needs of the community.

The effort was led by President Raoul Creencia and Spouse Atty. Myles Creencia, alongside Director Rami Chahwan and Spouse Flor Chahwan, AIA Mike Roxas, and BLA Caloy Serapio.



This collaborative operation highlighted the importance of providing not just material relief but also critical healthcare support in the aftermath of a typhoon.

TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay Catanghalan, Obando, Bulacan



RC Obando Centro President Mark Aurelius Mendiola presents a Certificate of Appreciation to President Raoul Creencia.



The mission was attended by Rotary Club of Obando Centro President Mark Aurelius Mendiola and members, RCM President Raoul and Spouse Atty. Myls Creencia, Director Rami and Spouse Flor Chahwan, BLA Caloy Serapio, and Asst. Internal Auditor Mike Roxas during the official turnover of medicines to the flood victims at Barangay Hall of Bgy. Catanghalan, Obando, Bulacan, through the Rotary Club of Obando Centro and in partnership with ALC Media - DWIZ.

TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS



ON August 3, 2025, the Rotary Club of Manila distributed relief packs to 100 families in Barangay Pinalagdan, Paombong, Bulacan.

The initiative was warmly received by Paombong Mayor Ian Mark “Mac” Marcos, Ms. Princess Ann Marcos, and the Barangay Captain of Pinalagdan. Leading the efforts were RC Manila President Raoul Spouse Myls Creencia, accompanied by IA Nick Locsin and members of the Rotaract Club of Manila, headed by President Andrea Cuevas.

This mission marks another successful

emergency disaster relief effort, carried out in partnership with ALC Media–DWIZ, under the leadership of Chairman Edgard Cabangon.



TYPHOON RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

Barangay Pinalagdan, Paombong, Bulacan



Council of Past Presidents Honors RCM Board of Directors and Officers for RY 2025–2026



IN a heartwarming show of tradition, continuity, and camaraderie, the Council of Past Presidents (COPP) of the Rotary Club of Manila hosted a special fellowship night on Thursday, July 31, at the Manila Golf Club to honor the incumbent Board of Directors and Officers for Rotary Year 2025–2026.

The gathering served as a symbolic passing of the torch, with distinguished Past District Governors and Past Presidents in attendance, including Archit Bartolome, Jujut Enriquez, Rudy Bediones, Obet Pagdanganan, Vince Carlos, Susing Pineda,

Hermie Esguerra, Jackie Rodriguez, Ebot Tan, and Boy Guevara. Their presence underscored the depth of wisdom and leadership that continues to guide the club forward.



Council of Past Presidents Honors RCM Board of Directors and Officers for RY 2025–2026



The honorees included President **Raoul Creencia** and his team of club officers and directors: **Anton Mauricio** (Secretary), **Nick Locsin** (Internal Auditor), **Rami Chahwan** (Director), **Edwin Hernandez** (Director), **Warren So** (Director), **Hans Palacios** (Director), **Caloy Serapio** (Board Legal Adviser), **John Cutter** (Deputy Sgt-at-Arms), **Ricky Guevara** (Vice President), **Mike Roxas** (Assistant Internal Auditor), and **Mike Albaña** (Director).



PP Archit Bartolome warmly welcomed President Raoul and his Board of Directors and Officers.



PDG Rudy Bediones congratulated President Raoul and his Board and shared a story about his experience during his term.

Council of Past Presidents Honors RCM Board of Directors and Officers for RY 2025–2026



PP Hermie Esguerra extended heartfelt congratulations to President Raoul and the Board, and delivered an inspiring message to everyone present at the fellowship.



PP Ebot Tan delivered a brief yet heartfelt message, and extended his congratulations to President Raoul and his Board.



PP Boy Guevara gave an inspiring message to President Raoul and the Board.



PP Jackie Rodriguez delivered a heartfelt message to President Raoul and his Board.



PDG Vince Carlos also congratulated President Raoul and shared a story of what Rotary was during his time.



PDG Obet Pagdanganan congratulated President Raoul and offered a toast.

Council of Past Presidents Honors RCM Board of Directors and Officers for RY 2025–2026

CP Susing Pineda extended his congratulations to the Board and offered thoughtful advice.



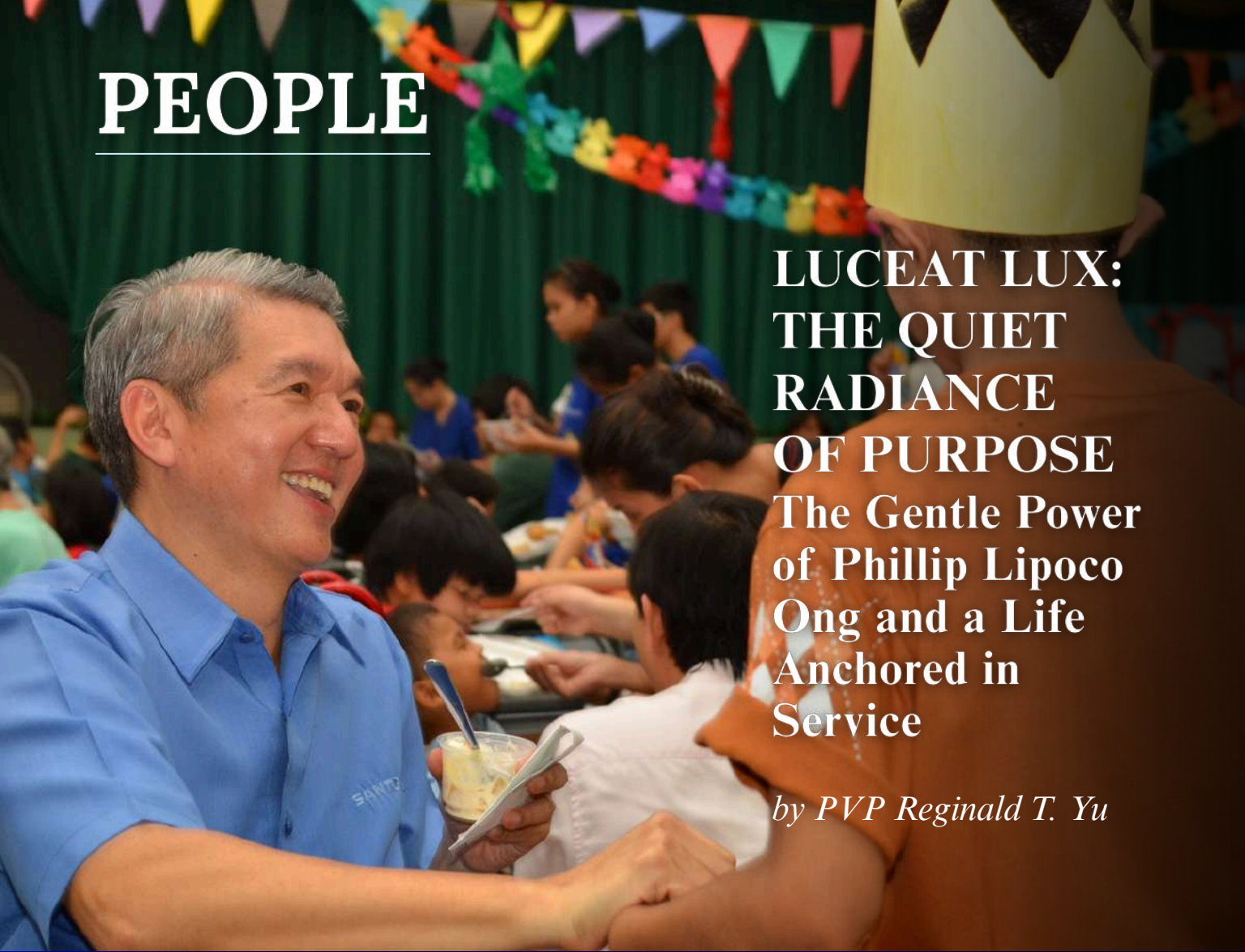
President Raoul Creencia, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers, extended his gratitude to the Council of Past Presidents.

In his brief remarks, President Raoul expressed gratitude for the steadfast support of the past presidents and reaffirmed the board's commitment to uphold the club's legacy of excellence in service and leadership.

The evening was marked by meaningful conversations, warm fellowship, and a shared resolve to continue Rotary Club of Manila's proud tradition of making lasting impact — anchored by the guidance of those who have led before and the promise of those who lead today.



PEOPLE



LUCEAT LUX: THE QUIET RADIANCE OF PURPOSE The Gentle Power of Phillip Lipoco Ong and a Life Anchored in Service

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

IN a world that too often mistakes volume for impact and visibility for virtue, there exists a rarer breed of men who do not burn brightly in flashes — but glow steadily, like a beacon drawn from within. They are not the ones to seek the spotlight, yet it finds them, inevitably, because their quiet resolve shapes destinies and moves entire industries. One such man is Phillip Lipoco Ong — Rotarian, entrepreneur, reformer, and steward of purpose.

LUCEAT LUX: THE QUIET RADIANCE OF PURPOSE

The Gentle Power of Phillip Lipoco Ong and a Life Anchored in Service

To speak of Phillip Ong is to speak not only of achievements — though they are many, and monumental — but of intention. For his is a life led with clarity of calling, honed early in the schoolyards of Kuang Chi, now known as Xavier School, where the seeds of excellence were sown not for recognition, but in the service of something greater. Even as a boy, those around him sensed that he was built of a different mold. He was valedictorian of Class '69, but more than that, he was a figure of quiet awe: the student who could ace exams with ease, lead the student council with integrity, serve the Church devoutly, and carry all these roles with a calm, deliberate grace.

"Is he even human?" his classmates once wondered.

But the real question was not whether Phillip Ong was superhuman. It was whether we were ready to recognize that his secret was purpose — a profound, unwavering commitment to make his gifts count, to give what he had so others might have more.

The Making of a Man-For-Others

Phillip's brilliance did not wane beyond the walls of Xavier School. At Ateneo de Manila University, he earned a degree in Management Engineering in 1973 and collected accolades as easily as others collected notebooks. But something in



him was always reaching beyond. He did not pursue leadership for glory; he sought it for its capacity to uplift. He did not chase success for personal gain, but to test whether business could serve the greater good.

That philosophy would later define his path — not only as a pioneering entrepreneur, but also as a Rotarian par excellence.

Joining the Rotary Club of Manila in 1996, he did not make noise. He made impact. As Director of the Club from 2001 to 2002, he led with a steady hand and a servant's heart. It was during this period that he chaired the prestigious TOWER Awards, recognizing exceptional educators — a fitting role for someone who believed in transformation through knowledge.

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But it was in the Club's quietest corners, in its oft-overlooked committees, that Phillip found his greatest calling.

Compassion In Action: Hospicio, Asilo, And the Art of Dignity

While some may have passed by the gates of Hospicio de San Jose or Asilo de San Vicente de Paul without a second glance, Past Director Phillip saw in these institutions not relics of the past, but gardens of hope waiting to be nurtured. He served as Chairman of the Sagip Kabataan Committee, anchoring efforts to support orphans and vulnerable youth at Asilo. Later, he would also accept the call to chair

the Committee for Special Children and Senior Citizens — a task that most would deem thankless, and few would choose voluntarily.

But choose it he did.

"I met an armless patient who yearned to express herself through art," he recalled of his time at Hospicio. "She could barely hold a brush with her toes, yet she painted with her soul."

That encounter became a turning point. Through his connections, including a fellow Rotarian at Philippine Women's University, he ensured that the young girl received

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specialized art training. She would go on to sell her artwork and support her community — proof that even those with nothing can give everything when dignity is restored.

Such was the genesis of his support for the Angels of Rendu Art Club (ARAC), an initiative born during RCM's Centennial that has since expanded into a vibrant platform for children with disabilities to discover their talents and shape their future. With 22 students now attending classes weekly, the ARAC program has not only unlocked creativity but raised funds, awareness, and new models of inclusive empowerment.

“This is what Rotary can do,” he shares. “It gives voice to the voiceless, canvas to the colorless, and hope to those the world has forgotten.”

The Quiet Revolution in Aquaculture

Yet, if his work in Rotary reveals his heart,

it is his work in aquaculture that reveals his vision.

In 1990, at a time when few saw promise in the sea beyond what could be caught by nets and sold at market, Phillip Ong dared to dream differently. He founded SanteH Feeds Corporation, not to exploit the ocean — but to renew it.

“Traditional fishing methods were depleting our environment,” he explains. “We needed to farm the sea — not just harvest from it.”

Shrimp farming, once a niche experiment, gained traction under his leadership. When the export boom collapsed in the early '90s, SanteH did not fold. It pivoted, building protocols for inland fish farming and transforming entire coastal communities into self-sustaining aquaculture hubs.

Today, SanteH Feeds is the country's leading aquafeed company, with its

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flagship brand Tateh supporting thousands of fisherfolk in raising tilapia, bangus, catfish, and more. From remote lakes in Mindanao to river communities in Luzon, Santeh's work has shifted the Philippine seafood industry from dependence on wild catch to aquaculture, which now provides 50% of our seafood supply. Globally, we are now the 7th largest aquaculture producer, thanks in large part to this visionary trailblazer.

But beyond statistics lies a story of transformation — of remote barangays where children now go to school because their parents can finally afford tuition. Of lakes once barren, now teeming with managed, sustainable life. Of small-scale fishers turned micro-entrepreneurs, because one man believed in the ripple effect of a single good idea.

He built the ecosystem of aquaculture: hatcheries, feed mills, farmer training, R&D, and even water engineering. Through it all, he remained anchored on two principles: sustainability and service.

"Innovation doesn't mean cutting corners," he insists. "It means making things better — for the environment, for communities, and for the future."

And better it has become. Through Santeh's investments in research and education, productivity has soared, and environmental impact has been mitigated. As the field

matures, Santeh continues to lead in fish genetics, biochemistry, and climate-resilient aquaculture, unlocking solutions that many believed were decades away.

As he puts it, "We are just at the adolescent stage of aquaculture development. The best is yet to come."

The Light of Innovation: Agrifoodhub, Social Entrepreneurship, And A Nation Fed by Its Own

In the thick of the pandemic, as the world



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descended into confusion and fear, social media began flooding with haunting images — mountains of rotting vegetables in Benguet, tomatoes dumped on roadsides, unsold crops abandoned by farmers in Nueva Vizcaya. The virus had halted the flow of commerce, and with it, the fragile lifeline connecting the country's smallholder farmers to their only means of livelihood.



simplified the agricultural supply chain — long criticized for its opacity and inefficiency — and opened direct communication between those who grew the food and those who bought it.

By the time the program was sunset in 2023, it had established 1,916 verified buyer-to-seller relationships and helped more than 52,000 farmers grouped under 648 seller associations. It even collaborated with trading platforms like Mayani and food security groups like Tanging Yaman to ensure that oversupply found homes in feeding programs rather than in landfills.

It was, in effect, an emergency lifeboat that became a blueprint for reform.

“We didn’t partner with Cropital, but we did employ its founder, Ruel Amparo,” Phillip shares. “He helped build the tech. We focused on connecting anticipated harvests with confirmed demand. That simple match made all the difference.”

Though the platform was eventually dissolved to give way to normal market functions, it left behind a deeper shift in consciousness — that technology and empathy, when fused with strategy, can change lives at scale.

Incubating The Future: The Enterprise Hatchery Program

Years before the AgriFoodHub, Phillip had

While many watched in helpless dismay, Phillip Ong responded with instinctive clarity. He launched what would become one of his most quietly revolutionary initiatives — the AgriFoodHub.

Born from his vision, leadership, and funding from the Santeh Foundation, the AgriFoodHub was a digital platform that aimed not to profit but to empower. It gave farmers free access to institutional buyers, streamlined logistics, and tools to assess quality and demand. The platform

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been quietly building a different kind of solution to an age-old problem: how to make agriculture attractive to the youth.

In 2010, during a trip to San Jose, California, he saw something unsettling. Billions in venture capital were pouring into entertainment apps, social media platforms, and digital currencies. Yet the fields that fed humanity — agriculture and fisheries — remained neglected, underfunded, and underimagined.

Around the same time, back in the Philippines, agriculture and fisheries schools were seeing historic lows in enrollment. For Phillip, this was not just an academic concern; it was an existential one.

“If no one wants to farm, who will feed us?” he asked.

Thus, the Enterprise Hatchery Program was born — an ambitious initiative to fund 100 social enterprises in 10 years, with a focus on agriculture innovation. It was not a contest of ideas, but of impact. Participants, often fresh graduates from agri-fisheries schools, were encouraged to develop business models that could create both income and transformation.

Initial success was elusive. University-originated startups proved difficult to sustain. But Phillip’s response was not to retreat — it was to refocus. He turned the program’s energy toward strengthening

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cooperatives and grassroots entrepreneurs. In 2016, the Hatchery partnered with SEDP Simbag Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Bicol, mentoring and co-developing agricultural production and processing ventures that have since evolved into serious regional players.

“After 15 years,” he shares, “we’re finally seeing pre-unicorns emerge in Bicol and Panay.”

For Phillip Ong, the real return on investment isn’t monetary. It’s when a young farmer reinvents a local value chain. When a fishpond operator begins to dream beyond survival. When a simple idea, planted in fertile ground, grows into an enterprise that feeds, employs, and inspires.

The School of Purpose

It is tempting to believe that such wisdom and resolve come from experience alone.

But those who know Phillip Ong best would say that his compass was fixed from the beginning.

It began in the modest classrooms of Xavier School, when it was still called Kuang Chi, nestled in the heart of Echague. There, in a community where values were not only taught but modeled, Phillip emerged as a leader, scholar, and believer. He prayed daily, led boldly, and thought deeply. He was not trying to impress anyone. He simply understood, even then, that to be gifted was to be called — to use one’s gifts for something beyond oneself.

The same ethos followed him to Ateneo de Manila University, where his Management Engineering degree became more than a ticket to the corporate world. It became a framework for impact, a tool for systems thinking, and a language for service. He did not separate his faith from his work. He fused them. And from that fusion came a lifetime of purpose.

“I’m proud to be both a Xaverian and an Atenean,” he reflects. “I believe my values were largely formed by these institutions.”

Those values — of compassion, integrity, and justice — are no longer abstract ideals. They have taken the shape of foundations, feeding programs, cooperatives, hatcheries, and digital platforms. They have flowed through seaweed farms in Zamboanga, milkfish cages in Pangasinan, and tomato fields in Ifugao. They have entered the hearts of children at Asilo and Hospicio.



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They have created movements where there were once only needs.

Building A Nation, One Farmer at A Time

When asked about the role of business in nation-building, Phillip Ong does not speak in grand terms. He speaks with quiet conviction.

“It is very rewarding that I have been involved in both food production and providing means for farmers to be self-driven entrepreneurs,” he says. “I firmly believe that small profitable farm enterprises are the foundation of a strong nation.”

It is a belief borne out of three decades of watching transformation take root where hope once struggled. He has seen communities lifted — not by handouts — but by opportunities made tangible. His companies have not only fed the nation; they have empowered it. From Santeh Feeds to Fishta Seafoods, from Pet One to Propmech and Floatech, his portfolio reflects a rare harmony of enterprise and empathy.

He is a champion of the invisible — the smallholder farmer, the disabled child, the rural innovator. He believes in building systems, not just solutions. In cultivating dignity, not just yield.

*He is a champion of the invisible
— the smallholder farmer, the
disabled child, the rural innovator.
He believes in building systems,
not just solutions. In cultivating
dignity, not just yield.*

And through it all, he has remained grounded, humble, and faithful to his mission. He does not raise his voice, but when he speaks, people listen. Because in a world enamored with disruption, Phillip Ong offers something far more radical: continuity. A life lived for others, from the first day of school to the last boardroom meeting.



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The Measure of a Rotarian

It is easy to measure the success of a business — through revenues, reach, and market share. But how does one measure the success of a Rotarian?

For Phillip Ong, the answer lies not in fanfare, but in lasting change. In seeing an armless child become an artist. In helping a forgotten orphanage fund its mission sustainably. In building a legacy of service so deeply embedded in the work, it continues to thrive long after the applause fades.

Through three decades in Rotary Club of Manila, Phillip has always gravitated to projects that serve those most overlooked

— those without clout or capital, yet deserving of dignity. Whether at Asilo de San Vicente de Paul or Hospicio de San Jose, whether through feeding programs or art exhibits, he sought not recognition, but relevance. He chose committees that others might pass over — the ones without glamour, but with great potential for impact.

His proudest contributions, he says, are not those etched in stone or in awards, but those that live on in the people helped and the systems changed.

“Through my 30-year Rotary journey, I have discovered the true meaning of Rotary — it is the ability to make significant

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change,” he says. “Rotary is about working together to serve with bigger impact.”

He envisions Rotary not merely as a gathering of well-meaning individuals, but as a platform with the stature and stability to tackle the enduring challenges of our nation — child health, environmental resilience, and community economic development.

It is this belief that prompted him to mentor younger Rotarians, encouraging them to see Rotary not as an obligation, but as an invitation to serve meaningfully. “I hope to share the joys of involvement with many more young Rotarians,” he adds.

The Honors of a Life Well Lived

Though Phillip has never chased honors, they have found him — quietly and inevitably.

In 2021, the Federation of Ateneo Management Engineers (FAME) inducted him into its Hall of FAME, a recognition reserved for alumni who have made substantive contributions to their profession and to the common good. It was not just a nod to his business success, but to his capacity to translate that success into sustained, systemic impact.

A year later, in 2022, he received the Xavier-Kuangchi Exemplary Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed by Xavier School. In that moment, he became not just a beacon to his classmates, but a symbol of what it means to be truly formed by one’s education. He had lived the school’s motto — Luceat Lux, “let your light shine” — not as a boast, but as a promise.

He has continued to lend his hand, voice, and resources to various foundations — from Gawad Kalinga to ARK, from Iskaparate.com to Hospicio — and in each, he remains consistent: principled, purposeful, and present.

“His could be summed up in the Jesuit mantra of being a ‘man for others,’” one classmate noted. “He started in Kindergarten with a sense of purpose — and he marked his every endeavor throughout his life within that same sense of purpose.”

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The Legacy of Purpose

Legacy is often misunderstood. It is not the sum of accomplishments, nor the list of titles held. It is the invisible current one sets in motion — rippling through people, communities, and generations.

The legacy of Phillip Ong is one of quiet revolutions — in aquaculture, in agriculture, in inclusive education, and in compassionate service. It is the transformation of wild-catch dependence into a robust aquaculture industry. It is the reimagining of farmers as entrepreneurs. It is the empowerment of children once cast aside. It is the belief that business must not only profit, but serve. That success must not only be pursued, but shared.

If there is a thread that runs through every chapter of his story, it is the consistency of purpose. From the student council podium

at Xavier to the boardrooms of Santeh, from the feeding banks of Pangasinan to the art walls of Hospicio, Phillip has lived out one quiet mantra:

“To whom much is given, much is expected.”

His is a life that reminds us that greatness does not always announce itself. Sometimes, it comes in the form of steadfast service, humble leadership, and a long, unbroken fidelity to the work of making others’ lives better.

A Light Still Shining

Today, as he continues to serve as president of Fishta Seafoods, CEO of Propmech Corporation, and chairman of multiple ventures, Phillip Ong remains what he has always been — not just a business leader,

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but a steward. Not just a success story, but a source of hope.

He remains the same man who once received Holy Communion daily in grade school, the same student who made time for service even as he topped his classes, the same Rotarian who quietly shows up at Hospicio and Asilo — not for photographs, but for impact.

In a time when noise often drowns out

meaning, his life is a clarion call back to clarity, purpose, and grace.

He is proof that one man, led by conviction and anchored in faith, can help feed a nation, uplift the poor, mentor the young, and shine a light for all to follow.

He is, in every sense of the word, a Rotarian — and more than that, a Man-for-Others.

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

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

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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

President Raoul Creencia Meets with Philippine Retailers Association Leaders for a Joint Project



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia met with Philippine Retailers Association Board Member Lorenzo Formoso and Deputy Secretary General Mayan Sangil on August 5, 2025 to discuss a collaborative project with the Rotary Club of Manila.



RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

First Board of Trustees Meeting



THE RCManila Foundation, Inc. continued its first Board of Trustees meeting last Thursday, July 31, 2025, conducted virtually via Zoom.

Present were Chairman Alex Cureg, President Jujut Enriquez, Trustee/Secretary Anton Mauricio, Trustee/Treasurer Mike Roxas, Trustee/Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, Trustee Raoul Creencia, Trustee Bernd Schneider, Trustee Warren So, Trustee Rami Chahwan, Trustee Del Lorenzana, Trustee Noy Benedicto, Consultant Ms. Anna Kun Toledo, Executive Director Amy Babiano, and Executive Assistant Jonathan Lagarto.

PDG Vince Carlos Donates His Balita Collection to Rotary Club of Manila



PDG Vince Carlos generously donated his extensive collection of Balita issues, spanning from 1974 to the present, to the Rotary Club of Manila. The handover was facilitated through Executive Secretary Lhea Lozano and witnessed by Consultant Anna Kun Toledo.

RC Manila Meets with RC JinjuJeil to Discuss Sister Club Agreement and Global Grant Project Partnership



ROTARY Club of Manila President Raoul Creencia and Global Grant Committee Chairman Aries Balanay had an online meeting on July 29, 2025 with the President, Secretary, and Global Grant Chairperson of the Rotary Club of Jinju Jeil to discuss the RC Manila-RC Jinju Jeil Sister Club Agreement and the global grant project partnership. PDG Gina Sy also joined the meeting.

Representing RC Jinju Jeil were President Hyunwoo Jung, Secretary Hojun Lee, and International Relations Committee Chairman Dongyop Kang.

A delegation from RC Jinju Jeil is scheduled to visit in November to participate in the Art Exhibit benefiting Hospicio de San Jose, as well as attend the November 6 joint meeting with RC Makati and RC Makati West. Additionally, the RC Jinju Jeil President extended an invitation to RC Manila to join their anniversary celebration on December 5, 2025.

RECOGNITION CORNER

PP Archit Bartolome and PDG Vince Carlos Honored at the Diamond Golden Legacy Celebration



PP Archit Bartolome and PDG Vince Carlos were honored at the Diamond Golden Legacy event held at the Manila Polo Club on July 25, 2025. This esteemed recognition honors individuals who have been members of the Club for more than 50 years, highlighting their lasting commitment and legacy.



RECOGNITION CORNER

Palawan Group of Companies Celebrates 40th Anniversary



RC Manila Assistant Treasurer and Palawan Group of Companies President & CEO Karlo Castro celebrates the group's 40th anniversary with family, friends, and employees.

RECOGNITION CORNER

Treasurer PJ Garcia Joins Panel in the ULI PH Dialogue’s AI, Design and Business with CWC Interiors



Philippines

FULL MEMBER EXCLUSIVE

ULI PH DIALOGUES

AI, Design and Business with CWC Interiors

July 30 | 5:00 PM

The Gallery, B2 CWC Design Center



MODERATOR

ARCH. CATHY SALDAÑA

CEO and Managing Director, PDP Architects PH



PANELIST

PJ GARCIA

Managing Partner, Grow Capital Partners



PANELIST

FRED YUISON

President and CEO, CWC Interiors and Development Corp., Davao Global Township



PANELIST

BONG BORJA

Global COO, Aiora Inc.



SPEAKER

ERIC MANUEL

Director, ARCH Capital Management National Chair, ULI Philippines

RCM Treasurer PJ Garcia was a speaker panelist in the Urban Land Institute's Dialogue on AI, Design and Business with CWC Interiors last Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at the CWC Design Center.

RCM Secretary Anton Mauricio also attended the event.



From left: Secretary Anton Mauricio, ULI Director Cathy Saldaña, ULI Chairman Eric Manuel, and Treasurer PJ Garcia

DJ entertained at the event.



Artist, techpreneur, and interior design tech startup founders at the event



Rotaract Club of Manila Marks 25 Years of Service and Leadership

ON July 26, 2025, the Rotaract Club of Manila celebrated its 25th Anniversary and Handover Ceremonies at the A. Venue Hotel in Makati City, marking a proud milestone of youth leadership and community service. The event gathered Rotaractors, Rotarians, and distinguished guests in a night of celebration, reflection, and renewal of commitment to the ideals of Rotary.



Rotaract Club of Manila Marks 25 Years of Service and Leadership



The highlight of the evening was the inspiring keynote address of **Atty. Teodoro “Teddy” Kalaw IV**, past Board Legal Adviser of the Rotary Club of Manila. Speaking extemporaneously on “Why Rotaract” and “Why Rotary,” Atty. Kalaw eloquently traced the timeless relevance of Rotary’s values, drawing wisdom from three influential figures in his own journey: Rotary Founder Paul Harris, Four-Way Test author Herbert J. Taylor, and Greek philosopher Socrates—whom he praised for embodying the principles of truth, fairness, goodwill, and beneficial action.



The ceremony also witnessed the formal turnover of leadership from outgoing President Summer Stephanie Bonifacio to incoming President Andrea Cuevas, signaling a new chapter of purpose-driven initiatives under young, dynamic leadership.



Rotaract Club of Manila Marks 25 Years of Service and Leadership

It was an evening of legacy, inspiration, and a reaffirmation of the enduring spirit of “Service Above Self.”



An Evening of Unity and Fellowship: Rotary Spouses and Inner Wheel Club of Manila Ladies Unite for Good



ON July 31, 2025, the Rotary Spouses gathered for a special evening of fellowship at Souv! by Cyma in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The gathering, themed “Unite for Good,” was a celebration of friendship and shared purpose, bringing together the Rotary Spouses and the Ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Manila. The atmosphere was warm and inviting, as attendees connected over meaningful conversations, laughter, and a shared commitment to service.

An Evening of Unity and Fellowship: Rotary Spouses and Inner Wheel Club of Manila Ladies Unite for Good



The event was attended by an inspiring group of women, including Spouse Myls Creencia, Spouse Flor Chahwan, Spouse Raki Hernandez, and Inner Wheel Club of Manila leaders such as Past President Monette Guevara, President Delby Bragais, and Past Presidents Ningning de Ocampo, Fanny Blanco, Lita Gelano, and Fortune Ledesma. Other notable attendees included Director Nenuca Blardony, Spouse Sonja Habana Rodriguez, Spouse Anda del Rosario, Spouse Vanessa Villafuerte, Spouse Joi Cutter, Spouse Sharon Bediones, Spouse Lia Enriquez, Spouse Marge Palacios, Spouse Zyrene Valencia, and Spouse Angjee Ra.

Their presence highlighted the strength and solidarity of women working together for a common cause.



An Evening of Unity and Fellowship: Rotary Spouses and Inner Wheel Club of Manila Ladies Unite for Good



Enjoying a fun and heartfelt fellowship at Souv! by Cyma with the amazing Rotary Anns, joined by their supportive partners from the Rotary Club of Manila were President Raoul Creencia, Director Edwin Hernandez, Director Rami Chahwan, Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay, Immediate Past President Jujut Enriquez, Director Hans Palacios, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, Past President Jackie Rodriguez, Past President Boy Guevara, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms John Cutter, and Secretary Anton Mauricio.



An Evening of Unity and Fellowship: Rotary Anns and Inner Wheel Club of Manila Unite for Good



This fellowship was more than just a social gathering—it reflected the strength of collaboration and the shared values that drive these women to serve. Under the theme “Unite for Good,” the evening reinforced the importance of working together to create meaningful change in the communities.



A heartfelt thank you to Spouse Myls Creencia, Spouse Raki Ilustre Hernandez, and Spouse Flor Chahwan for graciously hosting a memorable fellowship evening.



FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast Fellowship



ON July 28, 2025, the Aleco Breakfast Fellowship was hosted by PD Ner Lonzaga.

Present were (from left) PP Ebot Tan, PP Archit Bartolome, PP Jackie Rodriguez, former member Eric Severino, PD Abe Pascual, Rtn. Cris Acosta, Rtn. Willie Peliño, PD Ner Lonzaga, former member PS Jorge Salazar, PT Chito Tagaysay, PD Beda Fajardo, and PD Jun Hallare.

ON August 4, 2025, the Aleco Breakfast Fellowship was hosted by former member Eric Severino, one of the pioneers of digital banking.

Present were (from left) PD Jun Hallare, former members Jorge Salazar, Francis Juico, and Eric Severino, PP Jackie Rodriguez, PD Ner Lonzaga, Rtn. Cris Acosta, Rtn. Tong Payumo, VP Ricky Guevara, PT Chito Tagaysay, PP Archit Bartolome, and PP Ebot Tan.

DISTRICT EVENT

DSG Hermie Esguerra Reports on Disaster Relief Operations at Rotary District 3810 EXECOM Meeting



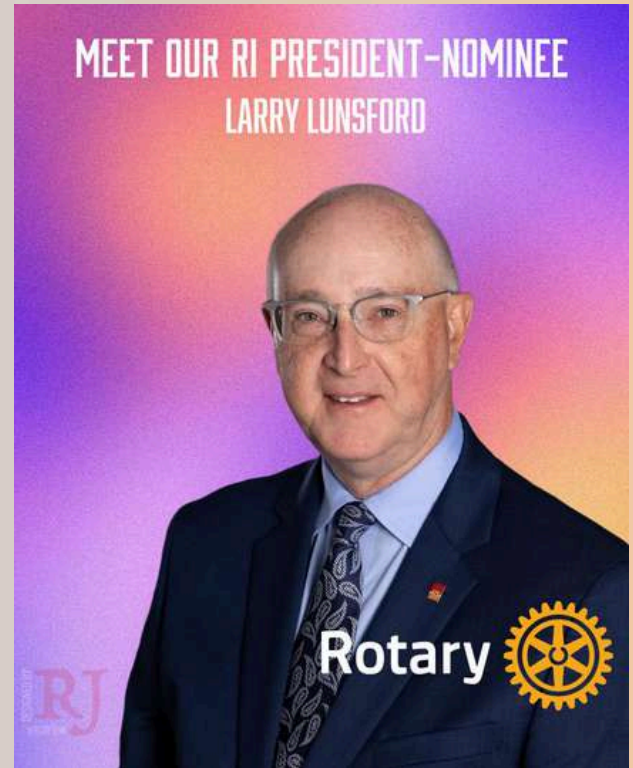
DSG Hermie Esguerra delivered his report on the Rotary District 3810 Disaster Relief Operations during the First Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 last July 29, 2025 at the Meeting Room 3, SMX Convention Center Mall of Asia, Pasay City.



DSG Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday as part of the group photo at the end of the First Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 last July 29, 2025 at the Meeting Room 3, SMX Convention Center Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Meet Rotary International President-Nominee Larry Lunsford



LARRY Lunsford, a member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza in Missouri, USA, has been selected to serve as Rotary International President for the 2027-2028 term.

Source: Rotary Club of San Francisco West

33rd Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Chinatown Manila



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia, DSG Hermie Esguerra, PDG Vince Carlos, Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday, and PP Jackie Rodriguez attended the 33rd Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Chinatown Manila last July 24, 2025 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Manila.



INTERCLUB EVENTS

Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila's 45th Handover and 46th Induction Ceremonies



PDG Obet Pagdanganan, DSG Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday, SDG Reggie Yu (Governor's Monthly Letter) and SDG Aries Balanay (Online Tools and Website) attended the 45th Handover and 46th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, last July 31, 2025 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Manila.



INTERCLUB EVENTS

President Raoul Creencia Attends Rotary Club of Makati Central's 41st Induction and Turnover Ceremonies

President Raoul Creencia attended the Rotary Club of Makati Central's 41st Induction and Turnover Ceremonies held on July 28, 2025 at The Manila Hotel.



President Raoul Creencia with RC Makati Central President Rico de Guzman and PP Nes Perez



President Raoul Creencia with RCMC PP Joey Lina and Rotary Homes Foundation President Philip Nazareno (PP of RC Makati Dasmariñas).



President Raoul Creencia with RC Parañaque East President Cesar Sarmiento and PDG Jay Tambunting

INTERCLUB EVENTS

Rotary Club Leaders Meet for Joint Fellowship



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia participated in a joint fellowship and meeting on August 1, 2025 with Rotary Club of Makati President Eddie Galvez, Rotary Club of Makati Past President Louie Aseoche, and Rotary Club of Makati West President Dino Dumatol.

17th Handover and 18th Induction Ceremonies of RC Pasay Southeast

President Raoul Creencia attended the 17th Handover and 18th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay Southeast (RCPS).



With RCPS
President
Ryna Ventura



With PDG Rudy Bediones and PP/District
Secretary General Hermie Esguerra



From left: PDG Paco Atayde, PDG Rudy Bediones and
Spouse Sharon, President Raoul Creencia

PUBLIC IMAGE

Rotary Club of Manila’s
Disaster Relief Operation in Rosario,
Cavite, Featured on DWIZ News

MGA MANGINGISDA NA NAAPEKTUHAN NG BAGYO AT HABAGAT SA CAVITE, TINULUNAN NG ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA



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Rotary Club of Manila’s
Disaster Relief Operation in Paombong,
Bulacan, Featured on DWIZ News

KASO NG ALIPUNGA SA PAOMBONG BULACAN DULOT NG PAGBAHA, INIINDA NG ILANG RESIDENTE



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Disaster Relief Operation in Calumpit,
Bulacan, Featured on DWIZ News



Rotary Club of Manila’s
Disaster Relief Operation in Rosario,
Cavite, Featured in Pilipino Mirror





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