



The
HERMA
Group

#BUILTOLAST

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



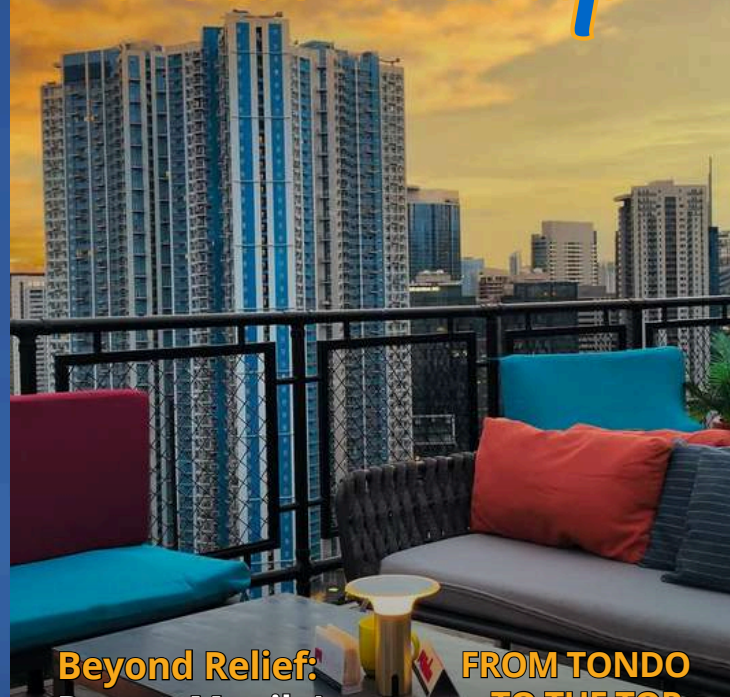
ESGUERRA FARMS & STUD INC.

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4061 • AUGUST 28, 2025

Fellowship



Beyond Relief:
Rotary Manila's
Call to Resilience

**RC Manila Continues
its Relief Operations**
in Calumpit, Bulacan

**Rotary Club of
Manila is Finalist**
at Rotary Regional
Public Image Awards

**FROM TONDO
TO THE TOP:**
The Integrity,
Resilience, and
Vision of
Arsenio
Mabalay
Bartolome III

**Rotary Community
Corps Brings
Free Healthcare**
to Calamba, Laguna

CONTENTS

Editorial	4
President's Message	8
Beyond Relief: Rotary Manila's Call to Resilience	14
Mini-Workshop on Disaster Resiliency	34
Update on the Nominated Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2026-2027	36
Club Administration	38
RC Manila Continues its Relief Operations in Calumpit, Bulacan	54
From Tondo to the Top: The Integrity, Resilience, and Vision of Arsenio Mabalay Bartolome III	62
Rotary Community Corps Brings Free Healthcare to Calamba, Laguna	100
President Raoul Creencia Presents ORE Awards Initiative to PRA Board	104
District Events	106
Recognition Corner	112
Interclub Events	118
Rotating Rotarian	130
Fellowship	136
Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2025-2026	142
Editorial Board for RY 2025-2026	143



THE FIRM OF
CREENCIA CARILLO & VELASCO

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Managing Partner

EDWIN M. CARILLO
Senior Partner

GLADYS M. CAGADOC-VELASCO
Senior Partner

MARLO V. DESTURA
Junior Partner

JERRY S. UY
Special Counsel

MARIA LEA BERNADETH S. OTICO
Senior Associate

MICHAEL P. PECAYO
Senior Associate

JONA N. PLATEJA
Associate

KRISTINA MARIE S. SAVELLANO
Associate

RENZO NIÑO M. ROSALES
Associate

KEITH MATTHEW R. CAMACHO
Associate

JOAQUIN ANTONIO S. DILLERA
Associate

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



TONIGHT, August 28, at 5:00 p.m., members of the Rotary Club of Manila will gather for fellowship at the O2 Rooftop Bar, beside Brittany Hotel, AURA Mall, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. With a stunning view of the city skyline, good food, and the warmth of camaraderie, this promises to be an evening to strengthen the ties that bind us as Rotarians.

Fellowship, after all, is one of the three enduring cornerstones of Rotary, along with **community** and **leadership**. It is in these moments of joy — eating, drinking, and sharing laughter together — that we rediscover the human connections that make our service meaningful.

Friendships deepen, networks expand, and spirits are refreshed.

Yet we must remind ourselves: fellowship is not an end in itself. It must inspire us to act with greater resolve in the face of society's urgent challenges. Today, public outrage fills the airwaves with revelations of corruption in DPWH projects — collusion between contractors, officials, and lawmakers — while some media personalities choose silence over integrity. These issues threaten the very foundation of governance and erode the people's trust in institutions.

As Rotarians, we cannot afford to be mere “arm-chair critics,” shaking our heads in comfortable circles while the nation bleeds from betrayal. Rotary calls us to be **people of action** — men and women who confront wrongdoing not only with words but with **solutions**, who channel our fellowship into united resolve, and who harness our leadership to create change.

When we raise our glasses on August 28, let it be not only to friendship, but also to **integrity**. When we share



***Fellowship...
is one of the
three enduring
cornerstones of
Rotary, along
with community
and leadership.***

stories, let them remind us of the **absurdity of complacency and the power of courage**. When we gather in fellowship, may we leave not only filled with laughter, but also fired with a renewed sense of duty.

For in Rotary, **fellowship, community, and leadership** are not separate pursuits. They are the fabric of who we are: friends bound by trust, leaders committed to service, and citizens determined to confront corruption with conscience and courage.

Let us, therefore, **fellowship with purpose**.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 1, Friday,
I opened the month with a “unity” lunch with the Presidents of two dynamic and admirable Rotary Clubs -- RC Makati and RC Makati West. In a sumptuous meal hosted by RC Makati President Eddie Galvez, I broke bread with the latter, RC Makati West President Dino Dumatol, and RC Makati PP and District Secretary Louie Aseoche.



Unity lunch 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



Raoul C. Creencia
President

The lunch gathering was not just a meeting of friends. It was a reaffirmation of each of the three Rotary Clubs' commitment to forge greater unity and cooperation. Indeed, it transcended the bounds of a mere social occasion; it stood as a solemn reaffirmation of the clubs' enduring commitment to forge deeper bonds of service and unity -- a gentle weaving of fellowship, and a quiet renewal of promise.

As we all embark our journey of “Service Above Self,” we must be constantly reminded that the true strength of Rotary lies not only in the passion of individual clubs, but in the bonds we build with one another.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each club carries its own unique traditions, strengths, and talents, yet we all share a common mission -- to make lasting, positive change in our communities and in the world.

Moreover, establishing greater unity with our fellow Rotary Clubs allows us to multiply our impact. By working together, we open the doors to new partnerships, share valuable experiences, and pool our resources for projects that none of us could accomplish alone. More importantly, unity nurtures fellowship—the spirit that keeps Rotary vibrant and meaningful.

As I reflect on the work we do together under the banner of Rotary, I am reminded time and again that our greatest strength is not found in numbers, nor in resources alone, but in the fellowship that binds us. It is this spirit of fellowship that allows us all to achieve extraordinary things.

Each Rotary Club is a beacon of service, carrying its own proud traditions and projects that make a difference in the lives of many. Yet when we reach across to other clubs—when we choose cooperation over isolation—we discover that our

collective impact is far greater than the sum of our individual efforts. The challenges of our time demand not just commitment, but also unity. In fact, this year, we are all called upon to “unite for good”. By working hand in hand with our other clubs such as the Rotary Club of Makati and the Rotary Club of Makati West, we share ideas, complement strengths, and learn from one another’s experiences. In this way, our projects gain breadth, depth, and sustainability.

But beyond service, there is another gift that unity offers us: friendship. The ties we forge with Rotarians from other clubs enrich our journey in Rotary. They remind us that we are part of a worldwide family whose members, though diverse in background, are united in purpose. When we stand together, we affirm that our vision of peace, compassion, and progress knows no boundaries.

As President of Asia’s first Rotary Club, I envision a year where our club does not stand apart, but stands alongside. I see us working shoulder to shoulder with fellow Rotarians in shared initiatives—whether in service to our communities, in humanitarian outreach, or in programs that

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

nurture the next generation. Let us make it our goal to not only strengthen our own club but also to strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership with those around us.

We started the month (August 1) with a lunch among friends, and a couple of weeks later (August 27), we had a great, fun and productive fellowship dinner attended by the directors and officers of the three dynamic clubs in the country. I look forward to more meaningful collaboration with RC Makati and RC Makati West.



Joint Fellowship of the Directors and Officers of RC Makati, RC Makati West, and RC Manila at Chef Jessie Restaurant. From left: RC Makati President Eddie Galvez, RC Manila President Raoul Creencia, and RC Makati West President Dino Dumatol



Directors and Officers of RC Makati, RC Makati West, and RC Manila came together for a joint fellowship at Chef Jessie Restaurant.

Beyond Relief: Rotary Manila's Call to Resilience

cover story



by PVP Reginald T. Yu

ON a bright Thursday afternoon, August 14, 2025, the Manila Polo Club once again became the hallowed stage for the Rotary Club of Manila's 5th Weekly Membership Meeting. More than a gathering, it was a convergence of minds, institutions, and values—each thread woven into a narrative of unity and resilience in the face of the nation's most pressing vulnerabilities.



Opening Rituals of Fellowship

At precisely 12:30 PM, the meeting was called to order by **President Atty. Raoul C. Creencia**, his voice carrying the assurance of both tradition and purpose. **Rotarian Miguel “Mico” Mendoza** invoked the Divine presence in prayer, offering words that reminded members that service without faith is hollow.

The Philippine National Anthem then resounded through the hall, accompanied by a stirring audio-visual presentation, followed by the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn, rendered with passion by the **RCM World Famous Chorale**.



President Raoul C. Creencia called the meeting to order.



Rotarian Miguel “Mico” Mendoza invoked the Divine presence in prayer



RCM World Famous Choral rendered the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn.

The ethical backbone of every Rotarian was recalled in the Four-Way Test, led with solemn authority by **Atty. Joaquin Pablo “Jop” A. Esquivias**, challenging each member once again to measure words and actions against the timeless queries of truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit.



Rotarian Atty. Joaquin Pablo “Jop” A. Esquivias led the recitation of The Four-Way Test.

The day’s Moderator, **PAT Joshua Rueben “Josh” Aragon**, gracefully welcomed distinguished guests before turning the spotlight toward service in action. **RCMFI Chairman and Past District Governor Alexander “Alex” Cureg** delivered a heartfelt

report on the club’s PETA Animal Welfare Project, affirming RCM’s long tradition of lending voice and protection to the voiceless.



PAT Joshua Rueben “Josh” Aragon moderated the meeting.



RCMFI Chairman and PDG Alexander “Alex” Cureg delivered a report on the club’s PETA Animal Welfare Project.

A landmark moment followed — the signing of a co-partnership agreement that bound together the **Rotary Club of Manila**, the **Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)**, the **Rotaract Club of Manila**, the **Philippine Red Cross**, **JCI Manila**, **Business Network, Inc.**, and **AIESEC Philippines**. In that signing, what began as ceremonial ink strokes carried the weight of future collaboration in safeguarding lives and livelihoods.



From left: Mr. Leonardo Ebajo (representative of Ms. Gwen T. Pang, Secretary General of Philippine Red Cross), Ms. Kristiana Chloe K. Palacios (Country Director, AIESEC Philippines), Ms. Alpha Allanigue (representative of Mr. Dexter Ortega, President, BNI), RC Manila President Raoul C. Creencia, Mr. Rene “Butch” S. Meily (President, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation), Mr. Jan Adrian Padiernos (President, JCI Manila), Mr. Randy O. Manaloto (President, JCI Senate Manila), and Ms. Andrea T. Cuevas (President, Rotaract Club of Manila)



Signing of the co-partnership agreement

Confronting the Forces of Nature

President Creencia opened the second

part of the meeting with his customary reflections before inviting **Atty. Carlos “Caloy” G. Serapio, Board Legal Adviser**, to introduce the first Guest of Honor.



President Raoul Creencia delivered his message during the President's Time.



Board Legal Adviser Carlos “Caloy” G. Serapio introduced the first Guest of Honor.

Though Assistant Secretary Bernardo Rafaelito “Raffy” R. Alejandro IV, Officer-in-Charge of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), could not attend, he was represented by **Director Caesar N. Agnir Jr.**, himself a Rotarian and JCI Senator. Director Agnir, after extending greetings, ceded the podium to **Mr. Emanuel “Eman” Palajadia**, Chief of the Organizational Planning Division of OCD.



Director Caesar N. Agnir, Jr., Partnership Collaboration and Engagement Service Office of Civil Defense

A Scientific and Humanistic View of Disaster

With the cadence of both teacher and servant-leader, Palajadia presented an exhaustive overview of disaster resilience. He challenged the long-held misconception of “natural disasters,” clarifying that disasters are not natural but occur when hazards meet vulnerability and inadequate coping capacity.

He laid out the stark reality: the Philippines — perched on the Pacific Ring of Fire, visited annually by some 20 typhoons, and shadowed by volatile volcanoes — remains the world’s most at-risk country. Yet amid sobering statistics, he introduced a formula of hope: risk reduction through prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, anchored on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

From lessons of Ondoy and Yolanda to tragedies like the Marawi siege and the Kentex factory fire, Palajadia urged Rotarians to see resilience as more than relief. It is collaboration, foresight, inclusivity, and above all, a relentless belief that communities can rise stronger after every fall.

Second Guest of Honor: The Private Sector as First Responder

The second Guest of Honor, **Mr. Rene “Butch” Meily**, President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), was introduced by **Rotarian Reginald “Reggie” T. Yu**.



Rotarian Reginald “Reggie” T. Yu introduced the second Guest of Honor.

A Personal Memory, a National Imperative

Meily began not with figures but with memory — his own boyhood recollection of seeing a typhoon’s eye lift the very roof of his home “like a piece of paper.” In that image of fragility lay the seed of his lifelong advocacy.

He traced the birth of PDRF to Typhoon Ondoy (2009), when public-private collaboration became an imperative. Guided by leaders like

Manny V. Pangilinan, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, PDRF has since pioneered a model where rival corporations unite in disaster response.

Innovation in the Service of Humanity

Meily showcased PDRF’s pride: the world’s first private sector–run National Emergency Operations Center in Clark — a facility capable of tracking storms, earthquakes, and pandemics, and designed to operate even if Metro Manila were rendered paralyzed. He underscored the value of pre-agreements with companies — from AirAsia to Meralco, UPS to Maynilad — that provide not just money but assets, manpower, and logistics.



Mr. Rene “Butch” Meily, President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation



OCD Director Caesar N. Agnir, Jr. and PDRF president Rene “Butch” Meily engaged in an interactive conversation with Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, and Rotarian Willie Peliño.



Stories of recovery, from sari-sari store women empowered with goods and courage, to Maranao weavers reviving their crafts, painted a picture of resilience grounded in dignity. Tree planting, MSME training, airport readiness programs, and water resilience projects in partnership with governments abroad demonstrated the PDRF ethos: stronger together.

Above all, Meily emphasized that resilience cannot be achieved by one sector alone. “We cannot do this on our own,” he declared, calling Rotary

to become an active partner in preparedness, relief, and recovery.

Dialogue and Fellowship

An engaging Open Forum followed, brimming with questions from Rotarians eager to anchor their civic missions within the frameworks of national and private sector resilience. Though time was stretched, President Creencia ensured that tokens of gratitude were presented to both speakers, affirming RCM’s deep appreciation for their insights.



OCD Director Caesar N. Agnir, Jr. and PDRF president Rene “Butch” Meily received RCM’s Plaque of Appreciation, presented by President Raoul C. Creencia and witnessed by Rotarian Joaquin Pablo “Jop” A. Esquivas, Board Legal Adviser Carlos “Caloy” G. Serapio, Past Vice President Reginald “Reggie” T. Yu, and Rotarian Miguel “Mico” Mendoza.



Even after the formal adjournment, conversations spilled into the resumed Q&A — proof that the day’s discourse

had stirred more than just polite interest; it had awakened responsibility.



Meeting Fellowship



President Raoul Creencia adjourned the meeting.

Rotary's Enduring Role

The 5th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila was no ordinary luncheon. It was a summit of



Meeting Fellowship



Exempt from Attendance

EXEMPT FROM ATTENDANCE
As of July 22, 2025

	NAME	CLASSIFICATION
	PAYUMO, FELCITO "Tong" C.	GOVERNMENT- ECONOMIC ZONE DEVELOPMENT
9	RAMOS, CLAVER	MEDICINE-NEPHROLOGY
10	SYJUCO, JOSE "Joey" A. JR.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS- TELECOM PRODUCTS
11	TAGA'SAY, HECTOR "Chito" O.	TRADING-TECHNICAL & REFERENCE BOOKS
12	VALDES, JOEL C.	FINANCE & INVESTMENT-CORPORATE & INFRASTRUCTURE

EXEMPT FROM ATTENDANCE
As of August 14, 2025

	NAME	CLASSIFICATION
1	BARTOLOME, III, ARSENIO "Archit" M.	BANK-PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT/DOMESTIC
2	BLANCO, MANUEL "Manny" M.	REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT- URBAN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
3	CARLOS, VICENTE "Vince" J.	LAW - AVIATION LAW
4	EGAN, BREN W.L.	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT SERVICES
5	GUEVARA, JR., DOMINGO "Boy" S.	HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES - ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE MANUFACTURING
6	LAYA, JAIME "Jimmy" A.	GOVERNMENT- EDUCATION
7	MATSCHUCK, GUNTER	BUSINESS SERVICES- INTERNATIONAL TRADING POWER & TELECOMS

Mini-Workshop on Disaster Resiliency



A mini-workshop on Disaster Resiliency was held at the Manila Polo Club after the Weekly Membership Meeting on August 14, 2025, facilitated by Mr. Arnel Capili, Operations Director of the Philippine Disaster Resiliency Foundation. Participants included officers of the Rotaract Club of Manila, members of JCI Manila, and RCM's PD Oscar Del Rosario and PT Chito Tagaysay.



Update on the Nominated Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2026-2027

August 28, 2025

	NOMINEE	POSITION	ACCEPTED	DECLINED
1	Albaña, Mike	Dir		
2	Bogovich, Jason	Dir	✓	
3	Castro, Karlo	AT		
4	Chahwan, Rami	Dir.		
5	Cutter, John	DSAA		✓
6	Guevara, Ricky	VP		✓
7	Hernandez, Edwin	Dir.	✓	
8	Kalaw, Teddy	PD	✓	
9	Lorenzana, Del	Rtn	✓	
10	Macatoman, Gani	Rtn	✓	
11	Magsaysay, Paco	AS		✓
12	Mauricio, Anton	Sec.		✓
13	Palacios, Hans	Dir.		
14	Roxas, Mike	AIA	✓	
15	Schneider, Bernd	Rtn		✓
16	Serapio, Caloy	BLA		
17	Sibayan, Lito	PT		✓
18	So, Warren	Dir.		✓
19	Valdez, Amading	PD		✓
20	Valencia, Nico	Rtn	✓	
21	Yu, Reggie	PVP		

ACCEPT: 7
DECLINE 8

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Election Advisory for the Election of the Board of Directors for RY 2026-2027



ELECTION ADVISORY FOR ELECTION OF BOD 2026-2027

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA ANNUAL MEETING TO VOTE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026- 2027

The election of Directors for Rotary Year 2026-2027 will be on September 04 (Thursday) 2025. It will be held at the Manila Polo Club.



However, if there is NO QUORUM by 1:45 pm on September 4, COMELEC will seal off the ballot boxes. Inform President Raoul Creencia that a quorum does not exist and request that President Raoul Creencia not to adjourn the meeting and election; declare a recess until September 11, 2025. This practice was done in the past. The BALLOT BOXES will be placed in the safe, care of the Comelec Chair, PP Archit Bartolome, and will be opened only if and when a quorum exists.



QUORUM VALIDATION :

- VIRTUAL PRESENCE:** You can sign into RCM ZOOM Account #892 060 0358 (No Password Required. Any RCM member can sign in to be counted for Quorum
- PHYSICAL PRESENCE:** At the Manila Polo Club and register your presence with the Committee on Election

QUALIFICATION TO VOTE: Paid 2025-2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES OF AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER IN AMOUNT OF Php 20,000.00

EARLY VOTING : The polling place will be open by 10:30 AM.



The Election Committee 2026-2027 Election of Board of Directors

Chairman: PP Archit Bartolome

Vice Chairman IPP Jujut Enriquez; PP Chito Zalardriaga,

THE POLLING TEAM:

Team 1: IPP Jujut Enriquez Rtn Cris Acosta; PD Oscar del Rosario; Rtn Vic Garcia

Team 2: PP Chito Zalardriaga ; PD Jun Hallare ; PD Ner Lonzaga PD Abe Pascual

Team 3: Rtn Romy Nones; PD Pepo Nuñez; Rtn Willie Pelino ; PT Chito Tagaysay



RCM members will be directed to the polling room to register, and the RCM Committee on Election will determine their eligibility to vote. If eligible:

- 1) he will be given a pre-numbered ballot with an acknowledgement stub.
- 2) he will cast his vote. He must vote for not less than **5 candidates and not more than 8.**
- 3) he will sign the acknowledgement stub; tear it off from the ballot and drop it in the **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BOX.**
- 4) he will drop his ballot at the **BALLOT BOX.**

At 1:45 pm on 04 September 2025, the Committee on Election (COMELEC) will determine if there is a quorum based on the number of members present via zoom and in person at election day.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT

August 2025

AUGUST 2025	August 07, 2025	August 14, 2025
	BUCOR DIR.GEN. GREGORIO CATAPANG JR.	OCD ASEC. BERNARDO ALEJANDRO & PDFF PRES. BUTCH MEILY
MEMBERS PRESENT	45	36
MEMBERS PRESENT %	21%	17%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	7	3
EXEMPTED	6	4
ON LEAVE	0	0
TotalActive Members	58	43
Total# of Members	215	215
TOTAL %:	27%	20%
ROTARACTORS	14	15
MEDIA	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0
GOHS / GS	5	6
VISITING ROTARIAN	5	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	8	15
TOTAL ATTENDEES	77	72



LIST OF ATTENDEES

August 7, 2025

August 14, 2025

1	Albaña, Michael Jaye C	1	Alday, Albert Singson
2	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	2	Aragon, Joshua Reuben
3	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	3	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
4	Benedicto, Sixto T.	4	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.
5	Carlos, Vicente J.	5	Chahwan, Rami
6	Chahwan, Rami	6	Creencia, Racul C.
7	Co. Val Constantine L.	7	Cureg, Alexander P.
8	Creencia, Racul C.	8	Cutlor, John Michael
9	Cureg, Alexander P.	9	Davis, Raymond N.
10	Davis, Raymond N.	10	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
11	Egan, Brendan W.L.	11	Egan, Brendan W.L.
12	Esqueria, Herminio S.	12	Eldobs, Issam
13	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	13	Esqueria, Herminio S.
14	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	14	Esquivias, Joaquin Pablo A.
15	Guevara, Ricardo S.	15	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
16	Hernandez, Edwin H.	16	Guevara, Ricardo S.
17	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV	17	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV
18	Locsin, Arsenio Z.	18	Locsin, Arsenio Z.
19	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.	19	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
20	Lorenzana, Delfin	20	Mauricio, Antonio DC
21	Macatoman, Abdulgani M.	21	Mendoza, Miguel
22	Mauricio, Antonio DC	22	Ong, Rowell Janscen S.
23	Nolido, Ramon Alberto B.	23	Pascual, Abraham F.
24	Nones, Romeo C.	24	Pelino, Wilfredo M.
25	Pascual, Abraham F.	25	Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.
26	Payuma, Felicito C.	26	Recto, Philip H.
27	Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.	27	Reynolds, David J.
28	Ra, Ingil	28	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
29	Recto, Philip H.	29	Roxas, Michael D.
30	Reynolds, David J.	30	Schneider, Bernd
31	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.	31	Serapio, Carlos G.
32	Rodriguez, Joaquin Anthony H.	32	Shimoda, Shigeru
33	Roxas, Michael D.	33	Sibayan, Joseito H.
34	Schneider, Bernd	34	Tagaytay, Hector O.
35	Serapio, Carlos G.	35	Valencia, John Nico P.
36	Sibayan, Joseito H.	36	Yu, Reginald Tieng
37	Simon, Juanito A.		
38	So, Warren S.		
39	Tagaytay, Hector O.		
40	Valdez, Amado D.		
41	Valencia, John Nico P.		
42	Vazquez, Evaristo Jr.		
43	Yordanov, Stefan		
44	Yu, Reginald Tieng		
45	Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco S.		

Senior Active Membership

DURING its third Regular Board Meeting, the Rotary Club of Manila Board of Directors approved the application of Past Vice President (PVP) Joel Valdes for exemption from attendance, recognizing his eligibility to be classified as a Senior Active Member. This recognition was granted in view of his biological age and his long years of dedicated service in Rotary.

Now on its 106th year, the Rotary Club of Manila continues to uphold the original Rotary Constitution and Bylaws, which provide for the following categories of membership:

- Active
- Senior Active
- Past Service
- Honorary

The distinction of a Senior Active or Past Service member, as compared to an Active member, lies primarily in two areas:

1. **Loss of Business Classification**

– A Senior Active or Past Service member no longer represents a business or professional classification within the Club.

2. **Ineligibility to Propose New Members**

– They do not have the right to propose new Active members into the Club.

Nonetheless, Senior Active and Past Service members continue to enjoy important privileges. They remain part of the quorum in membership meetings and are entitled to participate in the election of the Board of Directors.

Legal Definitions (per the Rotary Constitution and Bylaws)

Past Service Membership

- May be granted to any former Active member with at least five years of Active membership in one or more clubs.
- The member must have retired from business or professional life and reside within the territorial limits of the Club.
- A Past Service member has the rights

Senior Active Membership

and privileges of an Active member except that:

1. He is not considered as representing a classification.
2. He may not become a Senior Active member (except as otherwise provided).
3. He does not have the right to propose an additional Active member.

Senior Active Membership

- May be granted to an Active member who meets any of the following conditions:
 1. Has been an Active member of one or more clubs for at least 15 years.
 2. Is 60 years or older with at least 10 years of Active membership.
 3. Is 65 years or older with at least 5 years of Active membership.
 4. Is a present or past officer of Rotary International.
- A Senior Active member has all the rights and privileges of an Active member except that:
 1. He is not considered as representing a classification.
 2. He may not propose an additional Active member.

- Furthermore, any Senior Active member who has served in Rotary for 20 years or more and has reached the age of 65 years may apply in writing to be excused from attendance requirements, subject to Board approval.

In sum, the conferment of Senior Active status upon PVP Joel Valdes is both a recognition of his distinguished service and a reaffirmation of the Club's fidelity to Rotary's long-standing constitutional traditions.

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of August 26, 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 BRANELEC, JACQUES
11 BUENDIA, CARLOS
12 CANON, RAUL JR. C.
13 CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.
14 CARLOS, VICENTE J.
15 CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.
16 CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
17 CHAN, ROBERT JR.
18 CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
19 CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
20 CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL
21 DAYANG, JUAN E.
22 DAVIS, RAYMOND N.
23 ELDEBS, ISSAM
24 ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
25 EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.
26 FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
27 GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
28 GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.
29 GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
30 HALLARE, DELFIN JR.
31 HALLARE, NICOLÒ
32 HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
33 HESSE, UWE
34 IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.
35 KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.
36 KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L.
37 KLEBS, DAVID
38 LAUREL, RICARDO P.
39 LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL
40 LEE, RICHARD L

41 LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.
42 LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
43 LOPEZ, ANTONIO
44 LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.
45 LORENZANA, DELFIN
46 MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.
47 MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.
48 MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC
49 MAURICIO, FRANCISCO C.
50 MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.
51 NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.
52 NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
53 NONES, ROMEO C.
54 NUÑEZ, JOSE A.
55 PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.
56 PASCUAL, ABRAHAM
57 PAYUMO, FELICITO C.
58 PELIÑO, WILFREDO
59 PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.
60 PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.
61 PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
62 RANKL, PETER
63 RECTO, PHILIP H.
64 REYNOLDS, DAVID
65 SCHNEIDER, BERND
66 SENEN, MANGALILE
67 SHIMODA, SHIGERU
68 SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
69 SO, WARREN
70 STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
71 SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
72 TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
73 VALDEZ, AMADO
74 VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
75 VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
76 YORDANOV, STEFAN
77 YU, REGINALD T.
78 ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
79 ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
80 ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER



THE third regular Board meeting was held on August 14, 2025 in the Library Room of Elks Club from 3PM to 7PM.

Present during the meeting were President Raoul Creencia, IPP Jujut Enriquez, Directors-Mike Albaña, Rami Chahwan, Edwin Hernandez, Hans Palacios, Warren So, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Treasurer PJ Garcia, Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, Assistant Internal Auditor Mike Roxas, Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms John Cutter.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Monthly Meeting of the Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs



THE Circle of Centennial Rotary Clubs held its monthly meeting on August 21, 2025. In attendance were representatives from RC Seattle 4, RC Calcutta, RC San Francisco 2, RC Wilmington Delaware, RC Madras India, RC Northfield Minnesota, RC Lisbon, and RC Manila, represented by International Relations Chair Nick Locsin.

Executive Committee Meeting



THE Executive Committee Meeting of the Board was held on August 22, 2025, at 3 PM via Zoom.

Present at the meeting were President Raoul Creencia, Vice President Ricky Guevara, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Treasurer PJ Garcia, Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, Consultant Anna Kun-Toledo, and Executive Secretary Lhea Lozano.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Community Service Group Directors Meeting



DIRECTOR Jason Bogovich, Director Warren So, and Secretary Anton Mauricio met via Zoom on August 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., to discuss the projects and committee chairs under the 7 Areas of Focus. ES Lhea Lozano and Consultant Anna Kun Toledo were invited to the meeting.

Committee on Elections Meeting



COMMITTEE on Election Chair PP Archit Bartolome, Co-Chairman IPP Jujut Enriquez, met with President Raoul Creencia and E-Balloting Administrator Nico Hallare last Thursday, August 28, 2025 via Zoom. Also present were Executive Secretary Lhea Lozano and Consultant Anna Kun Toledo.

RC MANILA CONTINUES ITS RELIEF OPERATIONS

Calumpit,
Bulacan

August 17, 2025

by Pres. Raoul Creencia



Relief distribution by RC Manila, in partnership with RC Calumpit, during the Disaster Relief Operation held at Collegio de Calumpit on August 17, 2025.

Front row, from left: IA Nick Locsin, Dir. Rami Chahwan, VP Ricky Guevara, Atty. Myls Creencia, Pres. Raoul Creencia, RC Calumpit Pres. Joan "Anjo" Cortez, PD Oscar Del Rosario, Ms. Vanessa Villafuerte, Sec. Anton Mauricio, and IPP Jujut Enriquez. (Not in photo: AIA Mike Roxas)
Back row: officers and members of RC Calumpit

THE Rotary Club of Manila continues its relief operations, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Calumpit, led by its President Anjo Cortez.

Though the monsoon rains and typhoons have passed, the storm's shadow lingers — homes remain damaged, livelihoods disrupted, and communities still struggle to recover. In the town of Calumpit in Bulacan, many families are still reeling from the devastating effects of the rains and floods.

RC MANILA CONTINUES ITS RELIEF OPERATIONS

Calumpit, Bulacan

Yes, the skies may have cleared, but the pain and hardship continue to be felt in the lives of many.

Kudos to my fellow Manila Rotarians who joined me this afternoon —

- IPP Jujut Villa-Real Enriquez
- Vice President Ricky Guevara
- Director Rami Chahwan
- Secretary Antonilo Mauricio
- PD Oscar A. del Rosario
- PD IA Nick Locsin
- AIA Mike Roxas

Also joining us were my wife, Mylene, and Vanessa.



Rotary Club of Manila President Raoul Creencia, together with RC Calumpit President Joan "Anjo" Cortez, led the distribution of rice during a relief operation at Colegio de Calumpit, Bulacan.

RC MANILA CONTINUES ITS RELIEF OPERATIONS

Calumpit, Bulacan



President Raoul Creencia was interviewed by a DWIZ reporter, courtesy of ALC Media Group of Chairman Edgar Cabangon.

RC MANILA CONTINUES ITS RELIEF OPERATIONS

Calumpit, Bulacan



PEOPLE

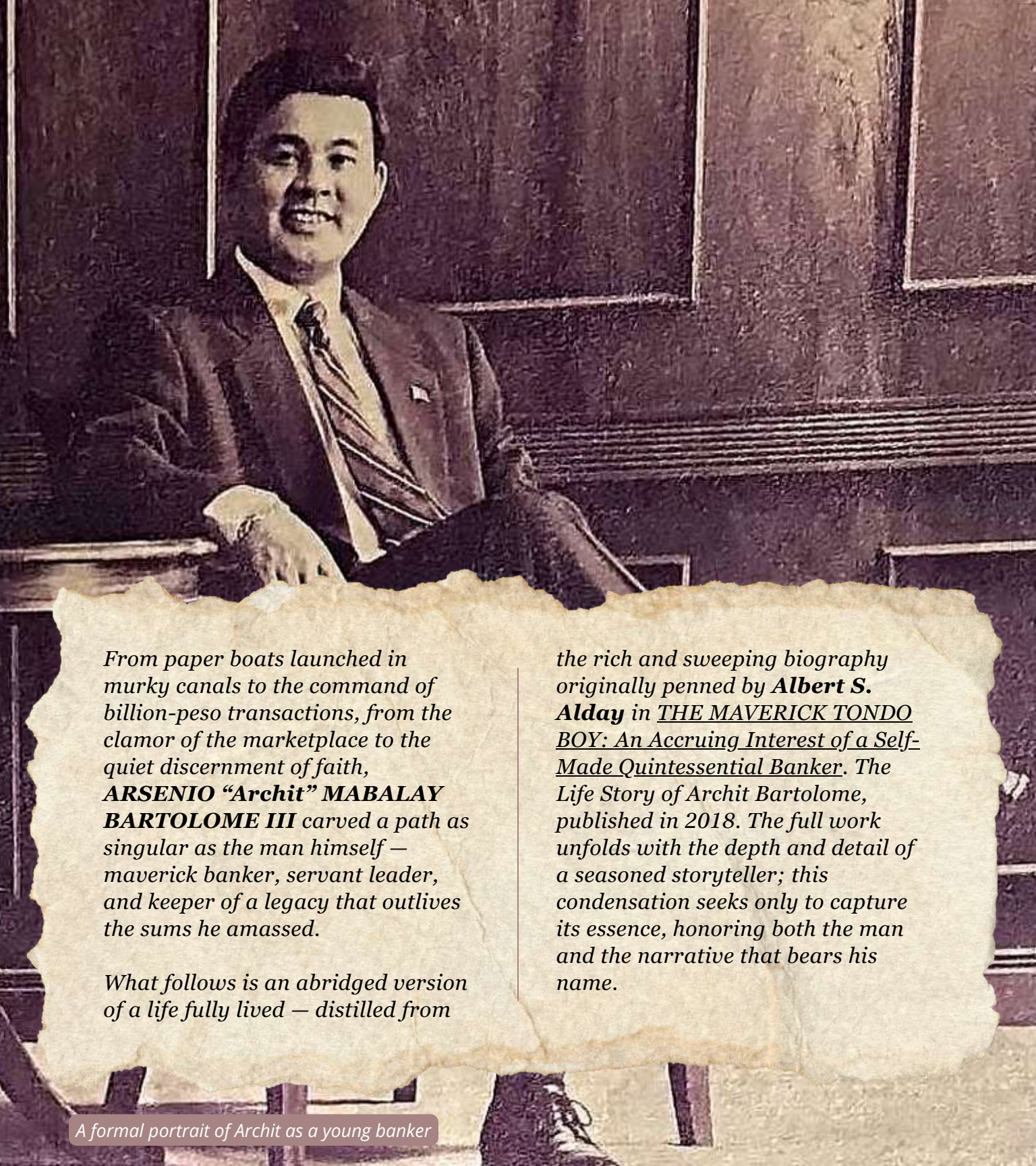
FROM TONDO TO THE TOP

The Integrity, Resilience, and Vision of Arsenio Mabalay Bartolome III

by Albert S. Alday

EDITOR'S Note: In the teeming heart of old Manila, where the salt air of the harbor mingled with the dust of unpaved streets, a boy was born whose life would span the distance from Tondo's narrow alleys to the gilded boardrooms of global banking. His journey would be a ledger written in equal parts hardship and triumph, each page inked with resilience, daring, and an unshakable faith in the dividends of integrity.





*From paper boats launched in murky canals to the command of billion-peso transactions, from the clamor of the marketplace to the quiet discernment of faith, **ARSENIO “Archit” MABALAY BARTOLOME III** carved a path as singular as the man himself — maverick banker, servant leader, and keeper of a legacy that outlives the sums he amassed.*

What follows is an abridged version of a life fully lived — distilled from

*the rich and sweeping biography originally penned by **Albert S. Alday** in THE MAVERICK TONDO BOY: An Accruing Interest of a Self-Made Quintessential Banker. The Life Story of Archit Bartolome, published in 2018. The full work unfolds with the depth and detail of a seasoned storyteller; this condensation seeks only to capture its essence, honoring both the man and the narrative that bears his name.*

Roots in the Harbor District

In the decades before a new century dawned, Manila rose in prominence as the undisputed seat of commerce under the protective yet calculating shadow of the American Commonwealth. Along its wide boulevards, bulky automobiles from Detroit's famed assembly lines rumbled past neoclassical buildings whose marble columns seemed to proclaim permanence and order. The Manila skyline was modest by global standards but impressive enough for a capital in the Far East—its spires and domes the architectural signatures of a city caught between the tropical sun and Western ambition.

Within this dynamic port city, wealth and want existed side by side. Beneath the chandeliered ballrooms of Escolta's elite and the buzzing energy of Binondo's trading houses, there lay districts that bore the brunt of rapid urbanization. And none was more storied—nor more notorious—than Tondo. Here, on streets redolent with the mingled scent of brine from the harbor and smoke from open-air cookfires, lived men and women who knew the meaning of survival. For Tondo's people, the port was both neighbor and breadwinner, and the creak of cranes unloading cargo at Manila's North Harbor was as familiar as a lullaby.

It was in this gritty yet vibrant landscape that the roots of Philippine banking's future maverick were planted. His grandfather, Don Arsenio Bartolome Sr., embodied the Protestant-Methodist ethic of discipline and forthrightness. From humble beginnings as a stevedore and trucker, he rose to build a modest fortune—proof that hard work, integrity, and patience could yield dividends beyond one's imagining. His ventures, coupled with a knack for prudent investment, culminated in his becoming one of the founding directors of the National Life Insurance Company.



Archit and Nenne with Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle

Yet fate has a way of testing the mettle of even the most prepared. The promise of lasting opulence was abruptly interrupted when, in December 1941, war arrived at the Philippines' doorstep.

On June 30 of that fateful year—mere months before Japanese troops would march into Manila—Arsenio Mabalay Bartolome III was born at Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo to Fruto Feliciano Bartolome and Emiliana Leodones Mabalay. For a brief moment, joy rang louder than the ominous drums of conflict. The birth of a namesake grandson was a source of great pride for Don Arsenio Sr., who cradled the infant as though holding the promise of the family's next great chapter. But the shadows of war soon dimmed that optimism. The city was occupied, businesses were disrupted, and the fortunes painstakingly built over decades were eroded in a few short years. The Protestant faith that anchored the Bartolomes became their lifeline, binding the family together through loss and uncertainty.

Growing Up in Lean Times

The war left more than ruins; it left a scarcity that would define the childhood of the boy everyone called Archit. In the narrow streets of postwar Tondo, survival was an art form. Children played barefoot on cracked pavements,

their laughter mingling with the clatter of passing kariton carts. For Archit, toys were not bought—they were imagined into being. Paper boats folded from discarded newsprint became galleons that sailed on rain-fed gutters. The joy they brought was no less real for their fragility.

He wore clothes handed down from older siblings—shirts a size too big,



Archit and Nenne with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin

trousers worn thin at the knees—but carried them with the unconcern of one who valued utility over appearance. Parties and store-bought sweets were luxuries beyond reach, yet Archit was quick to find contentment in simpler pleasures: the colors of hibiscus blossoms along the road to Magat

Salamat Elementary School, the way the morning sun glinted off the bay, and the rhythm of life in a neighborhood where everyone knew everyone else's name.

Though he was no bookworm, Archit's natural intelligence and memory served him well. He absorbed lessons quickly, often surprising teachers with answers delivered in his quiet, unassuming manner. Upon completing his primary education, he graduated with honors—a feat that startled him as much as it pleased his parents. Outside the classroom, he donned the kerchief of a Cub Scout, later advancing to Boy Scout. These activities, which taught resourcefulness, teamwork, and self-reliance, were early training grounds for the leadership roles that awaited him in adulthood.

The Young Hustler of Torres High

Secondary school brought new horizons and new responsibilities. At Torres High School, Archit navigated the bustling corridors with the confidence of someone accustomed to making the most of every opportunity. Yet his days were not solely devoted to study. Poverty demanded that he contribute to the family's upkeep.

One of his regular tasks involved visiting a relative's modest eatery after classes,



Archit Bartolome circa 1980

where he collected leftovers destined for pigs in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, the hometown of his mother's kin. These scraps, humble as they were, became part of a small but steady enterprise: the pigs would be fattened and sold, the proceeds helping to keep Archit and his siblings in school.

Ever alert to ways of earning, he also sold popcorn at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, timing his calls to coincide with the surges of basketball fans entering and exiting the arena. There, in

the charged atmosphere of competition, he fed his own love for the sport, watching local hardcourt heroes with the same focus he would one day give to numbers on a trading floor.

Drawn to the lure of the sea, Archit joined the Sea Scouts, where the briny air, the snap of sails, and the camaraderie of fellow adventurers gave him glimpses of a wider world. Though Torres High offered a strong education, he dreamed of joining his siblings at the University of the Philippines High School, believing it would be a launchpad to the ambitions already forming in his mind. That aspiration, like many in his life, would not be denied for long.

The First Taste of Banking

When Archit entered the University of the Philippines in 1957, he did so under the banner of architecture—a fitting choice for a young man whose childhood nickname and life's aspirations seemed naturally aligned. UP, with its sprawling Diliman campus, was a crucible where provincial prodigies and Manila's pedigreed sons and daughters converged. In this fertile mix of intellect and ambition, Archit found both challenge and opportunity.

His first year brought an unexpected call to join the UP Varsity Basketball Team for a dual meet against Silliman University in Dumaguete. The thrill of the game, coupled with the promise of adventure, was irresistible. That invitation would prove serendipitous, for it earned him a coveted dormitory place—a boon for a student from Tondo whose family could ill afford boarding costs. Basketball, more than just sport, became a passport to new circles and connections.

Among those circles was the Upsilon Sigma Phi, the university's oldest and most influential fraternity. Membership offered prestige and a network of leaders-in-the-making. Archit underwent the rigorous rites of passage, earning the right to wear the Upsilonian badge. He threw himself into fraternity projects—community drives, cultural



Archit and Nenne with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. and First Lady Imelda Marcos

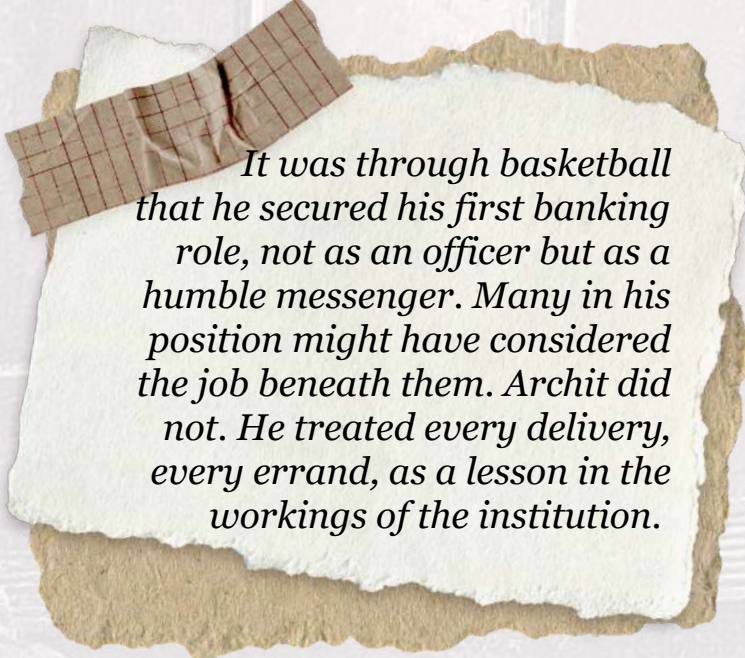
programs, and fundraising events—learning the art of organizing people and resources.

Yet in his third year, an unexpected tragedy shook the fraternity: the death of a neophyte during initiation rites. Though Archit was not implicated in any wrongdoing, as one of the batch leaders he bore the collective responsibility. The administration offered what it called an “honorable discharge” from UP—a compromise that spared them from formal sanction but closed the door on his dream of a UP degree.

Disheartened but undeterred, Archit turned to his elder sister, Mercedes “Ched” Bartolome, a brilliant CPA and UE magna cum laude graduate. It was Ched who suggested a transfer to the University of the East to take up Business Administration, believing management studies would suit both his aptitude and the realities of a growing postwar economy.

At UE, Archit’s life found a new rhythm: mornings in classrooms, afternoons on the basketball court—not for the varsity this time, but for a corporate team. His talent caught the eye of Bank of America, which maintained a squad for interbank competitions. The connection would prove fateful.

It was through basketball that he secured his first banking role, not as an



It was through basketball that he secured his first banking role, not as an officer but as a humble messenger. Many in his position might have considered the job beneath them. Archit did not. He treated every delivery, every errand, as a lesson in the workings of the institution.

officer but as a humble messenger. Many in his position might have considered the job beneath them. Archit did not. He treated every delivery, every errand, as a lesson in the workings of the institution. In the vaults, the filing rooms, and the corridors where executives strode with brisk authority, he studied the culture of finance from the ground up.

Love, Loss, and New Horizons

In 1960, fate staged another of its carefully timed encounters. While visiting the shop of noted designer Casimiro Abad in Vito Cruz, Archit caught sight of a young woman whose poise and beauty were impossible to ignore. Maria Rosario “Nenne” Reyes was still in high school, but in her eyes

and bearing there was a quiet confidence that spoke of good upbringing and strong values.

Their introduction was brief—an exchange of pleasantries, a sharing of contact details—but it lit a spark. In those pre-mobile days, courtship was an exercise in patience and creativity. Visits were subject to chaperones, and phone calls were limited, yet the bond grew.

Archit's persistence was steady but respectful, and over the years their affection deepened into something enduring.

In 1963, inside the Sta. Cruz Church, Archit asked Nenne to marry him. She said yes, on one condition: that he convert to Catholicism. For a man raised in the Protestant tradition, this was no small step. But for Archit, love was worth every adjustment. His reception into the Catholic faith was as much a personal conviction as it was a gesture of unity with his future wife.

They wed on September 8, 1966, at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park—an elegant celebration that brought together families, friends, and business associates. Soon after, Archit accepted an internship at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco, facilitated by a family connection through Nenne's father. He traveled with fellow banker Mario Sayoc, arriving in America with only modest savings and return tickets in case things didn't work out.

The internship turned into a full-time offer, and within months Archit was earning a respectable salary and enjoying the professional development programs Wells Fargo offered. His industriousness and reliability earned him sponsorship for permanent residency—a rare privilege for a young foreign banker.



Archit with his better half, Nenne

But in the midst of success came sorrow. In the Philippines, Nenne carried their first child, Arsenio Emmanuel, to term. Soon after birth, the infant contracted meningitis and passed away. The loss was a cruel blow that cut across continents. For Archit, the grief was compounded by the distance. They decided to return to Manila, choosing family closeness over foreign opportunity.

Climbing the Ladder of Finance

Back home in 1968, Archit joined BANCOR Development Corporation, a pioneering investment house founded by Dr. Sixto K. Roxas III. BANCOR was tasked with establishing the country's money market—a novel concept in Philippine finance at the time. Archit thrived in this fast-paced environment, explaining the mechanics of money market instruments to corporate treasurers, academics, and even students eager to understand the new system. His reputation as a clear communicator and dependable trader grew rapidly.

By the early 1970s, Citibank came calling. The offer: to organize and lead its Money Market Department. Archit accepted, assembling a skilled team and designing an operational structure that soon became a model for the industry. Under his watch, the department

expanded its reach across the ASEAN region, enhancing Citibank's standing as a leader in investment services.

In 1973, he took the helm as General Manager of Multinational Investment Bancorporation, working alongside Ramon "Ray" Ilusorio. Together they built the firm into one of the country's



Archit's mementos
as a TOYM awardee in 1980 for Investment Banking

premier financial intermediaries. During this period, Archit deepened his civic engagement, joining the Rotary Club of Manila at Ray's invitation. By 1988–1989, he would serve as the club's 69th President, earning the Most Outstanding Club President award for his year's initiatives, including projects for street children and youth development.

His corporate ascent continued with a move to Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) as Senior Vice President and Treasurer, where he also served as President of the Money Market Association of the Philippines. In 1980, he was honored with The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Banking, cementing his status as one of the nation's foremost financial leaders.

Building Urban Bank

The turn of the decade brought Archit to a new frontier in his professional journey. After years of steering the fortunes of major institutions, he envisioned a bank that would marry the personalized service of Europe's private banking tradition with the dynamism of Philippine enterprise. The result was Urban Development Bank, incorporated on July 8, 1980, alongside fellow Manila Rotarians Paqui Ortigas, Bert Romulo, Ben Santos, Tong Payumo, and Mike de Guzman.

Urban Bank began with a paid-in capital of ₱20 million—four times the regulatory requirement—a testament to the founders' confidence in their vision. Its first office along Shaw Boulevard in Pasig exuded quiet elegance, a deliberate departure from the impersonal bustle of larger institutions. Clients from Archit's days at Bank of America, BANCORP, Citibank, and RCBC soon found their way to the new bank, drawn by the promise of bespoke financial solutions.



Archit with President Corazon Aquino



Archit's oil painted portrait with his TOYM trophy

In a matter of months, Urban Bank rose to second place in total resources among Philippine development banks. Branch expansion followed swiftly, with a Makati office opening to serve the country's emerging financial hub. Archit's leadership style—direct, approachable, and informed by decades of experience—made the institution a

magnet for entrepreneurs seeking credit based on the merit of their ideas rather than the size of their collateral.

His peers in the industry took notice. He was elected President of the Development Bankers Association of the Philippines and later of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines

(FINEX). These roles amplified his influence, giving him a platform to advocate for reforms that would broaden access to financing and encourage innovation in financial services.

Rotary: Service Above Self

For Archit, Rotary was never merely a luncheon club or a social circle for businessmen. It was, in his words, “a crucible where friendship meets responsibility.” His initiation into the Rotary Club of Manila — Asia’s first and most prestigious Rotary club — was both a professional honor and a personal commitment.



With Saint Teresa of Calcutta



With then General Fidel Ramos at an RCM Weekly Membership Meeting

By the time he assumed the presidency in 1988–1989, Archit had already forged a reputation in the banking

world as a decisive, principled leader. But Rotary demanded a different kind of leadership — one that measured success not in financial returns, but in the upliftment of communities. Under his stewardship as the club’s 69th President, RCM undertook flagship projects that touched lives across multiple sectors: from educational scholarships for deserving youth, to medical missions in underserved barangays, to livelihood programs that gave dignity and income to the unemployed.

That year, RCM not only fulfilled its obligations to Rotary International but surpassed them, earning the Most

Outstanding Club President Award and setting a standard of excellence that would inspire future leaders. Archit's presidency was marked by a clear vision: service grounded in sustainability, partnerships built on mutual respect, and programs designed to endure beyond a single Rotary year.

Even after his term ended, he remained an active and visible presence in Rotary life — mentoring younger Rotarians, lending his voice to fundraising campaigns, and representing the club at district and international events. Whether at the podium of the RCM luncheon meetings at the Manila Polo Club or in the field planting trees with fellow Rotarians, Archit embodied the motto Service Above Self with humility and vigor.

In Rotary, he found an echo of his own philosophy: that true leadership is service, and that the measure of a man's worth is not in the titles before his name but in the lives he has helped transform.



Archit with President Joseph Estrada

Service to the Nation

Archit's reputation as a builder—of institutions, teams, and systems—extended beyond the private sector. In 1992, President Fidel V. Ramos sought to tap his expertise for government service. The appointment was to chair the Task Force on Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Reorganization and Management Audit under Finance Secretary Ramon “Boy Blue” del Rosario Jr. Working alongside Atty. Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, Archit applied his managerial acumen to streamline operations in one of the country's most critical agencies.



Archit with Nenne and President Fidel Ramos

But FVR had a larger role in mind. A meeting at Malacañang led to Archit's appointment as the first Chairman, President, and CEO of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), created to transform former military reservations—Fort Bonifacio, Clark, Subic, John Hay, Poro Point—into productive civilian assets.



Archit's oath-taking administered by President Fidel Ramos as the first Chairman and President of the Bases Conversion Development Authority

At BCDA, Archit blended his banker's precision with the imagination of the architect he once aspired to be. He initiated projects such as the Heritage Park in Fort Bonifacio, a master-planned memorial and park complex, and spearheaded the rehabilitation of Clark

after the devastation of Mount Pinatubo's eruption. Golf courses, infrastructure upgrades, and new development zones began to take shape under his watch, setting the stage for what would become key economic hubs in the decades to follow.

Yet service, in the way Archit lived it, was rarely a one-act play. When Gabriel Singson vacated the presidency of the Philippine National Bank to head the newly formed Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, FVR again turned to Archit.



Archit takes his oath as President and CEO of the Philippine National Bank administered by President Fidel Ramos, with then Senator Teofisto Guingona.

Crisis, Reflection, Renewal

At PNB, Archit embraced the challenge of steering the institution toward



Archit's many intimate moments with former President Fidel Ramos

globalization. He launched a US\$400 million Global Medium-Term Notes program, positioning PNB as the first Philippine bank to gain a significant foothold in the offshore markets. Under his leadership, PNB became an active partner in infrastructure projects under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme, extending credit to contractors and advocating for greater private-sector

participation. International recognition followed. Archit was elected the first Filipino President of both the Asian Bankers Association and the Asia-Pacific Bankers Club, cementing his stature as a statesman of finance.

But even as his star shone brightly in the public and private banking spheres, storm clouds gathered. The late 1990s

brought the Asian Financial Crisis, a contagion that tested the stability of banks across the region. Urban Bank, now two decades old and a fixture in the financial landscape, was not spared. Liquidity tightened, markets panicked, and political turbulence compounded the strain.

In an unprecedented move in Philippine banking history, Urban Bank was placed under PDIC receivership—yet all depositors were paid in full, with accrued interest. No assets vanished; no officer enriched themselves from the crisis. Archit bore the blow with quiet dignity, but the loss of his brainchild cut deep.

In the quiet that followed, he embarked on a spiritual retreat at the invitation of a priest friend. What began as a weekend of reflection became a turning point. He joined the charismatic community Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon, immersing himself in prayer gatherings, retreats, and service ministries. The man who once measured success in basis points and capital ratios began to see it also in faith, relationships, and the lives one could touch.

He channeled his energies into ABBA Insurance Brokers and Amber Properties, ventures that allowed him to continue working with integrity while enjoying more time for family, golf, and

charitable work. In this new chapter, profit was no longer the sole bottom line—purpose was.



Arnit was sworn in as the new member of the NDC Board representing the private sector on March 9, 2023. The oath was administered by DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual and witnessed by DTI and NDC officers and employees.



Archit with his family at one of their family cruises

Family and Legacy

For all the titles and distinctions, he earned in the public eye, Archit never lost sight of the private roles that mattered most — husband, father, and eventually, doting grandfather. With Nenne, his steadfast partner through every triumph and trial, he raised four children whose achievements would carry the Bartolome name onto the global stage.

Barbee, Bambee, AP, and Barnee grew up in a home where discipline was balanced with warmth, and ambition tempered by a sense of duty. They inherited not only their parents' work ethic but also their deep-seated faith and love of country. Each pursued a path that brought honor to the family: in medicine, business, creative enterprise, and public service.

Their successes were mirrored by the blossoming of the next generation — twelve grandchildren whose milestones became Archit's most treasured calendar entries. Whether it was a baptism, recital, graduation, or sports match, his presence was a given. In family photos, he was often captured mid-laugh, or leaning forward intently as one of the young ones recounted a story.

The Bartolome home was a tapestry of Sunday lunches, spirited debates, and shared prayers. For Archit, these gatherings were more than tradition — they were living proof that wealth measured in relationships could never depreciate.

The Later Years and Enduring Influence

Even in what others might consider the twilight of a career, Archit remained in constant motion. He chaired senior citizens' organizations, lent his voice to civic causes, and traveled extensively — often on pilgrimages that deepened his spiritual life. Over twenty-three journeys with Fr. Jerry Orbos, he visited holy sites in Europe, the Holy Land, and Asia, each trip a reminder of how far he had come from the narrow streets of Tondo.

Golf remained his favored recreation, not merely for sport but for fellowship. On the fairways, he found camaraderie, friendly competition, and quiet moments to appreciate life's arc — the long drives,

the careful putts, the humility in accepting both the wins and the missed shots.

A public marker of his legacy stands in Las Piñas, where a street bears the name A. Bartolome. But the truer markers lie in the institutions he helped build, the reforms he championed, and the countless lives he touched — from the Mangyan farmers who benefited from development projects to the young bankers he mentored into industry leaders.

In his own reckoning, the enduring pillars of a life well-lived are simple yet unshakeable: integrity outlives wealth, knowledge is the best investment, and love of God and country is the highest calling. These were not mere aphorisms but the compass points that guided every decision, from the boardroom to the dinner table.



Archit has always been an avid golfer

FROM TONDO TO THE TOP: The Integrity, Resilience, and Vision of Arsenio Mabalay Bartolome III

From the boy in Tondo crafting paper boats to the banker navigating the currents of global finance, from the public servant shaping national assets to the grandfather cheering from the sidelines, **Arsenio Mabalay Bartolome III** lived with the certainty that every blessing carried an obligation to give back.

And so, his story, while filled with remarkable accomplishments, is less about the sums earned and more about the lives enriched. In balance sheets and in memory, in concrete projects and in whispered prayers, his legacy endures — a testament to resilience, loyalty, and faith, drawn not in ink but in the indelible lines of a life fully lived.



The Bartolome family patriarch, with four children and 12 grandchildren

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Rotary Community Corps of RC Manila Brings Free Healthcare to Calamba, Laguna

THE Rotary Community Corps (RCC) of the Rotary Club of Manila, under the leadership of Director/Chair Rami Chahwan, successfully held its first transformative medical mission in partnership with RC Makati East, RC Makati Uptown, and the Knights of Columbus.



This collaborative effort opened the doors to free medical consultations and services for six barangays within the **San Isidro Labrador Parish community** in Calamba, Laguna. The mission exemplified the spirit of service and community care, addressing the healthcare needs of **over 750 beneficiaries**.

This impactful project was made possible through the support of **RC Makati East**, led by **Toots Cortez**, and the generous contributions of the **Jolly Golfers of Ayala Greenfield**, **Tots 1 Filipino Foundation**, **Affinity Capital**, **AHerrera Wellness Group**, **Hospital on Wheels**, and **Pick-Up Coffee**, which provided coffee and breakfast for the 175 nurses, doctors, and volunteers from the parish.



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Rotary Community Corps of RC Manila Brings Free Healthcare to Calamba, Laguna

The services offered were entirely free of charge and included a wide range of medical and wellness support, such as surgeries (cleft lip, hernia, tumor removal), dental extractions, vision care (including free eyeglasses), physical checkups, feminine wellness exams (Pap smear, breast exams, bone densitometry), laboratory tests (FSB, CBC, urine analysis), special diagnostics (ECG, ultrasound, X-ray), and free medications.

This mission not only delivered essential healthcare but also nurtured hope and well-being within the community.



President Raoul Creencia Presents ORE Awards Initiative to PRA Board

PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia formally presented the proposed joint project — ORE Awards (Outstanding Retail Employees) — to the Board of Directors of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) on August 22, 2025.

The PRA Board passed a resolution approving the partnership with the Rotary Club of Manila and constituted a committee to work on the project mechanics, which includes representatives from RCM.



DISTRICT EVENT

Children's First 1,000 Days Coalition (CFDC) Leaders' Training Program



DISTRICT Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra, together with Club Presidents and District Officers of Rotary District 3810, attended the Children's First 1,000 Days Coalition (CFDC) Leaders' Training Program under the Maternal and Child Health Area of Focus of Rotary from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm last August 16, 2025 at the Manila Prince Hotel in Manila.





PDG Vince Carlos and PDG Obet Pagdanganan attended the First Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Meeting for RY 2025-2026 under Chairperson PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray last August 18, 2025 at the Manila Hotel. Pictorial of the group was held at the MacArthur Suite while dinner was held at the Champagne Room.



DISTRICT EVENT

First Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Meeting



PDG Vince Carlos



PDG Obet Pagdanganan

RECOGNITION CORNER

Rotary Club of Manila is Finalist at Rotary Regional Public Image Awards



End Polio Campaign last October 23, 2024 where Past Rotary International President/Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Rotary Foundation Mark Maloney was present in Alabang, Muntinlupa City and Laguna.

The recognition was received by DSG/PP Hermie Esguerra and Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday at the Regional Public Image Awards of Rotary Zone 10A this evening, August 23, 2025, at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel in Manila.



THE Rotary Club of Manila was one of the finalists in the **Best People of Action** category for the RY 2024-2025 with the above image we submitted where DSG/PP Hermie Esguerra was administering a polio vaccine to an indigent baby during an

RECOGNITION CORNER

Rotary Club of Manila is Finalist at Rotary Regional Public Image Awards

Rotary Club of Manila Receives Club Excellence Award for RY 2024-2025 from Rotary International



The Plaque of Recognition presented to the Rotary Club of Manila in recognition of its exceptional achievement as a FINALIST in the Regional Public Image Awards

THE Rotary Club of Manila received Club Excellence Award for RY 2024-2025 from Rotary International for fostering a positive experience for its members and reflecting the values of Rotary.

The award was signed by RI President Stephanie A. Urchick and The Rotary Foundation Chair Mark Daniel Maloney.



RECOGNITION CORNER

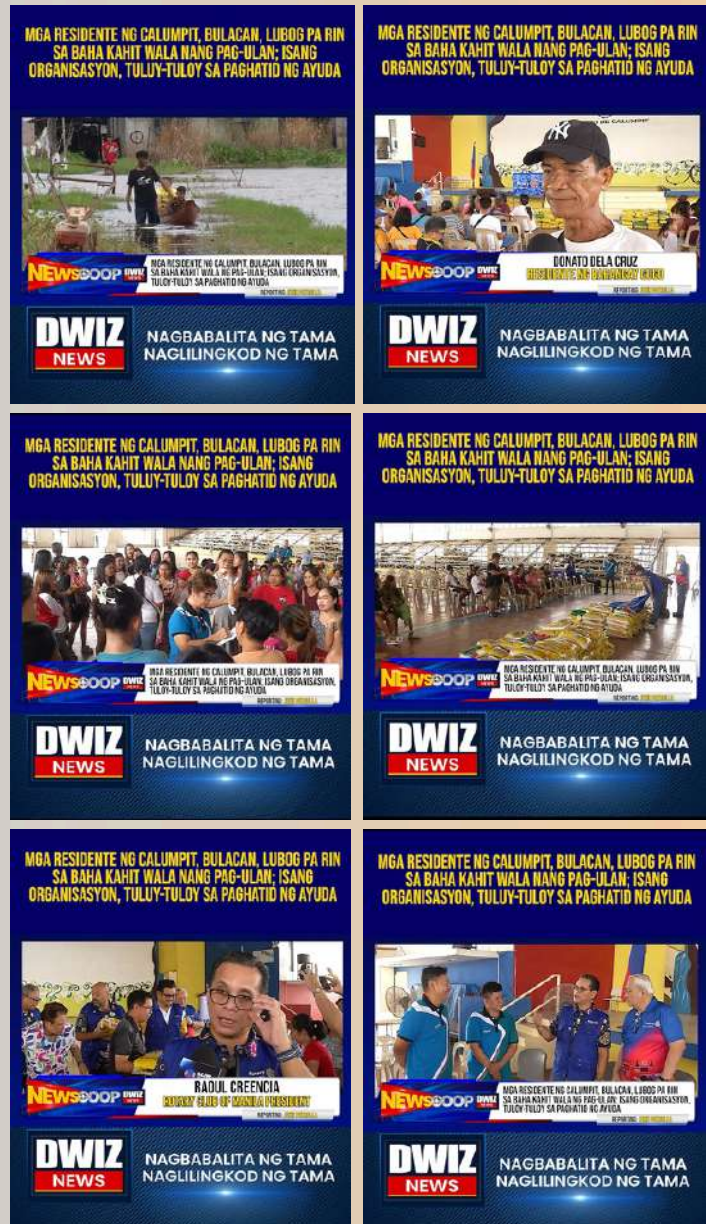
Juan Garcia, Son of Treasurer PJ Garcia, Completes Juris Doctor Degree



CONGRATULATIONS to Juan Garcia, son of Treasurer PJ Garcia and Rina de Guzman-Garcia, for successfully completing his Juris Doctor degree.

PUBLIC IMAGE

Rotary Club of Manila's Disaster Relief Operation in Calumpit, Bulacan, Featured on DWIZ News



INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Paco Manila's 34th Induction and Handover Ceremonies

Photographer

SDG Gill Francisco Manila Metro Manila 08/15/2025, 20:56

DISTRICT Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday and President Raoul Creencia as part of the group picture when they attended the 34th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Paco Manila last August 15, 2025 at the Century Seafood Restaurant in Manila.



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra and PP Jackie Rodriguez



District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra, President Raoul Creencia and Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday before the start of the 34th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Paco Manila



President Raoul Creencia with the newly inducted president of the Rotary Club of Paco Manila, Jimmy Son Go

INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Pasay MIA's 41st Handover and 42nd Induction Ceremonies



DSG Hermie Esguerra, President Raoul Creencia, and Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the 41st Handover and 42nd Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay MIA last August 19, 2025 at the Villamor Golf Club in Pasay City where UCP Gerald Isaga was inducted.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit and the 46th Handover and 47th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Cavite East

DISTRICT Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit and the 46th Handover and 47th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Cavite East last August 20, 2025 at the Fynn Boutique Hotel in Bacoor, Cavite where UCP Reynaldo Moit was inducted.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Inner Wheel Club of Manila's 77th Induction and Turnover Ceremonies



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia, Past President Boy Guevara, Director Rami Chahwan, and Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay attended the 77th Induction and Turnover Ceremonies of the Inner Wheel Club of Manila on August 22, 2025 at Manila House in BGC, Taguig City.

*President
Raoul
Creencia
with the
newly
inducted
president of
Inner Wheel
Club of
Manila,
Delby P.
Bragais*



*Inner Wheel
Club of
Manila
President
Delby P.
Bragais
(middle)
with Rotary
spouses
Myls
Creencia
(right) &
Flor
Chahwan
(left)*

INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Baguio's Induction Ceremony

PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia attended the induction ceremony of the Rotary Club of Manila's daughter club, the Rotary Club of Baguio, on August 23, 2025.

*President
Raoul
Creencia
with Rotary
Club of
Vigan*



*From left: Lady Rose and District Governor Dan Torres,
President Raoul Creencia, and Rotary Club of Baguio
President Jose Ursua*



*President Raoul
Creencia with Rotary
Club of San Fernando
(La Union)*



*President Raoul
Creencia meeting old
friends in the legal
profession: RC
Baguio PP Mia
Caved (now RTC
Judge in Baguio)*

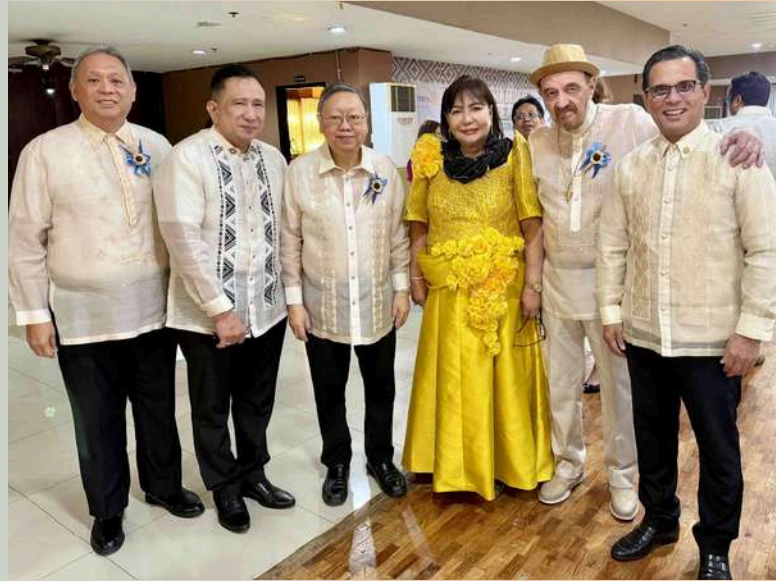
INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Manila Premier's 9th Handover and 10th Induction Ceremonies



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia attended the induction ceremony of the Rotary Club of Manila Premier (RCMP).

Above photo: President Raoul Creencia with RCMP President Cristina C Bernal



Also present were PDG Vince Carlos, PDG Rudy Bediones, PP/PDG Jackie Rodriguez, DG Mary Mei Rodrigo, and FG Alex Rodrigo



ROTATING ROTARIAN

PVP Joel Valdes Joins Circle of Filipino American Rotarians (CFAR) Fellowship Dinner with Bay Area Members



PAST Vice President Joel Valdes attended the fellowship dinner with over 20 members of the Circle of Filipino American Rotarians (CFAR) from all over the Bay Area at Hula Hoops in San Francisco on August 23, 2025.

PRID Raffy Garcia joined before flying to New York to assist in the election of the incoming RI president.



ROTATING ROTARIAN

PVP Joel Valdes Joins Circle of Filipino American Rotarians (CFAR) Fellowship Dinner with Bay Area Members



Rotary Club of San Bruno (RCSB) Philippine Global Grant (PGG) Head Meg Finones says their benefactors provided funding for their GG international partnership with RCM for at least two more medical missions.



Courtesy Call on the Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines



A courtesy call on His Excellency Endo Kazuya, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines and RCM Honorary Member, was held on August 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The attendees included President Raoul Creencia, Director Edwin Hernandez, Director Hans Palacios, Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, and DSAA John Cutter.



FELLOWSHIP

Rotary District 3810 Phenomenal Family and Friends Bowling and Dart Fellowship in Celebration of PDG Joyce Ambray's birthday



SPECIAL Assistant to the District Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday, Immediate Past Director Nagi Zeitouni and wife, Michelle, Immediate Past President Jujut Enriquez, and District Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra, together with Rotary Club of Manila 101 Past President Majella Tumangan Villaroman and husband, Rtn. Gilbert Villaroman, attended the Rotary District 3810 Phenomenal Family and Friends Bowling and Dart Fellowship in celebration of the birthday of PDG Joyce Ambray last August 16, 2025 at the Palms Country Club in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship



ALECO Monday Breakfast Fellowship held on August 25, 2025, was hosted by DBP Director/PD Jun Hallare.

Present were (from left) PD Jun Hallare, former members Mr. Jorge Salazar, Eric Severino, Past President Jackie Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay, Secretary Anton Mauricio, former member Mr. Francis Juico, Mr. Raoul Villegas, Rotarian Cris Acosta, Past Director Ner Lonzaga, Past Director Pepo Nuñez, and Past President Ebot Tan.

FELLOWSHIP

Joint Fellowship of the Directors and Officers of RC Makati, RC Makati West, and RC Manila

Chef Jessie Restaurant | August 27, 2025



Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

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

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2025-2026

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
President

EDUARDO V. ENRIQUEZ, III
Immediate Past President

RICARDO SB. GUEVARA
Vice President

MICHAEL JAAY 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