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**Charlito Martin
Rada Mendoza**

*Commissioner
Bureau of Internal Revenue*

**A Convergence
of Values, Vision, and
Global Responsibility**

The Rotary Club
of Manila's 19th
Weekly Membership
Meeting

**Born Into
the Republic
The Making of
Victor de Guzman
Garcia III**

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PROGRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 20th Weekly Membership Meeting Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: DSAA JOHN MICHAEL "John" CUTTER

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch

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

Invocation

RTN. ABDULGANI M. "Gani" MACATOMAN

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale

The Four (4) Way Test
RTN. CRISPINIANO G. "Cris" ACOSTA

Acknowledgement of Guests
DSAA JOHN MICHAEL "John" CUTTER

Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**

Birthday Celebrants

Jan. 30 Rtn. Sha Tamano

Rtn. Jet Ledda

Jan. 31 PD Oscar Del Rosario

Feb. 3 PVP Thad Liamson

Feb. 4 Rtn. Teddy Tee Jr.

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Chorale

PART II

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

1:00 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor & Speaker
PDG ALEXANDER P. "Alex" CUREG

Guest of Honor and Speaker

**HON. CHARLITO MARTIN "Charlie" R.
MENDOZA**

*Commissioner
Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)*

1:30 PM Open Forum / Q&A

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

2:00 PM Adjournment
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



THE presence of Commissioner Charlito Martin Rada Mendoza as Guest-of-Honor and Speaker at this Weekly Membership Meeting could not be more timely.

After months of public anxiety, institutional introspection, and reform work behind the scenes, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has formally lifted the suspension on tax audits — effective January 27, 2026 — not as a return to old habits, but as a decisive pivot toward a more disciplined,

transparent, and accountable system of tax administration. The resumption of audits under newly issued circulars and orders marks a clear acknowledgment of past vulnerabilities and a firm commitment to correct them.

The reforms are not cosmetic. They strike at the very points where public trust was most eroded.

The introduction of a single-instance audit per taxpayer per taxable year, enforced through an electronic Letter of Authority, decisively ends the specter of repetitive, overlapping, and sometimes harassing examinations. The automatic consolidation of existing audits beginning March 4, 2026 further signals the Bureau's resolve to simplify processes and reduce discretion that invites abuse. Just as critically, the explicit prohibition of audits in public venues restores professional boundaries long blurred, reinforcing both taxpayer dignity and institutional integrity.

Perhaps most consequential is the renewed emphasis on personal

EDITORIAL

accountability. Under the new rules, violations of audit procedures now carry administrative, civil, and even criminal consequences for erring officials. This is not merely regulatory tightening — it is a cultural reset. It reframes enforcement not as power exercised over taxpayers, but as responsibility exercised on behalf of the Republic.

These reforms reflect the governing philosophy Commissioner Mendoza brings to the Bureau: reform that is structural, data-driven, and grounded in due process. His professional journey — from private legal practice to senior revenue operations oversight and frontline customs leadership — has shaped an administrator keenly aware that credibility, once lost, can only be rebuilt through consistency, restraint, and institutional discipline.

Beyond audits, the Bureau's recent issuances reveal a broader responsiveness to economic realities and technological change.



BIR Commissioner Charlito Martin Rada Mendoza at the Bureau's first flag ceremony of 2026. Photo by Bureau of Internal Revenue Philippines

The increase in tax-exempt de minimis benefits, effective January 6, 2026, quietly but meaningfully acknowledges the pressures of inflation on Filipino workers. By raising ceilings on items such as rice subsidies and clothing allowances, the Bureau signals that revenue collection need not come at the expense of basic employee welfare.

EDITORIAL

Likewise, the extension of VAT filing deadlines for non-resident digital service providers reflects regulatory pragmatism. As the tax net expands into the digital economy, the Bureau has shown a willingness to adjust timelines when systems encounter real-world constraints — an important signal to global service providers navigating Philippine compliance for the first time.

The rollout of an enhanced electronic documentary stamp tax system and the clarified, extended deadlines for online registration of books of accounts further underscore the Bureau's digital direction. Compliance is being nudged away from paper, ambiguity, and physical presence toward traceable, system-based processes that protect both the taxpayer and the State. Taken together, these measures tell a coherent story.

This is not a Bureau retreating from enforcement, nor one blindly asserting authority. It is an

institution attempting — deliberately and publicly — to recalibrate its role: firm but fair, modern but mindful, exacting yet accountable.

For taxpayers, professionals, and civic leaders alike, the message is clear. The pause in audits was not an abdication of duty; it was an opportunity to rebuild the rules of engagement. The resumption, under reformed procedures, challenges both sides of the tax relationship to meet higher standards of conduct.

In that sense, today's conversation is not merely about tax policy. It is about trust — how it is broken, how it is rebuilt, and how institutions earn the moral authority to collect what is due. Under the current reform agenda, the Bureau of Internal Revenue appears determined to prove that reform is not an announcement, but a discipline — one that must be practiced daily, in full view of the public it serves.

**GUEST OF HONOR
AND SPEAKER**



Charlito Martin Rada Mendoza

*Commissioner
Bureau of Internal Revenue*

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. appointed Charlito Martin Rada Mendoza as Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue on November 12, 2025, entrusting him with the leadership of the country's primary revenue agency at a critical moment for reform and modernization. He brings to the role a rare combination of legal expertise, frontline operational experience, and broad fiscal policy perspective.

Before leading the Bureau, Commissioner Charlie served as DOF Undersecretary for the Revenue Operations Group from April 2024 to November 2025, overseeing the country's complex tax collection operations across both the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to ensure that both agencies meet annual revenue collection

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

Charlito Martin Rada Mendoza

Commissioner

Bureau of Internal Revenue

targets. He initiated the DOF's BRAVE—Border Security Enhancement, Revenue Collection and Revenue-Base Protection, Adaptive Regulations, Vigilant Enforcement, and Effective Engagement with Stakeholders—a campaign against smuggling and illicit trade, with digitalization at its core. With BRAVE and complementary fiscal reforms, the DOF exceeded its 2024 revenue target, posting PHP 4.42 trillion, or 16.7% of GDP, the country's highest revenue effort in 27 years.

Earlier in his public service career, Commissioner Charlie served as District Collector of the Bureau of Customs, Port of Cebu, from July 2019 to October 2022. During his tenure, the Port achieved notable gains in revenue performance and border protection. One of his enduring contributions was the institutionalization of quality management reforms, which made Cebu the first BOC revenue district to secure ISO 9001:2012 certification for its main Port and all sub-ports.

Before entering government service, Commissioner Charlie built a distinguished career in private legal practice. He began as an Associate Lawyer at Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz Law Offices, or ACCRALAW, later

joining Suarez and Narvasa Law Firm. In 2014, he co-founded the Palafox Patriarca Romero and Mendoza Law Firm and served as its first Managing Partner. Alongside his legal practice, he devoted time to legal education, teaching at San Beda University College of Law, New Era University College of Law, and San Sebastian Recoletos Institute of Law. He also lectured at the Manila Law Center of the New Era University for the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Program.

He placed third in the 2004 Philippine Bar Exams after earning his Bachelor of Laws degree from San Beda University. He is also a licensed Geodetic Engineer, having earned a degree in Geodetic Engineering from the University of the Philippines.

Grounded in integrity and professionalism, Commissioner Charlie leads the Bureau of Internal Revenue with a clear reform agenda anchored on DARES—Digital and Data Transformation, Audit Reform and Accountability, Revenue Collection and Base Protection, Employee Empowerment and Welfare Promotion, and Service Excellence and Stakeholder Engagement. Through this framework, he is steering the BIR toward a more responsive, technology-enabled, and predictable tax administration—one that strengthens public trust, supports voluntary compliance, empowers its workforce, and delivers fair and efficient service to taxpayers as partners in nation-building.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHIEF TAXMAN IS OUR GUEST SPEAKER

IN today's Weekly Membership Meeting, the Rotary Club of Manila will be greatly honored by the presence of Commissioner Charlito Martin Mendoza of the Bureau of Internal Revenue as our Guest of Honor and Speaker. His participation in this event underscores the Bureau's pivotal role in ensuring fiscal stability, promoting good governance, and supporting the government's broader development agenda. It is a privilege for us to welcome the Commissioner and to benefit from the insights of the country's chief tax administrator.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

Today's gathering presents a timely and valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the comprehensive reforms and innovative solutions that the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is currently undertaking to modernize tax administration and enhance revenue collection. These initiatives -- particularly in the areas of digitalization, process streamlining, data-driven enforcement, and taxpayer education -- reflect the Bureau's strong commitment to efficiency, transparency, and service excellence.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In an increasingly complex economic environment, the need for a responsive and forward-looking tax system cannot be overstated. The reforms being pursued by the BIR are essential not only in improving collection performance, but also in creating a fair and predictable tax regime that encourages compliance, supports business growth, and strengthens public confidence in government institutions. By embracing innovation and reform, the Bureau continues to adapt to emerging challenges while upholding its mandate to serve the Filipino people.

We also recognize that sustainable revenue generation is a shared responsibility. The continued engagement of the BIR with the private sector, professional organizations, and other stakeholders plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration, mutual understanding, and voluntary compliance. Dialogues such as this allow stakeholders to better appreciate the direction of tax policy and administration, and to align their own practices with national priorities.

I am thus extending my sincere appreciation to the Commissioner for

graciously accepting our invitation and for sharing his leadership, vision, and expertise with us. We are confident that the perspectives to be shared today will be both enlightening and inspiring, and will further strengthen cooperation between the Bureau of Internal Revenue and its stakeholders as we collectively work toward a more efficient, equitable, and sustainable tax system for the nation.

Next week, we are honored to welcome Philippine Sports Commission Chairman John Patrick Gregorio as our Guest Speaker. As the primary government agency mandated by law to formulate national sports policies, set strategic directions, and coordinate amateur sports development programs across the country, the Commission plays a vital role in nation-building. This engagement presents a timely opportunity to gain insights into the Commission's current priorities and initiatives in promoting a healthy, disciplined citizenry, as well as its ongoing efforts to support and develop elite athletes for international competitions.

A Convergence of Values, Vision, and Global Responsibility

*The Rotary Club
of Manila's
19th
Weekly
Membership
Meeting*

by PE Reginald T. Yu



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

Rotary 
District 3810

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

AT precisely 12:30 p.m. on January 29, 2026, the gavel fell and the 19th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila for Rotary Year 2025–2026 was formally called to order by President Raoul C. Creencia, setting the tone for an afternoon marked by diplomacy, fellowship, reflection, and global perspective. The historic Manila Polo Club, long a witness to pivotal conversations in Philippine civic life, once again became a venue where local leadership met international thought.



President Raoul C. Creencia called the meeting to order.

What unfolded was not merely a luncheon meeting, but a carefully choreographed gathering that reflected Rotary’s enduring role as a bridge — between nations, cultures, and ideas.

Opening Rites: Ceremony Anchored in Meaning

The meeting opened with an invocation led by former Ambassador and Rotarian **Victor G. “Vic” Garcia III**, grounding the assembly in gratitude and purpose. In a gesture both symbolic and resonant with

the day's international theme, the National Anthem of Germany was rendered, followed by the Philippine National Anthem, affirming mutual respect between host and guest nations.

The Rotary Club of Manila Hymn, sung by the **RCM World Famous Music Chorale**, reaffirmed the Club's shared identity, while the solemn recitation of The Four-Way Test, led by Past Director **Issam Eldebs**, reminded members that ethical clarity remains Rotary's moral compass in an increasingly complex world.

Fellowship and Recognition: The Human Core of Rotary

Past Sergeant-at-Arms **Günter Gerhard G. "Günter" Matschuck**, serving as Moderator, formally acknowledged the distinguished guests present — diplomatic, civic, and Rotarian — before the hall was filled with music once more as the Chorale led the Welcome Song, an audible expression of Rotary's culture of warmth and inclusivity.

The celebration of January birthday celebrants followed, honoring Rotarians **Butch Campos**, Past Director **Abe Pascual**, **Toti Cortez**, and **Danny Go**. The familiar strains of *Maligayang Bati / Happy*



Past Sergeant-at-Arms Günter Gerhard G. "Günter" Matschuck moderated the meeting.



Former Ambassador and Rotarian Victor G. "Vic" Garcia III led the invocation.



STAR Rtn. Oliver L. Pantaleon led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.

Birthday reminded everyone present that Rotary, even at its most formal, remains a fellowship rooted in personal connection.

President's Time: Leadership in Continuity

In his President's Time, President **Raoul C. Creencia** addressed the membership with the steady cadence of a leader mindful of both tradition and trajectory. His remarks reinforced the Club's commitment to relevance — locally grounded yet globally aware — and prepared the audience for a discourse that would stretch far beyond Manila, into Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and the shifting architecture of international relations.

Introducing the Guest-of-Honor

Moderator PSAA **Günter Matschuck** then delivered a thoughtful, warm, and unmistakably personal introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker — an introduction so comprehensive it unfolded over a good twenty minutes — before finally presenting His Excellency **Andreas Michael Pfaffernoschke**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Philippines.



President Raoul C. Creencia during the President's Time



Signing of the Deed of Donation (RCMFI Endowment Fund).

Seated, from left: PDG / RCMFI Chair Alexander P. "Alex" Cureg, PT Chairman Joselito H. Sibayan, PP Jujut Enriquez, and PD Philip Ong Witnessed by (standing): Sec. Anton Mauricio and Pres. Raoul C. Creencia

The introduction was both professional and affectionate, reflecting a relationship built not merely on protocol but on shared values, mutual respect, and long-standing engagement between German and Filipino communities.

A World in Flux, Anchored by Shared Principles

Ambassador Pfaffernoschke began not with geopolitics, but with gratitude — thanking the Rotary Club of Manila for the invitation, acknowledging President Creencia, Ambassador Garcia, PD Issam Eldebs, and extending special recognition to Günter Matschuck, whom he credited for personally encouraging his appearance before the Club.

Speaking with warmth and candor, the Ambassador struck a tone that was at once conversational and consequential. He reflected briefly on his tenure in the Philippines with his wife Marina, sharing their travels across the archipelago — from Iloilo's *Dinagyang* Festival to more than twenty islands visited so far — emphasizing that to truly understand the Philippines, one must go beyond Manila and encounter its people where they live and celebrate.



PSAA Günter Matschuck delivered a thoughtful, warm, and unmistakably personal introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The Ambassador anchored his address in history by quoting Dr. José Rizal, recalling the national hero's admiration for German discipline, science, and culture during his stay in Germany in the late 19th century. Rizal's completion of *Noli Me Tangere* in Berlin and the novel's first publication there were cited as enduring symbols of the deep intellectual and cultural ties between the two nations — a relationship formally established diplomatically in 1954, and now matured into what the Ambassador described as a strategic, high-stakes partnership.



*Guest of Honor and Speaker
His Excellency Andreas Michael
Pfaffernoschke, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Federal Republic of Germany to
the Philippines.*

The heart of the Ambassador's address lay in his sober assessment of the global geopolitical environment. He spoke of a world where long-held assumptions are eroding, where international law is increasingly challenged by power politics, and where the use of force to alter borders has re-entered global discourse — something he described as once unthinkable to a generation shaped by post-war Europe.

Drawing parallels between Europe and Asia, he underscored how security in Ukraine and stability in the Indo-Pacific are inextricably linked, asserting that Germany and the Philippines share a moral

obligation to defend the rules-based international order, whether in Eastern Europe or the West Philippine Sea.

In unequivocal terms, Ambassador Pfaffernoschke reaffirmed Germany's support for the Philippines in upholding UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award, stressing that freedom of navigation and respect for sovereignty are not abstract ideals but economic necessities for a trading nation like Germany, whose livelihoods depend on secure sea lanes in Southeast Asia.

He also expressed strong support for the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship, highlighting it as an opportunity for Filipino leadership to guide the region under the theme "Navigating Our Future Together," and noting the symbolic importance of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation

On economic relations, the Ambassador spoke with notable frankness. Germany remains the Philippines' largest trading partner within the EU, with trade volumes approaching €7 billion, and a substantial surplus favoring the Philippines. Yet he emphasized that trust, predictability, and ease of doing business are indispensable currencies.

While acknowledging reforms already undertaken by the Philippine government, he candidly cited persistent challenges — bureaucracy, corruption, and regulatory unpredictability—illustrating these concerns with concrete examples familiar to the business community, including issues affecting major German investors.

The Ambassador outlined expanding defense cooperation, referencing high-level visits, joint training, cybersecurity collaboration, and Germany's growing presence in the Indo-Pacific. He also highlighted Germany's €35-million climate resilience investment in the Philippines, implemented through GIZ, as evidence of long-term commitment.

Equally compelling was his emphasis on people-to-people relations: tens of thousands of Filipinos living and working in Germany, ongoing efforts to facilitate skilled labor mobility, and cultural exchanges such as the Philippines' role as Guest of Honor at the 2025 Frankfurt Book Fair.

The Ambassador concluded on a deeply personal note, praising Filipino hospitality and the enduring spirit of Bayanihan, which he described not as a slogan but a lived value that makes partnership possible

— even joyful. His closing words expressed optimism, gratitude, and a sincere affection for the Philippines, punctuated by a heartfelt *“Maraming maraming salamat po.”*



Ambassador Pfaffernoschke engaged in a Q&A session with PVP Joel Valdes, DSAA John Cutter, PD Beda Fajardo, and PD Amading Valdez.



Dialogue, Appreciation, and Closure

An Open Forum followed, allowing members to engage the Ambassador directly — an exchange emblematic of Rotary's tradition of thoughtful, respectful dialogue.

President Creencia then presented the Certificate of Appreciation, formally thanking Ambassador Pfaffernoschke for an address that was at once intellectually rigorous and profoundly relevant.



President Creencia presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Ambassador Pfaffernoschke, in the presence of PD Oscar Del Rosario, IA Nick Locsin, and PD Amading Valdez.



Ambassador Pfaffernoschke was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Manila.



At 2:00 p.m., President Creencia adjourned the meeting, closing a gathering that reaffirmed the Rotary Club of Manila's role as a convener of ideas that matter — not only to Rotarians, but to the nation and the wider world.

In an era of uncertainty, the 19th Weekly Membership Meeting stood as a reminder that principled dialogue, anchored in shared values, remains one of Rotary's greatest contributions to a world in flux.

Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT January 2026

JANUARY 2026	January 06, 2026 BSP GOVERNOR ELI M. REMOLONA JR.	January 15, 2026 CLASSIFICATION TALKS	January 22, 2026 JHMC PRES. & CEO HANJIT T. SINGH REANDI	January 29, 2026 AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES HE DR. ANDREAS MICHAEL PFAFFERNOSCHKE
MEMBERS PRESENT	49	27	29	36
MEMBERS PRESENT %	23%	13%	14%	17%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	21	8	14	22
EXEMPTED	4	2	4	5
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	74	37	47	63
Total # of Members	212	212	212	212
TOTAL %:-	35%	17%	22%	30%
ROTARACTORS	9	0	16	13
MEDIA	0	0	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	24	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	7	0	2	2
VISITING ROTARIAN	39	2	0	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	3	1	1	4
TOTAL ATTENDEES	107	30	48	55



LIST OF ATTENDEES January 29, 2026

- 1 Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- 2 Benedicto, Sixto T.
- 3 Carlos, Vicente J.
- 4 Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.
- 5 Creencia, Raoul C.
- 6 Cureg, Alexander P.
- 7 Cutter, John Michael
- 8 Davis, Raymond N.
- 9 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- 10 Egan, Brendan W.L.
- 11 Eldebs, Issam
- 12 Enriquez III, Eduardo V.
- 13 Fajardo, Beda G.
- 14 Garcia,III Victor G.
- 15 Go, Henry S.
- 16 Guevara, Ricardo S.
- 17 Hesse, Uwe
- 18 Locsin, Arsenio Z.
- 19 Lorenzana, Delfin
- 20 Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
- 21 Mauricio, Antonilo DC
- 22 Nuñez, Jr., Jose A.
- 23 Ong, Phillip L.
- 24 Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.
- 25 Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- 26 Ra, Ingill
- 27 Reynolds, David J.
- 28 Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
- 29 Roxas, Michael D.
- 30 Serapio, Carlos G.
- 31 Sibayan, Joseilto H.
- 32 Valdes, Joel C.
- 33 Valdez, Amado D.
- 34 Yu, Reginald Tieng
- 35 Valderrama, Jason
- 36 Pantaleon, Oliver

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of February 3, 2026

1 ABOY, VALENTINO G.
2 ABRIAM, ARIEL
3 ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.
4 AGNES, JERRY A.
5 ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY
6 ALDAY, ALBERT S.
7 ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.
8 ALUNAN, RAFAEL M.
9 ANDAL, AVELINO L.
10 ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.
11 ARAMBULO, JOAQUIN JR. L.
12 ARGUELLES, PABLO C.
13 AVENTURA, AVELINO JR. L.
14 BAGATSING, VALENTINO
15 BALANAY, ARIES B.
16 BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.
17 BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
18 BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.
19 BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.
20 BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.
21 BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.
22 BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR
23 BLANCO, MANUEL M.
24 BOGOVICH, JASON M.
25 BOLTON, WILHELM
26 BRANELEC, JACQUES
27 BUENDIA, CARLOS
28 CABANGON, EDGARD
29 CABUNAG, ROGELIO
30 CAMAT, NATHANIEL
31 CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.
32 CANON, RAUL JR. C.
33 CARLOS, VICENTE J.
34 CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.
35 CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
36 CATALAN, RODILLO
37 CHAHWAN, RAMI
38 CHAN, ROBERT JR.
39 CID, DEAN
40 CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.
41 COYUTO, ROBERT JR. G.
42 CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
43 CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
44 CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL
45 DAYANG, JUAN E.
46 DAVIS, RAYMOND N.
47 DE CASTRO, JUAN ARTURO ILUMINADO

48 DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR
49 DIONISIO, RAFAEL
50 DOMINGO, RICO, V.
51 DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS G.
52 DY, MANUEL
53 EGAN, BRENDAN
54 ELDEBS, ISSAM
55 ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III
56 ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
57 ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A.
58 EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.
59 EUGENIO, ERIC
60 FAJARDO, BEDA G.
61 FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
62 FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
63 GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY
64 GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.
65 GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
66 GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
67 GASPAR, FERNANDO
68 GINEZ, WINSTON M.
69 GO, DANNY C.
70 GO, HENRY S.
71 GONZALES, JONAS R.
72 GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL
73 GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY
74 GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.
75 GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
76 HALLARE, DELFIN JR.
77 HALLARE, NICOL
78 HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
79 HESSE, UWE
80 IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.
81 JUCABAN, JERIC J.
82 KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.
83 KANDA, HIROYUSI
84 KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L
85 KHO, RALPH VALENTIN
86 KLEBS, DAVID
87 KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
88 LACAMBACAL, ALVIN
89 LAYA, JAIME C.
90 LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS M.
91 LIM, RICHARD
92 LAUREL, RICARDO P.
93 LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL
94 LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

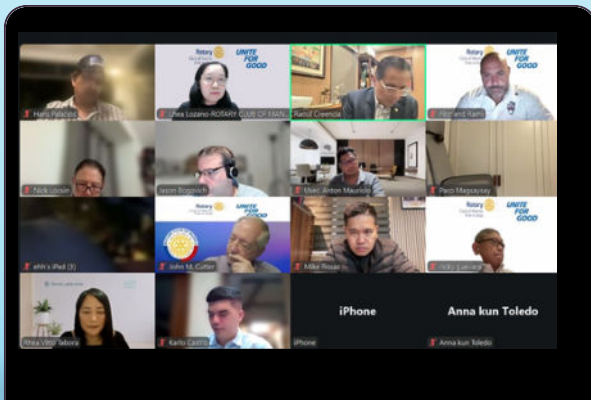
As of February 3, 2026

95	LEE, RICHARD L.	141	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
96	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.	142	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
97	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.	143	ROMUALDEZ, JOSE MANUEL G.
98	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.	144	ROÑO, MARLON
99	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.	145	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
100	LOPEZ, ANTONIO	146	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
101	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.	147	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
102	LORENZANA, DELFIN	148	SCHNEIDER, BERND
103	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.	149	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
104	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.	150	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
105	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.	151	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
106	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.	152	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
107	MANGALILE, SENEN	153	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
108	MARTINEZ, RONALD	154	SO, WARREN
109	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.	155	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN
110	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC	156	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
111	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO ROBERTO C.	157	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
112	MENDOZA, MIGUEL	158	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
113	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.	159	TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.
114	MOMMAERTS, STEVE	160	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
115	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.	161	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
116	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO	162	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
117	NONES, ROMEO C.	163	TAMESIS, CHRIS
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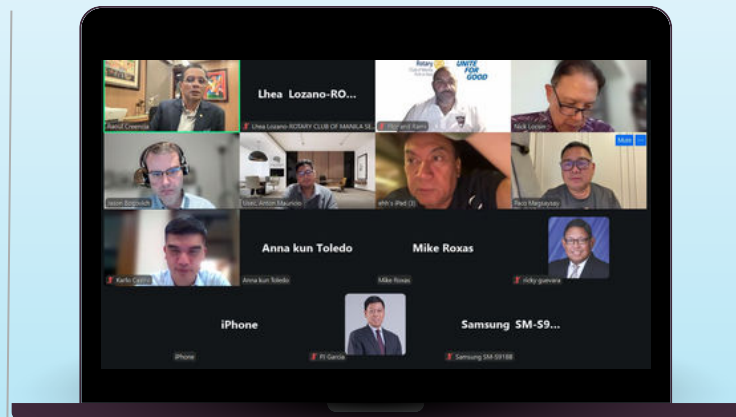
CLUB ADMINISTRATION

7th Regular BOD Monthly Meeting

THE 7th Regular Board of Directors meeting was held via Zoom last Wednesday, January 28, 2026.



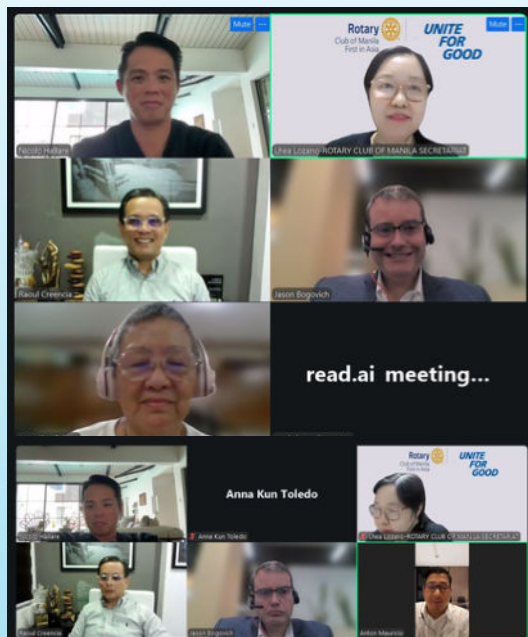
Present were President Raoul Creencia, Vice President Ricky Guevara, Directors Edwin Hernandez, Hans Palacios, Jason Bogovich, Rami Chahwan, and Warren So.



They were joined by Officers Secretary Anton Mauricio, Director-elect/Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms John Cutter, Vice President-Elect Karlo Castro, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, Treasurer PJ Garcia, Director-elect/Asst Internal Auditor Mike Roxas and Asst Secretary Paco Magsaysay. Also in the meeting was Ms. Rhea Vitto Tabora, Editorial Consultant, to discuss uploading the *Balita* to the RCM website.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Website Committee Meeting



THE RCM Website Committee met on February 2, 2026, to discuss updates, proposals, and other relevant information about the RCM website.

Present at the meeting were President Raoul Creencia, Committee Chair Rtn. Nico Hallare, Director Jason Bogovich, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Consultant Anna Kun-Toledo, and ES Lhea Lozano.

Incoming Club Secretary Albert S. Alday Meets with Secretariat for RY 2026-2027 Planning



SPECIAL Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday, as Incoming Club Secretary, met with the Secretariat of the club over lunch last February 2, 2026 at the Rotary Club of Manila Office in Manila in preparation for the upcoming Board Planning for RY 2026-2027.

PEOPLE

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

By PE Reginald T. Yu



BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

IN the great chambers where the destinies of nations are debated — where the language of law tempers the impulses of power, and where the hopes of small states must stand with dignity before the ambitions of great ones — there are diplomats whose names are etched quietly into the architecture of history. They are not conquerors, nor demagogues, nor men of spectacle. They are builders: of consensus, of institutions, of bridges across cultures and centuries.

Victor de Guzman Garcia III belongs to that lineage.



Ambassador Vic taking his oath of office as Philippine Ambassador to the Russian Federation in January 2008, following the confirmation of his appointment by the Commission on Appointments. The oath was administered by then Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto G. Romulo, a fellow member of the Rotary Club of Manila, marking a significant milestone in a distinguished diplomatic career and the beginning of his formal representation of the Philippines to the Russian Federation.

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The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

He would one day sit in the Security Council of the United Nations as a young adviser while the Cold War still divided the world into rival camps. He would later help craft the very “constitution of the oceans” that now anchors the Philippines’ sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea. He would represent his country in the nuclear councils of Vienna, in the strategic corridors of Moscow, in the humanitarian crises of Kobe and Los Angeles, and in the ceremonial heart of Malacañang, where protocol becomes the language of respect among states.

Yet long before he affixed his signature to global treaties, before he addressed assemblies and negotiated conventions, he was a child of a young republic — born into a family where diplomacy was not merely a profession but a calling, and where the service of country was woven into daily life.

His story is, in many ways, the story of Philippine diplomacy itself:

from post-war emergence to Cold War alignment,
from archipelagic assertion to multilateral leadership,
from bilateral courtesies to the forging of international law.

It is the story of how a nation of islands learned to speak with one voice in the world — and how one man, trained by history, law, and conscience, helped that voice be heard.

This is not a tale of glamour, though embassies and ceremonies would mark its chapters. It is a chronicle of patience, discipline, sacrifice, and quiet courage. It is the life of a man who believed that the true measure of diplomacy lies not in headlines, but in the slow, steadfast work of building order where chaos threatens, and understanding where mistrust prevails.

Before he became an architect of treaties, a defender of overseas Filipinos, a guardian of protocol, and a mentor to a new generation of diplomats, Vic Garcia was first a son — listening to his father recount a moment when the Philippines, newly independent, stood proudly among the nations of the world.

It is there, in that intimate moment of inheritance and aspiration, that his story truly begins.

Heirs to a Calling

On a quiet evening in Manila in the early 1950s, a young boy listened intently as his father recounted a scene that seemed drawn from the pages of a history book.

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The setting was Westminster Abbey, its ancient stone walls resonant with the weight of centuries. The occasion was June 2, 1953 — the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. But what made the story unforgettable was not the splendor of crowns and pageantry. It was the pride in his father's voice.

Ambassador Enrique Melocoton Garcia had stood there not as a subject of the British Crown, but as the diplomatic representative of a newly independent republic. For the Philippines, barely seven years free from colonial rule, it was a moment of symbolic arrival on the world stage. For his son, Victor de Guzman Garcia III, it was a moment of quiet awakening. As he listened, wide-eyed, he felt — without yet fully understanding — that the life of a diplomat was a life lived at the intersection of history and hope, where personal destiny could merge with the destiny of a nation.

Vic was born into diplomacy. His father was among the pioneers of the Philippine Foreign Service, entering the Department of Foreign Affairs at its founding in 1946, when the young republic was just beginning to define its place in a fractured postwar world. His mother, Roberta Laperal de Guzman, brought to this peripatetic life a deep sense of faith, grace, and emotional



Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Enrique M. Garcia and Dr. Roberta Laperal de Guzman Garcia in London, June 1953 — Ambassador Vic's distinguished parents, whose lives in diplomacy and public service exemplified intellect, dedication, and quiet statesmanship, laying the foundation for a family legacy of service to country and community.

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anchoring. Together, they raised their children in embassies and official residences across continents, where conversations at the dinner table often revolved around world events, state visits, and the delicate art of representing the Philippines with dignity.

From an early age, Vic learned that diplomacy was not merely about protocol and ceremony. It was about service. A diplomat, his father taught him, carries the voice of his people and the honor of his country wherever he goes. That sense of representation — of standing for something larger than oneself — would become the moral core of his career.

His formal education mirrored the breadth of his upbringing. He studied at De La Salle in Manila, then at Universidad Central in Madrid, later at University College London, and finally at Ateneo Law School. Business, political science, international affairs, and law formed a multidisciplinary foundation that equipped him to understand power, economics, culture, and legal order as interconnected forces. Europe exposed him to the long memory of nations and the institutional frameworks that governed their relations. Law trained him in precision, argument, and respect for rules — the very grammar of international relations.



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III (left) with his late brother, Bernabe, in a photograph taken in 1957, during the period when their father was serving as Consul at the Philippine Embassy in Paris, France. Bernabe would later rise to become one of the highest-ranking Filipinos in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), distinguished for his service in international development and public administration. His promising life and career were cut short when he succumbed to cancer at the young age of 48, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, dedication, and quiet commitment to global service.

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Returning to Manila, he entered Ateneo Law School at a time when the Philippines itself was navigating political and social transformation. He graduated in 1977, already determined to follow the path that had quietly beckoned since childhood. Three years earlier, in 1974, he had taken and passed the highly competitive Career Foreign Service Officer Examination, a defining threshold for those who aspired to serve the country abroad. For him, it was not simply a professional milestone; it was a personal calling fulfilled.

By the time he and his contemporaries formally completed their studies in 1977, Vic was already a young Vice-Consul at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Padre Faura. His immediate superior was Ambassador Armando D. Manalo, a brilliant diplomat and gifted writer who was then one of the closest advisers of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, General Carlos P. Romulo. Romulo — statesman, soldier, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and former President of the United Nations General Assembly — was affectionately and reverently called “The General,” a moniker he himself enjoyed.

It was Romulo who discerned the promise of the young officer. Recognizing both his legal training and his instinct for international affairs,

Romulo sent Garcia to his first overseas assignment: the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York. For a young diplomat, it was both an honor and a baptism by fire.

At the United Nations, Vic was thrust into the demanding world of multilateral diplomacy at a moment when the Cold War still defined the global order. The General Assembly was a forum of ideological contestation, decolonizing nations asserting their voices, and great powers maneuvering for influence. In committee rooms and plenary halls, he learned that diplomacy was rarely about simple victories. It was about building coalitions, crafting language that could command consensus, and reconciling national interest with global responsibility.

He witnessed firsthand the workings of the Security Council, on which the Philippines would later serve from 1980 to 1981. He observed how international peace and security were debated under the shadow of superpower rivalry, and how smaller states, through preparation and moral clarity, could still make their voices heard. He worked closely with seasoned diplomats, including Ambassador Alejandro Yango, whose mastery of UN procedure and negotiation became an informal school for the young officer.

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These early years in New York were formative in the deepest sense. They exposed Vic to the complexity of multilateralism, where one negotiated not with a single counterpart but with the entire community of nations. They also taught him patience, discipline, and the importance of law as a stabilizing force in international affairs.

From the vantage point of later decades, he would look back on this period as the crucible of his professional identity. The foundations laid at the United Nations — under the mentorship of Romulo and Manalo, amid the ideological cross-currents of the Cold War — would serve him well as he rose through the ranks of the Foreign Service. Through sheer hard work, perseverance, and sacrifice, he would eventually be appointed Ambassador in 1989, at the age of forty-two — one of the youngest in the annals of Philippine diplomatic history.

The boy who had once listened to stories of coronations and chancelleries had now entered the world where history was made not in spectacle alone, but in the painstaking work of dialogue, negotiation, and law. Born into the republic, shaped by family, education, and early exposure to the highest councils of nations, Victor Garcia III

had begun a journey that would carry him from the halls of the United Nations to the front lines of treaty-making, crisis management, and statecraft — always guided by the quiet conviction that to serve one's country abroad was both a privilege and a solemn trust.



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III presenting his credentials to His Excellency Milan Kučan, President of the Republic of Slovenia — during a formal state ceremony that signified the official start of his diplomatic mission and reaffirmed the commitment of the Philippines and Slovenia to deepen friendship, dialogue, and cooperation across political, cultural, and economic spheres.

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Architect of the Oceans, Envoy of the Filipino People

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, Vic had moved beyond the apprenticeship of diplomacy into its most demanding arena: the crafting of international law itself. The United Nations was no longer merely a forum he observed; it was a laboratory in which he helped forge the rules that would govern relations among states for generations.

Among the most consequential chapters in the diplomatic life of Victor de Guzman Garcia III was his participation in the negotiations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) — a treaty often described as the “constitution of the oceans.” For the Philippines, an archipelagic nation whose history, security, and economic future are inseparable from the sea, the stakes could not have been higher.

Garcia, however, has always been careful to place his own role in its proper historical context. At the time of the negotiations, he was still a young officer of the Foreign Service, serving as an adviser and member of the Philippine delegation. He does not, and has never, claimed personal credit for the intellectual leadership or authorship of the Philippine position. That distinction rightly belongs to the brilliant Senator Arturo M. Tolentino, the principal

architect and indefatigable champion of the Philippine archipelagic doctrine, together with the country’s foremost legal luminaries who formed the core of the delegation — former Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza, former Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos, Ambassador Pablo Suarez, and other senior diplomats and jurists whose scholarship and statesmanship secured one of the most important victories of Philippine diplomacy in the twentieth century.

The negotiations themselves were arduous and historic. Maritime powers, concerned with freedom of navigation, and developing and archipelagic states, determined to safeguard their security and resources, had to reconcile competing interests in order to establish a comprehensive legal regime for the world’s oceans. For the Philippines, the recognition of the archipelagic concept — treating the waters enclosed by the outermost islands as an integral part of national territory — was a matter of sovereignty and survival. Garcia witnessed at close range how law, diplomacy, and national vision converged in the painstaking search for consensus.

UNCLOS was opened for signature at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on December 10, 1982. The Philippine delegation to this historic event was led by Senator Tolentino, with Ambassador Pablo Suarez, Ambassador Reynaldo Arcilla,

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and First Secretary of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York, Victor G. Garcia III, as members. After affixing his own signature to the Convention, Senator Tolentino asked the three other members of the delegation to sign individually as well, as each had been granted full powers by the President of the Philippines to do so. Thus, four Filipinos formally signed UNCLOS on behalf of the Republic. Of the four, it is Garcia who remains today the sole surviving signatory.

He has always regarded this not as a personal accolade, but as a solemn historical trust: to be a living witness to the moment when the Philippines, through the vision of its statesmen and the rigor of its legal minds, helped shape the rules that now govern the seas. Decades later, when the 2016 Arbitral Award would affirm the country's sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea under UNCLOS, Garcia would look back on Montego Bay not with claims of authorship, but with quiet gratitude that he had been present at the creation of a legal framework that continues to safeguard the nation's maritime destiny.

For him, the experience was formative in a deeper sense. It revealed how a small and developing country, armed with

principled arguments and guided by exceptional leadership, could leave an enduring imprint on international law. It also reinforced the lesson that would define his career: that in diplomacy, true legacy is not measured by personal prominence, but by faithful participation in causes that outlive one's own name.



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III presenting his credentials to His Excellency Stjepan Mesić, President of the Republic of Croatia — an official state ceremony marking the formal commencement of his duties as the Philippines' representative, and symbolizing the strengthening of diplomatic relations, mutual respect, and cooperation between the Philippines and Croatia.

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Rome and the Human Face of Diplomacy

After the high drama of global negotiations, Vic's career took him into the equally demanding world of consular and bilateral diplomacy. As Minister and Consul-General in Rome, he confronted the realities faced by thousands of Filipinos working abroad, many of whom lacked proper documentation and lived in precarious conditions. Europe, he learned, was not only a theater of grand politics but also a landscape of human stories — of caregivers, domestic workers, and professionals whose welfare depended on the vigilance of their embassy.

Rome was also the seat of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), where Vic represented the Philippines in discussions that linked diplomacy to development. Through persistent engagement, the Philippines secured loans and technical assistance for agricultural programs, translating multilateral dialogue into concrete benefits for farmers back home. It was diplomacy measured not in communiqués, but in livelihoods.

His exposure to European integration deepened his understanding of sovereignty in a regional context. The

European Union, he observed, balanced shared regulations with enduring national identities — a tension that resonated with his own country's efforts to assert independence while participating in regional and global institutions.



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III in official dialogue with His Excellency Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia — an engagement reflecting high-level diplomatic exchange and the Philippines' commitment to fostering constructive relations, mutual understanding, and cooperation with Armenia in the realms of politics, culture, and international affairs.

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Kobe, Earthquakes, and Resilience

In Japan, as Consul-General in Kobe and Osaka, Vic encountered diplomacy under the shadow of natural disaster. The Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995 devastated Kobe, leaving thousands dead and entire neighborhoods in ruins. The Philippine community was not spared, and the consulate became both a refuge and a coordination center.

Crisis management, he discovered, demanded the same qualities as high-level negotiation: calm under pressure, clarity of communication, and empathy. The experience reinforced his conviction that the essence of diplomacy lay not only in representing the state, but in protecting its citizens wherever they might be.

Los Angeles and the Power of a Global Community

If Kobe tested his crisis response, Los Angeles tested his capacity for large-scale community mobilization. As Consul-General in the early 1990s, he oversaw one of the largest Filipino populations abroad, concentrated in Southern California and extending to parts of Texas, Arizona, and Nevada. The consulate's workload was relentless, ranging from labor disputes to immigration concerns, from cultural promotion to emergency assistance.



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III with his wife, Connie, in a historic moment with the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan — captured during an official engagement that reflects the stature of Philippine-U.S. relations and the presence of Filipino diplomacy at the highest levels of global leadership. The photograph symbolizes an era when personal rapport and statesmanship helped strengthen bilateral ties, with Ambassador Garcia representing the Philippines alongside world leaders, and Connie by his side as a steadfast partner throughout a lifetime of public service and international engagement.

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Then, in 1991, Mount Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines, unleashing one of the largest volcanic events of the 20th century. From Los Angeles, Vic spearheaded fundraising efforts among Filipino-American organizations, coordinating with the Philippine Red Cross and the Commission on Overseas Filipinos. The campaign raised approximately one million US dollars for the victims — a testament to the solidarity of a diaspora and the leadership that could harness it.

For Vic, this episode illustrated a central truth: that the nation extended far beyond its geographic borders. The Filipino community abroad was not merely a constituency to be served, but a strategic and moral asset, capable of mobilizing resources and advocacy in times of need.

Vienna: At the Crossroads of Global Governance

Professionally and personally, Vienna would become the most fulfilling chapter of his diplomatic life. Appointed Ambassador to Austria and concurrently Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna, he found himself at the nexus of some of the world's most critical institutions: the International Atomic Energy Agency



Presentation of credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to His Excellency Thomas Klestil, President of the Republic of Austria, at the historic Hofburg Palace in Vienna — an official diplomatic ceremony signifying the formal assumption of duties and the beginning of a mission to strengthen bilateral relations, mutual respect, and cooperation between the Philippines and Austria.

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(IAEA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

In this setting, his legal acumen and multilateral experience converged. He played an active role in negotiations that led to the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption — landmark instruments aimed at combating human trafficking, terrorism, cybercrime, and systemic graft. These treaties reflected a growing global consensus that security in the modern world depended as much on the rule of law as on military strength.

At the IAEA, he engaged in discussions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, advocating for technical assistance to developing countries. It was a delicate balance: promoting access to nuclear technology for medicine, agriculture, and power generation, while supporting strict safeguards to prevent proliferation. The role required both scientific literacy and political sensitivity — qualities he had cultivated through years of interdisciplinary study and practice.

Vienna was also where his family's own diplomatic legacy took a generational turn. His son, Hendrik, pursued



Souvenir portrait of His Excellency Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria, taken during Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III's farewell call — an image marking the conclusion of a diplomatic mission and symbolizing the mutual respect, cordial relations, and enduring friendship forged between the Philippines and Austria during his tenure.

advanced studies in international affairs at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy and later joined the Philippine Foreign Service, eventually rising to become Chief of Mission and a future Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. . His daughter, Roxanne, built a career at the IAEA, overseeing technical assistance programs for developing countries. For Vic, there was quiet pride in seeing the values of service and international engagement take root in the next generation.

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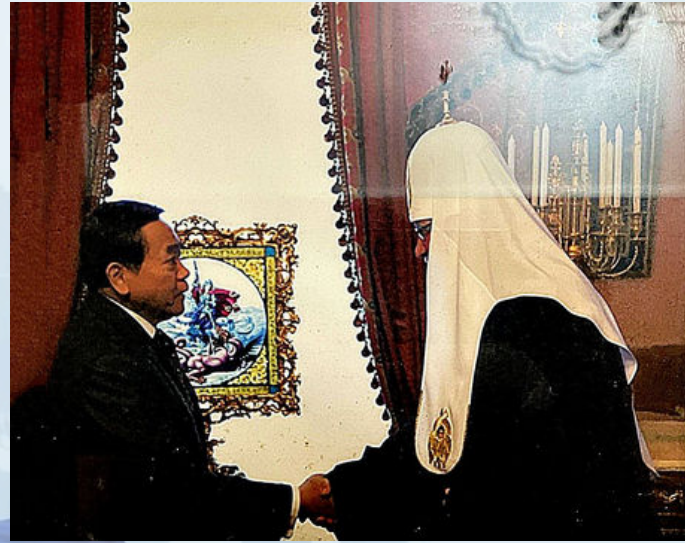
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The Diplomat as Treaty-Maker

Across these varied assignments — Rome, Kobe, Los Angeles, Vienna — Vic's role evolved from representative to architect, from advocate to negotiator of global norms. Whether crafting provisions on maritime sovereignty, mobilizing aid for disaster victims, or shaping conventions against crime and corruption, he demonstrated a consistent philosophy: that diplomacy must be anchored in law, animated by compassion, and guided by a clear sense of national interest.

He believed that firmness and courtesy were not opposites but complements. One could defend a country's position with resolve while remaining open to dialogue and compromise. This approach, honed in committee rooms and crisis centers alike, would later prove invaluable when he took on one of the most challenging postings of his career — representing the Philippines in the heart of a resurgent great power.

That next chapter would take him to Moscow, into the strategic calculations of a nation described by Winston Churchill as “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma,” and into a world where history, power, and national interest intersected with renewed intensity.



A courtesy call on His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, Supreme Head of the Russian Orthodox Church and Patriarch of All Rus', the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians across Russia and beyond. As the highest authority in the Orthodox world of Rus', he stands as the Eastern Christian counterpart to Pope Leo XIV in the Roman Catholic tradition, embodying centuries of faith, history, and ecclesiastical leadership.

Moscow, Malacañang, and the Meaning of a Life in Diplomacy

On a cold winter morning in 2008, Vic arrived in Moscow to assume one of the most demanding posts of his career: Ambassador of the Philippines to the Russian Federation, with concurrent accreditation to Armenia, Belarus, and

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Ukraine. The city was wrapped in snow and history, its grand avenues and onion-domed cathedrals bearing the weight of empire, revolution, and renewed great-power ambition.

In his mind echoed the words of Winston Churchill, who had once described Russia as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma,” adding that the key to understanding it lay in its national interest. Vic would soon find that this insight was as relevant in the twenty-first century as it had been in the twentieth.

Russia, a permanent member of the UN Security Council and heir to the strategic legacy of the Soviet Union, was asserting its place in a changing global order. It viewed its near abroad, particularly Ukraine, as part of its historical and security sphere. While the Philippines, anchored in international law and a treaty alliance with the United States, would later vote against Russia’s actions in Ukraine, Vic’s tenure was marked by professionalism and mutual respect. There were no outstanding bilateral disputes, and he was received with the full courtesies due an ambassador, including audiences at official functions with President Vladimir Putin and exchanges with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and senior Kremlin advisers.



Ambassador Victor “Vic” Garcia III presenting his credentials to His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine — at a formal ceremony marking the commencement of his service as the Philippines’ Ambassador, and affirming the mutual commitment of both nations to strengthen diplomatic relations, promote cooperation, and uphold friendship and understanding between their peoples.

Beyond geopolitics, he encountered a Russia of immense cultural depth: the music of Tchaikovsky, the ballets of the Bolshoi, the literary heritage of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. Even language became a bridge. Though Russian was notoriously difficult, he and his wife, Connie, took the effort to learn enough to navigate daily life, discovering along the way that

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Tagalog was being taught at Moscow State University by Russian scholars who had studied in the Philippines. It was a reminder that cultural diplomacy often runs quietly beneath the currents of power politics.

From Moscow, Vic reflected on the evolving landscape of international relations. The Cold War certainties of his early career had given way to a multipolar world in which the Philippines sought a calibrated balance — friend to all, foe to none — while steadfastly defending its sovereignty and rights under international law. It was the same philosophy that underpinned the country's reliance on UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award in the West Philippine Sea, a legal framework he himself had helped craft decades earlier.

The Art of Protocol and the Theater of the State

If Moscow represented the geopolitics of power, his earlier service as Chief of Protocol of the Department of Foreign Affairs had immersed him in the theater of state. In Malacañang Palace, where the rituals of the republic unfold, Vic was responsible for ensuring that the courtesies of diplomacy were observed with precision and respect. From arranging state visits to organizing the

President's *vin d'honneur* for the diplomatic corps, he learned that symbolism, when properly understood, could convey messages of amity, equality, and national dignity more eloquently than words.

The role demanded an encyclopedic knowledge of ambassadors, precedence, and protocol, and a temperament that



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III with His Excellency Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus — captured during an official diplomatic encounter that reflects the conduct of Philippine foreign relations at the highest level, underscoring engagement, dialogue, and the strengthening of ties between the Philippines and Belarus.

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President Vladimir Putin formally receives Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III at the Kremlin in 2008, marking the commencement of his diplomatic mission as Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Russian Federation. The audience, held in accordance with long-established state protocol, signified the official presentation of credentials and the start of Ambassador Garcia's service in Moscow, affirming mutual respect and the intent of both nations to strengthen bilateral relations, dialogue, and cooperation at the highest level of government.

During a formal state ceremony in Moscow, broadcast nationwide on Russian television, the President of the Russian Federation received the Letters of Credence of the Philippine Ambassador, marking the official assumption of his duties as envoy to the Russian Federation. The event, shown live to a national audience, symbolized the establishment of full diplomatic representation and the strengthening of bilateral relations between the Philippines and Russia, highlighting the solemn protocols and traditions that accompany the presentation of credentials at the highest level of state.

combined firmness with tact. A single misstep could cause embarrassment; a well-executed ceremony could strengthen relationships. For Vic, protocol was not mere formality. It was a language of respect, a way of acknowledging the sovereignty and culture of others while affirming one's own.

In negotiations, he carried the same balance. Courtesy opened doors; firmness protected interests. He believed in first understanding the other side's perspective, then seeking a middle ground without surrendering principle. It was a method he had refined from the Security Council to treaty committees, from consular crises to bilateral talks.

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Family: The Quiet Pillar of a Public Life

Behind the public roles stood a family that bore the weight of constant relocation and adjustment. His wife, Connie, was, in his words, “the perfect ambassador’s wife,” an indispensable partner who managed residences, hosted counterparts, and created an atmosphere of warmth that complemented official engagements. In diplomacy, social functions are not peripheral; they are extensions of policy, spaces where trust is built over conversation and shared meals. Connie’s grace and organizational skill made their homes abroad true extensions of the Philippine mission. Their children, Hendrik and Roxanne, grew up across cultures, experiencing both the privilege and the disruption that come with a diplomat’s life. They learned early that friendships might be temporary and that schools would change, sometimes abruptly. Yet these very disruptions nurtured resilience and a global outlook.

In Vienna, the family’s story came full circle. Hendrik earned a master’s degree at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy and later joined the Philippine Foreign Service, eventually rising to become Chief of Mission II and on the cusp of appointment as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He would also



Garcia family portrait, rendered in oil on canvas — an enduring work of art that captures not only likeness but lineage, preserving in rich color and careful brushstrokes the heritage, unity, and shared history of a family whose story is woven into generations of service, faith, and tradition.

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Renewal of wedding vows and celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary at the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel on December 19, 2025 — a deeply meaningful milestone marking five decades of love, partnership, and shared journey in life and service. The solemn and joyous ceremony was officiated by His Excellency Archbishop Charles John Brown, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, lending both spiritual grace and diplomatic distinction to a golden jubilee of marriage.

obtain a second master's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, continuing the tradition of intellectual rigor and public service. Roxanne, for her part, joined the International Atomic Energy Agency, overseeing technical assistance programs that brought peaceful nuclear



Ambassador Vic with his children and grandchildren during their family vacation in Bali, December 2025–January 2026 — a joyful gathering across generations, celebrating time together, shared memories, and the quiet blessings of family life. Set against the serene beauty of Bali, the moment captures not only a holiday, but the enduring bonds of love, laughter, and legacy that continue to grow with each passing generation.

applications to developing countries. For their father, these paths were a source of deep pride — not as personal achievements, but as evidence that the values of service and global engagement had taken root in the next generation.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

Faith, Purpose, and Service Beyond Retirement

Throughout his career, Vic drew strength from faith and a sense of purpose. He believed that ethical leadership meant leading by example, telling the truth, treating colleagues with respect, and inspiring them to reach their full potential. These principles sustained him through crises, difficult negotiations, and the inevitable disappointments that accompany public life.

After retiring from active diplomatic service, he did not withdraw from engagement. He assisted in family enterprises and devoted time to the Lourdes Grotto Shrine Foundation in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, which serves pilgrims and supports charitable activities. He also became involved in the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, contributing to policy discussions and promoting international understanding. For him, retirement was not an end, but a transition from official duty to civic and spiritual service.

Rotary: Fellowship and Service Above Self

Parallel to his diplomatic life ran another thread of service: his membership in the Rotary Club of Manila. Inducted in 1997,



Renewal of wedding vows and celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III and his wife, Connie Guanzon, held at the elegant Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel on December 19, 2025 — an intimate and dignified gathering commemorating five decades of enduring love, partnership, and shared dedication to family, faith, and public service, set against one of the country's most storied heritage venues.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

with Past District Governor Vince Carlos as his sponsor, he found in Rotary a community that resonated with his own ideals of public service and ethical conduct. The club's Four-Way Test — truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all — mirrored the values he sought to uphold in diplomacy.

Rotary provided a platform for fellowship that transcended borders. Wherever he was posted, his membership opened doors to clubs abroad, reinforcing the idea that service and goodwill form a universal language. He took particular pride in the heritage of the Rotary Club of Manila as the oldest and largest in Asia, and in its role in fostering people-to-people connections, including through the recognition of foreign ambassadors who had contributed to Philippine relations.

Right photo: Golf Diplomacy at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club with Rotary Club of Manila Past President Boy Guevara, Mandaluyong City Mayor Ben Abalos, His Excellency Kasuya Endo, Ambassador of Japan, and Pastor Peter Tan-Chi — an afternoon where fairways became venues for fellowship, dialogue, and the strengthening of friendships across civic, diplomatic, and faith communities, reflecting how sport can quietly build bridges and nurture goodwill among leaders.



Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III at a Rotary Club of Manila Weekly Membership Meeting with his wife, Connie, alongside RCM President Raoul and "Boy" Arteche of the Rotary Club of Makati — an occasion marked by warm fellowship and the gathering of Rotary leaders, reflecting enduring friendships and the shared commitment to service, leadership, and Rotary ideals.



BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

A Life Framed by Law, Service, and History

As Vic looked back on a career spanning four decades, he found it difficult to single out one defining moment. The signing of UNCLOS in Montego Bay stood out, as did the negotiation of conventions against transnational crime and corruption, the management of crises from earthquakes to volcanic eruptions, and the representation of the Philippines in capitals and international organizations across the globe. Each assignment, he believed, had demanded its own form of courage and creativity.

He often reflected on the figures who had inspired him: his father, Ambassador Enrique Garcia, who rose from the province of Aklan to become a pioneer of Philippine diplomacy; national heroes such as José Rizal and Apolinario Mabini; statesmen like Manuel Quezon; and global leaders from Abraham Lincoln to Winston Churchill. From them, and from his own mentors in the Department of Foreign Affairs, he drew lessons on leadership, sacrifice, and the enduring power of ideas.

If he were to title his memoir, he said, it would be *“Why Be an Ambassador?”*
The



Ateneo Law School Grand Homecoming celebrating 88 Years of Shades of Blue, with Atty. Rick Bernabe, Ambassador Vic's classmate former Supreme Court Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe, and Atty. Jose Malang, on October 18, 2024 — an evening of fellowship and remembrance honoring the enduring legacy, excellence, and camaraderie of the Ateneo Law community across generations.

answer, implicit in the story of his life, lay in the opportunity to serve something larger than oneself — to give voice to a nation, to protect its people, and to contribute, however modestly, to the architecture of peace and order.

To young Filipinos considering the Foreign Service, his counsel was both inspiring and candid. Diplomacy, he would say, offers the privilege of

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

representing the country, of exploring cultures, and of participating in the making of history. But it is not a path to wealth or glamour. It is a vocation of sacrifice, sustained by patriotism and a commitment to the common good.

In the end, Vic measured success not by rank or decoration, but by fidelity to purpose. He had sought to uphold the interests of the Philippines, to defend its citizens in distress, to strengthen the rule of law, and to build bridges of understanding in a world often divided by fear and ambition. From the boy who once listened to tales of coronations to the statesman who helped shape the law of the seas and the conventions of global justice, his journey embodied the quiet heroism of public service.

It was a life lived, in the fullest sense, in the service of the Republic.



Ambassador Vic singing his heart out at the De La Salle University Class of '69 55th Homecoming Jubilee — an evening of nostalgia, camaraderie, and celebration, where lifelong friendships were rekindled and memories of youth and shared journeys were brought vividly back to life through music, laughter, and the enduring spirit of the La Sallian brotherhood.



Left photo: Ambassador Vic with his Ateneo Law School classmates and Aquila Legis Fraternity brothers — Atty. Jesus Abeleda, former MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia, and former Supreme Court Justice Mariano del Castillo — at a gathering held on October 18, 2024, at Shangri-La at the Fort. The occasion was marked by warm fellowship and shared memories, celebrating lifelong bonds forged in the halls of the Ateneo and strengthened through decades of service in law, government, and the judiciary.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

Epilogue: Why Be an Ambassador?

In the autumn of his life, when official titles had been set aside and the diplomatic passport had finally been returned, Vic often reflected on a question he once posed to himself and later to generations of young Filipinos:

“Why be an ambassador?”

The answer, he knew, could never be reduced to rank, ceremony, or privilege. It lay instead in the long arc of service that began with a boy listening to stories of Westminster Abbey and ended with a statesman who had helped write the law of the seas, defend migrant workers, negotiate global treaties, and represent the Philippines in the councils of great powers.

To be an ambassador, in his understanding, was to become the living bridge between history and hope.

He had stood in the negotiating halls of Montego Bay as the Philippines secured its maritime soul.

He had spoken in Vienna for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and for the global war against crime and corruption.



Featured in the Sunday Life section of The Philippine Star on February 3, 2002, this milestone article tells the story of three generations of public service in the Garcia family — highlighting a legacy rooted in the Philippine Foreign Service and international diplomacy. It traces the family's continuing commitment to representing the country abroad, leadership in multilateral institutions, and advocacy for developing nations, showing how each generation carried forward a tradition of excellence, patriotism, and service on the global stage.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

He had walked the snow-covered streets of Moscow while balancing principle and pragmatism amid great-power rivalry.

He had comforted distressed Filipinos after earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, mobilized diaspora compassion across oceans, and safeguarded dignity through the quiet precision of protocol.



Ateneo Law School Class of 1977 reunion. Victor's completion of his law degree was delayed when he successfully passed the highly competitive Foreign Service Entrance Examinations in 1974, leading him to enter government service early and begin a distinguished career in diplomacy while his law studies were temporarily set aside.



The Ateneo Law School Alumni Association, Inc. confers a special award on Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the Philippine Foreign Service, particularly for his role in providing legal assistance and counsel to Filipinos overseas, and for his efforts in strengthening international cooperation through the promotion of trade, investment, and technology transfer — an honor that reflects both professional excellence and dedicated service to country.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

Yet perhaps his most enduring legacy was not written in treaties or communiqués, but in people.

In his son, Hendrik, now himself a rising diplomat of the Republic.

In his daughter, Roxanne, advancing development through international institutions.

In the countless young foreign service officers he examined, mentored, and inspired.

In Rotarians who saw in him the living embodiment of Service Above Self.

And in a nation whose maritime rights and diplomatic stature rest in part on foundations he helped lay.

He had lived through eras — the Cold War, the birth of multilateral law, the re-emergence of great-power rivalry — and in each, he chose the same compass: **national interest anchored in international law, pursued with courtesy, courage, and conscience.**

For him, diplomacy was never transactional. It was moral.

It was the disciplined pursuit of peace.

It was the art of defending one's country without losing one's humanity.

It was, at its core, an expression of love for country.



Official portrait of Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia with his wife of fifty years, Connie Guanzon — an image that reflects not only a lifetime of shared love and partnership, but also the quiet strength behind decades of public service, diplomacy, and devotion to family, captured in a moment that honors both personal legacy and enduring commitment.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III



Ambassador Victor Garcia III with Her Excellency Yuki Takasu, Ambassador of Japan, and Mrs. Connie Garcia, at a reception graciously hosted by His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco, in the Principality of Monaco, 2002 — an evening that brought together distinguished members of the diplomatic corps and international leaders in a setting of elegance and cordial state fellowship.

And so, when asked how he wished to be remembered, he did not speak of honors or decorations, though they came. He spoke instead of having lived a **purposeful life** — as a lawyer, as a husband, as a father, as a Rotarian, and above all, as a servant of the Republic.

A life that proved that a boy from Manila, raised in chancelleries and classrooms, guided by faith and family, could one day help shape the law of oceans, the fight against global crime, and the dignity of a nation among nations.

A life that answered, in full:

“Why be an ambassador?”

Because in a world of conflict and uncertainty,
someone must carry the flag not in battle,
but in dialogue;
not in conquest,
but in conscience;
not in silence,
but in the steady, principled voice of a people.

BORN INTO THE REPUBLIC

The Making of Victor de Guzman Garcia III

Victor Garcia

DIPLOMAT

A paragon of diplomatic excellence and influential leadership, Victor G. Garcia III embodies the true essence of an ambassador who made remarkable impact. With nearly four decades of distinguished service in the Philippine Foreign Service, he has shaped the country's international relations through unwavering dedication, strategic vision, and exemplary character.

Throughout his tenure, Ambassador Garcia has held pivotal positions both at home and abroad, including postings at the United Nations in New York, the Philippine embassies in Rome and Vienna, and consulates in Kobe, Osaka, and Los Angeles. His leadership during critical moments, such as the aftermath of the 1995 Kobe earthquake, showcased his ability to influence positively under pressure—immediately assisting Filipinos affected by the disaster and facilitating the repatriation of victims' remains.

Elevated to the esteemed rank of Ambassador Class I in 1999, he became one of the youngest career officers, a testament to his influence and respect within the diplomatic community. His diplomatic efforts have consistently advanced the Philippines' national security, economic interests, and the welfare of overseas Filipinos—core pillars of Philippine foreign policy.

Ambassador Garcia has degrees in business administration and law, supplemented by studies in political science and international affairs. Among his numerous awards include the Distinguished Service Award and decorations from Austria, Russia, and Japanese prefectures.

His philosophy on influence emphasizes respect, integrity, and character—values he exemplifies daily. He believes that effective influence can be a force for good, inspiring others to act in ways that benefit society. As a leader, he advocates for responsible conduct, service to others, and active participation in charitable causes like the Philippine Cancer Society.

Ambassador Victor "Vic" Garcia III, honored as one of 2025's "Men of Exemplary Influence" — a recognition bestowed on individuals whose lives and careers have made a profound and lasting impact on society. The award celebrates his decades of distinguished service in the Philippine Foreign Service, marked by principled leadership, diplomatic excellence, and unwavering commitment to advancing the nation's interests abroad. From key multilateral postings to ambassadorial assignments in Europe and beyond, and from crisis leadership during critical moments to sustained advocacy for Filipinos overseas, Ambassador Garcia's career reflects integrity, strategic vision, and a deep sense of public duty. This distinction affirms not only his professional achievements, but also his enduring influence as a statesman, mentor, and role model whose life continues to inspire future generations in public service and diplomacy.

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

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


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Robotics, for better or for worse



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

United States President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order assuring the global dominance of the US in artificial intelligence through deregulation and the pre-emption of state AI laws. And just a week ago in Davos, Switzerland, global leaders grappled with a critical challenge: AI overregulation stifles innovation and economic growth, while underregulation invites safety risks and ethical dilemmas.

RELEVANTLY, I WATCHED ONLINE days ago a video of five robo-dogs dancing to the tune of Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now" on "America's Got Talent." The synchronization and creativity were truly amazing. At first, they seemed like toys, but they were actually "physical AI"—the next major wave of AI-driven innovations that can perceive, understand, and act autonomously—nay, independently—in the real, physical world, not just in the digital space.

So, too, the world's most advanced robotic technologies were featured at the 2026 Annual Consumer Electronics Show in Nevada, USA. Visitors at CES were stunned to witness something that would have been impossible years ago. Boston Dynamics, under Hyundai Motor Co., unveiled the latest on its humanoid robot named "Atlas."

While many companies are developing humanoids, Atlas stands out for its 360 degrees sensing and certified safety system, allowing it to detect people and hazards reliably. It can work autonomously, share intelligence with other robots, replace its own batteries, and perform tasks ranging from carrying heavy objects to running, crawling, and even breakdancing.

Atlas was just one of the many exhibits at CES. AI and robotics advances in healthcare, energy, mobility, enterprise, entertainment, and smart homes were also showcased, moving from theory and digital space to practical, real-world applications that are seamlessly integrating into our lives.

The term AI has become ubiquitous in corporate meetings and organizational programs only recently. Yet, while many are still

becoming uncertain. Similar trends are expected to affect many other companies that rely on repetitive, high-volume tasks.

In customer service, AI chatbots and assistants are increasingly taking over routine business process outsourcing work. Many Philippine BPO firms have adopted AI and robotic process automation. While automation boosts productivity and creates new roles in AI support, cybersecurity, analytics, and tech management, it also raises concerns about job displacement in a sector that employs over 1.6 million full-time workers who contribute significantly to the Philippine economy.

WHAT WE NEED IS ADAPTIVE GOVERNANCE—clear policies, equitable transitions, and upskilling programs to keep pace with rapid technological advances. The benefits of AI and bots are compelling, particularly in health care. I was even scheduled for a minimally invasive, robot-assisted spine surgery that had to be postponed to fully heal from a throat issue needed for safe intubation, an issue I raised with and answered by ChatGPT and confirmed by my competent surgeon.

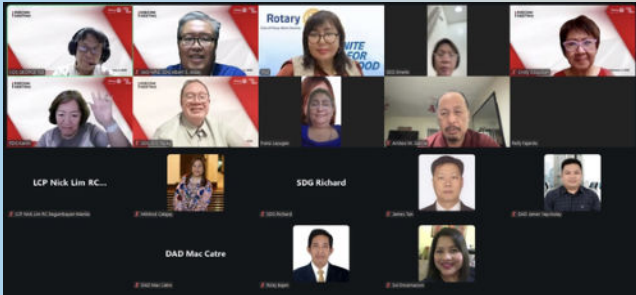
Home robots named "Eggie, NEO, Isaac, and Memo" are now capable of performing household chores. Designed to be safe, responsive, and assistive, they can operate alongside people in shared spaces. The future is not coming; it is here. Robots are no longer just in factories; they are entering our homes. It is up to us to ensure they serve as partners in progress, not signals of human obsolescence.

As I reflect on life at 89 and beyond, I am both excited and contemplative about how the future will unfold amid these hi-tech advances. This is not science fiction; this is real civilization at work. To keep pace, we must all continue to upskill. At the same time, I remain mindful that technology is ethically neutral. But it amplifies human choices, for better or for worse.

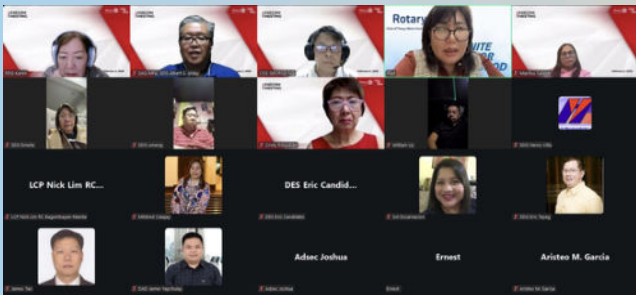
Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for the month of February



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for the month of February last February 2, 2026 via Zoom virtual platform.



DISCON and Awards Meeting of Rotary District 3810



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the DISCON AND AWARDS Meeting of Rotary District 3810 last February 3, 2026 at the Cafe Felisa of Aloha Hotel in Manila.



AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
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DISEASE PREVENTION
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WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



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CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship



Aleco Monday Breakfast Fellowship on February 2, 2026, hosted by VP Financial Adviser, former member Raoul Villegas. Brilliant presentation on the state of the Philippine economy, investment opportunities, and the future of gold and bitcoin.

Present were PD Beda Fajardo, PD Ner Lonzaga, former members Raoul Villegas, Jorge Salazar, DE/BLA Caloy Serapio, former member Francis Juico, Secretary Anton Mauricio, former member Eric Severino, PD Jun Hallare, PP Archit Bartolome, PT Chito Tagaysay, PDG Jackie Rodriguez, Rtn Cris Acosta Rtn Willie Peliño and PP Ebot Tan.

PUBLIC IMAGE

Rotary Club of Manila's 16th Weekly Membership Meeting, with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Eli M. Remolona Jr. as Guest of Honor and Speaker, Featured in DWIZ



Rotary 
District 3810

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10

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