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The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4089 • MAY 21, 2026

**Outstanding
Ambassador
of the Year
Award 2026**
**His Excellency
MIGUEL UTRAY
DELGADO**

Ambassador of
Spain to the
Philippines



Guest Speaker
**EMMANUEL
STO. DOMINGO**
"Manny" LOPEZ
Lead Convenor
People's Constitutional
Reform Initiative
(PCRI)



**Beyond Compliance,
Beyond Convenience:**
The Rotary Club of
Manila Confronts
the Climate Imperative

**THE
ARCHITECTURE
OF POWER**

*The Life,
Leadership, and
Enduring Systems of
Rodolfo Garong
Valencia*

**9th Regular
Board Meeting**

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PROGRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA

31st Weekly Membership Meeting

Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 12:30 PM

Manila Polo Club

Moderator: DE CARLOS G. "Caloy" SERAPIO

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch

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

Invocation

STAR RTN. CHRIS C. TAMESIS

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn

RCM WF Music Chorale

The Four (4) Way Test

RTN. ROWEL JANSON S. ONG

Acknowledgment of Guests

DE CARLOS G. "Caloy" SERAPIO

Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**

Birthday Celebrants

May 15 SAA Jason Bogovich	May 21 Rtn. Richard Lim
May 17 CP Susing Pineda	May 22 Rtn. Ariel Abriam
PD Bebot Pineda	May 23 Rtn. Colin Steley
PP Raffy Alunan	May 28 DSAA John Cutter
May 19 Rtn. Lance Tan	

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song

RCM WF Chorale

PART II

12:50 PM President's Time | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

12:55 PM Introduction of the Outstanding
Ambassador of the Year Awardee

RTN. DANIEL C. "Dan" OBRADÓ

Presentation of the RCM Outstanding
Ambassador of the Year

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

PDG JOAQUIN "Jackie" C. RODRIGUEZ, SR.

(Chairman, RCM Ambassador of the Year Committee)

1:00 PM Introduction of the Guest Speaker

PD AMADO D. "Amading" VALDEZ

Guest Speaker

MR. EMMANUEL STO. DOMINGO

"Manny" LOPEZ

Lead Convenor

People's Constitutional Reform Initiative (PCRI)

Address:

***The 2026 People's Constitution:
A Hybrid Federal Unicameral Presidential
System of Government
(Proposed by PCRI)***

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 forthcoming 31st Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila arrives at a moment when the Philippines, like many democracies around the world, finds itself confronting profound questions about governance, institutional trust, and the future direction of the Republic itself.

For too long, conversations about constitutional reform in the Philippines have oscillated between political opportunism and public

skepticism. Many citizens have become weary of hearing proposals for change that appear designed less to strengthen democratic institutions and more to extend political advantage. Yet history also teaches us that nations unwilling to periodically reexamine their foundations risk becoming prisoners of outdated structures ill-equipped to confront modern realities.

It is within this context that the address of **Mr. Manuel SD. Lopez**, Lead Convenor of the People's Constitutional Reform Initiative (PCRI), becomes especially significant.

The proposed “2026 People's Constitution” is not merely another academic exercise or political slogan. At its core lies a deeper and more urgent question: How do we build a Republic that is genuinely responsive to the aspirations, frustrations, and evolving needs of its people?

The challenges confronting the Philippines today are no longer the same as those that shaped the 1987 Constitution nearly four decades ago. The world has changed

EDITORIAL

dramatically. Economic competition has intensified. Technology has transformed governance and communication. Geopolitical tensions increasingly influence domestic stability. Public demand for accountability has become sharper and more immediate. Citizens expect institutions not only to preserve democracy, but to deliver competence, efficiency, and results.

Constitutional reform, therefore, should never be treated as a forbidden conversation. Democracies mature not by avoiding difficult questions, but by engaging them courageously and intelligently.

At the same time, any effort to amend or rewrite the Constitution must be approached with extraordinary vigilance, wisdom, and public participation. Constitutional reform cannot belong exclusively to politicians, legal scholars, or ideological blocs. It must belong to the people themselves. The legitimacy of any proposed constitutional framework ultimately rests not on the elegance of its legal language, but on the trust and confidence it earns from ordinary citizens.

This is why forums such as the Rotary Club of Manila's Weekly Membership Meeting matter.

For 107 years, the Rotary Club of Manila has served not merely as a fellowship organization, but as a civic platform where ideas of national consequence can be discussed thoughtfully, responsibly, and with intellectual rigor. At a time when public discourse is often reduced to outrage, noise, and polarization, spaces that encourage principled dialogue become increasingly indispensable.

Equally meaningful is the Club's decision to confer the RCM Ambassador Award for 2026 upon **His Excellency Miguel Utray Delgado**. Diplomacy remains one of the quiet but essential pillars of peace, development, and international cooperation. The enduring relationship between the Philippines and Spain continues to evolve beyond the complexities of history into a partnership grounded in mutual respect, cultural exchange, economic collaboration, and shared democratic values.

In honoring Ambassador Delgado, the Rotary Club of Manila affirms an important truth: that nation-building is not accomplished solely through domestic reform, but also through constructive engagement with the international community.

EDITORIAL

The convergence of these two themes during the 31st WMM — constitutional reform and diplomatic partnership — is both timely and symbolic. One speaks to the strengthening of our internal foundations as a Republic. The other reminds us of the importance of building bridges beyond our shores.

Both require vision.
Both require courage.
And both ultimately depend on leadership rooted not in personal ambition, but in service to something greater than oneself.

As Rotarians, civic leaders, and citizens gather for this important session, the hope is not necessarily that everyone will agree. Democracies do not demand uniformity of opinion. What they require is the willingness to listen seriously, think critically, and engage respectfully in pursuit of the common good.

The future of the Republic deserves nothing less. ■

***UNITE
FOR
GOOD***

Rotary 

GUEST SPEAKER

EMMANUEL Sto. Domingo Lopez, more popularly known as “Manny” Lopez, is a distinguished Filipino entrepreneur, economist, technology management executive, and advocate of political and socioeconomic reforms. With decades of experience spanning both the public and private sectors, he has built a remarkable career marked by leadership, innovation, and public service.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines with a degree in Social Science majoring in Economics and Political Science, Mr. Lopez further pursued post-graduate studies in business, economics, and law in both the Philippines and the United States, including studies at University of California, Los Angeles and California State University, Los Angeles.

Throughout his professional journey, he has held key executive positions in various industries, including technology, real estate, agriculture, security services, and e-commerce. He served as President and CEO of Computech Electronics International, Inc., with operations in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Germany, and the United States. In government service,



EMMANUEL STO. DOMINGO LOPEZ

Lead Convenor
People's Constitutional Reform Initiative (PCRI)

he likewise served as President and General Manager of the National Food Authority-Grainscor with the rank of Undersecretary under the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Lopez has also been actively involved in civic, political, and reform-oriented initiatives. He currently serves as Lead Convenor of the Philippine Leadership Forum Series and the People's Constitutional Reform Initiative, advocating for governance reforms, direct democracy, national development, and people empowerment.

Known for his strong commitment to public welfare and nation-building, Mr. Lopez continues to be a respected voice in discussions on economic policy, constitutional reform, leadership, and emerging technologies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Outstanding Ambassador Award: RCM's Signature Project

LAST week, I wrote about the three signature projects of the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) that will be implemented this Rotary year – TOWER Awards, Journalism Awards, and the Outstanding Ambassador Awards. In this week's regular meeting, we are scheduled to confer the award to the Spanish Ambassador, His Excellency Miguel Utray Delgado.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

Indeed, the RCM awards carries a unique moral authority and institutional weight that make it deeply respected. Several factors contribute to this gravitas:

1. RCM is the Oldest Rotary Club in Asia

Founded in 1919, RCM is not only the pioneer Rotary club in the Philippines but the very first in all of Asia. Its century-long legacy gives it historical standing unmatched by almost any civic organization in the region.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2. A Tradition of Leadership and Nation-Building

For over a hundred years, RCM has been at the forefront of civic leadership, public service, and humanitarian work. Its members have included national leaders, diplomats, captains of industry, and pillars of various professions -- people whose collective stature enhances the credibility of any honor the club bestows.

3. A Proven Track Record of Major Projects

RCM is known for flagship initiatives that transformed institutions, supported good governance, strengthened communities, and elevated public discourse. This long record of meaningful, measurable impact reinforces its position as a credible judge of excellence and service.

4. Independence and Integrity

As a non-political, non-partisan civic organization, RCM confers awards free from governmental or

partisan influence. This independence gives its recognitions a purity of intent: awards are given solely on merit, character, and contribution to the public good.

5. Strong International Linkages

Being part of Rotary International's global network of professionals and leaders gives RCM global visibility and credibility. Awards such as the Outstanding Ambassador Award are strengthened by RCM's reputation within diplomatic circles and its long relationships with the international community.

6. A Legacy of Honoring Excellence

RCM has a proud tradition of acknowledging outstanding public servants, diplomats, workers, and institutions. This continuity of honoring excellence -- done consistently, thoughtfully, and with discernment -- builds long-term credibility. Recipients know they are joining a distinguished roster, and nominators know the award's prestige is well-earned.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

7. Gravitas Comes From Who We Are

The club's stature comes from its membership: respected leaders, community builders, and professionals who have themselves earned trust, honor, and integrity.

When RCM recognizes someone, that recognition carries the collective prestige of its members.

In essence, RCM's authority to confer meaningful awards arises from its age, its legacy, its service, its independence, its global connections, and the reputation of its members.

That combination is rare -- and that is why an award from the Rotary Club of Manila truly means something. ■



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

OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR AWARD

HIS Excellency Miguel Utray Delgado is a career diplomat whose service reflects more than three decades of work in foreign affairs, international cooperation, cultural diplomacy, and government protocol. Born on August 23, 1961, in Seville, Spain, he holds a Bachelor of History, a field that supports the depth and perspective required in diplomatic service.

He joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service on June 12, 1990, and began his career in the Diplomatic Information Office of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the same year, he also served in roles focused on North Africa within the Directorate General for Foreign Policy for Africa and the Middle East. His early assignments laid a strong foundation in regional affairs and strategic foreign policy work.

Over the years, Ambassador Utray Delgado held key posts in Spanish missions abroad, including Deputy Chief of Mission in Honduras, Counsellor in Turkey, Consul General in Melbourne and Edinburgh, and Cultural and



H.E. MIGUEL UTRAY DELGADO
Ambassador of Spain to the Philippines

Scientific Counsellor at the Embassy of Spain in Mexico. From August 2017 to June 2020, he also served as Director of the Cultural Centre of Spain in Mexico. In Madrid, he assumed senior responsibilities in public administration, including Director of the Department of Protocol of the Presidency of the Government of Spain and Director for International Relations at Instituto Cervantes.

Since August 23, 2022, he has served as Ambassador of Spain to the Philippines, with concurrent accreditation to Palau and the Marshall Islands. His distinctions include the Royal and Distinguished Order of Charles III and honors from Argentina, Lebanon, Chile, and France.



cover story

by PE Reginald T. Yu

Beyond Compliance, Beyond Convenience: The Rotary Club of Manila Confronts the Climate Imperative

THE Rotary Club of Manila gathered beneath the familiar elegance of the Manila Polo Club for its 30th Weekly Membership Meeting of Rotary Year 2025–2026, an afternoon that began in fellowship yet gradually unfolded into a deeply meaningful discussion on leadership, sustainability, and national responsibility.



President-Elect Reggie Yu moderated the meeting.

Moderated by **President-Elect Reggie Yu**, the meeting carried an atmosphere that was at once warm and reflective. While the traditions of Rotary remained firmly present through music, fellowship, and camaraderie, there was also a growing awareness among attendees that leadership in today's world can no longer remain confined to ceremonial distinction or institutional prestige. Increasingly, it must confront the pressing realities of climate change, resilience, and sustainable development.

Held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, the gathering centered on the timely and intellectually compelling theme, "Beyond Compliance: Private Sector Leadership in Resiliency and Sustainability." The very title suggested that the afternoon would



President Raoul C. Creencia called the Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila to order.

move beyond environmental rhetoric and regulatory obligation toward a more transformative conversation about the role of institutions, industries, and communities in shaping the future.

At exactly 12:30 in the afternoon, **President Raoul C. Creencia** formally called the meeting to order, setting into motion another chapter in the enduring tradition of fellowship and discourse that has long defined the Rotary Club of Manila.

Ceremonial Traditions and Fellowship

The solemnity of the gathering was first established through the Invocation delivered by **Director-Elect John Nico P. "Nico" Valencia**, followed by the Audio-



Director-Elect John Nico P. "Nico" Valencia led the invocation.

Visual Presentation of the Philippine National Anthem. The Rotary Club of Manila Hymn was then rendered by the **RCM World-Famous Music Chorale** with the stirring familiarity that has become inseparable from the club's institutional identity.

Rotarian Raymond N. "Ray" Davis led the recitation of The Four-Way Test, whose principles of truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all seemed especially relevant in a world increasingly shaped by environmental uncertainty and social vulnerability.

President-Elect Reggie Yu acknowledged the guests in attendance with warmth and familiarity, recognizing not merely their presence but their shared participation in a larger national conversation about responsible leadership.



Rotarian Raymond N. "Ray" Davis led the recitation of the Four-Way Test

The RCM World-Famous Music Chorale followed with a welcome song that softened the formality of the proceedings and reminded everyone present that Rotary gatherings are sustained not only by institutional continuity but by friendship, music, and fellowship.

The afternoon likewise paused to celebrate life's joyful milestones as the club recognized its birthday celebrants. Rotarians Jun Coyuito, Mac Macapagal, Jun Bella, Jack Rodriguez, Jun Follosco, and J Alfonso L. Katigbak, together with Past Director Ner Lonzaga, were warmly greeted before the chorale rendered "*Maligayang Bati*" and "Happy Birthday" with cheerful enthusiasm. The moment provided a welcome reminder that even amid discussions of global challenges, Rotary remains anchored in human relationships and shared celebration.



President Raoul Creencia addressed the membership during President's Time.

President's Time and Institutional Reflection

During President's Time, President Raoul C. Creencia reflected on the importance of institutions remaining responsive to changing realities. There was a subtle but unmistakable recognition that Rotary itself — an organization founded upon service, ethical leadership, and civic engagement — must continuously redefine what meaningful service entails in an era increasingly shaped by climate volatility and socio-economic uncertainty.

The meeting's intellectual centerpiece would soon reinforce precisely that point.



Director Michael Jaey C. "Mike" Albaña introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker

Director Michael Jaey C. "Mike" Albaña introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker with evident pride, presenting an impressive portrait of a Filipino whose work now spans the global intersection of science, diplomacy, environmental policy, and climate resilience.

The guest speaker, **Dr. Glenn S. Banaguas**, carried credentials reflecting not merely academic accomplishment but international relevance and influence. A UN Sasakawa Laureate, Chairman and President of ASEAN Science Diplomats, Chairman of the U.S.-ASEAN Fellows for Science and Technology, Executive Fellow of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy,

Distinguished Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in the United Kingdom, and Climate Diplomat for the European Union-Asia Expert Panel for Climate Diplomacy, Dr. Banaguas represented a rare fusion of scientific rigor and policy advocacy.

From the outset, his presentation challenged the audience to reconsider climate change not as a distant environmental concern but as an immediate operational, economic, social, and moral reality.

The Climate Smart Philippines Framework

Dr. Banaguas framed his presentation around the concept of a “Climate Smart Philippines,” emphasizing that resilience and sustainability are no longer optional aspirations but strategic necessities for survival and long-term prosperity.

He described the Philippines as a geographically and administratively complex nation composed of 81 provinces, 146 cities, 1,488 municipalities, and more than 42,000 barangays — a reality that makes climate governance both extraordinarily difficult and critically important.

At the heart of his discussion was the concept of “Climate Smart” governance, built upon the dual

imperatives of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. These, he explained, form what he called “A TRIP to Resiliency and Sustainability.”

The acronym TRIP stood for Track, Risk, Impact, and Policy, a four-dimensional framework designed to help governments, institutions, and corporations systematically understand and respond to climate realities.

Tracking Climate Realities

The “Track” component focused on analyzing human resources, demographics, historical climate data, and long-term climate projections involving rainfall and temperature changes.

What followed was among the most sobering portions of the presentation.

Using internationally recognized climate projections, Dr. Banaguas demonstrated how average temperatures in both Metro Manila and Cebu are expected to rise significantly over the coming decades. For the National Capital Region, projected average temperatures could increase by more than two degrees Celsius before the end of the century. Cebu exhibited a similarly alarming trajectory.

These were not speculative fears intended merely to provoke concern. They were evidence-based projections grounded in climate science.

Equally concerning were projections involving precipitation patterns. Metro Manila is expected to experience increasing rainfall intensity over successive decades, while Cebu similarly reflects increasingly unstable climate conditions.

The implications, he emphasized, extend far beyond weather inconvenience.

Climate change reshapes economies, labor systems, agriculture, transportation, health outcomes, infrastructure, and social stability itself.

Risk, Vulnerability, and the Geography of Disaster

The presentation then shifted toward risk analysis using the United Nations disaster risk framework, which identifies disaster risk as a function of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability.

Through a series of geographic risk maps, Dr. Banaguas illustrated the increasing vulnerability of various Philippine regions to rain-induced landslides, flooding, drought, tropical cyclones, and sea-level rise.



Climate change reshapes economies, labor systems, agriculture, transportation, health outcomes, infrastructure, and social stability itself.

The visual impact of the maps transformed climate discourse from abstraction into immediacy. The Philippines was no longer merely “vulnerable” in a general sense. Entire provinces and cities could now be assessed according to their relative exposure to environmental hazards.

Particularly striking was his discussion on the changing nature of Philippine seasons. The rainy season, once relatively predictable, has now become increasingly erratic. Climate unpredictability has become so severe that defining clear seasonal boundaries has become difficult.

Likewise, droughts — once relatively infrequent — are now occurring with greater regularity, accompanied by rising heat indices and episodes of extreme heat.

Climate Change and Business Operations

For the business community present at the Manila Polo Club, the implications of the presentation became increasingly personal and operational.

Dr. Banaguas carefully connected climate science to the realities of business continuity and economic survival. Changing wind patterns, severe storms, flooding, and infrastructure vulnerability all carry direct economic consequences.

Businesses today face disruptions in logistics, communications, productivity, transportation, energy reliability, and supply chains. He emphasized that climate change can no longer be relegated to corporate social responsibility departments alone. It has become a central business risk.

Storms delay communications and operations. Flooding halts productivity. Sea-level rise threatens infrastructure. Extreme weather creates cascading economic repercussions across industries.

The message was clear: sustainability is no longer simply about compliance. It is about institutional survival.



*The message was clear:
sustainability is no longer
simply about compliance.
It is about institutional
survival.*

Psychological and Human Dimensions of Climate Change

Perhaps the most unexpected and deeply human portion of the presentation involved psychological resilience.

Dr. Banaguas spoke about the emotional consequences experienced by communities repeatedly exposed to disasters — trauma, fear, anxiety, apprehension, and emotional fatigue.

Yet he also introduced a remarkable phrase: “post-traumatic growers.”

Rather than viewing vulnerable populations merely as victims, he emphasized the capacity of communities to emerge stronger, wiser, and more resilient through adversity.

In a country where faith and spirituality remain deeply woven into social life, Dr. Banaguas also explored the role of religiosity as a climate-disaster resiliency measure. Various religious traditions, he explained, often provide emotional stability, moral coherence, and collective solidarity during periods of crisis.

Faith, in many vulnerable communities, becomes not merely a spiritual refuge but a mechanism of resilience.

Policy, Governance, and Sustainability Priorities

The discussion then transitioned into policy analysis, emphasizing that resilience requires institutional integration rather than isolated initiatives.

Policies, Republic Acts, climate action plans, and local government frameworks must work cohesively if sustainability efforts are to succeed.

Dr. Banaguas outlined several priority areas essential to national climate resilience, including food security, water sufficiency, sustainable energy, human security, ecological and environmental stability, climate-smart industries and infrastructure, as well as knowledge management and capacity development.

Policies, Republic Acts, climate action plans, and local government frameworks must work cohesively if sustainability efforts are to succeed.

These priorities, he argued, demand participation not only from government but from the private sector itself.

This became the philosophical core of the afternoon.

The phrase “Beyond Compliance” was not rhetorical flourish. It was a challenge.

Businesses must move beyond minimal regulatory obedience toward active climate leadership.

Net Zero Emissions and ESG Leadership

Dr. Banaguas discussed the growing importance of net-zero emissions strategies and decarbonization initiatives involving infrastructure, energy consumption, transportation systems, waste management, food

systems, human activity, and agriculture.

He connected these efforts to the globally recognized ESG framework — Environmental, Social, and Governance — and demonstrated how the TRIP framework could serve as a practical pathway toward meaningful ESG integration.

For many in attendance, the discussion reinforced the growing realization that sustainability reporting, carbon accounting, and environmental stewardship are no longer merely public relations exercises. They are increasingly tied to investor confidence, institutional credibility, and long-term competitiveness.

Climate Smart Mindanao and Localized Action

The latter portion of the presentation highlighted actual climate-smart initiatives implemented across Mindanao through partnerships involving MINDA, DILG, CHED, NEDA, DOST, and various local stakeholders.

Dr. Banaguas showcased collaborative efforts and sustainability initiatives in Davao City, Sarangani Province, Sultan Kudarat Province, South Cotabato Province, Tacurong City,

... sustainability reporting, carbon accounting, and environmental stewardship are no longer merely public relations exercises. They are increasingly tied to investor confidence, institutional credibility, and long-term competitiveness.

General Santos City, and Cagayan de Oro City.

These examples grounded the discussion in practical reality.

Climate resilience was no longer theoretical.

It was already being attempted, negotiated, and implemented across Philippine communities.

What emerged from these examples was a vision of sustainability not as centralized bureaucracy but as collaborative governance involving local governments, institutions, scientists, businesses, educators, and communities.

Open Forum and Institutional Reflection

By the time the open forum began, the mood inside the Manila Polo Club had noticeably shifted.

What began as a traditional weekly membership meeting had evolved into a searching conversation about leadership itself.

Questions from members reflected a growing recognition that the private sector can no longer afford passive observation. Sustainability reporting, SEC compliance, carbon management, and ESG frameworks were increasingly viewed not as burdens but as strategic necessities tied directly to institutional survival and stakeholder trust.

The Rotary Club of Manila — itself an institution more than a century old — appeared uniquely positioned to host such a conversation.

For over one hundred years, the club has witnessed wars, economic upheavals, political transitions, natural disasters, and national transformation. Yet this gathering suggested that perhaps one of the defining challenges of the present generation will not merely be governance or economics, but stewardship itself.

The stewardship of institutions.
The stewardship of industries.
The stewardship of future generations.



Dr. Banaguas engaged in an interactive Q&A session with PD Amading Valdez, IA Nick Locsin, Rtn. Willie Peliño, and Rtn. John Simon.





President Raoul C. Creencia later presented Dr. Glenn Banaguas with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Closing Ceremonies and Final Reflections

As President Raoul C. Creencia later presented Dr. Glenn Banaguas with a Certificate of Appreciation, the gesture represented more than ceremonial gratitude. It acknowledged the importance of difficult conversations — the kind that compel institutions to think beyond convenience, beyond compliance, and beyond tradition.

At exactly 2:00 in the afternoon, President Creencia formally adjourned the meeting.

Yet long after the luncheon tables had emptied and the familiar

rhythms of Manila resumed outside the Polo Club gates, the central question of the afternoon continued to linger:

In a climate-challenged century, what does responsible leadership truly demand?

For the Rotary Club of Manila, the 30th Weekly Membership Meeting may well have offered an answer.

Leadership today is no longer measured solely by influence, achievement, or longevity.

Increasingly, it will be measured by whether institutions possessed the courage to act before resilience became impossible. ■



President Raoul Creencia
adjourned the meeting.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT
May 2026

MAY 2026	May 07, 2026 FORMER CONSUL GEN. VOLTAIRE D. MAURICIO	May 14, 2026 SCIENCE DIPLOMAT GLENN S. BANAGUAS
MEMBERS PRESENT	39	29
MEMBERS PRESENT %	18%	14%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	3	13
EXEMPTED	4	2
ON LEAVE	0	0
Total Active Members	42	42
Total # of Members	212	212
TOTAL %:	20%	20%
ROTARACTORS	9	12
MEDIA	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0
GOHS / GS	1	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	9	0
TOTAL ATTENDEES	58	42



LIST OF ATTENDEES
May 14, 2026

- 1 Albaña, Michael Jaey C
- 2 Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- 3 Benedicto, Sixto T.
- 4 Cid, Dean Y.
- 5 Creencia, Raoul C.
- 6 Cureg, Alexander P.
- 7 Cutter, John Michael
- 8 Davis, Raymond N.
- 9 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- 10 Garcia,III Victor G.
- 11 Locsin, Arsenio Z.
- 12 Lorenzana, Delfin
- 13 Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
- 14 Mauricio, Antonilo DC
- 15 Peliño, Wilfredo M.
- 16 Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- 17 Reynolds, David J.
- 18 Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
- 19 Serapio, Carlos G.
- 20 Simon, Juanito A.
- 21 So, Warren S.
- 22 Valdez, Amado D.
- 23 Valencia, John Nico P.
- 24 Vazquez, Evaristo Jr.
- 25 Yu, Reginald Tieng
- 26 Pantaleon, Oliver
- 27 Ginez, Winston M.
- 28 Tamesis, Chris C.
- 29 Pangilinan, Manuel E.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of May 20, 2026

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

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

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of May 20, 2026

101	LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL	152	RANKL, PETER
102	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.	153	RECTO, PHILIP H.
103	LEE, RICHARD L.	154	REYNOLDS, DAVID
104	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS M.	155	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
105	LIM, RICHARD	156	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
106	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.	157	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
107	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.	158	ROMUALDEZ, JOSE MANUEL G.
108	LIAO, CHRISTOPHER	159	ROÑO, MARLON
109	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.	160	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
110	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.	161	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
111	LOPEZ, ANTONIO	162	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
112	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.	163	SCHNEIDER, BERND
113	LORENZANA, DELFIN	164	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
114	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.	165	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
115	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.	166	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
116	MAGBANUA, GERRY P.	167	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
117	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.	168	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
118	MAGSAYSAY, JESUS VICENTE E.	169	SO, WARREN
119	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.	170	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN
120	MANGALILE, SENEN	171	SOLER, JOSE ANTONIO A.
121	MARTINEZ, RONALD	172	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
122	MATSCHECK, GUENTER GERHARD G.	173	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
123	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC	174	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
124	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO ROBERTO C.	176	TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.
125	MENDOZA, MIGUEL	177	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
126	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.	178	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
127	MOMMAERTS, STEVE	179	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
128	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.	180	TAMESIS, CHRIS
129	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO	181	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
130	NONES, ROMEO C.	182	TAN, JOHN G.
131	NUÑEZ, JOSE A.	183	TAN, LAWRENCE L.
132	OBRADO, DANIEL	184	TAN, MYLES
133	OCAMPO, TEODORO J.	185	TEE, TEDDY JR. B.
134	ONG, PHILIP	186	TEJUMAL, MICHAEL
135	ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.	187	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L.
136	OZAETA, MIGUEL ANTONIO L.	188	UY, IVAN JOHN E.
137	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.	189	VALDES, JOELC.
138	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.	190	VALDEZ, AMADO
139	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.	191	VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
140	PANGILINAN, MANUEL E.	192	VALDERRAMA, JASON ROMEO
141	PANTALEON, OLIVER	193	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
142	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM	194	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.
143	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.	195	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.
144	PELIÑO, WILFREDO	196	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
145	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.	197	YAP, ENRIQUE JR.
146	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.	198	YORDANOV, STEFAN
147	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.	199	YU, GEOFFREY C.
148	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.	200	YU, REGINALD T.
149	PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.	201	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
150	RA, INGILL	202	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
151	RAMOS, CLAVER P.	203	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
		204	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

CLUB-ADMINISTRATION



9th Regular Board Meeting

The Rotary Club of Manila held its 9th Regular Board Meeting on May 13, 2026 at the Manila Room of the Elks Club, Makati City.

Present were President Raoul Creencia; Directors Edwin Hernandez, Warren So, Hans Palacios, Rami Chahwan, and Mike Albaña; Treasurer PJ Garcia; Internal Auditor Nick Locsin; Director-elect/Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio; Secretary Paco Magsaysay; Assistant Treasurer/Vice President-elect Karlo Castro; Secretary Anton Mauricio; Director-elect/Assistant Internal Auditor Mike Roxas; and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Reynolds.



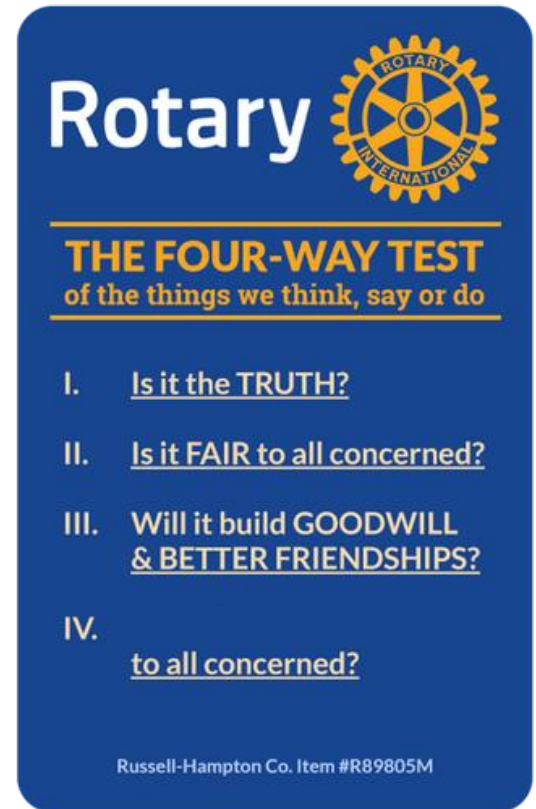
CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Club Awards Committee Meeting



The Club Awards Committee met last Friday, May 15, 2026, at the Sandtrap of Manila Golf and Country Club.

Hosted by Director Edwin Hernandez, the meeting was also attended by President Raoul Creencia, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Consultant Anna Kun-Toledo, and Executive Secretary Lhea Lozano.



RCM Pro Patria Journalism Awards Committee Meeting



The RCM ProPatria Journalism Awards Committee met on May 14, 2016, to vote on nominations for the print, TV, radio, and online categories for institution and individual awards.

Present were President Raoul Creencia, DE/BLA Caloy Serapio, Chair Dean Amading Valdez, Secretary Anton Mauricio, STAR Rotarians Chris Tamesis, Oliver Pantaleon, and Winston Ginez, Director Edwin Hernanddz, Past District Governor Jackie Rodriguez, and President-elect Reggie Yu.

TOWER Awards Committee Meeting



The Outstanding Workers of the Republic (TOWER) Awards 2026 Board of Judges and Screening Committee met on May 19, 2026 at the Board Room, 10th floor, PEZA Office, West Tower, Pasay City.

Present were PEZA Deputy Director General Emmanuel Cortero, PEZA Group Manager Rowena Naguit, President Raoul Creencia, Past President Romy Nones, and STAR Rotarian Jason Valderrama.



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CAMILLE VILLAR
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PEOPLE

THE ARCHITECTURE OF *POWER*

*The Life,
Leadership, and
Enduring Systems
of Rodolfo Garong
Valencia*

By PE Reginald T. Yu



THE ARCHITECTURE OF POWER

The Life, Leadership, and Enduring Systems of Rodolfo Garong Valencia

A man who learned to read systems before he ever sought to lead them, Rod Valencia built a life at the intersection of enterprise and public service — where land, people, and policy converge. From the quiet discipline of his upbringing to the high-stakes decisions of governance, his journey is one of structure imposed on disorder, vision tested by reality, and sacrifice chosen over comfort. This is the story of a builder who stepped beyond business to reshape the very systems that defined opportunity — for a province, for an industry, and for generations that would follow.



***Legislating Landmark Reforms.** As Congressman, RGV champions key measures in the House of Representatives, serving as the principal author of Republic Act No. 9646, the Real Estate Service Act (RESA), and Republic Act No. 9679, the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Law, advancing professionalization in real estate and strengthening housing support for Filipino workers.*

THE ARCHITECTURE OF POWER

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The wind had picked up by mid-morning.

From the port in Batangas, the sea looked unsettled — not violent, but restless enough to slow everything down. The ferry, already delayed, sat heavy against the dock as passengers gathered in uneven lines: farmers with sacks of produce, mothers with children, traders carrying goods that would lose value with every passing hour.

Among them stood **Rodolfo “Rod” Garong Valencia**.

He had made this crossing many times before, but on this day, he did not move as a passenger alone. He watched.

He watched how people waited — not impatiently, but with a kind of resignation that comes from familiarity. He watched port workers move without urgency, as if delay had become routine. He listened to conversations around him — half complaints, half acceptance.

“Ganyan talaga,” someone said. That’s just how it is.

The phrase lingered.

It was not the delay itself that unsettled him. It was what the delay represented.

A farmer, leaning against a wooden

crate, spoke quietly to no one in particular. If the trip took too long, he said, the vegetables would wilt before they reached the market. Prices would drop. The day’s work would not be enough.

A young man, dressed for what looked like an interview, checked his watch repeatedly. Each minute lost on the dock was a minute he could not recover.



Planning for Mindoro’s Future Development. RGV meets with community leaders, stakeholders, and local representatives during a strategic planning session focused on the long-term development vision for Mindoro, emphasizing sustainable growth in infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, energy, and countryside progress.

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A mother tried to calm her child, who had grown restless in the heat.

None of them spoke of systems. None of them used words like “monopoly” or “logistics” or “infrastructure.”

But they felt it.

They lived inside it.

Rod understood, in that moment, that what he was seeing was not an isolated inconvenience. It was a pattern — repeated, normalized, embedded.

Movement, in this place, was not free.

The implications extended far beyond inconvenience.

When goods could not move efficiently, value diminished. When time could not be relied upon, planning broke down. What appeared as delay at the port translated into loss across the province —farmers earning less, traders adjusting downward, entire chains of effort weakened by a system that did not support them.

It was not just movement that was constrained.

It was productivity.

It was controlled.

The ferry would eventually depart, as it always did. The passengers would

board, as they always had. The crossing would be made, delayed but completed.

And life would continue.

But something in him resisted that quiet acceptance.

“Ganyan talaga.”

No.

It did not have to be.



Launching the Supercat Ferry Service.

Governor RGV leads the ceremonial launch of the Aboitiz Supercat Ferry for the Mindoro–Batangas route, a milestone initiative that strengthened inter-island connectivity, boosted commerce and tourism, and improved mobility for the people of Oriental Mindoro.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF POWER

The Life, Leadership, and Enduring Systems of Rodolfo Garong Valencia

He would return to this moment years later — not in memory alone, but in action.

Because what he saw that day was not simply a delayed ferry. It was a system that constrained lives in ways both visible and invisible. It was a structure that dictated outcomes long before effort could intervene.

And he would come to believe, with growing certainty, that such structures could be changed.

He would later understand that the systems that constrained movement were not confined to ports and schedules.

They extended inland.

Into forests that no longer held as firmly as they once had.

Into watersheds whose quiet work sustained everything, yet were rarely seen until they began to fail.

In Mindoro, the land had always been generous.

He knew its capacity — not as abstraction, but as lived reality. He had seen what its soil could produce. He had walked fields that, with the right structure, could feed not just a province, but a nation.



Cluster Management for Provincial Rehabilitation. RGV convenes strategic cluster management meetings with provincial officers and department heads to coordinate rehabilitation programs and development initiatives aimed at accelerating recovery and long-term progress in Oriental Mindoro.

He would come to articulate it clearly in the years that followed: a vision of Mindoro as a food basket of the Philippines. One hundred thousand hectares of farmland organized into a functioning rice granary. Coconut, cassava, and other crops cultivated not in isolation, but as part of an integrated system.

It was not a casual vision.

It was measured.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF POWER

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The whole island of Mindoro — stretching across more than a million hectares — held within it a scale that few fully appreciated. Larger than Metro Manila's combined footprint, with land that could be cultivated, organized, and sustained, it possessed the capacity to contribute meaningfully to the national economy.

Rod saw what others only described in fragments.

A province that could feed beyond itself.

An agricultural system that, if properly structured, could supply rice, coconut, cassava, and other staples at scale.

He spoke of one hundred thousand hectares not as aspiration, but as allocation — land that could be brought into productive alignment.

Not scattered.
Not inefficient.
But organized.

Because for him, potential was never enough.

It had to be systematized.

But even then, the contrast was already visible.

A land capable of abundance...



Promoting Urban Edible Gardening. RGV joins agricultural and civic leaders during a visit to an urban edible gardening project advocating sustainable food production and household self-sufficiency. Pictured with him are Mr. Danny Fausto, President of PCAFI, and Mr. Toto Barcelona, President of HARBEST, in support of initiatives encouraging urban agriculture and community-based farming.

Operating below its potential.

Not because it lacked resources.

But because it lacked structure — and because parts of it were slowly being diminished.

He did not yet speak of mining. He did not yet speak of watershed destruction in formal terms.

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But he understood enough.

Enough to recognize that what was being lost would not easily be restored.

And that if no one intervened, the cost would not be immediate.

It would be permanent.

There are men who seek power for position, and men who seek it for protection.

Rod came to seek it for something else entirely.

He sought it to reorganize what did not work.

To dismantle what constrained.

To build what endured.

This is the story of how he did it.

The House That Formed Him

Long before he would stand on docks studying systems, before he would sit in committee rooms shaping laws, Rod learned his first lessons about order and responsibility in a place far removed from public life.

It was not a grand house.



The Parents. Artemio U. Valencia Sr. and Mena Garong Valencia, the parents of RGV, whose values of discipline, education, hard work, and integrity helped shape the foundations of a family deeply rooted in public service, real estate leadership, and community development in Oriental Mindoro.

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There were no visible signs that it would produce a man who would later move between business, government, and national organizations with such ease. What it offered instead was something quieter, and perhaps more enduring: consistency.

Mornings began early. Not out of compulsion, but out of habit. There was work to be done, and time was not something to be wasted. In that household, effort was not something that earned praise. It was something expected.

His parents did not speak often about discipline. They lived it.

There were no elaborate explanations about integrity, no long discussions about responsibility. But rules were clear, and they were followed. Words were to be matched by action. Commitments, once made, were to be kept.

Years later, when Rod would reflect on his upbringing, he would not describe it in sentimental terms. He would describe it as formative.

It was there that he first encountered the idea — though not yet the language — that systems worked best when they were consistent. That people functioned better when expectations were clear. That disorder, even in small things, had a way of expanding if left unchecked.

Family life reinforced something else as well.

Responsibility was shared.

No one stood apart from it. No one was exempt.



RGV with His Parents and Siblings. A cherished family portrait taken during the wedding reception of Rodolfo G. Valencia Jr. ("RGV") and Chalie Basa Penarroyo, capturing a moment of togetherness with the Valencia family. Standing from left to right are Jocelyn, Artemio Jr., Von, Sammy, John Allan, and Sonya. Seated from left to right are Chalie, RGV, Mena Garong Valencia, Artemio U. Valencia Sr., and Maritess — a timeless image reflecting the close-knit family values that shaped RGV's life and legacy.

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This sense of shared obligation would remain with him long after he left that house, shaping the way he viewed leadership — not as authority over others, but as accountability to them.

The Discipline of Not Standing Out

At San Beda College, Rod did something that, in retrospect, seems almost unusual for someone who would later hold positions of influence.

He did not try to lead.

He did not run for office. He did not seek recognition. He did not attempt to distinguish himself in visible ways.

Instead, he blended in.

But blending in, for him, did not mean disengaging.

He participated in debates, where he discovered that ideas had weight only when they were structured. A good argument was not one that sounded convincing — it was one that held together under scrutiny.

He played sports, where effort had to be sustained, not just displayed.

He studied, not for distinction, but because it was expected of him.



Bedan of the Century Awardee. San Beda College honored RGV with the prestigious “Bedan of the Century” Award in the field of Real Estate, recognizing his distinguished achievements, professional excellence, and lasting contributions to the industry and the nation.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF POWER

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There is a kind of ambition that reveals itself early — loud, insistent, unmistakable.

Rod's was not that kind.

His development was quieter.

He was learning how things worked.

The Education of Necessity

By the time he entered the University of the East, the rhythm of his life changed.

There was less room for abstraction.

He was no longer simply a student.

He was a working student — balancing coursework with the demands of earning, managing time not in broad stretches, but in fragments.

Hours mattered.

Choices mattered.

There was no excess.

This period did something important.

It removed the illusion that effort alone guaranteed outcome.

He saw, firsthand, that access mattered. That opportunity could be uneven.



RGV, the Swimmer. Even in his younger years, RGV embraced an active and disciplined lifestyle, with swimming becoming one of his lifelong passions — a sport that reflected his endurance, vitality, and commitment to physical wellness through the years.

That systems — economic, social, institutional — played a decisive role in shaping what individuals could achieve.

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It was also during this time that he entered the real estate business, working with his father's company.

At first, it was work.

Then it became something else.

Land, People, and the Missing Order

Real estate, to an outsider, often appears straightforward: land is bought, sold, developed.

But Rod saw something more complex.

He saw transactions that depended heavily on trust — but operated without consistent standards. He saw buyers making decisions that would affect their lives for decades — often without clear guidance.

He saw agents who operated professionally, and others who did not. He saw, in short, a system that mattered deeply — but lacked structure.

This contradiction stayed with him.

Why was something so essential allowed to function with such inconsistency?

He did not yet attempt to answer the question.

But he began to understand its importance.

When Rod eventually established his own company — RGV Marketing and Management Corporation — it was not simply a move toward independence.

It was an attempt to impose order.

The company grew, steadily at first, then rapidly. Projects multiplied. Agents increased. Operations expanded across multiple areas.



2011 Most Outstanding Professional of the Year in Real Estate. RGV receives the prestigious 2011 Most Outstanding Professional of the Year Award in the field of Real Estate from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), honoring his exemplary leadership, professional excellence, and enduring contributions to the Philippine real estate industry.

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A Milestone for Calapan City. RGV exchanges insights with Robina Gokongwei following the opening of John Gokongwei Jr.'s first-class shopping mall in Calapan City, a landmark development that further boosted commerce, investment, and economic activity in Oriental Mindoro.

Growth did not remain confined to transactions.

It extended into place-making.

In Calapan, RGV began to translate vision into physical form — a Filipiniana-inspired hotel and commercial complex designed not merely as a business venture, but as a signal. Development, in Rod's view, had to reflect identity as much as function. It

had to root itself in the culture of the place even as it introduced new economic activity.

These were not isolated projects.

They were prototypes — early attempts to demonstrate what coordinated development could look like when design, commerce, and locality were brought into alignment.

At its height, the organization managed thousands of agents — a scale that required not just ambition, but coordination.

Within this company, Rod could implement standards. He could enforce discipline. He could create systems that worked.

But beyond it, the industry remained uneven.

Fragmented. Unregulated. And once again, he encountered the same limitation.

There are problems that cannot be solved within the boundaries of private enterprise.

They require something more.

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The Jaycees: Where Leadership Was Tested

Rod's entry into the Junior Chamber International, or Jaycees, did not come at a moment of established leadership.

It came early.

At twenty-one, while still a college student at San Beda, he was urged by a professor to join a young and growing chapter in Caloocan. The professor himself was an active Jaycee. What he recognized in Rod was not ambition, but capacity — an ability to organize, to follow through, to see things to completion.

The invitation was simple. The implications were not.

If business would later give him structure, the Jaycees gave him arena.

This was not an organization that rewarded passive presence. It demanded engagement. Projects had to be imagined, built, and delivered. Outcomes were not theoretical — they were visible, measured, and judged.

It was here that Rod began to step forward.
Not with flourish, but with method.

He approached every initiative the way he would later approach enterprise and governance: by clarifying objectives, organizing resources, and driving execution. He learned to mobilize people — not through authority, but through precision. Not by commanding attention, but by earning alignment.



RGV with CREBA Directorate and Executive Officers. RGV joins fellow officers and leaders of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) during a gathering of industry stakeholders, reflecting his active role in advancing the Philippine real estate sector and strengthening collaboration among developers, professionals, and business leaders nationwide.

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More importantly, the Jaycees introduced him to something that would remain constant throughout his life.

Service.

Not as an abstract ideal, but as a working discipline.

Programs were not undertaken for recognition. They were undertaken for effect. Communities were not treated as beneficiaries. They were engaged as partners in outcomes that had to be built, not bestowed.

He joined the Caloocan Jaycees in 1963, at a time when the chapter itself was still taking shape. As the organization grew, so did his role within it — his work gaining recognition not only locally, but across the national stage.

In 1983, his contributions to human settlements management earned him a place among the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines — a distinction reserved for individuals whose work had already begun to influence the country's direction.

He stood among a cohort that would later define their respective fields: Virgilio Almario in literature, Jose Laurel V in public administration, and Manuel V. Pangilinan in international finance.



1983 TOYM Awardee. RGV received the prestigious 1983 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines Award in recognition of his exemplary leadership and outstanding contributions in the field of human settlements management.

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The recognition was significant.
But not for the reason many might
assume.

It did not alter his trajectory.
It clarified it.

The work he had begun — in organizing,
in building, in serving — was not
incidental.

It was direction.

A Moment That Clarified, Not Completed

The ballroom was brighter than he
preferred.

Lights reflected off polished surfaces,
voices carried across tables, and the
quiet formality of the evening stood in
contrast to the years of work that had
led to it. The Ten Outstanding Young
Men awards had gathered a cross-
section of the country's rising leaders —
each representing a field, a discipline, a
story.

When Rod's name was called for Human
Settlements Management, there was
applause — warm, sustained, respectful.

He stood, composed, neither hurried
nor hesitant, and walked toward the
stage.

For many, such a moment might have
felt like culmination — a point at which
effort was recognized, validated,
perhaps even completed.



RGV Danced with President GMA.

*Known for his love of ballroom
dancing, RGV shares a graceful
moment on the dance floor with then
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
during a social gathering, reflecting his
warm personality and appreciation for
fellowship, culture, and camaraderie
beyond public service.*

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But as he received the award, what stayed with him was not the recognition itself.

It was the realization of scale.

Housing was no longer simply a profession. It was a national concern. The problems he had seen in individual transactions — lack of standards, limited access, uneven practices — were not isolated.

They were systemic.

The award did not elevate him beyond the work.

It drew him deeper into it.

The Expanding Sense of Responsibility

Success in business could have been enough.

Recognition in civic organizations could have been sufficient.

But for Rod, these experiences led to a different realization.

He had learned how to build within systems.

He had learned how to organize people. He had seen how structure — or the lack of it — affected outcomes.



***RGV with Isidro "Sid" Consunji.** RGV meets with business leader Isidro "Sid" Consunji, President and CEO of DMCI Holdings, Inc., for discussions on strategic development and investment opportunities, reflecting the shared commitment of industry leaders toward sustainable growth and nation-building.*

And he had begun to understand that certain problems could not be addressed from the outside.

They required authority.

They required policy.

They required entry into the very systems that shaped them.

The decision to enter public service did not come as a sudden shift.

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It came as a continuation.

The decision to enter public service was not without cost.

At the time, his business trajectory was not only stable — it was accelerating. Opportunities presented themselves, some of them significant, others transformative. Paths that, if pursued fully, would have expanded his enterprises even further.

He stepped away from many of them.

Not because they lacked value, but because they demanded a kind of attention that public service would not allow.

It was a trade he understood clearly.

To serve at scale required sacrifice at the personal level.

And he accepted it.

The First Entry into Power

When Rod first ran for Congress in 1987, he did so not as a traditional politician, but as a man who had already spent years observing how systems functioned — and how often they failed.

The Philippines was emerging from a period of upheaval. Institutions were



At the Main Lobby of Congress. RGV joins members of the Valencia family at the Main Lobby leading to the Plenary Hall of the House of Representatives during the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA). Pictured from left to right are Chief of Staff Nico P. Valencia and spouse Zyrene, granddaughter Beatrice, RGV, and daughter Joanna — a proud family moment reflecting their continued involvement in public service and national affairs.

being restored, redefined, tested. There was a sense of possibility, but also uncertainty. For many who entered public office during that time, the challenge was not simply to govern — it was to rebuild trust.

Rod approached the campaign with the same discipline he had applied in business and civic work.

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He listened more than he spoke. He studied the needs of the district. He paid attention not only to what people said, but to what they endured.

What he heard, repeatedly, were variations of the same concern.

Opportunity was uneven.
Access was limited.
Development felt distant.

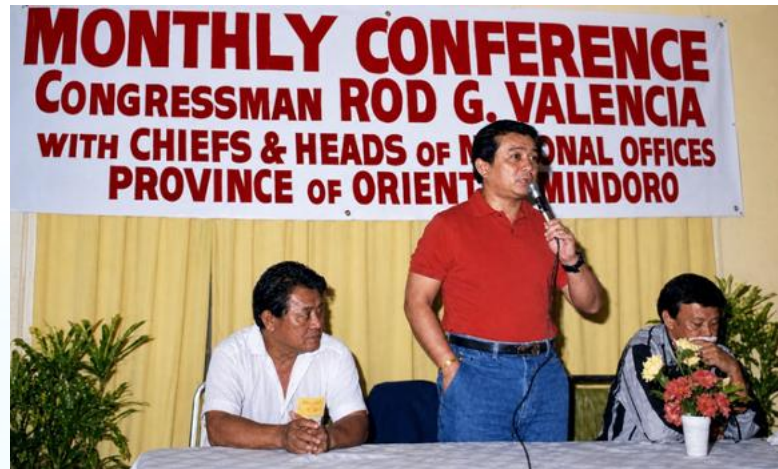
Winning the seat in the First District of Oriental Mindoro gave him something he had not previously possessed: the authority to act at scale.

But authority, he understood, was only useful if it was applied with clarity.

The Watershed Decision

One of the earliest tests of that clarity came in the form of Timber License Agreement No. 376.

The agreement covered tens of thousands of hectares of watershed land — areas that sustained rivers, agriculture, and long-term ecological balance. Logging operations, while economically attractive in the short term, carried consequences that would unfold slowly but decisively.



Monthly Conference with National Agency Heads. As Congressman of Oriental Mindoro, RGV regularly convened monthly conferences with chiefs and heads of national government offices to strengthen coordination, address provincial concerns, and ensure responsive and unified public service for the people of Oriental Mindoro.

Rod had seen enough to understand those consequences.

Flooding would increase.
Soil would degrade.
Agricultural productivity would decline.
Communities that depended on the land would suffer.

The decision to move against the agreement was not simple. It meant confronting interests that were entrenched and influential. It meant

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choosing long-term preservation over immediate economic gain.

But for Rod, the calculation was clear.

Development that destroyed its own foundation was not development at all.

The cancellation of the agreement sent a message — not just about environmental policy, but about the kind of leadership he intended to exercise.

It would not always be easy.
It would not always be popular.
But it would be deliberate.

The decision was not made in isolation from a broader realization.

He had seen, in different forms, how extraction — whether of land, resource, or system — often promised immediate gain while quietly eroding long-term capacity. Watersheds, once compromised, did not simply recover. Agricultural systems, once disrupted, did not easily return to equilibrium.

What was at stake was not a single agreement.

It was the foundation upon which the province's future depended.



Groundbreaking of the 48-MW Wind Power Project. Cong. RGV joins CMC Asia President Armando de Rossi, Italian Ambassador Luca Fornari, Cong. Rey Umali, and project partners during the groundbreaking ceremonies for the 48-MW Wind Power Project in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro — a landmark initiative advancing renewable energy and sustainable development in the province.

Building Outside the System

At the same time that he was shaping policy in Congress, Rod was building something parallel to it.

The Mindoro Kabuhayan Foundation, Inc. began as an effort to address immediate needs — livelihood, skills, access. But it quickly evolved into something more structured.

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Programs were organized. Beneficiaries were identified. Outcomes were measured.

Over time, the foundation reached tens of thousands of individuals, becoming one of the most effective non-governmental initiatives in the region.

What distinguished it was not scale alone.

It was intent.

Rod did not see the foundation as a substitute for government, nor as a purely charitable effort. He saw it as a way to bridge gaps — to act where bureaucracy moved too slowly, to respond where policy had not yet caught up.

It reflected a recurring pattern in his approach.

When systems were insufficient, he did not wait.

He built.

The Years Between

After his initial term in Congress, Rod returned to private life, but not to inactivity.

Business continued to expand. Projects grew. Networks deepened.

But something had changed.



Power Partnership for Oriental Mindoro.
RGV joins officials of ORMECO and DMCI Holdings in the formal confirmation of the 15-megawatt diesel bunker power project in Baco, Oriental Mindoro — a major initiative aimed at strengthening the province's energy stability and supporting long-term economic growth.

He had seen what governance could accomplish — and what it could not. He had experienced the limits of authority, and the possibilities it opened.

Those years were not a retreat. They were a period of consolidation.

He refined his understanding of systems. He observed developments from a distance. He maintained his connections to community and civic organizations.

And he waited.

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***A New Chapter in Leadership.** RGV takes his oath as Governor in 1992 in the presence of President Fidel V. Ramos, marking the beginning of an administration focused on reform, development, and public service for the people of Oriental Mindoro.*

The Call to Govern

By the early 1990s, Rod had already lived several lives within one.

He had built a business that demanded discipline and rewarded structure. He had moved through the Jaycees, where leadership was not inherited but tested in the field. He had served in Congress, where he first confronted the machinery of government — its possibilities, and its limits. Each experience had added a layer to his understanding, not only of systems, but of people who lived within them.

And yet, there remained a sense — difficult to articulate, but impossible to

ignore — that his work was not yet aligned with the scale of the problems he had come to see.

Mindoro was never far from his thoughts.

It was not simply a place of political relevance; it was a place that had revealed to him, in very concrete terms, how development could stall when systems failed to connect. He had seen its potential — fertile land, strategic location, communities willing to work — but he had also seen how that potential remained underrealized, constrained by weak infrastructure, uneven governance, and a lack of coordinated direction.

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In conversations with local leaders, businessmen, farmers, and ordinary residents, a pattern began to emerge. The concerns were not always expressed in technical language, but they carried a consistent undertone: things could be better, if only someone could bring order to the way they were being done.

These were not demands for dramatic change. They were appeals for clarity, for direction, for leadership that could translate intention into structure.

It was in this context that the possibility of running for governor began to take shape — not as a sudden decision, but as a gradual convergence of expectation and readiness.

There were reasons to hesitate.

The governorship was not an extension of business, where variables could be managed with relative control. It was not even like Congress, where influence operated within a defined institutional framework. To lead a province was to enter a space where problems were immediate, visible, and often resistant to simple solutions.

The provincial government of Oriental Mindoro at the time was not in a position of strength. Financial constraints limited its capacity to act.



President Erap Visits Calapan City. Then President Joseph “Erap” Estrada joins Governor RGV and local leaders during a festive gathering in Calapan City, reflecting the close partnership between national and local leadership in advancing the development and progress of Oriental Mindoro.

Illegal activities — long tolerated, sometimes embedded — had eroded both resources and public confidence.

Infrastructure lagged behind what was needed to support growth. The province was not without promise, but it lacked cohesion.

To step into such a situation was to accept not only responsibility, but risk.

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For Rod, the decision was not made in isolation. It unfolded through discussions — with family, with trusted colleagues, with individuals whose perspectives he valued not for their agreement, but for their honesty.

These conversations did not simplify the choice; if anything, they made its weight clearer.

But they also clarified something else.

If he chose not to act, the conditions he had observed would remain largely unchanged. The systems he had studied from the outside would continue to operate as they had — unevenly, inefficiently, without the structure he believed was possible.

The question, then, was not whether the task would be difficult.

It was whether he was prepared to undertake it.

When he finally decided to run, the campaign that followed was not built on spectacle. It did not rely on grand promises or sweeping rhetoric. Instead, it focused on something more deliberate: listening, understanding, and communicating a sense of direction that resonated with what people already knew, but had not yet seen articulated.



Planning the Proposed Sea Bass Project.

Provincial officials and international partners meet in Oriental Mindoro to discuss the proposed Sea Bass Project in Naujan, a flagship ORMINVEST initiative envisioned to strengthen aquaculture development, attract foreign investment, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the province.

He spoke of development, but not as an abstract goal. He spoke of roads that would allow farmers to bring their produce to market more efficiently. He spoke of systems that would reduce waste and improve coordination.

He spoke of governance not as control, but as organization — of bringing together the different elements of the province into something that could function as a whole.

There was, in his approach, a quiet confidence — not the kind that demanded attention, but the kind that suggested preparedness.

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When the results came, they reflected not just a political victory, but a transfer of trust.

The people of Oriental Mindoro had chosen him not simply to represent them, but to lead them through a period of uncertainty toward something more stable, more coherent, more sustainable.

With that choice came a new reality.

The problems he had once observed from a distance were now his to address. The systems he had studied were now his to reshape.

And the expectations that had once been expressed in conversations were now formalized into responsibility.

The call to govern, when it finally arrived, was not a moment of arrival.

It was the beginning of a deeper commitment — one that would test not only his ability to build, but his capacity to endure, to decide, and to lead under conditions where outcomes were neither immediate nor guaranteed.

He stepped into it fully aware that what lay ahead would not be simple.

But also with the conviction that it could be done.



Outstanding Governor in Calamity Management.
President Fidel V. Ramos presents Gov. RGV the Outstanding Governor Award for Calamity Management in 1995, recognizing his decisive leadership and effective disaster response initiatives for the people of Oriental Mindoro.

Taking the Helm

When Rod took his oath as Governor of Oriental Mindoro in 1992, there was no illusion about the condition of the province he was inheriting. The numbers told part of the story — strained finances, limited fiscal flexibility, a government that could barely move beyond its immediate obligations — but numbers alone rarely capture the texture of a place.

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That could be seen in the towns.

Roads that ended where they were most needed. Ports that functioned, but without rhythm. Agricultural output that held promise, but struggled to reach markets efficiently. And beneath all of this, a quieter erosion: the gradual acceptance that things would remain as they were because they always had been.

In his first weeks in office, Rod did not rush to announce programs. He traveled.

He saw the province not as a collection of municipalities, but as a connected landscape — coastlines, uplands, farms, and emerging centers of commerce that, if properly linked, could function as a single economic system.

From elevated ground, the geography revealed itself differently.

Not as isolated areas.

But as parts of a whole that had yet to be organized.

He went where decisions would eventually land — municipal halls, farms, transport hubs, barangays where the effects of policy, or the lack of it, were not theoretical but immediate. He asked questions that were often simple but revealing: What takes the longest?



Planning the Proposed Sea Bass Project.
Gov. RGV meets with Prince Abdul Rahman of Saudi Arabia and project stakeholders during strategic planning discussions for the proposed Sea Bass Project in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro — an ORMINVEST initiative aimed at advancing aquaculture development, food sustainability, and investment opportunities in the province.

Where do you lose the most? What would make this easier?

The answers varied in detail but not in direction.

Movement was slow.

Coordination was weak.

Systems existed, but they did not connect.

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He began to understand that the province's problem was not a lack of effort.

People were working. Communities were trying. But effort, without structure, dissipated.

And so, before building anything new, he set out to establish something more fundamental.

Control.

Restoring the Line Between Order and Disorder

Illegal activities had, over time, woven themselves into the fabric of the province. Logging beyond permitted limits, informal operations that bypassed regulation, practices that had become normalized simply because they had gone unchallenged for so long.

Addressing them required more than directives.

It required presence.

Rod understood that enforcement, to be credible, had to be visible. Instructions issued from the provincial capitol would not be enough if they were not reinforced in the field. So he worked through the system — reorganizing enforcement mechanisms, clarifying responsibilities, and, where necessary, replacing those



RGV's Second Term as Governor. Then President Joseph "Erap" Estrada administered the oath of office to Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia for his second term as Governor of Oriental Mindoro, joined by Chalie in a moment that marked the people's renewed trust in his leadership and public service.

who could not or would not act.

The process was not smooth.

There was resistance, sometimes quiet, sometimes direct. There were moments when the cost of action seemed higher than the cost of inaction. But Rod approached these challenges the way he had approached others in his life — by returning to the question of consequence.

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What happens if nothing changes?
The answer was clear.
So he persisted.

Gradually, the lines began to reappear — between what was permitted and what was not, between what was enforced and what had previously been ignored. It did not eliminate all problems. No administration does. But it restored something essential.

Predictability.

And with predictability came the possibility of planning.

The Province That Could Not Move

For all the issues that required attention, one remained constant in its impact: the difficulty of movement.

It was not a problem confined to a single town or sector. It affected everyone.

Farmers who harvested crops without certainty that they could reach markets in time. Traders who factored delay into every transaction. Families who measured distance not in kilometers, but in hours — sometimes unpredictable ones.

The sea that separated Mindoro from the mainland was not vast. On a clear



Inducted for a Third Term. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administered the oath of office to RGV as Governor, marking his historic third term in public service and reaffirming the trust and confidence bestowed upon his leadership.

day, the crossing seemed almost modest. But the system that governed that crossing made it feel longer than it was.

Schedules shifted.
Costs fluctuated.

Control rested with a limited number of operators whose priorities did not always align with those who depended on them.

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Rod had seen this before, long before he became governor.

He had stood in lines, watched delays unfold, listened to explanations that carried the same quiet resignation: *ganyan talaga*.

Now, the problem was no longer observational.

It was operational.

Opening the Route

The first approach was measured.

Conversations were initiated. Meetings were held. The concerns were laid out — not as accusations, but as realities that needed to be addressed. The goal, at least initially, was not confrontation, but alignment.

But alignment requires willingness from all sides.

When it became clear that change would not come from within the existing structure, Rod made a decision that would define his administration.

He opened the routes.

New shipping operators were invited to enter. Barriers that had effectively



Forging Regional Unity. RGV joins fellow governors of the MIMAROPA provinces and President Fidel V. Ramos during the signing of the historic MIMAROPA Memorandum of Agreement on July 19, 1996, strengthening inter-provincial cooperation and advancing the region's shared vision for growth and development.

limited participation were lowered. The system, which had functioned as a closed circuit, was introduced to competition.

The reaction was immediate.

There were objections. Concerns were raised about sustainability, about disruption, about the implications of opening a system that had long operated within defined boundaries.

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But the change moved forward.

And with it came results that were both measurable and felt.

Travel time shortened. Not dramatically at first, but enough to matter. Costs began to adjust, responding to a new reality.

Schedules became more reliable, not because of regulation alone, but because alternatives now existed.

For the people of Mindoro, the effect was subtle but significant. Movement became possible in ways it had not been before.

And with movement came opportunity.

Vision 2020: Building Coherence

With key constraints addressed and a measure of stability restored, Rod turned his attention to something more ambitious: not a program, but a framework that could guide the province beyond the immediate.

Vision 2020 was introduced not as a declaration, but as a plan — one that sought to bring together the different elements of development into a coherent whole.



***Vision 2020 Planning with NEDA.** Governor RGV joins officials from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in a strategic planning session for Oriental Mindoro's Vision 2020 development roadmap, focusing on infrastructure, tourism, energy, and sustainable growth initiatives for the province.*

Agriculture was identified as a strength, but one that required support in the form of infrastructure and market access. Energy was recognized as essential, not only for industry but for the daily functioning of communities. Education and health were not treated as separate concerns, but as integral to the province's capacity to sustain growth.

Mindoro's contribution, if fully realized, was not marginal.

Estimates suggested that its potential

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Groundbreaking of Valencia Farms. RGV joins local officials, agricultural partners, community leaders, and international collaborators during the groundbreaking ceremony of Valencia Farms in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro — a milestone project envisioned to advance sustainable agriculture, food security, and countryside development through innovation and partnership.

output could account for a significant share of national economic activity — its agricultural base alone capable of scaling far beyond its existing performance.

But potential, once again, depended on structure.

Without roads, crops remained local.
Without ports, markets remained distant.
Without coordination, productivity remained fragmented.

Vision 2020 was not about discovering new strengths.

It was about unlocking existing ones.

The challenge was not in identifying these areas.

It was in connecting them.

Rod approached this the way he had approached systems in business — by mapping relationships. Roads were not simply construction projects; they were

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Valencia Farms Groundbreaking Ceremony.
RGV leads the ceremonial groundbreaking rites for Valencia Farms, a landmark agri-tourism and development project envisioned to promote sustainable growth, countryside progress, and long-term investment opportunities in Oriental Mindoro.

links between production and market. Energy projects were not isolated investments; they were enablers of broader activity. Social services were not expenditures; they were investments in stability.

Over time, the framework began to take shape not only on paper, but in practice. Projects moved forward.

Investments followed.

The province, which had once struggled to define its direction, began to show signs of alignment.

Resistance and Resolve

Not all decisions were met with agreement.

Among the most contentious issues during his tenure was mining. The province's natural resources attracted interest, and with that interest came proposals — some promising economic gain, others raising concerns about environmental impact.

Rod's position was not formed quickly, nor was it based on abstract principle.

He had seen what unchecked extraction could do — not immediately, but over time. The loss of forest cover, the degradation of water systems, the long-term effects that often outlasted the initial benefits.

In discussions that were often complex and, at times, contentious, he maintained a consistent view: development must not undermine the very resources on which it depends.

It was a stance that required resolve.

Economic arguments were compelling. The promise of revenue was immediate. But the costs, though less visible, were no less real.

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Rod chose preservation — not as an act of resistance alone, but as a component of a broader strategy that sought sustainability over expediency.

The Measure of Change

By the time his tenure as governor drew to a close, the changes in Oriental Mindoro were not defined by a single project or achievement.

They were visible in patterns.

In the way goods moved more efficiently.

In the way systems operated with greater clarity.

In the way the province began to be perceived — not only by those who lived within it, but by those who looked at it from the outside.

Recognition followed — awards for governance, acknowledgments of performance, metrics that reflected improvement.

But for Rod, these were indicators, not conclusions.

They suggested that the approach had worked — not perfectly, not completely, but meaningfully. And that, in governance, is often the most that can be achieved.



Golf with President Ramos. RGV shares a relaxed moment on the fairway with former President Fidel V. Ramos, whose friendship and camaraderie reflected a mutual respect forged through years of public service and leadership.

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The House That Continued to Hold

Long before public office, before business expansion, before the demands of leadership took hold, there was already a constant in Rod's life.

He met Chona "Chalie" Peñarroyo when he was nineteen. She was seventeen.

From the same province of Mindoro, she possessed a presence that was immediately striking — not only for her beauty, which was undeniable, but for a composure that would prove far more enduring.

He never let her go.

For all the systems he would later build — within government, within industry, within institutions — there was one system in Rod's life that required no formal structure, no legislation, no deliberate design.

It was the one he returned to.

His home.

At the center of it was his wife, Chona "Chalie" Peñarroyo Valencia, whose presence did not seek the visibility of public life, yet quietly anchored it. In a life that often demanded movement — between meetings, provinces, institutions — she remained constant,



Happy Moments Together. In a candid moment away from public life and professional responsibilities, RGV and his beloved wife Chalie share a simple yet meaningful time together — a reflection of the enduring companionship, affection, and quiet happiness that defined their marriage through the years.

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holding together the rhythms of family with a steadiness that allowed him to move outward without losing his center.

Those who observed them closely would note that her strength did not announce itself. It revealed itself in continuity — in the way things were kept in order even when his own schedule was not, in the way decisions made outside the home never fully displaced the life within it.

It is often said, too easily, that behind every public figure stands a supportive partner. In Rod's case, the phrase feels insufficient. Chalie was not behind him.

She was part of the foundation from which he operated.

In time, he would come to understand that their union carried a dimension beyond the personal.

She came from a Nacionalista family. He from the Liberal Party.

In a province where loyalties often followed lineage, this alignment mattered. It allowed him to bridge divides that might otherwise have remained fixed — uniting constituencies not through rhetoric, but through relationship.

What began as a relationship became, in the years that followed, a quiet convergence — of families, of communities, of political alignments



***The Love Bound in Heaven.** Radiating youthful elegance and joy, RGV and Chalie Basa Penarroyo begin their journey as husband and wife, walking hand in hand during their wedding celebration — a timeless moment that marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership founded on love, devotion, and shared dreams.*

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that would later matter in ways neither of them could have fully anticipated.

Their children grew up not in isolation from his work, but in proximity to it.

They saw what public service required — not in speeches, but in absence. Not in declarations, but in the quiet understanding that time was often claimed by responsibilities larger than the household.

And yet, what they absorbed was not distance.

It was example.

And then there was Joanna.

The only daughter.

Her path carried both continuity and departure. As President of RGV Real Estate Center, Inc., she assumed leadership within the family enterprise, guiding it through an increasingly complex landscape with a steady hand and a clear sense of direction. Yet her decision to enter politics — to run for governor of Oriental Mindoro in 2025 — marked something more deliberate.

It was not simply an extension of legacy.

It was an assertion.

To step into that arena, to stand before the same electorate that had once



The Valencia Couple. Rodolfo G. Valencia Jr. ("RGV") and his beloved wife, Charlie Basa Penarroyo of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, whose enduring partnership has been anchored on love, mutual respect, and unwavering support through decades of family life, public service, and business leadership.



The Family in Hawaiian Attire.
Surrounded by children, grandchildren, and loved ones, RGV and Charlie share a joyful family gathering in vibrant Hawaiian-inspired attire by the poolside — a warm reflection of the close family bonds, laughter, and treasured moments that remain at the heart of the Valencia family legacy.

entrusted leadership to her father, required not only preparation, but conviction. The outcome did not result in victory, but it affirmed something more enduring: presence. The willingness to stand, to be measured, to engage.

In that, she embodied the family's instinct to enter the arena rather than remain at its edges.

Joseph Arnold, the eldest son, emerged as the bridge between enterprise and service. His work in sales and marketing

within the family's real estate ventures placed him at the operational heart of a business his father had helped build.

Yet it was his earlier experience — as a Political Affairs Officer in his father's congressional office, and as a community organizer within the Mindoro Kabuhayan Foundation — that shaped his deeper orientation.

He understood that markets and communities were not separate spheres, but interconnected systems requiring both efficiency and empathy.

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Charleston developed along the line of strategy and expansion. In business, he assumed roles that required foresight — guiding development efforts across multiple companies within the RGV group, navigating growth with calculated direction. His entry into public service, as City Councilor of Calapan, reflected a parallel instinct: to translate plans into policy, and to understand governance not as abstraction, but as something that must function at the level of the community. His path revealed a leader attuned to scale, but grounded in locality.

Gerard — Gerry, within the family — anchored himself in execution. Where others worked in vision or strategy, he operated where plans met reality. His responsibilities in brokerage and sales demanded precision, discipline, and reliability — ensuring that what was brought to market was both accurate and credible. His earlier work in project management reinforced this orientation, placing him in environments where outcomes depended not on intention, but on follow-through. In him, the family's systems found their point of implementation.

John Nico represented convergence. As President and Executive Officer of Westchester Realty Corporation, he worked at the intersection of finance, real estate, and institutional partnership — particularly with the Home



RGV and His Family. Surrounded by the love and support of his family, RGV shares this memorable portrait with Arnold, Chalie, Joanna, Charleston, Nico, and Gerry — a reflection of the strong family ties, enduring values, and close-knit relationships that remain at the center of the Valencia family legacy.

Development Mutual Fund. His efforts in transforming non-performing assets into productive economic activity reflected a systems-level understanding of value creation. Yet his grounding in governance — through years of service across multiple Congresses as Chief of Staff, and later as a development consultant — added depth. He moved fluidly between policy and enterprise, understanding not only how systems operate, but how they are designed. His continued engagement in civic and

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Rotary work suggested a leadership that extended beyond sector, into community.

They did not remain at the edges of the systems that shaped their lives.

They entered them.

In time, grandchildren would arrive, adding another layer to the household — one that shifted the rhythm once more.

Where once the home had been shaped by discipline and expectation, it now held moments of lightness, of renewal. The responsibilities remained, but they were reframed by perspective. The work that had once been urgent began, in some measure, to be seen in terms of continuity.

What would endure.
What would be passed on.

There were still evenings — rare, but valued — when Rodolfo Valencia would sit at the family table, not as governor, not as legislator, not as businessman, but simply as father, as husband, as grandfather.

The conversations in those moments did not revolve around policy or projects.

They moved in smaller circles — around experiences, observations, the quiet unfolding of daily life.



A Daughter's Visit. Joanna shares a warm and meaningful moment with her father, RGV, during a visit to his office in Congress — a quiet reminder that beyond public service and leadership, family has always remained closest to his heart.

And yet, within those conversations, one could trace the same principles that had guided his public work.

Attention.
Clarity.
Responsibility.

He listened the way he always had — not to respond immediately, but to understand.

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It would be easy, in telling the story of his life, to separate the public from the private, to treat family as context and career as substance.

Recognition and Responsibility

The awards that came during and after his tenure — recognitions from presidents, institutions, and organizations — reflected the impact of his work.

Most Outstanding Governor.
Excellence in calamity management.
Professional achievements in real estate.

These recognitions mattered, but they did not define his work.
They acknowledged it.

For Rod, responsibility did not end with recognition.

It expanded.

Return to Congress: The Work That Waited

When Rod returned to Congress in 2004, it was not with the urgency of someone seeking to prove himself, nor with the uncertainty of a first-term legislator learning the rhythms of public office. He returned with something quieter but far more consequential: a sense of unfinished work.



A Proud Family Milestone. RGV, joined by his daughter Joanna, receives the 2011 Most Outstanding Professional in Real Estate Award from the Professional Regulation Commission, honoring his distinguished leadership, integrity, and lasting contributions to the Philippine real estate industry.

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***The Valencia Family.** Surrounded by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, RGV and Chalie stand at the heart of a family built on love, unity, and enduring values. More than his many achievements in public service and real estate, RGV treasures most the role he fulfilled as a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, and guiding patriarch of the Valencia family.*

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The years he had spent outside national office had not diminished his engagement with the issues that had once occupied him. If anything, distance had clarified them. From business, from provincial governance, from civic involvement, he had observed the same patterns repeating themselves across different sectors — gaps between policy and implementation, inconsistencies in professional standards, and, most persistently, the difficulty ordinary Filipinos faced in securing something as fundamental as a home.

Housing had always been part of his life, first as a profession, then as a policy concern. But now, returning to the legislative arena, he saw it not as a sectoral issue but as a national imperative — one that intersected with employment, migration, social stability, and economic growth.

In committee rooms, where discussions often drifted into abstraction, Rod had a way of returning the conversation to its practical consequences. He spoke not in generalities, but in scenarios — families attempting to secure financing, workers sending money home with the hope of building something permanent, communities expanding without the infrastructure to support them.



Recognition for the HDMF Law. As principal author of Republic Act 9679, the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Law, Cong. RGV receives a plaque of appreciation from Pag-IBIG Fund officials led by Vice President for Operations Florentino España and President Miro Quimbo in recognition of his vital contributions to strengthening the nation's **housing and savings program**.

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Recognitions and Awards of Westchester Realty Corporation. Members of the RGV Group of Companies proudly pose with numerous awards and citations conferred by Pag-IBIG Fund and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, recognizing Westchester Realty Corporation's excellence, compliance, and outstanding contributions to the real estate industry.

It was not that others did not understand these realities. It was that Rod had lived closer to them, had seen how small inefficiencies accumulated into systemic barriers.

And so, as Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, he began to approach the issue not as a legislator proposing isolated measures, but as a builder attempting to create a system that could sustain itself.

Pag-IBIG: The Idea of Access

The strengthening of the Home Development Mutual Fund — widely known as Pag-IBIG — did not begin with a single legislative draft. It began with a recognition that access, not intention, was the central problem.

Filipinos wanted to own homes. That had never been in doubt. What stood in the way was the structure that would allow them to do so.

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Banks required collateral that many did not possess. Informal arrangements lacked security. Existing programs were fragmented, often inaccessible to those who needed them most.

Rod approached the problem the way he had approached others before it — by asking not what could be offered, but what could be sustained.

A housing system, he believed, could not rely on periodic funding or temporary programs. It required continuity. It required participation. It required a mechanism that would endure beyond individual administrations.

The Pag-IBIG Fund Law, as it took shape, reflected this thinking. It was not designed as a subsidy alone, nor as a one-time intervention. It was structured as a mutual fund — a pooling of contributions that could be directed toward housing loans, creating a cycle that reinforced itself.

The requirement that a substantial portion of its resources be allocated to housing ensured that the institution would remain focused on its core purpose.

But the law itself was only the beginning.

There were discussions — sometimes prolonged, sometimes contentious — about implementation, about



PAREB National President. RGV addresses industry leaders and stakeholders during his term as President of the Philippine Association of Real Estate Boards (PAREB), championing professionalism, ethical standards, and nationwide advancement in the Philippine real estate sector.

governance, about ensuring that the system would not drift from its intended function. Rod remained engaged in these conversations, aware that the difference between a law that existed and a law that worked often lay in the details that followed its passage.

Over time, the impact became visible.

Families who had once relied on informal arrangements found a structured pathway to ownership. Overseas workers, whose contributions to the economy were immense but whose access to housing had been limited, found in Pag-IBIG a mechanism that recognized both their capacity and their need.

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The fund grew — not rapidly at first, but steadily, until its scale could no longer be ignored. It became one of the primary instruments of housing finance in the country, its reach extending far beyond what had initially been imagined.

For Rod, this was not a moment of completion.

It was confirmation that structure, when properly designed, could transform intention into reality.

The Long Struggle for Order: The RESA Law

If Pag-IBIG represented the creation of access, the Real Estate Service Act represented something different — the imposition of order.

The effort to professionalize the real estate industry did not begin in 2004. It had been part of Rod's thinking for years, dating back to his earliest observations of the industry's inconsistencies.

He had seen how the absence of standards exposed both practitioners and clients to risk. He had seen how transactions of enormous personal and financial significance were often conducted without uniform guidelines. And he had come to believe that without a regulatory framework, the industry would remain vulnerable — not only to inefficiency, but to erosion of trust.



Recognized for Distinguished Service. RGV receives a plaque of appreciation from the IRC in recognition of his invaluable contributions and steadfast support to the organization and the real estate profession.

The first attempts to pass such a law met resistance.

Not always openly, but persistently.

There were concerns about regulation, about cost, about the impact on those already operating within the system.

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There were competing interests, differing priorities, and the slow movement that often characterizes legislative work.

Rod did not abandon the effort.

He waited, recalibrated, returned.

The process extended across years — through changing political landscapes, through shifts in legislative priorities, through moments when progress seemed uncertain.

And yet, the problem remained.

When the Real Estate Service Act was finally passed into law in 2009, it represented more than a legislative victory. It represented the culmination of a sustained effort to align an industry with the standards it required.

The law established licensing requirements, defined professional categories, and created a regulatory board under the Professional Regulation Commission. It mandated continuing education and adherence to a code of ethics.

In doing so, it did something fundamental.

It transformed real estate from a loosely organized field into a profession.



Anvil Award Recognition. RGV receives the prestigious Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines for the RGV Pabahay Program for Overseas Filipino Workers in Saudi Arabia, adjudged as one of the country's Most Outstanding Public Relations Projects of the Year.

The RESA Signing

By the time the Real Estate Service Act was ready for final passage, the moment did not carry the drama one might expect from a struggle that had spanned years.

There were no sudden revelations, no dramatic reversals.

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PhilRES Oath-Taking and Investiture Ceremony.
As National President of the Philippine Institute of Real Estate Service Practitioners (PhilRES), RGV led the oath-taking and investiture of new chapter members, further advancing professionalism in the industry through the implementation of Republic Act 9646, the Real Estate Service Act (RESA).

Instead, there was a sense — subtle but unmistakable — that something long in the making had finally reached its conclusion.

In the legislative chamber, discussions moved toward closure. Language had been refined, provisions clarified, concerns addressed as far as they could be.

For Rod, the moment was less about victory than about completion.

He had seen the problem decades earlier, in transactions that lacked consistency, in practitioners who operated without shared standards, in

PhilRES National Gathering 2014. More than 500 delegates from across the country attended the February 27, 2014 gathering of the Philippine Institute of Real Estate Service Practitioners, highlighting the organization's growing influence and commitment to professionalism and excellence in the real estate service industry.

clients who navigated uncertainty without protection.

Now, as the law moved toward enactment, the question was no longer whether the industry would change.

It was how it would adapt.

When the measure passed, it did not transform the industry overnight.

No law ever does.

But it established something that had not existed before.

A framework.

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PHILRES National Board. National President RGV poses with members of the PHILRES National Board during a formal gathering of the organization's leaders, united in advancing professionalism, integrity, and excellence in the Philippine real estate service industry.

Guest Speaker at the PhALTRA Convention. Congressman Rodolfo G. Valencia delivers his keynote address during the 82nd Annual Convention and Workshop of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (PhALTRA) held at the PICC on February 3, 2015, sharing insights on fiscal accountability, transparent governance, and sustainable local development.



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And within that framework, the possibility of trust.

PhilRES and the Work of Implementation

Laws, once enacted, do not implement themselves.

They require institutions, and institutions require leadership.

When the Philippine Institute of Real Estate Service Practitioners (PhilRES) was designated as the accredited integrated professional organization for the sector, it carried with it the responsibility of translating the principles of the RESA Law into practice.

Rod's involvement in PhilRES was not incidental.

He understood that the success of the law depended not only on its provisions, but on the culture that would emerge around it.

As national president, he emphasized professionalism, ethical conduct, and continuing education. These were not abstract ideals; they were necessary components of a functioning system.

Under his leadership, PhilRES



An Evening of Fellowship and Friendship.
RGV hosts close friends and distinguished personalities at his Dasmariñas residence, including business magnate Henry Sy Sr. and Cong. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., in a gathering marked by camaraderie, friendship, and meaningful conversation.

expanded, its membership growing across regions, its presence felt in major cities and municipalities. It became a platform through which standards could be reinforced, through which practitioners could align themselves with a shared framework.

For Rod, this phase of his work was as important as the legislation itself.

It was where theory met practice.

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At GA Tower with RCMers. An evening of fellowship and camaraderie among leaders and members of the Rotary Club of Manila, gathered against the breathtaking sunset skyline from GA Tower in Mandaluyong, graciously hosted by Westchester Realty Corporation along EDSA. The occasion reflected the enduring spirit of friendship, shared purpose, and Rotary fellowship high above the city lights.

Rotary and the Continuity of Service

Long before many of the roles that would later define him — before the governorship, before the return to Congress, before the scale of responsibility expanded beyond province and industry — Rod made a decision that, at the time, seemed almost incidental.

In 1981, he joined the Rotary Club of Manila.

It was not entirely his own idea.

The suggestion — quiet, deliberate, and characteristic of the man who made it — came from his father, Artemio “Tem” Valencia.

Tem did not press the matter with urgency. He did not present Rotary as an obligation, nor as a strategic move. Instead, he framed it in the language he understood best — not in terms of advantage, but of alignment.

It was a place, he implied, where one learned to serve without expectation.

For Rod, the suggestion carried weight,

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not because it was insistent, but because of who it came from. His father had never been one to recommend lightly. When he spoke, it was usually because he had already considered the matter from multiple angles and arrived at a quiet conviction.

So Rod joined.

At first, the experience unfolded without ceremony.

Rotary meetings were structured but unadorned — gatherings of men who came together not for recognition, but for continuity. There were no dramatic declarations, no immediate sense of transformation.

But over time, the rhythm of Rotary began to reveal itself.

Projects were conceived and carried out not through directive, but through participation. Needs were identified not in theory, but in practice. Service was not episodic — it was sustained.

And what distinguished it most was its consistency.

The Rotary Club of Manila had endured across decades, not because of any single initiative, but because of a collective commitment to showing up — again and again, across changing



Ambassador of Pakistan. An evening of warm fellowship and meaningful conversations during a sunset dinner at the farm of Mohammad Aslam, graciously hosted together with Dr. Asima Rabbani, Ambassador of Pakistan, in the company of members of the Rotary Club of Manila. The gathering celebrated friendship, cultural exchange, and the enduring spirit of camaraderie among distinguished guests and Rotarians.

circumstances, across different generations of leadership.

For Rod, this continuity resonated deeply.

He had seen, in business and in public life, how systems could falter when they depended too heavily on individuals. Rotary offered a different model — one in which the structure held, even as the people within it changed.

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As his own responsibilities expanded — first in enterprise, then in government — his connection to Rotary remained.

It did not compete with his other roles. It complemented them.

In a life increasingly shaped by decisions of scale — laws, policies, programs — Rotary provided a counterbalance. It brought service back to its most direct form, where the distance between intention and action was short, and where impact, though sometimes modest, was immediate.

And perhaps, in ways not immediately visible, it reinforced something that had begun much earlier, in the quiet guidance of his father.

That leadership, at its core, is not about position.

It is about continuity.

About the willingness to serve, not once, but repeatedly.

Without spectacle.
Without expectation.

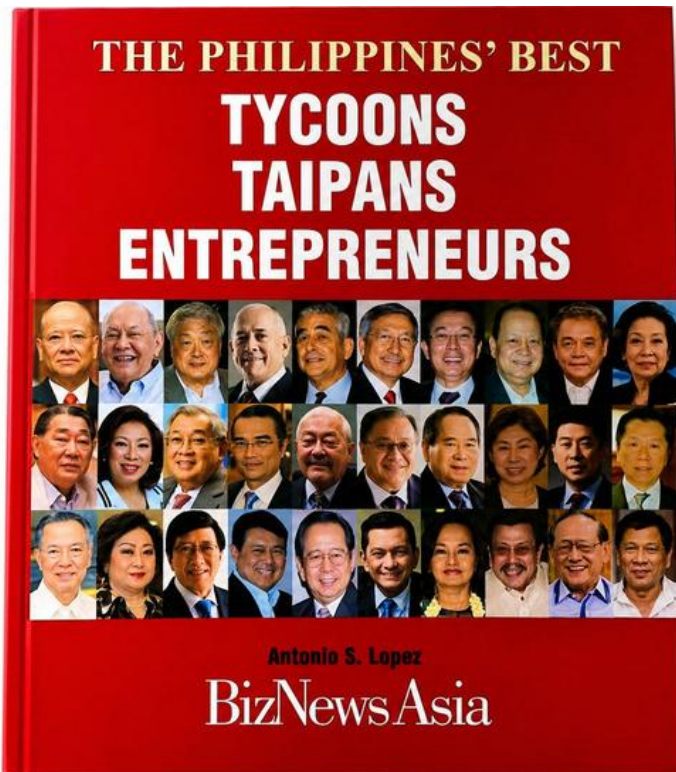
Simply because it must be done.



Among the Nation's Finest. RGV was recognized among "The Best of the Best 2022–2023" by BizNewsAsia, honoring his enduring legacy in public service, governance, and leadership alongside some of the Philippines' most distinguished personalities and industry leaders.

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The Philippines' Best. RGV was featured in *The Philippines' Best: Tycoons, Taipans and Entrepreneurs* by BizNews Asia, recognizing his contributions to Philippine business, real estate development, and entrepreneurship alongside some of the country's most distinguished industry leaders.

RGV with Senior Officers and Consultants. RGV poses with Economic Consultant Bernie Villegas and key senior officers of the RGV Group during a strategic meeting focused on business development, economic direction, and organizational growth.



CREBA Special Recognition. RGV received a special award from the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA), presented by Charlie Gorayeb and witnessed by then Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., in recognition of his valuable contributions to the Philippine real estate and housing industry.



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The Man and the Measure

As the years passed, the accumulation of achievements — awards, recognitions, titles — began to form a visible record of Rod's life.

He was recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines, honored for his work in human settlements management. He received awards for his governance, his professional contributions, his leadership in real estate.

But these recognitions, while significant, tell only part of the story.



Award of Excellence. Former President Fidel V. Ramos, together with BizNewsAsia Publisher Antonio Lopez, conferred the Award of Excellence upon RGV in recognition of his distinguished public service, environmental stewardship, peace-and-order initiatives, and transformative leadership in Oriental Mindoro.



Top 10 Excellence Award for Accredited Developers. RGV and the RGV Group of Companies were honored among the country's outstanding accredited developers during ceremonies attended by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., recognizing their continued contributions to housing development, community building, and nation-building in the Philippines.

To understand the man, one must look at the pattern that runs beneath them.

The insistence on structure.
The attention to systems.

The willingness to act where others hesitated.
The patience to persist where others might have withdrawn.

And, perhaps most importantly, the ability to see connections — between

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policy and practice, between governance and daily life, between individual effort and collective outcome.

The willingness to act where others hesitated.

The patience to persist where others might have withdrawn.

And, perhaps most importantly, the ability to see connections — between policy and practice, between governance and daily life, between individual effort and collective outcome.



With Henry Sy Jr. RGV, together with son Nico and daughter Joanna, shares a memorable moment with longtime family friend and business leader Henry Sy Jr., reflecting enduring friendships built through years of trust, respect, and shared aspirations.

What he saw in Mindoro was never just land.

It was capacity.

And capacity, left unstructured, is often mistaken for limitation.



Shrine of Sto. Niño. The architecture and design of the Shrine of Sto. Niño draw inspiration from the historic façade of the original Church of Our Lady Victorious and the Infant Jesus of Prague in Malá Strana, Prague, Czech Republic. This sacred project is a heartfelt offering of the RGV family, made possible through the support of NEO Calapan Corporation, generous donors, and cherished friends who share in the vision of building a lasting place of faith and devotion.

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Epilogue: What Remains, What Endures

In the end, the pattern becomes clear.

He did not enter public life because of a single issue.

But when he did, he carried with him a clarity that had been forming for years:

That land, once diminished, could not easily be restored.



Bonding with the Grandchildren. Amid laughter and playful moments in the pool, RGV cherishes quality time with his beloved grandchildren, reflecting the warmth, joy, and close-knit spirit of the Valencia family.



"Ulirang Ama" Awardee. RGV received the prestigious "Ulirang Ama" Award from the Consumers Union of the Philippines in recognition of his exemplary role as a father, family leader, civic servant, and responsible steward to both his community and his group of companies in Oriental Mindoro.

That systems, once left unstructured, would continue to fail those within them.

And that leadership, if it were to matter, had to intervene before decline became irreversible.

In the later reflections of a life spent moving between systems — business, government, civic work — there comes a point where the question is no longer what was achieved, but what remains.

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For Rod Valencia, the answer is not singular.

It is distributed.

It is found in the homes financed through systems he helped strengthen — homes that now stand quietly across cities and provinces, inhabited by families whose lives were shaped by access that once did not exist.

It is found in the real estate professionals who operate within a framework that demands competence and accountability, where once there had been uncertainty.

It is found in a province that learned to move more freely, to grow more steadily, to see itself not as constrained by circumstance, but capable of direction.

But beyond these visible outcomes lies something less tangible, and perhaps more important.

A way of thinking.

That problems must be understood before they are addressed.
That systems must be built, not assumed.
That leadership requires patience as much as decisiveness.

And that progress, when it is real, is rarely sudden.



Physical Conditioning. RGV maintains a disciplined fitness regimen through regular gym workouts and strength training to promote health, endurance, and active living.

It is constructed.

Piece by piece.
Decision by decision.

Over time.

Rotary District 3810's DISCON AND AWARDS NIGHT 2026



DISCON & AWARDS NIGHT

MAY 22-24, 2026 | **LE PAVILLON PASAY CITY**

Early Bird – Until March 15, 2026
Php 7500 DisCon & Awards Night

Regular Rate – March 16 to April 15, 2026
Php 8500 DisCon & Awards Night

MEALS INCLUDED
May 22 & 23 PM Snack & Dinner
May 24 Lunch, PM Snack & Dinner

ACCOUNT DETAILS
Bank: Metrobank
Account No. :271-727154-395-2
Account Name: Rotary D3810
Team Unity Corp

NO ONSITE REGISTRATION

REGISTER NOW → PP Nelia Seril (09175260220)
Chairperson for Promotion




Event Schedule

**DAY 1
MAY 22**

7:00 am UCP Breakfast, by invitation
Le Parc | UCP Uniform

7:00 am PE Breakfast, by invitation
Le Parc | ICP Uniform

9:00 am Business Meeting | Le Parc

9:00 am Registration | Le Pavillon

10:00 am Opening of Trade Exhibits | Le Pavillon

1:00 pm Opening Ceremonies | Business Attire

6:00 pm Talent Night | Cocktail dress | Business Attire

**DAY 2
MAY 23**

8:30 am Youth Program

1:00 pm Plenary Session | Filipiniana | Barong Tagalog

6:00 pm Parade of Nations | Filipiniana | Barong Tagalog

**DAY 3
MAY 24**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm District Awards
Tuxedo | Long Gown
Governor's Ball

6:00 pm Tuxedo | Long Gown (any color
except for Royal Blue, Raspberry
Pink and Gold)

DISCON 2026

May 22-24, 2026 | Le Pavillon, Pasay City

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

President Raoul Creencia Conducts Lecture on RI Harassment Policy



President Raoul Creencia conducted a lecture on Rotary International's Policy on Harassment on May 16, 2026 at RI District 3800 training session for District SAA, Protocol Officers, and Governor's Aides.



Presenting him with a Certificate of Appreciation is District 3800 DGE Celso Montalla. Also present were PDGs from District 3800 and District 3810 Training Officer PDG Karen Tamayo.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2026-2027



Incoming Deputy District Public Image Coordinator Albert S. Alday attended the Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2026-2027 last May 18, 2026 at the Philippine Columbian Association Sports Club in Paco, Manila.



Incoming Deputy District Public Image Coordinator Albert S. Alday orienting the EXECOM of Rotary District 3810 on the concept of Public Image through the interplay of the three (3) pillars of Rotary, namely, Public Image, Membership and The Rotary Foundation.

Rotaract Club of De La Salle University Receives Multiple Awards from RI District 3810



**OVERALL MOST
OUTSTANDING
ROTARACT CLUB**
for university-based clubs



The Rotaract Club of De La Salle University wishes to thank the tremendous and lasting support by the Rotary Club of Manila that made this happen!

- ★ Overall Most Outstanding Rotaract Club (University-based)
- ★ Overall Most Outstanding President (University-based)
- ★ Outstanding Secretary
- ★ District Citation with Platinum Distinction
- ★ Gold Distinction for Club Service
- ★ Gold Distinction for Professional Development
- ★ Platinum Distinction for Community Service
- ★ Platinum Distinction for International Service

- ★ Gold Distinction for Public Image
- ★ Silver Distinction for Fundraising
- ★ Bronze Distinction for Foundation Service
- ★ Contributor to the Rotary Foundation
- ★ Contributor to the PolioPlus Fund
- ★ Silver Award for the Best Service Project in Public Image
- ★ Bronze Award for the Best Service Project in Club Development
- ★ Bronze Award for the Best Service Project in Foundation Service

Rotaract Club of De La Salle University Receives Multiple Awards from RI District 3810



Rotaract Club of De La Salle University Receives Multiple Awards from RI District 3810



RECOGNITION CORNER

Past Director Rodolfo G. Valencia and Director-elect Nico Valencia's Valencia Farm Launched in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

BREAKING NEWS

VALENCIA FARM INILUNSAH SA NAUJAN, NAGLALAYONG ITAAS ANG AGRIKULTURA SA ORIENTAL MINDORO

📍 BRGY. MABINI, NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO May 14, 2026



Pinangunahan nina Rodolfo G. Valencia at Joanna Valencia kasama ang mga bisita at opisyal sa groundbreaking ceremony ng Valencia Farm.

NAUJAN, Oriental Mindoro — Isang mahalagang hakbang para sa pagpapalunlad ng agrikultura sa lalawigan ang isinagawa matapos pormal na itaas ang groundbreaking ceremony ng Valencia Farm sa Brgy. Mabini, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Pinangunahan nina **Rodolfo G. Valencia**, Chairman ng RGV Group of Companies, at **Joanna Valencia**, President ng RGV Real Estate Center Incorporated, ang seremonya na naglalayong gawing sentro ng makabagong pagtasaka at sustainable farming ang Valencia Farm.

Sa kanyang mensahe, binigyang-diin ni Chairman Valencia ang mahalagang papel ng agrikultura sa pag-unlad ng bansa. Ipinahayag din niya ang kanyang panihiwal na patuloy naangat ang Oriental Mindoro bilang isa sa magiging pangunahing food basket ng Pilipinas sa mga susunod na taon.

Ayon sa kanya, sa pamamagitan ng modernong farming methods, matibay na kooperasyon, at international partnerships, makatutulong ang proyekto sa pagpapalakas ng food security at agricultural development hindi lamang sa lalawigan kundi maging sa buong rehiyon.

Mas pinalalakas pa ang proyekto sa tulong nina Peng Yuan-Ching, Senior Specialist ng Taiwan ICDF, at Arsenio "Toto" Barcelona, President ng Harbest Agribusiness Corporation. Inaasahang malaking ambag ang kanilang kaalaman at karanasan sa agricultural technology at innovation upang maisakatuparan ang layunin ng Valencia Farm.



MGA DIGNITARYO AT BISITA SA SEREMONYA

- **Hon. Joel Teves** – Municipal Mayor ng Naujan
- **Hon. Dan Melgar** – Vice Mayor ng Naujan
- **Hon. Jun Bugarin** – Municipal Councilor ng Naujan
- **Hon. Anthony Yap** – Sangguniang Panlalawigan Board Member, Oriental Mindoro
- **Mr. Lou De Guzman** – President ng Naujan Farmers Federation
- **Hon. Mor De Castro** – Brgy. Chairman ng Mabini, Naujan

Ipinakita ng kanilang presensya ang pagkakaisa ng pampubliko at pribadong sektor sa pagsusulong ng mas matatag na industriya ng agrikultura at pagbibigay-suporta sa mga lokal na magsasaka.




Higit pa sa isang ceremonial activity, ang paglulunsad ng Valencia Farm ay nagsisilbing simbolo ng pag-asa at inspirasyon para sa mga magsasaka, kabataan, at komunidad upang muling kilalanin ang kahalagahan ng agrikultura bilang pundasyon ng kaunlaran, sustainability, at pambansang pag-unlad.

“Sa Agrikultura, Liliwanag ang Bukas.”

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RECOGNITION CORNER

DE Teodoro “Teddy” Kalaw IV Admitted as Fellow in Australian Institute of Company Directors



DE Teodoro “Teddy” Kalaw IV was admitted as a Fellow in the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). This is his third (3rd) from governance bodies and fifteenth (15th) from learned societies.



TEODORO KALAW IV

Esq. (Phil., NY, & USSC), CBC (APEC), REC, REA, REB; C. Arb., Accred. Med., PMP, CCEP-I, BSCG, ACFA, ACFWA, QRD, RVC, IPA, CSP-GRI, CSP, CSRA, CIPV, FCI Arb (Int. Arb. & Med.), FSI Arb, FHKI Arb, FIPREA, FAICD, FICD (Life), FISA, FPI Arb, FAIADR, FIPC, FRSA (Life), FRAS (Life), FFFI (Fam. Firm Gov. & Fam. Wealth Mgt.), MRICS, CSEE, Lt. Col. AFP JAGS(R); KGOR; B.S. (AdMU), DipMed (CI Arb), DipICarb (CI Arb), M.P.A. (Univ. Phil.), M.B.A. (Kellogg & HKUST), M.St. (Cambridge), J.D. (AdMU), LL.M. (Harvard)



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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

SC penalizes unethical conduct

This month, the lawyers' Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA) will mark its third anniversary. Since it became effective on May 30, 2023, the Supreme Court has decided about a hundred cases enforcing its provisions. Of these, around 80 ended in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions, while the other 20 in dismissals for lack of merit, in judicial clemency, and in denial of requests.

TO KEEP UP WITH OUR CHANGING TIMES and the "... recent developments and technological trends which impact the experience and behavior of members of the Philippine Bar, mostly through social media and the internet," the Court adopted the CPRA and replaced its circa 1988 predecessor, the Code of Professional Responsibility. Through the CPRA, the Court reasserted its constitutional authority (Section 5[5], Article VIII) to regulate not only admission to the practice of law but also the behavior and ethical conduct of lawyers.

My Dec. 4, 2023 column ("Duties of lawyers") discussed the six CPRA canons that must guide the ethical compass of every lawyer: "Independence" (Canon I), "Propriety" (Canon II), "Fidelity" (Canon III), "Competence and Diligence" (Canon IV), "Equality" (Canon V), and "Accountability" (Canon VI).

Today, let me focus on the decisions that meted out penalties like disbarment and suspension from practicing law, revocation of notarial commissions, disqualification as a notary public, fines, or a combination of these penalties, depending on the gravity of the misconduct.

ACCORDINGLY, LET ME TAKE UP SOME CASES that impelled the Court to impose these sanctions. Recently, a lawyer was suspended for five years for violating her client's trust and confidence via her repeated absences from court hearings, noncompliance with court directives, and dereliction of her obligations under Canon IV, requiring lawyers to serve their clients competently and diligently.



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

In another case, the Court fined a high government official for indirect contempt and "Grossly Undignified Conduct Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice" under Canon VI for publicly assailing the Court's conflict-of-interest rule under the CPRA and issuing an office order that "effectively encouraged disobedience" to the rule, thereby violating her duty to observe and maintain the respect due to the Court and the laws under Canons II and III.

As a third example, one prominent practicing lawyer and academic was fined P100,000 for simple misconduct in violation of Canon II for sponsoring the travel of certain officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP). The Court found him to have "crossed the borders on excessive ... propriety" that compromised the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the IBP.

The supreme penalty of disbarment is imposed for "any misconduct, whether in his [or her] professional or private capacity, which shows him [or her] to be wanting in moral character, in honesty, probity, and good demeanor, or unworthy to continue as an officer of the court."

Moreover, the CPRA contains novel provisions (Sections 36 to 44 of Canon II) requiring the responsible use of social media. Thus, attorneys must "uphold the dignity of the le-

gal profession in all social media interactions in a manner that enhances the people's confidence in the legal system..."

Accordingly, the Court condemned a lawyer for indirect contempt after he published a now-deleted Facebook post accusing the Court of judicial tyranny. Such baseless accusations subjected the tribunal to public ridicule and mockery, in violation of Canon II.

THE SC HAS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DISHONESTY. A lawyer who submitted pleadings bearing a fake Mandatory Continuing Legal Education number was disbarred since his "... act of indicating patently false information in pleadings filed before the courts constitutes bad faith and dishonesty and shows blatant disrespect of the court and its rules."

Lawyers are expected to protect their clients' causes with utmost diligence and competence. Yet, some members of the bar have treated these obligations with alarming casualness.

One lawyer was disbarred for misappropriating over P60 million entrusted to him by his clients, thereby violating his duty under Canon III to assist in the administration of justice. Another was disbarred for violating Canons III and IV for habitually missing hearings, resulting in the waiver of his client's right to cross-examine a witness and, ultimately, in the imposition of two counts of frustrated homicide.

The Court is mindful, however, that the power to disbar "must be exercised with great caution," and its disciplinary authority covers only acts that may affect public confidence and does not extend to enforcing private rights unrelated to a lawyer's duties.

The high tribunal's intensified enforcement of the CPRA should not be mistaken as a campaign of fear. Rather, it is a determined effort to uphold and preserve society's last bulwark of justice and democratic order.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

FELLOWSHIP

ALECO meeting



The ALECO meeting, hosted by IA Nick Locsin on May 18, 2026, focused on discussing preparations for the RCM Golf President's Cup

Following the event, PD Rod Valencia and Fellowship Chair Nico Valencia will host a brunch and merienda at their home in Splendido village.



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