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PETROPHILIPPINES Co Inc.



ESGUERRA FARMS & STUD INC.

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4095 • JULY 2, 2026

Rotary
Club of Manila



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

107th

Induction and Handover Ceremonies



**The Breaking of a
New RCM Dawn**

**First Regular
Board Meeting
of the Incoming Board**

**Rotary District 3810
Club Leadership
Learning Seminar**

**36th Weekly Membership Meeting Recap:
Club Awards 2026 & Valedictory Address**



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Learning Seminar



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Rotary International

Oathtaking Program in Luneta

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Master of Ceremonies
Rtn. Herbert Joey D. Garcia

4:30 AM	Pre-Event Rendezvous and Breakfast Gallery Holding Area	6:27 AM	Group Introduction of the RCM Board of Directors and Officers
5:30 AM	Move to Monument Assembly Area	6:31 AM	Charging of the RCM Board of Directors & Officers PDG Herminio S. Coloma
5:45 AM	Arrival of RCM BOD, RCMFI BOT, Officers and Other Guests Rizal Monument	6:38 AM	Presentation of Token Gift Pres. Raoul C. Creencia and Incoming Pres. Reginald T. Yu
5:50 AM	Call to Order Pres. Raoul C. Creencia	6:41 AM	Induction of the RCM BOD and Officers and Photo Opportunity Hon. Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso
5:54 AM	Invocation Internal Auditor Abdulgani M. Macatoman	6:46 AM	Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker PDG Alexander Cureg
5:57 AM	Pambansang Awit STA (Santiago Trillana Academy) CONCERT CHORUS	6:48 AM	Keynote Address Hon. Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso
6:02 AM	Welcome Remarks Rtn. Lawrence Li Tan	7:00 AM	Presentation of Token Gift Pres. Reginald T. Yu and RCMFI Chair Raoul C. Creencia
6:05 AM	Processional March and Wreath Laying Ceremonies Pres. Reginald T. Yu and Hon. Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso	7:03 AM	Entertainment STA (Santiago Trillana Academy) CONCERT CHORUS
6:15 AM	Recessional March Pres. Reginald T. Yu and Hon. Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso	7:08 AM	Ceremonial Turn-over Pres. Reginald T. Yu and RCMFI Chair Raoul C. Creencia
6:19 AM	Group Introduction of the RCMFI Board of Trustees and Officers	7:15 AM	Closing Remarks Director Delfin N. Lorenzana
6:22 AM	Induction of the RCMFI Board of Trustees and Officers and Photo Opportunity Hon. Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno Domagoso	7:20 AM	Adjournment Pres. Reginald T. Yu

107th Induction and Handover Ceremonies

Thursday, July 2, 2026
Manila Hotel

PART I

Master of Ceremonies

Past President Eduardo V. Enriquez III and Ms Zyrene Valencia

4:30 PM	Registration and Arrival of Guests RCM Secretariat	6:40 PM	Presentation of 50 Years of Rotary Service to Past President Domingo S. Guevara Jr. and Past Auditor Jaime C. Laya Pres. Reginald T. Yu and Club Service Director Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw III
6:00 PM	Call to Order President Reginald T. Yu		
6:04 PM	Invocation Director Michael D. Roxas	6:46 PM	Charter Anniversary Celebration - "RCM History and LEGACY" Audio Visual Presentation
6:09 PM	Philippine National Anthem RCM Audio Visual Presentation	6:56 PM	Anniversary Candle Blowing and Photo Opportunity RCM Past Presidents, Pres. Reggie T. Yu and RCM Members
6:13 PM	RC Manila Rotary Hymm RC Manila World Famous MUSIC Chorale		
6:17 PM	Introduction of Dignitaries, Guests, District Officers, Visiting Rotarians and Sister Clubs Past Disctrict Governor Alexander P. Cureg	7:01 PM	Ceremonial TOAST Past District Governor Vicente J. Carlos
6:25 PM	Welcome Remarks VP Karlo Eugene Josef M. Castro	7:05 PM	Dinner and Entertainment Quartet Manila
6:30 PM	The Year That Was Audio Visual Presentation	7:52 PM	Acknowledgement of Sponsors Audio Visual Presentation
6:36 PM	Presentation of Leadership Award Pres. Reginald T. Yu, IPP Raoul C. Creencia		

107th Induction and Handover Ceremonies

Thursday, July 2, 2026
Manila Hotel

PART II

Master of Ceremonies

Rtn. Francisco Roberto C. Mauricio and Rtn. Joaquin Pablo A. Esquivias

7:56 PM	Oathtaking at the Rizal Monument of the RCM Board of Directors, Club Officers and RCMFI Board of Trustees Presentation of RCM Board of Directors and Officers Audio Visual Presentation	8:40 PM	Entertainment The Company
8:01 PM	Presentation of President Reginald T. Yu Secretary Albert S. Alday	8:56 PM	Introduction of New Members Audio Visual Presentation
8:06 PM	Inaugural Address Pres. Reginald T. Yu	9:00 PM	Charging of New Members District Governor Nominee Hermino S. Esguerra
8:15 PM	Serenade RCM WF Music Chorale	9:06 PM	Induction of New Members Pres. Reginald T. Yu
8:21 PM	Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker Rtn. Lawrence Li Tan	9:11 PM	Introduction of Rotary International Director Nominee Director Carlos G. Serapio
8:25 PM	Keynote Address His Eminence † Most Revered Pablo Virgilio Cardinal David	9:15 PM	Inspirational Message Rotary International Director Nominee Edna R. Sutter
8:37 PM	Presentation of Token Gift to Guest of Honor and Speaker Pres. Reginald T. Yu and RCMFI Board Legal Adviser Christopher Tamesis	9:21 PM	Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation Director Michael Jaey C. Albaña and Internal Auditor Abdulgani M. Macatoman
		9:24 PM	Introduction of RID 3819 District Governor Immediate Past Pres. Raoul C. Creencia

107th Induction and Handover Ceremonies

Thursday, July 2, 2026
Manila Hotel

- 9:29 PM Inspirational Message
RID 3810 District Governor Maria Rosa
"BING" N. Carrion
- 9:36 PM Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation
Director John Nico P. Valencia and AS Jonas
R. Gonzales
- 9:39 PM Entertainment
The Company
- 9:55 PM Closing Remarks
Treas. Arvin Arik B. Carranceja
- 9:59 PM Raffle
ABLA Hansel Joseph Michael L. Tillman and
Rtn. Dead Cid
- 10:08 PM Adjournment and Recognition of Foreign
Sister Clubs
Pres. Reginald T. Yu
- 10:14 PM Fellowship
- 12MN DJ Rtn. Avelino Avantura Jr.



EDITORIAL

The Breaking of a New RCM Dawn

IN the northern hemisphere from where I write to you, dear RCMers, this time of the year provides impressive sunrises quite early in the day. To the early risers pandiculating from slumber, and even to those who are headed home after partying throughout the night, the breaking of dawn comes with serenity and suffused light, the peace and quiet punctuated only by the chirping of the morning birds.



Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

Pregnant with possibilities, the new day leisurely unfolds, the sun taking its time before fully unveiling itself above the horizon, and the world seemingly pauses a moment in contemplation of the promise of a fresh start, a clean slate, a new beginning.

A new day unfolds for the Rotary Club of Manila and the world of Rotary as the year of creating a lasting impact begins. In a time-honored ritual of passage, President Raoul C. Creencia, confident that the Club's accomplishments in his year in office have brought it on a higher plane, hands the bell and the gavel to his

EDITORIAL

successor, President Reginald T. Yu, whose task it shall be to bring the first Rotary Club in Asia to even greater heights. This new day is for both of them to cherish, albeit with eyes cast on opposite directions, as one looks back to a year gilt with the gold of victory, and the other looks forward in anticipation of what is possible.

This unfolding day also belongs to each Manila Rotarian as another chapter is written in the Club's history. For 107 years, the Club has built a legacy of leadership, service, and vocational excellence, and this legacy is bequeathed year after year to its new custodians, none other than the Board of Directors and Executive Officers, the existing membership, and the new inductees into the Club. Together we will write this new chapter, and it is up to all of us if it will be a stirring panegyric or an evanescent murmur. I have every confidence that it will be the former as our President leads us on a path *Towards a Unified Rotary Nation*.

President Reggie's ascent to the highest position the Club has in its power to bestow to any member has



***A new day unfolds
for the Rotary Club
of Manila and the
world of Rotary as
the year of creating a
lasting impact begins.***

left a gaping hole in the editorial board of our beloved *Balita*. Because nature abhors a vacuum, it sucked the most lightweight particle available to fill that hole. And so the unenviable task of following in President Reggie's footsteps as Editor-in-Chief fell on this lap. It was accepted with great humility and the recognition that, first, it takes a village to publish a club bulletin, and second, we have been given the sacred trust of preserving the institutional memory of the Club through the written word. It is a trust that I will sedulously honor and serve every week.

"Morning has broken," sang Cat Stevens, to which Nina Simone responds, "I'm feeling good."

Feel good, my dear Brothers in RCM; the sun is up and we are off to a great start.



**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**

**36th Weekly
Membership
Meeting Recap**



**CLUB
AWARDS
2026**

**&
VALEDICTORY
ADDRESS**



President Raoul Creencia called the 36th Weekly Membership Meeting to order.



Manila Rotarians and guests singing the Philippine National Anthem



Secretary Anton Mauricio moderated the meeting.



Manila Rotarians and guests singing the Philippine National Anthem



Director Hans Palacios led the invocation.



Director-elect/Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.



Director Warren So introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests.



The RCM Music Chorale serenaded the week's birthday celebrant, Rotarian Bernd Schneider.



Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rotary Club of Manila and UP-Philippine General Hospital for **Global Grant # 2682583** Strengthening Neonatal Care through Life-Saving Equipment Support



Present to sign were UP-PGH Dr. Esterlita Uy (Chief, Division of Newborn Medicine) and, for the Rotary Club of Manila, President Raoul Creencia, with President-elect Reggie Yu and Secretary Anton Mauricio as witnesses.



District Awards given to the Rotary Club of Manila and President Raoul Creencia



Rotary Club of Manila's gifts of recognition to members

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION



President Raoul Creencia presented a Presidential Citation to Rotaract Club of Manila IPP Summer Bonifacio and to Atty. Anna Chela P. Cureg, through PDG Alex Cureg.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES



PDG Alex Cureg



Rtn. Bren Egan



DE Del Lorenzana



Rtn. Nico Hallare



Rtn. Romy Nones



Rtn. Dan Obrado



PDG Obet Pagdanganan



PP Ebot Tan



PVP Fausto Preysler

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES



DE Nico Valencia



Rtn. Bernd Schneider



Rtn. Nagi Zeitouni

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



DE/BLA Caloy Serapio



VPE/ Asst. Treas. Karlo Castro



Asst. Sec. Paco Magsaysay



*DE/Asst. Internal
Auditor Mike Roxas*

*Treasurer PJ Garcia and
DSAA Dave Reynolds
were unable to attend
and receive their
respective Presidential
Awards due to business
commitments.*

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD



IPP Jujut Enriquez



Dir. Jason Bogovich



Dir. Hans Palacios



Dir. Warren So

VP Ricky Guevara, Dir. Mike Albaña, Dir. Rami Chahwan, and Dir. Edwin Hernandez were not present to receive their respective Presidential Awards.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WITH DISTINCTION



PDG Jackie Rodriguez



Sec. Anton Mauricio

DE Teddy Kalaw was not present to receive his Presidential Award with Distinction.

RISING MANILA ROTARIAN AWARD



STAR Rtn. Dean Cid



STAR Rtn. Coco Mauricio

RISING MANILA ROTARIAN AWARD



STAR Rtn. Chris Tamesis



STAR Rtn. Jason Valderrama

STAR Rotarians Winston Ginez, Rowell Ong, and Oliver Pantaleon were unable to attend and receive their awards.

BEST ATTENDANCE AWARDEES



BEST ATTENDANCE AWARDEES



*Sec. Anton Mauricio and
Pres. Raoul Creencia*



PDG Vince Carlos



PE Reggie Yu



DE/BLA Caloy Serapio



IA Nick Locsin



PD Oscar del Rosario

Sec. Anton Mauricio presented to Pres. Raoul Creencia his Best Attendance Award, followed by Pres. Raoul Creencia presenting the Best Attendance Award to PDG Vince Carlos, PE Reggie Yu, Sec. Anton Mauricio, DE/BLA Caloy Serapio, IA Nick Locsin and PD Oscar del Rosario.

LEGACY AND LOYALTY AWARD



*PDG Obet Pagdanganan
(40 years of membership)*



*PD Pepo Nuñez
(40 years of membership)*



*PS Ivan Uy
(25 Years of membership)*



*PD Albert Alday
(20 years of membership)*

Not present to receive their Legacy and Loyalty Award were PSAA Gunter Matschuck (45 Years); Rtn. Joey Syjuco (25 years), and PP Chito Zaldarriaga (25 years).

PRESIDENTIAL TRIBUTE AWARD



PDG Vince Carlos



PDG Rudy Bediones



PP Boy Guevara



PP Archit Bartlome (received by PD Abe Pascual)

PRESIDENT'S CITATION OF APPRECIATION



President Raoul Creencia presented the "President's Citation of Appreciation" award to Past RI Director Rafael "Raffy" M. Garcia, also a member of the Chair Circle of the Arch Klumph Society (AKS) from RID 3800.

SERVICE AWARDEES



*PD Oscar del Rosario
Club Service Award*



*CP Susing Pineda
Vocational Service Award*



*PD Amading Valdez
Vocational Service Award*



*PD Phillip Ong
Community Service Award
– Maternal and Child Care*



*Rtn. Ray Davis
Community Service Award
– Maternal and Child Care*



*Internal Auditor Nick Locsin
International Service Award*

Rtn. Junjie Vazquez was unable to attend to accept the Vocational Award, and Rtn. Raf Dionisio was also absent and could not receive the Community Service Award for Protecting the Environment and Community & Economic Development.

ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR 2025-2026



President Raoul Creencia presented the "Rotarian of the Year Award" to President-elect Reggie Yu.

EXEMPLARY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA



President Raoul Creencia presented the "Exemplary Award for Distinguished Service to Rotary Club of Manila" to DGND Hermie Esguerra, the first member of the Chair Circle - Arch Klumph Society (AKS) in RI District 3810.



A bouquet of flowers, lovingly presented to Atty. Myles Creencia by President Raoul Creencia, in heartfelt recognition of her unwavering and unconditional support.



President Raoul Creencia delivered his Valedictory Message



President Raoul Creencia adjourned the 36th and final Weekly Membership Meeting of RY 2025-2026.

Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

First Regular Board Meeting of the Incoming Board



The Incoming Board held its first regular meeting after the 36th Weekly Membership Meeting on June 25, 2026 at the Manila Polo Club.

Present during the meeting were PE Reggie YU, VPE Karlo Castro, Directors-elect Mike Roxas, Caloy Serapio, Nico Valencia, Del Lorenzana, Incoming Secretary Albert Alday, Incoming Treasurer Arvin Carranceja, Incoming Board Legal Adviser Jop Esquivias, Assistant Internal Auditor Gani Macatoman, and DGND Hermie Esguerra (incoming Chairman of the Program Committee).



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT June 2026

JUNE 2026	June 04, 2026 DOE SEC. SHARON S. GARIN	June 11, 2026 JOURNALISM AWARD	June 18, 2026 RCMFI DAY & YEAR-END REPORT	June 25, 2026 CLUB AWARDS & VALLEDICTORY ADDRESS
MEMBERS PRESENT	48	39	30	50
MEMBERS PRESENT %	24%	20%	15%	25%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	2	0	0	1
EXEMPTED	6	5	3	5
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	50	39	30	51
Total # of Members	200	200	200	200
TOTAL %:	25%	20%	15%	26%
ROTARACTORS	0	10	0	0
MEDIA	0	10	0	1
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	3	11	0	4
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	17	0	1
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	9	51	1	3
TOTAL ATTENDEES	60	128	31	58



LIST OF ATTENDEES June 25, 2026

1	Acosta, Crispiniano G.	26	Obrado, Daniel Calzado
2	Alday, Albert Singson	27	Ong, Phillip L.
3	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	28	Pagdanganan, Roberto M.
4	Carlos, Vicente J.	29	Palacios, Albert C.
5	Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.	30	Pascual, Abraham F.
6	Cid, Dean Y.	31	Peliño, Wilfredo M.
7	Creencia, Raoul C.	32	Pineda, Jr., Jesus M.
8	Cureg, Alexander P.	33	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
9	Davis, Raymond N.	34	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
10	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	35	Roxas, Michael D.
11	Egan, Brendan W.L.	36	Schneider, Bernd
12	Enriquez III, Eduardo V.	37	Serapio, Carlos G.
13	Esguerra, Herminio S.	38	Shimoda, Shigeru
14	Go, Henry S.	39	Sibayan, Joselito H.
15	Gonzales, Jonas R.	40	Simon, Juanito A.
16	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	41	So, Warren S.
17	Hallare, Nicolo S.	42	Tan, Eusebio V.
18	Locsin, Arsenio Z.	43	Uy, Ivan John Enrile
19	Lonzaga, Reinerio C.	44	Valdez, Amado D.
20	Lorenzana, Delfin	45	Valencia, John Nico P.
21	Magsaysay, Francisco D.	46	Yu, Reginald Tieng
22	Mauricio, Antonilo DC	47	Zeitouni, Nagi
23	Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC.	48	Valderrama, Jason
24	Nones, Romeo C.	49	Tamesis, Chris C.
25	Núñez, Jr., Jose A.	50	Pangilinan, Manuel E.



RC Manila Donates Sewing Machines in Tacloban City

President Raoul Creencia donated sewing machines in Tigawon Women's Training Center in Tacloban and Palo Archdiocese training center to help the livelihood program of communities in Tacloban City. He was assisted by RC Manila's sister club, the Rotary Club of Kandaya, and members of Divine Word University High School Batch '84.



Upcoming Weekly Membership Meetings



Rotary
Club of Manila

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

**1ST WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FOR R.Y. 2026-2027**

**WHAT DOES
EFFECTIVE
LOCAL GOVERNANCE
LOOK LIKE TODAY?**

Join Former Congressman
FRANCISCO "KIKO" A. BARZAGA
as he shares hard-earned lessons in
leadership, governance, and public service.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Lessons in effective leadership and governance
- Building resilient, inclusive, and future-ready communities
- How Rotarians and business leaders can drive meaningful change
- NETWORK WITH LEADERS**
from business, government, diplomacy, and civil society.

FRANCISCO "KIKO" A. BARZAGA
Former Congressman, Cavite 4th District
Advocate for Good Governance and Public Service

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY
Bring a Prospective Rotarian.
One Guest. One Future Rotarian.

**THURSDAY
JULY 9, 2026**
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Registration starts at 11:45 AM
FAIRMONT MAKATI
Makati City, Metro Manila
DRESS CODE
Business Attire / Rotary Pin

TURN
TOWARD A UNIFIED ROTARY NATION

CONNECT • LEARN • SERVE • LEAD
ASIA'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB SINCE 1919
rcmanila.org Rotary Club of Manila rcmn1919

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Rotary
Club of Manila

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

2ND WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR R.Y. 2026-2027

**SEVEN YEARS
BEHIND BARS
FOR A CRIME HE
DIDN'T COMMIT.**

How One Man's Ordeal Became a Mission to
Reform the Philippine Justice System.

**"I advocate for a more equitable criminal justice system.
Better policing. More efficient courts. And humane,
effective correctional practices."**

Join Guest of Honor and Speaker
DR. RAYMUND E. NARAG
Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director
School of Justice and Public Safety
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA
Head Consultant, Prisoners' Enhancement
and Support Organization (PRESO)

KEY INSIGHTS

- Real Stories. Real Injustice.**
Lessons from seven years of wrongful detention in a Philippine jail.
- The Crisis Inside Our Jails**
Why congestion, prolonged detention, and delays destroy lives and trust.
- Toward a Smarter Justice System**
Evidence-based reforms for policing, courts, and corrections.
- What Rotarians Can Do**
How leaders can champion fairness, accountability, and real change.
- NETWORK WITH LEADERS**
from business, government, diplomacy, and civil society.

DR. RAYMUND E. NARAG
• PhD in Criminology, Michigan State University
• Expert in Correctional Administration, Pretrial Detention, and Justice Reform

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY
Bring a Prospective Rotarian.
One Guest. One Future Rotarian.

**THURSDAY
JULY 16, 2026**
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Registration starts at 11:45 AM
FAIRMONT MAKATI
Makati City, Metro Manila
DRESS CODE
Business Attire / Rotary Pin

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rcmanila.org Rotary Club of Manila rcmn1919

Lhea Lozano
(+63) 995-991-2933
rotaryclubofmanila@gmail.com

• Author, researcher, and advocate for a more equitable criminal justice system
• Recognized national and international speaker

DISTRICT ACTIVITY



Rotary District 3810 Club Leadership Learning Seminar

Club Treasurer Arik Carranceja, Director Mike Albaña, President Reggie Yu, Vice President Karlo Castro, and Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday as delegates of the Rotary Club of Manila to the Rotary District 3810 Club Leadership Learning Seminar hosted by the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila last June 24, 2026 at the St. Peter the Apostle School in Paco, Manila. They are joined in the picture by PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray and DGN Hermie Esguerra.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY



DGN Hermie Esguerra delivering his talk on Rotary Protocols in his role as one of the District Learning Facilitators.



President Reggie Yu answering the question of DGN Hermie Esguerra on the arrangement of the Meeting Flow.



DGN Hermie Esguerra receiving his token of appreciation after his talk.



President Reggie Yu receiving the End Polio Now Magnet as his prize for answering the correct order of Meeting Flow.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY



Vice President Karlo Castro and Club Treasurer Arik Carranceja attending the Club Administration and Club Treasurer Breakout Sessions



Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday discussing the District Public Image Campaign during the Public Image Breakout Session in his role as an Assistant District Learning Facilitator.



Vice President Karlo Castro presenting during the Club Treasurer Breakout Session



Early birds President Reggie Yu and Club Secretary Albert S. Alday at the Club Leadership Learning Seminar

DISTRICT ACTIVITY



PDG Sue Sta. Maria, Chairperson of the Philippine Rotary Media Foundation, Inc. for RY 2025-2026, mentioning Manila Rotarians, PRIVP Don Paco Delgado as the founder of the Philippine College of Rotary Governors which in turn, founded the Philippine Rotary Magazine and Past Rotary International President Mateo Armando T. Caparas as its first Chairman.



President Reggie Yu and Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday receiving the Certificates of Participation in the Club Leadership Learning Seminar from DG Bing Carrion.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

“Pagsibol”: **Rotary District 3810 Kick-Off Project**

Vice President Karlo Castro, President Reggie Yu and Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday attended the Rotary District 3810 Kick-off Project, entitled, *“Pagsibol”*, last July 1, 2026 at the Philippine Red Cross Logistics and Multipurpose Hall in Mandaluyong City.

The club, through the kindness of President Reggie Yu, donated Php 25,000 for 50 kilograms of rice to be given to beneficiaries. The club is likewise one of the co-hosts of the activity.



President Reggie Yu dancing the zumba at the kick off event.

Nigerian takes office as president of Rotary International

Second African to lead the global membership organization will focus on peacebuilding and lasting community impact

EVANSTON, Ill., USA (29 June 2026) — Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, will take office as president of Rotary International on 1 July 2026, becoming the second African to lead the global membership organization.

During his one-year term, Babalola will focus on strengthening Rotary's contribution to peacebuilding and supporting sustainable, community-led solutions that address local and global challenges and improve lives.



*Rotary International President
Olayinka Hakeem Babalola*

“Rotary gives people the opportunity not only to make a difference in their communities, but also to grow through meaningful relationships, collaboration, and a deeper appreciation of different perspectives,” said Babalola. “At a time when many societies face division and uncertainty, I believe Rotary has an important role to play in building understanding, advancing peace, and creating opportunities for communities to thrive. As president, I look forward to highlighting and strengthening that impact around the world.”

Babalola brings to the role decades of experience advancing community development, peacebuilding, and public health initiatives across Africa. He has been actively involved with Rotary’s Peace Center at Makerere University in Uganda – the organization’s first on the continent.

As head of Rotary’s 45,000 clubs worldwide, Babalola will lead Rotary’s top priority of ending polio. Together with its Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent and contributed more than US\$3 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect over 3 billion children from this paralyzing disease. He has also been deeply engaged in Rotary’s polio eradication efforts, serving on the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee and advising the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee.

Rotary members throughout the world develop and implement sustainable, community-driven projects that fight disease, promote peace, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children, grow local economies and protect the environment. More than US\$5.5

billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation – Rotary’s charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service – to support these initiatives over the last 100 years.

About Olayinka Hakeem Babalola:

Babalola holds a degree in engineering and spent more than 30 years in the oil and gas sector, including senior leadership roles at Shell PLC. He founded the Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery firm, as well as Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance consultancy.

Babalola is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals, and the Association of Change Management Practitioners. He also belongs to the Jericho Business Club, a civic organization in Ibadan that contributes to national policy dialogue.

Babalola became involved with Rotary in 1984 through Rotaract – Rotary’s program for young professionals and students – and joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi in 1994. He has since held a number of leadership roles within the organization and currently serves as a trustee of ShelterBox UK, Rotary’s official project partner for disaster relief.

He and his wife, Preba, support The Rotary Foundation through a named endowment and are members of the Arch Klumph Society, which recognizes Rotary’s highest level of philanthropic giving. His Rotary honors include the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Service Above Self Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

Source: www.rotary.org

IN THE NEWS

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

FEEDBACK@INQUIRER.NET

INQUIREROPINAME/AGE/CITY/MESSAGE TO 4467

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MONDAY / JUNE 29, 2026
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OPINION

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For now, look at the means, not yet the end

The impeachment case of Vice President Sara Duterte has revived yet another constitutional numbers game. But numbers and debates aside, I firmly believe that a major turning point in this political saga lies in the pretrial that concluded on June 25 and laid the cornerstones before the trial proper begins on July 6 and the votes to be cast at the end of the trial.

AT THE OUTSET, LET ME POINT OUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUIDANCE: "No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate." (Article XI, Section 3[6]). In the 24-member Senate (acting as the Impeachment Court), this translates academically to the magic number of 16. With this threshold number, let me share two eminent views from my fellow Supreme Court retirees.

Retired Senior Associate Justice (SAJ) Antonio T. Carpio contends that the votes required to convict are based on "all members of the Senate" who remain legally qualified to perform their legislative duties. In his view, the preventive suspension of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada removes him from the computation because, per *Trillanes v. Pimentel* (June 27, 2008, per J. Carpio Morales, en banc), a suspended official cannot hold public office; therefore, he cannot act as a senator-judge.

SAJ Carpio also maintains that Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, who has been hiding and evading an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, cannot yet be excluded from the count because he has not been formally arrested or placed under preventive detention.

In contrast, retired Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna, a distinguished framer of the 1987 Constitution, argues that should Sen. Dela Rosa be judicially declared a fugitive from justice and disintitled to his seat, his status would amount to a "constructive resignation."

WITH DUE RESPECT, THE THRESHOLD TO CONVICT WOULD BECOME VITAL ONLY after the trial is finished and after the votes are



WITH DUE RESPECT

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

cast. If the votes to convict are 16 or more, then any discussion of the threshold would be academic. However, if this figure is less than 16, then the required denominator would become crucial. At present, though, what infinitely matters more is the foundation upon which those votes must ultimately rest. And the first foundation is the pretrial, and later, the trial proper.

Tiu v. Middleton (July 19, 1999, Third Division, a decision I had the honor of writing for the Court) referred to "pre-trial [a]s an essential device for the speedy disposition of disputes." During this period, both the prosecution and the defense lay their cards on the table to avoid surprises and delays during the trial proper.

Note, however, that an impeachment case is sui generis—a class of its own kind. For example, the impeachment pretrial does not permit amicable settlements, as in civil cases, or plea bargaining, as in criminal cases. A more jocular question than the voting threshold is what would happen should VP Sara resign amid the pretrial and trial. Well, that issue deserves a full column. For now, let us look at the means, not yet the end.

The "Notice of Pre-Trial Conference," issued on June 9 by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, sought—among others—to secure: (1) a stipulation of facts and a simplification of issues; (2) the marking of documen-

tary or real evidence and waiver of objections or admissions to evidence; (3) the number and identities of witnesses of both the defense and the prosecution (including "Mary Grace Piattos"); and (4) such other matters as will promote a fair and expeditious trial.

FAITHFULLY ADHERING TO THE PRE-TRIAL GUIDELINES, the prosecution and the defense revealed their witnesses and exhibits and established the paper trail of their respective positions. A well-executed pretrial ensures that when the senator-judges finally sit, they will judge based on clear, unvarnished facts rather than on useless debates on technicalities or evidentiary loopholes.

Therefore, why was there so much ado about the marking of the so-called "BIR Green Box" that necessitated written comments from the opposing parties? After all, the purpose of marking is simply to identify it as a piece of prosecution evidence—a clerical job that does not involve the exercise of judicial discretion. Of course, its opening, admissibility, relevance, credibility, and weight would be addressed to the sound discretion of the impeachment court.

While a political process, an impeachment trial is still anchored on the law and remains, at its core, a mechanism for justice. If I were a prosecutor, I would focus squarely on the unyielding weight of the evidence to prove that the nation's trust was indeed betrayed, even as the defense mounts a vigorous resistance to protect the respondent's rights.

In sum, the true strength of a nation lies not in the perceived infallibility of its leaders, but in the integrity of the institutions ready to correct the frailties of those in power. Whether the Senate can summon that integrity when it convenes on July 6 will be revealed in due time. Until then, both the prosecution and the defense bear the shared responsibility of laying the procedural foundations to end the saga.

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