



PALAWANPAY
CASH IN / OUT



PERA PADALA



SANGLA



JEWELRY SELLING



**INTERNATIONAL
REMITTANCE**



BILLS PAYMENT



INSURANCE



**PADALA TO BANK
ACCOUNT**



E-LOADING



MONEY CHANGER



**CASH CARD/
ATM WITHDRAWAL**

MAY PANGANGAILANGAN?

I-PALAWAN MO NA!

Supervised by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4098 • JULY 23, 2026



Guest of Honor and Speaker

ATTY. MELVIN A. MATIBAG

Director, National Bureau of Investigation

**Rotary Club of Manila Hears Powerful
Call for Criminal Justice Reform at
Second Weekly Membership Meeting**

**Meeting of
the Council of
Past Presidents**

**Rotary
Brand
Guidelines**



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was chosen as one of UE's 75 Most
Outstanding Alumni



THIRD WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Atty. Melvin A. Matibag
Director, National Bureau of Investigation

Thursday, July 23, 2026, 12:00 p.m.
Sheraton Manila Hotel

Moderator: Director Teodoro Alejandro “Teddy” Kalaw IV

PROGRAM

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch

12:15 PM Call to Order
President Reginald T. Yu

Invocation
STAR Rotarian Joseph Benedict Gesmundo

Philippine National Anthem (AVP)

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale

The Four-Way Test
Rotarian Paul Anthony T. Koh

Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Rotarian Juanito A. Simon

Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale

12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**

- July 19 PDG Obet Pagdanganan
- July 24 Rtn. Philip Recto
- July 25 Rtn. JJ Fernandez
- July 26 PS Ivan Uy

Birthday Celebrants of the Week

- July 28 Rtn Stefan Schmitz
- July 30 Rtn Senen Mangalile

Birthday Song
RCM WF MUSIC CHORALE

PART II

12:55 PM **President's Time**

1:00 PM **Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker**
Secretary Albert S. Alday

Address:
Atty. Melvin A. Matibag
Director
National Bureau of Investigation

1:30 PM **Open Forum**

1:55 PM **Response**

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation

2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

EDITORIAL

Truth and Justice

WE expect to hear big words from today's Guest of Honor and Speaker, and rightly so. Truth and justice are two of the strongest foundations of the moral and social order in any human civilization, and the National Bureau of Investigation's mission statement itself avows that it will "provide quality investigative and forensic services to the people through advanced methods and equipment in the pursuit of truth and justice." This writer is thus inspired to reflect about truth and justice, especially in light of the



Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

events unfolding in the Philippines that use these two as crutches for another ideal called accountability.

Truth is distinct from fact although they are cousins once removed. Facts are verifiable, measurable, concrete, and unchanging realities not founded on subjective belief. That it did or did not rain this afternoon is a fact, no matter whether one slept through it. Truth, however, requires a subject consciousness to assert it. And it can change over time, such that before Copernicus and Galileo, it was true that the Earth was the center of the universe, and thereafter, it became the Sun.

EDITORIAL

Nonetheless, human consciousness does not dwell singly on facts. The fact that water boils at 100 degrees Celsius achieves its best expression when a cook is able to serve hard-boiled, soft-boiled, and poached eggs as required. Truth therefore provides the “why” to the “what” of facts and, as human consciousness gains a deeper understanding, be it from experience or education, truth becomes the framework for the assignment of meaning and a rendering of reality.

The problem with truth is that one’s truth may be different from another’s. Friedrich Nietzsche, in his work *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, wrote: “By many ways and modes I have come unto my truth... This – is my way – where is yours?” Are we thus consigned to relativism, with each individual asserting his or her own truth, unassailable by virtue of its utter subjectivity?

In this writer’s humble opinion, Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthazar provides the best description of truth when he wrote that truth is symphonic. Each and every ‘truth’ put forward by anyone is akin to an instrument of a symphonic orchestra, not one instrument able to claim it is better than the others because each one has its part in the symphony. The orchestra

itself may at times seem cacophonous, such as when the musicians tune up before the conductor takes his podium. But once he taps his baton and conducts, the composer’s design and the *raison d’être* for the inclusion of each instrument become undeniably clear.

In the same manner, the plurality of cultures, multiplicity of worldviews, broad range of backgrounds, and variance in philosophies make for many truths, such that the totality of them would be difficult for one person to grasp. However, by actively listening and openly interacting with this plurality, one may get to appreciate a huge part of The Truth while humbly accepting that it is bigger than one person can handle.

Justice is a bit more straightforward. Aristotle defines it as ensuring “a fair mean” – a sense of proportionate fairness that treats equals equally and unequals unequally – both in an individual’s conduct and in society’s socio-political arrangements. Our seminary professor, himself a theologian from the Dominican Order, used me and my classmate who was much slimmer than me to illustrate this. “Equality,” he said, “is giving Senen and Rodolfo equal lengths of leather, say 30 inches, for a belt. Senen

EDITORIAL

will find the belt too short and Rodolfo will say it's too long. Justice is giving each of them, unequal as they are, unequal lengths of leather."

It can also get complicated, however. Affirmative action in the United States, for instance, is supposed to dispense justice by favoring African Americans, Latinos and other minority groups in, say, university admissions, for the purpose of correcting perceived racial imbalance in the student body and deep inequality in society. But in two affirmative action cases brought before it, the US Supreme Court contradicted itself. In the *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, decided in 1978, the Court ruled that rigid racial quotas violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ruling allowed a white student with the right qualifications to be admitted to the medical school despite racial quotas. In *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003) the Court ruled that the University of Michigan Law School could consider race as a factor in admissions and denied a white student's appeal to be admitted because giving underrepresented minority groups more is a compelling state interest. It was a case of ensuring, as the cliché goes, that those who have less in life should have more in law. Was there justice in either case?

Whatever criticisms may be labeled against state policies and legal instruments for failing to encompass the totality and multiplicity of truths, and whatever failings there may be in the dispensation of justice in our country, it remains clear as day that we need both to ensure moral and societal order.

Whatever criticisms may be labeled against state policies and legal instruments for failing to encompass the totality and multiplicity of truths, and whatever failings there may be in the dispensation of justice in our country, it remains clear as day that we need both to ensure moral and societal order. I hope our GOHAS will give our members a clearer insight into truth and justice as he sees them, and that he, in turn, will gain from what I expect to be a very lively Q&A session after his remarks.

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

ATTY. Melvin A. Matibag currently serves as the **Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, appointed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on 20 February 2026.**

He previously served as Acting Cabinet Secretary from March 2022 to June 2022. Prior to this, he was the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Transmission Commission from January 2017 to March 2022. He also served as General Manager of the Manila International Airport Authority from October 2008 to 2010, in addition to holding various positions in both the government and private sectors.

Director Matibag is the husband of Congresswoman Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Representative of the 1st District of Laguna, which includes the City of San Pedro.



Credit: NBI

ATTY. MELVIN A. MATIBAG
Director
National Bureau of Investigation

He earned his Bachelor of Arts, major in Philosophy, from the University of Santo Tomas; his Juris Doctor from the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law; and his Master of Laws, major in Corporate and Finance Law, from Wayne State University in Michigan, USA.

He passed the Philippine Bar Examinations in 1996.



Rotary Club of Manila Hears Powerful Call for Criminal Justice Reform at Second Weekly Membership Meeting

By President Reginald T. Yu

THE The Rotary Club of Manila (RCM), the first Rotary Club in Asia, held its Second Weekly Membership Meeting for Rotary Year 2026–2027 on July 16 at the Fairmont Hotel Makati, featuring internationally recognized criminologist and criminal justice reform advocate Dr. Raymund E. Narag as Guest of Honor and Speaker. The meeting centered on the theme of hope, redemption, and meaningful reform of the Philippine criminal justice system, while reaffirming the Club's commitment to becoming a platform for ideas that inspire service and nation-building.

The meeting was called to order by **President Reginald T. Yu**, who welcomed members and guests to another well-attended weekly gathering under the Club's new theme, "*Rotary T.U.R.N. – Toward a Unified Rotary Nation.*" **Director John Nico P. Valencia** led the invocation, followed by the playing of the Philippine National Anthem through the Club's newly produced Lupang Hinirang video, the singing of the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn by the **RCM World-Famous Music Chorale**, the recitation of the Four-Way Test led by **STAR Rotarian Winston Ginez**, the introduction of visiting Rotarians and guests by **Rotarian Ingill Ra**, and the Welcome Song rendered by the Chorale.



Director John Nico P. Valencia led the invocation.



STAR Rotarian Winston Ginez led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.



President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order.



Rotarian Ingill Ra introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests.



The RCM Music Chorale led the singing of the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn and serenaded the guests with the RCM Welcome Song.

President's Time

During the President's Time, President Reggie expressed his appreciation to the members for another strong turnout at the Club's weekly meeting, following the overwhelming attendance recorded during the Rotary Year's opening program. He announced the Club's first fellowship of the Rotary year, to be held on July 23 at the Fairmont Hotel, with the Board generously waiving the usual fellowship assessment to encourage wider participation and strengthen camaraderie among members.



During the President's Time, President Reggie Yu expressed his appreciation to the members for another strong turnout at the Club's weekly meeting.



He also encouraged directors, officers, and members to enroll in the upcoming Rotary Learning Institute, emphasizing that it remains one of Rotary's most effective leadership development programs and has helped shape many of the organization's outstanding leaders.

President Yu likewise revisited the Club's new presidential theme, *Rotary T.U.R.N. – Toward a Unified Rotary Nation*, emphasizing that Rotary's greatest impact is achieved when members work together in unity

despite differences in background, profession, or perspective.

One of the highlights of the President's Time was the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to **Director Carlos G. "Charlie" Serapio** in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the Club's historic 107th Induction Ceremonies through his sponsorship of the internationally acclaimed STA Concert Choir, whose performance elevated the solemnity and grandeur of the occasion.



President Reggie Yu presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Director Carlos G. "Charlie" Serapio in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the Club's historic 107th Induction Ceremonies through his sponsorship of the internationally acclaimed STA Concert Choir.

Introducing a Distinguished Scholar and Reformer

Director Michael Jaey C. Albaña introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker, **Dr. Raymund E. Narag**, highlighting his remarkable journey from adversity to becoming one of the world's foremost Filipino scholars in criminology and corrections.

Dr. Narag currently serves as Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director of the School of Justice and Public Safety at Southern Illinois



Director Michael Jaey C. Albaña introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Dr. Raymund E. Narag, highlighting his remarkable journey from adversity to becoming one of the world's foremost Filipino scholars in criminology and corrections.

University Carbondale. A Fulbright Scholar, he earned both his master's and doctorate degrees from Michigan State University after graduating cum laude from the University of the Philippines Diliman. His research spans correctional administration, prison governance, jail decongestion, inmate rehabilitation, judicial reform, parole and probation, and comparative criminal justice. He has authored numerous books, technical reports, and internationally published studies that have influenced correctional policies in the Philippines and abroad.

Engaged Scholarship: *A Story of Hope and Redemption*

Rotary Club of Manila

July 16, 2026

Raymund E. Narag, PhD
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Southern Illinois University

Speaking on the theme "Engaged Scholarship: A Story of Hope and Redemption," Dr. Narag captivated the audience with a deeply personal account of how he transformed one of the darkest chapters of his life into a lifelong mission of reform and public service.

A Story of Hope, Redemption, and Purpose

Speaking on the theme "*Engaged Scholarship and the Story of Hope and Redemption*," Dr. Narag captivated the audience with a deeply personal account of how he transformed one of the darkest chapters of his life into a lifelong mission of reform and public service.

He recounted how, as a promising University of the Philippines student, he was wrongfully accused of murder

arising from a fraternity-related incident in 1995. Despite maintaining his innocence, he spent six years, nine months, and four days in detention before finally being acquitted. Rather than allowing imprisonment to define him, he resolved to use the experience to better understand the country's correctional system and to help improve it for generations to come.

Inside Quezon City Jail, Dr. Narag organized literacy classes, established one of the country's earliest inmate



Guest of Honor and Speaker, Dr. Raymund E. Narag

paralegal programs, promoted educational initiatives through UP Pahinungod, and became actively involved in inmate self-governance. These experiences provided him with an unprecedented understanding of prison life, correctional administration, and the realities faced by persons deprived of liberty.

Upon his release, he immediately documented his experiences in the landmark book *"Freedom and Death Inside the City Jail,"* which later became an important reference for judicial and correctional reforms. His advocacy extended beyond writing as he helped develop the Simplified Inmate Records System, the precursor of today's digital inmate management system within the Bureau of Jail Management and

Penology, and proposed practical reforms that improved inmate documentation, sentence monitoring, and jail administration.

His remarkable journey eventually earned him a Fulbright Scholarship, followed by graduate studies and a doctorate in criminal justice in the United States. Today, he has become one of the leading Filipino experts on correctional management, prison reform, and evidence-based criminal justice policy, while continuing to return regularly to the Philippines to assist government agencies in developing humane, efficient, and data-driven correctional systems.

Focus of the Speaker's Message: Reform Through Compassion, Research, and Evidence

At the heart of Dr. Narag's address was a compelling message that criminal justice reform must be anchored not only on punishment, but also on fairness, rehabilitation, human dignity, and evidence-based policymaking.

Drawing from both lived experience and decades of academic research, he emphasized that prolonged pretrial detention, jail congestion, outdated management systems, and delayed judicial processes inflict unnecessary suffering not only on detainees but also on their families and society as a whole.

He argued that meaningful reform requires better case management, modern digital information systems, improved inmate classification, expanded legal assistance, strengthened rehabilitation programs, and greater coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, correctional institutions, and community organizations.

Most importantly, Dr. Narag challenged his audience to recognize that every individual deserves an opportunity for redemption. He reminded Rotarians that behind every inmate is a human story, and behind every successful reform is a community willing to extend compassion without compromising justice.

His message resonated deeply with the Rotary ideals of Service Above Self, encouraging members to view criminal justice reform not merely as a legal issue, but as a humanitarian concern that demands leadership, innovation, and collective action.

A Meaningful Open Forum

The presentation was followed by an engaging open forum, where members actively participated by sharing their own experiences and raising questions on prison management, judicial reforms, alternatives to incarceration, inmate rehabilitation, and policy recommendations.

Past Director Dean Amading Valdez fondly recounted his early association with Dr. Narag through the University of the Philippines Office of Legal Aid, where he first witnessed the young scholar's dedication to justice and public service. Other members likewise shared insights and reflections, resulting in a thoughtful exchange between practitioners, academics, and civic leaders.



During the Open Forum, members actively participated by sharing their experiences and raising questions about prison management, judicial reforms, alternatives to incarceration, inmate rehabilitation, and policy recommendations.





President Reggie Yu presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Dr. Raymund E. Narag.

Fellowship and Shared Commitment

The meeting also provided members and guests ample opportunity for fellowship before and after the program. Rotarians welcomed guests from various sectors, including members of Dr. Narag's advocacy network and representatives from public service offices, reflecting the Club's continuing role as a venue where government, academe, civil society, and business leaders engage in meaningful dialogue.

As the meeting concluded, members expressed appreciation for one of the most inspiring and substantive presentations of the Rotary year. Dr. Narag's extraordinary journey — from wrongful imprisonment to internationally respected scholar and reform advocate — served as a powerful reminder that adversity can become purpose, knowledge can inspire reform, and hope can transform lives.

President Reggie formally adjourned the meeting after the presentation of the Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Narag, thanking him for sharing not only his scholarship but also his deeply personal testimony of resilience, redemption, and unwavering commitment to improving the Philippine justice system.



President Reginald T. Yu formally adjourned the second Weekly Membership Meeting.



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2026-2027

ATTENDANCE REPORT July 2026

JULY 2026	July 02, 2026 ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 107TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION CEREMONY	July 09, 2026 FORMER CONGRESSMAN FRANCISCO "KIKO" A. BARZAGA	July 16, 2026 DR. RAYMUND E. NARAG
MEMBERS PRESENT	88	40	41
MEMBERS PRESENT %	43%	20%	20%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	6	4	4
EXEMPTED	3	3	4
ON LEAVE	0	0	0
Total Active Members	94	44	45
Total # of Members	203	203	203
TOTAL %:	46%	22%	22%
ROTARACTORS	11	5	6
MEDIA	0	1	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	3	5
VISITING ROTARIAN	18	21	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	195	17	1
TOTAL ATTENDEES	312	86	53

LIST OF ATTENDEES July 16, 2026

1	Albaña, Michael Jaey C	22	Manalaysay, Cesar P.
2	Alday, Albert Singson	23	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
3	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	24	Nones, Romeo C.
4	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	25	Nuñez, Jr., Jose A.
5	Benedicto, Sixto T.	26	Ong, Phillip L.
6	Bolton, Wilhelm	27	Pangilinan, Manuel E.
7	Carlos, Vicente J.	28	Pantaleon, Oliver
8	Cid, Dean Y.	29	Pascual, Abraham F.
9	Cureg, Alexander P.	30	Peliño, Wilfredo M.
10	Cutter, John Michael	31	Ra, Ingill
11	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	32	Recto, Philip H.
12	Egan, Brendan W.L.	33	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
13	Enriquez III, Eduardo V.	34	Roxas, Michael D.
14	Esguerra, Herminio S.	35	Serapio, Carlos G.
15	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	36	Tamesis, Chris C.
16	Gesmundo, Job	37	Tan, Eusebio V.
17	Ginez, Winston M.	38	Valdez, Amado D.
18	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	39	Valencia, John Nico P.
19	Guevara, Ricardo S.	40	Yu, Reginald Tieng
20	Hiroyasu, Kanda	41	Zialcita, Xavier Y.
21	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV		

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2026-2027

As of July 21, 2026

1	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
2	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK
3	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
4	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
5	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
6	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III
7	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.
8	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
9	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
10	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
11	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
12	GONZALES, JONAS
13	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR. S.B.
14	HALLARE, NICO GIUSEPPE S.
15	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRINO IV

16	KATIGBAK, ALFONSO J
17	LAYA, JAIME C.
18	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEOS P.
19	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
20	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.
21	NONES, ROMEO C.
22	ONG, PHILIP
23	PELIÑO, WILFREDO M.
24	REYNOLDS, DAVID JOHN
25	SCHIMITZ, STEFAN
26	TAMESIS, CHRIS
27	TAN, MYLES
28	TILLMANN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
29	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
30	VILLARICA, HENRY
31	ZIALCITA, XAVIER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Meeting of the Council of Past Presidents



The Council of Past Presidents held a meeting on July 16, 2026 at the Sampiro Room of the Fairmont Hotel.

Present at the meeting were (standing, from left, in the photo above) Consultant Anna Kun Toledo, District Governor Nominee Hermie Esguerra, Secretary Albert Alday, Past District Governor Alex Cureg, and Executive Secretary Lhea Lozano; (seated, from left) Past President Ebot Tan, Jujut Enriquez, President Reggie Yu, Past President Archit Bartolome, Past District Governor Jackie Rodriguez, Past District Governor Rudy Bediones, and Centennial President Susing Pineda.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Meeting of the Council of Past Presidents



Past President Archit Bartolome presided over the meeting, presenting the agenda for the Council of Past Presidents. This was followed by President Reggie Yu, who outlined the year's roadmap.



Exchange of ideas between the past presidents



See you later
at our first monthly
fellowship
for RY 2026-2027

Rotary
Club of Manila

Rotary After Hours

THE FIRST MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP
FOR ROTARY YEAR 2026-2027

An afternoon of friendship, laughter,
and meaningful connections.
Let's celebrate the spirit of Rotary together!

DATE
JULY 23
THURSDAY

TIME
4:00 PM
ONWARDS
(AFTER THE WMM)

VENUE
FAIRMONT MAKATI
11TH FLOOR
SOCIAL LOUNGE

FREE FOR ALL
ROTARY MANILA MEMBERS
Bring your guests and prospective members.

🍷 INCLUSIVE OF DRINKS | 🍴 FOOD | 🎵 LIVE ACOUSTIC BAND

Good company. Great vibes. Unforgettable memories.

SEE YOU THERE!

Don't miss our Weekly
Membership Meeting on July 30
with Senator Risa Hontiveros
as Guest of Honor & Speaker

Rotary
Club of Manila

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

4TH WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FOR R.Y. 2026-2027

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE IMPEACHMENT HEARING AND BEYOND: SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS ON LEGISLATION THAT BUILDS A BETTER PHILIPPINES

Join Senator Risa Hontiveros as she gives us a rare glimpse into the behind-the-scenes of the ongoing Senate impeachment hearing on Vice-President Sara Duterte—exclusively for the Rotary Club of Manila.

FOUR KEY ADVOCACIES. REAL IMPACT.

- 1. Reforming the Juvenile Justice System and Anti-Political Dynasty Bills**
Promoting accountability, breaking political dynasties, and building a more stable, corruption-free future.
- 2. Strengthening Local Cooperatives and MSMEs**
Empowering communities and businesses through stronger laws and support systems for cooperatives and small enterprises.
- 3. Consumer Protection and Cybersecurity**
Championing measures to fight scams, online fraud, and cyber threats that put consumers and businesses at risk.
- 4. Women's Leadership and Safe Spaces**
Building inclusive, harassment-free workplaces and communities where women can lead, thrive, and make an impact.

SENATOR ANA THERESIA "RISA" N. HONTIVEROS
• Senator of the Republic of the Philippines
• Defender of Human Rights, Women, Children, and the Vulnerable
• Champion for Good Governance and Social Justice

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

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

TURN
TOWARD A UNIFIED ROTARY NATION

CONNECT • LEARN • SERVE • LEAD
ASIA'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB SINCE 1919
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EXCLUSIVE FOR
THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA

THURSDAY
JULY 30, 2026

MEETING: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Registration starts at 10:30 AM
(Please be seated by 10:55 AM)

COCKTAILS & FELLOWSHIP
UNTIL 2:00 PM
For those who wish to stay

ISABELLA BALLROOM,
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA
Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue,
Makati City, 1200 Philippines

DRESS CODE
Business Attire / Rotary Pin

“Good laws make for good business,
strong communities, and a better
future for all Filipinos.”

DISTRICT EVENTS

34th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila

Rotary Club of Chinatown Manila
CREATE LASTING IMPACT

34th HANDOVER & INDUCTION CEREMONIES 2026

THURSDAY
JULY 16, 2026
Program starts at exactly 6:00pm

GLORIAMARIS SHARK'S FIN RESTAURANT
GF-116 Mall of Asia Arena Annex (MAAX) Building

MARIA ROSA "BING" N. CARRION
District Governor D3810 RY 2026-27

HENRY TAN
President
Rotary Club of Chinatown Manila D3810 RY 2026-27

STRICTLY FORMAL ATTIRE

RSVP: 0922-8881666 (PP WILLIAM UY) 0995-6719454 (PP CORA DELA ROSA)



PDG Rudy Bediones, PDG Vince Carlos and President Reggie Yu attended the 34th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila last July 16, 2026 at the Gloriamaris Shark's Fin Restaurant at the Mall of Asia Arena Annex Bldg., Pasay City.

DISTRICT EVENTS

34th Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducting the Charging of New Members during the 34th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila.



DGN Hermie Esguerra with DG Bing Carrion at the induction of the Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila



President Reggie Yu with his fellow Impact Creating Presidents during the induction of the Rotary Club of Chinatown-Manila

DISTRICT EVENTS

61st Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Makati



President Reggie Yu with Rotary Club of Makati President Christopher Ferareza when he attended the 61st Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Makati last July 17, 2026 at the Rigodon Ballroom, The Peninsula Manila, Makati City.



DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday and Rtn. Kathyreen Grace Rengalota of the Rotary Club of Naga when he attended the 61st Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Makati last July 17, 2026.

DISTRICT EVENTS

13th Induction and 12th Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda



President Reggie Yu attended the 13th Induction and 12th Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda last July 17, 2026 at the Top of the Alpha, Alphaland Place, Makati City.



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 13th Induction and 12th Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Quiapo Plaza Miranda last July 17, 2026 at the Top of the Alpha, Alphaland Place, Makati City.

DISTRICT EVENTS

"Pagbuklod" Seven Areas of Focus Conference



DR. MARIA ROSA "BING" N. CARRION, MNSA
District Governor



ATTY. ALLESANDRA FAYAL BARICO, DCL
Impact Creating President
Rotary Club of Chinatown Circle
(HOST CLUB)



Rotary
District 3810



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

"Pagbuklod"

SEVEN AREAS OF FOCUS CONFERENCE



The annual conference that brings together Rotarians, stakeholders, executives, and industry experts from around the world.

With Special Co-host Club
Rotary Club of Manila Supreme 198

With Major Co-host Clubs
Rotary Club of Malate Prime
Rotary Club of Manila Binondo Prime

With Minor Co-host Club
Rotary Club of Mabini Manila

July 18, 2026 / 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Acero Hall, Philippine Marine Corps
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

With Guest Speakers



Hon. Angelina Sandoval - Gutierrez
Justice, Retired / Supreme Court of the Phils.



Hon. Maria Theresa Mendoza-Arcega
Justice, Incumbent / Sandiganbayan

Moderators



Michael Roy Seliman
SDG Publications
Rotary International District 3810



Lorelle "Belly" Fajardo
Vice Chairperson - Committee on
Investment Promotion & Taxation
Phil. Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Panelists & Resource Speakers

Water Sanitation & Basic Hygiene



Atty. Roel Espiritu
Chief Sustainability Officer
Maynilad Water Services Inc.



Atty. Jo Kristine Celera
Former Enterprise Regulatory Affairs
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to the Philippines



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Former Congressman
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Chairperson
Center for Global Nonkilling
ONLINE



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Secretary
Center for Global Nonkilling
- India (ONLINE)



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and NCRCO Chief



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Rotary Club of Manila 57

DISTRICT EVENTS

“Pagbuklod” Seven Areas of Focus Conference



President Reggie Yu attended “Pagbuklod” Seven Areas of Focus Conference last July 18, 2026 at the Acero Hall, Philippine Marine Corps, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.



President Reggie Yu with fellow Impact Creating Presidents at the “Pagbuklod” Seven Areas of Focus Conference



President Reggie Yu listening intently during “Pagbuklod” Seven Areas of Focus Conference

DISTRICT EVENTS

43rd Anniversary and 44th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel, Daughter Club of the Rotary Club of Manila



PDG Rudy Bediones and DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 43rd Anniversary and 44th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, last July 20, 2026 at the One Shang Place, Mandaluyong City.



President Reggie Yu in a dancing mood when he attended the 43rd Anniversary and 44th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel.



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of New Members during the 43rd Anniversary and 44th Induction Ceremonies of RC Manila San Miguel.



PDG Vince Carlos attended the 43rd Anniversary and 44th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel.

COGS IN THE WHEEL

IA Gani Macatoman was chosen as one of
UE's 75 Most Outstanding Alumni



 Dr. FERNANDO M. FERNANDEZ UE Doctor of Dental Medicine, 1990 World-Class Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon and Dental Profession Officer	 Mrs. BAYBEE MA. ELENA HUFANA-ABLAN UE Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 1977 Safety and Health Administrator in Hawaii	 Hon. ROBERT VINCENT S. JAWORSKI Sr. UE Bachelor of Business Administration, 1967 Philippine Basketball's Living Legend and Former Senator	 Dr. OSCAR L. JORNACION, CPA, MBA, PHD UE Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 1967 Magna Cum Laude, 1973 US-based Entrepreneur Par Excellence			
 Usec. FELIPE A. JUDAN, CPA, MBA UE Bachelor of Business Administration, Cum Laude, 1964 Seasoned Business Entrepreneur of the Philippine Maritime Industry	 Deputy Commissioner CELIA CAPUCHINO-KING, CPA UE Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 1975 UE Bachelor of Laws, 1983 The BIR's Multi-faceted Deputy Commissioner	 Dr. JOSEPH DY LIM, MAED, EDD UE Doctor of Dental Medicine, Cum Laude, 1974 Versatile Dental Professional and Educator	 Mrs. TOMASA H. LIPANA, CPA UE Bachelor of Business Administration, Cum Laude, 1969 Quintessential Accounting and Tax Practices Professional			
 Mr. ARSENIO "NICK" J. LIZASO UE Bachelor of Arts, 1965 The Premier Cultural Connoisseur	 Ms. JUDITH V. LOPEZ, CPA UE Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Cum Laude, 1978 The Superlative Audit and Accounting Professional	 Justice MARIO V. LOPEZ UE Bachelor of Arts, major in Political Science, 1976 Distinguished Legal Educator and Supreme Court Associate Justice	 Atty. ROMULO B. MACALINTAL UE Bachelor of Laws, 1978 Election Lawyer Nonpareil	 Mr. ELPIDIO "DEO" M. MACALMA UE Bachelor of Laws, 1987 Radio Icon with PHD in Patience, Hard Work and Determination	 Usec. ABDULGANI M. MACATOMAN, MBA UE Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 1991 UE Bachelors of Laws, 1995 Remarkable Public Servant and Entrepreneur	 Mrs. WINEFREDA ONA-MADARANG, CPA UE Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude, 1970 Accomplished CPA: Certified Professional Achiever

ROTARY INFORMATION



Rotary

ROTARY BRAND GUIDELINES

YOUR LOGOS AT A GLANCE

PROTECT • PROMOTE • STRENGTHEN THE ROTARY BRAND

1. CLUB, DISTRICT, OR ZONE LOGOS

Clubs, districts, and zones create their own logos by using the Masterbrand Signature combined with their club name or district or zone number. No words other than those should appear above or below the Masterbrand Signature.

LOGO LAYOUT EXAMPLES

Club



District



Zone

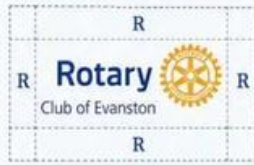




Use either the Masterbrand Signature or the Masterbrand Signature Simplified. Use the simplified version if the logo will be smaller than 1.25 cm (0.5 inches) or will be embroidered.

2. CLEAR SPACE

Clear space is the space surrounding the logo that needs to remain empty. It is equal to the height of the capital "R" in "Rotary" or "Rotaract".



3. MARK OF EXCELLENCE



The Rotary wheel is the Mark of Excellence and is considered a secondary logo. When you use it, we encourage you to position your club, district, or zone logo nearby for clarity and recognition. There is no simplified version of the Mark of Excellence — the words "Rotary International" must always appear in the wheel.

4. LOGO LOCKUPS

Lockups show the relationship between your club, district, or zone and partners, sponsors, projects, or events. Only one logo can be featured in a lockup with your club, district, or zone logo.

LOGO OR GRAPHIC LOCKUP EXAMPLES

















5. NAMING PROJECTS OR EVENTS

When naming a project, event, or website URL, you must use the name of your club or district if you want to include the word Rotary or Rotarian(s).

✓ **CORRECT**

Rotary Club of Evanston
Bingo Night

Rotary District 3310
Blood Donation Camp

Rotary Club of Taipei
Let's Fight Against Hunger

✗ **INCORRECT**

Rotary Bingo Night

Rotary Blood Donation Camp

Rotary Fight Against Hunger

6. DO'S & DON'TS

✓ Use official Rotary logos

✓ Maintain clear space

✓ Follow official colors

✓ Use approved fonts

✓ Download templates from the Rotary Brand Center

✗ Stretch or distort logos

✗ Add extra words around the logo

✗ Change Rotary colors

✗ Create unofficial logo variations

✗ Use the Rotary wheel alone as your club logo

7. OFFICIAL ROTARY COLORS

Rotary Royal Blue #17458F C100 M84 Y12 K3 R23 G19 B143	Rotary Gold #F7A81B C0 M41 Y100 K0 R247 G168 B27
Sky Blue #00A2E0 C96 M11 Y2 K0 R0 G162 B224	Turquoise #00A08B C96 M11 Y31 K0 R0 G173 B187
Cranberry #D41367 C13 M100 Y37 K0 R212 G19 B103	Orange #FF7600 C0 M66 Y100 K0 R255 G118 B0

 For full color palette, visit the Rotary Brand Center.

8. RECOMMENDED FONTS

PRIMARY FONT		SECONDARY FONTS			
FRUTIGER LT STD Light Roman Bold Black Aa	SENTINEL Regular Italic Bold Bold Italic Aa	OPEN SANS CONDENSED Light Regular Bold Bold Italic Aa	ARIAL NARROW Regular Italic Bold Bold Italic Aa	ARIAL Regular Italic Bold Bold Italic Aa	DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES  Logos must be created using the templates found on the Brand Center at rotary.org/brandcenter

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Cheapest, most reliable, accessible power

I was humbly invited to join President Marcos, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin, Meralco chair and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP), and other VIPs in inaugurating the Meralco Terra Solar (MTerra) last July 14. Amid the backdrop of solar panels stretching across the hills and plains of Gapan City, Nueva Ecija, I witnessed the awesome immensity of what MVP hailed as the "world's largest integrated solar and battery storage facility located in a single site." Apropos to this milestone, MVP celebrated his 80th birthday that same day, receiving a personal greeting and a birthday cake from the President and the First Lady.

TO BEGIN WITH, LET ME STRESS AN OF-TEN-OVERLOOKED REALITY: Electricity is unlike most commodities and services. It must be generated instantly to match the real-time and fluctuating demands of our homes, hospitals, and industries of the nation.

Fulfilling this daily necessity requires a heavy reliance on imported fuels and shipping costs, leaving our economy vulnerable to global volatilities. We need only to see the data from the first half of 2026 to see this reality.

During that period, geopolitical conflicts, especially the war in the Middle East and supply chain bottlenecks, sent imported fossil fuel prices into a tailspin. However, despite these external factors driving price spikes in oil and liquefied natural gas at 70 percent and in coal at 32 percent, Meralco—according to its executive vice president Ronnie Aperoch—was able to "contain the generation cost at only 16 percent to protect customers."

And how did Meralco do this? "Through the maximization of coal plants, renewable energy sources, and indigenous fuel such as Malampaya gas," and importantly, "the staggering of certain portions of the customers' bills to help ... soften the price impact," he replied. Relevantly, the Energy Regulatory Commission extended the suspension of power disconnections for another three months to further support consumers.



WITH DUE RESPECT
ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

TO SAFEGUARD THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE MORE PERMANENTLY, I firmly believe that the country should accelerate its transition to solar power—or what I simply call "sun power"—because it is the cheapest, most reliable, and most accessible energy source. Why?

First, sun power provides direct relief to the household budget. Solar consistently offered the cheapest baseline cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) compared to other energy sources, as provided by Aperoch.

ENERGY SOURCE	PRICE RANGE (PESO PER KWH)
Coal	5.38 to 6.26
Natural Gas	8.93 to 11.91
Hydro	6.03 to 6.95
Solar	4.37 to 6.29

Undeniably, it is the most cost-efficient option on the market. But the ultimate question of our people is: Why does it matter to us that Meralco is building the largest sun-powered plant in the world that cost about P200 billion? My simple answer: To reduce your electricity bill.

Second, sun power offers reliable, locally sourced energy that is easy to maintain, even during world crises. While hydro is another local option, it is limited by dry seasons and irrigation needs. Conversely, small modular nuclear reactors are largely experimental and risky, and geothermal energy is limited by environmental concerns.

Third, sunlight is an accessible and scalable resource. MTerra, when fully completed in March 2027, is expected to deliver 3,500 megawatts of power alongside a 4,500-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system ("BESS") to energize 2.4 million Filipino households.

To achieve this, MTerra partnered with tech giant Huawei to supply the latest BESS and the massive array of solar panels—which, if connected end-to-end—would stretch from Manila to London. The storage of daytime solar power in the BESS ensures a steady energy supply lasting many hours after sunset, though not until morning.

TO AUGMENT THIS LIMITATION, Meralco currently relies on coal for dependable, round-the-clock baseload power. As I see it, however, this dependability is temporary and transitional. Just as the bulky Motorola mobile phones powered by extra-heavy batteries I used in the 1990s evolved into today's sleek, pocket-sized devices, BESS will inevitably advance, miniaturize, and prolong the battery life of sun power. It won't require auxiliary coal plants anymore.

This bold transition toward energy independence driven by mega-facilities like MTerra will be MVP's "lasting legacy" to the Filipino people and mankind. He aptly stressed that this endeavor is meant to "... take greater ownership and use of the sunlight ... and grant our children an enormous start to a sustainable future."

In sum, my role as Meralco's board adviser (and former independent director), as I humbly see it, is to help the largest power distributor transition to the cheapest, most reliable, and most accessible energy source to benefit our people. By harnessing the limitless power of the sun and conscientiously managing energy sources, Meralco will illuminate the path toward our nation's economic independence and our people's prosperity.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

OPINION

Confronting political terrorism: A global menace



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
July 19, 2026 | 12:00am

I represented the Philippines at the "Ministerial on the Resurgence of Political Terrorism" – a very well-attended summit hosted by US State Secretary Marco Rubio at the State Department with political leaders, diplomats, law enforcement officials and experts from over 65 countries who recognize the serious and growing danger posed by politically motivated terrorism not only on institutions but the people themselves and even their way of life.

During the high-level discussion on "Best Practices, Information Sharing and Operational Cooperation to Counter Far Left Terrorism" where I was a panelist, I had the opportunity to share the Philippines' experience in dealing with one of Asia's longest-running communist insurgencies led by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army – an entity that has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

For more than five decades, many Filipinos have suffered from atrocities committed by this terrorist group. But while its armed capabilities have been substantially weakened through several initiatives that include sustained security operations, development in conflict-affected communities, reintegration of former rebels and other programs wherein significant progress have been made, the focus should extend beyond developments in remote areas of the country because the communist threat has evolved over the years and has taken on transnational dimensions.

Simply put, the line between local insurgency and international terrorism has been blurred, with activities no longer limited by geographic boundaries and territorial borders because of modern communications technology and cyberspace, giving malign actors global reach and allowing them to engage in recruitment (not only of locals but even foreign citizens), financing, facilitation, propaganda and other activities, with their support networks operating across jurisdictions.

For instance, one country may undertake the recruitment, another may take care of travel preparations, while another may handle financing. This was exactly the point made by Secretary Rubio in his keynote address: "Today's far-left terrorists can raise money in one country; they can host their communications in a second country; they can receive training in a third country; they can recruit militants in a fourth country and then together strike a target in a fifth country."

This reality therefore leaves us with these important questions: How are individuals in one country drawn toward an armed terrorist organization operating in another? What networks facilitate their recruitment and travel? How are these activities financed? And how can our governments identify warning signs before political radicalization crosses the line into participation in, or material support for, terrorist violence?

No single country can answer these questions alone. This is why the Philippines places particular value and importance on stronger intelligence and law-enforcement information sharing, financial intelligence cooperation and appropriate exchanges of travel-related information among international partners. We need to band together to curtail political terrorism which is on the rise globally, and we certainly welcome deeper cooperation with partners and nations that are also experiencing the scourge of terrorism to better understand and disrupt transnational recruitment, financing and facilitation networks that provide unlawful support to designated terrorist organizations.

The Philippines has long been coordinating with law enforcement agencies of the United States and like-minded countries in fighting terrorism and thwarting the activities of extremists. One of the most important case studies in global counterterrorism coordination involves an assassination plot against Pope John Paul II by al-Qaeda linked Ramzi Yousef in January 1995. The plot was uncovered by authorities several days before the pontiff's visit to the Philippines when a fire accidentally broke out at an apartment in Manila where Yousef and his conspirator, Abdul Hakim Murad, were working on a bomb.

Responding members of the Philippine National Police found chemical components for explosives, a priest's cassock and a laptop – enough to trigger alarm bells. Authorities were able to crack encrypted files that unveiled a massive plot codenamed "Bojinka" to assassinate the pope, blow up 11 commercial planes flying from Asia to the United States and crash a plane into the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

An international manhunt was launched for Yousef (already wanted by the US for the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993) with Philippine government authorities sharing data from the laptop and vital forensic evidence (such as a partial fingerprint found in the Manila apartment) with the FBI and the CIA. Four weeks later, Yousef was apprehended in February 1995 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The Philippines has made considerable progress in weakening the domestic armed threat through a comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-nation approach. However, the evolving transnational dimensions of recruitment, financing, facilitation, travel and support networks increasingly require cooperation beyond Philippine jurisdiction.

No one country sees the entire network. Our respective governments may each hold different pieces of the picture. By connecting those pieces – and ensuring that our cooperation follows the networks – we can identify emerging threats earlier and act more effectively to disrupt them.

Clearly, we should make better use of existing bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms to connect our intelligence, law enforcement, border and financial authorities and to share information on emerging trends and networks. The Philippines stands ready to share the lessons learned from more than five decades of confronting politically motivated violence. We also stand ready to learn from the experiences of our partners.

As a democratic nation that is determined to remain free and uphold its sovereignty, the Philippines will continue to cooperate and walk shoulder-to-shoulder with partners and like-minded countries, secure in the knowledge that in the fight against political terrorism, we do not stand alone.

* * *



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