



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?

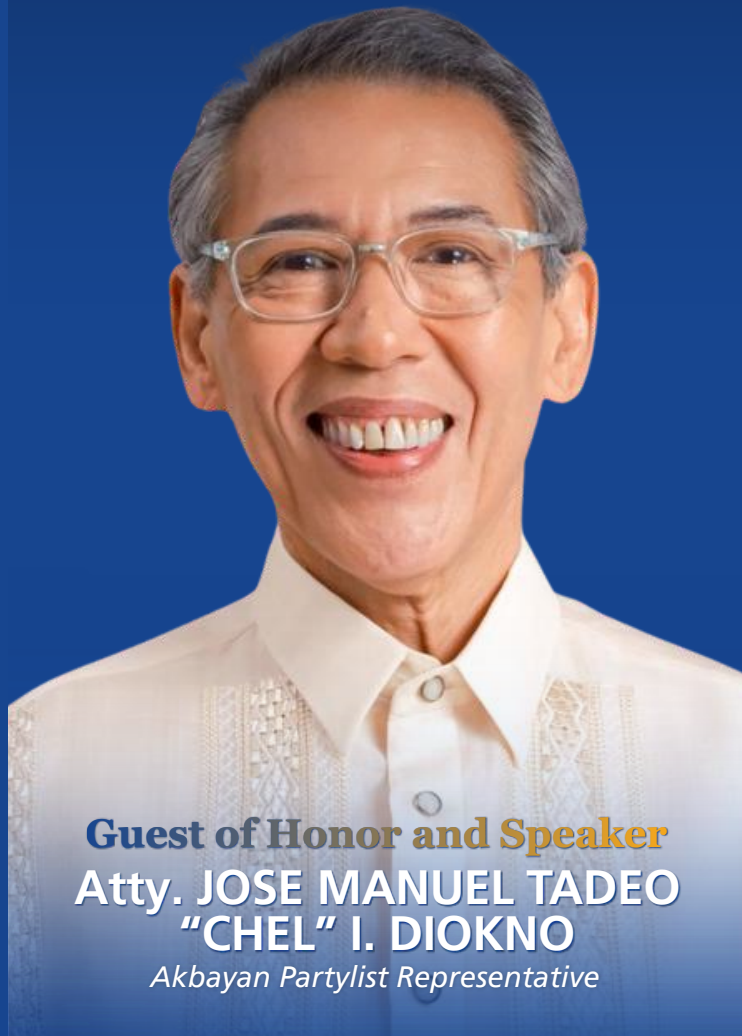
I-PALAWAN MO NA!

Supervised by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4099 • JULY 30, 2026



Guest of Honor and Speaker
Atty. JOSE MANUEL TADEO
"CHEL" I. DIOKNO

Akbayan Partylist Representative

EVIDENCE BEFORE POLITICS

**NBI Director Urges Fidelity to Truth,
Rule of Law at 3rd Weekly
Membership Meeting**

RCM AFTER HOURS:
**An Evening That Re-
ignited Rotary Fellowship**

RCMFI's
First
ExeCom
Meeting



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4th WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING Rotary Year 2026-2027

Guest of Honor and Speaker
THE HONORABLE JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO
Partylist Representative, AKBAYAN

Thursday, July 30, 2026, 12:00 p.m. | Isabella Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La, Makati City

Moderator: Assistant Secretary Jonas R. Gonzales

P R O G R A M

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
- 12:15 PM Call to Order
President Reginald T. Yu
- Invocation
STAR Rotarian Manuel E. Pangilinan
- Philippine National Anthem (AVP)
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- The Four-Way Test
Rotarian Geoffrey Yu
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests
Rotarian J Alfonso L Katigbak
- Welcome Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale
- 12:30 PM **Birthday Celebrants of the Week**
- July 24 Rtn. Philip Recto
 - July 30 Rtn. Senen Mangalile
 - Aug 3 PD Johnny Chotrani
 - Aug 5 Rtn. Henry Villarica
- Birthday Song
RCM World-Famous Music Chorale

PART II

- 12:45 PM **President's Time**
- 1:00 PM **Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker**
Director Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV
- Address:
The Honorable
Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno
Partylist Representative
AKBAYAN
- 1:15 PM **Open Forum**
- 1:20 PM **Response**
- Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation**
- 2:00 PM **Adjournment**
President Reginald T. Yu

EDITORIAL

Joke? No!

ANYBODY who had been to Malcolm Hall in UP Diliman would have been confronted with the words, etched in stone, of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., then Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Massachusetts. In his 1886 oration before an alumni homecoming of Harvard Law School, delivered as part of the larger celebration marking the 250th anniversary of Harvard University, Mr. Justice Holmes said: "So I say the business of a law school is not sufficiently described when you merely say that



Senen T. Mangalile
Editor-in-Chief

it is to teach law, or to make lawyers. It is to teach law in the grand manner, and to make great lawyers."

Indeed, the business of a law school is not to teach content for students to memorize by rote but rather to teach students how to think - critically, analytically, bi-directionally, strategically - with the letter of the law and the spirit of it as gleaned from jurisprudence as their abundant resource. Mr. Justice Holmes continued: "The aim of a law school should be, the aim of the Harvard Law School has been, not to make men smart, but to make them wise in their calling - to start them on a road which will lead them to the abode of the masters."

EDITORIAL

The Rotary Club of Manila's roster is replete with fine examples of men who were taught law in the grand manner, whether at Malcolm Hall or at other temples consecrated to the honing of the finest legal minds. And I have complete confidence that each one of them will attest that their experience in law school, what they have gone through to reach graduation, was no joke. In fact, Philippine law schools are known to have high attrition rates, some even seeing a reduction of up to 30% of the class size come graduation.

Passing the bar is no cakewalk either. Data will show that generally, over 50% of bar takers would fail. Recent years' passing rates illustrate this, to wit: 2025: 48.98%; 2024: 37.84%; 2023: 36.77%; 2022: 43.47%. In the 2012 Bar Exams, only 17.76% of the takers passed.

Recent developments in the country have thrust lawyers into the limelight. In deliberating on the propriety of selecting an impeachment presiding officer, certain senators mentioned having or not having a law degree and passing the bar as important considerations. At the impeachment court, a counsel for the respondent, in cross-examining a prosecution witness, himself a lawyer, mentioned the impeached official as having passed the bar on first try and perhaps getting a higher grade than the others present in

the chamber. RCM's GOHAS for this meeting received a multitude of reactions, both favorable and unfavorable depending on which side of the political spectrum one is lodged, over his mastery of legal procedures, calm composure, and respectful demeanor as he sparred with both the defense and some senator-judges on the motion to subpoena bank, tax and AMLC records.

Do these descriptors - graduating from a famed school of law, passing and topping the bar, mastery of legal procedures, oral eloquence, succinct writing prowess - make a lawyer great? Should a lawyer who graduated from an unheralded college and barely passed the bar exams but regularly got his clients redress for grievances be seen as less than another who is from contrasting circumstances? Would the magnitude of the acceptance fee and per hour billing be a fair measure of being a great lawyer? What actually makes a lawyer great?

To answer this question, perhaps one should reflect on the role of law in human society. It can be asseverated that law is not only vital in preserving peace and order in society through its dispute-resolution mechanisms but, more importantly, provides the stable foundation and enabling environment wherein individual rights and collective

EDITORIAL

necessities are managed, resources are justly allocated, and space for the fair pursuit of happiness is created. The rule of law defines what one is entitled to, how he or she can acquire it, what guarantees he or she has to enjoy it, and what consequence awaits anyone who illicitly upsets this well-arranged applectart.

Thus, a great lawyer is one who uses his mastery of the nuances of law and jurisprudence to assist in maintaining this harmonious balance in society, provide relief to anyone unfairly wronged within this milieu, and contribute, through well-penned arguments or scholarly research, to the continuing development and evolution of legal theory and practice.

By way of an example, there was once a great lawyer who achieved fame as the only Filipino, thus far, to top both the certified public accountant (CPA) board exams and the bar. In fact, this lawyer was one of probably only a handful of those allowed by the Supreme Court of the Philippines to take the bar exams without graduating with a degree in law, which is a feat unto itself. His intellectual prowess is indubitable, having graduated valedictorian in high school and *summa cum laude* in college. And his mastery of laws and legal procedures served him in good



... a great lawyer is one who uses his mastery of the nuances of law and jurisprudence to assist in maintaining this harmonious balance in society, provide relief to anyone unfairly wronged within this milieu, and contribute, through well-penned arguments or scholarly research, to the continuing development and evolution of legal theory and practice.

stead as he began his many years of outstanding private legal practice. But this lawyer's greatness was not because of these accolades.

This lawyer's greatness, attested to by conferment of the Order of Lakandula among other honors, rests on his use of these intellectual and material blessings to speak truth to power by investigating massive government corruption even to the point of losing his job; resigning from a political party he nurtured or from a human rights portfolio he loved as soon as staying became inconsistent with his moral principles; coming to the aid of those

EDITORIAL

whose human rights were impinged by martial law by establishing and leading the Philippines' first pro bono legal service group; championing human rights whether on the streets of Manila or at regional conferences in Asia; publishing sound legal commentaries on the burning issues of the day; and by putting the free and enabled Filipino first in all his advocacies. "Even if we have to wade through blood and fire, we will be free. We will develop. We will build our own societies. We will sing our own songs," he said.

He was Jose Wright Diokno - accountant, lawyer, Secretary of Justice, Senator of the Republic, founder and chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), chair of the Civil Liberties Union, secretary general of the Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia, chair of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights, head of the first Philippine government panel that conducted peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front, loving husband to Carmen Icasiano Diokno and devoted father to ten children.

Will the apple fall far from the tree? Our GOHAS today, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" Icasiano Diokno, a member of the 20th Congress representing the Akbayan partylist in the House of Representatives, is a respected human rights lawyer, educator and public

servant. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and graduated magna cum laude with a juris doctor degree from the Northern Illinois University. He passed the Illinois bar exam in 1987 and the Philippine bar exam in 1988. He is the founding dean of the De La Salle College of Law, now known as the Tañada-Diokno School of Law, where he emphasized ethics, public service and social justice in legal education.

Like his father, Chel served as FLAG chairman and also held advisory roles in government, serving under presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos as part of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights, the same committee that his father chaired. From 2017 to 2019, he served as presidential adviser on human rights to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. Since 2022, he has chaired the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation. He was a private prosecutor during the impeachment trial of former president Joseph Estrada; he is now a member of the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. He is married to the former Divina Aromin, with whom he has six children.

Will the spring rise higher than its source? Let's watch and see.

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

REPRESENTATIVE Chel Diokno is a legislator, lawyer, human rights defender, and educator. Many of you may know him from social media, where he engages millions of Filipinos—especially the youth—who proudly call themselves “CHELdren”.

In the 2025 elections, he served as first nominee of Akbayan Partylist, which topped the party-list race with over 2.7 million votes.

In Congress, he has spearheaded measures that directly benefit ordinary Filipinos, especially students. He fought for the highest education budget in history, authored the Baon Bill to increase student allowances, and advanced the Students’ Rights and Welfare Act and the Interns’ Rights and Welfare Bill. He has also championed key reforms such as the Anti-Political Dynasty Act and the Party-List System Reform Act.

Before entering public office, he practiced law for 36 years, representing farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous communities,



**ATTY. JOSE MANUEL TADEO
“CHEL” I. DIOKNO**

Akbayan Partylist Representative

workers, journalists, students, and other victims of injustice. He argued cases before the Supreme Court and helped secure landmark rulings on freedom of speech, due process, and other fundamental rights.

He also served as a law professor for 19 years and was the founding dean of the De La Salle University Tañada-Diokno College of Law, where he helped place human rights and legal aid at the center of legal education.

Following in the footsteps of his father, the late Senator Jose W. Diokno, he continues to work toward a Philippines grounded in freedom, justice, and dignity for all.



EVIDENCE BEFORE POLITICS

NBI Director Urges Fidelity to Truth, Rule of Law at 3rd Weekly Membership Meeting

By President Reginald T. Yu

AT a time when public discourse is increasingly shaped by political polarization and instant opinion, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Atty. Melvin Alvarez Matibag delivered a compelling reminder that the rule of law must always be anchored on evidence, due process, and institutional integrity during the Rotary Club of Manila's Third Weekly Membership Meeting on July 23, 2026.

Held at the Sheraton Manila Hotel, the gathering brought together Rotarians, civic leaders, and guests for an afternoon that extended beyond a discussion of the country's most pressing legal issues. Instead, it became a thoughtful conversation on leadership, accountability, and the enduring principles that underpin public service.



STAR Rotarian Job Gesmundo led the invocation.



President Reginald T. Yu called the meeting to order.



Manila Rotarians singing the RCM Hymn



Director Teodoro Kalaw IV moderated the Weekly Membership Meeting.



Rotarian Paul Kho led the recitation of The Four-Way Test.



Rotarian John Simon introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests.



Secretary Albert S. Alday introduced the Club's Guest of Honor and Speaker, NBI Director Atty. Melvin Alvarez Matibag.



During the President's Time, President Reggie Yu gave an update on the Club's activities.



Director Matibag's appearance came just one day after he had completed two grueling days of testimony before the Senate as a key witness in the ongoing impeachment proceedings. Having spent nearly eleven hours under intense questioning while continuing to oversee the country's premier investigative agency, many would have expected him to take a well-deserved respite. Instead, he honored his commitment to address the Rotary Club of Manila.

Although visibly fatigued, the NBI chief immediately struck a personal note by sharing that the invitation held special significance. A former member of two Rotary clubs, Matibag revealed that addressing the Rotary Club of Manila had long been one of his aspirations. He described the club



Guest of Honor and Speaker NBI Director Atty. Melvin Alvarez Matibag

as the first Rotary club in Asia, the largest in the Philippines, and "the most prestigious Rotary club in the country." Despite no longer being an active member, he remarked that he had always remained *"a Rotarian by heart and by mind."*

His remarks resonated strongly with the audience, affirming Rotary's century-long legacy of cultivating leadership founded on service and ethical responsibility.

Throughout his address, Director Matibag consistently returned to a central principle: the National Bureau of Investigation must never investigate according to personalities, politics, or public opinion, but according to evidence.

He acknowledged that he assumed leadership of the Bureau at a time when nearly every major investigation was viewed through a political lens. In such an environment, he explained, investigative institutions face constant pressure from both public sentiment and political interests. Their credibility, however, depends precisely on their ability to remain independent of both.

"The duty of investigators," he emphasized, "is not to validate public narratives but to establish facts through evidence, observe due process, and uphold the rule of law." Whether the subject of an investigation is popular or controversial, influential or unknown, he stressed that evidence — not personalities — must determine the outcome.

The philosophy found a receptive audience among Rotarians, whose Four-Way Test similarly emphasizes truth, fairness, goodwill, and integrity as guiding principles in both professional and civic life.

Unsurprisingly, members also sought Director Matibag's perspective on the highly publicized impeachment proceedings that have dominated national attention. While careful not to discuss confidential matters, he explained that impeachment differs fundamentally from criminal prosecution because it examines



whether public officials have remained faithful to the constitutional oath of office. Public accountability, he noted, should never be measured by opinion surveys or political popularity, but by fidelity to constitutional duty.

The discussion later shifted to ongoing investigations into the alleged misuse of

government flood control funds. Director Matibag assured attendees that the Bureau continues to pursue both so-called "ghost projects," where infrastructure exists only on paper, and "zombie projects," where completed public works allegedly used grossly substandard materials despite receiving full government funding.

Such investigations, he explained, demand patience, meticulous documentation, and extensive evidence gathering before cases can withstand judicial scrutiny. Effective law enforcement, he observed, is often painstaking rather than dramatic.

Another highlight of the forum was Director Matibag's discussion of the Bureau's intensified campaign against human trafficking and online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Dispelling popular misconceptions fueled by television dramas, he explained that successful anti-trafficking operations require weeks or even months of surveillance, intelligence gathering, confidential informants, documentary analysis, and close coordination with local government units and social workers before arrests are made.

He likewise cited the Bureau's sustained efforts against agricultural smuggling and other forms of

organized crime, noting that hundreds of successful operations had already been conducted during the first six months of his administration.

Director Matibag also addressed the Bureau's investigation into the Ateneo de Manila University case, explaining that investigators ultimately recommended charges supported by the available evidence rather than those most demanded by public opinion. The case, he said, demonstrated that investigators must consistently follow where the facts lead, even when doing so may not satisfy prevailing public expectations.

That consistency became one of the defining themes of the afternoon: facts before politics, evidence before assumptions, and law before personalities.

Looking beyond current investigations, Director Matibag outlined his long-term vision for strengthening the National Bureau of Investigation as an institution. Among his priorities are expanding digital services to make NBI clearances more accessible, establishing additional satellite service centers, recruiting and training more investigators, and creating a permanent NBI Academy in New Clark City to develop future generations of investigators.



NBI Director Melvin Matibag shared his insights and interacted with RC Manila members and guests during the open forum.





President Reggie Yu presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Guest of Honor and Speaker, NBI Director Atty. Melvin Alvarez Matibag. Joining the presentation was RI District 3810 District Governor-Nominee and Rotary Club of Manila Past President Hermie S. Esguerra.

He acknowledged that public office is inherently temporary, while institutions endure. His goal, he said, is to leave behind an organization that will continue serving the Filipino people long after his tenure has ended — a philosophy that many participants regarded as a hallmark of enduring leadership.

As the formal program concluded, Director Matibag reaffirmed the shared values between Rotary and public institutions. He described Rotarians as individuals who willingly step beyond

their comfort zones to improve the lives of others and pledged the National Bureau of Investigation's readiness to partner with the Rotary Club of Manila in initiatives that promote peace, justice, public safety, and nation-building.

The commitment was warmly received by members, underscoring the important role that civic organizations and public institutions can play when united by common values of integrity, service, and accountability.

More than a discussion of ongoing investigations or current events, the forum ultimately offered a broader reflection on the qualities required to lead institutions entrusted with public confidence. In an era marked by speculation and political division, Director Matibag's message remained clear: credibility is earned through discipline, unwavering fidelity to the truth, and a steadfast commitment to principle above popularity.

For the Rotary Club of Manila, the afternoon served as a fitting affirmation of its enduring role as a venue where leadership, public service, and meaningful dialogue continue to intersect — more than a century after its founding.



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



Visiting Rotarians and Guests



Meeting Fellowship



PP Geoffrey William Little (leftmost), a visiting Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Sydney, was welcomed by Rtn. Jordan Pizarra, Pres. Reggie Yu, Rtn. J Alfonso L Katigbak, and PDG Rudy Bediones.

From left: PDG Ernest Yuyek, PDG Paco Atayde, Lady Peaches Pasion, DGE Jun Pasion, and DG Bing Carrion

Meeting Fellowship



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	July 23, 2026 NBI DIR. ATTY. MELVIN A. MATIBAG
MEMBERS PRESENT	88	40	41	48
MEMBERS PRESENT %	43%	20%	20%	24%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	6	4	4	12
EXEMPTED	3	3	4	4
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	94	44	45	60
Total # of Members	203	203	203	203
TOTAL %:	46%	22%	22%	30%
ROTARACTORS	11	5	6	7
MEDIA	0	1	0	10
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	3	5	2
VISITING ROTARIAN	18	21	0	15
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	195	17	1	8
TOTAL ATTENDEES	312	86	53	80

LIST OF ATTENDEES July 23, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Acosta, Crispiniano G. | 25 Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV |
| 2 Albaña, Michael Jaey C | 26 Katigbak, J Alfonso L |
| 3 Alday, Albert Singson | 27 Koh, Paul Anthony T |
| 4 Bartolome III, Arsenio M. | 28 Lonzaga, Reinerio C. |
| 5 Bediones, Rodolfo P. | 29 Mauricio, Antonilo DC |
| 6 Carlos, Vicente J. | 30 Nolido, Ramon Alberto B. |
| 7 Carranceja, Arvin Arik B | 31 Nones, Romeo C. |
| 8 Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M. | 32 Nuñez, Jr., Jose A. |
| 9 Cid, Dean Y. | 33 Obrado, Daniel Calzado |
| 10 Co, Val Constantine L. | 34 Pascual, Abraham F. |
| 11 Creencia, Raoul C. | 35 Pineda, Jr. Patricio F. |
| 12 Cureg, Alexander P. | 36 Pizarra, Jordan M. |
| 13 Cutter, John Michael | 37 Ra, Ingill |
| 14 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A. | 38 Serapio, Carlos G. |
| 15 Eldebs, Issam | 39 Shimoda, Shigeru |
| 16 Enriquez III, Eduardo V. | 40 Simon, Juanito A. |
| 17 Esguerra, Herminio S. | 41 So, Warren S. |
| 18 Garcia, Theodore Q | 42 Tamesis, Chris C. |
| 19 Garcia, III Victor G. | 43 Tillmann, Hansel Joseph Michael L. |
| 20 Gesmundo, Job | 44 Valderrama, Jason |
| 21 Ginez, Winston M. | 45 Valdez, Amado D. |
| 22 Go, Henry S. | 46 Valencia, John Nico P. |
| 23 Guevara, Jr., Domingo S. | 47 Yordanov, Stefan |
| 24 Hiroyasu, Kanda | 48 Yu, Reginald Tieng |

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

As of July 28, 2026

1	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
2	CAMPOS, JOSELITO D. JR.
3	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK
4	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
5	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE
6	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
7	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
8	DE VENECIA, JOEY
9	DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS III
10	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III V.
11	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
12	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
13	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
14	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
15	GONZALES, JONAS
16	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR. S.B.
17	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
18	HALLARE, NICO GIUSEPPE S.
19	HESSE, UWE
20	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRINO IV
21	KATIGBAK, J ALFONSO L

22	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
23	LAYA, JAIME C.
24	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEOS P.
25	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
26	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.
27	NOMURA, KAZU
28	NONES, ROMEO C.
29	OBRADO, DANIEL
30	ONG, PHILIP
31	PELIÑO, WILFREDO M.
32	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR.
33	REYNOLDS, DAVID JOHN
34	SCHIMITZ, STEFAN
35	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
36	TAMESIS, CHRIS
37	TAN, MYLES
38	TILLMANN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL
39	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
40	VILLARICA, HENRY
41	YU, REGINALD T.
42	ZIALCITA, XAVIER

Rotary



Every Rotarian has a *story* worth sharing.

“ Share your journey. Inspire others.
Together, we make a difference.



1

WHO *Who I Am*

Share your background, identity, and passions. Introduce the person behind the member badge and help build meaningful connections.



2

WHAT *What I Do*

Share your profession, vocation, and expertise. Celebrate how your skills contribute to your work and to the world around us.



3

WHY *Why Rotary Matters to Me*

Share your motivation, the fellowship you value, and how you live Service Above Self every day.



THE FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS OF A ROTARIAN'S PATH



INSPIRE

Spark ideas.
Encourage others.
Be the reason someone believes in a better tomorrow.



CONNECT

Build relationships.
Strengthen communities.
Together, we create lasting impact.



GROW

Develop yourself.
Expand your impact.
Grow as a leader and a force for good.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ONE ROTARY



ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

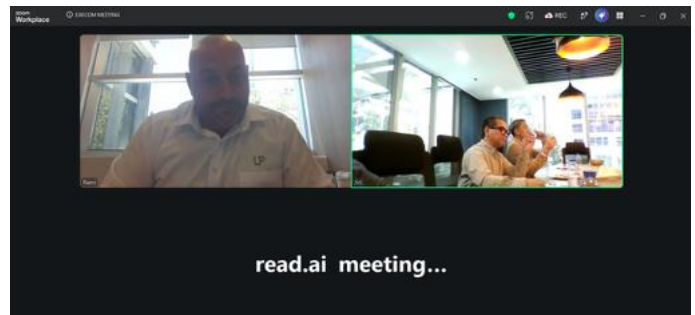
RCMANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

First ExeCom Meeting



THE first ExeCom Meeting under the leadership of Chair Raoul Creencia and President Mike Roxas was held on July 20, 2026, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., at the MOORE Roxas Tabamo & Co. office, Multinational Bancorporation Centre, Makati City.

Also in attendance were Secretary Anton Mauricio, Board Legal Adviser Chris Tamesis, and Assistant Treasurer Dean Cid. Golf Chair Rami Chahwan participated remotely via Zoom.



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



THE Rotary Club of Manila demonstrated that fellowship remains the heart and soul of Rotary as it successfully launched RCM After Hours, its first "assessment-free" Monthly Fellowship in nearly five years, on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at the elegant 11th Floor Social Lounge of Fairmont Makati. What began as a simple post-meeting gathering quickly evolved into one of the most vibrant and well-attended fellowship events in recent Club memory, reaffirming that genuine camaraderie remains one of Rotary's greatest strengths.

RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



Held immediately after the Club's Third Weekly Membership Meeting, RCM After Hours officially opened at 3:00 p.m. What few anticipated, however, was that members would be enjoying one another's company until nearly 8:00 p.m., reluctant to call an end to an afternoon that rekindled friendships and revived the fellowship that has long distinguished Asia's First Rotary Club.

The turnout was nothing short of remarkable.

A total of 86 participants filled the Social Lounge, including an unprecedented 78 Rotary Club of Manila members, three Rotaractors from the Rotaract Club of Manila, and several invited guests. The impressive attendance made it one of the largest fellowship gatherings the Club

RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship

has hosted in many years and reflected the growing enthusiasm among members to reconnect beyond the formal setting of weekly membership meetings.

One of the most appreciated aspects of the afternoon was that every member attended free of charge.

For the first time in approximately five years, the Club leadership deliberately waived all fellowship assessments, believing that removing financial barriers would encourage greater participation and allow members to simply relax, reconnect, and enjoy one another's company. The decision proved to be an overwhelming success, with many members expressing their appreciation for an initiative that placed fellowship ahead of formality and hospitality ahead of assessments.

The atmosphere throughout the afternoon was warm, lively, and unmistakably Rotarian.

Old friends reunited after long absences. Newer members found themselves sharing tables with Past Presidents and veteran Rotarians. Conversations flowed effortlessly across generations of membership, reminding everyone that while Rotary is renowned for its service



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship

projects, it is fellowship that sustains the organization year after year.

Overflowing refreshments, an endless selection of drinks, and a generous spread of hors d'oeuvres ensured that no one left wanting, while the relaxed ambiance encouraged members to linger long after the formal meeting had concluded.

The energy reached another level when Jan May de Vera and her acoustic band began performing.

Their engaging repertoire quickly transformed the gathering into an impromptu sing-along, with members enthusiastically belting out timeless favorites, taking turns at the microphone, and even filling the dance floor as the afternoon gave way to evening.

Among those entertaining fellow Rotarians with spirited musical performances were Immediate Past President Raoul Creencia, Director Mike Albaña, Past Director Rod Valencia, Rotarian Joanna Valencia, Director Mike Roxas, Past Director Pepo Nuñez, and Past Director Amading Valdez, whose enthusiasm proved infectious and kept the room alive with music, laughter, and applause.



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



The fellowship likewise highlighted Rotary's commitment to nurturing future leaders, as members of the Rotaract Club of Manila joined senior Rotarians in an afternoon of conversation, music, and fellowship, strengthening the bonds between generations of leaders committed to the ideal of Service Above Self.

Behind the tremendous success of the inaugural RCM After Hours was a dedicated team of Rotarians who worked tirelessly to transform an idea into one of the Club's most memorable fellowship events in recent years.

Special recognition is due to the Fellowship Committee, led by Director Nico Valencia and Chairman Atty. Cris Tamesis, together with Vice President Karlo Castro, Past Director Pepo Nuñez, and Director Mike Albaña, whose careful planning, attention to detail, and commitment to creating an atmosphere of genuine warmth and hospitality ensured that every member felt welcomed and every guest left with lasting memories. Their collective efforts exemplified Rotary's enduring principle that the best fellowship is thoughtfully planned but effortlessly enjoyed.

RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship

As the evening progressed, one observation became increasingly evident.

Members simply did not want to go home.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback that followed reflected a common sentiment throughout the Club: **RCM After Hours** should become a permanent monthly tradition. Many described it as one of the most enjoyable fellowship gatherings in years—a refreshing reminder of what had been missing and a welcome return to the camaraderie that has long been a hallmark of the Rotary Club of Manila.

While Rotary is widely recognized for its impactful service projects and meaningful weekly programs, its enduring strength has always rested upon the friendships that unite its members. Service may bring Rotarians together, but fellowship is what keeps them together.

The overwhelming success of the inaugural **RCM After Hours** demonstrated that meaningful fellowship remains as relevant today as it was when the Rotary Club of Manila was founded more than 107 years ago.



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship

Beyond the music, food, and festivities, the gathering rekindled old friendships, forged new ones, welcomed back familiar faces, and reminded everyone that the Club's greatest asset has never been its history alone, but the remarkable people who continue to write it.

If this memorable afternoon and evening served as any indication, RCM After Hours has already become much more than a monthly social gathering. It is the revival of a cherished Rotary tradition.

A celebration of friendship.
A renewal of camaraderie.
And a living expression of this Rotary year's guiding vision:

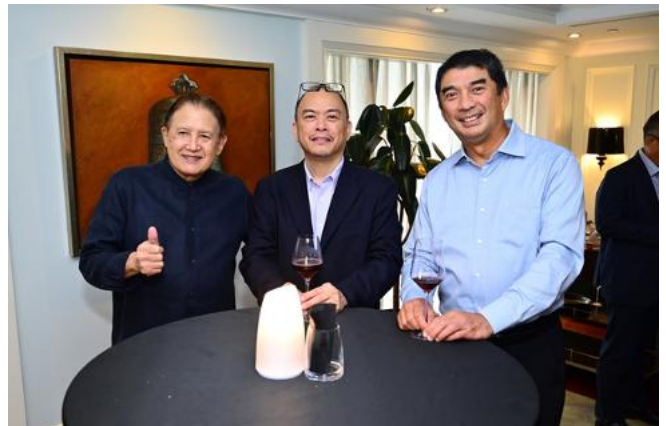
Rotary T.U.R.N. — Toward a Unified Rotary Nation.

For five unforgettable hours at the Fairmont Makati, that vision was not merely spoken about.

It was joyfully lived.



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



RCM AFTER HOURS: An Evening That Re-ignited Rotary Fellowship



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Rotary Leadership Institute - Part 1



Multi-District, Grassroots Leadership Development Program organized in various parts of the world

NOW OPEN FOR THE FIRST 50



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Division Head
Chairman



Majella Villaroman
RLI Communications &
Marketing Officer



District Governor
Bing Carreon

HOSTED BY:

Rotary

Club of University District



PDG Ernie Choa

Course Materials :

- ✓ My Leadership in Rotary / My Rotary World
- ✓ Ethics and Vocational Service
- ✓ Foundation 1 - Our Foundation
- ✓ Engaging Members / Creating Service Projects

Event Schedule

- 08:00 am Opening Plenary
- 08:05 am Welcome Remarks & Governor's Message
- 08:15 am RLI Introduction
- 09:00 am Breakout Topics and Discussions
- 12:00 am Lunch Break
- 13:00 pm Foundation 1 & Engaging Members
- 15:30 pm Snacks & Creating Service Projects
- 16:30 pm Closing Session & awarding of certificates



CP Armin Demetillo
RLI D3810 Coordinator



Raymond Ciriaco
Coach & Consultant



Edwin Chiu
RLI Faculty Facilitator



Susana Dalaguete
Vice-Chair Speaker's Bureau



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RLI Moderator



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8 August 2026



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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Rotary
District 3810



**CREATE
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PAGSIKLAB

THE VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR

"Heart of Heritage, Driven by Purpose in Service, Fueled by Innovation"



DATE

August 22, 2026



TIME

Registration - 8AM
Program - 9am-5PM



VENUE

Philippine Trade
Training Center
Pasay City

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FERDINAND ANDRES
CLUB TREASURER

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Until Aug 8

REGULAR RATE: PHP 1,700
Until Aug 21



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MEMBERSHIP & TRF COMMITTEE TEAM**

DISTRICT EVENTS

Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of San Pablo City, Daughter Club of the Rotary Club of Manila



President Reggie Yu and DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday attended the Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of San Pablo City, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, as part of the Area 1 Group 12 & 13 Joint Induction Ceremonies of Rotary District 3820 last July 22, 2026 at the San Pablo Convention Center, San Pablo, Laguna.



DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday, PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray, Rotary Club of San Pablo City President Levin Cathlyn Berris, President Reggie Yu and a member of the Rotary Club of San Pablo City during the induction.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Induction and Handover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of San Pablo City, Daughter Club of the Rotary Club of Manila



The turnover of the bell and gavel



President Reggie Yu and DDPIC/Club Secretary Albert S. Alday with members of the Rotary Club of San Pablo City



Rotary Club of San Pablo City
President Levin Cathlyn Berris and
Rotary Club of Manila President Reggie
Yu before the start of the induction



Presidents and Officers of Area 1
Groups 12 & 13 of Rotary District 3820

DISTRICT EVENTS

17th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Mabini Manila



PDG Rudy Bediones attended the 17th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Mabini Manila last July 22, 2026 at the Manila Hotel in Manila.



DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the 17th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Mabini Manila



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of New Members during the 17th Handover and Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Mabini Manila.

DISTRICT EVENTS

48th Induction and Handover Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila



President Reggie Yu attended the 48th Induction and Handover Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila last July 23, 2026 at the Oriental Palace Seafood Restaurant in Quezon City . He is shown here with Rotary Club of Downtown Manila's very first lady President, Arlene Jane Tanchay.



President Reggie Yu with Sen. Bong Go at the 48th Induction and Handover Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila



DGN Hermie Esguerra with PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray and PDG Rudy Bediones at the 48th Induction and Handover Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila

DISTRICT EVENTS

Handover and Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Manila Metro



President Reggie Yu attended the Handover and Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Manila Metro last July 24, 2026 at the Aloha Hotel in Manila. He is shown here with his fellow Impact Creating Presidents.



PDG Vince Carlos, PDG Rudy Bediones and DGN Hermie Esguerra attended the Handover and Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Manila Metro.



President Reggie Yu leading the dancing at the Handover and Induction Ceremony



DGN Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of New Members.

DISTRICT EVENTS

32nd Inner Wheel Club D381 Handover and Induction Ceremony



President Reggie Yu attended the 32nd Inner Wheel Club D381 Handover and Induction Ceremony last July 25, 2026 at the Manila Hotel in Manila.



President Reggie Yu with DGN Joey Lina of Rotary District 3830 at the Inner Wheel event



Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

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

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

PDG Obet Pagdanganan 's *80th Birthday Celebration*



PDG Obet Pagdanganan was feted by his World Class Presidents and team on the occasion of his 80th birthday last July 25, 2026 at the Gloriamaris Shark's Fin Restaurant, Mall of Asia Arena Annex Bldg., Pasay City.



PDG Obet Pagdanganan with visitors, PDG Rudy Bediones and Lady Sharon Bediones, DGN Hermie Esguerra with PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray and Dir. Caloy Serapio, on the occasion of his 80th Birthday.

PDG Obet Pagdanganan 's

*80th Birthday
Celebration*

*Happy
Birthday*



Best buddies, DGN Hermie Esguerra
and his Rotary Club of Manila
sponsor, PDG Obet Pagdanganan



PDG Obet Pagdanganan with his World Class Presidents

FELLOWSHIP



Aleco breakfast on July 20, 2026, hosted by industrialist and educator Willie Peliño, owner of Osmeña Colleges in Masbate, founded in 1948. The school provides free education and feeding programs to over 800 elementary school children.

Resolved, that the lack of reliable and affordable power is a big impediment to countryside development.



Aleco breakfast fellowship on July 27, 2026, hosted by PP Archit Bartolome.

Resolved, on August 3: (1) Aleco inter-color golf's tee-off at 8:30 a.m.; (2) no breakfast get-together; it will be an afternoon cocktail gathering at 4 pm at Manila Golf, Rotary Way.

IN THE NEWS

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

Four truths on Sara's trial

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte featured a barrage of debates on the search for truth. Though the lawyers sparred with surprising calmness, the viewing public grappled with legalese unfamiliar to many. Let us, therefore, cut through the legal brouhaha and distill these exchanges into one question: What is the truth in the impeachment trial?

THE ANSWER, I BELIEVE, lies in understanding four truths: judicial truth, political or convenient truth, public truth, and absolute or Christian truth. To remind us, the ongoing trial seeks to reconstruct the facts through evidence culled from the use of the Rules of Court (Rules).

In judicial courts, judges decide cases based on the law and the pieces of evidence that are properly marked, identified, offered, admitted, and believed pursuant to the Rules. They never rely on what they hear on the radio or see on television or on TikTok. For example, judges cannot use in their decisions what they actually saw in a traffic accident. Unless the prosecution establishes the accident and the guilt of the accused via evidence duly presented and proven, the judge is duty bound to acquit the accused, despite what he/she may have personally perceived.

On the other hand, an impeachment court is not purely judicial. Senator-judges, garbed in striking crimson robes, may ape Supreme Court justices, clad in conservative black gowns, but they perform a distinct constitutional function. Unlike judicial magistrates, who are chosen from the crème de la crème of the legal profession, senator-judges need not be lawyers. In fact, most of them are not.

Consequently, they are not confined solely to "judicial truth" and may decide according to what their political instincts deem to be "political truths." In this sui generis tribunal, judicial and political truths inevitably intersect.

THIS INTERSECTION OF THE TWO TRUTHS was illustrated by the exchange between prosecutor Akbayan party list Rep. Chel Diokno and defense counsel Michael Poa



WITH DUE RESPECT
ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

over the prosecution's request for subpoenas directing the Bureau of Internal Revenue to produce the VP's tax records contained in the so-called "Green Box," and requiring the Anti-Money Laundering Council to present the financial records of the VP and her husband.

Their arguments highlighted two fundamental evidentiary distinctions: first, the difference between a subpoena and a search warrant; and second, between "admissibility" and "relevancy."

Primarily, a subpoena is merely a process directing a person(s) to attend and testify at a trial (*subpoena ad testificandum*) and/or to bring certain documents (*subpoena duces tecum*). In short, a subpoena opens the door to inquiry but does not decide the controversy itself.

Au contraire, a search and seizure warrant authorizes law enforcers to enter private premises to search for and seize specifically described property under constitutional safeguards. Conversely, a subpoena involves neither intrusion nor police enforcement.

EVEN IF PRODUCED pursuant to a subpoena, are the documents automatically admissible as evidence? Certainly not. Evidence must be both relevant and competent—relevant, if it has a logical connection to the issue, and competent, if the Constitution, the law, or the Rules permit the courts to consider it in deciding the controversy.

Relevance, however, does not by itself ensure admissibility or credibility. Presiding officer Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero stressed that the Senate would determine, at the proper time, whether the records should ultimately be believed. Nonetheless, he issued the subpoena because the requested documents appeared *prima facie* (on their face) to be relevant to the impeachment allegations concerning unexplained wealth and betrayal of public trust.

Indeed, these distinctions are not mere technicalities. They are constitutional safeguards to ensure that the quest for judicial truth is premised on reason and evidence. Still, the sought-after truths point to a much higher objective—one that no court or tribunal can fully attain. As Diokno emphasized, counsels can only present "... enough evidence as to make conclusions as far as the judgment is concerned, even if the members of the court [would] not get to see the entire truth."

This brings us to the people's truth, that is, what the public believes it to be when both the judicial and political truths become no longer credible. This was what happened when the Second People Power Revolution erupted due to the refusal of the Senate tribunal to open the so-called second envelope. They thought justice was no longer available in the then-ongoing judicial and political process.

The fourth—the absolute truth for every Christian country—brings us to the greatest trial in history two millennia ago when Jesus declared that He came into the world to "testify to the truth." And Pontius Pilate asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38). Pilate's question continues to hound all tribunals in Christian countries today.

Ultimately, every court must strive to approximate it. Justice, after all, cannot rest on speculation, political convenience, or public clamor. It must satisfy the human longing for the absolute truth, however elusive it may be.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



OPINION

The fourth monkey



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez -
The Philippine Star ①
July 26, 2026 | 12:00am

It is very clear that the rage-bait AI video, reportedly produced by a state-sponsored foreign publication depicting Filipinos as monkeys, is undoubtedly another crude attempt to undermine a landmark ruling by an international arbitration body. After all, we all know that our worth as a nation is not defined by such stupid, inane caricatures but by how steadfast we are in protecting and asserting our sovereign rights.

I find it quite ironic, however, that in trying to disparage Filipinos, they chose a meme with a monkey – a creature that is depicted in their traditional folklore and literature as smart, resourceful and brave, not afraid to fight immortals and demons. In fact, numerous movies have been made over the years about an archetypal hero known as “the monkey king.” More significantly, there are also the “three wise monkeys” that embody core principles of ancient eastern philosophy.

For centuries, the image of the three wise monkeys has endured, serving as a reminder as well as an admonition for people to be mindful of their conduct, and to guard against malicious and improper behavior. These images are very familiar: one monkey covers his eyes, another cups his hands over his ears, while the third one puts his hands on his mouth. These have been traditionally interpreted as “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” – a guardrail or moral anchor for one to avoid wrongdoing.

But in today's world of social media that has made it so easy to quickly spread and amplify viral videos, share manipulated images, sow disinformation and circulate uninformed opinions at the click of a mouse or the press of a button, perhaps it is about time to examine the three monkeys under a different lens to reveal the fallacy of “deliberate ignorance and passive complicity” that comes with the mistaken belief that it is OK to ignore wrongdoing because it can help in avoiding conflict.

Every single day, we are bombarded with information – some of them factual, but a lot more of them serving as “bait” – carefully crafted to provoke emotion, sow division or manipulate public opinion. Clever memes, sarcastic posts, anonymous and troll accounts, edited videos and fake art cards can now travel faster than reason itself. And the louder the noise, the harder it becomes to distinguish truth from propaganda.

The greater menace today is not seeing evil – it is refusing to see the truth or worse, being willfully blind to the truth because it is convenient and effortless. The bigger danger today is not hearing unpleasant words but refusing to listen to facts that challenge our biases. The bigger risk today is not speaking carelessly – it is refusing to speak the truth when one's conscience demands it.

The temptation is great to simply accept anything that confirms our own beliefs and biases, because that path is the most convenient and expedient to take. However, democracies, friendships and even families cannot survive if people stop asking questions and don't think for themselves.

Which brings me to this point – perhaps the first monkey should no longer put his hands over his eyes. Instead, he should open them wide enough to see reality as it is and not according to how others want him to perceive it.

The second monkey should stop clamping his hands over his ears. Listening only to voices that echo one's own opinions is not wisdom, it is folly. Real understanding comes from listening patiently, weighing evidence and recognizing that truth is often more complicated than slogans or motherhood statements.

The third monkey should uncover his mouth. Silence is sometimes prudent, but staying quiet in the face of deception allows falsehood to flourish. Speaking the truth requires courage, particularly when doing so is unpopular.

History offers many examples of nations that have stumbled and floundered because citizens accepted convenient lies over uncomfortable facts. Leaders have failed because advisers were afraid to speak honestly. Institutions have weakened because too many people chose comfort over integrity.

At the same time, history also reminds us that societies recover because there are always individuals willing to see clearly, hear fairly and objectively and speak responsibly.

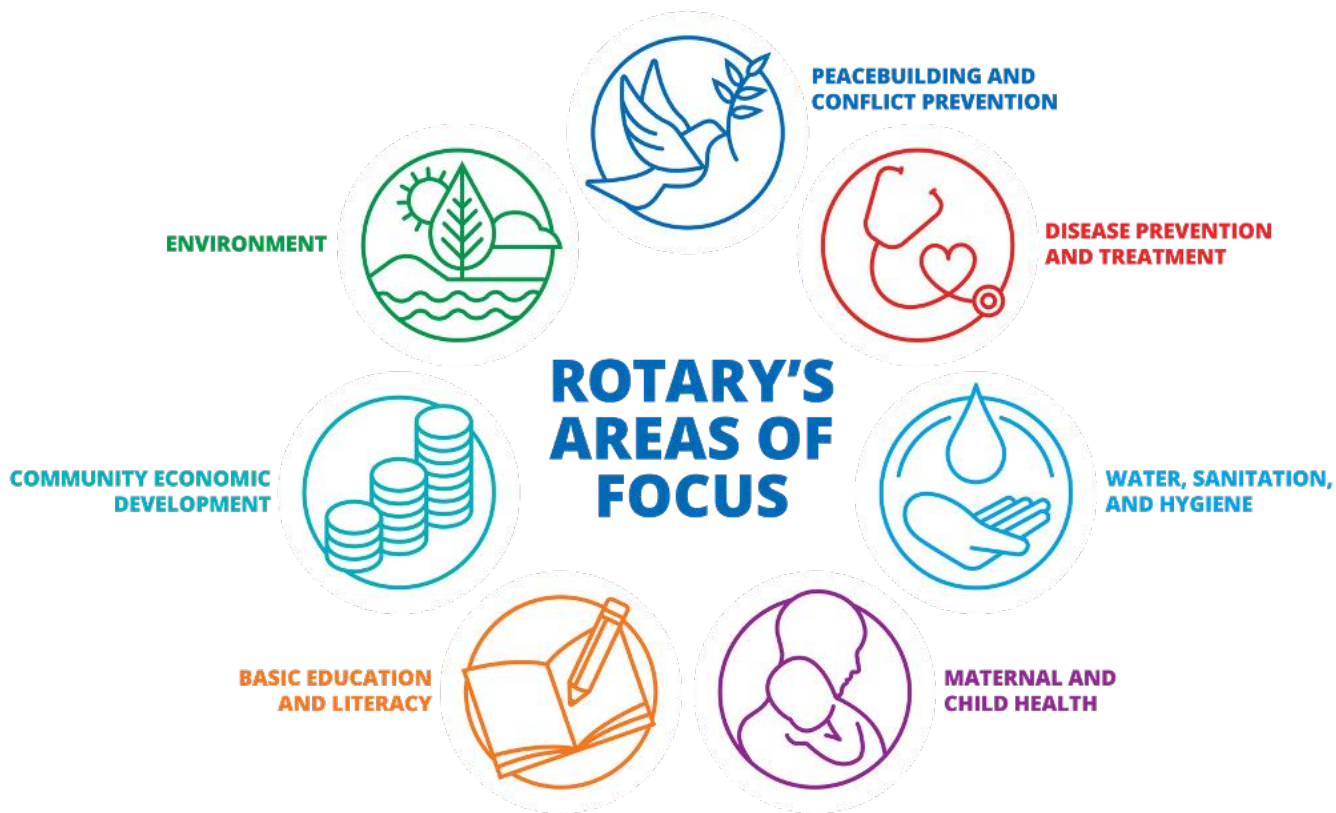
This reminder applies not only to governments but to each one of us. So before sharing or forwarding a sensational message, verify whether it is true or not. Before reacting to an inflammatory post or video, pause and ask who would benefit from your anger. Before judging another person, reflect first and consider if you have heard the entire story or not.

The strongest societies are not those that never argue or disagree. They are those whose citizens value truth more than tribal loyalty, evidence more than emotion and independent judgment more than popular applause.

The challenge before every nation, every institution and every citizen is not simply to avoid evil. It is to refuse to become blind to reality, deaf to truth or mute when integrity calls. In the end, real wisdom is not found in silence alone – it is exemplified in the courage to see the truth, hear the truth and speak the truth.

The ancient proverb of the three wise monkeys remains prudent and judicious, but perhaps it now deserves a contemporary iteration. Imagine a fourth monkey – not one covering his face, but one standing upright with eyes open, ears attentive and ready to speak the truth with a steady voice. He neither follows the crowd blindly nor repeats what others expect him to say. Instead, he listens carefully, examines the facts and then speaks with honesty and conviction – the ultimate ideal for a real monkey from ancient times.

* * *





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