

Friends!

Beginnings are always poignant because, while we celebrate them, we also fondly remember what came before. Allow me first to thank our Immediate Past District Governor Prescy Yulo, and congratulate her on an amazing/magical year of service to our district, our clubs, and our communities. She has exemplified Service Above Self and shepherded us to great heights in many aspects, particularly through her advocacy for maternal health and child care. Her first 1000 Days program and anti-teenage pregnancy campaigns have laid a solid foundation for future programs in these areas. For all this and her indefatigable work ethic, a grateful district thanks you.

As we embark on a new Rotary Year, we find ourselves challenged by the call of our Rotary International President, Mário César Martins de Camargo, to grow our membership. He emphasized that, "Rotary's greatest asset is not our history, our projects, or even our unmatched global reach. It is our members.... YOU!" To enhance our membership, expand our reach, and grow our numbers, he urged us to embrace Innovation, Continuity, and Partnership.

With this in mind, we enter this year with a mindset to strengthen our membership programs, enhance our club projects, reinvigorate our image, and ensure that our members truly enjoy and imbibe Rotary. I have called on our Unite for Good Presidents (UGP) and our Unite for Good District Teams to **"Level Up"** in all aspects of managing their clubs and the district.

In preparation for the year, we undertook extensive and intensive training programs for our presidents, district officers, and club leaders. We emphasized the power of learning new ways of doing things to refresh our approach to managing our clubs and projects. We took pains to get to the "WHY?" of each club and help them figure out their *raison d'être*. We challenged our district leadership to come up with innovative and inventive plans and programs for the year to keep our clubs engaged. It is our view that whatever stagnancy we may be facing cannot be solved by simply splashing on new coats of paint, but must result from honest club and district evaluations to identify the root cause of the problems we face. Only when we see the true state of affairs can we then endeavor to Level Up.

Armed with this understanding, we enter this Rotary Year with not only excitement but also a clear sense of purpose. "Rising tides lifts all boats." As one, we buoy each other up, help each other grow, and collectively improve our district. We are here for each other. We support each other. We make sure that no club is left behind. "Walang Iwanan". As one district, through our clubs, we then do good for the communities we serve. We provide them improved and more well-thought-out service. We prioritize making meaningful impact and not just creating a good impression. We embrace metrics and data as a means to progress. We all learn from each and get better. And then as one, we Unite for Good. This is our call, our mission and our mandate.

Please allow me to thank the Handover Committee for the wonderful job they have done in preparing for our Change for Good Handover Ceremony. Led by event chair PP Jun Jun Dayrit, we hope to enjoy a simple but inspiring evening. Thank you to our committee members District Secretary Louie Aseoche, Deputy District Secretary and Chief Protocol Officer Lilibeth Dela Cruz, Governor's Special Assistant for Events Charlotte Cruz, Membership Committee Chair Raissa Hechanova-Posadas, Ways and Means Chair Emily Alvarez and member Cristy Bersola, Finance Chair Lito Solangon, PE Howie Calleja, Rotarian Bom Villatuya, PP Cuki Pendor, UGP

Jo Mandap, UGP Paul Pacete, our registration team led by Meynard Marquez, our Unite For Good Performers, our District Performers, the Event Promotion team, and of course our secretariat led by Tin Dotaro.

Thank you as well to our year-long sponsors All Asia Countertrade, Inc. Universal Leaf Philippines, Inc., and of course, my club, my brothers in arms, the guys behind me, *The Rotary Club of Makati*. Thank you to our Host and Co-Host clubs, our event sponsors, our Champions for Good, souvenir program sponsors, and all who have contributed time, talent, and treasure for our event tonight.

Lastly, thank you so much to my wife, Sue Ann, and my kids, Jordan and Rafa, who are my reason for being. Thank you to my Unite for Good Presidents, who embody my “Rotary Why”. I am also grateful to my dear family, my brothers, my in-laws, my nieces and nephew, all of us embraced by the memory of mom and dad. Last but not least, thank you to my dear friends, guests, partners and all of you in attendance. Your presence means the world to me.

Memories are formed by moments of significance. Thank you for the wonderful memories you have created tonight. As one, let us Unite for Good.

In Unity for Good,

Reggie Nolido  
Unite for Good District Governor  
Rotary Year 2025-26