

# WEST SIDE STORY



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI WEST

Vol. 24 RY 2024-2025 | 2,453rd Meeting (since 1969) | March 20, 2025

# Thursday Lunch Meeting with Guest Speaker Dr. Nick Cruz March 6, 2025





Today's Guest Speaker:

MR. NICHOLAS DRITSAS SENIOR DIRECTOR MICROSOFT, SINGAPORE

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# MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



#### **LUNCH MEETING**

Mr. Nicholas Dritsas Senior Director Microsoft, Singapore Date: March 20, 2025/ Thursday Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel

Time: 12nn-2pm



#### **LUNCH MEETING**

Rtn. Robin Garcia President & CEO WR Advisory Group Date: March 27, 2025/ Thursday

Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel

Time: 12nn-2pm



## District Conference DISCON 2025

SMX Convention Center, Pasay City April 4-5, 2025

Kindly RSVP to secretariat



#### **LUNCH MEETING**

PDG Virgilio "Jun" G. Farcon Past District Governor, D3800 Rotary Club of Marikina Date: April 10, 2025/Thursday

Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel

Time: 12nn-2pm



#### **LUNCH MEETING**

**GS: TBA** 

**Fullerton Group** 

Date: April 24, 2025/ Thursday Venue: Dusit Thani Hotel

Time: 12nn-2pm



12:15 PM Call to Order PRES. GERRY LAPERAL

Invocation DIR. LEMARC LIMOSNERO

Philippine National Anthem (video)

12:30 PMRC Makati West Hymn

Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guest:

Introduction of Personalities at the Presidential Table;

Committee announcement

12:45 PM President's Time PRES. GERRY LAPERAL

Introduction of Guest Speaker PP MON GUERRERO

1:00 PM Speech
MR. NICHOLAS DRITSAS
Senior Director
Microsoft, Singapore

Token of Appreciation

Moderator RTN. PATRICK DIONISIO

#### THIS WEEK'S CELEBRANTS



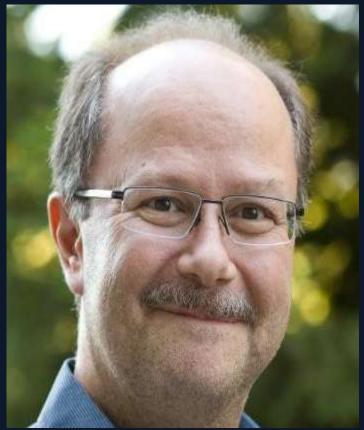
March 16 RTN. JAYJAY DE OCAMPO Birthday











GUEST SPEAKER

MR. NICHOLAS DRITSAS

SENIOR DIRECTOR, MICROSOFT, SINGAPORE

Experienced Senior Director on application, operations and consulting motivated by opportunities into defining business and technical requirements, designing as well as implementing complex business process and systems and managing IT infrastructure.

26+ years in Microsoft in 2 main areas. One, for 9 years in Microsoft Consulting Services working directly with Fortune 100 companies in the USA region as Principal Architect and Business Development Manager.

As such, drive innovation, cost savings and new revenue streams utilizing modern technologies. Second, as Sr. Director of Azure Engineering Customer Advisory team covering the most strategic and innovating customers and ISVs on their key workload journeys to Azure.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Accountability

Dear Zesters,

'Twas an eventful week in the Philippines. Jokes first, saan natutulog si FPRRD? Hindi po sa kama, sa sa-Hague.

On March 11, 2025, former Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was arrested at Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon returning from Hong Kong. The arrest was executed based on a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has charged him with crimes against humanity related to extrajudicial killings during his controversial "war on drugs" campaign.

Within 24 hours, Duterte was transferred to ICC custody in The Hague, Netherlands. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. confirmed that an aircraft carrying Duterte departed from Manila at 11:03p.m. on March 11. The transfer process was unusually public, with Duterte's journey becoming the most monitored flight on air traffic radar systems worldwide.



During this journey, Duterte shared a video message stating, "I led our law enforcement and military. I promised to protect you and take responsibility for everything."

#### Case Background and Charges

The ICC warrant addresses allegations of extrajudicial killings between 2011 and 2019, covering both Duterte's tenure as Davao City mayor and his early presidency. According to the ICC, there are "reasonable grounds" to prosecute him for murder as a crime against humanity.

police Official statistics report approximately 6,000 fatalities from his drug war, though human rights organizations estimate the death toll could be much higher. Duterte has consistently defended his crackdown necessary to combat street as crime. while critics maintain the campaign disproportionately targeted impoverished communities.

This case marks a historic moment— Duterte is the first Asian former head of state to face an ICC indictment and the first suspect extradited to The Hague in three years.

#### Legal Context and Current Status

The ICC functions as a court of last resort when domestic judicial systems fail to hold powerful individuals accountable. The prosecution seemed unlikely until recently, particularly given that the Philippines withdrew from the Rome Statute in 2019 and that Duterte's daughter, Vice-President Sara Duterte, had allied with President Marcos in the 2022 elections.

As of March 18, 2025, Duterte remains in ICC custody awaiting trial proceedings. Human Rights Watch called his arrest "a long-overdue victory against impunity" that could bring victims closer to justice.

#### Public Reaction and Misinformation

The arrest has triggered intense public reaction. Supporters have gathered outside the ICC detention facility waving Philippine flags and demanding his return. The case has also spawned widespread misinformation on social media, with satirical posts and fake quotes circulating widely.

Some posts attributed fictional statements to characters from legal dramas like "Suits" and "Legally Blonde," making it appear as though these fictional lawyers were commenting on Duterte's case

ICC Assistant to Counsel Kristina Conti reported that Duterte's supporters have been spamming ICC Pre-Trial Chamber-I Presiding Judge Iulia Motoc online, calling for his release—actions Continuoted would not help his case.

The international community is closely watching this unprecedented case as it



progresses through the ICC's judicial system, with human rights advocates viewing it as a significant step toward accountability for alleged abuses during Duterte's drug war.

#### Al Solutions

We welcome Nicholas Dristas, Senior Director at Microsoft Singapore for Azure Data and Al Solutions, as our guest speaker this week. Nicholas leads initiatives helping organizations leverage Azure's data processing capabilities and Al solutions to drive innovation and operational efficiency.

Artificial intelligence has become deeply integrated into numerous aspects of daily life in 2025:

Healthcare: Al systems analyze medical images with accuracy rivaling specialists, examine patient data to suggest personalized treatments, and power health apps for monitoring wellbeing.

Education: Al adapts to individual learning styles, identifies knowledge gaps, and provides personalized tutoring at scale.

Financial Services: Al algorithms provide personalized financial guidance, detect fraud with precision, and manage investment portfolios based on individual preferences.

Transportation: Al-enhanced driving assistance features improve safety while traffic management systems reduce congestion and optimize routing.

These applications demonstrate how Al is no longer a futuristic concept but a practical tool enhancing efficiency and personalization across sectors.

Gerardo Oliverio "Gerry" V. Laperal President, RY 2024-2025 Rotary Club of Makati West



#### Featured Guest of Honor and Speaker on April 10, 2025 PDG Jun Farcon invited by PRID Guiller Tumangan

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: VIRGILIO G. FARCON, JR.

Address: 40 Peter St., Filinvest East, Cainta, Rizal

Date of Birth: September 8, 1959

Age: 65 years old
Occupation: CPA-Lawyer
Civil Status: Married

Name of Spouse: ZENAIDA Y. FARCON

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant

Children: Virgilio Y. Farcon III - Certified Public Accountant

Lawyer (38) JD, Jose Florinio Farcon – Lawyer (36) JD

Zarah Julia Farcon – Lawyer (33) JD

Religion: Roman Catholic

Height: 5'9" Weight: 195 lbs.

#### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

School Degree

Elementary - Roosevelt College High School - Roosevelt College

College - University of the Philippines LB B.S. Mathematics (2 years)

College - San Sebastian College - BSC, Major in Accounting

Ateneo de Manila - Bachelor of Laws, Graduate

With Honors

#### **BOARD/BAR EXAMINATION TAKEN:**

Year Rating

CPA Board Exam. 1981 85.71

Bar Exam. 1987 85.55 (13th Place)

#### **HONORS RECEIVED:**

Consistent honor student in Elementary, Graduated 1st Honorable Mention (1972)

Team Captain - Debating Team, Fourth Year Roosevelt College (1976)

Silver Medal for Academic Excellence, Ateneo de Manila University

(Ranked No. 8 Class 1987)

Member - Ateneo Debating Team against University of San Carlos (1986)

Thirteenth Placer 1987 Bar Examinations

Praeses Award Aquila Legis Fraternity (1989, 1990, 1991 to 1994, 2015)

Plague of Merit - Philippine Hospital Association (1993, 1994, 2000, 2001)



Merit Award - Rotary Club of Marikina - (1994, 1995)

Most Outstanding Rotarian of the Year - (1995-96)

Most Outstanding Rotary Club President District 3800 (1996-97)

Leadership Award, RC Marikina (1997)

Competent Toastmaster, Certificate from Toastmasters International (1994)

Paul Harris Fellow (1996)

Rotary International, District Governor's Award (1997)

Major Donor, Level 1, The Rotary Foundation (2010)

Major Donor, Level 2, The Rotary Foundation (2017)

Major Donor, Level 3, TRF (2019)

Rotary International Service Above Self Awardee (2020)

Citation for Meritorious Service TRF (2021)

Benefactor (2023)

Created Endowment Fund Share Virgilio Farcon Jr and Zenaida Farcon (2022)

Created Endowment Fund Share PP Ver Farcon+ and PP Lourdes Farcon+ (2024)

Bequest Society Level 2 (2023)

Polio Plus Society Since 2023 to present

Paul Harris Society since 2008 to present

Major Donor, Level 4, TRF (2024)

#### **CLUB AFFILIATIONS & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS:**

Name Position

Interact Club of Marikina Member (1975)

Rotaract Club of Marikina North Charter President (1976)

District Rotaract Rep. (1982-83)

Rotary Club of Marikina Central Charter Member and Director (1985)

Rotary Club of Marikina Member since 1988 up to present with

the classification of Taxation

President (1996-97)

Rotary International District 3800 District Governor (2010-11)

Marikina Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees (Since 2002)

Toastmasters Club of Marikina Treasurer (1994)

Alpha Phi Omega Prime Chancellor (1980)

Aguila Legis Fraternity Most Honorable Praeses (1986)

United NGO Leaders Against

Drug Abuse (UNLAD)

Marikina CITYHOOD

Marikina Marathon, Inc.

Chairman (1996)

President (1997)



Marikina Golfers Association President (2005)

KC St. Paul of the Cross Parish Lifetime Member, 4th Degree

Lawyers for Christ Founding Member (1998)

Couples for Christ Mission Support Group East B Sector

Integrated Bar of the Philippines Member, Since 1988
Rizal Chapter Director (1997-1999)

Philippine Bar Association Member, Since 2014

Phil. Institute of Certified Public

Accountants Member, Since 1981
Forrest Hills Golf & Country Club Member, Since 1997
Celebrity Sports & Country Club Member, Since 2008

Royal Northwoods Golf &

Country Club Member Since 2002

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Year	Company	Position and Work Assignments
1981-1983	Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co.	Staff Auditor
1983-1988	V.S. Farcon & Associates, CPAs	Managing Partner
1988-1991	Tanjuatco, Oreta, Tanjuatco	
	Berenguer & Corpus Law Firm	Senior Associate Attorney
1999 to 2014	Farcon Yungco Raz & Associates CPA	s Partner
1991 to Present	Farcon, Baggayan, Farcon Law Firm	Managing Partner

#### **COMPANY AFFILIATIONS:**

	12.7 (110113.	
Year	Company	Position
Since 1997	INC Navigation Co., Inc.	Corporate Secretary
Since 2002	REBAP Corporation	Corporate Secretary
Since 2008	Carrascal Nickel Corporation	Corporate Secretary
Since 2013	Giant Stone Mining Corporation	Asst. Corporate Secretary
Since 2013	CPO Mine Unlimited Inc.	Asst. Corporate Secretary
Since 2006	Jayjoza Trading Corporation	President
Since 2019	Philippine First Insurance, Inc.	Independent Director
		Chairman – Audit Committee
Since 2023	Shinagawa Lasik and Aesthetics Corp.	Independent Director
		Chairman – Audit Committee

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

# March 13, 2025



Dir. Lars Wittig as Moderator



Rtn. Jan Campos as Invocator



PE Dino Dumatol during the President's Time



PP Eric Angeles introduces the guest of honor



Dr. Nick Cruz in his speech



Dr. Nick Cruz received a Gift of Life Certificate from the Club







































55th/20th Anniversary Thanksgiving fellowship with RCMW Ladies at Kenneth Cobonpue Showroom BGC on March 18, 2025

























55th/20th Anniversary Thanksgiving fellowship with RCMW Anns at Fable Cafe Lounge BGC on March 18, 2025

























Please reach out to the Secretariat if you are available to join on April 4 or April 5, 2025.

#### CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

#SpectacularDISCON2025

April 4-5 @ Function Rooms 4 & 5 SMX MOA, Pasay City





## **DISCON 2025 PROGRAM**

DAY 1: APRIL 4 | FRIDAY

#### 8:30 AM

Registration of Conference Delegates

#### 9:00 AM

#### Photo Sessions with RIPR, DG & PIPS

- · Ribbon Cutting and Opening
- · House of Friendship
- Trade Exhibits
- Photo Booths
- PIP Magical Gallery

#### Pre-Event Red Carpet Walk

All delegates to include first-time attendees.

#### 2:00 PM

#### The Magic Begins!

- Opening Ceremony
- · Roll Call of Clubs
- Production Numbers

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Address of RI President's Representative

#### NICKI SCOTT

Past RI Vice-President 2022-2023

#### STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

PRESCITA "Prescy" YULO Precious Irresistible Governor 2024-2025, District 3830

#### **Magical Connections**

#### 7:00 PM

Spectacular Rotary Talent Night 2025

#### DAY 2: APRIL 5 | SATURDAY

#### 7:00 AM

Joint Breakfast of RIPR, DG, PIPs & PEs

#### 9:00 AM

#### The Magic of Service Above Self

#### BUSINESS SESSION •

- · District Legislation and Approval of RY 2023-2024 Financial Statement
- Presentation of New Clubs
- Future-Ready Introduction of the DGE & DGN
- · The Paing Hechanova Youth Leadership Award (PHYA)

#### 10:30 AM

#### The Magic of Story-Telling

• TRF Awards

#### 12:15 PM

LUNCH (Entertainment | Raffle)

#### 1:00 PM

#### The Magic of the Future

- Vocational Accolade
- Healthy Environment: A Moral Obligation

PDG EDNA SUTTER

Peace Forum (Finale: AOF Ceremony)

#### 7:00 PM

The Governor's Gala: A Night Inspired by the Magical World of Narnia

You are the magic!









March 3, 2025

#### Gerardo Oliverio V. Laperal

President
Rotary Club Makati West
Unit 1903 Cityland Herrera Tower,
V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village,
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Subject: Request for Sponsorship and Funding Support for Timoteo Paez Integrated School

Dear Mr. Laperal,

Greetings of peace and love from <u>CORA (Communities Organized for Resource Allocation)</u>, a nonprofit organization that fosters sustainable development through inclusive programs led by women, youth, local communities, and volunteers to help build a more just and resilient future for people and the planet.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Rotary Club of Makati West for warmly accommodating us last Thursday and for your invaluable support of our initiatives. We truly appreciate the opportunity to present our advocacy and are deeply grateful for your commitment to advancing sustainable and impactful solutions for communities in need.

Following our discussion, we would like to formally request funding support for **Timoteo Paez Integrated School**, the winning school in Manila under our **Eco-Champs initiative**. We are seeking a donation of **PHP 700,000.00** to CORA, which will oversee the overall **implementation**, **management**, **and completion** of the sustainable classroom construction. The scope of support includes:

- The use of sustainable materials for the structure
- Fixtures such as upcycled armchairs, tables, shelves to enhance the learning environment
- ICT equipment to support digital learning and educational access
- Branding and recognition that will prominently feature the Rotary Club of Makati West logo in appreciation of your generosity and commitment to education and sustainability

With your support, we aim to begin construction in April and complete it by June 2025, ensuring the facility is ready for the next school year. This initiative aligns with our shared mission of promoting education, sustainability, and youth empowerment by creating an innovative and eco-friendly learning space for future generations.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity and continued support of **CORA** and the **Eco-lkot Center**. We look forward to collaborating with the **Rotary Club of Makati West** to create a meaningful and lasting impact on the students and their community. For any further information or clarification, please feel free to contact me or our Program Manager, Ms. Aiyan Montoya, at aiyan@wearecora.org or +63 919 002 8548.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our shared mission for people and the planet.

Always grateful,

ANTOINETTE TAUS
CORA Nonprofit Philippines
Founder and Executive Director



Jamaica A. Paytan Caluttit Bontoc Mountain Province 5 years old, female

Open Heart Surgery De Los Santos Medical Center March 18, 2025



Cyrhiel L. Palos AD-178 Central Buyagan,Poblacion, La Trinidad, Benguet 11 years old, female

Open Heart Surgery De Los Santos Medical Center March 17, 2025



# PROJECT UPDATES GIFT OF LIFE

GOL RY 2024-2025



Ada Marielle B. Bellido 109 San Guillermo St. Bayanan Muntinlupa City 4 mos. old, female

Open Heart Surgery De Los Santos Medical Center March 17, 2025



Kiera Chelsea C. Madera Caluttit Bontoc Mountain Province 13 years old, female

Open Heart Surgery De Los Santos Medical Center March 19, 2025



Please contact Treas. Judd Balayan as the delegation head or the Secretariat for the RC Honolulu West visit.



January 21, 2025

Dear President Gerry Laperal and the Rotary Club of Makati West,

On behalf of our President Elect Cleigh Pang and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Chair Derek Tenn, ALOHA from Hawaii!

We are currently planning to celebrate our Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and are considering different venues to hold our events. It will be of much help with our planning if you can provide a rough estimate of how many people plan on attending our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration from your club. At this time, we are only asking for an estimated head count.

An Official Invitation and Sign-Up sheet will be sent to your club in the next few months.

Here are the dates of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will greatly appreciate it if you can provide us with your estimate by February 12, 2025.

#### 75th Anniversary Celebration: October 16, 17, 18, 2025

October 16, 2025: Golf at Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course. Optional day for those wanting to play golf. Limited to 30 spots.

October 17, 2025: Welcome Reception Dinner at Honolulu Elks Lodge 616

October 18, 2025: 75th Anniversary Banquet Dinner at Prince Waikiki

Sincerely, Cleigh Pang, President Elect 2025-26 Derek Tenn, Past President and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair





65
ANNIVERSARY
E Installation of

President Kong Chee Hoh & Board of Directors RY25/26

2 JULY

Welcome Dinner

Grand Ballroom
Singapore Island Country Club (Island Location)
Attire: Smart Casual / Rotary Attire

3 JULY 65th Anniversary & Installation Dinner

Carlton Hall York Hotel Singapore Attire: Formal

R.S.V.P.

Recommended Hotel: York Hotel Singapore



Dear President Gerry Laperal Rotary Club of Makati West

We are excited to announce that the Rotary Club of Singapore West (RCSW) will be celebrating a major milestone - our 65th Anniversary - in 2025!

This momentous occasion will be celebrated with the Installation of our 67th President.

Save the date: Thursday, 3rd July 2025!

We want to give you a heads up, so you can keep this date in mind when planning your own Club activities.

A formal invitation with more details will follow in due time.

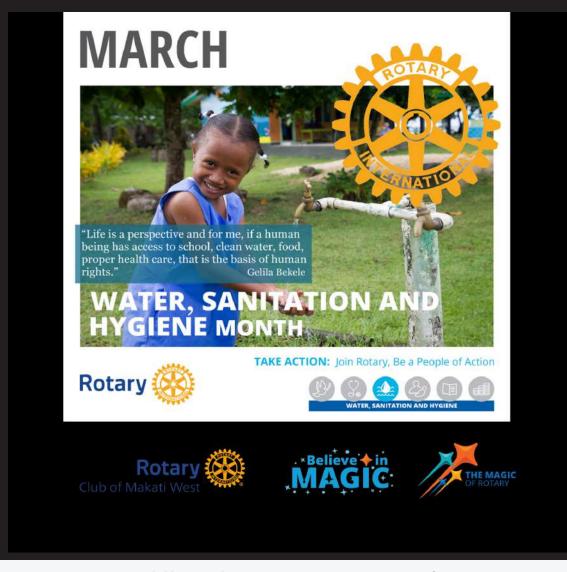
We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you in Singapore.

Best regards,

Dr Libin Ma President, RY 2024-2025

Kong Chee Hoh President Elect, RY 2024-2025 President, RY 2025-2026

Rotary Club of Singapore West



### Missed out on past events?

We've got them in archives you can access in just a few clicks.



55th Induction & Handover Ceremony
Click to explore >

# WEST SIDE STORY

Click to explore >



**Project Photos** 



### RY 2024-2025 Officers, Directors & Club Advisers

President Vice President Secretary/PE

Lauro S. Leviste II Christopher Dino C. Dumatol Judd B. Balayan

Gerardo Oliverio V. Laperal

Treasurer Director

Epifanio V. Delos Santos

Director Director Director Wilson Goh Davy Lim

Director Director Director Lemarc B. Limosnero Jose Conrado Poblete Charlie S. Rufino Lars Wittig

Sqt.-At-Arms

Monsour del Rosario

Mark Sambar

#### Ex-Officio Dir.

Juan Antonio T. Carlos

Club Adviser Club Adviser PRID Guiller E. Tumangan

IPDG Antonio Juan C. Tambunting III PP Carmelino P. Alvendia. Jr. Club Adviser

Club Adviser Club Adviser

PP Dennis D. Decena PP Noel A. Laman

Club Adviser Club Adviser PP Jose Teodoro K. Limcaoco PP Amando Jesulito V. Jimenez

Club Adviser Club Adviser Club Adviser PP Lorenzo T. Ocampo PP Roque S. Tordesillas PP Fernando Martin O. Peña

Club Adviser Club Adviser

PP Enrico V. Angeles PP Ramon Jose F.L. Guerrero

Club Adviser

PP Edgardo G. Balois

Club Adviser

PP Aurelio Paulo R. Bartolome

Club Adviser Club Adviser Club Adviser Club Adviser

PP Victor L. Vital PP Ruy Y. Moreno PP David R. Caldwell PP Enrico B. Tensuan

Club Adviser PP Alasdair J.W. Thomson PP Gil G. Chua Club Adviser

**Honorary Members** 

Hon. Secretary Albert del Rosario (+), Dr. Sol Alvarez Mr. Rob Raylman, PDG Joey Benedicto and PDG Leo de Guzman

#### THE WEST SIDE STORY STAFF

Secretariat:

Shekinah Yarra Jameson Manlangit



Thank you for your continuous service. Click here to see the list of payees.

Remain part of our cause by sending your dues & donation to:

> **ROTARY FOUNDATION** OF MAKATI WEST, INC.

ACCOUNT NO: 001680053572 **BRANCH: AIA TOWER VALERO** BANK NAME: BANCO DE ORO (BDO)

ACCOUNT NO: 0011192572 **BRANCH: MAKATI-MAIN BRANCH** BANK NAME: BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES ISLANDS (BPI)

If you have paid but don't see your name on the list of payees, please send proof of deposit to the Secretariat:

> jamesonrcmw@gmail.com kai.rcmw2@gmail.com

Stay up to date with club happenings via

http://rcmakatiwest.ph www.fb.com/RCMWD3830 rcmakatiwest2020@gmail.com (63-2) 7753 3098

Unit 1903 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, 1227