# BALYUAN

Official E-Bulletin • Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban

OCTOBER 2026
Issue No. 5, Volume 22





# END POLIO NOW

## October is our month to end polio.

The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban is committed to ending polio around the world.

**WORLD POLIO DAY • OCTOBER 24**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL • END POLIO NOW**

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

# VISION

A united Rotary Club of Kankabato creating lasting impact by empowering communities, inspiring service, and building a better future for all.

# MISSION

The Rotary Club of Kankabato is committed to uniting people of action to serve with integrity, strengthen fellowship, support sustainable community projects, develop leaders, and advance Rotary's ideals of "Service Above Self" while creating lasting impact in every community we serve

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# CLUB HISTORY

Kankabato is derived from the name of Cankabato Bay, a notable bay located in Tacloban, Philippines. The bay has historically served as an essential hub for trade and transportation in the region. Indigenous peoples originally named the area, and it was later adapted by Spanish colonizers. The bay and its surroundings played a crucial role in the cultural and economic development of Tacloban. Over time, the name evolved into Kankabato, reflecting its deep historical and geographical significance.

The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban was chartered in the year 2011. Rotarian Antolin Ofonda was elected and served as the Charter President. From 25 pioneering members, the RC Kankabato has now 19 active members, with the current Impact-Building President, Rtn. Albert P. Esperas, for the Rotary Year 2026-27 as the 15th president of the organization. This organization is composed of established professionals and businessmen with diverse characters and background who came together and believed in one goal which is to make a difference. This international organization is a non-profit and non-partisan union. Members of this club are called as rotarians. Also, they sponsor young rotarians called as Rotaractors. These inspiring rotarians believe in the inherent goodness of other people as it results to the ripple effect of kindness in the community. When we show kindness to other people, it creates a chain of reaction which causes kindness to find its way back to us.

Every Rotary Club like the RC of Kankabato-Tacloban is grounded with guiding principles which are Object of Rotary, 4-Way Test and Avenues of Service. These principles have been developed to serve as the bible for every Rotarian as they venture themselves in humanitarian acts of kindness as well as making themselves for another time a servant-leader who aims to uplift the status of the community they belong to. Rotarians of this organization initiate transformational projects not only in the region and national level but also in the international stage.

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Since 2011, the RC Kankabato-Tacloban engages in several projects that are timely and relevant to the needs, issues and concerns of the society. They have conducted several projects such as distribution of school supplies and hygiene kits, bloodletting activities, raising awareness and funding to end Polio and Breast Cancer, and Mangrove and tree-planting activity. This organization also did an adopt-a-school campaign to donate facilities such as handwashing facility, books for their library and repair some old school buildings in Guindapunan Elementary School, Pawing Elementary School Baras Elementary School and Alangalang National High School and JARMS Elementary School. Moreover, donation drives and feeding programs were also conducted to send help to those victims of natural and man-made calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, and fires. During pandemic, still the club lends a hand and do an extra mile just to be of help to the community. They have donated essential medical supplies such as medical facemasks, alcohols, vitamins and PPEs to the hospitals in the city and province. These programs may be less extravagant but it is, for the meantime necessary and beneficial.

Because of the successes of their projects, the RC of Kankabato-Tacloban is recognized not only in the local community but also in the national level. They bagged local, district awards and nominations for their community involvement. These sets of awards serve as an inspiration for them to continue to work side by side to execute action and impact through fellowship and service. As long as we are living and part of the continuous cosmic evolution, let us not forget to lend little drops of love to the less privileged. A little act of kindness, charity and generosity creates a magical effect on the heart of a person; hence, we call it as the true evidence of authentic and genuine love. The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban, as long as it breathes, will continue to shower rays of love to all people around the
globe.

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**OLAYINKA H. BABALOLA**
President
Rotary International



**ARLENE J. ADLAWAN**
District Governor
Rotary International District 3860



**ERWIN VINCENT ALCALA**
Assistant Governor, Area 3B
Rotary International District 3860

# IMPACT-BUILDING CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS RY 2026-27



**ALBERT P. ESPERAS, PHF**
Club President



**MAR ANGELO S. LIM**
Club Vice-President



**JERICO M. CAHAYAG, PHF**
Club Executive Secretary



**PP ANIL R. KUMAR, PHF+3**
Club Executive Director



**ELIAS AYA-AY JR., PHF+3,PPS**
Club Executive Director Asst.



**PP ANALIZA F. YU, PHS, PPS**
Club Treasurer



**JO VANILLE C. MERILO**
Club Auditor

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**PP BRIAN RAY ALVERO, MD1**
Club Foundation Chair



**IPP AL ANTHONY CASAL, PHF+1, PPS**
Club Learning Facilitator



**PP ALLAN BARGAMENTO, PHF+4**
Club Membership Chair



**PHAETOB BERT CARILLO**
Club Public Image Chair



**PAG ALVIN ALIMANGOHAN, PHS, PPS**
Club Service Projects Chair



**VERNON JOLBITADO, PHF**
Club Young Leaders Contact



**PP RODOLFO PADILLO, PHF**
DRRM Chair



**DINO LEONARD ROMERO**
DEI Chair



**PDS WALTER DIU, MD1**
International Service Director



**PAG RALPH L. MARTEL, PHS**
Professional Servcie Director



**JANICE T. EVITE**
Vocational Service Director



**LIMMUEL GOLONG**
Fellowship Chair

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# COUNCIL OF PAST PRESIDENTS



**ANTOLIN OFONDA**
RY 2011 - 2012
RY 2012 - 2013



**HENRY WEECHEE**
RY 2013 - 2014



**ANIL KUMAR**
RY 2014 - 2015



**GILBERT TUGADO**
RY 2015 - 2016



**ERLINDA OBAOB**
RY 2016 - 2017



**RICKY CHUA**
RY 2017 - 2018



**ANALIZA YU**
RY 2018 - 2019



**ALVIN ALIMANGOHAN**
RY 2019.- 2020



**ALLAN BARGAMENTO**
RY 2020 - 2021



**SIGMUNDO RIO CATINGUB**
RY 2021 - 2022



**RODOLFO PADILLO**
RY 2022 - 2023



**RALPH MARTEL**
RY 2023 - 2024



**BRIAN RAY V. ALVERO**
RY 2024 - 2026



**AL ANTHONY F. CASAL**
RY 2026-2027

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# Olayinka H. Babalola
## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL LEADER'S MESSAGE

Aminu Ahmed Tudun-Wada knows what polio takes from a child. He contracted the disease as a young boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralyzed.

Decades later, when Nigeria was struggling to eradicate polio, Aminu decided that he would use his experience to help protect other children.

He brought together polio survivors and began going door to door, talking with parents about vaccination. The survivors told their stories. They showed families the effects of polio. And they urged parents to make sure their children never had to go through the same experience.

By 2021, the Polio Survivors Group that Aminu founded had grown to more than 400 members. Their work helped Nigeria reach a milestone that once seemed impossible: In 2020, the World Health Organization certified Nigeria, and the entire African region, free of wild poliovirus.

I think about people like Aminu whenever we talk about ending polio. Eradication is about children who will never know what it means to lose the ability to walk. It is about parents who will never have to watch a healthy child become paralyzed by a disease that vaccines can prevent.

And it is about making sure the people who remember polio become the last generation that does. Rotary has been part of this fight for more than four decades. Together with our partners, we have helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, contributed more than $3 billion to the global effort, and reduced cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent.

But 99.9 percent is not 100 percent.

Wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk. And even after wild poliovirus disappears from a country, we must maintain strong immunization and surveillance systems so the virus cannot find a way back.

Aminu could have looked at his own experience and asked, "Why me?" Instead, he asked a different question: "How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?" That is the spirit we need now.

The final mile of any journey can be the hardest. But we have walked too far, worked too hard, and protected too many children to stop here.

Let us remember why we began. Let us listen to those who have experienced polio. Let us be the generation that creates lasting impact and ensures no one ever experiences polio again.

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# Arlene J. Adlawan
# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S LETTERS

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and Partners in Service,

This October, as we mark World Polio Day, I want to share the story of one man who reminds us why this work matters.

Aminu Ahmed Tudun-Wada contracted polio as a boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralyzed. When Nigeria was struggling to eradicate the disease, he chose to use his own experience to protect other children. He gathered fellow survivors and went door to door, speaking with parents about vaccination. By 2021, his Polio Survivors Group had more than 400 members. Their work helped Nigeria and the entire African region be certified free of wild poliovirus in 2020.

Aminu could have asked, "Why me?" Instead he asked, "How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?" That question should guide every one of us.
Rotary has been in this fight for more than four decades. With our partners, we have helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, contributed more than $3 billion, and reduced wild poliovirus cases by 99.9 percent. But 99.9 percent is not 100 percent. Wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and as long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk.

To the clubs of District [NUMBER], the final mile is the hardest, but we have come too far to stop. Let us:

- Give to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus fund.
- Act through our Patak Polio drives and community awareness projects.
- Speak up by sharing the End Polio Now message with our families, schools and neighbors.

Let us be the generation that makes sure no child ever experiences polio again.

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# Albert P. Esperas
## PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, Partners, and Friends of the Rotary Club of Kankabato:

This month, I want us to remember a man named Aminu Ahmed Tudun-Wada.
Aminu contracted polio as a young boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralyzed. Years later, he could have asked, "Why me?" Instead he asked, "How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?" He gathered other polio survivors and went door to door, sharing their stories with parents and urging them to vaccinate their children. Their work helped Nigeria and the whole African region be certified free of wild poliovirus in 2020.

His story shows that ending polio is about children. It is about little ones who will never lose the ability to walk, and parents who will never watch a healthy child become paralyzed by a disease that vaccines can prevent.

Rotary has been part of this fight for more than forty years, and the results show it: more than 3 billion children vaccinated and a 99.9 percent drop in wild poliovirus cases. But 99.9 percent is not 100 percent. The virus is still found in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and as long as it exists anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk.

Our club has taken part in this mission through Patak Polio 2026, and I am proud of every member who gave time, effort and heart to it. Let us not slow down now. The final mile is the hardest, but we have walked too far to stop.
This October, I invite each of you to:

- Support The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus fund.
- Join our next Patak Polio and awareness activities.
- Share the End Polio Now message with your family, school, workplace and neighbors.

Let us be the generation that makes sure no child ever has to experience polio again.

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# THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

# THE 4 WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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# Jerico M. Cahayag
## SECRETARY'S EXCLUSIVE

## OCTOBER IN REVIEW

A month-by-month look at where our club showed up in October.

### October 1 -
### Breastcancer Awareness Activity

The Rotary Club of Kankabato–Tacloban proudly joined today's Breast Cancer Awareness Kick-Off held at Robinsons North Tacloban, standing in solidarity with the mission to promote early detection, spread awareness, and inspire hope in the fight against breast cancer.



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## October 1, 7, 15, 22, & 29 – PROJECT BRIGHT BITES

The Rotary Club of Kankabato brought nourishment and smiles to the learners of Guindapunan Elementary School through 4 feeding sessions under Project Bright Bites, promoting better nutrition and brighter futures for every child. Sponsored by: PP Brian Ray, Rtn. Limmuel, PP Rodolfo, Sec. Jeco and PP Analiza.

Together, we nourish young minds and create lasting impact!





## October 16 – AREA MEETING

The Rotary Club of Kankabato proudly participated in the Area Meeting held on October 16, 2026, at the Rotary Center, Tacloban City.

The gathering provided an opportunity for Rotarians to strengthen fellowship, exchange ideas, align service initiatives, and reaffirm their shared commitment to creating meaningful and lasting change in their communities.

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## October 21 – PATAK POLIO

In celebration of World Polio Day 2026, the Rotary Club of Kankabato proudly participated in the district-wide activity, PATAK POLIO 2026, joining fellow Rotarians and community partners in strengthening our collective commitment to a polio-free world.

## October 29 - 2ND REGULAR MEETING

Beyond the meaningful discussions and updates, the evening was made extra special as PP Analiza shared her post-birthday celebration treat with the club. And because Rotarians know how to make every gathering memorable, the fun did not end at the dinner table! Everyone got to bring home some goodies through our much-loved Filipino tradition of "SHARON!"



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*PP Analiza F. Yu*

# MONEY MATTERS UPDATES

Dear Rotarians of Kankabato,

As we celebrate October as the month to end polio, the Treasurer's Office invites every member to take part by giving to The Rotary Foundation (TRF).

Your contribution to PolioPlus helps fund vaccination campaigns, disease surveillance, and the work that keeps polio from returning to places where it has been stopped. Rotary has been part of this fight for more than four decades, and we are close to finishing it. Every gift, large or small, brings us closer.

How to donate

1. Decide your gift. Any amount is welcome. Please earmark it for PolioPlus or End Polio Now.
    - Give through one of these channels:Online through my.rotary.org (Rotary Foundation donation page)
    - Through the club Treasurer: [PAYMENT METHOD / ACCOUNT DETAILS]
2. Send your proof of donation to the Treasurer at [CONTACT NUMBER / EMAIL] so the club can record your gift and credit it properly.
3. Keep your receipt for your own records.

Please take note

- Donations are voluntary.
- The club's target for this month is [TARGET, if any], and the deadline for club-collected donations is [DATE].
- Members who give directly to TRF online are asked to inform the Treasurer so the club's total giving is accurate.

Thank you for your generosity and your heart for service. Together, let us make sure no child ever has to experience polio.

FEATURED ARTICLE

# The Last Drop: Our Club's Mission to End Polio

*Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban joins the world in saying End Polio Now*




Few diseases frighten a parent like polio. It can strike a healthy child and leave them paralyzed. Yet it is also a disease that can be stopped, because a few drops of vaccine can protect a child for life.

That is why, in October, the Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban joins Rotarians around the world in observing the month to end polio, and why our club has made this mission its own through Patak Polio 2026.

## A fight Rotary started

Rotary has worked to end polio for more than four decades. Together with its partners, it has helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children and has contributed more than $3 billion to the global effort. Wild poliovirus cases have dropped by 99.9 percent. In 2020, the World Health Organization certified the entire African region free of wild poliovirus, a milestone that once seemed impossible.

## Why 99.9 percent is not enough

Wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk. Even in places where it has disappeared, strong immunization and surveillance must continue so the virus cannot find its way back.

## Behind the numbers, a person

The global effort is built on people like Aminu Ahmed Tudun-Wada, who contracted polio as a boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralyzed. He later united fellow survivors and went door to door, telling parents what polio does and urging them to vaccinate. His Polio Survivors Group grew to more than 400 members by 2021. His example reminds us that ending polio is about children who will never lose the ability to walk.

## What our club is doing

In celebration of World Polio Day 2026, the Rotary Club of Kankabato proudly participated in the district-wide activity, PATAK POLIO 2026, joining fellow Rotarians and community partners in strengthening our collective commitment to a polio-free world.

Through this meaningful initiative, we stand united in raising awareness, promoting immunization, and protecting every child from the devastating effects of polio. Every drop of vaccine brings us one step closer to a future where no child suffers from this preventable disease.

Our members also continue to raise awareness in their families, schools and communities, and to support The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus fund.

> *"When I see children smiling and healthy, I am reminded why we serve. Our mission is simple: make sure no child ever loses the ability to walk because of polio." — Rtn. Mar Angelo, Vice President, Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban*

## How you can help

- Give to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus fund. Please see the Treasurer's Advisory in this issue.
- Join our next Patak Polio and awareness activities.
- Speak up and share the End Polio Now message with the people around you.

The final mile of any journey can be the hardest, but we have walked too far to stop. Let us be the generation that makes sure no child ever experiences polio again.

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# MEMBER'S REGISTRY



Name: ALIMANGOHAN, ALVIN M.
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Classification: Construction-Residential



Name: ALVERO, BRIAN RAY V.
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Name: AYA-AY JR., ELIAS
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Name: BARGAMENTO, ALLAN L.
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Name: CAHAYAG, JERICO M.
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Name: DIU, WALTER A.
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Name: EVITE, JANICE T.
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Classification: Construction



Name: MARTEL, RALPH L.
Rotary ID No.: 9729865
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Name: MERILO, JO VANILLE C.
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Name: NIELSEN, NINA B.
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Name: PADILLO, RODOLFO M.
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Name: ROMERO, DINO LEONARD C.
Rotary ID No.: 12456253
Birthday: June 23, 1977
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Classification: Construction



Name: YU, ANALIZA F.
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The Rotary Foundation

## Major Donors



BRIAN RAY V. ALVERO, MD1, PPS



WALTER A. DIU, MD1

## Paul Harris Society



ALVIN M. ALIMANGOHAN, PHS, PPS



ANALIZA F. YU, PHS, PPS



RALPH L. MARTEL, PHS

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# Paul Harris Fellow



ALLAN L. BARGAMENTO, PHF+4



ANIL R. KUMAR, PHF+3



ELIAS F. AYA-AY JR., PHF+3, PPS



AL ANTHONY F. CASAL, PHF+1, PPS



JERICO M. CAHAYAG, PHF



ALBERT P. ESPERAS, PHF



RODOLFO M. PADILLO, PHF



VERNON I. JOLBITADO, PHF

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Rtn. Limmuel
*October 7*



Sec. Jerico
*October 22*



PP Analiza
*October 27*





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# NOTES

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# NOTES



# BALYUAN:
## A Name Rooted in History, Fellowship, and Service

*Balyuan* is a historic site and cultural symbol in Tacloban City, Leyte, associated with the traditional Balyuan Rites—a commemorative reenactment of the historic exchange between the image of the Santo Niño of Basey and the image of the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Tolosa. The tradition recalls the longstanding cultural and religious connections between communities across the San Juanico Strait and has become an important part of Leyte's heritage.

The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban chose "Balyuan" as the official name of its club bulletin because the word embodies the spirit of coming together, exchange, and unity. Just as the Balyuan tradition brings communities together across the waters, the club seeks to bring Rotarians, partners, and communities together through fellowship and service.

More than a name, Balyuan represents the club's identity: rooted in local heritage, strengthened by fellowship, and united for service. It reminds every Kankabato Rotarian that meaningful impact begins when people come together with a shared purpose.

*BALYUAN — Where heritage meets fellowship, and fellowship becomes service.*

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