



THE METRO

The Official Club Bulletin of the
Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal

CORE

FEATURE

Let it Flow

Some dreams begin with a conversation. Others begin with a climb. Years ago, a group of outdoor enthusiasts trekked through the rugged trails of Sitio Kafok in Acmonan, Tupi, South Cotabato. Amid the beauty of the mountains, they witnessed a difficult reality: families, including women and children, had to walk one to two kilometers over steep terrain just to fetch water from a distant spring.

READ FULL STORY INSIDE



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FEATURE

H2O Initiative

From a Mountain Dream to a Flow of Hope

Some dreams begin with a conversation. Others begin with a climb.

Years ago, a group of outdoor enthusiasts trekked through the rugged trails of Sitio Kafok in Acmonan, Tupi, South Cotabato. Amid the beauty of the mountains, they witnessed a difficult reality: families, including women and children, had to walk one to two kilometers over steep terrain just to fetch water from a distant spring.

Standing on those trails, they shared a simple dream:

"Someday, this community will have safe water that everyone can access."

Years later, many of those hikers became Rotarians. Guided by Rotary's ideal of Service Above Self, that dream became the **H2O Initiative—Hydration, Hygiene, and Opportunities for All. With support from a District Grant from Rotary International District 3860, funded by The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International**, the long-envisioned water system became possible. But bringing water to Sitio Kafok was far from easy. With no roads reaching the project site, pipes, cement, tools, and equipment had to be carried by hand along 30-minute to one-hour mountain trails.

The community itself became an essential partner. Residents volunteered their time and labor, helping transport materials, prepare the site, and construct the system alongside Rotarians and other volunteers. What began as a project became a shared effort built on ownership, determination, and hope.

After months of planning and hard work, the dream finally became reality. On July 10, 2026, the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal formally turned over the H2O Initiative Water System to the people of Sitio Kafok.

Today, clean and safe water flows closer to the homes of families who once had to make difficult journeys to access it. More than an infrastructure project, the H2O Initiative represents improved health, greater convenience, and new opportunities for the community.

A dream that once echoed along mountain trails now flows through every household as a reminder of what partnership and service can achieve.

**A story of perseverance.
A story of partnership.
A story of service.**

Above all, it is a story of how, when we Unite for Good, **even the simplest dream can create a lasting impact.**

TO THE TOP WE GO

Rotary Members and Volunteers hiked to Mt. Matutum to reach the community for the project.





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MESSAGE

Dear Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal,

It is my great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal. This year, as we embrace the theme “Create Lasting Impact,” I invite you to reflect on the difference that your service can make—not only in the lives of those you serve today, but also in the communities and generations that follow. Your dedication to Service Above Self is a powerful reminder that meaningful change begins when people come together with compassion, purpose, and a shared commitment to make a difference.

May your club continue to turn ideas into action and service into lasting change. **Let every project you undertake strengthen communities, empower young people, protect our environment, promote peace, and improve the lives of those who need our support.** More than simply completing projects, let us strive to create solutions that endure—initiatives that inspire others, build local capacity, and leave communities stronger than we found them. In doing so, you embody the true spirit of “Create Lasting Impact.”

I commend the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal for your continued commitment to Rotary and to your community. **May your fellowship remain strong, your purpose remain clear, and your passion for service continue to inspire others to become People of Action. Together, let us create lasting impact—one project, one community, and one life at a time.**

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

President, Rotary International
Rotary Year 2026-2027



MESSAGE

To the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal,

Warmest Rotary greetings to the dedicated members of the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal!

It is my pleasure to commend your club for your continued commitment to Service Above Self and for the meaningful work you bring to your community. As we embrace this year's theme, **"Create Lasting Impact,"** may every initiative you undertake go beyond immediate service and become a lasting source of hope, empowerment, and positive change.

May you continue to strengthen your fellowship, deepen your commitment to service, and work together with purpose. **Your projects have the power to inspire others, empower communities, and create sustainable solutions to the challenges around us. Let us seize every opportunity to collaborate, innovate, and serve—not simply to make a difference today, but to leave a legacy that will benefit generations to come.**

As your District Governor, I am proud to stand with you in this journey of service. May the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal continue to be a strong and vibrant force for good in Koronadal and beyond. Let us move forward with renewed passion, united in fellowship and purpose, and together Create Lasting Impact—one service, one community, and one life at a time.

Arlene Juele Adlawan

District Governor, Rotary International District 3860
Rotary Year 2026-2027





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MESSAGE

To my fellow Rotarians, partners, and friends of the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I welcome you as we continue another year of fellowship and service. Guided by our theme, “Create Lasting Impact,” may we remain committed to the ideals of Rotary and to the communities we serve. Every project, every act of kindness, and every partnership we build is an opportunity to create meaningful change that goes beyond the present and touches the lives of others for years to come.

As members of the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal, let us continue to work as one team—sharing our time, talents, and resources in pursuit of a common purpose. May we strengthen our fellowship, support one another, and embrace service opportunities with compassion and determination. Let us not simply ask how much we can accomplish, but how deeply and sustainably we can make a difference in the lives of the people and communities entrusted to our care.

I am grateful for the trust, commitment, and generosity of every member who continues to make our club a true People of Action. **Together, let us make this Rotary year a meaningful chapter in our club’s story—one defined not only by the projects we complete, but by the lives we touch and the hope we leave behind. With unity, purpose, and a heart for service, let us move forward and Create Lasting Impact, together.**

Jimmy Unilongo

President, Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal
Rotary Year 2026-2027



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ROTARY NEW YEAR

A Step, a Seed, a Smile: How One Morning in Mambusong Planted Hope for 112 Children

The early morning chill in Mambusong still lingered on the grass as the chatter of excited schoolchildren echoed across the grounds of Cebuano Elementary School – Mambusong II Extension. July 1 marks a fresh chapter on the global calendar for Rotarians everywhere—the start of a new Rotary year. But on this particular Wednesday morning, the celebration wasn't taking place in a grand ballroom or behind a podium. It was unfolding on the soil of a rural schoolyard, written in dirty fingernails, laughter, and bright, expectant eyes.

Bringing together the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal alongside fellow clubs from Area 2H, Rotary International District 3860, the members gathered with a shared, simple promise: "Our Children Today, Our Hope for Tomorrow."

For the 112 pupils who walk these school grounds, many of whom navigate daily hardships in rural South Cotabato, the morning was far more than an official event. It was a day where every gesture whispered a comforting message: You matter, and your future is worth nurturing.

Leaves, Roots, and Lifelong Habits

Before the midday heat settled in, Rotarians and local volunteers rolled up their sleeves alongside school staff. In the soft earth surrounding the campus, they planted 100 bamboo seedlings—a natural shield against soil erosion—and 75 fruit-bearing trees. Nearby, packets of vegetable seeds were handed over for the school's *Gulayan sa Paaralan* (School Vegetable Garden).

"When you plant a fruit tree or hand a child a packet of squash seeds, you aren't just giving them food for today,"





"You're making sure that months and years from now, these kids have fresh, nutritious food growing right outside their classroom doors."

Inside the classrooms, the focus shifted from the soil to the children themselves. Volunteer doctors conducted gentle medical check-ups, listening to small chests through stethoscopes, taking notes, and distributing essential vitamins and medicines. For many parents standing nearby, watching their children receive personal medical attention brought an visible sense of relief.

Small Comforts, Big Steps

Perhaps the most heartfelt moments of the day were the quietest ones. Rows of brightly colored hygiene kits—complete with soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste—were handed out to eager young hands. Volunteers sat on low wooden benches with the youngest pupils, leading an interactive hygiene session. Together, they practiced proper handwashing techniques and sang songs while learning how to brush their teeth correctly, turning essential health lessons into an engaging game.

Then came a simple gift that brought immediate, beam-wide smiles: brand-new pairs of sturdy rubber slippers. For a child who often walks long, dusty paths to school in worn-down footwear, a new pair of

slippers is not just rubber and plastic. It is comfort. It is protection from stones and hot earth. It is dignity in every step toward the classroom door.

Growing Tomorrow, Together

By afternoon, the schoolyard looked different. One hundred and seventy-five new saplings stood tall in the fresh dirt. One hundred and twelve children carried home clean hygiene packs, fresh slippers, vitamins, and the warm memory of a day built entirely around them.

The launch of a new Rotary year is traditionally measured in strategic goals and leadership handovers. But in Mambusong, it was measured in 112 young lives touched by the collective heart of Area 2H Rotarians.

Every seedling nestled into the earth, every pair of slippers fitted onto a small foot, and every shared lesson on health served as a gentle reminder of what happens when a community chooses to lead with compassion.

As the sun began to dip over Tupi, the work left behind was quiet, steady, and deeply rooted—promising that as those newly planted trees grow to shade the schoolyard, the children playing beneath them will grow up healthier, stronger, and full of hope for tomorrow.



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BRIGADA ESKWELA

Small Supplies, Big Dreams: Launching Oplan READ in Mambusong

There is something powerful about holding a fresh pencil and opening a brand-new notebook. For a child, it isn't just paper and lead—it is proof that someone believes in their future.

On July 18, 2026, during the spirit of *Brigada Eskwela*, the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal launched its flagship basic education and literacy initiative, Oplan READ (Reach, Educate, and Develop), bringing school supplies to 112 pupils at Cebuano Elementary School – Mambusong II Extension.

For many families in rural South Cotabato, preparing for a new school year brings heavy financial stress. Balancing basic household needs against learning materials can be tough. By equipping each child with essential supplies before day one, Rotarians helped lift that burden, allowing students to focus on curiosity rather than worry.

Oplan READ is built on a simple Rotary belief: education creates opportunity. The program's mission is threefold:

- **Reach:** Extend support to rural, underserved schools.
- **Educate:** Remove financial barriers so children stay in school.
- **Develop:** Build confident learners who will uplift their communities.

As students unwrapped their new notebooks alongside teachers and parents, the schoolyard buzzed with excitement. The day served as a gentle reminder that building a brighter tomorrow doesn't always require grand gestures—sometimes, it starts with a single notebook, one child, and a community standing behind them.





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BLOODLETTING ACTIVITY

In the Dark, He Gave Light: A Blind Donor's Gift

Heroes do not always look the way we expect them to, and kindness requires no sight—only heart.

On July 25, 2026, the CityMall Koronadal became a sanctuary of hope as the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal, alongside Rotary clubs from Area 2H and the Philippine Red Cross, hosted a joint bloodletting drive. Amid the bustling crowd of volunteers and nurses, one quiet presence stood out.

Sitting patiently in the waiting area, holding his cane, was a gentleman who is blind. He waited calmly for his turn, guided only by the gentle ambient sounds of the area setup and the encouragement of nearby volunteers. He couldn't see the blood bag filling beside his chair, nor could he see the nurses carefully monitoring his pulse. Yet, his willingness to sit patiently in the dark so that someone else might see another sunrise captured the very essence of selfless service.

"He reminded all of us why we were there," shared by Immediate Past Asst. Gov. Denmark. "He couldn't see the person his blood would save, but he knew in his heart that it mattered."

With dengue season at its peak and the demand for blood rising across South Cotabato, every drop collected is a lifeline. Thanks to the generosity of everyday heroes—including a man who gave despite his own physical boundaries—the drive successfully collected 58 bags of blood, offering a second chance to 58 patients in urgent need.

As the event wrapped up, the message left behind was clear: saving a life doesn't require sight, wealth, or grand gestures. Sometimes, it just takes sitting patiently in a chair, rolling up a sleeve, and giving from the heart.



Rotary
Club of Metro Koronadal



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



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Club President

SINAG

Joint Induction and Handover Ceremonies

PROGRAMME

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Pica-Pica

Dinner

Awarding of Club's Service Partners

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Processional

Call to Order

Prayer

Philippine National Anthem

Rotary Hymn

Object of Rotary and the 4-Way Test

Acknowledgement of Dignitaries, Guest, and Visiting Rotarians Rtn. Donita Rose Andres, PHF

Opening Remarks Rtn. Emily Martinez

Charging of New Members PDG Benjamin "Bing" Garcia, D3860

Induction of New Members PDG Efren Martinez, D3770

Charging of Presidents DGE Edwin Valencia, D3860

Induction of Presidents DG Arlene J. Adlawan, D3860

Charging of Officers PDG Louie Gonzaga, D3850

Induction of Officers PDG Virgilio "Jun" Farcon, D3800

Induction of Rotaract Officers AG Ilah Marie Labrador, D3860

Valedictory Address IPP Fritz Ann Tumbagahan, PHF +1

Handover of Gong and Gavel

Awarding of Club Service and Leadership Awards

Introduction of RCMK President Janeth B. Llorca, SST III

Acceptance Speech Pres. Jimmy E. Unilongo Jr., PHF +1

President's Address Pres. Chad Tamayo

Introduction of Guest Speaker AG Ilah Marie Labrador, D3860

Inspirational Message DG Arlene J. Adlawan, D3860

Closing Message Rtn. Ronnie San Pedro, PHF

Adjournment

Fellowship

Rotary 
Club of Metro Koronadal

Rotary 
Club of Tupi

**CREATE
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IMPACT**

SINAG

Joint Induction and Handover Ceremonies

August 22, 2026; 5:00 PM

Lawin Pavilion, Cinco Ninas, Koronadal City