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exceletter

THE OFFICIAL BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.

ISSUE NO. 33 | December 2018

ALL SALUTE

TO THE NATION'S HEROES

The golden age of heroism is long past—or so we have been desensitized enough to believe. The truth is, however, the best of humanity reveals itself every day in the quiet acts of our teachers, soldiers, and police officers, whose devotion to duty drive their pursuits of service to the nation.

READ STORY ON PAGE 8

Message from the President:

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE MAN BEHIND METROBANK FOUNDATION

Fifty-six years ago, a small bank in the outskirts of Binondo opened under the management of a young man in his late twenties. He had no background in banking, did not have an extensive network or unlimited resources. But he envisioned the bank to become the best in the country, a conviction that he backed up with hard work, tenacity and discipline. Fifty six years later, that little bank has become one of the country's strongest financial institutions: Metrobank.

The Chinese name of the man who founded the bank was "*Siao*" and "*Kian*." These translate to "*youth*" and "*persistence*," which is what he had. Besides persistence and youth, he also had a vision that success in business would mean leadership in sharing. Siao Kian, widely known as Dr. George S.K. Ty, had a desire to help others.

Our late Metrobank Group chairman Dr. George Ty was more than just a remarkable businessman. He was a visionary with a boundless heart for the community.

He would often say, and I quote, "I make money, so I give money back." Since day one of Metrobank, Dr. Ty believed that wealth is made; but once made, it is meant to be shared.

This philosophy is a core value of the Metrobank Group of Companies that is realized through the Metrobank Foundation. The Metrobank Foundation was established 16 years after the bank was incorporated, long before corporate social responsibility was even a concept or a buzzword. The mandate of the Foundation was to share the benefits of success with the community that contributed to Metrobank becoming the youngest financial giant in a short period of time.

All of you are our development partners. We count ourselves fortunate to work with you in this joint venture of nation-building, because that, ultimately, is what we are doing. We are building a nation. We join hands to help people become productive, educated, empowered citizens..

I think of a man whose efforts did not just turn a small bank into a vital economic backbone of our country, but into a leader that showed the way to corporate compassion, trailblazing in social responsibility in the business sector. The example set by the late George Ty gives hope and certainty that with our efforts, we can dream big, not just for ourselves, but also for our country and our people.

It is easy to think that small gestures of love and service might not go very far in solving the country's pressing problems. There will always be much to do, but every little act leaves a big impact towards realizing a better country, a better nation. Every act of service inspired by grace, energized by conviction and compassion, will effect benefits to those we seek to help.

I think of a man whose efforts did not just turn a small bank into a vital economic backbone of our country, but into a leader that showed the way to corporate compassion, trailblazing in social responsibility in the business sector. The example set by the late Dr. Ty gives me hope and certainty that with our efforts, we can dream big—not just for ourselves, but also for our country and our people. ●

Aniceto M. Sobrepeña

Aniceto M. Sobrepeña

hello there, reader!

As you browse through the stories in this issue, we encourage you to share with us any feedback you may have through our contact channels below. ExceLetter is a chronicle of excellence, and so it is only fitting to be committed to continuously improve with each issue. We will strive to be nothing short of it.

contact us

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* * *

From all of us, we hope the stories in this issue equip you with enough inspiration and willpower to share in the ever-onward goal of building a progressive Philippines.

For comments, contact the editor via nicolecortez.mbfi@gmail.com.

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NATIONAL TEACHERS' MONTH MARKS 10 YEARS OF CELEBRATING FILIPINO TEACHERS

Story by ***Kristina Mae I. Misajon***
(Misajon is a program coordinator at MBFI's education unit.)

THE POWERFUL MEMORIES of our teachers form the cornerstone of the National Teachers' Month (NTM) celebrations*—every year, for the last 10 years, we look back at how our teachers have helped us become the individuals we are today, and the simplest way to remember them is by saying "thank you". In the Philippines, we have an entire month dedicated to expressing our gratitude to our teachers.*

The NTM movement started in 2008 when former DepEd secretary and currently De La Salle Philippines president Br. Armin Luistro approached Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto Sobrepeña and proposed the idea of a month-long observation to heighten public consciousness and participation in the World Teachers' Day celebration every October 5. Other organizations were then invited to spearhead the celebration, then called the Teachers' Month Campaign.

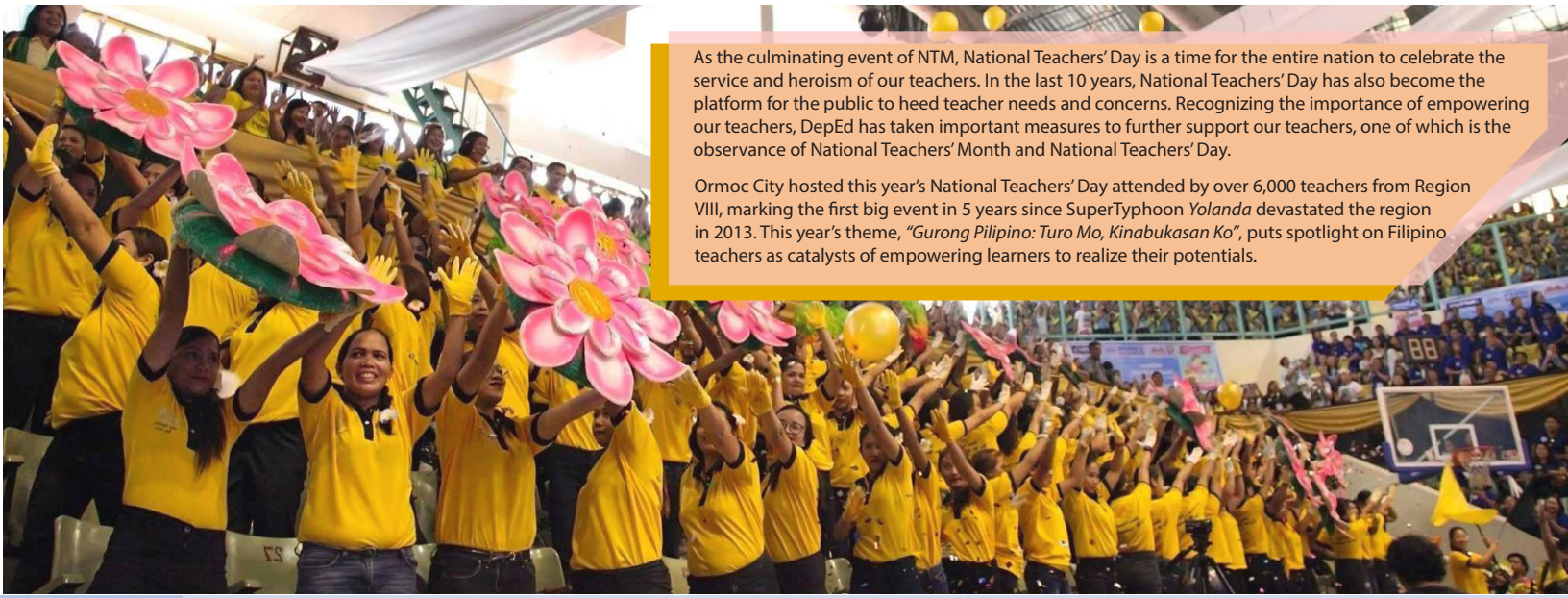
Over time, NTM has become a multi-sectoral movement—specifically engaging sectors which work closely with teachers. The movement has also seen growth in numbers, eventually becoming the nationwide celebration as it is known today.

On its 10th year, the NTM Coordinating Council—composed of more than 110 organizations from the government, academe, private sector, and non-government institutions—has adopted 10 major activities to further the advocacy of appreciating teachers. Dubbed as the "10 Acts of Gratitude", the movement was the collective expression of the various organizations' gratitude for our teachers.

1 ***TEACH FOR A DAY –*** in partnership with Teach for the Philippines, this whole-month activity allowed various professionals to volunteer and spend a day teaching in select classrooms nationwide.

2 ***TEACHER DAY OUT –*** various museums in cities nationwide extended free entrance and free educational tours for visiting teachers.

3 ***LECTURE SERIES –*** around 150 teachers attended this two-day lecture series which covered topics on cyber ethics and cyber education,



As the culminating event of NTM, National Teachers' Day is a time for the entire nation to celebrate the service and heroism of our teachers. In the last 10 years, National Teachers' Day has also become the platform for the public to heed teacher needs and concerns. Recognizing the importance of empowering our teachers, DepEd has taken important measures to further support our teachers, one of which is the observance of National Teachers' Month and National Teachers' Day.

Ormoc City hosted this year's National Teachers' Day attended by over 6,000 teachers from Region VIII, marking the first big event in 5 years since SuperTyphoon *Yolanda* devastated the region in 2013. This year's theme, *"Gurong Pilipino: Turo Mo, Kinabukasan Ko"*, puts spotlight on Filipino teachers as catalysts of empowering learners to realize their potentials.

E 10SIFIED

Teacher Day Out at Yuchengco Museum

NTM booth at Manila International Book Fair

Teacher Quality Forum

facilitated by SEAMEO-INNOTECH, Globe Telecom, Smart Communications, and World Vision Philippines.

4 ***39TH MANILA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR –*** from September 12 to 16, teachers entered the Fair for free held at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City. An NTM Booth managed by the Metrobank Foundation was set up, providing visitors with a venue to write 'thank you' notes to their teachers.

5 ***ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SEMINAR CONFERENCE –*** organized by the Government Service Insurance System in collaboration with the Department of Education and Metrobank Foundation, the 3-day seminar-conference focused on the theme, "Educator's Life Care Conversation, Artshop, and Playshop Conference". A total of 300 teachers attended the conference.

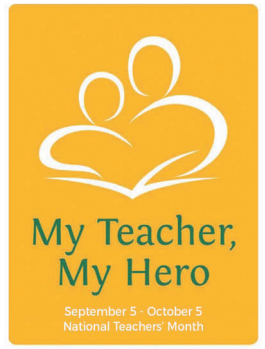
6 ***TEACHER QUALITY FORUM –*** the Philippine Business for Education hosted the Teacher Quality Forum, a forum highlighting the state of teacher quality in the Philippines, as well as global innovations and trends in teacher development. The forum paved the way for crafting policy recommendations towards teacher quality.

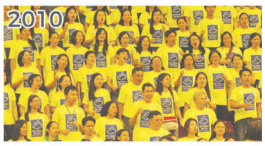
7 ***NTM DIGITAL CAMPAIGN –*** a month long campaign featured various audio-visual materials from NTM partners like Globe Telecom, Smart Communications and Knowledge Channel which highlighted gratitude for teachers on social media.

8 ***"SALAMAT PO, TEACHER" LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN –*** the Philippine Postal Corporation sought to promote a culture of appreciation for teachers through a letter writing campaign. Coinciding with this campaign was the release of the 2018 NTM Commemorative Stamps which were sold nationwide for only PhP12 each.

9 ***CELEBRITIES SAY "THANK YOU"–*** Media partners like GMA Network and Knowledge Channel as well as Philippine Business for Education produced a series of videos featuring celebrities who extended their gratitude for our teachers.

10 ***A TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS; OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS –*** Both Bato Balani Foundation and Metrobank Foundation honored exemplary teachers who have made a difference in their communities through their annual recognition programs. ●





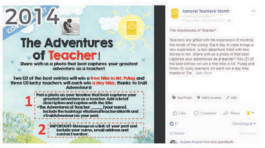


Exhibit opening, featuring the semi-finalists and finalists of the 2018 MADE.

Metrobank and MBFI chair Arthur Ty; CCP chair & guest of honor Margie Moran-Floirendo; Japan Ambassador Koji Haneda.

Celebratory performance of the University of the Philippines Dance Company, signifying a festive beginning.

Exhibit opening, featuring the entries of semi-finalists and finalists of the 2018 MADE.

Mme. Jae Un Kim; renowned sculptor Ramon Orlina; US Ambassador & guest of honor Sung Yong Kim; John Forbes; MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña; and Evelyn Forbes.

Intermission number of the University of the Philippines Dance Company before the exhibit opening.

DISCOVER

Since its inception in 1984, the Metrobank Art & Design Excellence (MADE) has set a platform for discovery and dialogue amongst emerging and established artists—blurring the distinctions between diverse cultures, contemporaries and disciplines.

In 2018, MADE once again opened the opportunity for painters and sculptors to immerse into a whole new artistic experience. With the theme "Discover," MADE challenged artists nationwide to look at the world with fresh eyes and discover the beauty in things mundane and overlooked.

New discoveries in the art scene awarded at the 2018 Metrobank Art & Design Excellence

Story by ***Almira Joyce Villanueva-Valencia***
(Valencia is a program coordinator at MBFI's corporate communications unit.)

As Metrobank Foundation's pioneering visual arts program and among the most sought-after art competitions in the country, MADE once again introduced the grand awardees of its Painting and Sculpture Recognition Programs—four artists and one professional sculptor. Of the five awardees, three come from the province of Iloilo.

Leading the awarding ceremony and exhibit opening are Metrobank and MBFI chairman Arthur Ty, Federal Land chairman Alfred Ty, Metrobank vice chairman Francis Sebastian, Metrobank president Fabian Dee, and MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña. They were joined by guests of honor US ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim and Cultural Center of the Philippines chairperson Margie Moral-Floirendo.

Two Grand Awardees for Painting and one Grand Awardee for Sculpture each received P500,000 cash prize and a "*Mula*" glass trophy designed by 2009 Metrobank Prize for Achievement in Sculpture awardee Noell El Farrol. Two other finalists for Painting received Special Citations for their works.

"MADE has continued to be a platform for discovery for the most passionate and persistent creative visionaries in the country. Our roster of winners—now counting to more than four hundred—discovered their potentials, and majority of them are now carving significant names in the local and international art scenes," said MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña. "But more than a competition that breeds artistic talent, MADE has evolved to become an implementing entity that facilitates a generation of fresh ideas for social development. The works of the artists we celebrate this evening are testaments to that."

> ***There will always be problems that need to be solved and challenges to be faced in our country. Art does not presume to provide the solution to our nation's concerns. But at its extreme best, art can serve as a catalyst to discover answers or a way to address the situations and circumstances we face.***
>
> —MBFI PRESIDENT ANICETO SOBREPEÑA

Following the awarding ceremony was the exhibit opening that featured the works of over 100 artists adjudged as semi-finalists. Meanwhile, a selling exhibition entitled "Voyage of the Senses" featured masterpieces of the MADE-Network of Winners (MADE-NOW), the organization of past MADE awardees. Part of the proceeds will fund Project HeART, a pay-it-forward project to benefit the marginalized sectors.

"There will always be problems that need to be solved, questions to be answered, and challenges to be faced in our country. Art does not presume to provide the solution to the concerns of a nation. At its extreme best, art can serve as a catalyst to discover answers or a way to address the situations and circumstances we face," said Sobrepeña. ●

(from L-R)
Metrobank president Fabian Dee; Metrobank and MBFI chairArthur Ty; CCP chairperson and guest of honor Margie Moran-Floirendo; 2018 MADE awardees Roland Llarena, Alex Ordoyo, Maria Ronna Lara-Bes, Noel Elicana, and Francis Eugene Andrade; US Ambassador and guest of honor Sung Yong Kim; Federal Land chairman Alfred Ty; and MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña.

The Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos during the courtesy visit with President Rodrigo Duterte in Malacañang last September 13, 2018.

METROBANK FOUNDATION

EMPOWE HEROES OF

Story by ***Maria Nicole Q. Cortez***
(Cortez is a program assistant at MBFI's corporate communications unit.)

The golden age of heroism is long past—or so we have been desensitized enough to believe. The truth is, however, the best of humanity reveals itself every day in the quiet acts of hundreds of Filipinos who work in the public service fields.

They are our country's teachers—molders of the minds of the next generation's leaders.

They are our soldiers—guardians of our nation's freedom, notwithstanding dangers and borders.

They are our police officers—champions of sustainable peace in the communities they pledged to serve.

Altogether, these are the unsung men and women that the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) seeks to annually honor through its flagship excellence recognition program, the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos.

"It is our belief that a country can only develop fully if its people are empowered to achieve their greatest potentials. This can only come about if the citizenry has a supportive environment which puts a premium on a culture of service excellence," once said the late MBFI founder Dr. George Ty.

As such, guided by Dr. Ty's philanthropic vision realized through the theme "Beyond Excellence", the annual Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos has paid tribute to the dedication of these individuals who quietly hold the foundations of society together, and supports their vocation to make a greater impact.

The Metrobank Fo Filipinos have consis of excellence in their unsung testimonies of in duty are our nation's a reminder that all our or small, will yield las long as it is done for th

The conferment ceremony was held last September 7, 2018 at the Metrobank Plaza, Makati City. Each awardee received a cash incentive of PhP1 million, a trophy and a gold medallion.

OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS

RING THE THE NATION

undation Outstanding tently raised the bar respective fields. Their triumph and resilience hope and inspiration— actions, whether great ting transformation as e right reasons.

This 2018, as Metrobank celebrates 56 years, MBFI once again conferred the award on 10 Outstanding Filipinos—4 teachers, 3 soldiers, and 3 police officers—whose devotion to duty and commitment to excellence drive their respective pursuits of service for the nation.

This year's teacher-awardees are (1) Mary Jane Ramo of Tonggo Elementary School in Tudela, Misamis Occidental; (2) Dr. Alma Janagap of Pavia National High School in Pavia, Iloilo; (3) Dr. Aimee Marie Gragasin of Philippine Science High School - Cagayan Valley Campus in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; and (4) Dr. Carla Dimalanta of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Soldier-awardees are (5) Lieutenant Colonel Francis Señoron from Philippine Army; (6) Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Facundo from Philippine Navy (Marines); and (7) Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Ryan Seguin from Philippine Air Force.

Meanwhile, police-awardees are (8) Senior Police Officer 1 Aida Awitin of Davao Occidental Police Provincial Office in Malita, Davao Occidental; (9) Police Senior Inspector Dennis Ebsolo of Villanueva Municipal Police Station in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental; and (10) Police Senior Superintendent Pascual Muñoz, Jr. serving in the Camp Crame headquarters in Quezon City.

The formal conferment ceremony was held last September 7, 2018 at Metrobank Plaza, Makati City. Each awaree received a cash incentive of P1 million, a gold medallion, and a trophy.

The 10 awardees officially join the roster of 665 Outstanding Filipinos—364 teachers, 157 soldiers, and 144 police officers—honored by the Foundation since 1985.

"We again present this year's 10 Outstanding Filipinos who embody the best in the Filipino people. They are recognized for their steadfast commitment to inspire change for others to emulate," said Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto Sobrepeña. ●

MEET THE 2018 METROBANK FOU

This year's awardees show that heroism need not always be bold or brazen. Heroism presents itself best in the everyday: in the silent acts of clocking in mo

Misamis Occidental's Culture and Environment Heroine

Though not of Subanen descent, Mary Jane S. Ramo has focused her life's work onto the promotion of indigenous peoples education in the Subanen-populated town of Tudela, Misamis Occidental. Young learners were brought closer to their roots through the creation of a makeshift IP room where they are encouraged to play music, recite chants, and discover folklores, among others.

Ramo is known to be aggressive when it comes to environmental protection. Her initiative *"Basura Ko, Tulubagon Ko"* has educated students and residents on proper waste management.

Iloilo's Literacy Crusader

Dr. Alma S. Janagap is a reading culture advocate. An English teacher in Pavia National High School, she developed a Reading Clinic—first of its kind in Region VI. The innovation eventually became a benchmarking model in the Division of Iloilo and has been replicated by 149 out of 179 schools.

Her famous remedial classes have also extended to her immediate communities. Taking another shape as "Project Mind, Body and Soul," Dr. Janagap personally visits houses in the neighborhood—where she does lectures on reading and writing skills, hygiene and nutritional needs, and building of spiritual character.

Philippine Army's Explosives Engineer

Armed with goal to control hazards in the Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units, Lieutenant Colonel Francis A. Señoron has focused his career onto developing counter-explosive tools and conducting sector-specific trainings to various stakeholders. His efforts have made the overall process of bomb disposal and management more efficient and safer for his comrades and civilians in the line of fire.

Lt. Col. Señoron designed and constructed the Electric Blasting Galvanometer and the explosives disruptor—alternative counter-explosive devices he put together using readily available, locally sourced materials. Until today, these two revolutionary devices are being used by various EOD units nationwide.

Philippine A Force's Warf

During the battle Colonel Thomas Force fighter pilot, who directed aerial back freedom for the

Flying a total of marked a defining service: he had flown achieved by a pilot in

Lt. Col. Seguin committed himself generation of young of fighter aircrafts. combat and mission

Davao Occidental's Enforcer-Educator

A licensed teacher turned police officer, Senior Police Officer 1 Awitin was the moving force behind the institutionalization of the *Lingap Mamamayan* program in the rebel-tagged municipality of Malita, Davao Occidental.

Through *Lingap Mamamayan*, the delivery of basic social services to underprivileged communities became more efficient. Poor families were provided with daily food items, hygiene kits, school materials for children, and medical and dental services.

Recognizing the importance of engaging the youth in crime prevention and solution, SPO1 Awitin established the Junior Police program in 2017. In its pilot run, the program assembled 112 high school students from 6 schools to serve as counterparts of police officers in their respective barangays.

Misamis Or Horse-Mou

In today's modern Senior Inspector timeless heritage of

As commander PSInsp. Ebsolo led hinterland *barrios.* address the issue of

The consistent been instrumental murder suspects, as perpetrators of such Further, it led such as mining and of *ridos* (tribal wars)

NDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS

re hours to help a struggling child learn to read, trekking through mountains to reach people in the grassroots, and initiating causes heedless of acknowledgment.

POLICE OFFICERS SOLDIERS TEACHERS

Nueva Vizcaya's Science Education Innovator

Dr. Aimee Marie C. Gragasin's 24-year legacy in teaching physics and research goes beyond textbook lessons and classroom walls—quite literally, as she lets her students at the Philippine Science High School Cagayan Valley Campus immerse themselves in actual research and working contexts.

Through the annual Summer Internship Program (SIP), her students undergo a two-week internship program in various government and private institutions in Nueva Vizcaya, neighboring provinces, and as far as Metro Manila.

Philippines' First Female Exploration Geophysicist with a Doctoral Degree

As the only female Exploration Geophysicist with a Doctoral Degree in the country, Dr. Carla B. Dimalanta's 25-year service delves in researches that provide answers to geoscientific problems, such as assessment of landslide hazards, investigating gold mineralization, and identifying sources of groundwater for coastal communities.

A professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman, her work on climate change and disaster risk reduction is integrated into UP's General Education classes, which are required to be taken by all undergraduate students.

ir ighter

of Marawi in 2017, Lieutenant Ryan R. Seguin, a Philippine Air was among the dauntless few missions instrumental in scoring country's Islamic capital.

134 missions, the war assignment moment in his 22-year military the most number of missions ever entire PAF history.

is also a mentor of pilots. He has to teaching and training a new troops to become qualified pilots This resulted to a total of 25 ready pilots in PAF's Fighter Wing.

Philippine Navy's Joint and Interagency Champion

A Marine Corps officer for 23 years, Lieutenant Colonel Danilo T. Facundo has championed initiatives upholding diversity and equal opportunity within the military and in the communities has has vowed to serve.

During his stint as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Battalion Team in Palawan, Lt. Col. Facundo led inter-agency interventions to combat widespread insurgency in the province. By so doing, there was zero kidnapping and zero terrorism in Palawan during his term.

He also challenged existing norms within the Marines by initiating programs on bottom-up leadership for junior officers and non-commissioned personnel; as well as trainings on gender mainstreaming which empowered female officers in the line of duty.

iental's nted Cop

age where technologies abound, Police Dennis S. Ebsolo chooses to preserve the police patrolling: mounted horse patrol.

of Cagayan de Oro Police Station 8, the use of horses in patrolling the The horse patrol became the solution to access to these mountainous villages.

implementation of the horse patrols had in the arrest of numerous robbery and well as the capture of high-profile drug elusive trades within Misamis Oriental. to the crackdown of illicit activities logging operations; and the suppression and other local conflicts.

Camp Crame's Operations Game-Changer

In his 28-year service, Police Senior Superintendent Pascual G. Muñoz, Jr. has proven himself exceptional both as a cop in the frontlines, and as an internal game-changer crafting policy changes to PNP's internal woes.

When he was the Director of the Laguna Provincial Police Office, he implemented new operational strategies and programs to curtail pervasive drug trades and organized crime groups.

In 2017, as the Head Secretariat of Camp Crame's Procurement Management Committee, PSSupt. Muñoz facilitated the conceptualization and formulation of policies streamlining service procedures for retirees and two support programs for a more transparent and expedient procurement of goods within the force.

A HEART THAT SERVES:

Metrobank awards grant assistance to 36 organizations

Story by ***Paul John V. Domalaon***
(Domalaon is a program assistant at MBFI's corporate communications unit.)

As has been the tradition in the past decades, one of the 2018 highlights of Metrobanks' 56th anniversary celebration is the Anniversary Grants Turnover Ceremony. Through the Metrobank Foundation and the GT Foundation, the Ty family foundation, P20 million worth of financial assistance was awarded to 36 organizations last September 7, 2018 at the Metrobank Plaza, Makati City.

MBFI and GTFI work with various socio-civic organizations, non-government organizations and government agencies for the implementation of programs and projects for the marginalized sectors towards the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The grants program's priority thrusts are health, education, arts, and livelihood, or simply HEAL.

"It is easy to think that small gestures of love and service might not go very far in solving the country's pressing problems. There will always be much to do, but even little acts leave a big impact towards realizing a better country, a better nation," said Aniceto Sobrepeña, MBFI president.

In 2018 —

₱20M *worth of grants* *awarded to* **36** *organizations*

Social development partners—

7	20	4	5
health	*education*	*arts*	*livelihood*

Healthier communities

One of the 36 beneficiaries that received assistance from GTFI is Plan International for the construction of three Barangay Health Stations with birthing facilities in Western Samar and Maguindanao. When completed, the health station will give 6,550 locals access to primary and maternal health care.

On the other hand, MBFI's grant to the Office of the Vice President's flagship program Angat Buhay will help install a functional electrical water pump machine in Villa Fria Elementary School and provide hygiene kits to more than 1,000 children in eight elementary schools in Agutaya, Palawan.

Accessible, quality education

Aiding students in Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte, GTFI is funding Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation's construction of a female dormitory that will serve as a halfway home for students who spend hours of travel by land to reach their school.

MBFI, through the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology, is providing 600 public school chemistry teachers in NCR, Benguet, Quezon, Eastern Samar, Bohol and Maguindanao with chemistry kits complementing the K-12 curriculum. Through plenary lectures, discussions and hands-on activities, the program seeks to develop teaching approaches of local science educators.

We are a great people—and we can become an even greater nation, if only we come together as one. Let us work together so that the greatest of problems will only bring out the greatness of the Filipino civic spirit.

—MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña

Healing through arts

Seeing arts as a tool for healing, MBFI supports *Pahingalayan ng Bayani*—a creative retreat for Filipino soldiers seeking for a peaceful respite from stress and anxiety using different art modalities. ArtPsych Circle, a civil society organization composed of psychologists and psychology practitioners, primarily caters to soldiers wounded in action in need of psychological assistance.

Sustainable livelihoods

As part of its continuing partnership, MBFI once again gave grants to Hineleban Foundation for technical trainings and provision of equipment to indigenous coffee farmers in Bukidnon. Hineleban's advocacy to reforest the high mountain ranges of Mindanao is attained through providing locals with livelihoods through transformational business partnerships.

MBFI is likewise supporting Caritas Margins' product development coaching for partner micro-enterprises as well as entrepreneurial skills trainings for selected urban poor communities in NCR and CALABARZON.

"We live in a world where the challenges we face are greater than we have ever seen. But we are a great people—and we can become a greater nation, if we come together as one," said Sobrepeña. "Let us work together so that the greatest of problems will only bring out the greatness of the Filipino civic spirit." ●

PANORAMIC ENDEAVORS:

LECTURES ON PHILIPPINE CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Story by ***Mary Therese De Silva***
(De Silva is a program assistant at MBFI's art & design unit.)

As new discoveries in the field of Philippine culture and heritage begin to surface anew, there grows a sense of urgency and interest to address problems in miseducation and mistreatments that have affected the state of our heritage today.

The Metrobank Foundation, as one of the few corporate foundations in the country known for supporting art and design, launched the *"Panoramic Endeavors"* lecture series. It is a two-day lecture series under MBFI's newest venture, the Culture and Heritage Education Program. Through this, the Foundation establishes its support in the development of cultural identity as a source of social empowerment.

Held from September 21-22, 2018 at Le Pavillon, Pasay City, *"Panoramic Endeavors"* highlighted exceptional efforts of dynamic individuals in the art and design community. Close to 400 participants—professional architects, students and art enthusiasts alike—participated in the exchange of knowledge and solutions towards a more equitable Philippine art.

It is our firm belief at the Metrobank Foundation that the health of our heritage is indicative of the wealth of our nation's future. We cannot let it die, because a strong national identity is essential to the pursuit of social progress.

—MBFI Executive Director Nicanor Torres, Jr.

The roster of speakers include multimedia artist Toym Imao, Jr., urban planner Julia Nebrija, Lopez Museum conservation manager Margarita Villanueva, Pineapple Lab creative director Andrei Pamintuan, visual artist Gerardo Leonardo and notable principal architects Dominic Galicia, Jason Buensalido, and William Ti, Jr.

The rich array of discussions revolved around themes of advocacies, practices, organizing hubs for creative ingenuity, and designing public spaces. Further, the two-day lecture series was able to provide a total of 12.0 CPD units to all attending architects, through a partnership with the United Architects of the Philippines.

Hinging on the inter-disciplinary facets of Philippine culture, the speakers emphasized that cultural identity is non-monolithic. It is dynamic, adaptive and multifaceted. As such, discourse in cultural heritage must be inclusive. Conversations should involve the entire community, not just artists and cultural workers.

As speaker Julia Nebrija imparted, "communities have the creative power to localize solutions that will directly address their social needs." This is what *"Panoramic Endeavors"* hoped to reinforce: engagements not just within the art community, but between art *and* the community. ●

THE SPEAKERS

Abdulmari "Toym" Imao Jr.

Andrei Pamintuan

Julia Nebrija

Ar. Jason Buensalido

Margarita Villanueva

Gerardo Leonardo

Ar. Dominic Galicia

Ar. William Ti, Jr.

PROPAGATING EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE DUTY

Story by ***Charmee mea F. Mariano & Paul John V. Domalaon***
(Mariano is a program coordinator at excellence awards unit while domalaon is a program assistant at corporate communications unit.)

CONFERRED WITH THE TITLE "Metrobank Foundation Fellows in Public Service", 2018 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipino Dr. Alma Janagap and 2017 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos Col. Ricky Bunayog and Col. Elmer Suderio conducted separate lectures on their advocacies and contributions to advance the principles of exceptional public service in the country.

A component of the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos program, the Metrobank Foundation Fellowship in Public Service lectures were brought to key cities and provinces nationwide, aimed to advance the knowledge of teachers, soldiers and police officers, and uplift the practice of these professions.

Fostering a generation of readers

DR. ALMA JANAGAP

For her exceptional advocacy in fostering a culture of reading through initiatives that empower a student's pursuit of learning, Dr. Alma Janagap of the Pavia National High School in Pavia, Iloilo is the first teacher-awardee to have been conferred the title "Metrobank Foundation Fellow in Public Service."

Last November 8, 2018, Dr. Janagap lectured on organizing a functional remedial reading program and reading clinic to 150 teachers across Western Visayas held at the DepEd Iloilo Division, La Paz, Iloilo City.

Dubbed as Iloilo's Literacy Crusader, Dr. Janagap developed in 2012 a first of its kind school-based Reading Clinic in Iloilo. The clinic is a one-room reading haven equipped with books and multimedia materials ranging from interactive videos, charts and games.

Providing academically struggling students with a reader-centric environment, the innovation eventually became a benchmarking model in DepEd Division of Iloilo and has been replicated by 149 out of 179 schools. ●

Hitting the ground running for lieutenants in the frontlines

2017 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Filipinos Col. Ricky Bunayog and Col. Elmer Suderio shared stories and strategies to 170 first-class cadets last November 17 at the Philippine Military Academy, Fort Gregorio del Pilar, Baguio City.

Col. Bunayog highlighted the significance of coordination with the community in the success of joint operations. He reminded the cadets to "respect the enemy [as] they are proud warriors too" and encouraged them to "respect anyone's ethnicity, tribal affiliation, religion, social status, and opinion".

Dubbed as Central Mindanao's WarriorPeacekeeper, Col. Bunayog led successful counterterrorism initiatives and facilitated peaceful settlement of ridos or long-standing blood feuds in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao.

Col. Suderio, on the other hand, talked about platoon-level tactics, effective attitudes and innovations he acquired throughout his years in the frontlines. "You have to take some risks. In all you do, there are some associated risks but you have to take it. Not because you are very brave, but because you calculated the risks," he said.

Also known as Basilan's Soldier-Trailblazer, Col. Suderio led a series of successful operations against the Abu Sayaff Group terrorists from 2015 to 2017. He also conceptualized a three-unit subject (Unit Administration) for PMA which prepares cadets to tackle administrative functions in their units. ●

COL. RICKY BUNAYOG PA

COL. ELMER SUDERIO PA

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL ADDS FEATHERS TO ITS CAP, TAKES HOME ACCOLADES FROM DOH AND PHA

MDH vice chairman Aniceto Sobrepeña, president Elizabeth Dantes, chairman Arthur Ty, hospital director Dr. Hian Ho Kua, and treasurer Anjanette Dy Buncio.

Story by ***Christopher L. Bugaoan***
(Bugaoan is the head of MBFI's corporate communications unit.)

The Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH) was awarded the "2018 Outstanding Hospital Award (Level 3-Private)" by the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) during the 69th PHA Annual National Convention last November 14 at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, City of Manila.

One of the most coveted awards in the healthcare industry, the PHA Award recognizes the overall commitment to healthcare excellence by hospitals specifically in the areas of corporate social responsibility, governance, and ISO accreditation, among others.

MDH was also recognized for the "DOH Star Awards 2018 Top 10" (Level III category) by the Department of Health and PHA. This award recognizes hospitals' best practices in the delivery of safe and quality health service towards achieving universal healthcare.

MDH was the lone tertiary-level private hospital to be awarded with 2 prestigious recognitions in the said event.

"These prestigious awards are testaments to our sustained commitment to provide quality healthcare to customers and people in the communities. It inspires us to continue to excel in what we do in order to improve our services and offer more state-of-the-art healthcare facilities for the marginalized," said MDH president Elizabeth Dantes.

As part of MDH's plan to provide advanced equipment and facilities to better serve its clients, MDH recently opened 3 centers and upgraded 1 facility at the Norberto Ty Medical Tower 2. These include the Wellness Hub, the Radiologic Imaging Center and the Endoscopy Unit.

The Wellness Hub is a one-stop health and wellness facility established to create a tranquil, spa-like environment where patients can relax, find their balance and recover. On the same floor, the Aesthetics Center and Wound Care Center can also be found.

The Radiologic Imaging Center houses the best medical imaging diagnostics. This includes the 256-Slice Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner, Digital Radiofluoroscopy and a broad range of imaging modalities like X-Ray and Ultrasound. Its latest equipment is the Mammomat Revelation the first high definition 3D Breast Tomosynthesis in the Philippines and in Asia.

> ***These accolades inspire us to continue to excel in what we do in order to improve our services and offer more state-of-the-art healthcare facilities for the marginalized.***
>
> *—MDH PRESIDENT ELIZABETH DANTES*

The Endoscopy Unit has been expanded to 5 rooms with a capacity to perform simultaneous procedures and boasts of bigger recovery room that can accommodate more patients.

Soon, a new Cancer Care Unit will also be opened using the Linear Accelerator (LINAC) which will offer advanced treatment to cancer patients.

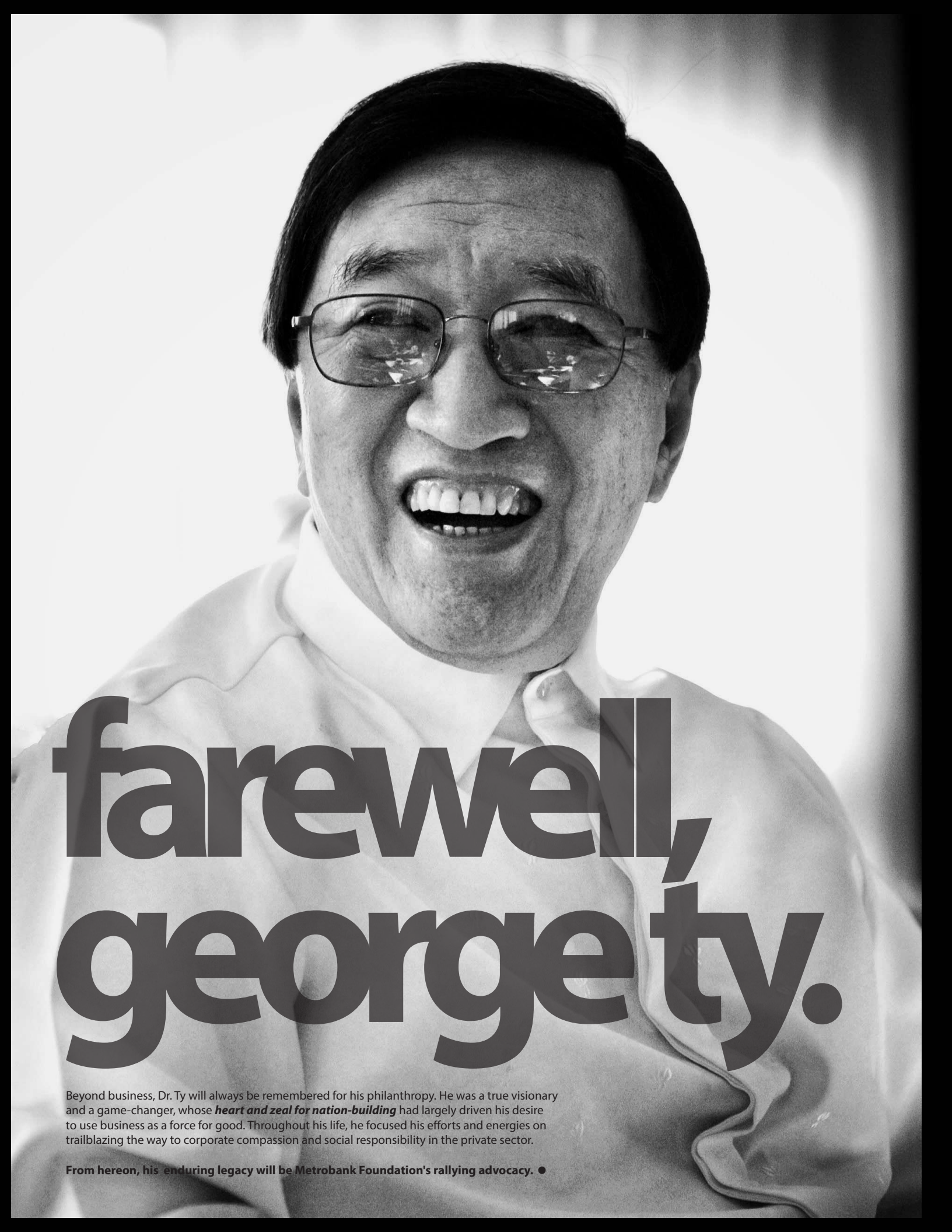
As the majority shareholder of MDH, the Metrobank Foundation has established programs that benefit the poor and the marginalized in meeting their educational and healthcare needs. MDH serves as the Foundation's healthcare arm, offering a wide array of social services such as subsidies for in-house patients, outreach programs, medical missions, and health-related interventions in adopted communities. ●

The Wellness Hub serves as a one-stop-shop health and wellness facility.

The Mammomat Revelation is the first high definition 3D Breast Tomosynthesis in the Philippines and in Asia.

The Radiologic Imaging Center houses the best medical imaging diagnostics.

The Endoscopy Unit has 5 rooms to perform simultaneous procedures.



farewell, george ty.

Beyond business, Dr. Ty will always be remembered for his philanthropy. He was a true visionary and a game-changer, whose ***heart and zeal for nation-building*** had largely driven his desire to use business as a force for good. Throughout his life, he focused his efforts and energies on trailblazing the way to corporate compassion and social responsibility in the private sector.

From hereon, his enduring legacy will be Metrobank Foundation's rallying advocacy. ●