DISTRICT 87
Term 2026-2027

Q1 NEWSLETTER
July - September 2026

A STRONG START TO EXCELLENCE















CELEBRATING MILESTONES, LEADERSERSHIP & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Power of *ONE*

World #8 Smedley Distinguished District • Semi-Finalist in Vancouver • 13 New DTMs • 50 Clubs Recognised

A Strong First Quarter

Desmond Chieng, DTM
District Director 2026 - 2027

Dear District 87 Toastmasters Family,
As we complete the first three months of this term, I am truly grateful for the trust you have placed in us to serve District 87. It is a privilege to begin this journey together.

Our theme this year is **"The Power of ONE — One Vision, One Impact, One District."** This theme reminds us that meaningful progress often begins with just one action. When every member, club, Area, Division, and District leader takes ownership of one meaningful action, those individual efforts come together to create powerful impact.



We have already seen that power in action during this first quarter:

- One of our members stood on the International Speech Contest semi-final stage in Vancouver
- 13 members achieved the Distinguished Toastmaster award
- 47 clubs earned Super Early Renewals recognition
- 3 clubs received Top Elite club recognition. We successfully completed TLI Round 1, District Officer Training (DoT) 1, 1st District Executive Committee Meeting (DECM) and District Council Meeting (DCM)
- 8 training and workshops were delivered. Two clubs extended Toastmasters' impact into the community through youth leadership and communication programmes for secondary school students
- One club shared the Toastmasters message live on local radio
- Many clubs celebrated significant anniversaries, including one remarkable 47th year
- One new club chartered under Division M2

At the International Convention, International President Aletta Rochat shared a simple yet meaningful **1-1-3-1 Challenge:**

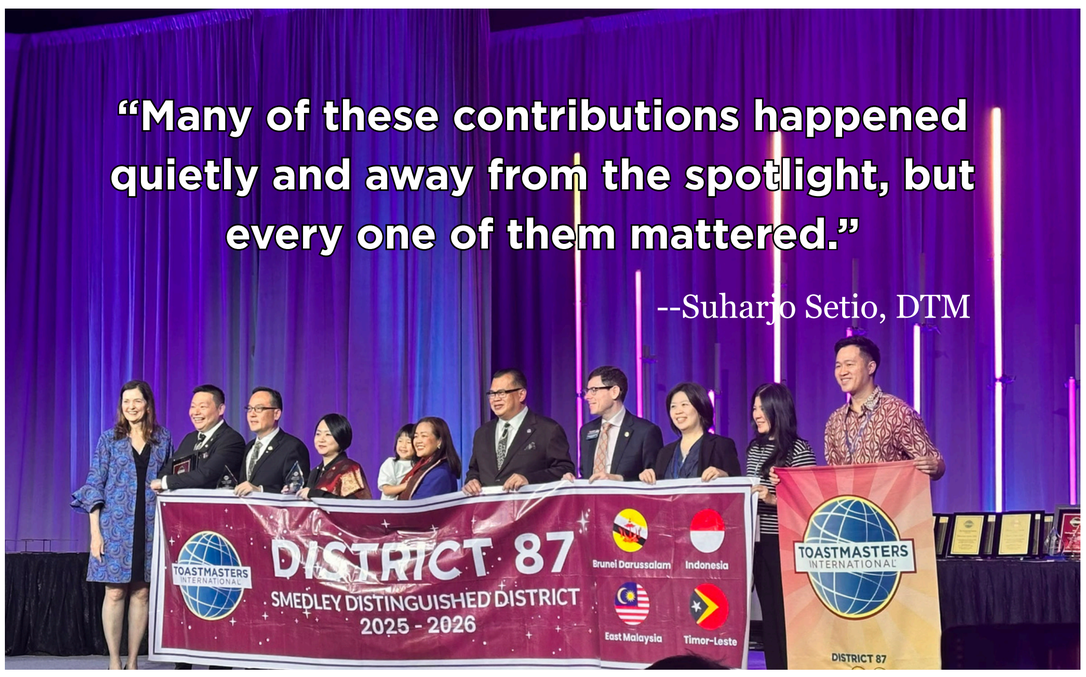
- Invite **one** new person
- Ask for help **one** time
- Recognise **three** people
- Celebrate **one** success
- Then repeat.

I believe this challenge offers us a practical way to bring our district theme to life throughout the year. There is one message I want us to remember above all: **We do not have to do everything alone.** When a club needs support, reach out to the Area Director. When an Area faces challenges, seek guidance from the Division Director. When a Division needs assistance, turn to the District team. Let us build a culture where asking for help is encouraged, support is readily offered, and every contribution is valued.

As we move forward, let us continue taking one meaningful action at a time, supporting one another along the way, and celebrating every step of progress. When each of us contributes our best, we unlock The Power of ONE — One Vision, One Impact, One District.

Our Strength Comes Through Care

Suharjo Setio, DTM
Immediate Past District Director



Standing alongside fellow District 87 delegates in Vancouver was one of the proudest moments of my life. Our District had reached a milestone never achieved before: we ranked eighth in the world and became a Smedley Distinguished District, the highest recognition for District excellence.

As I witnessed District 87 being recognized on the world stage, I felt more than pride. I felt immense gratitude.

My thoughts returned to the beginning of my term as District Director in 2025, when I chose “Strength through Care” as our leadership theme. It was more than a slogan. It reflected what I had witnessed throughout my journey of serving District 87.

Beginning with my time as Club Growth Director, I met many members who genuinely cared about the growth and future of our District.

They openly shared their ideas, hopes, and concerns with me. Through those conversations, I realized how blessed District 87 is to have so many good people who are willing to contribute and serve.

Throughout the term, I witnessed leaders stepping forward, clubs supporting one another, and members challenging themselves to grow in ways they had never imagined. Most importantly, I saw people caring for one another. That spirit of care became the foundation of our growth.

Our historic achievement did not belong to one person or one leadership team. It was made possible by countless contributions from members and clubs across District 87. Behind every number was someone who chose to take action; a member who renewed, a club officer who accepted responsibility, a leader who answered the call to serve, or someone who introduced a new member to Toastmasters.

Many of these contributions happened quietly and away from the spotlight, but every one of them mattered. To me, becoming a Smedley Distinguished District represents something much deeper than a ranking.



It represents a District that believes in helping people become better communicators, stronger leaders, and more confident individuals. It represents teamwork, resilience, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Our greatest success is not measured only by rankings, plaques, or awards. It is measured by the lives we touch, the confidence we help build, and the leaders we help develop. To every member, club officer, and District Leader who contributed to this achievement: thank you.

You made a difference, and you should be proud of what we accomplished together.

District 87 has earned its place on the world stage, but our greatest strength has always been, and will always be, our people.

It was a tremendous honour to serve as your District Director. As Immediate Past District Director, I look forward with confidence to seeing District 87 continue to grow, serve, and achieve even greater things in the years ahead.

Our journey has shown us that when we care for our members, support our clubs, and develop our leaders, we become stronger together.

Our strength truly comes through care.

From District 87 to World Stage



On May 17, 2026, Theodorus Clarence Tessensohn, an English teacher based in Labuan, Sabah, emerged as the new District 87 International Speech Champion. He won the quarter-final and headed to the 2026 Toastmasters International Speech Contest Semifinals in Vancouver, Canada.

We are immensely proud of him for representing our district as the International Speech Contest Semi-Finalist at the World Convention in Canada. Reaching the semi-final stage on the world stage is an outstanding achievement that brings honour to every club and member in our District.

Although the journey did not continue to the World Championship finals, the performance demonstrated excellence, courage, and the highest level of Toastmasters skill.

Congratulations, Theodorus! You have inspired us all.

“Thank you for giving me the courage and confidence on the international stage. I did my very best and I hope I made you proud.”

Celebrating Our Clubs

Kuching Progressive Toastmasters Club
25 years
Chartered June 19, 2001

Kuching Elite Toastmasters Club
26 years
Chartered Dec 1, 2000

Kota Kinabalu Advanced Club
Excellent Training Club
Bintulu Toastmasters Club
26 years
Chartered June 1, 2000

The Brunei Speakers Club
26 years
Chartered April 1, 2000

The Ultimate Toastmasters Club
26 years
Chartered Feb 1, 2000

Mandarin Bintulu Toastmasters Club
27 years
Chartered Oct 1, 1999

Tawau Mandarin Toastmasters Club
27 years
Chartered May 1, 1999

Medan First Toasmasters Club
Sibu Mandarin Club
28 years
Chartered June 1, 1998

SWEPA Toastmasters Club
28 years
Chartered March 1, 1998

Sandakan Mandarin Toastmasters Club
29 years
Chartered Dec 1, 1997

Jakarta Toastmasters Club
47 years
This is where it all started!
Chartered Oct 1, 1979

Newly Chartered Club!

Infineon Toastmasters Club
Chartered Sept 2, 2026

Congratulations to the charter members, sponsors, mentors and everyone who helped bring this club to life!

Top Elite Clubs

(Renewal of more than 25 membership before Sept 30th & March 31st)

- **AZAM Young Souls Toastmasters Club**
  (Division D, Area 1)
- **Kuching Mandarin Toastmasters Club**
  (Division D, Area 3)
- **KK SME Toastmasters Club**
  (Division K, Area 2)

47 clubs across District 87 have been recognised for Super Early Renewals - a powerful demonstration of commitment and club health

Tawau Toastmasters Club
30 years
Chartered June 1, 1996

Kuching Mandarin Toastmasters Club
30 years
Chartered March 1, 1996

Kuching Toastmasters Club
Miri Club
38 years
Chartered Feb 1, 1988

Kota Kinabalu Toastmasters Club
36 years
Chartered March 1, 1990

Kelab Toastmasters Bandar Sibu
36 years
Chartered Aug 1, 1990

Metropolitan Toastmasters Club
32 years
Chartered Jan 1, 1994

Labuan Toastmasters Club
32 years
Chartered June 1, 1994

AZAM Toastmasters Club
32 years
Chartered Aug 1, 1994

Kota Kinabalu Mandarin Club
31 years
Chartered Feb 1, 1995

Miri Mandarin Toastmasters Club
30 years
Chartered Jan 1, 1996

Keningau Mandarin Club
30 years
Chartered Feb 1, 1996

Congratulations to our 13 new Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM)

Division K

- **Yusra Afiqah Nurul, DTM**
  (Toihaan Toastmasters Club)
- **Rachel Y. Chan, DTM**
  (Kota Kinabalu Advanced Club)
- **Lee Fook Lee, DTM**
  (KK SME Toastmasters Club)
- **Clarence Ng, DTM**
  (Kota Kinabalu Heritage Toastmasters Club)

Division D

- **Amiko Wong Siew Ing, DTM**
  (Kuching Mandarin Toastmasters Club)
- **Un Teck Syn, DTM**
  (Kuching Mandarin Toastmasters Club)
- **Chin Chin Lee, DTM**
  (Kuching Mandarin Toastmasters Club)

Division S

- **Xin Chan Dieh, DTM**
  (Rejang Toastmasters Club)
- **PEY LING KONG, DTM**
  (Bintulu Toastmasters Club)
- **Joseph Tiong, DTM**
  (Bintulu Foochow Toastmasters Club)

Division G

- **Titin Nengsih, DTM**
  (Empire Toastmasters Club)

Division J

- **Melisa Chen, DTM**
  (Jakarta Toastmasters Club)

Division M

- **Yenni Mok, DTM**
  (Medan Miracle Pidato Club)

Training, Community & Testimonials

TLI Round 1 & District Officer Training (DoT) 1

We successfully completed Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) Round 1 and District Officer Training (DoT) 1. Thank you to all the trainers, facilitators, and participants who invested their time to strengthen our leadership capacity.











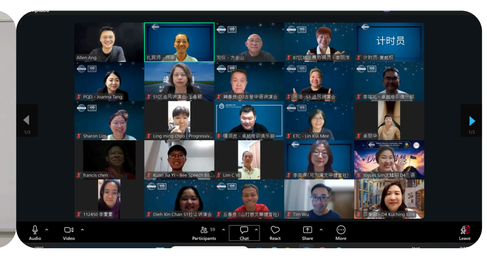


10 Trainings & Workshop Delivered

Our District team delivered 10 high-value training sessions and workshops during the first quarter, equipping officers and members with practical skills for success. Thank you to every facilitator and participant.















Surabaya Toastmasters Club went live on Radio RRI Pro1 99.2FM Surabaya to bring the message of Toastmasters to a wider audience.



Toastmasters has helped me step out of my comfort zone, grow as a leader, and discover that I can make a difference by serving others.

--Joanna Then, DTM



Toastmasters helped me find my passion in public speaking and empower others to find their confidence.

--Natali Tjahjadi, DTM



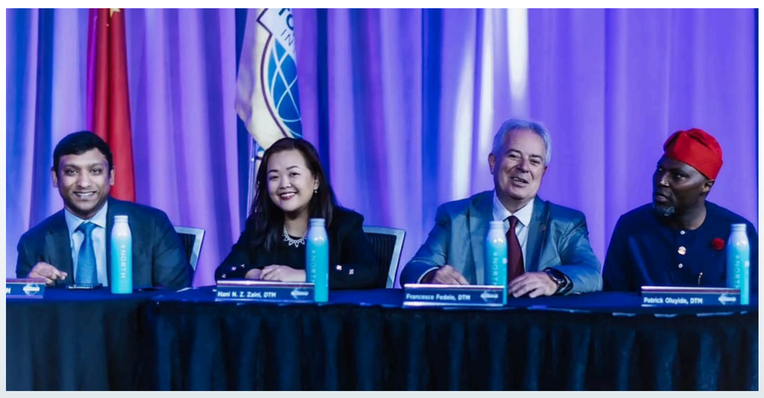
Toastmasters has taken me further than I ever thought I could go, opening doors I once could not even imagine.

--Jessie Chin, DTM

LOOKING AHEAD - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

Coming up in the next issue....

A CHAT WITH DTM HANI NUR ZAIHANIRAH



DTM Hani Nur Zaihanirah began her second year of service on the Toastmasters International Board of Directors for the term 2026–2027 following her second installation at the Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver, Canada, in August.

She serves among 20 global leaders on the Toastmasters International Board, which also serves as the organisation's ambassador to the world.

Hani was first elected to the Board and installed in 2025 during the Toastmasters International Convention in Philadelphia, becoming the first Malaysian woman to serve at the highest level of the global organisation.





MORE WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS....

- Speech Contest Workshop Rules
- Mentoring Program
- How to Win Speech Contest Workshop
- Pathway Modules Workshop
- Round 2 Club Officer Training (1 Nov - 28/29 February)

District 87 2026-2027 Senior Leadership Team



Desmond Chieng, DTM
District Director



Joanna Tang, DTM
Program Quality Director



Miftah Huda, DTM
Club Growth Director



Gusti T Harta, DTM
Logistics Manager



Shirlina Hii, DTM
Public Relations Manager



Thomas Lau, DTM
Administration Manager



Joanna Then, DTM
Finance Manager



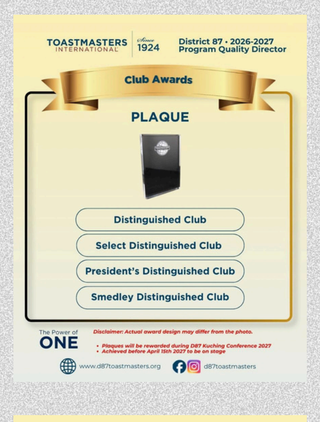
Suharjo Setio, DTM
Immediate Past District Director

AWARDS TO GRAB

























Thank you for an outstanding first quarter. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

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