



# THE CABLE TOW

TAGAYTAY CITY **nCom** 2016  
100th Annual Communication

SPECIAL ISSUE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND  
LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

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**MW VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN**  
GRAND MASTER OF MASONS, MY 2016-2017



# EDITOR'S NOTES

## IN THE SERVICE OF ONE'S GRAND MOTHER

**DURING THE GRAND MASTER'S GALA** held at the Taal Vista Hotel last April 30, then newly-installed MW Voltaire Gazmin in a hushed voice uttered one of his very first directives as a Grand Master: **Let's come out with a special AnCom issue of The Cable Tow or ELSE!**

THE LAST TWO WORDS, OF COURSE, IS A JOKE!

But our beloved Grand Master did ask for a May issue of the Cable Tow and so he shall have it.

This is a special issue of The Cable Tow, which encases within its pages the events and highlights of the 100th Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. In this issue also, we will be providing to you a short biographical sketch of our new Grand Master, MW Voltaire T. Gazmin as well as to introduce the newly-elected and installed Junior Grand Warden, RW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. of Cagayan De Oro City.

In addition, we will also be featuring articles on the the masonic theme for the year as well as the Grand Lodge's strategic focus for the new term.


Keeping in focus the points raised by MW Gazmin in his inaugural speech, Volume 93 of The Cable Tow aims to reach out further to the brethren spread

across our country's archipelago and at the same time be prompt in the delivery of news and information so needed for the sustenance of the growing craftsman.

Indeed, just as what the Grand Orient directs and as far as Volume 93 is concerned, this publication will aim to Personify Freemasonry by thinking, writing and publishing articles the Mason's Way.

With most of the result of the recent national elections almost a foregone conclusion, we rest assure that change is apparently coming to the Philippines. As you may notice from the new masthead on the cover, we at The Cable Tow will also be introducing some new and exciting changes in our humble publication that aims to highlight the underlying principles upon which The Cable Tow was created.

Cheers brethren! And Happy reading!



VW Marlon M. Castor  
Editor In-Chief

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## THE CABLE TOW

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# FROM THE GRAND MASTER

My dear brethren:

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to all my brothers in the craft for your splendid display of support and cooperation during our recently-held 100th ANCOM at Tagaytay City.

The sheer size of the delegates who trooped to the ANCOM site, patiently registered, paid their fees, formally dressed up, and enthusiastically-participated in the ANCOM proceedings speak volumes of the zeal and desire of Filipino masons to keep the fire of masonry well-lit and bright in this jurisdiction.


And I shall rise to the challenge of further improving ourselves in Freemasonry through the best way – the Masons Way!

As I start off my general address to the brethren with this first issue of the Cable Tow under the new term, I wish to emphasize an important but often neglected virtue – that of being prompt in everything we do. We should avoid being late. We should all strive to start on time—be it on lodge opening, committee hearing, installation and other Masonic ceremonies, etc. This is a simple and very much doable attitude correction which will surely yield positive results.

It is about time we implement Masonic time.

The Cable Tow should be the first visible manifestation of promptness from the Grand Lodge. I exhort the management and editorial staff of our bi-monthly publication to maintain its timely and efficient circulation all throughout the term and the next.

Keep the charge.



**MW VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN**  
**Grand Master of Masons, 2016-2017**

## FROM THE ANCOM 2016 CHAIRMAN

To our beloved brethren,

*Fraternal greetings!*

In an effort reminiscent of the age of the great temple builders, the world has yet again witnessed in marvel at the efforts of dedicated craftsmen at work towards a common plan.

It is indeed amazing when the determined group of individuals—working in harmony and unison, are able to succeed and accomplish such a seemingly daunting task as the staging of the 100th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines. It is this same energy that propels every Masonic lodge of this jurisdiction to achieve feats that are otherwise impossible for one man alone. And despite the challenges that have been thrown our way, our earnest desire to provide the best possible AnCom of recent history to our beloved brethren has nevertheless endured.

Truly, we have been fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be of service to the Grand Lodge in such capacity as the organizing body of its AnCom. The experience of being able to learn the intricacies and veiled complexities behind the event has been both rewarding and enriching in our continuous journey as master masons.

Yet, the success of AnCom 2016 must be shared not only with a select group of brethren, but also with those who in one way or another, have been instrumental in accomplishing the mission that was laid before us more than a year ago.

Thus, in behalf of the AnCom 2016 Executive Committee, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the brethren of the host district, NCR-G with special mention to King Solomon Lodge No. 150 and Palanyag Lodge No. 323, to the brethren of Tagaytay and Cavite for allowing us to hold this event in your backyard, to the city government of Tagaytay for the assistance that they have extended, to the officers and staff of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for their support and coordination, to our beloved sponsors and supporters, and most of all, to all those brethren who attended this year's AnCom—*maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!*

And of course, no Masonic endeavor would be successful without the aid of Divine Providence that continues to guide us in all our labors.

*Mabuhay ang Gran Lohia ng Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang Masonerya!*

VW SIXTO S. ESCOBINAS IV  
Chairman, AnCom 2016 Executive Committee



# TAGAYTAY AND THE APRIL ANCOM FEVER

**DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL 2016, thousands of members of the world's oldest fraternity—the Freemasons, coming from various parts of the country and in some parts of the globe met in conclave and fellowship for the 100th Annual Communication (AnCom) of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines at the Taal Vista Hotel in the beautiful city of Tagaytay, province of Cavite last April 28-30, 2016.**

With theme, "Personify Freemasonry. Be the better person through the best way. Think, speak, and act

the Mason's Way", the event intends to promote coordination and harmony among the more than 20,000 members of the fraternity in the Philippines and to strengthen international ties with other Grand Lodges of foreign jurisdictions.

**KICKING OFF THE ANCOM WEEK**

The AnCom 2016 week kicked off on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 with an AnCom 2016 Invitational Golf Tournament at the picturesque Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas. The tournament was held to signal the start of the AnCom 2016 week as well as to raise necessary funds to finance some of the activities during the AnCom 2016 proper. In addition, the tournament also provided an ideal venue for brethren to mingle in a healthy game of golf

and enjoy nature and each other's companies.

Tee-off started at 6am wherein players were divided into flights to facilitate an organized staging of tournament. Afterwards, the players proceeded to the clubhouse for some refreshments as well as the awarding ceremonies and fellowship. Several choice items were raffled to the delight of some of the golfers. The affair ended at around 3pm wherein some of the members of the AnCom Team proceeded to Tagaytay which was less than an hour away.

**Testing on a Tuesday**

Simultaneously with the holding of the golf tournament in Lipa City, Batangas, some members of the Registration AnCom 2016 team trooped straight



Above left: VW Ted Salud does a precautionary stretch before hitting the fairways. Above right: MW Voltaire Gazmin hands one of the players his winning raffle prize.



Left: The encoding area of the AnCom Registration, where personal information of the AnCom registrants as well as their photos are captured. Below: Workers installing the welcome tarpauline at the Tagaytay International Convention Center grounds.

to Tagaytay to set up the AnCom 2016 Registration stations at the Tagaytay International Convention Center (TICC).

The registration team, composed mostly of brethren from King Solomon Lodge No. 150 and Hadji Butu Rasul Memorial Lodge No. 393, carefully arranged themselves in such a way to ensure efficiency of the registration process as well as to distribution of AnCom 2016 kits . In order to accommodate the more than 2,000 expected registered brethren to the AnCom, the registration team sought the help of more than 20 students volunteers from Tagaytay City to augment its frontliners.

Meanwhile back in Manila, foreign guests of the AnCom have started arriving at the Ninoy Aquino Terminals and the brethren from Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322, who were tasked to welcome these arrivals, have already set up their reception for arriving at the arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

#### Into the Pre-ANCOM

The AnCom activities then flowed into the Wednesday that followed with a wreath-laying activity before



Above: Members of the Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322 welcoming delegates at the NAIA Terminal 3.



First day registration frenzy at the TICC.



the statue of national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal—a known member of the Masonic craft, in front of Tagaytay City Hall, which was just a few minutes walk from the TICC. The event led by the incumbent Grand Master of Masons, Most Worshipful Tomas G. Rentoy III followed by a courtesy call to the city's chief executive.

Over at the TICC, delegates and registrants have started to trickle in as hundreds of early birds line up to have their data encoded and their kits and IDs released. Despite the uncharacteristic warm Tagaytay weather, the humidity wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of the brethren in the queus that sprouted due to the overwhelming numbers that came for the centennial edition of this annual event.

Wednesday evening saw the arrival of the rest of the GLP reports that was to be included in the AnCom kits and the registration team along with their volunteers quickly set off and placed the reports into the remaining bags for the official start of the AnCom the following day.

#### **ANCOM 2016: Day One**

On Thursday (April 28, 2016), the Ancom 2016 formally starts with the opening of the Grand Lodge at the Grand Ballroom of the Taal Vista Hotel, where dignitaries from various Grand Lodges around the world and top representatives from various Masonic organizations are received. This starts the two-day



Day 1: AnCom Opening





plenary session of the AnCom where important issues concerning the fraternity are discussed and decided upon as well as the election of its Grand Lodge officers and leaders for the ensuing year occurs.

The Thursday of the AnCom started with an auspicious opening of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines by then-Grand Master MW Tomas G. Rentoy III at the Grand Ballroom of the Taal Vista Hotel --just across the TICC. It is in this massive ballroom where most of the AnCom sessions will take place. Past Grand Masters and Grand Masters of other recognized jurisdictions as well as their duly-appointed representatives were acknowledged and received into the Grand East

Over at the TICC, the AnCom registration committee is hard at work in trying to register and accommodate the bulk of the more than 2,600 registered delegates to this year's events. Unfortunately, despite the massive online information campaign for online registration, most brethren still preferred on-site registration where they are made to go through various stations in order to have them properly registered for the AnCom instead of just picking up their respective AnCom kits via online registration. The unbearable humidity and heat of the uncharacteristic Tagaytay weather made the challenge of registration even more daunting. Yet, the registration team was up-to-task as they were augmented with manpower from various lodges who volunteered to expedite the process.

This year's AnCom 2016 kit included a commemorative shoulder bag and GLP reports containing matters that need to be discussed and approved during the sessions. In addition, the AnCom 2016 organizing team also issued a special AnCom 2016 ID fitted with a special barcode --- unique to every delegate which they can use as entry into every AnCom-regulated site, particularly the session hall where non-registered brethren are purged and kindly asked to register should they wish to participate in the discussions. The barcodes



COURTESY FELLOWSHIP: MW Gazmin, together with Team, on a visit to the brethren of Tagaytay on Wednesday





h the AnCom  
sday night.

will also be instrumental in facilitating a digitally-enhanced and assisted elections for the new Junior Grand Warden. Thus, delegates are asked to wear their respective IDs correctly at all times when going to AnCom-sanctioned events.

Along the same row, the President of the Grand Guild of Past Masters, MW John Ochoa had already set up shop for the registration of delegates to the annual session of the said group as well and urged all Past Masters of masonic lodges to join them in session later that day at the Tagaytay International Convention Center hall.

In the meantime, the AnCom 2016 organizing have created a special city tour of Tagaytay for the ladies of the AnCom 2016 foreign guests (see separate article) as an added attraction to make their AnCom experience more memorable and enjoyable.

Just outside the TICC, business is in full swing for the dozens of booths and stalls erected featuring various masonic items and souvenirs as well as other masonic-related products available for sale for the thousands of brethren who have flocked to this year's convention.

The remarkable size of this year's attendance was very evident as the number of parked cars outside the TICC and Taal Vista Hotel have spilled over in the national road just between the two venues. In order to facilitate parking, the SM SkyRanch across the TICC was asked to accommodate (for a fee) the thousands of cars brought by the brethren coming from various parts of the country. Furthermore, special vans were made available to shuttle brethren between the TICC and Taal Vista Hotel.

Lunch for the delegates were served at the covered area just behind the TICC which will also be the venue to the Grand Master's Night that is to be held later in the evening. Special guests were treated to meals at the plush Taal Vista Hotel.



SNAKE NIGHT: The RKC with fellow snakes.



Grand Master's Night







### GRAND MASTER'S NIGHT 2016

As a fitting tribute and a grand send-off to outgoing Grand Master MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, the brethren in attendance at the AnCom 2016 were invited to the annual Grand Master's Night held at the covered area behind the TICC where they reveled in a night of music, food and flowing drinks, and other festivities such as raffles and games (see related gallery).

### ANCOM 2016: Day Two

The AnCom Friday is the one of the more important parts of the AnCom as this is the time where vital issues and concerns of the jurisdiction are discussed. On this day, most of the delegates gathered at the Grand Ballroom of Taal Vista Hotel. Marshals were stationed at the doors to ensure that only registered delegates were allowed inside the hall in order to maintain order and propriety in the discussions. According to most brethren, this year's discussion appeared to be one of the most anticipated in recent years with the considerable number of edicts that were issued during the year that changed most of the jurisdiction's practices and rules and affecting a considerable number of lodges and brethren.

### ELECTION 2016

As expected and in accordance to custom, the sitting Grand Master, MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, exercising the collective electoral power of the AnCom plenary and to expedite the electoral process, elected all incumbent Grand Lights---from the Deputy Grand Master to the Junior Grand Warden, to the next higher position thus formalizing the ascension of RW Voltaire T. Gazmin to the Grand Oriental chair as the GLP's 99th Grand Master of Masons.

The election then proceeded for the vacant position of Junior Grand Warden, wherein fourteen candidates from all over the archipelago were slimmed down to

seven and from that seven, three were destined to be chosen by ballot, which included among others, VW Edilberto P. Carabaccan of Nueva Vizcaya Lodge No. 144 (Northern Luzon), VW Nabil A. Tan of Bud Daho Lodge No. 102 (Western Mindanao), and VW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. of Macalajar Lodge No. 184 (Northern Mindanao).

And after two rounds of elections, which was conducted in record time in one of the swiftest GLP elections in recent years, VW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. of Cagayan De Oro was pronounced the winner and newly-elected Junior Grand Warden during the 100th Annual Communication.

## TRIBUTE TO PAST GRAND MASTERS

Later that evening, MW Tomas G. Rentoy III in one of his last functions as Grand Master, hosted a Tribute to the Past Grand Masters at Taal Vista Hotel where the Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters, official representatives of Grand Masters of foreign jurisdictions as well as some of their companions were invited to pay tribute to the ever-growing line of illustrious Past Grand Masters of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Bountiful food and refreshments were served during the event, where MW Tomas G. Rentoy III was accompanied by the other GLP officers which included among others, RW Voltaire T. Gazmin, RW Abraham N. Tolentino, and RW Romeo S. Momo.

MW Rentoy, coming from one of the most exhaustive sessions of the AnCom plenary, instead of sharing a few words with the guests in attendance, offered a few songs to the delight of those in attendance.

## ANCOM 2016: Day Three

The AnCom 2016 Saturday offered a more relaxed morning in contrast to the previous two days as two major events are all that is left to conclude this year's





Day 2: AnCom



MOST WORSHIPFUL  
S. G. RENTOY III  
GRAND MASTER, MY 2015-2016



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annual communication.

A post-breakfast meeting of all incoming GLP officers was called by newly-elected Grand Master MW Voltaire T. Gazmin in order to orient them of all the incoming activities of the Grand Lodge as well as to distribute their respective appointment papers and guidance materials.

The appointed Director of Installation Ceremonies, VW Antonio San Luis, Jr., also requested some of the incoming officers to stay for a practice of the installation ceremonies that will ensue later that day.

## **INSTALLED PAST MASTER'S DEGREE**

Simultaneously, conferral of the Installed Past Master's Degree was likewise held at the TICC for Past Masters as well as incumbent Worshipful Masters of subordinate lodges.

## **GRAND LODGE OFFICERS' INSTALLATION**

The April 30, 2016 afternoon stood witness to the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers for the ensuing masonic year where appointed and elected GLP officers from District Grand Lecturers to the Grand Master of Masons will be installed in their respective positions.

To preside in this year's installation, MW Voltaire T. Gazmin requested no less than one of the most revered Past Grand Masters---MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, GMH, to preside over the ceremonies as Grand Installing Officer. Completing the installation team were MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., PGM as Grand Master of Ceremonies, MW Juanito P. Abergas, PGM as Asst. Grand Master of Ceremonies, and MW Pacifico B. Anig, PGM as Installing Chaplain.

Like fine wine, MW Rosendo Herrera exhibited dignified mastery of the gavel and microphone as he installed MW Voltaire T. Gazmin as the 99th Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the

Philippines.

In his inaugural speech (see full speech on page ), MW Voltaire T. Gazmin narrated his interesting journey from a man of the military to a member of the Craft to his gradual rise in the ranks of Freemasonry.

He first expressed his gratitude to those that supported his journey to the Grand East and gave special mention to his beloved spouse, Ms. Rhodora H. Gazmin, for all the love, support and understanding that she has extended to him through these years and asked for one more year as he embarks on his new tour of duty as Grand Master.

MW Gazmin also highlighted the theme of his administration which is to personify Freemasonry and urged the brethren to think, speak and act in accordance to what should be the Mason's Way.

*"Brethren, our mission is to show to the outside world by our examples as Masons that there is a better way for men to live. We cannot lead by actions if our actions within the fraternity are themselves undesirable,"* he said.

In ending his speech, the new Grand Master was met with a rousing applause and standing ovation, particularly those dignitaries sitting in the Grand East.

Immediate Past Grand Master MW Tomas G. Rentoy III was then awarded his Past Grand Master's jewel by Grand Treasurer MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH as he was thanked for his efforts towards the reformation initiatives of the Grand Lodge.

Dignitaries from foreign jurisdictions such as Australia, Japan, China, Italy, California, New York, Washington, the Middle East, India and Scotland then offered their congratulations as well as gave their respective tokens to MW Voltaire T. Gazmin. And for the first time, the Grand Master's Gala was opened to all brethren where everybody was treated to bountiful food, drinks as well as music and dancing.

## *Grand Lodge Officers*

Grand Master	Voltaire T. Gazmin
Deputy Grand Master	Abraham N. Tolentino
Senior Grand Warden	Romeo S. Momo
Junior Grand Warden	Agapito S. Suan, Jr.
Grand Treasurer	Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH
Grand Secretary	Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GMH
Assistant Grand Treasurer	Manuel Luis P. Idquival
Assistant Grand Secretary	Oliver V. Yabut
Grand Auditor	D. Paulo D. Vidanes
Grand Chaplain	Christian A. Arbues
Grand Orator	Jose A. Lim III
Grand Marshal	Benito T. Ramos
Grand Historian	Hernani B. Lopez, Sr.
Grand Senior Deacon	Norman T. Tagum
Grand Junior Deacon	Antonio T. Valencia
Grand Standard Bearer	Adonis G. Agreda
Grand Sword Bearer	Earl L. Navarro
Grand Bible Bearer	Emil Andrew M. Dela Rosa II
Senior Grand Lecturer	Abelardo L. Aportadera, Jr.
Junior Grand Lecturers:	
NCR (MD NCR A & G)	Arnel F. Pilapil
NCR (MD NCR B, C & D)	Fahad Al-Rashad S. Lucman
NCR (MD NCR E & F)	Orlando M. Mabutas
Northern Luzon East	Louie B. Gepilano
	Gualfredo C. Martinez
Northern Luzon West	Val C. Santos
	Simon B. Brown
Central Luzon	Neil C. Farala
	Laverne L. Manangbao
	Gerardo C. Feliciano
Southern Luzon (Bicol)	Noel E. Rosal
Southern Luzon (Quezon, Batangas & Mindoro)	Manuel C. Espiritu, Jr.
Southern Luzon (Cavite & Laguna)	Roberto C. Arceo
Western Visayas	Miller V. Serondo
	Luis Jose Maria D. Ong
Central Visayas	Dennis M. Siclot
Eastern Visayas	Walberto A. Honey, Sr.
Western Mindanao	Jacinto C. Tambolero
Southern Mindanao	Joseph Y. Ang
Northern Mindanao	Oscar V. Badelles



Installation of the 99th Grand Master





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Caraga	Reynaldo C. Ibanez
Overseas	Ricardo P. Idquival
Senior Grand Steward	Teodoro G. Salud
Junior Grand Steward	Celso G. Mandocdoc
Grand Pursuivant	George A. Brown
Grand Organist	Arnel Inocencio D. Cantos
Grand Tyler	Ricardo T. Misa

## *Board for General Purposes*

President	MW Rudyardo V. Bunda
Vice President	MW Reynato S. Puno
Members	MW Rosendo C. Herrera
	MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr.
	MW Danilo D. Angeles
	MW Pacifico B. Aniag
	MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy
Secretary	RW Abraham N. Tolentino

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	Bro. Segundo Z. Barte, Jr.
Close-In Photographer	Bro. Ruferick C. Somera

*District Deputy Grand Masters*

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NCR-B: Metro Manila	VW Winston C. Chingkiat
NCR-C: Metro Manila	VW Cecil R. Chen
NCR-D: Metro Manila	VW Fernando C. Nicolas
NCR-E: Metro Manila	VW Benito G. Se Jr
NCR-F: Metro Manila	VW Renato H. Driz
NCR-G: Metro Manila	VW Amando L. Melo, Jr.

**LUZON**

CAR Mountain Province, Kalinga, and Apayao	VW Clarence C. Golocan
RI Pangasinan	VW Romeo G. Lim
RI CAR Benguet and La Union	VW Arturo V. Figueroa
RI CAR Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, and Abra	VW Allen D. Aguilar
RII Nueva Vizcaya (South)	VW Angelito C. Baclog
RII Isabela (North)	VW Severo B. Sinense
RII Cagayan	VW Eduardo V. Interior
RII Isabela (South) / Quirino	VW Tomas C. Bautista
RII Nueva Vizcaya (North) and Ifugao	VW Lupo B. Alava
RIII Pampanga	VW Narciso A. Abanador
RIII Bataan	VW Gregorio M. Sison
RIII Zambales	VW Elpidio Jose DR Manuel
RIII Nueva Ecija (South)	VW Alfredo C. Soriano
RIII Bulacan	VW Fernando D. Garcia III
RIII Nueva Ecija (North)	VW Renato C. Vergara
RIII Tarlac	VW Rampel Luis P. de Guzman
RIV Cavite (East)	VW Gonzalo Q. Mapili, Jr.
RIV Cavite (West)	VW Sebastian C. Siga-an
RIV Laguna	VW Lorenzo A. Javier
RIV Quezon-Marinduque	VW Manuel L. Chua
RIV Batangas	VW Romulo E. Torio, Jr.
RIV Mindoro	VW Roger D. King
RIV Rizal	VW Teodorico G. Castor
RV Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Catanduanes	VW John C. Buendia
RV Albay, Sorsogon, and Masbate	VW Eugene C. Cua

**VISAYAS**

RVI Panay Island	VW Ren T. Darroca
RXVIII Negros Islands	VW Aquiles M. Ascalon, Jr.
RVII Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor	VW Douglas S. Tan

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RVIII Samar VW Antonio Uy-Sobremonte Jr.  
RVIII Leyte VW Thomas A. Cu

## MINDANAO

RIX Zamboanga del Sur and Sibuguey	VW Anastacio M. Bahinting
RIX Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Norte	VW Claver A. Pajaren
RIX and ARMM Zamboanga City, Sulu, Basilan, and Tawi - Tawi	VW Atila S. Barre
RX Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City	VW Manuelito U. Acabal
RX Misamis Oriental and Camiguin	VW Isidro V. Butaslac Jr.
RX Misamis Occidental	VW Ronie M. Ortega
RX and ARMM Lanao Province	VW Alan U. Buenaventura
RX Bukidnon (North)	VW Bartolome M. Tiongson
RX Bukidnon (South)	VW Magdalino Q. Gadrinab
RXI Davao del Sur and Davao City	VW Julius Voltaire Rommel C. Cubelo
RXI Davao del Norte and Oriental	VW Julius S. Valdez
RXII North Cotabato and Cotabato City	VW Romegildo B. Alocelja, Jr.
RXII SoCSKSarGen	VW Roland P. Asperga
R XIII Agusan and Surigao	VW Benigno J. Dagani Jr.

## OVERSEAS

Guam	VW Edward R. Camacho
Japan	VW Hiroshi Yagi
Japan (Camp Zama)	VW David L. Ingram, Jr.
Korea	VW Herminigildo R. Flancia
Marianas Island	VW Wilfredo G. Ching

## *District Grand Lecturers*

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

NCR-A: Metro Manila

VW Augusto F. Buenaventura  
VW Rolando C. Rodolfo  
VW Rommel B. Desamero  
VW Richard J. Cane  
VW Isaias B. Ubana II

NCR-B: Metro Manila

VW Juan Arnel D. Garcia  
VW Reummel M. Sison  
VW Crisostomo C. Beltran  
VW Ramon C. Cristobal

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NCR-C: Metro Manila

VW Bon Dan D. Chan  
VW Erick Q. de Guzman  
VW Michael Francis M. Perez  
VW Kenneth G. Tieng  
VW Malaya V. Francisco  
VW Gil B. Mendoza

NCR-D: Metro Manila

VW Jose D. Ramos  
VW Ricardo Z. Lumbre Jr.  
VW Marcelito SM Pescante  
VW Jeffrey N. Co  
VW Joel Edward Gaspar Sr.  
VW Karlo D. Domingo

NCR-E: Metro Manila

VW Rodrigo V. Macatangay Jr.  
VW Noel R. Loyola  
VW Arthur Allan G. Ponce  
VW Jose Eugenio B. Illenberger

NCR-F: Metro Manila

VW Pablo C. Duldulao  
VW Emelito M. Felix  
VW Gerard A. Ceballos  
VW Felix L. Fernando  
VW Jonathan S. Presquito

NCR-G: Metro Manila

VW Francisco C. Isip  
VW Edito C. Granada  
VW Ferdinand F. Pacis  
VW Jaime DC Miguel  
VW Edgardo C. Espiritu  
VW Sandro Jay DC. Tafalla  
VW Venustiano C. Gonzales

LUZON

CAR Mountain Province, Kalinga, and Apayao

VW Jaime B. Dulay  
VW Julius C. Garcia  
VW Manuel P. Madio

RI Pangasinan

VW Gilbert P. Botardo  
VW Buenaventura DG Benavides III  
VW Guanson Y. Lo  
VW Gerald G. Meneses



Tributes to the new Grand Master





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RI CAR Benguet and La Union

VW Ivan Kim B. Alwit  
VW Ronaldo T. Vergara

RI CAR Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, and Abra

VW Arturo H. Hermosa  
VW Gavino A. Castaneda

RII Nueva Vizcaya (South)

VW Zoilo L. Carabacan, Jr.  
VW Antonio V. Burton

RII Isabela (North) / Quirino

VW Geronimo M. Palce  
VW Bonifacio R. Benitez  
VW Emerson V. Barcellano  
VW Resurrecion C. Mariano

RII Cagayan

VW Miller C. Tanguilan  
VW Michael D. Callueng  
VW Sergio M. Soriano Jr  
VW Wilfred C. Adquilen Jr.

RII Isabela (South) / Quirino

VW Emmanuel M. Salamanca  
VW Augusto P. Bayubay  
VW Ronald B. Uy  
VW Paciano P. Bacani  
VW Glen O. Mandac

RII Nueva Vizcaya (North) and Ifugao

VW Oscar M. Nava  
VW Telesforo T. Pugong Jr.  
VW Jeremias C. Rosete

RIII Pampanga

VW Arnel T. Calaguas  
VW Roberto A. Payawal  
VW Nicanor S. Targa

RIII Bataan

VW Romeo G. Caragay  
VW Mabini R. Pulido Jr.

RIII Zambales

VW Pablito T. Villarin  
VW Roberto L. Correos  
VW Fortunato T. Servano  
VW Jordan M. Dizon  
VW Joseph B. Laceda  
VW Kriztopher John K. Fernandez

# THE CABLE TOW VOL. 93 SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 1

RIII Nueva Ecija (South)

VW Jose R. Carlos  
VW Allan Ray P. Guevarra  
VW Augusto M. Yalung  
VW Aquilino M. Valino Jr.  
VW Danilo V. Costa  
VW Arnold Ateneo V. Lucas  
VW Renato B. Puno, Jr.  
VW Joselito G. Cruz  
VW Norberto D. Coronel  
VW Efren D. De Leon  
VW Epitacio C. Sulfelix

RIII Bulacan

VW Reynaldo M. Cabauatan, Jr.  
VW Carl B. Badillo  
VW Elmer F. Arellano  
VW Dennis P. Vergara  
VW Elmer A. Vitug

RIII Nueva Ecija (North)

VW Virgilio C. Dacquel  
VW Eliseo L. Ruiz  
VW Ariel C. Bartolome  
VW Froilan P. Tolentino  
VW Oliver P. Ang  
VW Leonard R. Banago  
VW Sulpicio B. Bugtong

RIII Tarlac

VW Sol P. Palomo, Jr.  
VW Salvador L. Ayes  
VW Kenneth B. Yambao  
VW Christopher P. Tayag  
VW Jimson R. Soriano  
VW Nelson M. Abraham

RIV Cavite (East)

VW Sherwin C. de Joya  
VW Nathan S. Lim  
VW Reynan A. Malia  
VW Ferdinand V. Lagunday  
VW Benedicto F. Pana, Jr.  
VW Victor R. Igos

RIV Cavite (West)

VW Danilo T. Estapon  
VW Roy E. Castronuevo  
VW Ariel C. Avilla

The Grand Lodge Team 2016-2017



ON OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS  
OR MASONIC YEAR 2016-2017

2016  
nCom





Grand Master's Installation Gala



INSTALLATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR MASONIC YEAR 2016-





# THE CABLE TOW VOL. 93 SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 1

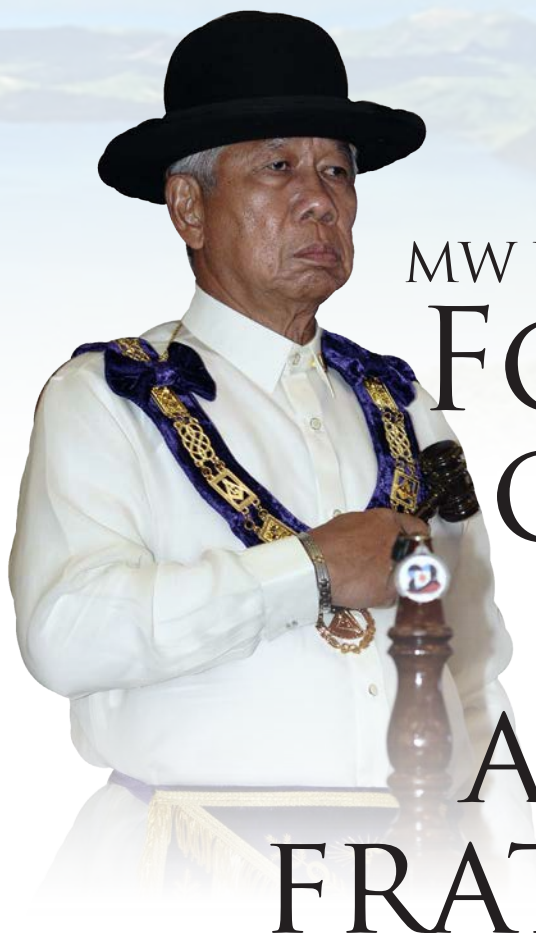
	VW Renato L. Escurel VW Raul J. Belesario VW Fideles D. Sallidao
RIV Laguna	VW Ian R. Galarosa VW Norman T. Tolentino VW Winston P. Uy VW Jaime P. Fajardo
RIV Quezon-Marinduque	VW Ramon C. Talaga III VW Efren C. Nalda VW Robinson L. Chua
RIV Batangas	VW Virgilio Nolasco H. Aguila VW Armand T. Arias VW Armando P. Angeles Jr.
RIV Mindoro	VW Vicente C. Guerrero VW Nelson S. Gabutero Jr.
RIV Rizal	VW Arnel V. Querubin VW Gustav Joseph O. Bocek VW Ser Arnel S. Cruz
RV Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Catanduanes	VW Nestor B. Buque Jr. VW Melvin C. Asis VW Raoul A. Herras
RV Albay, Sorsogon, and Masbate	VW Jorge T. Dioneda VW Ralfranco L. Gerona
VISAYAS	
RVI Panay Island	VW Guillermo J. Matiling Jr. VW Oliver L. Cambas VW J. T. Gabin VW Joenilo O. Sulpico
RXVIII Negros Islands	VW Fred L. Trajeras VW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching VW Romeo N. Guinto
RVII Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor	VW Basil B. Ting

# THE CABLE TOW VOL. 93 SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 1

	VW Bryan Y. Teson VW Jose Oliver B. Yu VW Florendo B. Opay
RVIII Samar	VW Michael C. Uy VW Teofilo G. Yambao
RVIII Leyte	VW Rafael N. Lucero VW Manuel T. Salazar
MINDANAO	
RIX Zamboanga del Sur and Sibuguey	VW Marcos M. Bahinting VW Dimapuno L. Magangcong VW Ruel J. Gimony
RIX and X Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Norte	VW Ronnie L. Gurdiel VW Olympio A. Mangao
RIX and ARMM Zamboanga City, Sulu, Basilan, and Tawi-Tawi	VW Stephen L. Kaw VW Jose Rizalino L. Ortega VW Nonito S. Manuel
RX Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City	VW Florentino G. Diputado VW Alphon R. Lagamon VW Julius Ceasar E. Platon VW Emilio A. Tumala II
RX Misamis Oriental and Camiguin	VW Kristoffer Eric D. Abellanos VW Mark R. Valdevilla VW Carlo Dominic V. Lim VW Jesus B. Unabia
RX Misamis Occidental	VW Jaime B. Baldomero VW Joseph C. Migrinio
RX and ARMM Lanao Province	VW Paniares U. Adap VW Jaime P. Magnetico VW Arassad M. Macumbal
RX Bukidnon (North)	VW Anton Randolph O. Unabia VW Ricarte V. Adalin

# THE CABLE TOW VOL. 93 SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 1

RX Bukidnon (South)	VW Antonio A. Casabuena VW Rowel P. Orlino
RXI Davao del Sur and Davao City	VW Reynaldo A. Ramos VW George M. Cabebe VW Merlindo R. Tinapay
RXI Davao del Norte and Oriental	VW William M. Angos VW Felix V. Luchavez
RXII North Cotabato and Cotabato City	VW Gilberto B. Tuzon VW Jose Marie R. Simangan VW Delos A. Martinez Jr.
RXII SocSKSarGen	VW Rodrigo G. Javier VW Rodolfo G. Agreda VW Jimmy C. Andang
RXIII Agusan and Surigao	VW Ariel DT. Verano VW Junrey E. Labatos VW Leoncio C. Bautista Jr.
OVERSEAS	
Guam	VW Roque C. Ogo
Japan	VW Marlon Malicdem
Japan (Camp Zama)	VW Napoleon A. Sison
Korea	VW George E. Stillwell, Jr.
Marianas Island	VW Romeo D. Malasarte



MW VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN  
FOR LOVE  
OF FLAG,  
FAMILY  
AND THE  
FRATERNITY

*“We must cultivate our own garden. When man was put in the Garden of Eden he was put there so that he should work, which proves that man was not born to rest.”*

These were the immortal words of French enlightenment writer François-Marie Arouet, also known by his nom de plume Voltaire.

It speaks no less than man’s continuous mission of service and labor of improving the world around--a description that best befits the goals of every worthy and diligent craftsman of our noble Order and words that best describe the steller life of our current Grand Master—MW Voltaire Tuvera Gazmin.

# THE CABLE TOW VOL. 93 SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 1

## THE BIRTH OF A SOLDIER

Voltaire T. Gazmin was born to Brig. Gen. Segundo L. Gazmin, Sr., PA and Petra T. Gazmin on October 22, 1944 in the town of Moncada, Tarlac. Patriotism indeed runs in the family as his father, who also had a distinguished career in the Philippine Army, and was also survivor of the Bataan Death March during the Second World War, joined the now-defunct Philippine Constabulary after his service in the military.

He took his primary education at St. Paul College in 1949 and later pursued his elementary education at the University of the Philippines Integrated School in 1954. He took up his secondary education at the University of the Philippines High School in 1958.

His soon-to-be decorated military life took a detour as MW Voltaire Gazmin spent two years at the University of the Philippines as a B.S. Chemistry student until he later decided to bid for a slot at the Philippine Military Academy, where he was successfully admitted in 1964. He graduated from the Academy on March 24, 1968, choosing to serve in the Philippine Army.

## THE OFFICER COMETH

MW Voltaire Gazmin started his military career as Team Leader of the Home Defense Forces Group (Airborne) based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija province.

When then-President Ferdinand Marcos declared Martial Law on September 21, 1972, Senator Benigno Aquino and several high-ranking politicians from the opposition were arrested and imprisoned. Aquino and Senator José Diokno were secretly transferred from Fort Bonifacio in Taguig to Fort Ramón Magsaysay in General Tino, Nueva Ecija. Gazmin was at the time the Detachment Commander of the 1st Military Security Detachment, Military Security Unit of the Army. As Sen. Aquino's jailer at their detention,

Gazmin discreetly monitored Aquino's status and welfare while adhering to his oath as a professional soldier and following conditions set under Martial Law.

As a Tarlac native himself, Gazmin has always nurtured a special relationship with the Aquinos of Tarlac as then Sen. Aquino served as principal sponsor when Lt. Gazmin married his fiancée, Rhodora Hernández in December 21, 1969.

During the term of the late President Corazon Aquino, Gazmin was tasked to handle her security requirements and to command the newly-organized Presidential Security Group (PSG). As commander of the PSG, then-Col. Gazmin helped defend President Aquino's government from at least seven coup d'état attempts, ending in December of 1989, marked as the bloodiest attempt to overthrow the democratic government of Aquino.

He also served as intelligence officer in various units



of the Army and also distinguished himself during the insurgency war in Mindanao.

## RISE OF THE GENERAL

He would later get appointed as Defense and Armed Forces attaché at the Philippines' Embassy in Washington, D.C. He got his first star at this post.

After his tour overseas, he served as Brigade Commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry division based in Isabela, Basilan province.

On September 1998, Gazmin was appointed Commander of the Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) after serving as the Regimental Commander of the Special Forces Regiment (Airborne) and concurrently, the Commanding General of the Special Operations Command of the Philippine Army in 1997.

## Commanding General of the Philippine Army

Upon the appointment by President Joseph Estrada on July 13, 1999, Gazmin assumed the post as the 40th Commanding General of the Philippine Army, and retired as a Lieutenant General on his 56th birthday on October 22, 2000—the mandatory age of retirement for officers in the Philippines' military.

## Military Awards and Commendations

As a highly-decorated and distinguished officer, Gazmin was awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander), the Distinguished Conduct Star, the Distinguished Service Star, three Gold Cross Medal, a Bronze Cross Medal, Military Merit medals, eleven Military Commendation Medal, Long Service Medals, Combat Commander's Kagitingan Badges, Anti-Dissidence Campaign Medals and Ribbons.

As an Army Commander, he was also awarded nine Luzon Anti-Dissidence Campaign Medals and

Ribbons, nine Visayas Anti-Dissidence Campaign Medals and Ribbons, eight Mindanao Anti-Dissidence Campaign Medals and Ribbons, the Presidential Citation Badge, two Philippine Army Command Plaque in 1997 & 1998, one American Legion Citation of Appreciation, one AFP parachutist badge and countless number of Letter of Commendations.

## FROM MILITARY TO DIPLOMACY

Having barely retired from the military service, his diplomatic acumen would catapult him to become the Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, that began in May 2002 and ended for good in June 2004, the designation that he performed with honor and distinction in the service of the Filipino people.

## DEFENDER OF GOVERNMENT AND OF THE CONSTITUTION

For another tour of public duty, MW Voltaire Gazmin was called from a relatively peaceful farm life to assume the post as 35th Defense Secretary under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III on June 30, 2010. His designation as Defense secretary was confirmed by the 24-member Commission on Appointments on February 23, 2011.

As Defense Secretary, Gazmin started his term with a commitment towards transparency and expediting processes without cutting corners.

## Programs and Policies

Modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines: Under his watch, the long overdue modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was being given a priority. The 15-year AFP Modernization Act of 1995 was set to expire as a law in 2011 including the allocations for the modernization but under the Aquino administration, a P75 Billion 5-year program was introduced that would give the AFP its long overdue hardware upgrade.



THE ORIGINAL TEAM VTG: The Grand Master, along with his lovely wife Sis. Rhodie, poses with members of the Gazmin family.

*“Voltaire Gazmin has made himself an instrument of the Mason’s charity, fraternal, educational, social, and character-building society. A true Mason at heart, he has his own legacies: A plan for every battle that he won, offered a sacrifice for every good that he did, and paid a price for every dream he lived. He established a path of leadership that was blazed with excellence and he accomplished his missions with the welfare of his men close to his heart.”*

Establishing a Lasting Peace: Being a career soldier and a witness to the decades-long insurgency in Mindanao, Gazmin pledged support for the Aquino government’s initiative to resume peace talks with the communist insurgents and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He would implement President Aquino’s directives to appoint and install new commanders in the various military positions including the post of Chief of Staff, AFP, in order to effect maximum efficiency and effectiveness in the professional management of the Armed Forces.

### **KNOCKING ON THE DOORS OF FREEMASONRY**

The pursuit of the degrees of Freemasonry has always provided an additional challenge for those who nurture a successful career in the military. Yet, his career as a professional soldier has never served as a deterrent to the then determined good person, Bro. Voltaire Gazmin.

He was born into Masonry on August 14, 1982 when he was raised as a Master Mason in Maranaw Lodge No. 111 in Iligan City.

However, his duty to his mother lodge had to give way to the exigencies of his position as a military officer and his duty to country. Yet, this has never stopped him from pursuing his mission as a mason when the opportunity allows.

During his travels across the country, he led in organizing military and police masons in areas where he was stationed. Among such undertakings were the organization of Club 370 of Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija as well as the Banahaw Square and Compass Club in Lucena City, Quezon Province which he did when he was still the Commanding General of the Southern Luzon Command.

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He was a member of the South Travellers Club in 1994 which paved the way for the institution of what is now Palanyag Lodge No. 323 of Paranaque City the following year of which he was among its charter members. In 2006, he ascended to the Oriental Chair of the lodge as its Worshipful Master.

Upon descending the Oriental Chair, the following year, he was assigned as Grand Lodge Inspector of Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322.

His sojourn as a mason and as a soldier led him to foreign shores where he joined the Scottish Rite of Alexandria, Virginia, the Loudon Royal Arch No. 55 of Virginia, Piedmont Commanders No. 26 of Manassas, Virginia, and Kena Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Temple in Fairfax, Virginia.

In July 3, 2008, MW Voltaire Gazmin was invited and advanced as a member of the Royal order of Scotland of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Philippines which is located at the Scottish Rite Temple in Manila. Membership to this Order is only by invitation and there can only be a maximum of 50 members at any given time in the Provincial Lodge of

the Philippines.

In April 2013, during the 97th Annual Communication held in Iloilo City, Iloilo, MW Voltaire Gazmin was elected by the brethren to the position of Junior Grand Warden.

As one of the Grand Lodge's lights, MW Voltaire Gazmin has supported the various reform agenda of his predecessors as well as encouraging the brethren to uphold the noble principles of the Masonic institution in more than three decades of masonic labor.

Past Grand Lodge Orator VW Teodoro "Teddy" Salud of Cavite has eloquently immortalized our Grand Master in the following words: *"Voltaire Gazmin has made himself an instrument of the Mason's charity, fraternal, educational, social, and character-building society. A true Mason at heart, he has his own legacies: A plan for every battle that he won, offered a sacrifice for every good that he did, and paid a price for every dream he lived. He established a path of leadership that was blazed with excellence and he accomplished his missions with the welfare of his men close to his heart."*



IT STARTED HERE: The triumphant VW Gazmin, when he won the JGW election a few years ago in Iloilo City.



*By improving ourselves every day in thoughts, in speech, in manner or in every helpful way, we are bound to develop that outstanding trait of impeccable integrity of character by which all Masons should be known for, admired and emulated.*

*THIS YEAR'S MASONIC THEME:*

*“Personify Freemasonry. Be the best person through the best way. Think, speak, and act the Mason’s way.”*

**THE MASONIC THEME ADOPTED BY GRAND MASTER VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN DURING HIS TERM IS SIMPLE YET PROFOUND. IT BASICALLY DWELLS ON OUR CONSCIOUS PERFORMANCE OF OUR OBLIGATIONS AS MASONS AND CALLS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF THE VISIBLE TRAITS OF A REALLY GOOD MAN.**

To begin with, a man upon becoming a Mason likewise becomes the visible representation of Freemasonry to all within his circle. As Masonry will be judged by the world by the character of its members, a mason must therefore think, speak and act in a manner worthy of his membership in our Fraternity. He must remember that he has entered into an obligation sworn before God to live strictly according to the great tenets and teachings of our institution.

Many of us have become complacent or lax in the observance of our self-imposed duties and obligation as members of our ancient craft. Unwittingly, Freemasonry has been wrongly regarded by some of us as just another ordinary fraternity of man. There is no greater disservice to our craft. Let us not forget that we belong to an ancient and very reputable worldwide society which requires exacting moral standards of its members and which imposes the performance of well-defined as well as unwritten set of obligations. Unfortunately, some of us deem our duties and obligations as mere ornamental chores, instead of viewing them with the utter seriousness and sacredness that they deserve.

Internally, this results into a breakdown of our duty to the lodge, to the brethren and to the Craft, with telling effect on the over-all reputation of our Fraternity. The unwanted manifestations are quite evident. Year in and year out, we now suffer the spectacle of bad and undesirable attitude displayed by some in the halls of our craft. Inside the lodges, we see private piques and quarrels, prolonged absences, non-payment of dues, commission of fraud against a brother or a lodge, evasion of the duty to help, wanton violation of rules and edicts pertaining to petitioners. Outside, some commit nefarious practices in their profession or in their social interaction which put our fraternity in a very bad light. We cannot allow all this to go on unabated.

Having assumed a sacred obligation, we should consider it not as a drudgery, but a challenge, an invitation – literally an opportunity which demands specific achievement. It is the opportunity to help those less fortunate than ourselves, to correct some faults which irritate others or to improve ourselves by broadening our horizon through study and self-improvement in the ways of our Craft.

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Personification of Freemasonry comes in many varied forms. For the benefit of our family and loved ones, we owe them an obligation of keeping ourselves mentally, physically, socially, spiritually and morally fit – clean and healthy in all respects! For the benefit of our Lodge – we owe some measure of overt support in all its laudable activities; to display proper attire and demeanor; to attend meetings with punctuality; to promptly pay our dues; to maintain good behavior in the Temple and the Ante-room; to observe proper etiquette in all Masonic duties; to maintain sobriety and discipline in our fellowship activities; to be temperate in speech and to display courtesy and affability to all our brethren.

And for the benefit of Masonry in general, we all have the obligation to create a favorable image in order that the world may know that upon becoming a Mason, we have become a better man. And so it should be second nature to us to ever display devotion we owe

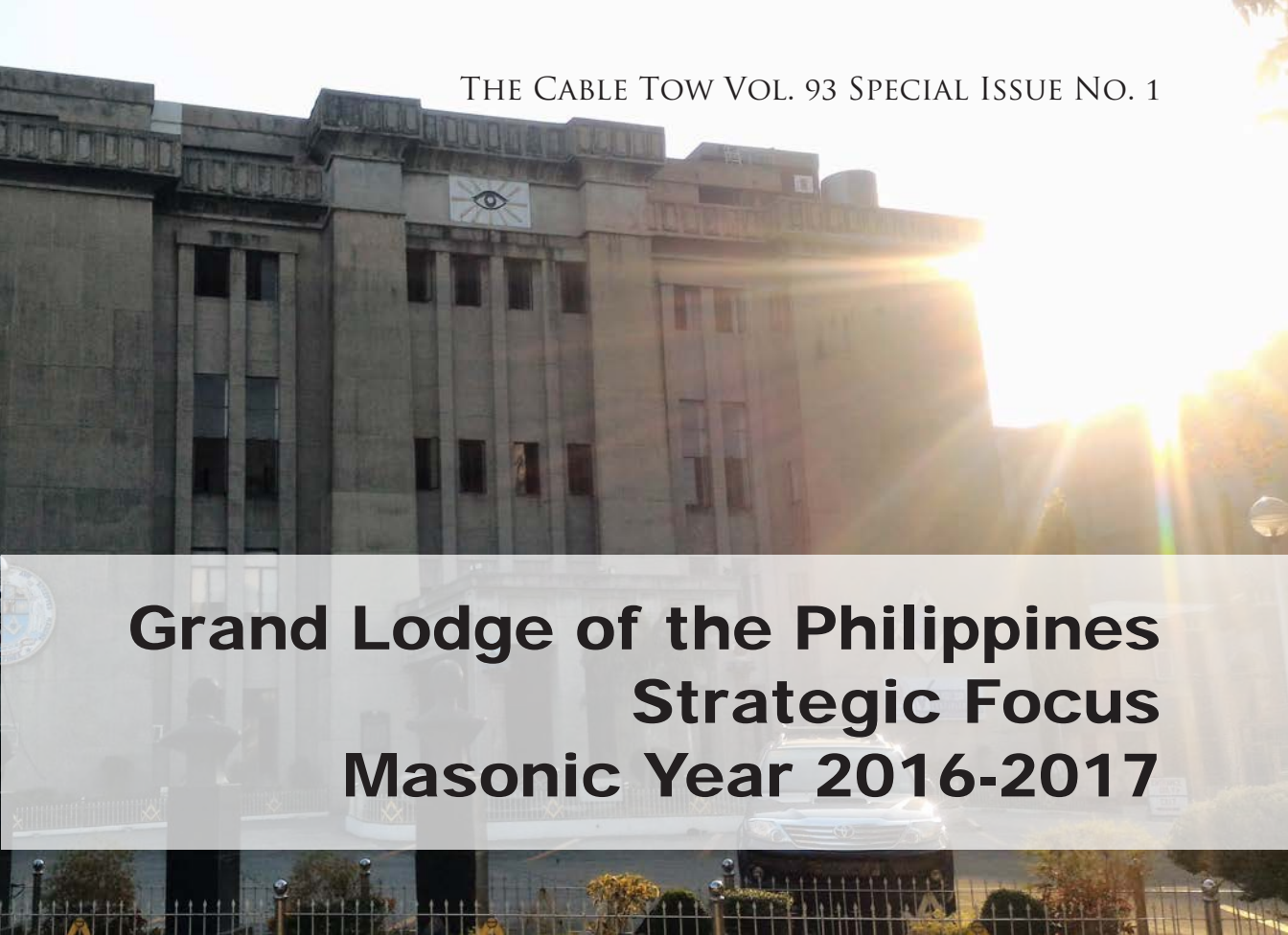
to the Great Almighty and to follow the Volume of the Sacred Law as the great law of the brotherhood; to be peaceable citizens that owe undying allegiance to our country; and as Brotherhood of Man is the cornerstone of our Fraternity, it behooves upon us to treat others with the same respect and consideration with which we would like to be treated.

The lessons imparted by our symbols and rituals are great tools to remind us of our Masonic duties and help guide us in the straight path of a really good man. By improving ourselves every day in thoughts, in speech, in manner or in every helpful way, we are bound to develop that outstanding trait of impeccable integrity of character by which all Masons should be known for, admired and emulated.

When a mason passes by, let us hear others say - “There goes a mason, there goes a good man”. And our mission is done.



THE GRAND MASTER SPEAKS: MW Voltaire Gazmin, addressing the GLP officers for the first time as Grand Master.



# Grand Lodge of the Philippines Strategic Focus Masonic Year 2016-2017

## VISION

To Preserve the Integrity of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and Maintain it as a Strong, Unified and Supreme Masonic Authority in Philippine Freemasonry.

## TERM OBJECTIVE

To put in place a highly stable and appropriate internal mechanism for a more effective, efficient and highly responsive accomplishment of the goals and programs of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

## DIRECTIONS

### CONTINUATION OF THE 7-POINT AGENDA

In line with the agreement for a sustained five-

year development plan envisioned under the past administrations, the GLP shall remain focused in the fulfillment of the following established programs:

1. Improvement of the Selection Process of Petitioners;

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2. Establishment of Adequate Mentorship Program for Candidates, Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts;
3. Continuing Masonic Education for Regular Masons;
4. Enhanced Family Involvement in Masonic Affairs;
5. Strengthening of Relationships with Appendant Bodies and other Masonic associations;
6. Improvement in Administrative and Financial Processes; and
7. Enhancement of Electoral Reforms

## IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPLEMENTARY THRUST ON FRATERNAL SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges shall focus on the following charitable relief and assistance:

1. Community and Public Projects
  - i. Assistance to Public Education
  - ii. Support to Law Enforcement Agencies
  - iii. Medical Missions to Depressed Communities
  - iv. Emergency Response to Victims of Natural Calamities
2. Relief to Worthy Destitute Brothers
  - i. Financial Assistance to Victims of Calamities
  - ii. Augmentation of current Death and Medical Benefits
  - iii. Monitoring of Relief to Widows and Orphans
3. Establishment of columbaries at the Masonic Cemetery

## IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS

### IMPROVEMENT OF PETITIONER

### SELECTION PROCESS

The Grand Lodge shall cause the issuance of the following implementing manuals:

1. Manual in the Selection of Petitioners and Guidelines in the Progression of Candidates for Masonic Degrees;
2. Comprehensive Instructions to the Investigating Committee;
3. Code of Conduct in the Treatment of Petitioners and Candidates for Degrees

### MENTORSHIP OF CANDIDATES

1. A permanent committee of mentors in each subordinate lodge shall be instituted composed of three Past Masters whose primary duty is to monitor, instruct and guide the progress of candidates for degrees.
2. The Grand Lodge shall devise a comprehensive orientation seminar on Freemasonry to be held twice a year at the Grand Lodge or at the District level, to be attended largely by petitioners and candidates but likewise opened to members of families of masons and families of candidates, students or other persons interested about the craft. It shall feature both Masonic luminaries and expert lecturers in Masonic studies.

### CONTINUING MASONIC EDUCATION AND GROWTH

The following programs shall be implemented to enhance the Masonic knowledge and skills of individual members:

1. Observance of suggested monthly topics by the District Grand Lecturers;
2. The suggested monthly topics shall be complemented by a Masonic lecture by a lodge member on relevant Masonic education topics to be assigned by the Worshipful Master;

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3. Within a period of thirty (30) days from the installation of the District Officers, the DDGMs, under the auspices of the concerned Junior Grand Lecturers, shall cause the holding of a mandatory Lodge Management Seminar to be attended by all lights and officers, including new master masons in their respective districts. The GLP shall formulate and prescribe the seminar module.
  4. After the conduct of Lodge Management Seminar, the DDGMs shall within the next 30 days convene a Lodge of Instruction to be attended by all lodges. The GLP shall formulate and prescribe the seminar module.
  5. The DDGMs shall nominate to the IMES five names of potential lecturers to compose the pool of expert and authorized lecturers in the jurisdiction at large. Those selected shall be in charge of coordinating and cascading vital IMES modules of instruction at the district level.
  6. The GLIs shall strictly comply with the check list of requirements for every stated meeting of lodges and shall call up the lodge's attention for any deficiencies as noted, such as, absence of installed officers, unauthorized reading of monitors, mistakes in the execution of prescribed rituals, etc. In all instances, he shall endeavor to render a short instruction for the correction of works.
- and sports competition;
  3. Public seminars such as Masonic orientation and public installation of officers; Lodge of Remembrance; etc.
  4. Encourage attendance and involvement of children and wives in appendant bodies and clubs such as DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls, Jobs Daughters, Amaranth, etc.;
  5. Organize social affairs such as Ladies Night, Valentine's Party, Christmas Party, Ateng's Club, etc.
  6. Enlist support and participation of family in charity fund raising activities;

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL REFORMS

1. PRO-ACTIVE STANDING COMMITTEES - The various Grand Lodge Standing Committees shall have a mandatory monthly business meeting and shall submit a report of their activities to the Grand Master thru the Grand Secretary. Whenever necessary, they will report and recommend to the Grand Master the issuance of necessary edicts and circulars on matters covering their respective jurisdictional mandate. Any elective Grand Lodge officer, including the Senior Grand Lecturer, shall have the authority to attend or act as co-presiding officer when present in any committee hearing.
2. FAST COMMUNICATIONS - The Grand Lodge shall ensure that all edicts, circulars and other directives are immediately uploaded to the Grand Lodge website. The downloading of such data by the subordinate lodges and the reading of the same in the business meeting of lodges shall have the same legal effect as a regular Grand Lodge correspondence. The GLP shall likewise continue the computerization of all records, reports and other documentations.

### FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Lodges shall implement greater participation of family members involving them in the following activities:

1. Scheduled lodge charity activities such as medical and dental missions; support to public education, and other community assistance projects;
2. Lodge family affairs such as lodge outings

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3. STANDARDIZATION OF MASONIC MATERIALS - The Grand Lodge shall cause the official and standard issuance of official ritual monitors and other Masonic publications for the standard observance of all lodges and members. In the case of ritual and floor works, the GLP shall ensure that the same is embodied in a single reference material.
4. ADVANCED PROGRAMMING OF MASONIC ACTIVITIES - The Grand Lodge shall fix in advance the exact schedule of Masonic activities to be observed by the GLP and the subordinate lodges during the Masonic year. The Grand Master and other Grand Lodge Officers shall endeavor to schedule official visits to Masonic districts in the entire jurisdiction and communicate such schedule in advance to all concerned.
5. JUST AND SPEEDY DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS - The Grand Lodge shall come up with an updated inventory of pending dispute cases or charges for unmasonic conduct on file and shall require the appropriate committee to hold regular hearings or monthly stated meetings for the just and speedy disposition of cases.
6. UPDATING OF THE CONSTITUTION - The Grand Lodge shall require the publication of the latest updated version of the Constitution to take into account all approved edicts which impacted/amended certain provisions and ensure that the Constitution shall remain as the foremost repository of masonic laws and regulations in this jurisdiction.

## FINANCIAL REFORMS

1. The Grand Auditor shall formulate appropriate mechanisms to ensure that all funds and properties are duly accounted for and properly safeguarded. The Grand

Auditor shall submit his Audit Report directly to the Board for General Purposes.

2. The Grand Lodge shall require that the result of all fund-raising activities of lodges shall be properly reported to the Grand Lodge. To augment the finances of the lodge, all net proceeds of fund raising activities shall be deposited strictly to the account of the lodge which directly conducted it. The districts shall be discouraged from holding competing fund raising activities within their jurisdiction. Instead, the districts shall supervise and approve all fund raising activities and be entitled to a reasonable share of the proceeds in order to augment its operational funds.
3. The Grand Lodge shall examine the operations of subordinate lodges with negative financial conditions and shall devise or recommend appropriate actions.

## SUPPORT TO APPENDANT BODIES AND MASONIC ASSOCIATIONS

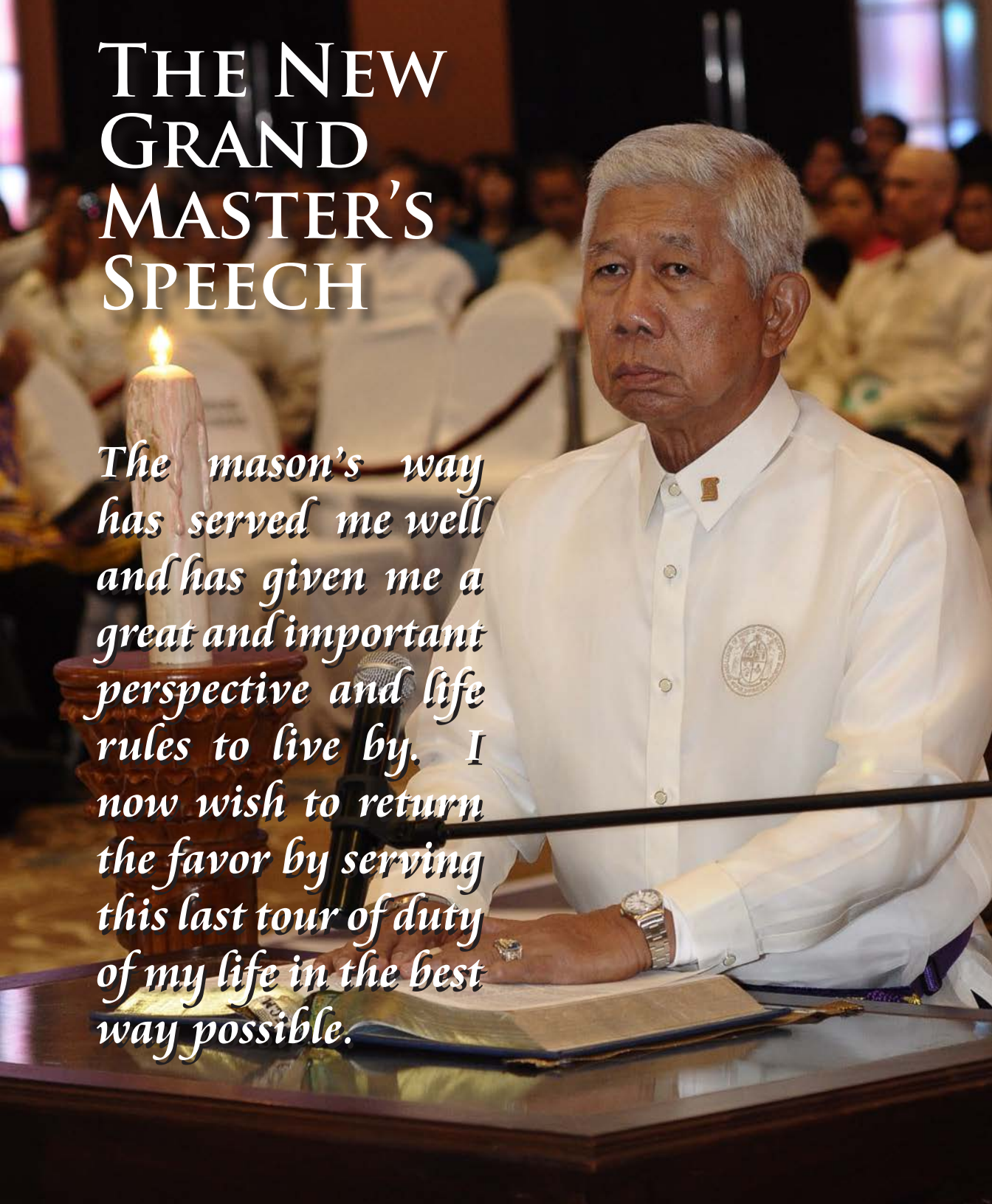
1. The Grand Lodge shall encourage membership to and active involvement of masons for all recognized appendant bodies.
2. The Grand Lodge shall encourage the accreditation of all masonic associations and clubs operating within its jurisdiction and shall devise appropriate rules and conditions to ensure that their operations coincide with the objectives of the Grand Lodge and the purposes of Masonry in general.

## ELECTORAL REFORMS

The Grand Lodge shall cause the review of the result of our immediate electoral process and shall recommend appropriate adjustments or enhancements to existing rules as may be warranted.

# THE NEW GRAND MASTER'S SPEECH

*The mason's way  
has served me well  
and has given me a  
great and important  
perspective and life  
rules to live by. I  
now wish to return  
the favor by serving  
this last tour of duty  
of my life in the best  
way possible.*



**The inaugural address of MW Voltaire T. Gazmin, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines given last April 30, 2016 at the Grand Ballroom, Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, Cavite**

Most Worshipful Sirs, Right Worshipful Sirs; Very Worshipful Sirs; Worshipful Sirs; Brethren; dignitaries in the east and on the floor; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Good evening!

It is my honor and great pride to address you all tonight, and for the very first time, as the Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

Many of you know that I spent a great deal of my life as a professional soldier for our beloved Republic. I became a soldier 53 years ago. And as a soldier, I have seen firsthand the ugliness of human conflict. I witnessed the devastation wrought by battles, the destruction of lives and properties, the dislocation of business and communities, along with the vicious cycle of vengeance and violence created among the combatants.

Amidst this background, thirty four (34) years ago, or in 1982, in my ardent aspiration to become a better person, I sought admission in the sanctuary of Maranao Lodge no. 111, which is a lodge situated in Mindanao where I was then serving active combat duty. That was a great turning point in my life as I was accepted and introduced to the noble and lofty world of freemasonry.

While my alma mater – the Philippine military academy, taught me the code of courage, integrity and loyalty, Freemasonry, through my mother lodge, patiently inculcated in me the tenets that all mankind should live by – devotion to God, the brotherhood of man, the practice of charity, and the observance of truth.

In my profession as a soldier, diplomat, and lately

as a civil servant, I have led my life conscious of Freemasonry's great tenets. In a very short while, I would finally retire from a long life of public service.

By then, I would have served six presidents of our great Republic, most of whom are aware of my membership in / and passion for Masonry. And I hope that in their eyes and in the eyes of those who knew of my Masonic association, I have made a good account of what a mason is.

The mason's way has served me well and has given me a great and important perspective and life rules to live by. I now wish to return the favor by serving this last tour of duty of my life in the best way possible.

And so today, it is with deepest honor that I assume the responsibility of the Grand Oriental Chair, and to act as the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines for the grand Masonic year 2016 –2017.

I thank from the bottom of my heart all the brethren in this Masonic jurisdiction for what I consider as the greatest distinction upon my person.

I also wish to thank my mother lodge, Maranao Lodge no. 111, for taking me into its fold; my dual lodge, Palanyag Lodge no. 323, for electing me as its master, enabling me to go up the progressive line of leadership in our Craft; to King Solomon Lodge No. 150 and Masonic District NCR-G, for their able handling of the AnCom 2016 hosting. The VTG team – you know who you are – thank you for your time, patience and perseverance!

But most of all, may I in all gratefulness commend the love, patience and understanding of my better half,

Rhodie, who stood by me at all times, good or bad, whose steadfast support enabled me to accomplish all my missions in life. Being a wife of a soldier is harsh enough, but the last six years of coping with the tremendous demands of my job is sheer sacrifice. But I have to ask you for another year of patience, my love.

As I assume my duties, brethren allow me to briefly go over with you on my personal view of the present state of Philippine freemasonry.

You will all agree with me that Philippine Freemasonry today is very much vibrant, active, and progressive. We have successfully nurtured the freedom secured to us by the heroism of our celebrated brethren. We have passed with flying colors our centennial year of Masonic existence in this great Filipino nation. We have expanded the number of our active lodges which now total to about 380 lodges in the jurisdiction and still growing. And when it comes to passion, loyalty and dedication to our Craft, there is no doubt that the Filipino brethren would rank among the top in the entire world of Masonry.

In short, Philippine Freemasonry is very well established and thriving nicely as an institution. We have but one supreme grand lodge and it is our sworn duty to always maintain its strength and integrity.

But not everything is rosy as we would like it to be. You and I know that we have many issues and challenges that urgently need to be resolved if we are to be truly entitled to be called as the refuge of good men desiring to be better.

I should be candid to let you know that from the tenures in office of MW Juanito Espino, Jr.; MW Alan Purisima; and MW Tomas Rentoy III, I have been part of the Grand Lodge leadership who agreed on a sustained five-year development program to address the pestering issues and problems besetting our Craft.

The opportunity to labor in unison with our three (3) immediate Past Grand Masters has given me the chance to offer my honest views and inputs on what I believe to be crucial reforms that are needed by our Craft which are now being implemented.

But all these are works in progress. We have made good strides but we are still far from the desired end result. As we go along, we will have to do some more adjustments and fine tuning. And I intend to vigorously pursue the previously set long-term institutional reforms in our craft as agreed with my predecessors.

In between, there are some crucial issues that require mere refinement of our systems and processes. Let me share with you some policies I wish to institute for the possible improvements of the way we do things.

On the area of finance and fiscal management – emphasis should be on transparency and accountability in the handling of our funds and properties. Our scant resources should not be spent unjustly.

On lodge administration – we need to do a performance audit of our lodges. Lodges reporting negative financial statements, lodges who cannot pay their dues, lodges with anemic membership, lodges who always fail to complete their stated meetings in a Masonic year– all these we need to look into and address decisively.

On lodges under dispensation – there is a need to streamline the policies on the creation of new lodges and the rules to be observed by them in the interim. Lodges under dispensation should always be a welcome development. But the present processes that lead to it are often the source of bickering, suspicion and confusion among the brethren. New lodges must translate into the addition of worthy members and the expansion of the interest of Masonry, not division of brethren and creation of Masonic kingdoms for



selfish agenda.

On Grand Lodge communications – our official interaction with subordinate lodges must be vastly improved, if not completely overhauled. Why do our circulars, edicts and decisions take a long time to officially reach the lodges? It is only our tenets and philosophies that are ancient, not the way we communicate. If the entire world is online, digitized or connected instantly, so should we.

On standing Grand Lodge committees – we need to energize the standing Grand Lodge committees. Most of the crucial businesses of the Grand Lodge are handled by indispensable committees composed of members chosen at large from the jurisdiction. These committees are critical to the orderly administration of our Fraternity. Yet, these committees seem to be mostly active only during the latter months of the Masonic term such that their yearly output is largely

rushed. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens are ex-officio chairmen or members of these important committees. They should not meet only at their will and pleasure. Rather, they should have an established schedule of mandatory stated meetings, so that their respective mandates could be performed well. Rules will be devised along this line.

On our Masonic education program – we shall nurture the contribution of IMES as the foremost standing instrument of the grand lodge in imparting classroom-type instruction through its established curriculum. In the subordinate lodges, there should be two sets of instructions – one handled by the district officials for topics prescribed by the Grand Lodge, while another separate topic will be handled at the instance and direction of the Worshipful Master.

Brethren, I have another point that hopefully you will

all agree with. Once and for all, we need to attain stability of Masonic laws and regulations. As things now stand, our edicts starting from 1900s to date already comprise a very thick book and everybody is at a loss on what is discarded and what is still effective. It doesn't help that every Masonic year, every Grand Master keeps on adding his own versions of rules. I am not saying this is bad per se because rules are meant to ensure order. But I am saying that our written edicts have reached a point that it has grown quite confusing, to say the least. Edicts which have attained permanence should now be written into our constitution.

I am not a lawyer but permit me to offer my take on our legal situation from the point of view of a simple soldier and a regular mason.

First, our Constitution comprising of four parts should ideally represent permanent expressions of Masonic laws approved and ratified by the brethren. Its future amendments, if needed, must not be done by the mere expediency of edicts with immediate effect. Rather, these should be the exclusive prerogative of the brethren of our lodges to propose, deliberate upon, and submit for the approval of the AnCom.

Second, Grand Master's edicts must complement, not contradict, the constitution. The constitution must be relied upon as the basic source of Masonic rights, power, privileges, duties and functions. As of now, our constitution contains many provisions which have been already overhauled by edicts. As much as possible, we should avoid changing the rules in the middle of the game. Hence, edicts must aid the law by supplying the necessary details for better implementation of its provision. They must not override the provisions of the constitution, otherwise, its integrity cannot be maintained, and confusion will ensue. After this AnCom, I will form a committee whose primary function is to come up with a source document which will consolidate the constitution and all amendments made therein and duly ratified

**INSTALLING OFFICER: MW Rosendo Herrera, PGM masterfully handled the installation ceremonies.**



**MW Gazmin standing before the Grand Altar.**

**THE WOMAN BEHIND THE MAN: Sis. Rhodie Gazmin, has supported our Grand Master in every endeavor.**



# THE CABLE TOW VOL. 93 SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 1

by the previous AnCom.

After all is said and done, the utmost focus of all is our human component – the brethren of our great masonic lodges.

The ways of masonry teach us that the traits of brotherly love, relief and assistance, kindness and courtesy toward our fellows are but the necessary consequence of becoming better men.

The ways of Masonry teach us to cultivate the traits of equality, honesty, and justice and fairness in all our dealings.

The ways of Masonry teach us to be guarded in words, temperate in manner, cautious in our bearings, and pleasant in our appearance.

The ways of masonry exhort us to practice tolerance and understanding, never letting our passions and prejudices to become the masters of our judgment.

These things we forget.

We now see among us ugly in-fighting for positions, long running quarrels, boorish and unruly behavior, wicked plots and damaging schemes, depraved conducts, bullying and other shameless manifestations of evil men. Brethren, our standards seem to have fallen and we have allowed them to prevail.

We cannot tolerate this and still regard our lodges as the haven of better men. Let me remind all that we are not in an ordinary run-of-the-mill fraternity. This is an ancient, exclusive community with exacting moral standards required of its members. If there is a league of extra ordinary gentlemen, freemasonry should be it.

Thus, in a nation of 100 million people, we are a drop in the bucket, numbering barely 22,000. We are a minority, we are few, but we are supposed to be the

exemplars of good men. Only good men enter our lodges and only good men should remain. We must readily discard the elements that bring dishonor to our Fraternity.

Brethren, our mission is to show to the outside world by our examples as Masons that there is a better way for men to live. We cannot lead by actions if our actions within the fraternity are themselves undesirable.

Let us recognize that we have become complacent, that we have unwittingly allowed the slackening of our standards of right behavior and good conduct. We must change the errors of our ways by travelling through a straight path of right and truth in our daily lives.

Beware of your private and public actions for they reflect upon our fraternity one way or the other. Being a mason does not give you any privilege to transgress our laws and expect to be saved. You are not exempt from traffic rules because your brothers in the police are the ones enforcing them. You cannot be lax in your obligation as a taxpayer simply because your brothers are the taxmen. You cannot expect that the next promotion will be yours for the taking because the boss is a brother. As Masons, relief is not yours to demand but yours to earn by your own worth.

Remember, in all our dealings, do not expect your brothers to give you undue advantage, nor preference when others are more deserving. This is not the Mason's way.

By all means, pursue redress of erring brethren within the rules of the brotherhood, but avoid displaying contempt and detestation of your brothers outside of the confines of our Fraternity. This is not the Mason's way.

To all Grand Line officers, as well as incoming lights and officers of subordinate lodges, please do not

entertain any sense of entitlement from your brethren simply because of your high position. We are here to serve and not to be served. This is the Mason's way!

By our own freewill and conscience, therefore, let us always endeavor to be immaculate in our persons. Let us be clean in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions. This is the Mason's way!

Let us personify Masonic principles as the guiding moral standards in our private lives as well as in the practice of our different trades or professions in life.

Beginning today, let us renew our commitment to become better persons by the strict observance of our sworn obligation as masons, by defending the integrity of our Fraternity through our exemplary actions, and by remaining true to our fraternal ideals - a strong brotherhood of good and true men under the fatherhood of our almighty and All-seeing God.

Join me now, my brothers, as we march in cadence to the realization of our theme: "Personify freemasonry. Be the better person through the best way. Think, speak and act the mason's way."

Join me now, an old soldier who shall finally bid farewell to his duty to flag and country, to lead our beloved Fraternity in a new mission of hope, in building a better world by building better men to live in it.

With the wisdom and guidance of the great architect of the universe, we will continue our Masonic journey and blaze a way towards a better Grand Lodge composed of better subordinate lodges, and better lodges composed of much improved men and Masons.

With the total commitment and support of all the brethren, we will succeed! Indeed, we cannot fail, because we will exemplify our thoughts, words and actions through the best way - the Mason's way!

*Beware of your private and public actions for they reflect upon our fraternity one way or the other.*

*Being a mason does not give you any privilege to transgress our laws and expect to be saved. You are not exempt from traffic rules because your brothers in the police are the ones enforcing them. You cannot be lax in your obligation as a taxpayer simply because your brothers are the taxmen. You cannot expect that the next promotion will be yours for the taking because the boss is a brother. As Masons, relief is not yours to demand but yours to earn by your own worth.*

# AN ENCHANTING ESCAPADE WITH THE LADIES OF ANCOM 2016

**THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A RELAXING CRUISE AROUND TOWN TO COUNTERACT THE SEEMINGLY SWEALTERING HEAT THAT HAS ENGULFED TAGAYTAY THESE DAYS.**

In order to provide its lovely guests a perfect getaway from the hustle and bustle that has enveloped the AnCom 2016 site during the last weekend of April 2016, the organizers has created an interesting day tour as an additional treat for the ladies of our brethren from foreign jurisdiction last April 28, 2016. To escape the noise and confusion brought about by

the thousand of excited brethren of the AnCom, these ladies were more than willing to sign up for the tour.

With a full day itinerary ahead, the group composed of 23 lovely ladies from the jurisdiction of Seattle, Washington, New York, New South Wales Australia, and California set off from the Taal Vista Hotel at



The sisters from New South Wales, Australia enjoying a pleasant moment at Canyon Woods. Joining them is Ms. Lanie Diesta (2nd from right) of the Tagaytay City Tourism office



The group posing for a shot at Caleruega Retreat House in Batulao, Batangas.

9am onboard two ivory-colored vans along with two (2) city guides and one (1) photographers provided by the city tourism office of Tagaytay.

Accompanying these ladies were VW Marlon M. Castor and WB Nonoy Z. Austriaco of King Solomon Lodge No. 150 and Hadji Butu Rasul Memorial Lodge No. 393.

To start of the tour, the vans headed down south to the enchanting gardens and chapel on the hill of Caleruega in Batulao, Batangas---which is barely a 30-minute drive from the hotel. Caleruega is a known retreat complex owned by the Dominican Order in the Philippines and offers a quiet and tranquil atmosphere where one can reflect and meditate but it is more popular for its chapel on the hill which is

an ideal site of many weddings. In fact, the waitlist to have your wedding scheduled on the chapel is said to be more than year long.

After a group photographs in Caleruega, the group was shuttled next to Canyon Woods Resort--- a membership resort complex where at the clubhouse they were welcome by no less than its General Manager, Mr. Mr. Tony Villa-Real, who prepared a delectable snack array for the tour group. At the clubhouse, the group was joined by Ms. Lanie Diesta, Tagaytay's City Tourism Officer.

After having their fill over a hearty plate of spaghettis, sandwiches and brownies, the group then proceeded to the next stop of the tour which was the famous Puzzle Mansion.



**PUZZLED TO THE MAX:** The ladies listening to the tour coordinator as she was explaining the various kinds of puzzles at the Puzzle Mansion in Tagaytay City. The mansion owns the distinction of having the largest collections of puzzles in the world.

The Puzzle Mansion is home to the museum where you can find the record-breaking puzzle collection of Gina Gil Lacuna. It is located in the Lacuna family's one hectare summer house in Tagaytay. She beat the reigning Brazilian Luiza Figueiredo in the Guinness World Records for having the Largest Collection of Jigsaw Puzzles in the World. Inside the museum, you can view her 1,028 puzzles which the Guinness World Records officially recognized as the largest collection in the world last November 29, 2012.

The group was engulfed in fascination and awe at the feat by the makers of these puzzles yet as this was not the last stop of their journey, they had to say goodbye and board the vans for the next stop in their trip, which was supposed to be lunch at one of Tagaytay's famous eat stops. But as they were still full from the food provided to them at Canyon Woods, the tour decided to jump to the next destination which was Ilog Maria Bee Farm somewhere along Gen. Aguinaldo Highway.

The brainchild of husband and wife Joey and Violaine Magsaysay, Ilog Maria has been keeping bees and harvesting their honeys for almost thirty years now with continual help from the Magsaysay children.

The farm continually produces all sorts of things from their bees; from pure honey syrups, to bee propolis, cider vinegars, soaps, face scrubs, lotions, shampoos, ointments, mosquito repellants, candles, wood polish and a whole lot more.

Though a bit out of the way from Tagaytay as it is actually situated in Silang, Cavite, it is relatively close enough to the city to be considered as a Tagaytay destination.

Upon their arrival, the group was held for a short presentation and orientation on bee culture and after a few minutes, they were allowed to shop for pasalubongs and personal effects to their hearts delight.

The last stop of the city tour involved a stop at the Sisters-Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration Convent of the Divine Mercy or more popularly known as Pink Sisters, is one of the most visited Catholic monasteries in Tagaytay. In this church you'll find nuns clad in pink habits kneeling in front of the altar during mass or silently reading churchgoers' petitions 24/7. The place is very solemn as visitors are requested to remain silent, especially

inside the church. Visitors are urged to have their cellphones and cameras placed in silent mode or turned off.

Alas! All good things must eventually come to a halt and the group tired from the day's fun-filled tryst, headed off back to Taal Vista Hotel to join the rest of the jurisdiction in the celebrating the rest of the AnCom.



**BUSY AS BEES (Right):** The tour group, listening to the start of the orientation tour given by one of the owners of the Ilog Maria Bee Farm. The farm sells all kinds of bee-extracted products such as bees wax, bee pollen, honey as well as other cosmetic products derived from such materials. Below: The tour group, posing for their first photo at the grand staircase of the Caleruega Retreat House in Batulao, Batangas.





WHAT'S UP, MATE?: Brethren from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, endured the summer heat for this photo in front of the Taal Cultural Center, just outside the Taal Basilica.

# THE TAKING OF TAAL: A DAYTOUR WITH OUR FOREIGN BRETHREN OF ANCOM 2016

**HOT ON THE HEELS OF A SUCCESSFUL TAGAYTAY CITY TOUR JUST THE DAY BEFORE, ANCOM 2016 ORGANIZERS DECIDED TO GO FURTHER AND TREATED ITS FOREIGN GUESTS TO A TOWN TOUR OF THE HISTORIC TOWN OF TAAL---THE MUNICIPALITY TO WHICH THE PICTURESQUE TAAL LAKE AND VOLCANO BELONG TO.**

Armed with two tourist-class DLTB buses, the AnCom 2016 Tourism Committee and giving in to the last-minute clamor of organizing a tour for its foreign guests, gave a 43-strong tour group composed

of brethren and guests from the Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia, Grand Lodge of California, the Grand Lodge of Washington, and the Grand Lodge of Japan a more lengthy tour of Taal Town in the nearby

province of Batangas.

Coordinating with the Tagaytay City Tourism Office which in turn, coordinated with the Municipal Tourism Office of Taal, Batangas, the group left Taal Vista Hotel around 10am owing to the late arrival of the second bus which was necessitated by the large size of the group that took interest in the tour.

Unfortunately, as there was an ongoing construction along the shorter route, the group took a necessary but longer detour to Taal through the towns of Anilao and Calaca en route to Taal.

After almost two hours, the group reached the town of Taal and immediately visited the renowned Basilica of St. Martin de Tours.

Dubbed as the largest Catholic church in Asia, the Basilica of St. Martin de Tours is one astounding landmark that sits atop a hill right at the center of the town. Two distinct features of the basilica are the façade, which will remind you of the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and the silver tabernacle, claimed to be the only one of its kind in the country.

Often called Taal Basilica, the church is among the most visited destinations of people from various places during the Lenten season. This church is also popular among couples who will tie the knot.

After a visit to the Basilica, the group then proceeded to the Villavicencio Wedding Gift House where en route, the tourists were amazed at the uncanny driving skills of the DLTB bus drivers maneuvering their massive vehicles across the narrow and





storied streets of Taal town.

Adjacent to Casa Villavicencio is the house known as the Villavicencio Wedding Gift House. The house received this sobriquet because the house was built as a lavish wedding present of Don Eulalio to his wife Gliceria on their nuptials.

Although the wedding gift house has the same architectural elements of houses built during that period, we find its look and feel to be more cheerful and feminine than the adjacent ancestral house.

The walk through the ancestral houses somewhat invoked some memories from the tourists as some were reminded of their childhood days by the photographs hanging on the walls and the antiquated decorations that adorned the houses.

Alas, the group decided to move on with the itinerary in order to make up for lost time due to the late arrival of the bus and set off for the Galleria Taal which can be found across the Apacible House. Also referred to as the Ilagan-Barrion House which houses the first and only vintage camera museum in the country. The Ilagan-Barrion house was built circa 1870 by Domingo Ilagan and Maria Martinez.

The house had been totally neglected for several years until the great grandson of the house's original owner Manny Inumerable painstakingly restored their ancestral home to house his extensive collection of rare vintage cameras in a museum he named Galleria Taal.

However, due to the punishing April summer heat as well as the lengthy trip to Taal, some of the tourists requested that their participation in the tour be cut short and requested for refreshments owing also to that it is also already lunch time.

Thus taking into consideration the overall health and comfort of the group, they were then shuttled to

the Taal Bayview Bistro, where a sumptuous lunch of sinigang na hasa-hasa, barbecued chicken, salad, sauteed vegetables, and perfectly crisped-*tawilis* (a sardine-like fish endemic to Taal and famous for its soft and edible bones) awaited them.

The restaurant offered a cool and comfortable respite from the scorching sun outside, where some of the the tourist helped themselves to a few ronds of beer and whiskey.

However, as time was of the essence and pursuant to some of the request of the members of the group (considering that some of them were Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters in their respective jurisdictions) that they had to be back at the AnCom site (Taal Vista Hotel) in time for the evening events such as the Tribute to the Past Grand Masters, the group collected themselves and slowly made their way back to Tagaytay, where the scenic countryside view offered them some comfort and consolation that though their tour was cut short, there was enough memories to take with them when they go back home after the AnCom 2016.

### WORTH MENTIONING

On the same day on another front, Ateng Rhodie Gazmin, the wife of Grand Master MW Voltaire Gazmin, likewise hosted a special lunch for some of the selected guests from foreign jurisdiction and spouses of the Past Grand Masters.

Their contingent, composed of three (3) vans, headed off to Highlands Tagaytay, where they were treated to a pleasant morning of fellowship culminating in a delectable lunch.

Tagaytay Highlands is a world-class recreational and residential complex nestled amid the natural splendor and cool, unpolluted atmosphere of Tagaytay Ridge.

# THE SOUTHERN WARDEN OF THE GRAND SOUTH

**MEET GLP'S NEW JGW, RW AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. IN ONE OF THE SWIFTEST TECHNOLOGICALLY-ASSISTED ELECTIONS in recent memory, a new Junior Grand Warden hailing from the southern regions of the archipelago was elected in the person of Right Worshipful Agapito S. Suan, Jr. during the 100th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.**

It seems that RW Suan was destined to be placed in the Grand South this year as he was among those that survived the nerve-racking raffle in the selection of the final candidates—besting the supposedly early favorites, and had to go through two rounds of elections in under an hour to emerge as the true and uncontested victor in this year's elections.

Born on November 20, 1958, RW Jun as he is fondly-called is no stranger to success and hard work. As a working student-scholar at La Salle University Ozamis taking up BS Commerce majoring in Accountancy, RW Jun slowly worked the banking industry after graduation with employments at PBCom and Metrobank in Cagayan De Oro City and even worked as an Internal Auditor of the Mindanao Hotel in the late 70s.

Now, our Right Worshipful brother is the accomplished head of his own business empire composed of substantial interests in companies such as Ultracraft Advertising Corporation, Ultrawinds Mountain Resort, Ultra Farms, DXRU Radyo Ultra, Jolibee Foods Corp. in Cagayan De Oro, Iligan, and Opol.

He sits on the Board of Trustee of La Salle University Ozamis and is affiliated with Rotary Club of Uptown Cagayan de Oro (Paul Harris Fellow), Cagayan

de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Former Board of Trustee), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), (President 2012), Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) (Mindanao Chapter President: 2010–2012), and the Opol Livestock & Poultry Operators Association (OLPOA).

RW Jun's Masonic journey started when he knocked on the doors of Macalajar Lodge No. 184 on August 18, 1984 and raised the same year as a Master Mason on the 25th of October.

In 1992, he ascended the Worshipful Master's Chair of his mother lodge and was adjudged "Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in 1993. In 2001, he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master during the administration of the late MW Napoleon A. Soriano, PGM and was chosen as the "Most Outstanding DDGM" the following year.

During the term of MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, PGM the following year, he served as Junior Grand Lecturer for North Central Mindanao. Our present Junior Grand Warden is a 33rd degree Inspector General Honorary of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, belonging to the Mindanao Bodies of Cagayan De Oro City.

He is also a member of the Agila Shriners as (Divan) First Ceremonial Master in 2014.

RW Jun is married to our lovely Sister Clarissa Mae G. Suan and is a proud father to a brood of four, namely, Atty. Lordan G. Suan, Lariza Nieves G. Suan, Agapito Eriberto G. Suan, and Mary Clarisse G. Suan.

When asked about his plans and programs for the Fraternity when he ran for his present position, RW Jun said, “Unfortunately at present, we have become too concerned with complicated issues that have brought controversies and conflict to the Craft and we may have overlooked the real purpose of Freemasonry. More emphasis therefore must be directed towards the observance of our traditionally held values, those which have made this Fraternity strong, united and distinct from the rest for generations.”

RW Jun said that his proposed program therefore will revolve around the principal tenets of our Craft: “Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.” It is his belief that this is where we have built the foundation of our institution and this is what we must at all times propagate. He cites that no intelligent man can question these universally accepted precepts, and yet ironically, our members often take them for granted.





**Tribute to the Brethren of the  
100th Annual Communication**



TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER