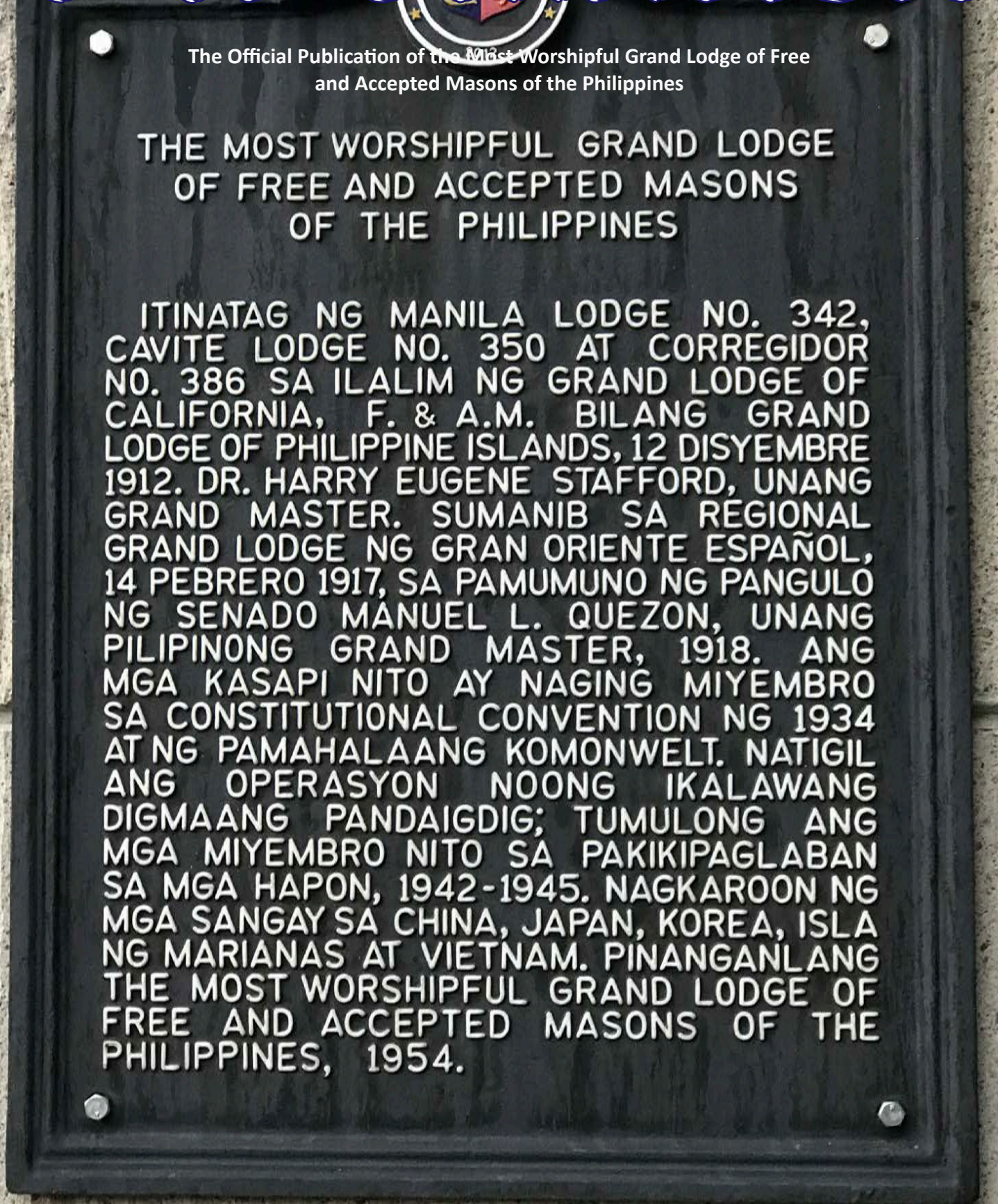
Vol.94 No.1
2017

The Cabletow

The Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines



Editorial



Our issue shall cover the ins and outs of an ANCOM and the official issuances from the Grand Lodge that will be of aid to the Special Communications ("SpecCom", for short). Since the Cabletow is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, with budget under its control and direction, this issue is also geared towards shaving the expenses for publication of several items that will be used in the Special Ancom this December 19, 2017. For that purpose, we will publish the full Edicts for use in the SpecCom. A thinner manual that will be used for the Special Ancom for items that might not have been covered in this issue will then be economical.

As with the Ancom, Tagaytay City has hosted about three ANCOMs in the past which will be topped by a Special Communications this December of 2017. The First Ancom was hosted by Region IV (then) in 2005 and the main workload was singlehandedly shouldered by the members of Tagaytay Lodge No. 165 with MW Abraham N. Tolentino as the Worshipful Master and the City Mayor at the same time. The second Ancom in Tagaytay was in 2016 during the incumbency of MW Tomas Rentoy and the last in 2017 during the time of MW Voltaire T. Gazmin. Although Tagaytay Lodge 165 did not actively participate in the planning and implementation, just the same, the local brethren had to be tapped to secure several aspects of the 2016 Ancom. Then, this year, then RW Abraham N. Tolentino suggested to hold the Ancom in Hongkong, and if not, preferably in General Santos. Hongkong was shelved for jurisdictional opinions. Several preparations were made; however, the venue was adjudged to be held at Tagaytay City. The logistics side of the preparation was eased since the venue is in a controlled environment. Thus Ancom 2017 was held in Tagaytay City in one of the most prestigious venue, the Taal Vista Hotel. With added experience, we can safely relay to the brethren the several aspects of Ancom and how your Lodge or District can qualify to host an Ancom.

We envision our issue to be as informative as it can. Several issuances came out of the Grand Lodge and we are publishing them for the benefit of all the brethren. Some issuances were directed to the lodges only for reading on stated meetings and we only have to guess whether they were understood or appreciated. The first issue of Cabletow on June 1, 1923 stated its mandate of fulfilling the "desire that our Grand Lodge to publish something in the nature of "Official Gazette", informing the Craft in the islands of the edicts, circulars and decisions of the Grand Mater, giving them other news of interest, and, if possible, containing articles on masonic subjects for the enlightenment and instructions of the thousands of Masons dispersed throughout our widespread Archipelago."

The Cabletow is transforming itself in line with current advances in information systems. The current Grand Lodge has its eyes and ears on our efforts of advancing our system of information. Just recently, our request for a 300mbps of bandwidth was acted upon together with the upgrading of our office computers. Along that line, our programs are undergoing license registrations, meaning, our GLP is not working anymore with crack softwares and programs. This will result in the parallel transformation of IMES which is now offered for on-line classes that will transform further to live tutorials via video conferencing in the future.

I salute all former editors-in-chief for their selfless dedication in informing the brethren of the affairs of Freemasonry in our jurisdiction as we owe it to the brethren to render our best service since our Grand Master works even beyond his Cabletow.

VW Avelino M. Sumagui, PDDGM
Editor-in-Chief

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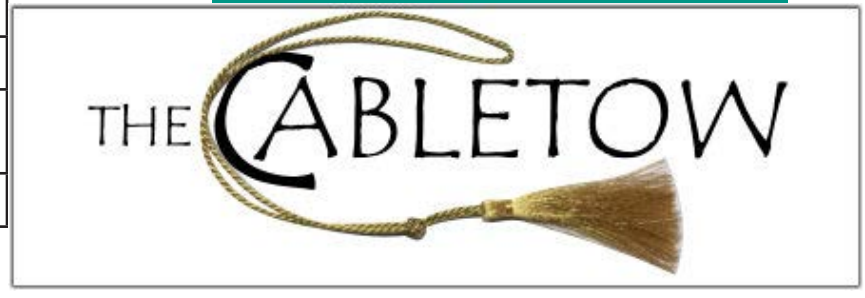
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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

MESSAGE

Fraternal Greetings of Brotherly love to all the Brethren of our Grand Jurisdiction!

Under instructions from the Office of the Grand Master, this issue of "The Cabletow" must be an issue to keep. It shall be characterized by ease of reading, informative, and a primary reference material for the incoming Special Communications this December 2017. The issue complied thereby resulting in economic gains to the fraternity as this forms part of the materials for the Special Communications.

This Masonic Year speaks well of our noble intentions to serve the brethren and the community with passion and zeal. We exemplify our travels in foreign countries and within the Grand Jurisdiction bringing the message of goodwill and brotherhood among the brethren and making a manifestation to the world that Masonry is a philanthropic society that caters to the need of the less fortunate. It also features our numerous accomplishments in the first quarter of our service, giving life and meaning to the theme. **"By your grip, We are here to serve, not to be served even beyond the Cabletow"**.

We fervently hope that thru this publication we can reach more and more brethren. We firmly believe that "an informed Mason is a better Mason".

We shall always be here to serve the brethren and the community. *Mabuhay ang Masonerya! Mabuhay ang bawat Pilipino*!

MW Abraham "BAMBOL" N. Tolentino
Grand Master

"By your Grip, we are here to serve, and not be served even beyond the Cabletow."

HAIL TO THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED BLUE LODGES

Grand Master Abraham N. Tolentino led the constitution of new six (6) blue lodges under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

The Circular No. 3- Tolentino which was released May 2, 2017, revealed the designated charter numbers of Lodges under dispensation granted charters during the ANCOM 2017 in Tagaytay.

GM Tolentino with Grand Lodge Officers led the constitution of San Jose Lodge No. 429 and Gen. Miguel Malvar Lodge No. 427 on May 26, 2017. Perpetual Lodge No. 426, Alaminos Lodge No. 428, Taguig Lodge No. 431 and Unang Sigaw Lodge No. 430 were duly constituted on June 3, 2017.

To date, there are 376 blue lodges within the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

GLP SUPPORTS DEPRESSED PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thousands of public school students are getting free school supplies from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP).

Grand Master MW Abraham N. Tolentino personally went to most depressed public schools in Cagayan de Oro, Zambales City and Benguet, Mt. Province on June 7 and 9, 2017 to giveaway Backpacks stuffed with school supplies to help the students and their families as they prepare for the new school year.

This is one of the GLP's flagship projects for Masonic year 2017-2018, to aid and support the public school system.

School supplies given were product of GM Tolentino's "Buy a book, Build a school" Program.

GLP JOINED THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION 2017

On June 12, 2017, the Philippines had celebrated its 119th birthday. It marks the anniversary of the country's independence from Spanish colonial rule, and is a national holiday that has always been highlighted by flag-raising, wreath-laying and parades with the theme, "Kalayaan 2017: Pagbabagong Sama-Samang Balikatin."

Grand Lodge of the Philippines yearly joins the nation in celebrating this historic event wherein Freemasons played a big role in the country's independence.

MW Abraham N. Tolentino, Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines together with thousands of Freemasons represented the members of the most honorable and ancient Fraternity in the Independence Day 2017 rites at Rizal Park in Manila.

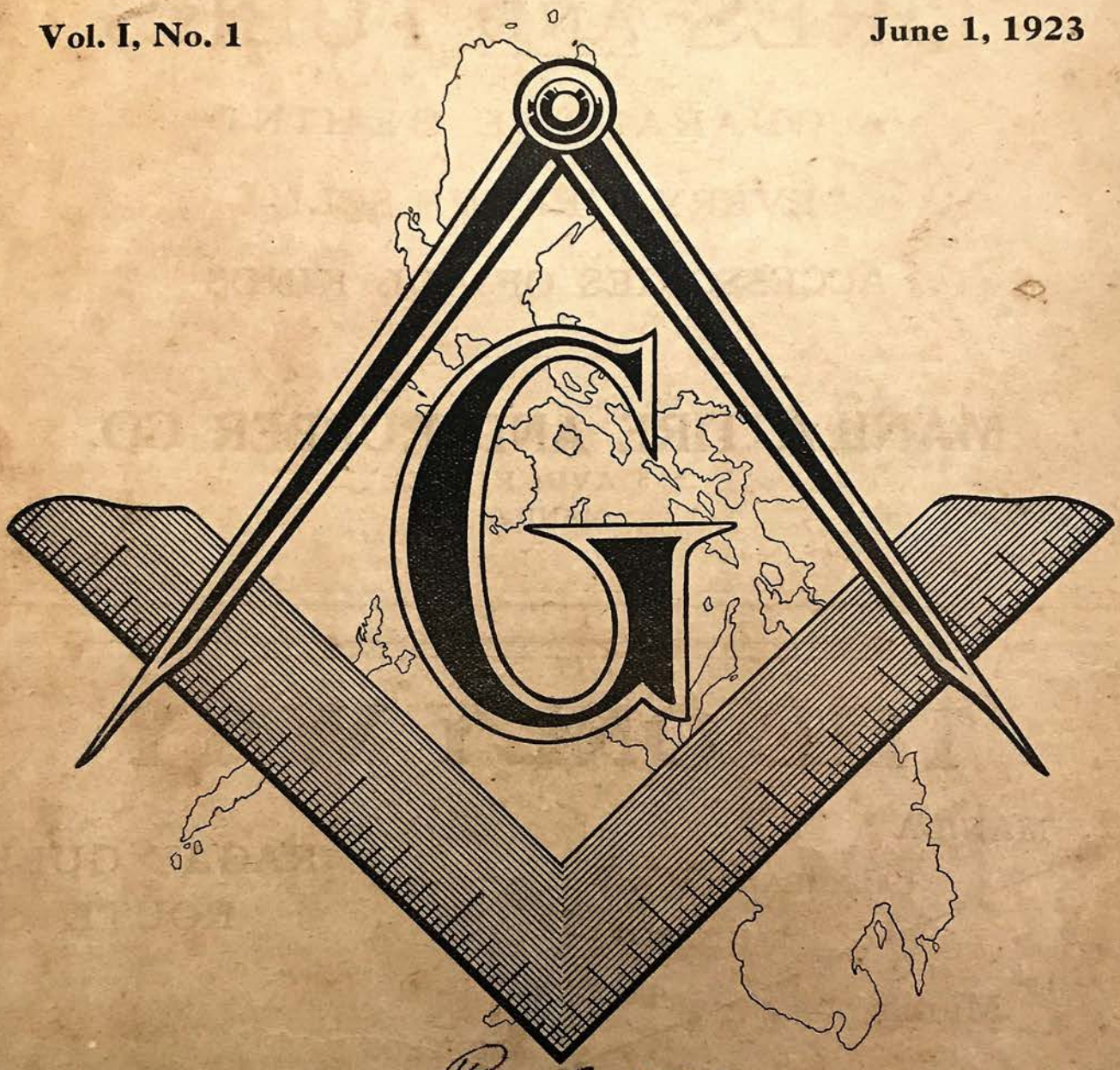
MW Tolentino and other members of the craft present honored Bro. Jose Rizal as they placed a wreath in Rizal Shrine.

Other Freedom rites also commenced in Kawit, Cavite, Barasoain Church, Malolos, Bulacan, and Balintawak, Quezon City which were attended by members of Craft.



The Cable Tow

Vol. I, No. 1 June 1, 1923



Prop. No. 113, I

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF
THIS JURISDICTION

The Very First issue of The Cabletow

THE CABLETOW

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Aims and Purposes of Our Publication

No progressive Mason will deny the necessity of Masonic periodicals. The time when Masonry was obliged to work in the dark is a thing of the dim past. Our Brethren demand further light in Masonry; they are anxious to keep informed of what the Craft is doing in the Islands and abroad; they are ready to welcome with open arms any masonic literature they know to be regular and authorized in these times when clandestine Masonry is rampant, and year after year we have heard expressed the desire that our Grand Lodge publish something in the nature of "Official Gazette," informing the Craft in the Islands of the edicts, circulars and decisions of the Grand Master, giving them other news of interest, and, if possible, containing articles on masonic subjects for the enlightenment and instruction of the thousands of Masons dispersed throughout our widespread Archipelago.

This necessity the CABLETOW has come to fill, and we have no doubt that it will fill it adequately. Owing to the lack of funds in the treasury of the Grand Lodge it has been found necessary to make advertisements a feature of this paper in order to enable its management to get a copy to each Mason in the Islands instead of furnishing only five copies to each Lodge, as contemplated in the Grand Lodge resolution, and to give its readers a creditable, well gotten-up paper of which no Grand Body of the world need be ashamed.

Each issue will contain articles embodying the fundamental features of Masonry, beginning with the "Old Landmarks," which will be found in this issue. The "Ancient Charges" and other important Masonic documents not available to every Mason and which every Mason ought to know, will follow, and the CABLETOW will thus become a valuable library of reference to the Philippine Mason, in addition to being a collection of the edicts, circulars, and decisions published from time to time. The Lodge or Mason having a complete file of the CABLETOW will soon wonder how the Grand Lodge and Masonry in these Islands ever got along without this paper, and we predict that in a few years, the first issues of the CABLETOW will be much sought after to complete collections, and we therefore recommend to all the Brethren and Lodges that they carefully preserve this and succeeding numbers, because the Grand Lodge cannot guarantee an extra supply for the future. A word to the wise is sufficient.

"The Level"

It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge the services rendered by Bro. Manuel Artigas, of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16, F. & A. M., in the publication of what we must

Nuestros Fines y Propósitos

No hay Masón progresivo que pueda negar la necesidad de periódicos masónicos. Hace tiempo ya que pasó la época en que la Masonería se veía obligada a trabajar en secreto. Hoy nuestros Hermanos están pidiendo más luz masónica; ansían enterarse de lo que se está haciendo por nuestra Institución en estas Islas y en el extranjero; están dispuestos a recibir con regocijo cualquiera publicación masónica que sepan ser regular y autorizada en estos tiempos en que abundan los Masones clandestinos, y cada año se ha expresado el deseo de que nuestra Gran Logia publique algo como una "Gaceta Oficial" que informe a los Obreros de nuestros Talleres de los edictos, circulares y decisiones del Gran Maestre y contenga otros informes de interés, además de artículos sobre temas masónicos para la ilustración e instrucción de los miles de Masones esparcidos por este Archipiélago.

Esta lacuna el CABLETOW ha venido á llenar, y no tenemos la menor duda de que ha de llenarla adecuadamente. En vista de la escasez de fondos en la tesorería de nuestra Gran Logia, la administración de esta revista se ha visto en la necesidad de aceptar anuncios, con el fin de que se pudiese imprimir una copia para cada Masón en estas Islas en vez de facilitar sólo cinco ejemplares a cada Logia, según disponía la resolución de la Gran Logia, y para ofrecer a los lectores del CABLETOW una revista redactada e impresa con esmero de la cual no se tuviese que avergonzar ninguna Gran Logia del mundo.

Cada número contendrá artículos sobre cosas fundamentales de la Masonería, empezando con los "Antiguos Linderos," los cuales se publican en este número. Seguirán en los meses sucesivos los "Antiguos Cargos" y otros documentos masónicos que no tiene disponible todo Masón y que debía de conocer, de modo que el CABLETOW formará una biblioteca de referencia de mucho valor para el Masón de Filipinas, además de constituir una colección de los edictos, circulares y decisiones que se publiquen de vez en cuando. La Logia o el Masón que tenga una colección completa del CABLETOW no comprenderá como la Gran Logia y la Masonería en Filipinas hayan podido existir sin esta revista, y creemos que no andamos errados al predecir que dentro de pocos años o meses, habrá mucha demanda de los primeros números del CABLETOW de parte de Hermanos que quieran completar su colección. Recomendamos, pues, que los Hermanos y las Logias conserven cuidadosamente este número y los siguientes, porque la Gran Logia no puede garantizar una existencia de reserva para el futuro. Al buen entendedor, pocas palabras.

"El Nivel"

Reconocemos con mucho gusto los valiosos servicios prestados por el Hermano Manuel Artigas, de la Logia Sinukuan No. 16, en la publicación de lo que ya debemos

HOSTING THE ANCOM

The 2017 Ancom can pass as a blue print for all future Ancoms. This owes to the experiences gathered by the District of Region IV Cavite by hosting the past Ancoms. In the past, bidding for the Ancom was quite simple. Just pay the amount of P300,000.00 payable to the Grand Lodge and campaign the brethren that they vote you to host your desired ANCOM year. To be approved, the bidder is preferable a District. Organizational nightmare though will start to arise when an Ancom is hosted by a district, in the strict sense of the word. The organizational structure on financing, staffing and physical accommodations is easily done through people living in adjacent areas and knowledgeable of the resources available to them.

The current average attendance in an Ancom is 2,700 excluding the people accompanying the delegates. It also excludes the staff of the different booths, service personnel for food and entertainment, security and physical arrangements, marshals and programmers. Thus, the number is safely multiplied by 1.5 for and estimated projection of attendees.

The current practice is for the District to submit its bid and nominating a head lodge to take care of the preparations. This will need a written resolution by the District which resolution will appoint the point person to be designated as the Ancom Chairman. The Ancom Chairman shall be the sole signatory of the Memorandum of Agreement in behalf of the District/Lodge, the counterpart signatory is the Grand Master himself.

THE MOA ENUMERATES THE OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES. The Grand Lodge has the following responsibilities:

1. Submit the list of GRAND LODGE Officers and members of Subordinate Lodges entitled to vote during the ANCOM not later than (specified date);
2. Disseminate information to Lodges and to all concerned parties as to voting eligibility at said ANCOM and ensure the prompt settlement of their accounts with the GRAND LODGE;
3. Take charge of all ceremonies of the GRAND LODGE with the assistance of the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE, the latter providing all paraphernalia, manpower and expenses for the purpose from the first to the last day of the ANCOM and all matters related thereto;
4. Invite through the Grand Master the Keynote Speaker and the Brother who will introduce him/her during the Opening Ceremonies;
5. Invite the resource persons for the annual meeting of the GRAND LODGE FINANCIAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, scheduled in the afternoon of the first day;
6. Take charge of all corporate meetings of the GRAND LODGE;
7. Appoint an authorized representative of the GRAND LODGE to the Secretariat of the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE who shall attend to purely GRAND LODGE matters not later than (specific date)
8. Coordinate with the Deputy Grand Master and/or Incoming Grand Master for the preparation and printing of the program for the installation of the GRAND LODGE Officers for the Masonic Year 2017-2018;
9. Ensure that all GRAND LODGE supplies and materials needed for the ANCOM are made ready and transmitted to the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE before (Specific date);

10. Provide a regular space in the CABLETOW for the purpose of publicity and promotion of the ANCOM starting with the issue following the approval of this Agreement;
11. Appoint an appropriate committee(s) to take care of Foreign Dignitaries and Delegates;

The District/Lodge has a long list of responsibilities:

1. Take charge of the printing of the Proceedings of the ANCOM (The Past Ancom) for inclusion in the ANCOM kits which should not be less than 3,000 kits/the number of registered delegates (The number of kits varies). However, the Grand Lodge should ensure the soft copy of the proceedings, properly reviewed and ready for printing, should be transmitted to the Host District/Lodge on or before (specified date, usually March 15);
2. Take charge of the printing and reproduction of the following reports and ensure the inclusion of the same in the ANCOM kits in a number not less than the number of registered delegates:





a. Grand Master
b. Grand Treasurer
c. Grand Secretary
d. Senior Grand Lecturer
e. Standing and Special Committees
f. Grand Lodges Officers
g. Board for General Purposes
h. Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc.
i. Grand Lodge Financial Relief Assistance Program
j. Grand Guild of Past Masters
k. Cabletow
l. Other Committee Reports

3. Reimburse the Grand Lodge for expenses incurred relative to the production of the printed materials, such as printing of the original copies, and for freight and handling of these materials;

4. Whenever necessary, secure the approval of the GRAND LODGE on functions and activities to ensure propriety, relevance and appropriateness of such events;

5. Meet with the Election Committee (ELECOM) not later than November 15, 20___ for the requirements and use of computers, physical layout of the election process, verification stations and designation of a private area for canvassing and replacement of computer servers.

a. The HOST District/Lodge shall appoint a Committee to coordinate with the ELECOM and meet thereafter not less than once a month up to the month of March and to attend to the ELECOM starting (first day of the Ancom up to the last day of the Ancom).

b. The Host District/Lodge shall assist in appointing and/or designating election tellers, marshals and other officials in the conduct and supervision of the Annual Election of GRAND LODGE officers and provide such election paraphernalia and materials, if so required by the ELECOM. The officials, marshals and tellers need be registered for the Ancom, however, they must be properly equipped with identification tags for the purpose.

6. Conduct nationwide publicity and promotions of the ANCOM through media and actual visitation of Lodges/Districts within the Philippine jurisdiction;

7. Provide decent meals and refreshments to all registered delegates during the ANCOM and shoulder the expenses thereof;

8. Prepare the formal invitation to all GRAND LODGE Officers to the ANCOM at its expense, including the cost of printing of the Installation Program of the incoming Grand Master.

a. The Cost of the Installation Ceremonies of the incoming Grand Master shall be at the expense of the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE;

9. Provide at least three thousand (3,000) suitable "kits" and distribute a copy for each registered delegate, inclusive of identification tags or pendants;

10. Assume the cost of transporting GRAND LODGE materials and supplies from the GRAND LODGE Office to HOST DISTRICT/ANCOM venue and back;

11. Provide appropriate accommodation and shoulder the transportation expenses of the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Assistant Grand Treasurer, Assistant Grand Secretary, Senior Grand Lecturer, Chief of Staff of the Grand Master, 2 Executive Assistants to the Grand Master, including the Cabletow editor as well as the Keynote Speaker and/or Guest of Honor and Speaker, to start at least One (day) before the Opening Ceremonies of the Ancom;

12. Provide appropriate accommodation and ensure the cost of meals and transportation to five (5) GRAND LODGE staff members for five (5) days;

13. Take care of the cost of the printing of the past ANCOM Proceedings, and the SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS proceedings and the reproduction of all Grand Lodge Reports as mentioned above, original copies of which should be transmitted in clear copy to the Host District/Lodge on or before February 28, 20___. The Host District should ensure the inclusion of these items in the ANCOM Kits;

14. Ensure the availability of the printed materials through proper coordination between the Office of the Grand Secretary and the Publication Committee of the ANCOM;

15. Provide manpower and equipment, including public address system and communications facilities as required of an Organizing Committee in order to attend to the delegates and to enable performance of all other related functions normally required by similar conventions of this magnitude;

16. Maintain its own official receipts and vouchers to take care of its collection and disbursements;

17. Remit to the GRAND LODGE of the Philippines the sum of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,500,000.00) to be used for its program as donation by the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE within thirty (30) days from the close of the ANCOM. To signify initial compliance to this provision, the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE, subject to the availability of funds, shall remit the amount of P700,000.00 in partial compliance thereof on or before the ANCOM. The HOST DISTRICT/LODGE will be held solely responsible for this remittance which may be drawn from its earnings;

18. Provide appropriate venues for all official activities of the ANCOM from the first day to the last day of the convention and attend to the physical arrangements thereof including the Grand Guild of Past Masters;

19. Submit duly marked DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDINGS and video recordings of all proceedings to the GRAND LODGE within thirty (30) days from the close of the ANCOM;

20. Provide a space near or within the convention site for the Office of the Grand Secretary and Office of the Grand Treasurer, where the GRAND LODGE can sell its Masonic Paraphernalia to interested Brethren, in case the GRAND LODGE decides to do so. In relation hereto, the Host District shall allow only Grand Lodge accredited suppliers and vendors in selling Masonic related items in the venue.

21. Provide free transportation facilities for the use of GRAND LODGE staff in the performance of their duties with the assistance of two (2) utility personnel during the entire period of the ANCOM;

22. Provide local transportation facilities for the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Past Grand Masters and Senior Grand Lecturer during the entire period of the ANCOM;

23. Arrange and attend to all official sports activities and tours of delegates and their ladies attending the ANCOM;

24. Prepare suitable venues at their own expense, for the Grand Master's Night, Tribute to the Past Grand Masters and Installation of Grand Lodge Officers;

25. Attend to the reasonable needs of the delegates attending the ANCOM through a Service Information Center within the premises of the ANCOM site;

26. Ensure room accommodation and provide local transportation for foreign dignitaries and delegates and their ladies;

27. Shoulder the cost of regular ocular inspections by the Program Director and members of the Committee on ANCOM Evaluation of the venue of the ANCOM;

28. Grant free registration to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Senior Grand Lecturer, Assistant Grand Treasurer, Assistant Grand Secretary, Chief of Staff of the Grand Master, 2 Executive Assistants to the Grand Master, Cabletow Editor, Protocol Officer and Past Grand Masters, as well as Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters of foreign grand jurisdiction and the members of the Elecom. (Usually the Grand Lodge request for free registration to at least 20 marshals, but the host should make a provision to provide their own marshals who are already registered, to save on expenses).

The MOA usually provides for additional clauses:

1. The Host District shall submit to the Grand Lodge a Convention Guideline on the First Week of March

which will cover the projected events that will happen in the Ancom, the same to be published immediately at the Cabletow.

2. The HOST DISTRICT shall establish a Committee on Dignitaries to take care of foreign delegates and their ladies, in coordination with a similar committee of the Grand Lodge. The HOST DISTRICT shall also create a Ladies Committee to take care of their activities;

3. The HOST DISTRICT shall charge a registration fee from all delegates in the amount of: _____ without accommodation;

4. The HOST DISTRICT/LODGE shall put up a suitable souvenir program and shall be solely responsible for the printing costs. As an incentive to the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE, it shall retain the surplus income generated therein. The Souvenir Program shall be released and distributed within thirty (30) days from the close of the ANCOM;

5. The HOST DISTRICT/LODGE shall be authorized to undertake Golf Tournament/s and other sport activities, raffles and other fund raising projects. The expenses, liabilities and income realized therefrom shall be exclusively for the account of the HOST DISTRICT/LODGE, the purpose of which is to augment its financial requirements;

6. The GRAND LODGE shall not be responsible for any deficit that may be incurred in the ANCOM;

7. The HOST DISTRICT/LODGE shall submit to the GRAND LODGE an accounting of the financial transactions not later than sixty (60) days after the close of the ANCOM. Upon failure to do so, the concerned District/Lodge shall be banned from hosting an ANCOM in the future without prejudice to other penalties the sitting Grand Master may impose.



Bro. Mike Lapitan who handled all communications and accommodations in the 2017 Ancom had to used both ears to accommodate the brethren.

Expenses usually incurred in the Ancom cover the following categories:

1. Printing of Reports covers the second-high percentage of expense and shall include publication of proceedings.
2. Transportation, Airfare, Van Rentals
3. Accommodations and Reservations
4. Salaries and Wages of Staff and their necessary expenses that were usually reimbursed when provisions were not given by the host. This will include their allowances in attending the Ancom and shall include the expenses for the Protocol Officer and Director of Ceremonies/Program Director.
5. Office Supplies
6. District Conventions and Meetings necessary for logistical planning.
7. Sound System and Video Rentals on various preparatory occasions
8. Preparation and fabrication of Tokens
9. And of course, FOOD which will require a great deal of monitoring on its excess or lack of. In one ANCOM, instead of the usual stubs issued, the host distributed tickets for different accredited restaurants who were partnered to locate themselves temporarily the area. With that, the delegates had a wider food selection and if they want more, they can just add money to purchase added food. This is one of the best idea since most delegates don't really eat at the Ancom and prefer to eat at the venue to try the local food.

The BULK OF WORK in the ANCOM rests on the ANCOM CHAIRMAN of the Host District/Lodge. Hiring an Event Manager will ease this task, however, the costly hiring of an Event Manager can be equaled by an ORGANIZED point person that will assist the Chairman in the discharge of his functions. DELEGATION is the main key. Without this element, the stress and responsibilities brought about by this big event can easily put a brother in fatigue, and if not, heart failure.

The second key to an excellent hosting is MACHINERY. In local politics, machinery is the key to winning. When you have the machinery, you have a great percentage of winning. For this reason, host districts/ lodge with local politicians in their full tap has the advantage over other hosts. It is also the reason why Tagaytay Lodge 165, with vast number of members employed in the same machinery can easily host a convention since the machinery is ready for tapping. Remember the availability computer programmers and computers that were set up just a few days before the Ancom.



MW Abraham N. Tolentino in one of the Ancom planning sessions with the Grand Lodge Officers

Supporting the main key of "delegation" is the immediate preparation of the personnel manual. This outlines all the committee heads and their members, their duties, functions and responsibilities and the detailed day to day activities that they are tasked to accomplish. This is done by establishing the Core Team for brainstorming and appointment of key personnel which shall include as follows:

1. Committee on Hotel Accommodations and Reservations with Counterpart in the Grand Lodge
2. Committee on Registration and Pre-registration
3. Committee on Printed Program Preparations with Grand Lodge counterpart, Printing of Invitations,
4. Committee on Finances and Ways and Means to include the Committee on Golf Tournament and other income generating projects.
5. Committee on Site preparation and lay out (with Grand Lodge Counterpart). Includes transport of materials to and from the Grand Lodge, and hiring of Sound and Video providers.
6. Committee on Program Director Evaluation which will include provisions for Grand lodge practice day.
7. Committee on Transport, Airport Pick-up
8. Committee on Booth and souvenir Items (Income Generation)
9. Committee to Handle the Past Master's Guild

10. Committee to Handle the Grand Master's Night (with Grand Lodge counterpart)
11. Committee to Handle the Election Process
12. Committee on Meals and Refreshment with provision for meals of support staff.
13. Other Committees and aspects shall include Medical Provisions, Emergency Rescue System, Traffic and Security of Delegates and VIPs, Moto Escorts.





Meetings and Golf can come together







Winner of The Golf Grip Special Trophy
VW Ceballos

The committees may be endless and they can also be simplified and incorporated with each other consistent with their overlapping functions. The hard part is preparation then let the Ancom unfold.

There is no such thing as a perfect hosting. We are in an organization of freethinking individuals most of whom are hard to please. Don't expect a full nod, there is always a brother with a negative comment coming as standard to all organizations of which we cannot be exempt. Just do the best you can and pray that the event will unfold safely, happily and stories of brotherly love brought home by all delegates when they go back to their respective homes.

Congratulations, you may now start your preparation to bid in the next Ancom.

ADDITIONAL BLUE PRINT REFERENCE TO ANCOM HOSTING

ANCOM 2017 GUIDELINES AND GENERAL OVERVIEW
APRIL 24 TO 30, 2017

Venue: Taal Vista Hotel (TVH) and Tagaytay International Convention Center (TICC).
Considering the elegance of TVH and its status as an upscale Hotel, it will host the main bulk of programs for the convention. Other events will be hosted at the TICC (GMs Night and Grand Guild of PMs).

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:
OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER – GOLF TOURNAMENT AT EAGLE RIDGE
Note added golf tournament during Ancom days.



First Leg at South Forbes in Laguna chaired by WM William Segun

Day 1 April 24 - Ingress, Mobilization of GLP furnitures

Request to the GM to pull out GLP Furnitures, Transport and Manpower requirements
Day 2 – Registration, Issuance of ID and Distribution of Kits

Venue: TICC

Welcome Tarps, Food, manpower, computers, printers, ID maker, office supplies, transport, glp materials

Delivery of Kits to Hotels of pre-registered delegates. Manpower, Motorcycle community.

2nd GOLF TOURNAMENT at Riviera or Eagle Ridge



Mindanao Leg at Pueblo de Oro Chaired by VW Erwin Bollosos

Sponsors, letters, meals, booking, plaque, prizes, raffle items
Day 3 – Grand Guild of Past Master, Registration and Dinner

Cuernavaca Hall of TICC, food, manpower, transport, entertainment, sound system

Day 4 – Day 1 of ANCOM PROPER – with ongoing registration at TVH function room. Physical Arrangement and Tyler c./o host, Programs and Rituals c/o GLP

Part 1 Assemble of All Grand Lodge Officers, Opening of GLP (Tyled), Reception of Past GM, Reception of Heads of Appendant Bodies, Reception of Visiting Masonic Dignitaries, Reception of the Guest of Honor and Speaker.



Our Sounds/Lights Crew headed by Bro. Sonny Vergara

Venue TVH
Food (lunch, dinner,)
Sound system
Transport
Manpower
Tent Rentals
OIC for Spouses of Dignitaries
Coffee
City Tour with Local Ladies

Part 2 Roll Call, Report of Committee on Credentials, Approval of Proceedings of 2016, Report of Various Masonic Organizations, Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Grand Guild of PM, Financial Relief Assistance

Food (lunch and dinner)
Sound system
Transport
Manpower

Part 3 Grand Master Night (Venue TICC, Food and Entertainment c/o host, Program c/o GLP

Venue and physical arrangement
Food / Dinner
Entertainment for GM Night











Day 5 – Day 2 of Ancom Proper

Part 1 – Reports of Grand Lodge Officers
Venue: TVH
Meal – Lunch
City Tour of foreign ladies and dignitaries

Part 2 -- Election

Computers
Software
Manpower

Day 6 Day 3 of Ancom Proper

Part 1 – Conferral of Installed PM Degree and Meeting of Elected and Appointed GLP Officers

Venue TICC
Physical arrangement by Host , Program by GLP
Proposed venue for meeting – Cuernavaca Hall
Meal – Lunch for above meeting

Part 2 – Installation of GLP Officers

Venue: TVH

Part 3 – Closing of 102 Ancom / Grand Master's Gala Night

Manpower
Meal / cocktails/ dinner
Transport

Day 7 – Day 4 of Ancom Proper

Transport from Tagaytay to Airport
Manpower
Transport of GLP Furnitures

CONSIDERATIONS NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED:

Tents for Souvenir Section / Rentals / Appoint head officer
Sitting GM and Grand Sec, free board and lodging
Venue of TVH was noted in 2016 at 390K / day
Room rate at TVH at P5,950, 6,300 and 7,500
Sound System at 420K
Signing of MOA between GLP and Ancom 2017 Host, Signatory is Chairman of Ancom 2017 , Execom and DDGM
1M for GLP for printing of reports and other misc for GLP Ancom expenses
1.5M after the Ancom in favor of GLP
Election software was billed at P500K

These are the basic areas of concern in our convention:

I. REGISTRATION
II. FOOD
III. ENTERTAINMENT
IV. HOTELS AND BOOKING
V. SECURITY
VI. PARKING
VII. SOUVENIR ITEMS, BOOTHS AND STALLS

OUTLINE
1. Pre-Registration
a. Cost – P4,500 right now. If they have their own booking, they will pay P3,000.00
b. We will force a PRE-REGISTRATION to have accurate and economical food preparations.
c. On line payments, no payment of checks. They can deposit to our account, scan their deposit slip and send to our registration monitoring team.
Account Name: Gregorio M. Monreal
BDO :
d. Credit Card facilities
e. Staff / Secretariat
f. Number of Delegates
2. Hotel booking and accommodations – the site is already available for browsing to afford the delegates to choose the hotels of their likings.
3. Police Escorts – will be afforded to high profile delegates. A separate committee will be assigned to this to assure thorough security preparations.
4. Arrival of Delegates – a separate team shall be assigned to monitor and execute this protocol and to assure that all delegates are accosted to their reservations without any delay and with all due courtesy.
a. Airport
b. Pier
c. Land
ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES
A. AIRPORT
Airport is 65 km away from Tagaytay. Picking up the delegates from the airport will entail a lot of resources. It is therefore better if Delegates shall be picked up from the airport with vans that are pre arranged and booked by them to be their vans throughout the convention. Since they are with the accredited vans, there is no need for the HPG to escort them.
B. PORT
Delegates arriving from the Ports, i.e., Batangas, Manila, shall be escorted by COMMITTEE depending on the schedule. Depending on the schedule of the Ship, each arrival with a good number shall be immediately assembled by the assigned Committee for briefing and distribution of the day's schedule.
C. LAND
Those traveling by land are projected to be met by the WELCOME COMMITTEE and escorted to their hotels.

ARRIVAL AT THE SITE
Welcome Committee shall first bring the delegates to their respective hotels. Delegates shall then pick up their convention kit at their respective hotel lobbies or convention secretariat if their kit is not given to them at their entry hotels.

PARKING FOR ACCREDITED VANS
A separate parking shall be assigned for accredited vans and official transport vehicles.
ESCORTS BASIC RULES.
1. Avoid wang-wang as much as possible
2. Follow traffic signs and signals
3. Stop on Stop lights
4. Be safe.
PRIVILEGES AFFORDED TO PRE-REGISTERED DELEGATES:
1. Availability of convention kits on their respective hotels
2. Option to choose the hotel of their preference
3. Avoidance of queuing for kits
CONVENTION KIT
1. Souvenir program
2. Convention patch
3. T shirt of correct size
4. GREEN Back pack bag sized for purposes of the Coffee Table Book that will be distributed. This bag will be eco friendly and cheap. A sponsor for this is welcome.
5. Give aways (may be claimed on site) depending on the generosity of the sponsors.

FOOD
Food of Muslims must be set aside for them only.

PROGRAM
(GM NIGHT) Production opening should be explosive with fog machines, sectional fireworks.
Stage design should be of primordial consideration in this event in such wise that the delegates may move

around the whole area of the convention. The stage should also accommodate the presentations of various sponsors.
Drones should take care of aerial shots that can be fed via wifi to the production screens.
Talents MUST be varied. Hosts shall be by turns from serious to getting funny and explosive. Talents from comedy bars are preferred, however, without karaoke style of emceeing. Presentations must be screened to prevent any lull in the program.
Lodges who may have prepared their participating presentations are given 5 to 10 minutes.

LIMIT OF NUMBER OF DELEGATES
Considering that our venue is highly accessible, we project a great number of registration and NEW REGISTRATIONS. Thus it is suggested that we limit our delegates to only 3,000 delegates.

PARKING
Parking shall be arranged and shall be duly cordoned with a yellow police or caution line.
VIP PARKING. Shall be afforded.

PACKAGE TOURS
The Public Information Office and the Tourism Office will take care of this. Coordination on this end will require Tagaytay city to coordinate with the adjacent towns for proper handling.

RAFFLE and GIVE-AWAYS
Raffles shall be given away. Should there be an oversupply of prizes, the pre-selected committee shall be immediately assembled to conduct the raffle by themselves duly video recorded.
Physical PRESENCE is a major criterion for a major award to be claimed.

AWARDS
1. Lodge with Most Number of Registered Delegates.
2. First Delegate to Register and Pay
3. Cert of appreciation to the other Lodges and personalities who assisted in the preparation of the event
4. Cert of Appreciation to Mayor Agnes and Cong. Bambol
5. Token of Gratitude to Major and Minor Sponsors

LIST OF TALENTS FOR GM NIGHT AND OTHER NIGHTS WITH FELLOWSHIP

COORDINATION WITH HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS.
All hotels may be requested to print their welcome tarpaulins in accordance with the design of the host. This shall be coordinated well with the Tourism Council.

STAFFING PATTERN
MW BAMBOL N. TOLENTINO – Head
VW Greg Monreal – Chief of Staff, Physical Arrangement, Booking and Accommodations
VW Billy Sumagui – Ancom Chairman and Program Head, Executive Assistant to RW,
VW Nathaniel Golla – Assistant Grand Secretary, Communications, GLP Coordination, Head – Coffee Table Book Project
VW Gilbert Mendoza – Aide-de-Camp, Grand Lodge Marshall, Head of Appointments and Selection
VW Tony Andaya – Senior Grand Lecturer, Head – Legislation and Edicts Formulation
Bro. Jovy – Office Manager

HEADS AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES:
Marketing: basic function: to secure Primary and Secondary Sponsors for the Ancom and different sections of the Ancom
Secretariat: Bro. Mike Lapitan
Website: Head , WB Gilbert Toledo
Golf: WB Jon Arayata and Bro. SW Willy Segun
Coffee Table Book: VW Nathz Golla

MAIN EMAIL:
PRIMARY WEBSITE: https://ancom2017.com
OFFICIAL FACEBOOK ACCOUNT:
BANK DETAILS: _____
Account Name: : _____



MONDAY APRIL 24	WEDNESDAY APRIL 26	THURSDAY APRIL 27	FRIDAY APRIL 28	SATURDAY APRIL 29
Morning -Reception / Welcome Registration of Foreign Dignitaries 9 am Aguinaldo Hall Plaridel Masonic Temple	Morning **ON SITE REGISTRATION** GLP OFFICERS' Practice Opening of GLP at Taal Vista Hotel 10:00 am. SKY It changes you. **FRATERNAL LUNCHEON (by Invitation Only)** Afternoon -Courtesy Visit to Mayor Agnes D. Tolentino (1pm) Welcome Cocktails for GM Guests / Ancom Orientation for Guests / Distribute Kits - (5-7 pm Dignitaries' Cocktails (Taal Vista Hotel) - Fraternal Dinner by Invites only **PAST MASTER'S GUILD at Cuernavaca Hall 3pm**	Morning **Opening of the Grand Lodge** Reception of Grand Master at 9:00 am. Ancom Regular Program Follows PLANET VIDEO • DATA • VOICE • ICT 12: 00 FRATERNAL LUNCHEON ***ID REQUIRED*** 1:30 Resumption Grand Oration Roll Call of Lodges Call to Order of Corporate Meetings Bidding for Ancom 2018 **Dignitaries Dinner at Cuernavaca Hall 6:00 pm** *Grand Master's Night* *(Sigtuna Hall TICC)* Smart TANDUAY	Morning Resumption of Business at 8:00 am Report of the GM and other GLP Officers Report of Different Committees Resolutions Board for General Purposes FRATERNAL LUNCHEON ***ID REQUIRED*** Afternoon ***ELECTION of Grand Lodge Officers*** ***(VOTING DELEGATES ONLY)*** FREE TIME Dinner with Past Grand Masters and Dignitaries (by Invites only) PLDT	Morning Conferral of Installed Past Master's Degree (9am at TICC) Meeting of Incoming GLP Officers (11:30 am) TICC KALiBO CABLE HD FRATERNAL LUNCHEON (by invites only) TICC Afternoon ***INSTALLATION OF NEW GLP OFFICERS 2:30pm. (Taal Vista Hotel)*** Retirement of the outgoing GLP Officers Declaration of the Close of the 101st Annual Communications GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET
TUESDAY APRIL 25 Morning -Reception / Welcome Registration of Foreign Dignitaries 9 am Aguinaldo Hall Plaridel Masonic Temple ***Golf Tournament*** ***Eagle Ridge*** ***Tee Off at 7:00 am*** Globe				

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
VW Gonzalo Mapili, DDGM and the Brethren of Cavite District Bagong Buhay Lodge 17, Gov.Luis Ferrer Lodge 366, Indang Lodge No. 115, La Naval Lodge No. 269, Pilar Lodge No. 15, Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49, Magdiwang Lodge No. 238, Pintong Bato Lodge No. 51, Mendez-Nunez Lodge No. 316, WB Efren de Los Reyes, VW Marcus Andaya, Congressman Roy Loyola, VW Romeo Bartolome.

ANCOM 2017
TAGAYTAY

Head Coordination	: 0917.853.4413
Registration	: 0917.626.9280
Secretariat	: 0922.879.6692
PNP	: 0915.913.7693 (046) 483.1193
Fire Department	: (046) 483.1193
Tagaytay Rescue	: (046) 413.3100 0927.856.9979
Tagaytay Hospital	: (046) 483.2160
Office of Public Safety	: (046) 682.0299



Summary of Transcript of the Digital Audio of Ancom 2017

The Cabletow declares that the summary herein is a reference material only and is not the official minutes of the proceedings of the Ancom 2017 as the official minutes shall come from the Office of the Grand Secretary.



APRIL 27, 2017

1. After the roll call of lodges wherein the lodge UD were also called, the Grand Secretary Declared: "Most Worshipful Grandmaster, and brethren… pause… as ah as of April 27 and out of 372 regular lodges, there are 340 accredited lodges representing 91.4% of all the lodges in the entire Philippine Masonic Jurisdiction. With respect to registered delegates as of 12:33 this afternoon, there are 2,157 registered delegates (applause) and therefore with this record I can safely say MW Sir, we have a quorum. "

Thereafter the Grandmaster declared a Quorum.

2. On the Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Ancom 2016, MW Tomas Rentoy registered an objection. After a thorough deliberation, MW Tomas Rentoy withdrew his objection and the Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Ancom 2016, duly seconded was approved.

3. VW Benito Tan reported on the activities of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children. The Grandmaster rapped his gavel and declared that the report is duly noted.

4. MW John Choa reported on the activities of the Grand Guild of Pastmasters. He announced that the benefits had been increased to P50,000.00. MW Yu moved for its approval, it was duly seconded and was duly approved by the Grandmaster.

5. MW Bunda reported on the FRAP. He reported and moved that the benefits be increased from P25,000.00 to P35,000.00 to take effect immediately. It was duly seconded and was so approved.

6. Davao presented their Ancom plan for 2018. The presentation was made by VW Julius Covelo. He announced that those who will register during this Ancom 2017 may pay only P2,500.00. On the Bidding of Ancom 2019, Bro. Ricardo Roturas of Cagayan de Oro stood up to make the presentation. However, in the absence of MW Pacifico Aniag who is the Chairman of the said committee, the action to be taken on the bid-

ding of the Ancom 2019 was deferred until April 28, 2017.

7. MW Santiago Gabionza moved to have the Ancom base proceedings be adopted as the corporate annual meeting of the board of the corporation. The same was approved without objections.

8. On April 28, 2107, the Grandmaster delivered his Grandmaster's report.

9. The committee on Ancom Bidding was again called forth to deliberate on Ancom 2019. Bro. Ricardo Roturas declared that the principal host is Macalar Lodge No. 184 and he is aware that he will enter into an agreement with the Grand Lodge regarding the hosting. By Recommendation of the committee, Cagayan de Oro was adjudged to host the Ancom of 2019.

10. MW Aniag moves for this motion, "the approval of the conduct of the Grandmaster in his leadership in our Grand Lodge and by this we recommend that we accept the performance, the report, show in the performance our Grandmaster with gratitude and with commendation". The same was duly seconded and thus approved.

11. Clarificatory points were raised and again MW Gabionza announced: "Now MW Sir, in the light of this objections raised on circular no. 24, 6, 13, and no. 14, we will excluded the same from the motion of MW Aniag, and request that a voting .. the other motions excluding the edicts and the circulars be voted upon as for the work accomplishment of the grandmaster during his tenure,,, because this will be tackled later by the committee on grand lodge officer's report. As so moved earlier sir, …….if there is no objection, I guess we have to call for a vote now., and then later, MW Gabionza "So we go back again to the motion, of the acting Chairman of the committee on grand lodge officer's report, that the performance and accomplishments of the grandmaster, including the edicts as well as the circulars earlier cited be now approved. There being no objection, the motion was approved.

12. MW Pacifico Aniag moved for the convening of the Special Ancom in the form of constitutional assembly. This motion was joined by Bro. Chico Boagan of Hiram Lodge No. 88. There being no objection, the motion was approved.

13. MW Santiago Gabionza moved for the approval of Edict 294 Gazmin. MW Tomas Rentoy's comments were taken as objections. After deliberations, MW Tomas Rentoy withdrew his objections and the Edict as presented was approved by the Ancom.

14. MW Pacifico Aniag presented and moved for the approval of all the motions as an Omnibus Approval upon recommendation of MW Rosendo Herrera. After deliberations on the objections, MW Aniag enumerated the edicts included in the Omnibus approval as follows:

a. PA: Edict 293 is the creation of the special committee on preliminary investigation.

b. No. 255-A delegating to the proper masonic district the approval and monitoring of all fund raising activities of its constituent lodges and directing remittance to the masonic district of certain share of the proceeds thereof and for other related purposes.

c. Edict No. 249-A Revised ritual for the opening and closing of the MWGLOFAAMOTP.

d. Edict No. 185-C. Amending certain portion of edict of edict 185-B Imes.

e. Edict No. 261-C (1:42:51) authorizing the publication and distribution of the revised and updated blue monitor of 2015 and prescribing its use as the official masonic cypher in this grand jurisdiction.

f. Edict No. 268-C – Amending items 29 and 30 under the heading for annual communications level of edict no. 268-B of MW Rentoy.

g. Edict no. 273-A, amending edict 273 by providing accreditation fees in regulating the production, sale, purchase and use of promotional masonic items.

h. Edict no. 274-A , providing a public forum of district turn over ceremonies

i. Edict No. 289 , renumbering masonic district R-VI-B to masonic district R-18 Negros Island Region

j. Edict No. 291, increasing the grouping of masonic regions and for this purpose appointing 1 JGL for each grouping and proposing the amendment of section 2 article 27 part 1 of the constitution of the MWGLOTP,

The following covers the results:

GQ: MW Sir, these are the results of the voting, Total votes cast: 1,058; the affirmative votes 744, (applause) , the negative votes 297, and the abstain, 17. For a total of 1,058 votes.

SG: Thank you very much sir. The motion is carried MW GM

GM: The motion is carried. (Gavel is rapped)

15. RW Abraham N. Tolentino reported on the Financial Report for the Budget 2017-2018. He stated a belt tightening measures on the GLP budget and that he will not be spending any amount from the GLP budget

for his travel. He also mentioned that the budget for the Special Communication was not included in his proposal. Nevertheless, he moved for the approval of his report. Without any objection, the proposal was approved.

16. MW Santiago Gabionza then moved for the approval of the Committee on Accounts which report was provided in the kit. With a noted second on the motion, the motion was approved.

17. MW Santiago Gabionza moved for the approval of the report on the Building. Somebody on the floor moved for its approval and it was duly seconded, thus the same was approved.

18. RW Abraham Tolentino then was called to present the report on the Committee on Administration of Lodges. Before the report was read, MW Tomas Rentoy registered an objection based on the composition of the committee. WB Tyson of Sumulong Memorial Lodge moved to submit the report for a votation by the Ancom, the motion was duly seconded. The lodges were enumerated as follows:
Perpetual Binan City Lodge , General Malvar Lodge, Alaminos Lodge, San Jose Lodge, perpetual Biñan city, general Miguel Malvar, Talugtog Nueva Ecija, Alaminos, alaminos Laguna, San Jose San Jose Batangas, Unang Sigaw Capitol Masonic Temple Quezon city, and Taguig Masonic Taguig City, Metro Manila

Result: 323 , the affirmative votes: 213; (applause), the negative votes: 90; and the abstain: 2, total of 323 votes. Thank you very much MW Sir.

SG: MW GM, there is an affirmative vote in favor of the granting of the committee on the administration of lodges.

GM: The affirmative vote, and now we accept the report of the committee on the administration of lodges. (Gavel is rapped) (Applause)

APRIL 28, 2017

19. Asst. Grand Secretary renders the Report on Committee on Grievance
AGS Oliver Yabut enumerated as follows:

1. The appeal of Bro Gilbert Pascoguin of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, the appeal was denied.

2. The appeal for the reconsideration of WB Philip J. Chang of Cagayan Lodge No. 385, the motion for consideration was denied however the honorary membership of a Bro Edgar A. Dee, and Bro Alfon R. Lagabon and Bro. Bryan Lucky Z. Ameni was sustained

3. The case of Bro Ruben T. San Jose Vs. Bro Lay Marshal David of Mario S. Garcia Memorial. Lodge No. 306 the decision of the Trial Commission on the suspension of 1 year and 6 months for Bro Marshal Lee David is declared as final and executory.

4. The 5 bills suspension of Bro Gilbert Diaz, Delson Dayupay, Ermin M. Abdon, WB Carlito L. Samonte, and VW Pedrito M. Reyes of Mount Pula Lodge No. 389 the committee recommended the deduction of 2 years suspension upon of WB Carlito L. Samonte subject to the exercise of the better discretion to the incumbent Grand Master

5. The appeal of VW Amerhassan G. Lucman of Sultan Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman Memorial. Lodge No. 406.The Committee recommended a retrial on the 2 years suspension of Bro VW Amerhassan G. Lucman in the meantime the 2 years suspension is recommended to be lifted until the trial is the retrial is completed.

Case No. 6.VW... on the case of VW Benito Ty Vs. Trial Commissioners namely WB David Magbanua, WM Ezias Obana II, VW Ernesto Uy, VW Roberto Liao, all of the Manila Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1, the appeal is dismissed for lack of merit

Case No. 7 on appeal and automatic review of the sentence of expulsion against VW Gamaliel Sarte and VW Palomar Antonio of Gerona Lodge UD, for Jose Antonio Palomar the committee recommended a modification of his penalty to that of suspension for 2 years, for Bro Gamaliel Sarte the committee recommended the reversal of expulsion and the duration of charges against him.

Case No. 8 on the complaint unmasonic conduct against Bro Cesar Cabral of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 the decision of the trial commission for the 3 years suspension is affirmed.

Case No. 9 appeal on the suspension of the three lights XIX MARTYRS 342 the decision of the trial commission is affirmed on the suspension but retain on degrees candidates Mr. Jose Miguel Milla Flores.

Case No. 10 on the reconsideration on the suspension VW Manuel Chiangco, VW RafaelTan, WB Rodelio Araga, Bro Jovanni L. Florento, WB Raymond Castañeda, all of Kakarong Lodge No. 327, the committee recommended of lifting cancellation of the 1 year suspension order upon WM Raymond Castañeda and continuation the mediations proceedings and the lifting and cancellation of the 6 months suspension order upon WB Rodelio C. Araga, VW Manuel Chiangco, Bro Jovanni L. Florento, and VW Rafael Tan.

Case No. 11 is the appeal of Bro Romulo Cruz of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4; the committee affirm the expulsion sentence upon him.

Case No. 12 the appeal of WB Luisito B. Fortich relative to 6 months suspension, from Sarangani Lodge No. 50 the decision of the trial commission is affirmed as render by the Grand Tribunal for Mindanao and accordingly the appeal is dismissed.

Case No. 13 the appeal of file VW Rodolfo Enumerables and WI Ricardo Adunay of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16 the appeal and counter charge are dismissed with finality.

Case No. 14 the appeal of VW Sultan Amer Lucman relative his suspension from Sultan Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman Memorial. Lodge No. 406 the penalty of suspension for 2 years is hereby set aside the order of suspension for 1 year for alleged unauthorized wearing of PM, Jewel and Apron is hereby set aside for lack of legal factual basis, however the lodge is directed to revisit its resolution dated December 3, 2015 in order to affirm reverse or modify the grant of such award and to submit the same for final action of the Grand Lodge, the last case is the appeal on the reduction of penalty submitted by Baliwag Lodge on the 5 years suspension meted upon Bro Noel Yero from 5 years to 1 year that appeal was denied

VW Cesar Ortega objected to the composition of the committee as over in number. After a long deliberation the following is quoted subject to be voted upon:

a vote on whether to adapt the report of the committee on grievance, together with this decision on items... in all items except No. 5 VW Amerhassan Lucman No. 7 VW Sarte Antonio and No. 14 which will be subject of further discussion after the adoption of the other content of the report,

The early motion of VW Vic Yu as amended to adopt the report of the committee on grievance as duly constituted together with those not contested reports except for the No. 5 on the appeal of VW Amerhassan Lucman, and No. 7 on the appeal VW Sarte Antonio and the appeal of VW Sultan Amer Lucman are hereby declared to be carried

The Grand Master pronounced: The motion of VW Vic Yu is carried with the vote of 987 and the vote for 83, abstention 35 for the total 1,105

20. The ANCOM voting upon the appeal of VW Amerhassan Lucman on case no. GLVGCC005 2016 in re appeal of Bro Amerhassan Lucman for his 2 years suspension resulting from the complaint for unmasonic conduct and public display of disrespect towards to then Grand Master Tomas G. Rentoy III. The committee find it more in accord with fairness and to serve the purpose justice to recommend the instant case be referred to appropriate trial commission or tribunal which the grand master may find appropriate to review and decide on the charges against hearing appellant in the meantime appending such retrial it is likewise recommended that the penalty of 2 years suspension imposed upon hearing appellant we lifted until after the recommended retrial is completed and its recommendation is forwarded and approve by the seating Grand Master the grievance committee approve this recommendation unanimously.

In voting, THOSE AGAINST THE RETRIAL was carried.

21. Case number GLCGLT-14-2016 is the appeal of WB Sultan Amer Lucman rendered the decision of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III dated April 25, 2016 suspending respondent appellant. Submitted for votation is the resolution to set aside the suspensions of WB Amer Lucman for not taking the necessary the proficiency exam before his 3rd ... before has election for worshipful master of his lodge as well as in suspension for wearing of his a past master jewel and apron. After votation, those who voted against the resolution prevailed.

22. Case No. 007 is about the appeal and automatic review of sentence of expulsion against VW Gamaliel Sarte and VW Jose Antonio Palomar. Separate votes were taken.

On respondent VW Jose Antonio I. Palomar the decision of the grievance committee affirmed by the grand master is to reduce the penalty of the expulsion to 2 years suspension. Those who are in favor of the reduction of the penalty impose on Palomar from expulsion to 2 years suspension. The vote was in the AFFIRMATIVE.

23. On case of respondent Gamaliel Sarte has been expelled the decisions of the grievance committee as affirmed by the grand master is to exonerate him from the charges. The Ancom vote was on the AFFIRMATIVE.

24. Committee on revision of the constitution.

a. We were try to first to approve report except for the 4 edicts which you will ask them to affirm modify and we will ask comments and observation from the floor, so can I hear a motion please from the floor who adopt the report of the committee on revision except for the 4 edicts with... 1234, five edicts which

we will request the brethren to discuss further later, ok... any second, any objection ah.. MW there is a motion to adopt the committee on revisions report except for the 4 which we will have to address one by one.

There was no objection, thus the report was approved except the four (4).

b. Edict 272 rationalizes the number of Junior Grand Lecturers and District Grand Lecturers this have been reviewed by the committee on revision and now being submitted to us, as the propose amendment to the constitutions, is there any comments, observations or violent or otherwise on the considering the edicts and amendments. We need to clarify that 272 has already been amended by edict by MW Gazmin edict no. 291 which in effect increases in further the number of the Junior Grand Lecturer.

When presented for approval to the Ancom, including the amendatory edict, the same was approved without objections.

c. for those who in favor of the motion to defer consideration 276, 277, 279 and 280 as amendment to constitutions and shall remain suspended until the special communications please stand up.

Upon votation, the same was carried and will be subject of the Special Ancom.

25. Report on the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Ancom approved the report.

26. The report of the Special Committees were dispensed with.

27. On the objection on the qualification of nominees for election, the objection was overruled because the same should be brought before the Elecom.

28. Resolution I would like to propose a resolution commending our grand treasurer MW Rudyardo Bunda for his lifelong achievement and the grant lifelong achievement... and gratitude to the services has done to the Fraternity for all this year. The same was granted with a standing ovation.

29. Reading of the Nominees for various position by MW Bunda. I'm pleased to report to you our nominees of Grand Master is no other than RW Abraham N. Tolentino, for the position of the Deputy Grand Master RW Romeo S. Momo, for the position of Senior Grand Warden RW Agapito Suan Jr., for the position Junior Grand Warden a there were 14 nominees submitted to as and we choose well of the 14 and I am pleased to let you know the nominees a of the Past Grand Master, first is VW Ramon Tabor, second is VW Edwin Corvera, third is a Jose A. Lim III, forth is VW Edilberto Carrabacan, the fifth is a VW Ricardo C. Marquez, number six is a VW Rolen C. Paulino, seven is a VW Leoncio Solamillo, number eight a VW Leonardo Chua, nine is a VW Edward Y. Chua, number ten is VW Michael David, eleven is a VW Edwin Costes, number twelve is a VW Trese Wenceslao, for the position of the Grand Treasurer MW Juanito Espino Jr., and for the position of the Grand Secretary of course our a MW Danny Angeles.

a. PGM Yu: We Most Fraternally move that our MW Grand Master cast the collective vote of the brethren of 101st Annual Communication for the following positions, first of that Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines for Masonic Year 2017-2018 may I now request the ELECOM Chairman to call our MW Grand Master to cast his vote for the position of the Grand Master.

MW Sir, as Grand Master I hereby cast my vote singularly and collectively for the position of Grand Master a... RW Abraham Tolentino.

RW Tolentino accepted the position.

For the Deputy Grand Master Romeo Momo , who accepted the position.

For Senior Grand Warden RW Agapito Suan Jr, who accepted the position.

For Grand Secretary MW Danilo Angeles, who signified his acceptance.

For the Grand Treasurer MW Juanito Espino Jr., who also accepted.

b. For the position of Junior Grand Warden.

a. Twelve Nominees are as follows:

i. VW Edilberto Carrabacan, VW Edward Y. Chua, VW Leonardo P. Chua, west on the altar facing this, VW Edwin I. Corvera, VW Edwin P. Costes, VW Michael DJ David, VW Jose A Lim III, VW Ricardo C. Marquez, VW Rolen C. Paulino, VW Leoncio Solamillo, VW Ramon G. Tabor and VW Trece D. Wenceslao.

b. After drawing of lots, the following were drawn:

i. VW Jose A. Lim III, ok we get the second call VW Edwin Costes, the third Bro Edward Y. Chua, and

the fourth is VW Leonardo Chua, and last is VW Rolen C. Paulino.

c. Election Followed for the Position of Junior Grand Warden.

On the First Casting of votes, the results are as follows:

Jose Lim	51	5%
Leonardo Chua	89	8.55%
Edward Chua	144	13.83%
Edwin Costes	250	34.40%
Rolen Paulino	493	47.36%

Short of the required percentage, second casting of votes was held with the following results:

Edwin Costes	250	32.59%
Rolen Paulino	517	67.41%

Henceforth, Rolen Paulino was declared as duly elected to assume the position.



RW ROMEO S. MOMO
Deputy Grand Master



RW ROLEN C. PAULINO
Junior Grand Warden



RW AGAPITO SUAN JR.
Senior Grand Warden

PHOTOS OF ANCOM 2017

































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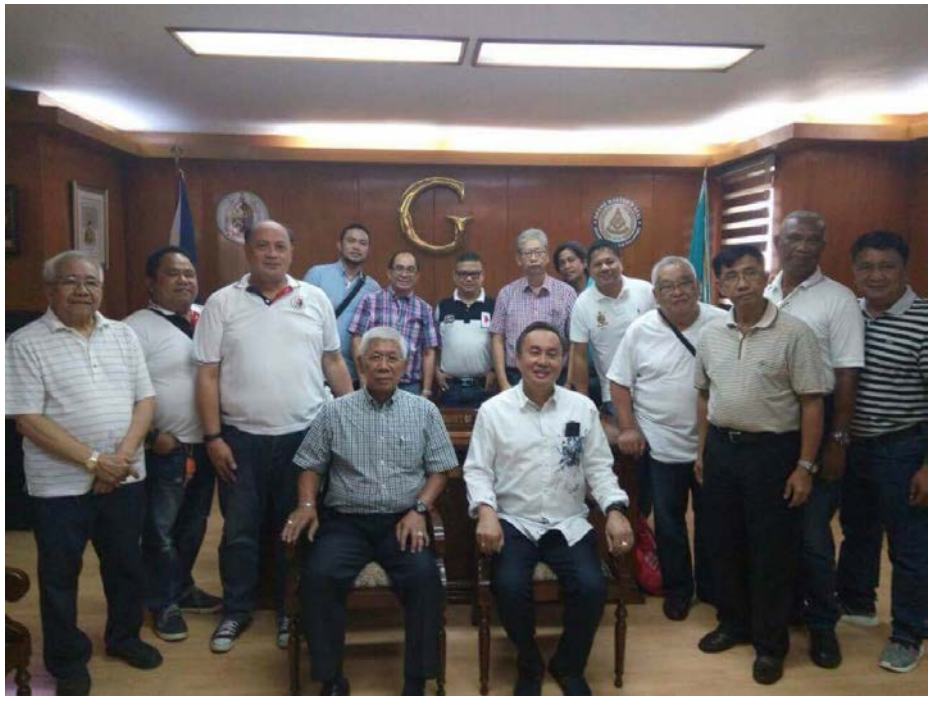


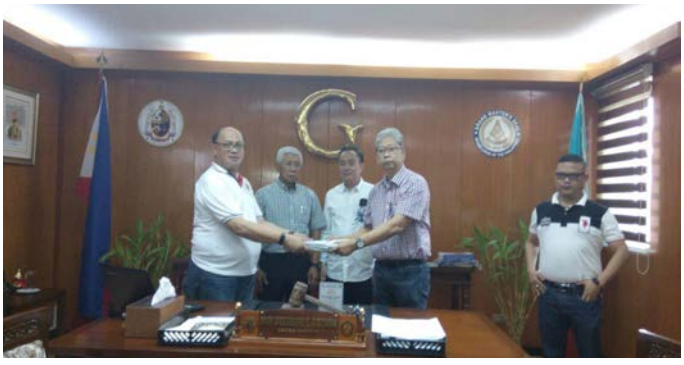


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GRAND LODGE TURNOVER





VW Manny Edquival turning over the GLP documents to VW Greg Monreal, Chief of Staff

One of the best things that could happen to the Incoming Grand Master is his rapport with the outgoing Grand Master. This means a fluid and systematic transition of functions , duties and responsibilities. Moreover, the fun and camaraderie that the two teams went through can be said to be also a BLUEPRINT for later transitions. It is on this precept that the present Grand Master and his team of executives are working to transmit to the next team a working and systematic Grand Lodge. Indeed a WELL DESERVED SALUTE to MW Voltaire T. Gazmin and his TEAM.



VW Oliver Yabut, AGS, turning over his documents to VW Nathz Golla, AGS.



THE GRANDMASTER'S TRAVELS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The First Schedule after installation to the Grand Oriental Chair is to attend the Annual Grand Session of the Order of the Amaranth.





GM attends ANCOM in Turkey

Among Master Masons, "…traveling in foreign countries" has been significant line both of its rituals and literal way of being a Mason. Grand Master MW Abraham N. Tolentino of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines together with other delegates traveled in foreign countries to strengthen the fraternal ties with other jurisdictions.

On May 12 to 13, 2017, MW Tolentino attended in the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Turkey held at Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus, Istanbul, Turkey. With him were VW Gregorio Monreal, Asst. Grand Treasurer, VW Gilbert Mendoza, Grand Marshal, VW Wharton Chan, DDGM of NCR-D, VW Henry Oaminal, Grand Pursuivant, VW Efren Arayata, Jr., Grand Junior Grand Steward, VW Erwin Pio Bollozos, Junior Grand Lecturer for Overseas and VW Armando Cazzola, Grand Chaplain.

Grand Lodge of Turkey's Annual Communication 2017 also featured the election and installation ceremony of their new Grand Master.

Grand Lodge of Turkey was established 1909 and in amity with 147 Grand Lodges all over the world.







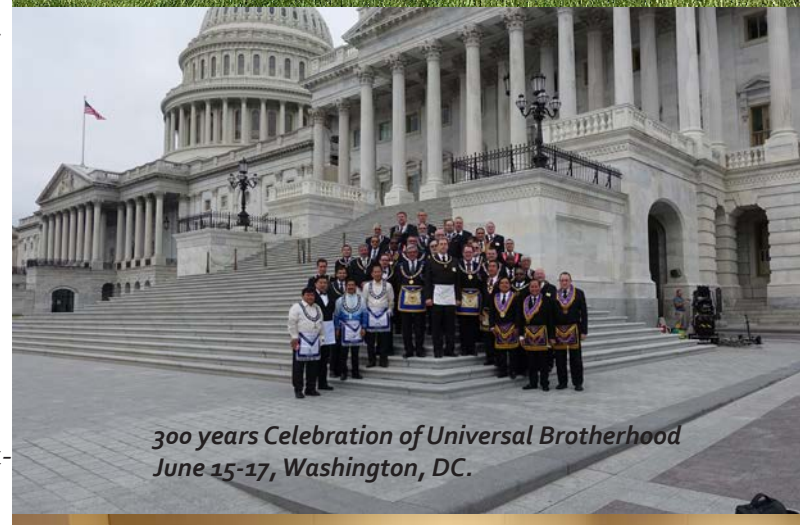
MW Tolentino participates in 2017 Universal Brotherhood Celebration

Grand Master MW Abraham N. Tolentino of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines with delegates joined other brothers in Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in Washington, USA to be part of 2017 Universal Brotherhood Celebration held on June 15 to 17, 2017.

This year's event highlighted the 300th anniversary of Modern Freemasonry with an official delegation from the United Grand Lodge of England. MW Tolentino and Grand Lodge of the Philippines delegates celebrated the universality of Brotherhood with brothers from various jurisdictions through various activities such as Universal Lodge meeting showcasing the cultural diversity of the Craft in our Grand jurisdiction, gala banquet, etc.

The Universal Brotherhood Day originally started in India in 1893. It commemorates the spirit of brotherhood by undertaking charity and welfare programs. Brotherhoods especially Masons all over the world celebrate this day with much fervor and doing various philanthropic and welfare activities, in the spirit of the most important virtue of Freemasonry- the Masonic Charity.





300 years Celebration of Universal Brotherhood
June 15-17, Washington, DC.









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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION 2017

















MW ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO



The One Hundredth Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines shall now occupy the Grand Oriental Chair.

MW Bambol, as he prefers himself to be called had his primary education at St. Augustine School, Mendez, Cavite, a neighboring town of Tagaytay City. His secondary education is at St. Anthony School, Manila.
He finished Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Management at San Beda College, Mastered his Science in Fiscal Studies at the Lyceum of the Philippines. After that he took an Executive Course on Leadership, Chaos, Conflict & Courage for 21st Century at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and Executive Course on National Security, Institute for Extramural and Continuing Studies at the National Defense College.

Rooted in his genes as the youngest son of former Mayor Isaac O. Tolentino who served Tagaytay City for 25 years, he stepped into the political arena, devoting himself to public service as a Congressman of the 7TH District of Cavite from 2013-Present. In Congress, he is the Assistant Majority Floor Leader of the Commissions on Appointments. He also serves as the as Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food and is the Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Agrarian Reform, National Defense, and Rules and Resolutions.

He serve before as Tagaytay City Mayor from 2007-2013 and as City Councilor 1998-2004 as (Chairman: Committee on Rules, Committee on Public Works, Facilities, Utilities and Land Utilization, and Committee on Housing) and as City Councilor (Youth Representative, KB) 1985-1988. That 28 years of public service is a feat for a servant. Noteworthy to state that his family of servants includes former MMDA Chairman Atty. Francis N. Tolentino.

Despite his busy schedule, he still is very active in the following Non-Governmental Organizations either as its President or a functioning member. These includes his position as President of the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines, as Secretary General of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, as President of Asean Chess Zone 3.3, as Management Committee Member of the Asian Cycling Confederation, as President of the Samahang Kickboxing ng Pilipinas Inc., as member of the Board of the Philippine National Shooting Association, as Auditor of the League of Cities of the Philippines, as Member of the Asian Cities Against Drugs (Malaysia) and as a member of the Alliance of Healthy Cities (Japan).

A family man of three children, Aniela Bianca, Athena Bryana and Aizack Brent, he is married to Dr. Agnes D. Tolentino, DMD who is the incumbent Mayor of Tagaytay City and Chairperson of the Local Council for the Welfare of Children and focal person for Gender and Development.

His Masonic records are likewise colored with endless accomplishments in favor of the craft. He was initiated on June 16, 2001, passed on July 21, 2001, and Raised to the Sublime Degree on August 18, 2001. Passing from West to East at the Regular Gates, he served as Worshipful Master of Tagaytay Lodge 165 in the year 2005 when Tagaytay Lodge hosted the Annual Communications of 2005. He serves as District Grand Lecturer in 2006 and was appointed to serve as the District Deputy Grand Master for Region IV-A-1, which appointed he relegated to VW Avelino M. Sumagui. In 2011, he was given the most coveted HIRAM Award for spearheading and acting as the main benefactor for the erection of the Tagaytay Lodge 165 new modern building. In the Grand Lodge he chaired the Committee on Ways and Means in 2014 , Information Tech and as Vice-Chair of the committee on

2nd SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS after 100 years

"In the following days, the Grand Lodge of PI endeavored to bring into its fold the other lodges still working outside its jurisdiction, except the Prince Hall Lodge. It succeeded in taking in Maguindanaw Lodge and Mabini Lodge under the former Regional Grand Lodge and Minerva Lodge under the Gran Oriente Lusitano Unido. But Lodge Perla de Oriente under the Grand Lodge of Scotland decline to join. World War I was then raging in Europe, and Scotland was one of the nations at war. Lodge Perla del Oriente told the Grand Lodge of PI,: "We believe it our Masonic duty to remain true and loyal to the Grand Lodge of Scotland during the present world crisis."

The Grand Lodge of PI was in a hurry to bring in the three lodges and could not wait for the regular Annual Communication in 1918. A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION was held on March 15, 1917 during which charters were issued to Mabini Lodge No. 39, Maguindanaw Lodge No. 40 and Minerva Lodge No. 41. It was also on this day that Quezon was installed as Deputy Grand Master, along with the five other Grand Lodge officers who were not installed into office during the last Annual Communication.

On March 31, 1917, Kalaw officially informed that Grand Oriente Espanol that its lodges in the Philippines had all joined the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands and returned their old charters.

The lodges in the Philippines were now all under one roof. Masons no longer looked at each other with suspicion and distrust, but moved as a single and solid body. For the first time in Philippine Masonic History there was only one central organization."

--The Brethren, In the Days of Empire, by MW REYNOLD S. FAJARDO--

Environment and Disaster Preparedness. As a regular mason, he is a dual member of Magtagumpay Lodge No. 410 and Silang Lodge No. 416

In April of 2014, he tried his luck and offer of service to the fraternity by putting forth his candidacy as Junior Grand Warden. The Brethren spoke of it not as a matter of luck but as a matter of Providence and fate. While all other candidates were disqualified, he remained steadfast and was duly elected, just as it was a time when there was a clamor to revise and reform the election process of the Grand Lodge. It was indeed a welcome event for Freemasonry for having such a service oriented Worthy Freemason be our Grand Master. We are indeed proud as the incoming leadership will bring forth unity, camaraderie and fun again into the craft.

EDICTS OF MW ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

The Most Worshipful
Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons
Of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE
1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila
Tel Nos. 524-3263 • 522-2232 • 522-2218
Website: www.grandlodge.ph

MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 295

CALLING FOR A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PURSUANT TO SEC. 2, ARTICLE IV, PART I OF THE CONSTITUTION AND APPROVED RESOLUTION DURING THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF 2017

WHEREAS, our current revised edition of our Constitution (Centennial Edition) was completed in 2012 but numerous Edicts have been approved by the Grand Lodge in the subsequent years leading up to the present, some of which have the effect of revising the existing written provisions of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the approved Edicts contained in such latest edition are still not integrated and harmonized into the provisions of such Constitution;

WHEREAS, there are still unfinished business during the ANCOM 2017 that has to be resolved and put to rest;

WHEREAS, there are Edicts issued during this Masonic year that are amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances;

WHEREAS, there is the necessity to preserve our Masonic tradition by ensuring the consistency of the provisions of our Constitution to our ancient laws, regulations, common usages and customs from which we derive our origins;

WHEREAS, the interaction and participation by the brethren in this endeavor to provide clarity and harmony in the provisions of our Constitution is indispensably necessary for the proper governance of the Craft:

WHEREAS, the time allotted during regular Annual Communications for the discussion of the integration of previously approved edicts resulting to revision of the Constitution is not sufficient to afford an exhaustive and comprehensive deliberation, debate and consideration of proposed integration of edicts to our Constitution;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the call for a Special Communication duly approved by the brethren during the Annual Communication of 2017 and finding that there is a need to call for a Special Communication for the reasons above-stated thereby promoting the welfare of the fraternity, a Special Communication is hereby called this Masonic year;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree as follows:

1. Basis of the call for a Special Communication.

Section 2, Article IV Part I of the Constitution provides that Special Communications may be called by the

Grand Master whenever such shall promote the welfare of the fraternity.

2. Objectives.

a. Integrate with our existing Masonic law book all Edicts approved beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as presently contained in the Masonic Law Book, Centennial Edition, covering Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV thereof;

b. Deliberate and vote upon the unfinished business of ANCOM 2017; and

c. Deliberate and vote upon the Edicts amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances issued by the Grand Master before the Special Communication;

No other business shall be transacted at the Special Communication other than for this purpose.

3. Date and Place.

The Special Communication for one (1) day shall be held on 19 December 2017 to coincide with the celebration of the anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the grand celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Unification of the Gran Oriente de Espanol and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in Tagaytay City;

4. Authorized Delegates.

The Masters and Wardens of the Chartered Lodges and the Immediate Past Masters representing the Past Masters of Chartered Lodges, Past Grand Masters and Grand Line Officers of the Grand Lodge shall constitute the authorized delegates for the Special Communication.

5. Registration.

All the authorized delegates must be duly registered for the Special Communication. The registration fee for the Special Communication shall be determined by the Grand Lodge.

6. Quorum.

The presence of any of the delegates of a Chartered Lodge representing at least one-third (1/3) of the Chartered Lodges shall constitute a quorum to transact validly in the Special Communication in accordance with Part I, Article IV, Sec. 3 of the Constitution.

7. Joint-Committee for Special Communication.

The Committee on Revision of the Constitution and Committee on Jurisprudence are hereby constituted as the Joint-Committee for Special Communication acting as Technical Working Group of the Grand Lodge responsible for the integration of all approved edicts beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution and Ordinances. The Joint-Committee may avail the services/assistance of other Special Committees, if the need arises.

The incumbent Senior Grand Lecturer shall sit as Chairman of the Committee.

The Joint-Committee established above shall present a "working draft" as point of reference of deliberation incorporating all approved edicts and edicts issued by the Grand Master which shall be circulated amongst the subordinate lodges on or before 19 October 2017 for their own deliberation and evaluation and be the subject of the deliberations, amendments or proposals by the delegates in the Special Communication;

8. Order of Business.

The following shall be the Order of Business in the Special Communication:

i. Opening of the Grand Lodge;
ii. Reception of Past Grand Masters;
iii. Prayer by the Grand Chaplain;
iv. Singing of the National Anthem;
v. Panunumpa sa Watawat;
vi. Singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn;
vii. Roll Call of Delegates and Determination of Quorum;
viii. Transaction of Business;
ix. Adjournment;
x. Closing of the Grand Lodge

9. Rules of Procedures during the Business Transaction.

Subject to amendments, the following shall be the Rules of Procedure:

a. The Presiding Officer of the Special Communication shall be the Grand Master;

b. The Chairman of the Joint-Committee or any of the incumbent Grand Line Officers of the Grand Lodge as may be appointed by the Grand Master will present to the brethren the "working draft" for deliberation and approval by the delegates in the Special Committee;

c. The sequence of the presentation of business for deliberation and voting shall be as follows:
1. Unfinished business of ANCOM 2017;
2. Integration of Edicts affecting the Constitution;
3. Integration of Edicts affecting the Ordinances;
4. Integration of Edicts affecting the By-Laws;
5. Edicts of the Grand Master.

d. Each item mentioned-above shall be subject to deliberation, comments and proposals and voting shall be made on the recommended integration after deliberations;

e. Filibustering or extended/prolonged debate over any subject of deliberation during the plenary session which tend to delay or entirely prevent a vote on the subject matter is not allowed;

f. The "working draft" of the revised/updated Constitution and other subject matters of the Special Communication shall be approved collectively or separately by a majority vote of the delegates present and constituting a quorum during the voting;

g. The assembly shall use the "rising vote" as the manner of voting on the "working draft" of the revised/updated Constitution and other subject matters of the Special Communication. The Chair says. " All those in favor rise. (pause) Be seated. Then, "All those opposed rise. (pause) Be seated.

h. After deliberations and consolidation, the final draft of the revised/updated Constitution shall be presented by the Grand Master to the whole assembly by way of summation.

10. Approval by the Special Communication.

The approved integration of Edicts and other matters subject of the Special Communication shall constitute as the final and new version of the Constitution.

All matters approved during the Special Communication are no longer subject to the approval of the brethren at the next Annual Communication.

11. Appropriations.

The sum of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) be set up as the initial fund of the Special Communication subject to adjustments as may be necessary.

This Edict shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipt and action n thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said Stated Meetings.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 23rd day of May 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 295-A

SUPPLEMENT TO EDICT CALLING FOR A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PURSUANT TO SEC. 2, ARTICLE IV, PART I OF THE CONSTITUTION AND APPROVED RESOLUTION DURING THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF 2017

WHEREAS, Edict 295 (MW Tolentino) was issued calling for a Special Communication pursuant to Section 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution and approved resolution during the Annual Communication of 2017;

WHEREAS, the Objectives of the Special Communication are limited to the following, to wit:

a. Integrate with our existing Masonic law book all Edicts approved beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as presently contained in the Masonic Law Book, Centennial Edition, covering Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV thereof;

b. Deliberate and vote upon the unfinished business of ANCOM 2017; and

c. Deliberate and vote upon the Edicts amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances issued by the Grand Master before the Special Communication;

No other business shall be transacted at the Special Communication other than for this purpose.

WHEREAS, the resolution to call for a Special Communication was approved during the Annual Communication of 2017 and therefore the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017 should be read and approved during the Special Communication;

WHEREAS, the reading and approval of the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017 should be included as part of the Objectives of the Special Communication;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree as follows:

The Objectives of the Special Communication are now as follows:

a. Integrate with our existing Masonic law book all Edicts approved beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as presently contained in the Masonic Law Book, Centennial Edition, covering Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV thereof;
b. Deliberate and vote upon the unfinished business of ANCOM 2017; and
c. Deliberate and vote upon the Edicts amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances issued by the Grand Master before the Special Communication; and
d. Reading and approval of the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017.

No other business shall be transacted at the Special Communication other than for this purpose.

The new sequence of the presentation of business for deliberation and voting shall therefore be as follows:

1. Reading and approval of the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017;
2. Integration of Edicts affecting the Constitution;
3. Integration of Edicts affecting the Ordinances;
4. Integration of Edicts affecting the By-Laws
5. Unfinished business of ANCOM 2017;
6. Edicts of the Grand Master.

Subordinate lodges are hereby enjoined to calendar all the objectives of the Special Communication during their stated meetings for their own deliberation and evaluation and to exercise their expressed power to instruct their delegates to the Special Communication as to how to vote on the matters therein.

Further, the Grand Lodge has determined that the registration fees and the Lodge assessments for the Special Communication therefore shall be as follows:

1. Php2,000.00 per Lodge for the four (4) Authorized Delegates of the Lodge;
2. Php1,000.00 for every Grand Line Officer of the Lodge;
3. Past Grand Masters are exempted from payment of registration fee.

The above-mentioned assessment to the Lodges for the authorized delegates shall be remitted to the Grand Lodge on or before 30 November 2017 regardless of whether or not the authorized delegates will or can attend the Special Communication. Payment of the aforesaid lodge assessment is an additional requirement to representation at the Annual Communication of 2018.

The additional amount of Ph1,500,000.00 is hereby appropriated for the costs of printing of the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017, "working draft", kit for the authorized delegates, edicts and the new Masonic Law Book including the celebration of the anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the grand celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Unification of the Gran Oriente de Español and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines which is not included in the initial fund appropriated for the Special Communication.

This Edict shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipt and action n thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said Stated Meetings.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 17th day of July 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 296

LODGE VISITATIONS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT OR MASONIC JURISDICTION ONCE IN A MASONIC YEAR CONSIDERED AS STATED MEETING OF THE LODGE FOR THE MONTH

WHEREAS, every Lodge reflects a vast range of ages, conditions, traditions and culture among its members;

WHEREAS, the right of every Masons to visit and sit in every regular Lodge is an unquestionable Landmark of the Order and this is called the 'right of visitation.'

WHEREAS, one of the most obvious ways to involve new Masons immediately is in the area of Lodge Visitation as not much expertise or membership tenure is required and there is a fabulous opportunity for the Brother to gain valuable experience;

WHEREFORE, in order that a Lodge and its members become more acquainted with other brethren from other Masonic Districts or Jurisdictions and to familiarize with the conditions, traditions and culture of other lodges during stated meetings, a Lodge may hold a Lodge visitation outside the Masonic District or Masonic Jurisdiction and the same shall constitute as the Lodge Stated meeting for the same month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

I. All Lodges may hold Lodge visitations outside the District or Masonic Jurisdiction once in a Masonic year and the same shall constitute as the Lodge Stated meeting for the month under the following guidelines:

a. The lodge to be visited should be outside the District of the Visiting Lodge or outside of our Masonic Jurisdiction;

b. The Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden or Junior Warden should be present during the Lodge visitation;

c. At least five (5) other members of the Visiting Lodge should likewise be present consituting seven (7) members present during the opening and closing of the Lodge Visited;

d. The date of Lodge visitation shall be communicated in writing by the Visiting Lodge to the Lodge Visited and if the Lodge visitation is within the Masonic Jurisdiction, the communication shall be read in open lodge during the stated meeting of both Lodges prior to the date of the Lodge visitation;

e. The members of the Visiting Lodge should be informed of the Lodge Visitation during the stated meeting prior to the date of the Lodge visitation;

f. The Lodge Visited thru its Tyler will ascertain to his satisfaction thru the Worshipful Master of the Visiting Lodge that the visiting members are all Master Masons in good standing;

g. The members of the Visiting Lodge shall sign in at the Tyler's book as visiting brethren;

h. The members of the Visiting Lodge have only the right of visitation in the lodge; even if obtains entry they cannot vote, propose motions or speak on a question without invitation from the Worshipful Master of the Lodge Visited;

i. The Worshipful Master of the Visiting Lodge shall be given due courtesy and invited to sit in the proper place in the East;

j. After the Order of Business of the Lodge Visited, the Worshipful Master of the Visiting Lodge shall be recognized to introduce his members and deliver a short message briefly describing his lodge for the benefit of the Lodge Visited to get to know more about the Visiting Lodge. Thereafter, the Worshipful Master of the Visiting Lodge may address the members thereof for some announcements of Lodge forthcoming activities;

k. The Lodge Secretary of the Lodge Visited shall issue a Lodge Visitation Certificate stating therein the date of the meeting, the name of the Visiting Lodge, names of the officers and members present;

l. The Lodge Visitation Certificate shall be read in open lodge during the stated meeting of the Visiting Lodge and recorded in the Minutes of the Stated meeting immediately after the Lodge Visitation;

m. Notwithstanding the required Lodge Visitation, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge Visited shall exercise its powers regarding admission of anyone into his Lodge;

n. If the Lodge Visitation is outside of our Masonic jurisdiction, the Visiting Lodge shall take responsibility of ascertaining the requirements of the Lodge to be visited in admitting visiting brethren and of securing a certificate of lodge visitation in accordance with paragraph k hereof which shall be read in open lodge in accordance with paragraph l hereto;

o. The Lodge Visitation in accordance with the above-enumerated guidelines shall be considered by the Grand Lodge as Visiting Lodge's exemption to the duty to the Grand Lodge to hold one stated meeting for the month;

p. The exemption under this Edict can only be availed of by the Visiting Lodge on the same month the Lodge Visitation was conducted;

q. Notwithstanding full compliance thereto, the Visiting Lodge may still hold its Stated Meeting for the Month.



All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated meeting following its receipt and shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila on this 23rd day of May 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

The Most Worshipful
Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons
Of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE
1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila
Tel Nos. 524-3263 • 522-2232 • 522-2218
Website: www.grandlodge.ph

MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 297

THE USE OF FILIPINO DURING OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE LODGE IN THE STATED MEETINGS IN CELEBRATION OF "BUWAN NG WIKANG PAMBANSA"

WHEREAS, a common language unifies a nation and is an important element in shaping national identity however, promoting the widespread use of Filipino as a national language continues to be a major challenge in an archipelago where dozens of dialects are spoken;

WHEREAS, Proklamasyon Blg. 1041, s. 1997, mandates the celebration of ***"Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa"*** from August 1-31 of each year;

WHEREAS, ***"Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa"***, the special month, which coincides with the birth anniversary of President Manuel L. Quezon, PGM and known as *"Ama ng Wikang Pambansa"* dedicated to the Philippines' national language to spur more programs to promote the widespread use of the Filipino language;

WHEREFORE, to show our love and concern for our country there is a need to incorporate the use of Filipino language in our Masonic rites and ceremonies to promote the proper use of the national language as Freemasons' contribution to help in the intellectualization of the national language;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

I. All stated meetings of lodges during the month of August celebrating the ***"Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa"*** shall use the Filipino language during the Opening and Closing of the Lodge per attached opening and closing of the lodge in Filipino;

II. Filipino language may also be used during the said period for the discussion of the Order of Business and other matters during the stated meeting;

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

*"By your Grip, we are here to serve,
not to be served even beyond the Cabletow"*

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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 298

REMOVING THE WORD "MEMORIAL" ON LODGES NAMED AFTER A DEAD PERSON

WHEREAS, the word "Memorial" connotes the term "*in memoriam*" which literally means "in memory of" a deceased person;

WHEREAS, Masonic custom demonstrates that the word memorial is being used as part of a lodge name in connection with the memory of a worthy brother Mason or a non-Mason with a redeeming value to society or who had a demonstrated affinity or service to Masonry and in some instances and one who has a reasonable connection or impact to Freemasonry;

WHEREAS, section 13 of the Local Government Code of 1991 explicitly states the prohibition of usage of the word "Memorial" to naming of streets and roads due to its redundancy of definition, and for the same reason, the usage of "Memorial" should likewise be removed from the names of Masonic Lodges;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

The word "MEMORIAL" labeled on all Masonic Lodges named after deceased persons shall hereafter be removed;

Chartered Masonic Lodges including Lodges U.D. are hereby prohibited from using the word "Memorial" in its Lodge name;

Lodges with the word "Memorial" in its Lodge name with the exception of Memorial Lodge No. 90 shall submit to the Grand Secretary an amended Lodge By-laws with the amended Lodge name in accordance with this edict for approval thereof in accordance with our Masonic laws.

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 299

NAMES OF LODGES AFTER PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND NATIONAL HEROES ARE PERPETUAL NAMES OF LODGES

WHEREAS, Presidents and National Heroes have contributed to the rich history and culture of Philippine Masonry, making a huge impact and influence to our society;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the outstanding affinity or service to Masonry and Philippine Society, they are deemed worthy of being appreciated, and thus, their names are used as Masonic Lodge names.

WHEREAS, in consideration of their Patriotic contributions and accomplishments, which inculcate the tenets and virtues of Freemasonry, they are worthy of being honored by the Philippine Masonry;

WHEREAS, Lodges constituted bearing the names of Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines and National Heroes should be used by Lodges perpetually and must not be changed except when removing the word "Memorial" pursuant to Edict No. 298 – MW Tolentino;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

Masonic Lodges constituted using the names of Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines and National Heroes are hereby decreed to perpetually use the name of the Lodge and henceforth prohibited from being revised, altered, changed or modified except when removing the word "Memorial" pursuant to Edict No. 298 – MW Tolentino;

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated meeting following its receipt and shall be recorded in the Minutes.

"By your Grip, we are here to serve,
not to be served even beyond the Cabletow"

EDICT NO. 300

MORATORIUM IN THE ISSUANCE OF DISPENSATION TO FORM NEW LODGES USING PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE, SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC TEMPLE, CAPITOL MASONIC TEMPLE OR JACOBO-ZOBEL MASONIC TEMPLE

WHEREAS, under the Ordinances, lodges can be formed by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master and perpetuated by a charter from the Grand Lodge;

WHEREAS, it is further provided in the Ordinances that the Grand Master may, in case of manifest propriety and necessity, grant a dispensation to form a new lodge upon receipt of a petition satisfying the conditions required by our law and regulations;

WHEREAS, Lodges from different Masonic Districts from NCR use the following Masonic Temples:

Plaridel Masonic Temple – 1440 San Marcelino St, Ermita Manila
Scottish Rite Masonic Temple – 1828 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila
Capitol Masonic Temple – 1 Makatarungan St., Diliman, Q.C.
Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple – Antonio Village, Makati City

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned Masonic Temples are increasingly becoming too crowded with Chartered Lodges conducting their respective meetings therein thereby making it very difficult for new lodges to likewise hold there meetings therein;

WHEREAS, to date the following number of lodges use the following Masonic Temples:

Plaridel Masonic Temple - 29 Lodges
Scottish Rite Masonic Temple - 8 Lodges
Capitol Masonic Temple - 15 Lodges
Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple - 11 Lodges

WHEREAS, it has therefore become impractical, unreasonable and unnecessary for new lodges to be formed if new lodges will just use the same temples for their stated meetings and other masonic affairs;

WHEREAS, it has also been noted that there are lodges, whose membership development, retention and attendance at their stated meetings are unsatisfactory, thereby making it more necessary to strengthen the membership of these lodges than the formation of new ones;

WHEREAS, there is now a need to hold off the formation of new lodges if lodges to be formed will also use the four (4) Masonic Temples;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree:

The formation of lodges that will use as its meeting place the Plaridel Masonic Temple, Scottish Rite Temple, Capitol Masonic Temple or Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple is hereby suspended indefinitely;

The moratorium on the issuance of dispensation for the formation of lodges that will use any of the aforesaid Masonic Temples shall continue to be effective until manifest propriety and necessity become apparent in the formation of new lodges;

The petition to grant a dispensation to form a new lodge that will not use any of the aforementioned Masonic Temples must comply with the additional condition constituting as paragraph f under Section 2, Part II Ordinances Article I Organization of Lodge which states that:

"It must be accompanied by an undertaking that it will acquire or construct its own permanent lodge or masonic temple in an identified location within a period of three (3) years from the date of its Charter. In case of non-compliance with the undertaking, the Grand Lodge may review, recommend and if necessary take appropriate actions thereto."

The Chartered lodges using the aforesaid Masonic Temples are hereby encouraged to emulate Masonic lodges from the Provinces and to aspire to acquire and build their own temples to use as their permanent masonic lodges.

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt, which fact of reading shall be recorded in the Minutes of the stated meeting of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 13th day of June 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary



EDICT NO. 301

PROVIDING THE PROCEDURES ON AFFILIATIONS FOR MASONS INITIATED, PASSED AND RAISED BY A LODGE U.D. BUT WAS NOT GRANTED A CHARTER

WHEREAS, Edict No. 294(MW Gazmin) established a uniform procedure in order that laws and regulations pertaining to the formation of lodges be further strengthened, complemented and harmonized with our Constitution, laws and regulations, landmarks, ancient customs and usages;

WHEREAS, Edict No. 294 (MW Gazmin) addressed the situation when a member of a defunct lodge or a Lodge U.D. which failed to secure or was denied a Charter was conferred the first, second and third degree works by a Lodge U.D.;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Edict gives such a member the status of regularly demitted Masons who shall be entitled to be issued a certification of that fact, or in the form of Certificate of Demit or Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Grand Secretary for purposes of petitioning for admission in a chartered lodge;

WHEREAS, the Constitution, laws and regulations and landmarks have no provisions on the procedures for the above-described Masons to affiliate with Chartered Lodges;

WHEREAS, there is now an increase in the number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree Masons from Lodges U.D. that were not given or granted Charters who wish to continue their degrees or pursue their journey in Freemasonry;

WHEREAS, there is a need for an administrative guidelines and policies which coincide with our masonic constitution, laws and regulations and landmarks to ensure proper care and guidance to Masons trapped in this kind of situation regarding admission to a Chartered lodge or affiliation with Chartered lodges;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree:

The following provisions are hereby added as Section 9 of A. Qualifications and Other Requirements under Article VI Degrees and Affiliations of Part II Ordinances to read as follows:

"Sec. 9.

1. Proficiency. The newly initiated, passed or obligated brother who has not yet made the required proficiency examination when the Lodge was considered defunct may obtain the necessary examination through the Grand Master or his duly appointed representative at the Grand Lodge or at the jurisdiction of the duly appointed representative of the Grand Master where the defunct lodge was located;

2. Affiliation.

a. After passing the required proficiency examination, the Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellow Craft Mason or the newly raised Master Mason of the defunct lodge shall apply for affiliation with a Chartered lodge within twelve (12) months thereafter in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances on affiliations and is required to pay the affiliation fee;

b. The Entered Apprentice Mason or Fellow Craft Mason of the defunct lodge who fails to affiliate without a valid reason for a period of twelve (12) months starting from the date the Lodge is considered defunct or from effectivity of this edict for those already Entered Apprentice Mason or Fellow Craft Mason from defunct lodges prior to this Edict, may hereafter be dropped from the rolls;

c. The newly raised Master Mason of the defunct lodge who fails to affiliate without a valid reason for the same period of time shall be deemed unworthy of Masonic consideration and not entitled to any of the rights, privileges and charities of the Craft until such time he has affiliated with a Chartered lodge.

d. The newly raised Master Mason is further required to pay his dues from the time he was considered a non-affiliated mason;

3. Adoption.

a. The sponsoring lodge, if any, of the Lodge U.D. is enjoined to adopt all Masons Initiated, Passed and/or Raised by the defunct lodge, subject to the applicable provisions of the Ordinances on affiliations;

b. In the absence of the sponsoring lodge, the said Mason/s, may apply for affiliation with any of the Chartered lodges under the jurisdiction of Masonic District where the defunct lodge belongs or is situated. The applicable provisions on affiliations shall likewise apply; and

c. If none of the above-mentioned is available, the said Masons may opt to choose any Chartered Lodge where he may deem fit to continue his degrees in Masonry, subject to the regulations governing residency.

In all cases, the regulations governing proficiency examinations and tried and proven are hereby strictly implemented."

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt, which fact of reading shall be recorded in the Minutes of the stated meeting of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 13th day of June 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 268-D

AMENDING EDICT No. 268-B (MW Rentoy) PARTICULARLY PARAGRAPHS 9, 34 & 35 AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION GOVERNING THE ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE POSITION OF JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

WHEREAS, Edict No. 268 (MW Espino), as ratified with revisions during the 98th ANCOM in Manila last April 24-26, 2014, amended certain provisions of the Constitution governing the nomination process for the position of Junior Grand Warden;

WHEREAS, Edict No. 268-A (MW Purisima) amended certain provisions of Edict 268 (MW Espino) to further enhance the nomination process for the position of Junior Grand Warden;

WHEREAS, Edict No. 268-B (MW Rentoy) further amended certain provisions of Edict No. 268 (MW Espino) and Edict No. 268-A (MW Purisima) to improve the mechanisms in the nomination and electoral process for the position of Junior Grand Warden;

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend and supersede certain provisions of the aforementioned Edicts to amalgamate and to integrate their expedient and indispensable attributes in achieving the desired reforms so as to hasten and accelerate the electoral process for the position of Junior Grand Warden;

WHEREAS, it has been the practice of the voting delegates during Annual Communications to forthwith leave the premises of the plenary after casting their votes during the first balloting for various reasons without participating in the second balloting when no candidate garnered majority of the votes cast by the voting delegates;

WHEREAS, in the event of a need to conduct a second balloting, data shows that only a few of the voting delegates remain and cast their votes thereby defeating the rule that a candidate for the position of Junior Grand Warden should be proclaimed the winner if he garnered the highest number of votes by majority of the voting delegates;

WHEREAS, to ensure that the person to occupy the position of Junior Grand Warden is elected by the will of the over-all electoral body, the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes by plurality, shall be declared the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden;

WHEREAS, the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes during the first balloting enjoys a better mandate from the Brethren as he is chosen when the entire voting delegates participated in the exercise than elected by the majority of the remaining less than one-half of the voting delegates;

WHEREAS, the last paragraph of Section 9 of Edict 268-B (MW Rentoy) likewise provides for the forfeiture of the District's entitlement to nominate a candidate in case the District fails to elect a nominee during the preceding year;

WHEREAS, said provision of the Edict limits the right of the District to nominate a candidate for the succeeding year even if there are brothers within the District qualified to be nominated for the position of Junior Grand Warden;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree:

The last paragraph of Par 9 of Edict 268-B (MW Rentoy) which states that "Any district which fails to elect the required number of nominees shall forfeit their entitlement as provided for in the immediately preceding paragraph, for the succeeding masonic year" is hereby removed and deleted.

Further, Paragraphs 34 and 35 of Edict 268-B (MW Rentoy) shall thus read as follows:

" IV. Annual Communication (ANCOM) Level.

34. In the election of the JGW, the candidate who obtains the highest vote shall be declared the winner regardless of whether or not such a candidate garnered the majority votes cast by the voting delegates.

35. The candidate who obtains the highest number of votes by plurality in single balloting shall be proclaimed the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden. In case of a tie, the same shall be broken by a toss coin and the candidate who wins in said toss coin shall be proclaimed the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden. The toss coin shall be done in public by the Chairman of the ELECOM."

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipt and shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of July 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 303

DECLARING THE ACT OF ABANDONMENT, NEGLECT AND REFUSAL TO SUPPORT THE WIFE AS UNMASONIC AND PROVIDING PENALTY THEREOF.

WHEREAS, in adherence to the Philippine Constitution, Freemasonry recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution;

WHEREAS, Freemasonry values the dignity of women and guarantees full respect for their rights. It recognizes the right of women to assistance including proper care and special protection from all forms of neglect, abandonment, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their dignity as wives and as women;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 209 otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines" provides that the husband and wife are obliged to live together, observe mutual love, respect and fidelity, and render mutual help and support:

WHEREAS, Freemasonry recognizes the need to strengthen and protect the family and its members particularly the wives of Masons from unjustified abandonment by a member of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

WHEREAS, towards this end, Freemasonry shall exert efforts to address the abandonment of Mason's legal wives due to drugs, womanizing, gambling, alcoholism and other forms of vices and neglect and to bring back to the family dwelling erring Masons committing unjustified abandonment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree:

Section 1. No Mason from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines including Master Masons from foreign jurisdictions who have affiliated hereto shall:

a) Abandon his legal wife and therefore avoid his marital obligations to her as a husband to live together and render support on account of his infidelity or promiscuous activity, gambling, alcoholism, drug addiction or any other form of vices;

Abandonment occurs when the Mason has left the family home or dwelling without intention of returning. A Mason who left the family home or dwelling for a period of at least six (6) months or has failed within the same period to give any information as to his whereabouts shall be prima facie presumed to have no intention of returning to the family dwelling.

b) Without leaving the family dwelling, force, compel or coerce his legal wife to leave the family dwelling, without a valid or justifiable reason or on account of his infidelity or promiscuous activity, sexual assault, repeated physical, emotional, financial, psychological or mental abuse or harassment, gambling, alcoholism, drug addiction or any other form of vices;

Section 2. Any of the afore-mentioned acts as provided for in Section 1 hereof, shall be considered as Unmasonic Conduct and any Mason found liable for the offense shall be meted with appropriate penalty which may amount to Expulsion from the Craft;

Section 3. Cases filed against any Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, whether or not a member of the Grand Lodge maybe filed directly with the Grand Lodge which shall be resolved by way of a summary procedure;

Section 4. The Rules of Summary Procedure under the Rules of Court shall be suppletory hereto wherein, after the filing of the verified-complaint and answer, the parties shall be required to submit Position Papers, attaching all their supporting documents, evidence and supporting affidavits of their witnesses. Only the Grand Master shall have the power and authority to hear and decide on the expulsion or grant of pardon to an expelled brother pursuant to this Edict;

Section 5. For purposes of this Edict, a regular mason shall not be considered a proper party in filing the complaint. A written complaint under oath from the legitimate spouse shall be indispensable for the commencement of the action;

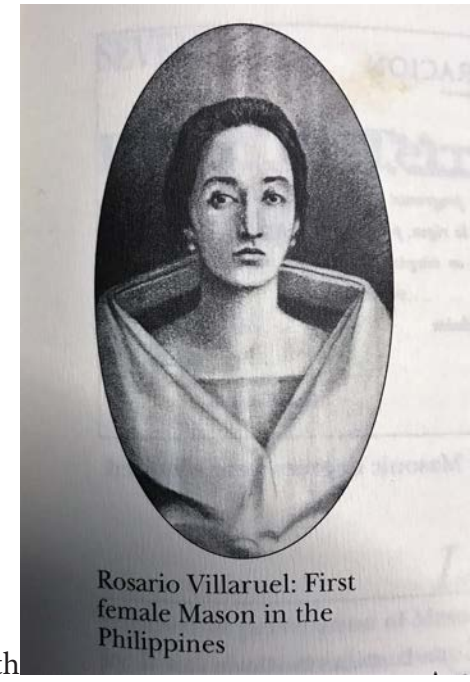
Section 6. No action or complaint under this Edict shall prosper unless it appears clearly from the verified complaint that earnest efforts toward a compromise have been made, but that the same have failed. If it is shown that no such efforts were in fact made, the same case must be dismissed;

Section 7. Notwithstanding the imposition of the penalty of Expulsion, a Mason expelled under this Edict may be pardoned by the Grand Master and restored to Masonry in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Masonic Law Book due to any of the following grounds:

a. Upon presentation of joint-sworn statements of the spouses that the abandonment ceases to exist and that the spouses are living again as husband and wife;

b. Upon presentation of joint-sworn statements of the spouses that the spouses have amicably settled their differences and are mutually happily living separately from each other; or

c. Upon presentation of a court decision ordering the legal separation or a decree of annulment of the marriage of the spouses;


Rosario Villaruel: First female Mason in the Philippines

Section 6. This Edict will not apply to following cases of abandonment;

a. Those committed prior to joining Freemasonry;
b. Those committed by Masons prior to the effectivity of this Edict with pending court cases or with final decisions for annulment, declaration of nullity of marriage or legal separation;

All edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the stated meeting following its receipt and shall be recorded in the Minutes of the lodge.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 13th day of June 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 304

RATIONALIZING THE FILING OF CASES DEALING WITH VIOLATION OF MASONIC LAWS AND OTHER COMPLAINTS AND CHARGES FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT WITH THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND IMPOSING CORRESPONDING FEES THEREOF

WHEREAS, it has been observed that a considerable number of complaints for masonic offenses were filed and continuously being filed before the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines wherein the same may and should be settled at most, on the masonic district level;

WHEREAS, that such cases, which are often frivolous and trifle in nature, if not, incompliant with requisite masonic laws and procedures, tend to take its toll on the financial, human, and other logistical resources of the Grand Lodge which may be have been better allocated for more essential masonic concerns and services;

WHEREAS, Edict No. 293-Gazmin (Creation of A Special Committee on Preliminary Investigation) seeks to expedite the processing and disposition of such complaints by the thorough and circumspect review thereof and allowing only meritorious cases to go to trial while at the same time dismissing frivolous and trivial charges;

WHEREAS, it is the thrust of the Grand Oriental Chair for this term that harmony be the primordial concern of each and every member of this grand jurisdiction as well as the subordinate lodges that compose of it by admonishing the same that the filing of such charges be the ultimate and inevitable option in the resolution of Masonic disputes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree:

The following fees shall be hereinafter imposed upon the filing of complaints for unmasonic offenses except complaints filed pursuant to Edict No. 303 (MW Tolentino):

Filing Fee : P10,000.00/unmasonic charge
Additional Fee: P 50.00/page in the complaint received and processed by the Grand Lodge

The fees collected herein shall form part of the Grand Lodge General Fund.

All edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the stated meeting following its receipt and shall be recorded in the Minutes of the lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 13th day of June 2017.



Jurisprudence Committee and Committee on Revisions at Work

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 305

ADOPT- A- SCHOOL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, education is of universal great importance that as early as 1863, an Educational Decree was issued by the Spanish providing for the establishment of free and public primary schools and that in 1901, the Americans established the compulsory public system of education;

WHEREAS, education is the country's answer to the growing problem of poverty as lack of education affects not only this generation but the future as well and thus should not be left in the hands of the few but should be developed and cultivated by every Filipino in every way that they can;

WHEREAS, the data of the Department of Education (DepEd) shows that there is an enormous demand for public education in the primary and secondary levels in view of the rising costs in the country that a lot of families could no longer afford the high cost of education;

WHEREAS, basic education is too big and too important a task to just leave to the government and with the continuing problems in budgets and limited resources, government funded schools often experience shortage in about everything and as much as the DepEd wants to provide public school students first class learning environment that they deserve, such task is enormous and therefore becomes difficult;

WHEREAS, under Section 5, Article III Duties of a Lodge, Part II Ordinances of the Masonic Law Book, one of the duties of a lodge to its community is *"To aid and support the public school system"*;

WHEREAS, in order for the Lodges to fulfill its very important duty to the community, Masonry should extend its hands towards educational development by partnering with the government in education by adopting a public elementary or secondary school to aid in the areas of infrastructure, health and nutrition, teaching skills development, computer and science lab and equipment, support and upgrading and modernization of facilities among others;

WHEREAS, there are already Lodges who regularly provide aid and support to some public schools even outside of their Masonic jurisdictions. Hence, institutionalizing this kind of community service by the brethren will better expose them to this Masonic virtue;

NOW, THEREFORE, 1, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree:

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines hereby institutionalizes the Lodges' duty to aid and support the public school children by creating a program called "Adopt-a-School";

Under the program, all subordinate Lodges are enjoined to participate in the "Adopt-a-school" program of the Grand Lodge by adopting at least one (1) public elementary or secondary school regardless of territorial jurisdictions;

Schools that are less privileged, located in remote areas or low income municipalities, which have limited resources but have large student population, experiencing classroom shortage and overcrowding, insufficient textbooks and instructional materials, with poor but have high performing students and those with undernourished students should be given consideration;

To formalize the arrangements with the school, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Lodge and the school concerned for aid and support for a period of three (3) years shall be executed renewable at the option of the parties;

Two (2) or three (3) lodges may jointly adopt the same school under one MOA;

The MOA shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge to form part of the records of the lodges.

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt, which fact of reading shall be recorded in the Minutes of the stated meeting of the Lodge.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of July 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary



EDICT NO. 306

PROPER SEATING ARRANGEMENTS OF DIGNITARIES IN THE EAST

WHEREAS, it has been observed that different Masonic Districts have different seating arrangements for the dignitaries in the East;
WHEREAS, we may have several Masonic Districts in our jurisdiction but ours is just one Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and therefore must have one policy on the seating arrangements of dignitaries in the East;
WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion, all Masonic Districts must conform to one and uniformed seating arrangement of dignitaries in the East whether in Lodges, District Conventions, Multi-District Conventions or Installation or District Council Turn-Over Ceremonies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree:

The following dignitaries shall be seated at the right of the Worshipful Master in the East:

a) Grand Master;
b) Grand Master's duly authorized representative;
c) District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM); and
d) Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI);

The Grand Master or if his duly authorized representative is present or in the absence of the Grand Master, the DDGM shall sit at the immediate right of the Worshipful Master in the East;

On the other hand, the following dignitaries shall be seated at the left of the Worshipful Master in the East:

a) Past Grand Masters (PGM);
b) All Elective Officers of the Grand Lodge;
c) Grand Lecturers;
d) All Other Grand Line Officers;
e) Guest of Honor and Speaker;
f) Installing Officer (IO);
g) Master of Ceremonies (MC);
h) Incumbent Worshipful Masters of other Lodges;
i) High Dignitaries from Sister Grand Lodges; and
j) Invited Guests of the Worshipful Master to sit in the East.

The Guest of Honor and Speaker (GOHAS) except when the Grand Master is the GOHAS whether Mason or non-Mason, shall be seated at the immediate left of the Worshipful Master in the East.

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Grand Lodge in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of July 2017.

EDICT NO. 307

REITERATING EDICT NO. 152 (MATEO) PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE WORD "MASONIC" TO NAMES OF ALL SUBORDINATE LODGES AND TEMPLES

WHEREAS, as stated in Edict 152 (Mateo), a "Lodge", as commonly understood refers to a shelter, a cabin, a cottage, quarters, assemblage, society, association and temporary shelters for travelers such as "motels", "inns", etc which carrying the word "Lodge" in their names;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Edict decreed that the adjective "Masonic" should be appended by all subordinate Lodges in their official names and temples in order to distinguish them from common usage of the word Lodge;

WHEREAS, based on the present records of the Grand Lodge, there are only 10 Lodges with the word "Masonic" in their official names;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree, that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

Edict 152 (Mateo) is hereby re-decreed for strict implementation thereof by requiring all subordinate Lodges except those Lodges whose names are of great national historical accounts, to append in their official names and temples the word "Masonic";

Lodges that consider their names to have great national historical accounts or importance should submit to the Grand Lodge before the Special Communication a resolution showing the historical accounts of the names in order to be exempted from the application hereof;

This Edict shall have the effect of amending the Charter and/or By-laws on the names of the Lodges;

Chartered Lodges whose official names will be changed to append the word "Masonic" pursuant to this Edict shall be provided by the Grand Lodge a new Charter at no cost to the Lodges. The old Charter need not be surrendered to the Grand Lodge to form part of the memorabilia of the Lodge.

No dispensation shall be issued to form a new Lodge unless the proposed name of the Lodge bears the word "Masonic". Thus, Section 7, Article I Organization of a Lodge, Part II Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. The Lodge shall submit its name for approval by the Grand Lodge which shall not be the name of any living person or chartered lodge and must bear the word "Masonic" in its official name, and request a number for it. No dispensation shall be granted to form a new lodge unless the official name of the Lodge bears the word "Masonic".

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt, which fact of reading shall be recorded in the Minutes of the stated meeting of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge on this 10th day of July 2017, in the City of Manila, Philippines.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE
1440 San Marcelino Street,1000 Ermita, Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: +63 2 524 3263 / +63 2 522 2232 / Fax: +63 2 522 2218
Website: www.grandlodge.ph

MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 308

LOWERING THE AGE OF PETITIONERS TO 18 FOR A SON OF A MASON

WHEREAS, Section 1, A, Article VI Degrees and Affiliations provides that the age of a petitioner for the degrees of Masonry is at least twenty-one (21) years old at the time of the signing of the petition;

WHEREAS, the Landmark Eighteenth of The Landmarks or The Unwritten Law requires that the candidates for initiation are of mature age;

WHEREAS, the age of majority now is 18 years old;

WHEREAS, young men in their teens are exposed to so many vices, bad habits, behavior and influences and immorality from among their peers including involvement with streets and college fraternities and must therefore be extracted from an unruly society with degrading and deteriorating moral and social values;

WHEREAS, in order to bring young men into the fold of Masonry at their young age to mold them early to become good men and then better men, early-age membership to the Freemasonry is therefore encouraged;

WHEREAS, the Filipino close family ties and the father and son relationship should always continue even within Freemasonry.

WHEREAS, the records show that in the jurisdictions of the Grand Lodge of California, Grand Lodge of England and Grand Lodge of Scotland, and almost in the ninety percent (90%) of Grand Lodges in the United States, the ages of a petitioner are 21 and 18 for sons of Masons;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree:

Section 1, A. Qualifications and Other Requirements, Article VI Degrees and Affiliations is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

"By your Grip, we are here to serve, and not be served even beyond the Cabletow."

"Section 1. A petitioner for the degrees of Masonry must be a man at least twenty-one (21) years old eighteen (18) years old for a son of a Mason with parental consent and support at the time of signing of the petition, freeborn, a believer in God and a future existence, of good moral character, literate and physically able to conform substantially to what the several degrees require of him and for those not sons of Masons. have made adequate provision for himself and for his family in case of death.

The father of the 18 year old petitioner must be a Master Mason in good standing and financially capable or with adequate provision to assist the 18 year old son in the financial requirements in the petition for degrees and membership fee of the lodge.

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt, which fact of reading shall be recorded in the Minutes of the stated meeting of the Lodge.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge on this 10th day of July 2017, in the City of Manila, Philippines.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 309 **IMES**

PROVIDING FOR AN ON-LINE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING

WHEREAS, Edict 185 (Demonteverde) provides for the establishment of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES), replacing the Center for Continuing Masonic Education contained under Edict 86-Puno;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article V of Edict 185 specified the method of instruction to be used in IMES classes, to wit:

"The basic method of instruction to be implemented by the Institute is the classroom method through a Lodge of Instruction to be held on a per class (or Lodge basis)."

WHEREAS, the above-cited provision was crafted in the Masonic Year 1999 wherein the advancement of technology and theories in learning are far from today's standards;

WHEREAS, there is a need to augment the style and teaching methods of IMES to conform to the current times and the clamor of the brethren for economical, immediate and accessible methods of learning the courses offered in IMES;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, in consideration of the foregoing premises, and by virtue of the authority in me vested as Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines, do hereby decree and promulgate the following:

1. Article V Methods of Instruction of Edict 185 (Demonteverde) is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

"ARTICLE V
METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Section 1. The basic methods of instruction to be implemented by the Institute are the classroom and on-line methods.

Section 2. The following Masonic subjects shall be covered by the
on-line course:

a) Masonic History
b) Masonic Philosophy and Symbolism
c) Masonic Lodge Governance and Jurisprudence
d) Major Lectures that any incumbent Grand Master may instruct the Senior Grand Lecturer and the IMES President to conduct in accordance with the program thrust that the sitting Grand Master may pursue.

Section 3. The course on Liturgy, Rituals and Ceremony shall be taken up in a lodge where the Brother is a member or at any lodge within the Masonic District that has jurisdiction over him. The lecture and examination may be administered by any of the following Grand Lodge Officers:

Junior Grand Lecturer;
District Deputy Grand Master;
District Grand Lecturer; or
Grand Lodge Inspector.

Seection 4. A certification to this effect, in accordance with the form provided by the IMES President, shall be issued to those who shall pass the examination and the same shall form part of the requirements, together with the completion of all the IMES courses, for the issuance of diploma."

2. The officers authorized to give lectures and examinations on Liturgy, Rituals and Ceremony shall first secure a clearance from the IMES President before the scheduled classes for them to be equipped with the necessary materials needed for the lecture, examination and certification;

3. The course provided for under Section 3 hereof, may be availed of by any Master Mason in good standing, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines;

4. The traditional classroom method shall continue, provided the same will meet the minimum number of thirty five (35) enrollees in any given class. All courses given in the on-line classes shall continue to be offered by the classroom method, including, but not limited to the course on Liturgy, Rituals and Ceremony;

5. The current IMES fee in the amount of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00) is hereby decreased to ONE HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (P150.00) effective January 2018;

6. The Institute of Masonic Education and Studies, (IMES) is hereby directed to immediately formulate and provide the implementing rules and regulations for the procedures for enrollment, successive progression or sequential acceleration to the next course level and other safety measures and monitoring mechanism, if need be to ensure that the enrollees themselves are actually answering the questions in order to serve the very purpose for the

creation of IMES and for the effective operations and implementation of on-line method of instruction. Pending issuance of the rules and regulations, a circular to this effect shall be issued immediately.

All provisions of the Constitution, edicts, circulars and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
This Edict shall take effect immediately upon promulgation and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipts and that action taken thereon recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the City of Manila, Philippines this 10th day of July 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 310

AN EDICT FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO PROVIDE A HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIPPLED AND BURNT CHILDREN BY ENTERING INTO A PARTNERSHIP OR AGREEMENT WITH ANY PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT ENTITY FOR THE USE, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THEREOF

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge aims to provide hospital that will cater to the medical needs and requirements of crippled and burnt children;

WHEREAS, the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI), a non-stock non-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines whose statutory Chairman is the Grand Master was established to extend medical help and assistance to crippled children;

WHEREAS, providing medical help and assistance to the crippled and burnt children is likewise the main advocacy of the Mabuhay and Agila Shriners;

WHEREAS, the patients being helped by MCCCI and the Mabuhay and Agila Shriners are just temporar-

ily accommodated in hospital wards of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), East Avenue Medical Center and some other government hospitals;

WHEREAS, the MCCCI and the Mabuhay and Agila Shriners have no permanent medical institution to cater to their intended patients.

NOW THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree:

The Grand Lodge will provide a hospital for the crippled and burnt children by entering into a partnership or contract/agreement with any private or government entity or unit for a usufruct or free use of a hospital for a minimum period of 25 years renewable thereafter;

The MCCCI and/or the Mabuhay and Agila Shriners shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the hospital including the appropriate costs thereof;

No funds of the Grand Lodge shall be appropriated for the construction, use, maintenance and/or operations of the hospital.

This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated meeting following its receipt and shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge on this 10th day of July 2017, in the City of Manila, Philippines.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE
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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 311

STREAMLINING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF IMES

WHEREAS, Edict No. 185-B (MW Ebdane) has amended certain provisions of Edict Nos. 185 and 185-A and modified the structure and composition of the Institute;

WHEREAS, Edict No. 264 (MW Espino) created IMES Regional Centers whereby part of the functions and activities of IMES-GLP were devolved thereto;

WHEREAS, Circular No. 16 (MW Lim Lo Suy) directed Officers of the IMES to operate in accordance with the Management Structure, Rules Governing the Conduct of IMES Masonic Lectures and the Guidelines for Collection and Disbursement whereby various groups and positions in the administration of the Institute were created;

WHEREAS, the present structure of the Institute involves various positions requiring the involvement of so many brethren and the same incurs expenses from the IMES funds;

WHEREAS, Edict 309 (MW Tolentino) provides for two (2) basic methods of instruction to be implemented by the Institute, to wit: the classroom and on-line methods;

WHEREAS, the purpose for which the Institute was created will be best accomplished if the administration thereof will be focused solely on the continuity of Masonic Education and enhancement of the corresponding quality of instruction;

WHEREAS, in order to focus on the very purpose of IMES, there is a need to streamline the present organizational structure of the Institute;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, in consideration of the foregoing premises, and by virtue of the authority in me vested as Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines, do hereby decree and promulgate the following:

The Structure and Composition of the Institute per Edict No. 185-B (MW Ebdane) except for the term of office of the President of the Institute which was lowered to one (1) masonic year or co-terminus with the term of the Grand Master who appointed him by Edict No. 185-C (MW Gazmin), are hereby maintained and continued to be implemented;

The President of the Institute shall in addition to its duties and responsibilities continue to provide leadership, visions and directions and policy guidelines to IMES as approved by the Board of Regents;

The President will be assisted by two (2) Executive Directors to implement the plans and programs for the two (2) Methods of Instruction. One Executive Director is hereby created for the Classroom method of instruction and another one for the On-line method of instruction;

The President thru the Executive Directors may appoint lecturers as members of the faculty from among the qualified Junior Grand Lecturers (JGLs), District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs), District Grand Lecturers (DGLs) and/or Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLIs). Former IMES lecturers may still be appointed to continue as lecturers.

The officers authorized to give lectures and examinations on all subjects
shall likewise first secure a clearance from the IMES President before the scheduled classes for them to be equipped with the necessary materials needed for the lecture, examination and certification;

The Executive Directors shall have the authority to appoint their respective technical assistants and/or staff.

All other positions, centers, groups and/or committees created by previous Edicts and Circulars not mentioned or included herein are hereby abolished.

Collections and disbursements of funds shall be under the responsibility of the Grand Lodge and subject to the budget of the Institute as approved by the Board of Regents.

This Edict shall take effect immediately upon promulgation and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipts and that action taken thereon recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the City of Manila, Philippines this 17th day of July 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary



Jose Malcampo y Monge: Founder of the first Masonic lodge in the Philippines

SUMMARY OF CIRCULARS ISSUED BY MW ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

CIRCULAR NO. 1. May 2, 2017.
SUBJECT: ELECTED and APPOINTED OFFICERS of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the PHILIPPINES
(Full Contents in this issue)

CIRCULAR NO. 1-A – MW TOLENTINO
SUBJECT : ELECTED and APPOINTED OFFICERS of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the PHILIPPINES

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Masonic District Korea	-	VW Kurt Dressler
Masonic District Marianas Island	-	VW Casiano M. Bostre

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURER

Masonic District RIV-Laguna	-	VW Rizalde M. Castro
Masonic District Japan	-	VW Hiroshi Yagi
Masonic District Korea	-	VW Pablo I. Reyes
Masonic District Marianas Island	-	VW Pepe R. Crisostomo

CIRCULAR NO. 3. May 2, 2017.
TO: ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: DESIGNATED CHARTER NUMBERS OF LODGES UD GRANTED CHARTERS DURING THE ANCOM 2017
Herein below therefore are the consequential numbering of the following Lodges UD whose petitions for Charters were granted during the Annual Communication 2017 in Tagaytay City:

Name of Lodges	Charter Number
1. Perpetual Lodge Binan City, Laguna	426
2. Gen. Miguel Malvar Talugtog, Nueva Ecija	427

3. Alaminos Lodge 428
Alaminos, Laguna

4. San Jose Lodge 429
San Jose, Batangas

5. Unang Sigaw Lodge 430
Capitol Masonic Temple, Q.C.

6. Taguig Masonic Lodge 431
Taguig City, Metro Manila

CIRCULAR NO. 4. May 2, 2017.
TO: ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THE JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: REQUIRING ALL SUBORDINATE LODGES AND MASONIC DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "BUY a BOOK, BUILD a SCHOOL" PROJECT OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Our masonic way of service will fulfill our duties to the community by this year's Project of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for Public Schools dubbed as "Buy a Book, Build a School". The Coffee Table Book that we have launched in ANCOM 2017 highlighting the unique character of blue lodges of the Philippines would be the vehicle for the Grand Lodge to build classrooms in an identified remote area in the country.

The proceeds of this Coffee Table Book generated from the contributions of all lodges shall be used to build classrooms in an effort to bring education to the underprivileged. No funds of the Grand Lodge shall be used in the realization of these timely and noteworthy undertakings.

All Lodges and Masonic Districts are therefore required to buy at least one (1) copy per Lodge and one (1) copy per Masonic District at Php7,500.00 per book. All Grand Line Officers are likewise reminded of their commitments to support the "Buy a Book, Build a School" program of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Junior Grand Lecturers and District Deputy Grand Masters are hereby directed to monitor full compliance thereof by the Lodges to ensure the realization and success of this endeavor.

CIRCULAR NO. 5, May 2, 1017.
TO: ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: BRETHREN'S DAY

In an effort of the Grand Master to reach out and serve the brethren well, commencing immediately, every Friday shall be the "Brethren's Day". As such, during this day of the week, the brethren may visit the Grand Master in his Office.

CIRCULAR NO. 6. May 5, 2017.

TO: ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES IN THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: CHAIRMEN, VICE-CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE GRAND LODGE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairman	RW Romeo S. Momo, DGM
Members	RW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., SGW
	RW Rolen C. Paulino, JGW
	MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr., PGM, GT
	MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GS

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

Chairman	VW Romeo A. Bartolome
Members	VW Avelino M. Sumagui
	WB William M. Segun
	WB Efren B. Delos Reyes

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE

Chairman	VW Edgardo M. Villareal, II
Members	VW Kenneth B. Yambao
	VW Gonzalo Q. Mapili, Jr.
	WB Hubert A. Formento
	WB Renato A. Paraiso

COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Chairman	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya, SGL
Members	VW Wharton R. Chan
	VW Gil B. Mendoza
	VW Jonald E. Hernandez
	VW Edwin G. Larida, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF LODGES, RETURNS AND CHARTERS

Chairman	RW Romeo S. Momo, DGM
Members	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya
VW John B. Llamas	
	VW Alejandro A. Vidallo
	WB Tristan Aris B. Diaz

COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

Chairman	MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., PGM
Members	VW Lyceo C. Martinez

VW Roberto-Damian A. Morico, IV

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCES

Chairman	MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM
Members	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya
	VW Avelino M. Sumagui

COMMITTEE ON WORKS

Chairman	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya, SGL
Members	All Junior Grand Lecturers

CIRCULAR NO. 6-A –May 10, 2017. MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES IN THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : CHAIRMEN, VICE-CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE GRAND LODGE

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC TEMPLES AND BUILDINGS

Chairman	VW Armando G. Cazzola
Members	VW Noel C. Baybay
	VW Cristito J. Perez
	VW Edward Y. Chua
	VW Neil M. Canedo

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Chairman	RW Rolen C. Paulino, JGW
Members	VW Erwin Pio B. Bollozos
	VW Janby Earl H. Yu
	VW Dennis L. Cunanan

COMMITTEE ON GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP

Chairman	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
Members	VW Edwin P. Costes
	VW Erwin Pio B. Bollozos
	Bro. Michael M. Lapitan

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Chairman	MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GS
Vice-Chairman	VW Nathaniel S. Golla
Members	VW Sebastian C. Siga-an
	WB Ace Devino A. Custodio

COMMITTEE ON PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

Chairman	VW Lyceo C. Martinez
Vice Chairman	VW Kenneth B. Yambao
Members	WB Renato A. Paraiso
	WB Darwin S. Reyes
	Bro. Rogel V. Jimenez

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Chairman	VW Avelino M. Sumagui
Vice-Chairman	VW Ruben G. Azarcon
Member/s	VW Eduard Y. Sevilla

COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

Chairman	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya, SGL
Vice Chairman	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
Members	VW John L. Llamas
	VW Nathaniel S. Golla
	VW Efren T. Arayata, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH

Chairman	VW Wharton R. Chan
Vice Chairman	VW Gerard A. Ceballos
Members	VW Avelino M. Sumagui
	VW Edison Abella – Order of DeMolay
	Sis. Norie R. Redor – Rainbow for Girls Phils.
	Sis. Emmalou F. Sanchez – Job's Daughter International

COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENTS

Chairman	MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr., PGM, GT
Vice-Chairman	RW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., SGW
Members	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
	VW Janby Earl H. Yu

COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

Chairman	MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH
Vice Chairman	MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., PGM
Members	MW Pacifico B. Aniag, PGM
	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya, SGL
	VW Gonzalo Q. Mapili, Jr.
	WB Norman T. Daanoy

COMMITTEE ON CEMETERY

Chairman	VW Armando G. Cazzola
Vice Chairman	VW Wilfred M. Yu
Members	VW Roberto A. Palmero

Bro. Ricardo Rainier G. Cruz III

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY

Chairman	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
Vice Chairman	VW Efren T. Arayata, Jr.

VW Romeo A. Bartolome
VW Erwin Pio B. Bollozos
WB Luis A. Ferrer, IV

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Chairman	VW Gilbert Angemille James S. Toledo
Vice Chairman	VW Avelino M. Sumagui
Member/s	Bro. Joemar M. Barlaan

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL RELIEF & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRAP)

Chairman	MW Juanito G. Espino, PGM, GT
Vice Chairman	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
Members	VW Romeo A. Bartolome
	VW Janby Earl H. Yu
	VW Luisito M. Lopez

COMMITTEE ON CAVITE AFFAIRS

Chairman	MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM
Vice Chairman	VW Albert J. Macion, Jr.
Members	VW Henry N. Nagaño
	VW Gonzalo Q. Mapili, Jr.

COMMITTEE ON ANCOM EVALUATION

Chairman	MW Romeo A. Yu, PGM
Vice Chairman	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
Member/s	VW Noel C. Baybay

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chairman	Bro. Elpidio M. Macalma
Vice Chairman	VW Efren T. Arayata, Jr.
Member/s	VW Gilbert L. Mendoza

COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY

Chairman	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya, SGL
Vice Chairman	VW John B. Llamas
Members	VW Antonio M. San Luis, Jr.
	VW Emmanuel J. Diesta

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS

Chairman	RW Romeo S. Momo, DGM
Vice-Chairman	RW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., SGW
Members	RW Rolen C. Paulino, JGW
	VW Nathaniel S. Golla
	VW Neil C. Farala

COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION OF MASONIC SUPPLIES AND ITEMS

Chairman	VW Joselito F. Salido
Vice-Chairman	VW Ephraem A. Serrano
Member/s	Bro. Evan Russel P. Lino

MASONIC COORDINATING COUNCIL

Chairman	RW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., SGW
Members	Ill. George L. So – Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Phils.
	SK Emmanuel R. Bravo – Grand York Rite
	SK Angel T. Bacoling, Jr., – Grand Court of the Amaranth
	HL Edna C. Bacoling – Grand Court of the Amaranth
	WB Jose S. Redor – Order of the Eastern Star
	Bro. Cameron Sloan – Royal Order of Scotland
	Hon. Edison Abella – Order of DeMolay
	Ill. Joselito V. Mendoza – Mabuhay Shriners
	Sis. Norie R. Redor – Rainbow for Girls Phils.
	Sis. Emmalou F. Sanchez – Job's Daughter Intl.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Chairman	RW Romeo S. Momo, DGM
Members	ALL DDGMs

CIRCULAR NO. 7. May 2, 2017.

TO: ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE EDITORS OF THE CABLETOW

To ensure that important matters about the labor of the brethren in the quarry of the whole Grand Jurisdiction are made known, the positions of Associate Editors of The Cabletow are hereby created. There shall be one (1) Associate Editor for Luzon, one (1) Associate Editor for Visayas, and one (1) Associate Editor for Mindanao.

The Associate Editors shall take charge of gathering and writing articles from their respective areas and such other functions that may be delegated by the Editor-in-Chief.

The following are appointed for MY 2017-2018:

VW Leo D. Manansala	----	Associate Editor for Luzon
VW Assalym B. Aurita	----	Associate Editor for Visayas
VW Lyndon J. Romero	----	Associate Editor for Mindanao

CIRCULAR NO. 8. May 9, 2017

TO: All GLOs, DDGMs, DGLs, MASTERs, WARDENS and OFFICERS and MEMBERS of SUBORDINATE LODGES, APPENDANT AND ALLIED BODIES

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION 2017

To once again display our patriotism, the brethren are enjoined to actively participate in commemorating the Independence Day in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The concerned District Deputy Grand Masters shall be the over-all coordinators and are advised to organize, prepare and coordinate for the successful holding of the event with maximum participation by the brethren in the following places:

Rizal Park	DDGMs MD NCR-A, B, C, D and G

Kawit, Cavite DDGMs MD RIV-Cavite (East) and RIV- Cavite (West)
Balintawak, Q.C. DDGMs MD NCR-E and F
Bulacan DDGM MD RIII-Bulacan

In furtherance thereto, the Deputy Grand Master shall join the brethren of Masonic Districts RIV-Cavite (East) and RIV-Cavite (West) in Kawit, Cavite; the Senior Grand Warden shall join the brethren of Masonic Districts NCR-E and F in Balintawak, Q.C.; the Junior Grand Warden shall be with the brethren of Masonic District RIII-Bulacan in Bulacan and the brethren from Masonic Districts A, B, C, D and G shall join the Grand Master and the Grand Line Officers at Rizal Park, Luneta at 7 a.m.
After the Luneta ceremonies, the brethren are invited to proceed to the Grand Lodge for a simple Breakfast (kape at pandesal) with the Grand Master.

CIRCULAR NO. 9, May 10, 2017
TO: ALL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, ELECTED & APPOINTED, ALL DDGMs, DGLs, WORSHIPFUL MASTERS AND WARDENS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES IN THIS GRAND JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF IMES PRESIDENT IN A HOLD-OVER CAPACITY
This is to announce the appointment of VW ARMANDO G. CAZZOLA as PRESIDENT in a hold-over capacity of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) until further notice.

I am therefore, fraternally requesting all Brethren withersoever dispersed to extend full assistance and give due courtesies to VW Cazzola as he discharges the responsibilities of his office.

CIRCULAR NO. 10 May 26, 2017
TO ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GMs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION
SUBJECT IMES ON-LINE CLASSES
One of the thrusts of the Grand Lodge is to further enlighten the brethren in the whole Jurisdiction through on-line classes of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES). Therefore, pending the official launching of on-line classes of IMES, the traditional holding of classroom classes shall be held in abeyance until further notice.

CIRCULAR NO. 11. June 5, 2017
TO ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE JOINT-COMMITTEE FOR SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
Pursuant to Edict 295, the Joint-Committee for Special Communication may avail the services of other Special Committees, if the need arises.

After the initial review of all the approved edicts beginning the term of MW Gabionza up to the term of MW Gazmin, the Joint-Committee in its letter request dated 03 June 2017 finds the need to avail the services of some

brethren who are members of the Bar.

The following brethren are therefore appointed and directed to join and assist the Joint- Committee on Special Communication to fulfill its mandate under Edict 295:

VW Lyceo C. Martinez
VW Roberto-Damian A. Morico
VW Crisostomo C. Beltran
WB Darwin S. Reyes

CIRCULAR NO. 13 June 29, 2017

TO ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT REFERRAL OF ALL EDICTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION ON THE CONSTITUTION

In compliance with the requirements of the Constitution and Ordinances for the amendments thereof, the following Edicts are hereby submitted to the Grand Secretary for the referral to the Committee on Revision of the Constitution for study, report and recommendation and thereafter copies of which should be circulated among the Grand Lodge Officers and members present during the Special Communication:

1. Edict No. 295 – Calling for a Special Communication Pursuant to Sec. 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution and Approved Resolution during the Annual Communication of 2017

2. Edict No. 296 – Lodge Visitations Outside the District or Masonic Jurisdiction Once in a Masonic Year Considered as Stated Meeting of the Lodge for the Month

3. Edict No. 297 – The Use of Filipino During Opening and Closing of the Lodge in the Stated Meetings in Celebration of "Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa"

4. Edict No. 298 – Removing the Word "Memorial" on Lodges Named after a Dead Person

5. Edict No. 299 – Names of Lodges after Past President of the Republic of the Philippines and National Heroes are Perpetual Names of Lodges

6. Edict No. 300 – Moratorium in the Issuance of Dispensation to Form New Lodges Using Plaridel Masonic Temple, Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, Capitol Masonic Temple or Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple

7. Edict No. 301 – Providing the Procedures on Affiliations for Masons Initiated, Passed and Raised by a Lodge U.D. but was Not Granted a Charter

8. Edict No. 303 – Declaring the Act of Abandonment, Neglect and Refusal to Support the Wife as Unmasonic and Providing Penalty Thereof

9. Edict No. 304 – Rationalizing the Filing of Cases Dealing with Violation of Masonic Laws and Other Complaints and Charges for Unmasonic Conduct with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines and Imposing Corresponding Fees Thereof

CIRCULAR NO. 14 July 10, 2017.

TO ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIS, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT MARAWI BRETHREN RELIEF FUND

The Grand Lodge wishes to thank all the brethren, Masonic Lodges and Districts who have already extended initial relief operations to the Marawi people and brethren of Lake Lanao Lodge No. 227 and Rajah Indarapatra Lodge No. 387 at the outset of the crisis.

The Grand Lodge hereby announces that the initial funds of TWO MILLION PESOS (PHP2,000,000.00)* have already been allocated and another ONE MILLION PESOS (PHP1,000,000.00) from the personal account of the Grand Master to be given to the more or less sixty (60) brethren/members of the two (2) Masonic Lodges affected by the crisis.



From the above-mentioned initial funds, the amount of FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP50,000.00) shall be released to each brother/member on the 1st week of August 2017. The actual release of the funds shall be in cash and/or check payable to the affected brother.

The brethren here and abroad thru their respective lodges and /or Masonic Districts are hereby encouraged to likewise extend brotherly love and relief to the affected brethren in Marawi City to continue providing relief operations and/or donating funds to Marawi Brethren Relief Fund thru:

GREGORIO M. MONREAL/MBRF
BANCO DE ORO
ACCOUNT NO. 5620249523

Proof of deposit should be emailed to glp_ogm@yahoo.com or vibered to the Asst. Grand Treasurer under Cell no. 0917 882 1357. Updated contributors shall be posted in the official website of the Grand Lodge.

Dispensation is hereby given for a joint stated meeting for the month of August for the two (2) Lodges for the actual release of the funds to the brethren.

- Subject to increase upon validation of the actual number of Brethren affected by the crisis.

CIRCULAR NO. 15 – July 11, 2017

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE OF MASONIC EDUCATION AND STUDIES (IMES)

For the information of the Brethren, VW CRISOSTOMO C. BELTRAN, Past Master of Nilad Lodge No. 12 is hereby appointed as the Head of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) and shall be known as

the “President” of the Institute.

He shall serve as such for the remaining period of masonic year 2017-2018 or co-terminus with the term of the herein Grand Master, unless sooner replaced on account of voluntary resignation or other valid causes, but without prejudice to the renewal of his term of office by the succeeding Grand Master per Edict 185-C (MW Gazmin).

I am therefore, fraternally requesting all Brethren withersoever dispersed to extend full assistance and give due courtesies to VW Beltran as he discharges the responsibilities of his office.

CIRCULAR NO. 16 - MW TOLENTINO, ENDORSEMENT OF PATIENTS BY CHARTERED LODGES

To better involve the brethren in charity works, all financial support from Masonic Charities for Crippled Children Inc. for deserving patients must be officially endorsed by the chartered lodges. No other patient recommendation shall be entertained by MCCCI except as herein stated.

CIRCULAR NO. 17 - MW TOLENTINO, REFERRAL OF ALL EDICTS SUBJECT OF EDICT NO. 292 (MW GAZMIN) TO THE JOINT COMMTTEE ON SPECIAL COMMUNICATION FOR THE PROPER ACTION DURING THE SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Pursuant to Edict No. 292 (MW Gazmin), all edicts covered by Edict No. 290 (Gazmin) such as with the exception of Edict No. 272 (MW Rentoy) to wit; Edict Nos. 276, 277, 279 and 280 were to be resubmitted individually in their original text and contents to the voting delegates of ANCOM 2017 for adoption, amendment, or rejection, in full or in part.

During the ANCOM 2017 however, the aforesaid Edicts were not addressed in the plenary as directed under Edict No. 292 and the supposed discussion and deliberation thereof were instead held in abeyance and eventually referred to a Special Communication.

The adoption, amendment and/or rejection of Edict Nos. 276, 277, 279 and 280 (MW Rentoy) are now therefore considered unfinished business of ANCOM 2017 and thus became one of the objectives of Special Communication pursuant to Edict 295 (MW Tolentino).

The matter therefore is hereby referred to the Joint-Committee on Special Communication for its study, report and recommendation for appropriate action thereof during the Special Communication.

CIRCULAR NO. 18 – MW TOLENTINO, APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF IMES

This is to announce the appointments of VW ARMANDO G. CAZZOLA and VW GILBERT ANGEMILLE JAMES S. TOLEDO as Executive Directors for Classroom and On-Line Methods of Instruction, respectively of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES).

FULL TEXT OF CIRCULAR NO. 1. May 2, 2017.

SUBJECT: ELECTED and APPOINTED OFFICERS of the MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the PHILIPPINES

For the information and guidance of brethren in this jurisdiction, we are pleased to announce the following Elected and Appointed Officers for the Masonic Year 2017-2018:

Grand Master	MW Abraham N. Tolentino
Deputy Grand Master	RW Romeo S. Momo
Senior Grand Warden	RW Agapito S. Suan Jr.
Junior Grand Warden	RW Rolen C. Paulino
Grand Treasurer	MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr., PGM
Grand Secretary	MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM
Assistant Grand Treasurer	VW Gregorio M. Monreal
Assistant Grand Secretary	VW Nathaniel S. Golla
Grand Auditor	VW Romeo A. Bartolome
Grand Chaplain	VW Armando G. Cazzola
Grand Orator	VW Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV
Grand Marshal	VW Gilbert L. Mendoza
Grand Historian	VW Ludivico D. Badoy
Senior Grand Deacon	VW Dexter Y. Macrohon
Junior Grand Deacon	VW Zondrex Allan A. Dizon

Grand Standard Bearer	VW Ronnie Francis M. Cariaga
Grand Sword Bearer	VW Frederick W. Siao
Grand Bible Bearer	VW Leo Rafael M. Cueva
Senior Grand Lecturer	VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya

JUNIOR GRAND LECTURERS

NCR (MD NCR A & G)	VW Edwin G. Larida
NCR (MD NCR B, C & D)	VW Wilfred M. Yu
NCR (MD NCR E & F)	VW Mckentyre V. Cabrera
North Eastern Luzon A	VW Jose Emmanuel V. Villegas
North Eastern Luzon B	VW Eduardo V. Interior
North Western Luzon A	VW Geronimo Antonio B. Singson
North Western Luzon B	VW Michael Camilo G. Datario
Central Luzon A	VW Jose Lucius Pocholo M. Dizon
Central Luzon B	VW Victorio V. Vizcocho Jr.
Central Luzon C	VW Ferdinando G. Sevilla
Southern Luzon (Bicol)	VW Ruf Serafin V. Rosero
Southern Luzon (Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, & Mindoro)	VW Abner DO Malabanan
Southern Luzon (Cavite & Laguna)	VW Robert Joseph S. Moran
Western Visayas 1	VW Roberto C. Villanueva
Western Visayas 2	VW Reynaldo B. Jampit
Central Visayas	VW Janby Earl H. Yu

Eastern Visayas	VW Nicolas C. Risos
Western Mindanao	VW John Francis G. Go Jr.
Southern Mindanao	VW Lorenzo A. Camayang
Northern Mindanao	VW Cesar A. Merlas

CARAGA	VW Sergio G. Mailig
Overseas	VW Erwin Pio B. Bollozos
Senior Grand Steward	VW Johnny T. Pimentel
Junior Grand Steward	VW Eftren T. Arayata Jr.
Grand Pursuivant	VW Henry S. Oaminal
Grand Tyler	VW Carlito B. Faustino
Grand Organist	VW Luis A. Ferrer IV

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
MD NCR A	Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple	VW Jimmy U. De Castro
MD NCR B	Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple	VW Diosdado R. Melegrito
MD NCR C	Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple	VW Ericson M. Aniban
MD NCR D	Manila, Plaridel Masonic Temple	VW Wharton R. Chan
MD NCR E	Quezon City, Capitol Masonic Temple	VW Ariel D. Fronda
MD NCR F	Quezon City, Capitol Masonic Temple	VW Gerard A. Ceballos
MD NCR G	Makati, Las Pinas and Parañaque	VW Jeffrey P. Alba
MD CAR	Mt. Province, Kalinga and Apayao	VW Ludar T. Luyaben
MD R I	Pangasinan	VW Ferdinand Z. de Asis
MD R I CAR	Benguet and La Union	VW Rolando T. Vergara
MD R I CAR	Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Abra	VW Loreto G. Rirao
MD R II	Nueva Vizcaya (South)	VW Gerald Mart B. Gamboa
MD R II	Isabela (North)	VW Geoffrey T. Barrientos
MD R II	Cagayan	VW Mariano P. Pagaddu
MD R II	Isabela (South)/ Quirino	VW Raymond D. Carreon
MD R II	Nueva Vizcaya (North) and Ifugao	VW Isabelo E. Cabugao
MD R III	Pampanga	VW Rodolfo J. Salientes
MD R III	Bataan	VW Romeo G. Caragay
MD R III	Zambales	VW John DV Aquino
MD R III	Nueva Ecija (South)/ Aurora	VW Jonald E. Hernandez
MD R III	Bulacan	VW Reyleo S. Tupaz Jr.
MD R III	Nueva Ecija (North)	VW Redentor M. Laureta
MD R III	Tarlac	VW Kenneth B. Yambao
MD R IV	Cavite (East)	VW Alberto J. Macion, Jr.
MD R IV	Cavite (West)	VW Henry N. Nagaño
MD R IV	Laguna	VW Eddie C. Loo
MD R IV	Quezon- Marinduque	VW Orlando C. Dy
MD R IV	Batangas	VW Cristeto P. Tabing
MD R IV	Mindoro	VW Eric J. Asuncion
MD R IV	Rizal	VW Joel Benedict D. Liclican
MD R V	Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes	VW Erick P. Roldan
MD R V	Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate	VW Marianito E. Frivaldo
MD R VI	Panay Island	VW Adrian D. Salaver

MD R XVIII	Negros Island Region	VW Franklin DC Tumaneng
MD R VII	Cebu, Bohol and Siquijor	VW Basil B. Ting
MD R VIII	Samar	VW Gilbert F. Layon
MD R VIII	Leyte	VW Rafael N. Lucero
MD R IX	Zamboanga del Sur and Sibuguey	VW William Christopher N. Chua
MD R IX and X	Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga Del Norte	VW James P. Verduguez
MD R IX and ARMM	Zamboanga City, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-tawi	VW Jose Rizalino L. Ortega
MD R X	Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro	VW Eugene M. Unabia
MD R X	Misamis Oriental and Camiguin	VW Noel D. Sadava
MD R X	Misamis Occidental	VW Christopher S. Ramayrat
MD R X and ARMM	Lanao Province	VW Omarbasha S. Lucman
MD R X	Bukidnon (North)	VW Roy J. Tiu
MD R X	Bukidnon (South)	VW Rodolfo T. Celestial
MD R XI	Davao del Sur and Davao City	VW Neil M. Canedo
MD R XI	Davao del Norte and Oriental	VW William M. Angos
MD R XII	North Cotabato and Cotabato City	VW Renato S. Ybanez
MD R XII	SOCKSARGEN	VW Emmanuel E. Magriña
MD R XIII	Agusan and Surigao	VW Nathaniel G. Layola
MD Overseas	Guam	VW Jose Arthur D. Chan, Jr.
MD Overseas	Japan	VW Napoleon Sison
MD Overseas	Japan (Camp Zama)	VW Erwin Jerome Z. Angeles
MD Overseas	Korea	
MD Overseas	Marianas Island	

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
MD NCR A	Manila	VW Jeffrey U. Villalino VW Michael Angelo T. Parado VW Rommel R. Dawal VW Gabriel C. De Guzman VW Francis C. Boñales VW Francisco Arañes
MD NCR	Manila	VW Eduardo P. Abiera, Jr. VW Ali C. Espina VW David E. Maniquis VW Elpidio Trinidad
MD NCR C	Manila	VW Joselito F. Salido VW Robert Damian A. Morico VW Edgardo M. Villareal II VW Antonio O. Hing VW Danilo M. Mayani VW Alexander C. Domingo

MD NCR D Manila

VW Alexander Gamboa
VW Amando L. Amisola
VW Erickson A. Flores
VW Diomedes P. Balino
VW Esteban L. Dalican
VW Rodolfo M. Lapuz
VW Nestor L. Andaliza

MD NCR E Manila
VW Kristoffer Giovanni
B. Llacuna
VW Jeffrey Ian C. Dy
VW Nilo A. Apuada
VW Remigio Gregorio

MD NCR F Quezon City
VW Fulgencio Hulipas
VW Michael Benepayo
VW Antonio G. Del Rosario
VW Samuel B. Trabajo
VW Manolito C. Villarica

MD NCR G Makati, Las Pinas and Parañaque
VW Joseph T. Javier
VW Dennis G. Burcer
VW Noel F. Yumul
VW Brian N. Co
VW Terence T. Coseip
VW Raymond M. Fernandez
VW Christian Gerard
P. Lantoria

MD CAR Mt. Province, Kalinga and Apayao
VW Irwin B. Mendoza
VW Eric S. Duclan
VW Edward P. Magno

MD R I Pangasinan
VW Virgilio C. Quinto
VW Lorenzo F. Yuson IV
VW Muelvyn P. Agustin
VW Jorge M. Allas, Jr.

MD R I CAR Benguet and La Union
VW Arthur C. Bueno
VW Richard S. Chan

MD R I CAR Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Abra
VW Charles M. Calapini
VW Rufino C. Ramos

MD R II Nueva Vizcaya (South)
VW Gedeon L. Borja
VW Hector B. Salvador

MD R II Isabela (North)
VW Philip John S. Buscaino
VW Rogelio D. Azarcon
VW Quirino P. Pua Jr.
VW Gener U Gabriel
MD R II Cagayan
VW Dante Dexter A. Agatep
VW Cresencio P. Natividad Jr.
VW Emmanuel P. Pascua
VW Jude W. Santos

MD R II Isabela (South) and Quirino
VW Anthony C. Calahi
VW Raul R. Melegrito
VW Walter V. Catu
VW Robert P. Agcaoili
VW Loreto I. Marquez

MD R II Nueva Vizcaya (North) and Ifugao
VW Leonardo D. Cabauatan Jr.
VW Romeo J. Cadiente
VW Policarpio R. Tolentino

MD R III Pampanga
VW Oliver D. Gozun
VW Ariel S. Reyes
VW Kenneth G Vega

MD R III Bataan
VW Domer A Rubiano

MD R III Zambales
VW Gerwin Capili
VW Lyzander P. Aquino
VW Elmer S. Tumaca
VW Robert M. Mallares
VW Rico M. Riego De Dios
VW Rodrick J. Bustamante

MD R III Nueva Ecija (South)/ Aurora
VW Raoul S. Esteban
VW Ariel P. Pestano

VW Daniel L. Duaso
VW Shubert L. Ciencia
VW Leandro V. Novilla
VW Fernando S. Clerigo
VW Romeo O. Novelles
VW Emmanuel M. Jose
VW Julius G. Visaya
VW Eric F. Dionisio
VW Jimmy C. Obejas
VW Gerald F. Narvadez

MD R III Bulacan
VW Luisito A Andres
VW Jay F. Gumasing
VW Celedonio I Morales, Jr.
VW Roger V. Encarnacion
VW Ariston B. Samilin
VW Eddie C. Ong

MD R III Nueva Ecija (North)
VW Randy A. Macadangdang
VW Harold Howell D. Banalagay
VW Edgardo G. Bautista
VW Rizalino R. Garcia Jr.
VW Sofronio G. Padua
VW Hermogenes S. Tambalque III
VW Gerrick DC Eugenio
VW Eric J. Mateo
VW Marvin V. Tomas

MD R III Tarlac
VW Ricardo S. Hidalgo
VW Jorge C. Panlilio
VW Rex D. Kiok
VW Truman A. Ramos
VW Michael M. Manuel
VW Elmer R. Garingo

MD R IV Cavite (East)
VW Leo D. Manansala
VW Wesley L. Gutierrez
VW Gilbert Angemille James S. Toledo
VW Bernardo S. Afable, Jr.
VW Jose M. Velasco Jr.
VW Noel L. Padilla
VW Simeon E. Flores

MD R IV Cavite (West)
VW Feliciano R. Almojuela Jr.
VW Ian Francis B. Loria
VW Alex M. Cuasay
VW Felix A. Grepo
VW Joel S. Garcia
VW Angel L. Delfin
VW Macario Prado

MD R IV Laguna
VW Maximo M. De Leon
VW Al P. Gloria
VW Michael M. Manansala
VW Jose Michael G. Sandoval

MD R IV Quezon- Marinduque
VW Arnold D. Dayalo
VW Florendo F. Regis
VW Jose Elmer C. Bascos

MD R IV Batangas
VW Gil O. Quiambao
VW Efren Alaras
VW Vicente A. Caisip Jr

MD R IV Mindoro
VW Nemesio Dante A. Boongaling
VW Melvin Q. Gabayno

MD R IV Rizal
VW Lorenzo J. Holanday Jr.
VW Tito B. Coronacion
VW Luis Carlo P. Aquino

MD R V Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes
VW Romeo G. Hacutina
VW Erwin I. Verzosa
VW Yori O. Albis

MD R V Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate
VW Lamech A. Peralta
VW Jerome C. Lee

MD R VI Panay Island
VW Llonil R. Viterbo
VW Vicente C. Millares
VW Gomersindo N. Canoy
VW Ramcez John A. Honrado

MD R XVIII Negros Island Region
VW Rey Narciso J. Jacomille
VW Wayne Marc Lopez
VW Vicente Presbitero
VW Cristito Saguran
VW Rowel Gaga-a

MD R VII Cebu, Bohol and Siquijor
VW Julian T. Yap Jr.
VW Doni D. Piquero
VW Assalym B. Aurita
VW Paul Michael C. Ong

MD R VIII Samar
VW Alladin E. Dingal
VW Ronald F. Macabidang

MD R VIII Leyte
VW Dinoh A. Dolina
VW Earl Courtney A. Viernes
VW Jose Lito P. Trumata

MD R IX Zamboanga del Sur and Sibugay
VW Remigio G. Suico Jr.
VW Leopoldo P Eribal, Jr.
VW Rogelio Bahinting

MD R IX and X Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga Del Norte
VW Lei B. Daguman
VW Gabino S. Saavedra II
MD R IX and ARMM Zamboanga City, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-tawi
VW Daniel F. IlaganVW John S. Schuck III
VW Jose Antonio R. Salvador

MD R X Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro
VW Patrick C. Yamba
VW Ricardo E. Rotoras
VW Arthur Mencius Quiblat
VW Dufel M. Lagrosas
VW Fernando M. Simon

MD R X Misamis Oriental and Camiguin
VW Jover S. Llamis
VW Joel B. Lolo
VW Edgardo V. Gilles
VW Gabriel F.Ilagan Jr.

MD R X Misamis Occidental
VW Job Mark P. Mutia
VW Benedict T. Te

MD R X and ARMM Lanao Province
VW Ali M. Bari
VW Aga-khan S. Lucman
VW Ronald U. Sy

MD R X Bukidnon (North)
VW Benhur R. Oblad
VW Neil B. Tiro

MD R X Bukidnon (South)
VW Edsel C. Salvaña
VW George Ceasar B. Gawan

MD R XI Davao del Sur and Davao City
VW Teofilo T. Bermudez II
VW Orlino M. Pacioles Jr.
VW Alberto J. Encarnacion
VW Charlie U. Te

MD R XI Davao del Norte and Oriental
VW Leo C. Baal
VW Joel A. Capalit

MD R XII North Cotabato and Cotabato City
VW Rodrigo Manuel
VW Reynard R. Gapul
VW Mimbalawag Mangutara Jr.

MD R XII SOCKSARGEN
VW Rolando S. Salud
VW Fernando M. Figueroa
VW Jesus S. Dequilla
VW Roberto Q. Villafuerte

MD R XIII Agusan and Surigao
VW Ruben B. Delos Santos
VW Jose Aldwin B. Dejolde
VW Brian S. Pates

MD Overseas Guam
VW Angel C. Baldemor

MD Overseas Japan

MD Overseas Japan (Camp Zama)

VW Gwen S. Geconcillo

MD Overseas Korea

MD Overseas Marianas Island

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This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said meeting.

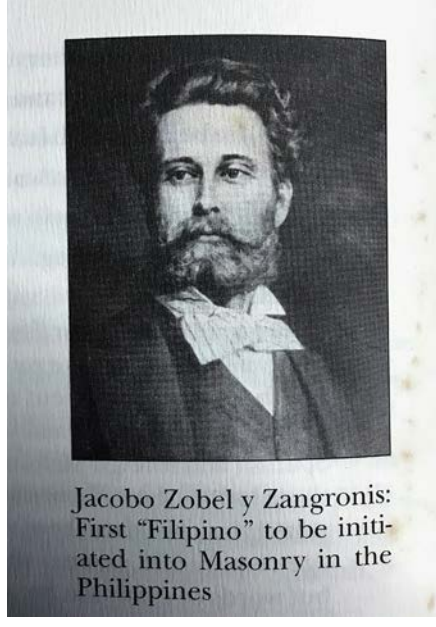
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila, this 2nd day of May 2017.

ABRAHAM "Bambol" N. TOLENTINO

Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary



Jacobo Zobel y Zangronis: First "Filipino" to be initiated into Masonry in the Philippines

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines
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MW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
GRAND MASTER

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

EDICT No. 276

REQUIRING MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING TO HAVE ATTENDED AN AGGREGATE OF SIX STATED MEETINGS IN THE YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE BALLOTING OF PETITIONERS FOR DEGREES OR AFFILIATION AND LODGE ELECTON OF OFFICERS TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SAID EXERCISE

WHEREAS, Sections 13-22, Article VI, Part II of our Masonic Law Book (MLB) provides for the procedure in the balloting of candidates to receive the degrees of Masonry;

WHEREAS, Sections 1-12 Article VI, Part II of our Masonic Law Book (MLB) prescribed for the procedure in the conduct of the election of officers of subordinate lodges;

WHEREAS, on the one hand, amongst the problem areas and abuses identified to be commonly committed by members of the craft lie upon the balloting of candidates for the degrees of masonry; on the other hand, disharmony is rampant during the annual election of officers of subordinate lodges;

WHEREAS, the sanctity of time-honored Masonic exercise of casting the ballot upon a candidate's petition to receive the degrees of masonry or affiliation, had time and again been violated by a brother who, coming from long inactivity and having neglected his obligation to religiously attend the stated meetings of his lodge, have the temerity and propensity to suddenly attend lodge stated meetings, wherein a balloting of a particular candidate or affiliation is scheduled. Thereafter, wantonly and capriciously casting the black cube during the balloting on account of his petty spites, thus deliberately causing disharmony inside subordinate lodges;

WHEREAS, attendance and participation of the same brother as described in the preceding paragraph also bring disruption of harmony and causes high probability of commission of the prohibited electioneering activity within subordinate lodges during the annual election of lodge officers.

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to prescribe additional safeguards to preserve harmony inside subordinate lodges and ensure that the conduct and procedure during the exercise by the brethren of their inherent right to elect annually the competent officers to govern their lodge.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMAS G. RENTOY III, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

Section 1. ***Qualifications for Casting:***

1.1) THE BALLOT ON A PETITION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY OR AFFILIATION;

1.2) A VOTE FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES

In order to be able to participate in the 1.) **BALLOTING** on a petition of a candidate for the degrees of masonry or affiliation, and 2.) **ELECTION** of officers of subordinate lodges, a lodge member must possess ALL of the following qualifications:

- He must be a **member in good standing**, i.e, not suspended for non-payment of dues, fees and other assessments payable to the Grand Lodge (Sec. 4.f., Art. XX, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book); or not suspended for failure to attend at least three (3) Stated Meetings of his lodge (Sec. 1.g., Art. XI, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book); or not suspended for other Masonic offenses. He must be a member in good standing not only in the lodge conducting the balloting but in all of the lodges in which he may be a regular or plural member of. (cf. Sec. 7, Art. VI, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book).

- He must have attended an aggregate of at least six (6) Stated Meetings during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the balloting or election. In determining or counting the number of stated meetings attended, the month when the balloting or election is scheduled shall be excluded; and

- He must have passed the proficiency examination for the third degree of masonry.

Section 2. ***Additional Duties Of Worshipful Master And Lodge Secretary To Ascertain And Ensure That Only Those Qualified Brothers Shall Be Allowed To Cast Their Ballot Upon Candidate/s Or Affiliation/s Or Vote During Election Of Lodge Officers*** - For this purpose it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the Lodge as follows:

Worshipful Master's Duty:

- To assure that all brethren present during the balloting or election are only those qualified to cast BALLOT upon a petition of a candidate/s or affiliation/s or VOTE for lodge officers as prescribed in Section 1.

- To cause the roll call of all lodge members present before the lodge proceeds with the conduct of the balloting of petitioner/s or affiliation/s or election of its officers.

- To receive from the secretary an attested/certified list of all qualified brethren to cast BALLOT upon petitioner/s or affiliation/s or VOTE for lodge officers and to direct the brother or brethren disqualified to be temporarily seated at the north side of the lodge, while such balloting or election is being conducted.

Secretary's Duty:

- To provide a certified listing of all regular members present inside the lodge that are to participate in the BALLOTING OF CANDIDATE/S OR AFFILIATION/S or ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS and to make an attestation and certification below said listing that *"he has verified the minutes of previous meetings and tyler's book of the lodge, and had personally ascertained from other documents, record and other means that all brethren listed therein possess all the qualifications prescribed in the preceding section."*

- To keep and maintain a copy of the said attested/certified listing of qualified brethren to cast BALLOT upon petitioner/s or affiliation/s or VOTE for lodge officers to form part of the record of the lodge.

- To provide the Worshipful Master a copy of his attested/certified listing of qualified brethren and personally advise him of the presence of a brother or brethren, if any, who do not possess the qualifications as provided under the preceding Section for his appropriate action.

Section 3. ***Additional Duties of Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLI)*** -No balloting of petitioners or election of lodge officers shall be conducted without the presence of the Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI) who shall primarily ascertain that the above duties prescribed under the preceding section are duly complied with.

Section 4. ***Penalty***– Any violation of this Edict shall be penalized in accordance with the schedule of penalties provided below:

FREQUENCY OF OFFENSE	IMPOSABLE PENALTY
First Offense	Reprimand in Open Lodge.
Second Offense	Suspension
Third Offense	Expulsion

Section 5. ***Coverage.*** – All qualifications of the members of subordinate lodges as prescribed under Section 1 hereof shall exclusively apply to the following exercises only:

5.a.) Balloting of petitioner/s for the degrees of masonry or affiliation; and
5.b.) Annual election of officers of subordinate lodge

and shall not in any way affect other Masonic exercises wherein qualifications of a master mason in good standing is defined and prescribed pursuant to the Masonic Law Book.

It is understood that the "*six (6) aggregate stated meeting rule*" shall not apply to newly-raised master masons who have yet to reach six (6) months in his membership to the craft. The "*six (6) aggregate stated meeting rule*" shall however apply to said new member on the seventh (7th) month immediately preceding his raising.

Section 6. ***Repealing Clause.*** - All edicts, circulars and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Edict are hereby repealed modified or amended accordingly.

Section 7. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this edict is declared invalid, the provisions that are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. ***Effectivity.*** - This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and that action taken thereon recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge this 25th day of April 2015, in Legazpi City, Philippines.

TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary
TGR/DDA/vangie

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MW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
GRAND MASTER

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

EDICT NO. 277

PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND INSTITUTING NEW MEASURES IN THE PROCESS OF ACCEPTING CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

WHEREAS, Sections 1-8, Article VI, Part II of our Masonic law book (MLB) enumerate the qualifications of petitioners/candidates for the degrees of Masonry;

WHEREAS, Edict 60 (MW Tria) lays down the definite procedures in the investigation and examination of every candidate including his proposer;

WHEREAS, Edict 131 (MW Choa) prescribes the proper handling of candidates during degree conferrals with corresponding penalties for violations thereof;

WHEREAS, Edict 131-A (MW Galvez) strengthened Edict 131 by requiring the lodge officers to have full control over degree conferrals; and the district officers, to ensure strict compliance with both edicts and holding them liable for any violation thereof;

WHEREAS, Edict 245- (MW Peter Lim Lo Suy) consolidated and harmonized all the edicts pertaining to the proper handling of candidates during degree conferrals by specifying the disciplinary sanctions to be imposed and prescribing the procedure to be followed in case of violation of any of said edicts;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8049, otherwise known as "An Act regulating Hazing and other Forms of Initiation Rites in Fraternities, Sororities, and other Organizations and Providing Penalties Therefor", has "criminalized" hazing or any act which places the recruit, neophyte or applicant in some embarrassing or humiliating situations such as forcing him to do menial, silly, foolish and other similar tasks or activities or otherwise subjecting him to physical or psychological suffering or injury;

WHEREAS, the embarrassing and humiliating situations as well as physical and psychological suffering or injury contemplated above are usually perpetrated or inflicted upon the petitioner/candidates or candidates on the occasion of lodge meetings, fellowships, caucuses and similar events;

WHEREAS, abuses committed against petitioner/candidates and candidates have become rampant and blatant despite existing laws, rules and regulations outlawing such acts;

WHEREAS, placing our petitioner/candidates and candidates in such embarrassing and humiliating situations; making them experience such physical and psychological sufferings or injury; and forcing them to endure or withstand abuses committed against them have nothing to do with the qualifications or disqualifications of petitioner/candidates/candidates.

WHEREAS, while there is a need to "guard the West Gate" against cowans, eavesdroppers and mercenaries, there is also an urgent necessity to protect our ancient and honorable fraternity from the insidious and destructive forces and influences coming from within.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMAS G. RENTOY III, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree that the following shall, henceforth, be strictly observed:

Petitioners/Candidates and Members of Lodges.

Section 1. The interface, interaction, contact and meetings by and between a petitioner/candidate and the members of the lodge (after the former has manifested his intention to knock or file his petition for degrees of Masonry and after his initial inquiries), shall be limited to four (4) occasions only, i.e., First, when the petitioner submits the complete documentary requirements together with his duly accomplished Petition Form and undergoes the initial orientation and presentation to the Lodge; Second, when the candidate is conferred the First Degree of Masonry; Third, when the candidate is conferred the Second Degree of Masonry; and Fourth, when the candidate is conferred the Third Degree of Masonry.

In the event an additional meeting is necessary, as when a candidate fails to pass the necessary proficiency examination for a particular degree, a dispensation shall be secured from the Grand Master, through the District Deputy Grand Master, prior to the holding of such additional meeting.

Section 2. To enable the members of the lodge to meet or interview the petitioner/candidate, the Lodge Secretary shall notify the lodge members of the scheduled submission of documentary requirements, initial orientation and presentation to the lodge, at the Stated Meeting immediately preceding the said submission, initial orientation and presentation.

Section 3. The prohibition or limitation on interaction or meetings with a petitioner/candidate shall apply, not only to the members of the lodge where a candidate is petitioning for the degrees of Masonry, but also to the members of other lodges within or without this Grand Jurisdiction.

Section 4. The above prohibition, however, shall not apply to the duly appointed mentor/instructor of the candidate; provided, that there should only be one designated mentor/instructor; and that the encounters and meetings between the mentor/instructor and the candidate shall be for the sole purpose of teaching, guiding and preparing him to take and pass the proficiency examinations and to impart the necessary Masonic Education. In all cases, such encounters and meetings shall be held and conducted on a one-on-one basis and only upon prior approval of the Worshipful Master.

Section 5. Should the instructor/mentor violate the above conditions, he shall be held liable under Section 17 of this edict, without prejudice to the filing of other appropriate charges, if warranted, before the appropriate judicial, quasi-judicial or other agencies by the proper parties concerned.

Section 6. The candidate shall not be required, requested or allowed to attend stated meetings, caucuses, fellowship banquets, parties and similar events of, or associated with, any Lodge, District, Multi-District, Annual Communications, Appendant Bodies, or any group/organization of Masonic character, origin or affiliation, including similar events hosted by individual Masons.

Section 7. The candidate shall not be required, requested or allowed to furnish or pay for food, snacks, refreshments, alcoholic beverages and transportation or miscellaneous expenses during encounters or meetings with his mentor/instructor; and during the entire period that he is still receiving the degrees of Masonry. The only exception to this prohibition is the *voluntary* celebration hosted by the candidate on the occasion of his being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Section 8. Orientation / Tried & Proven lectures and Proficiency Examinations shall be conducted before a candidate is initiated, passed and raised, in accordance with Section 3(f), Article III (Duties of a Lodge), Part II (Ordinances) of the Masonic Law Book (MLB). However, these Orientation / Tried & Proven lectures and proficiency examinations shall be conducted on the same day that the candidate will be initiated, passed or raised, respectively; and within the lodge/temple premises only. The Worshipful Master shall ensure that sufficient time (not less than two (2) hours) is allotted for the aforesaid lectures/examinations prior to the degree conferrals.

Section 9. In addition to the foregoing, the following acts are also hereby declared to be strictly prohibited and shall be deemed direct violations of this edict:

(a) Wounding, beating, assaulting, manhandling or maltreatment of a petitioner/candidate or candidate.

(b) Giving unauthorized instructions to a candidate to elicit humor or boisterous behavior at his expense during degree conferrals and other Masonic rituals.

(c) Regarding Lodge Officers: refusing, failing or neglecting to exercise full control over degree conferrals, as required by Edict 131 (MW Choa).

(d) Regarding District Officers (DDGM, DGL and GLI): Refusing, failing or neglecting to ensure compliance with this edict and other edicts on the proper handling of petitioner/candidates and candidates, as required by Edict 131-A (MW Galvez).

(e) Regarding the Worshipful Master, in his capacity as the Supreme Authority in his lodge: Refusing, failing or neglecting to discharge his duties and responsibilities, as prescribed and mandated by Edict 245 (MW Lim Lo Suy).

(f) Regarding the Worshipful Master and the members of the Investigating Committee: Refusing, failing or neglecting to strictly observe and comply with requirements on investigation and examination as prescribed and mandated by Edict 60 (MW Tria) and other related edicts, such as, but not limited to, Edict No. 275-MW Rentoy (Additional powers of the Grand Lodge Inspector) and Edict No. 276-MW Rentoy (Additional requirements for members in good standing to be able to cast their votes during balloting and lodge elections).

(g) Any act or omission constituting a violation of R.A. No. 8049 (Anti-Hazing Act).

Section 10. Every Master Mason who endorses or vouches for a particular petitioner who eventually becomes a candidate has the duty and responsibility to ensure that said petitioner/candidate possesses all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a Master Mason. This duty and responsibility shall not end with the raising of said candidate; rather, the same ***shall continue*** even after the candidate becomes a Master Mason. Such being the case, a Master Mason who has endorsed and vouched for a particular petitioner/candidate shall be liable for the following acts or omissions:

(a) Refusal, failure or neglect to exercise extra-ordinary diligence in ascertaining the qualifications and disqualifications of the petitioner/candidate prior to the filing of the petition for the degrees of Masonry and during the time that the candidate is in the process of receiving the degrees of Masonry; provided, that the petitioner/candidate concerned is actually found to lack any of the said qualifications or is actually found to possess at least one of the disqualifications for becoming a Master Mason.

(b) Refusal, failure or neglect to exercise extra-ordinary diligence in supervising, guiding and advising the candidate while he is receiving the degrees of Masonry; provided, that the candidate concerned is actually found or discovered to have committed any dishonest, fraudulent, corrupt or any morally reprehensible act or omission before or during the time that he is receiving the degrees of Masonry.

(c) Refusal, failure or neglect to exercise extra-ordinary diligence in whispering good counsel to a brother whom he had endorsed or vouched for; provided, that the brother previously endorsed or vouched for has been actually found guilty by competent authority of unmasonic conduct or any offense punishable under the Masonic Penal Code and existing Masonic laws, rules and regulations; or convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any offense involving moral turpitude; or committed any dishonest, fraudulent, corrupt or any morally reprehensible act or omission after he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Section 11. The vouching/endorsing Master Mason shall not be held liable for the foregoing acts or omissions if he can show, by clear and convincing evidence, that:

(a) He exercised utmost care and extra-ordinary diligence in ascertaining the qualifications or disqualifications of the petitioner/candidate prior to the filing of the petition to take the degrees of Masonry and during the time that the candidate is in the process of receiving the degrees of Masonry;

(b) He actively, openly and persistently supervised, guided and advised the candidate while the latter was receiving the degrees of Masonry; and

(c) He actually and persistently whispered good counsel to the erring brother for the purpose of bringing about a reform.

Qualifications and Requirements.

Section 12. The qualifications/disqualifications for becoming a Master Mason are the internal and external qualifications found in Sections 1-8, Article VI, Part II of our Masonic Law Book (MLB).

Section 13. The original copies of the following documents should be attached to the duly accomplished Petition Form, insofar as they are applicable:

a. NSO issued Birth Certificate.
b. Police Clearance (where he is a resident)
c. NBI Clearance.
d. Court Clearances (MTC, RTC, Sandiganbayan)
e. Ombudsman and Civil Service Commission Clearances (for government officials/employees).
f. Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) and CHR Clearances (for members of the AFP).
g. National Police Commission, IAS, CHR & PLEB Clearances (for members of the PNP).
h. Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and CHR Clearances (for members of the Philippine Coast Guard).

i. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and CHR Clearances (for members of the BJMP).
j. Income Tax Return (ITR) for the past 3 years.
k. Written consent for Random Drug Testing.
l. Medical Certificate declaring petitioner/candidate's the general state of health.
m. Homeowners' Association Clearance, whenever applicable.
n. Others, as may be required.

Section 14. The existing Petition Form shall be revised accordingly. For the guidance of all concerned, a copy of the new Petition Form is annexed hereto and is made an integral part of this Edict. The Office of the Grand Secretary shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Edict, cause the printing of the new Petition Form, in such number as it may deem sufficient.

Transitory Provisions.

Section 15. The provisions of this Edict shall be applicable to all petitioners/candidates who have not yet been balloted and elected to receive the degrees of Masonry at the time of effectivity hereof. A candidate who has already been elected to take the degrees of Masonry, but not yet conferred the Third Degree, shall be covered by this Edict at whatever stage he may be at the time of effectivity hereof. The 4-meeting rule shall immediately take effect. However, the candidate shall not be required to submit the documentary requirements enumerated in Section 13 above; instead, insofar as the documentary requirements are concerned, the rules in effect prior to the effectivity of this edict shall be observed.

Section 16. Pending full compliance with the above directive to print sufficient number of new Petition Forms, the acceptance and processing of petitions to take the degrees of Masonry shall be held in abeyance until such time that the prescribed and proper forms have been printed and made available by the Office of the Grand Secretary.

Penalties.

Section 17. Any violation of this Edict shall be penalized in accordance with the following schedule of penalties:

FREQUENCY OF OFFENSE	IMPOSABLE PENALTY
First Offense	Reprimand in Open Lodge
Second Offense	Suspension
Third Offense	Expulsion

Section 18. For purposes of this edict, any individual/applicant shall be considered a petitioner from the time he signifies his intention to "knock" or join the craft or to petition for the degrees of Masonry, even if he has not yet filled out, submitted or filed his duly signed Petition Form.

Section 19. Any male individual, twenty-one (21) years of age or above, who has attended any lodge gathering, project or activity within or outside the lodge on at least two (2) occasions, shall be considered a Petitioner/Candidate of that lodge for purposes of this edict.

Section 20. District Officers and the Masters of the subordinate lodges shall be primarily responsible for the strict implementation and enforcement of this Edict, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate charges against those who violate the same.

Repealing Clause.

Section 21. All edicts, circulars, regulations and provisions in the Masonic Law Book that are inconsistent with the provisions of this edict are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Separability Clause.

Section 22. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this edict is declared invalid, the provisions that are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Effectivity.

Section 23. This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt ***and*** before any degree conferral during special or stated meetings; and shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge this 25th day of April 2015, in Legazpi City, Philippines.

TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

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MW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
GRAND MASTER

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

EDICT No. 277-A

**AMENDING EDICT NO. 277 (MW Rentoy)
BY PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS
FROM THE FOUR (4) ENCOUNTER-RULE**

WHEREAS, Edict No. 277 (MW Rentoy) prescribed additional requirements and instituted new measures in the process of accepting candidates for the degrees of Masonry, one of which is the "Four (4) Encounter-Rule"

WHEREAS, said rule was intended to curb the abuses committed against petitioners/candidates, which have become rampant and blatant despite existing laws, rules and regulations outlawing such acts;

WHEREAS, such abuses consist, mostly, of placing the petitioners/candidates in embarrassing and humiliating situations as well as inflicting physical and psychological suffering or injury upon them, on the occasion of lodge meetings, fellowships, caucuses and similar events;

WHEREAS, some events, however, are necessary for the advancement of the petitioners/candidates and are capable of being properly monitored and supervised for the purpose of ensuring their safety and well-being.

WHEREFORE, there is a need to provide additional exemptions from the strict application of the "4-Encounter Rule".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMAS G. RENTOY III, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree:

Section 1. Exemptions. – Petitioners/Candidates shall be allowed to attend the following events/activities of their respective Lodges:

(a) Lodge Installation Ceremonies including the Fellowship dinner/refreshment that follows immediately thereafter.
(b) Lodge Anniversary celebrations.
(c) For Fellowcraft Masons (FcM) – First Degree and Second Degree Conferrals only, including the Fellowship dinner/refreshment that follows immediately thereafter.

(d) For Entered Apprentice Masons (EAM) - First Degree Conferrals only, including the Fellowship dinner/refreshment that follows immediately thereafter.

Section 2. Responsible Persons & Precautionary Measures. - The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall be primarily responsible for the safety and well-being of the candidates during the particular activity or event. All existing prohibitions during degree conferrals shall be similarly applicable and strictly observed. For this purpose, the WM and Wardens shall also be directly responsible for ensuring that visiting brethren from other Lodges are properly informed and duly cautioned about the proper treatment of candidates during the event/activity.

Section 3. Penalties. - Any violation of this Edict shall be considered as Unmasonic Conduct and, after due notice and proper proceedings, be punishable with a penalty of Reprimand in Open Lodge, Suspension or Expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense and the attendance of modifying circumstances, if any.

Section 4. Modifying Clause. - Edict No. 277 (MW Rentoy) is hereby modified accordingly. The unaffected provisions thereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Edict is declared invalid, the provisions that are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipt by the Lodge; and the same shall be duly recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge this 3rd day of February 2016, in the City of Manila, Philippines.

TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

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MW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
GRAND MASTER

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

EDICT No. 279

CREATING THE MASONIC INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE (MIAO), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

WHEREAS, the existing rules on Charges, Trials and Procedures under Article XVIII, Part II (Ordinances) of the Masonic Law Book (MLB), impose stringent requirements before Masonic charges can be filed against erring Master Masons, especially in cases where the respondent is a Worshipful Master, Past Master or an officer of the Grand Lodge.

WHEREAS, these stringent requirements have unduly discouraged truly aggrieved brethren from filing and pursuing legitimate charges against erring brethren, thereby resulting in the non-filing, or the undeserved dismissal, of said cases.

WHEREAS, under existing rules, aggrieved spouses, children, parents and relatives of Master Masons have no direct recourse against erring brethren, thereby depriving them of the opportunity to seek redress of their grievances and allowing Masonic offenses committed against them to go unpunished, to the damage and prejudice of aggrieved Masonic families and, ultimately, the Craft.

WHEREFORE, there is a need to institute necessary and appropriate measures to address and rectify these weaknesses in our Masonic rules of procedure governing the filing of complaints or preferment of charges against members of the Craft by masons and non-masons alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMAS G. RENTOY III, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree the creation of a Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO) and the implementation of the following:

Section 1. *Creation, Powers, and Functions.* – A *Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO)* of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is hereby created which shall:

a. Receive complaints against Master Masons for violation of the Constitution, Edicts, Laws and Regulations and other issuances of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines;

b. Investigate complaints, gather evidence in support of the investigation and compel attendance of brethren (as parties or witnesses) and submission of documents through the issuance of subpoena.
c. To recommend the suspension of a brother who defies the subpoena/s issued by the MIAO;
d. Conduct summary hearings on members facing the charges;
e. Create and deputize investigating and/or fact-finding teams as may be necessary, to accomplish its objectives.
f. File appropriate charges before the appropriate masonic tribunal against Master Masons as evidence warrants and assist in the prosecution of the case; and
g. Submit periodic reports to the Grand Master on the progress of these investigations and recommend measures for the improvement of its operations;
h. Ascertain faithful compliance by subordinate lodges with the requisite lodge furniture, implements, regalia and other lodge accoutrements;
i. Ensure proper observance of dress code during stated and special meetings, proper demeanor and decorum of brethren thereat and other masonic functions;
j. Perform such other related functions as directed by the Grand Master.

Section 2. *Special Investigatory and Prosecutorial Powers.* – The MIAO may entertain oral or written charges against Master Masons and may act on the same notwithstanding the anonymity of the complainant, natural or juridical. It may, likewise, conduct, *motu proprio,* investigation and, if warranted, prosecution of the following cases:

a. Incidents where the controversy involving a Master Mason has been publicized in the quad-media (television, print, radio and social networks);

b. Wanton and patent violation of the Constitution, Edicts, Laws and Regulations and Masonic monitorial obligations;

c. Such other incidents analogous to the foregoing; and

d. All other cases or incidents not falling under any of the above classifications may be filed through the MIAO or directly with the District/Grand Tribunal having jurisdiction, at the option of the complainant.

Section 3. *Preventive Suspension.*–The MIAO, through the Inspector General, shall have the power and authority to preventively **suspend from office** any respondent under investigation, who is an incumbent Lodge Officer, incumbent Grand Lodge Officer, any corporate appointee and Grand Lodge employee (subject to existing laws), for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days. After the lapse of said period, the preventive suspension shall be automatically LIFTED, whether or not the MIAO has concluded its investigation.

Section 4. *Organization.* – The Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO) shall be headed by an Inspector General who shall be assisted by one (1) Overall Deputy Inspector General and Deputy Inspectors General, one each for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, Overseas and the National Capital Region (NCR).

a. In addition to their existing powers, functions and duties, all Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLI), shall also be under the functional control and jurisdiction of the Inspector General insofar as it relates to the MIAO's powers and functions mentioned in Sections 1 and 2 hereof.

b. The GLIs shall act as the MIAO's official representatives in the Subordinate Lodges. As such, the powers and functions under Sections 1 and 2 of this Edict are granted to them, to be exercised concurrently with the Inspector General, Overall Deputy Inspector General and each of the Deputy Inspectors General, except Section 1(f), where the signature or written approval of the Inspector General is necessary before the filing of the complaint.

Section 5. *Appointments.* – The **Inspector General**, who shall be a member in good standing of the Philippine Bar and without any derogatory record, shall be appointed by the Grand Master to serve at his pleasure or until his successor is appointed and qualified by the next Grand Master.

a. To ensure continuity of operation and facilitate transition, there shall be an **Overall Deputy Inspector General**, who shall likewise be a member in good standing of the Philippine Bar, without any derogatory record; and who shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

b. There shall, likewise, be **Deputy Inspectors General** for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, National Capital Region (NCR) and Overseas, all of whom shall preferably be members in good standing of the Philippine Bar, without any derogatory record, and who shall be appointed by the Grand Master to serve at his pleasure or until their successors are appointed and qualified by the next Grand Master.

Section 6. *Volunteer Inspectors.* – Brethren in good standing and with no derogatory records may become part of the organization as Inspectors, anonymously or otherwise. This is to ensure the security of its volunteers from retaliation or any form of harassment that may be committed against them by respondent masons. In order to ensure utmost confidentiality, the Overall Deputy Inspector General is designated as the only official contact of these volunteers.

Section 7. *Incentives.* – To encourage participation of Volunteer Inspectors, the Grand Master may provide reasonable incentives, as he may deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 8. *Secretariat and Records Management.* – The MIAO Secretariat shall be responsible for the maintenance and update of the records of its respondents and cases. For this purpose, the office may hire personnel to perform its functions based on a staffing pattern to be recommended by the Inspector General to the Grand Master.

Section 9. *Review.* – The recommendation of the GLIs to file unmasonic charges shall be forwarded to the Office of the Inspector General for review. Within ten (10) working days from its receipt, the Inspector General shall act on the recommendation and, forthwith, file the necessary case/s before the appropriate tribunal, if so warranted.

Section 10. *Finality of MIAO Resolutions.* – The decision of the Inspector General to file or not to file a case shall not be appealable. However, the Grand Master, in the exercise of his residual powers and sound discretion, may review, revise, reverse, modify or affirm the decisions or resolutions of the Inspector General, *motu proprio* or upon petition of any aggrieved party.

Section 11. *Complaints Against the MIAO.* – A complaint against the Overall Deputy Inspector General, Deputy Inspectors General, the Grand Lodge Inspectors, in the exercise of MIAO functions, or any of its personnel shall be brought to the Inspector General's Office. A complaint against the Inspector General shall be brought to the Grand Master.

Section 12.*Funding.* – The amount of ONE MILLION PESOS (PhP 1, 000, 00.00) every year is hereby appropriated for the MIAO's operating expenses.

Section 13. *Repealing Clause.* –Any provision of the Constitution, Edicts, Circulars and other issuances inconsistent with this Edict are deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly. Henceforth, all complaints/charges shall be filed directly with the appropriate tribunal in accordance with the Edict on Masonic Tribunals or through the MIAO, in accordance with this Edict. The existing rules and edicts on dispute resolution under the Masonic Temple of Harmony shall remain in force and in effect, subject to the provisions of the Edict on Masonic Tribunals.

Section 14. *Effectivity.* - This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and that action taken thereon recorded in the Minutes of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in Legazpi City, this 25th day of April 2015.

TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines
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MW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
GRAND MASTER

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

EDICT No. 280

CREATING THE DISTRICT AND GRAND TRIBUNALS, DEFINING THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICABLE RULES OF PROCEDURE TO BE OBSERVED.

WHEREAS, it has been observed that Trial Commissions are susceptible to Lodge politics and undue influence, thereby resulting in unjust decisions or recommendations;

WHEREAS, undue delays have become the norm rather than the exception in the disposition of cases, usually for lack of technical know-how in hearing cases and in writing decisions or recommendations;

WHEREAS, with the enactment of the Edicts on Electoral Reforms (Edict 268-B Rentoy), Masonic Internal Affairs Office (Edict 279-Rentoy) and Membership (Edicts 275, 276 and 277-Rentoy), to name a few, it has become necessary to professionalize existing trial proceedings.

WHEREFORE, there is a need to create new Masonic tribunals with a more effective, efficient and time-bound system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMAS G. RENTOY III, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby promulgate and decree the creation of Masonic Tribunals, as follows:

I. THE DISTRICT TRIBUNAL

Section 1. Whenever applicable, the District Tribunal shall take the place of the Trial Commission. For this purpose, there shall be a District Tribunal in every Masonic District. It shall be composed of two (2) members or District Magistrates and one (1) Presiding District Magistrate. A vote of at least two (2) Magistrates shall constitute the judgment of the Tribunal. It shall be in writing and signed by the concurring Magistrates. Any dissenting opinion shall also be in writing and shall form part of the records of the case.

At the discretion of the Grand Master, in order to avoid congestion of cases and whenever necessary, one District Tribunal may be created for every five (5) lodges within a Masonic District.

Section 2. Qualifications. – The District Magistrates shall have the following qualifications:

(a) Every District Tribunal shall be composed of three (3) magistrates who are all members of the Craft with recognized probity and independence. PROVIDED, that the Presiding District Magistrate shall be a member of the Bar in good standing;

(b) A District Magistrate should be well-acquainted with the Masonic Law Book, Edicts, Circulars and other rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines; and shall have been a Master Mason in good standing for a consecutive period of at least five (5) years, prior to his appointment as District Magistrate.

Section 3. The Grand Master shall appoint the District Magistrate and Presiding District Magistrate in each District. The appointment shall state whether a particular District Magistrate is being appointed as a member or as the Presiding District Magistrate of a particular District Tribunal.

Section 4. Term of Office. – The District Magistrates and Presiding District Magistrates shall have a term of three (3) years. Provided, that of those first appointed, one District Magistrate shall have a term of three (3) years, the second shall have a term of two (2) years and the third shall have a term of one (1) year. Thereafter, all appointments or reappointments shall be for a term of three (3) years. The Grand Master shall have the sole prerogative of determining who among the three (including the Presiding District Magistrate) shall have the initial 1-year, 2-year and 3-year terms.

Section 5. Jurisdiction of the District Tribunals. –

(a) Each District Tribunal shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over cases wherein **NONE** of the parties involved holds the rank of District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) or Past District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) or higher; and

(b) Either one or both of the complainants or respondents, or any of the complainants or any of the respondents is a regular or plural member of any of the subordinate lodges belonging to the Masonic District where the District Tribunal is assigned;

Section 6. Venue. – The case shall be heard and decided by the District Tribunal where the offense was committed.

Section 7. Appeal. – Decisions of the District Tribunal shall be appealable to the Grand Tribunal within a period of five (5) calendar days from receipt thereof by way of a Notice of Appeal duly filed with the District Tribunal. No motion for reconsideration or any similar relief shall be entertained. If one is filed, the same shall be treated as an appeal.

Once an appeal has been filed, it shall be the duty of the District Tribunal to elevate, within ten (10) calendar days, to the appropriate Grand Tribunal the entire records of the case for appropriate action.

Section 8. Jurisdiction of Subordinate Lodges. – Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and whenever applicable, a Subordinate Lodge, through its Worshipful Master or Secretary, in the exercise of its inherent right to discipline its ***own members***, may opt to acquire jurisdiction over a case involving its regular members by officially informing the District Tribunal where the case is pending, in writing, of its decision to take cognizance of the case, strictly in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) The Lodge, through its Worshipful Master or Secretary, shall exercise its option to take cognizance of the case within five (5) working days from the date its Master or Secretary, is informed of the filing of a complaint involving any of its regular members. For this purpose, the complainant shall be required by the District Tribunal concerned to submit proof of service of his complaint upon the Mother Lodge of the respondent before acting on the same. Only Chartered Lodges may opt to take cognizance of a case involving any of its members.

(b) In cases involving regular members of the same Lodge where all the parties do not hold the rank of Master or Past Master, the existing rules governing the Trial Commission shall be applied. However, any violation or non-observance of the reglementary periods pertaining to the Lodge and Trial Commission shall, *ipso facto*, terminate the authority and jurisdiction of the Lodge/Trial Commission to handle the case on the ground of **undue delay** in the disposition of the case.

(c) Any party may make a written demand to have the case transmitted to the appropriate District Tribunal for appropriate action, on the ground of undue delay.

(d) Once the Lodge/Trial Commission loses jurisdiction on the ground of undue delay, the case shall be transmitted to the appropriate District Tribunal within five (5) working days from receipt of the written demand from any party. The purpose of the written demand is to determine when the five (5)-day period within which to transmit the case to the appropriate District Tribunal shall commence; and to determine the liability of the brethren concerned.

(e) In case the Lodge/Trial Commission fails, refuses or neglects to transmit the case records to the appropriate District Tribunal despite written demand, any party may furnish it with copies of all available case records in his possession to enable the District Tribunal concerned to proceed with the case, without prejudice to the filing of the appropriate charges against the erring members of

the Trial Commission, including the Master of the Lodge and the Secretary of the Commission, for violation of this Edict.

(f) Upon receipt of sufficient case records from the Lodge, the Trial Commission or from any party, the District Tribunal shall make a determination of the authenticity thereof, with or without the participation of the parties, for the purpose of proceeding with the case from where the Trial Commission left off and to resolve the same with dispatch, in accordance with the letter and spirit of this Edict. Once the District Tribunal assumes jurisdiction, the Rules on Summary Procedure described in Section 27 hereof shall apply.

(g) However, a Lodge shall have no right to assume jurisdiction over cases involving its regular member who hold the rank of Worshipful Master or Past Master or when there are other parties who are regular members of other lodges.

II. THE GRAND TRIBUNAL

Section 9. Composition. – The Grand Tribunal shall be composed of at least twelve (12) Master Masons and shall be given the appellation of Grand Magistrate. The Grand Tribunal shall sit in at least four (4) Divisions with three (3) members per Division; one Division shall be stationed in the National Capital Region (NCR Division), one in Luzon (Luzon Division), one in the Visayas (Visayas Division) and one in Mindanao (Mindanao Division).

The Grand Tribunal shall sit in divisions and shall not sit *en banc* except for ceremonial purposes only, as determined by the Grand Master. A vote of at least two (2) Magistrates shall constitute the judgment of the Tribunal. It shall be in writing and signed by the concurring Magistrates. Any dissenting opinion shall also be in writing and shall form part of the records of the case.

Section 10. The Grand Master shall have the prerogative and discretion to create additional Divisions. Provided, that the additional Divisions shall be stationed in the area (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao or NCR) where the volume of appealed cases would justify such creation.

Section 11. Qualifications. – The Grand Magistrates in each division shall have the following qualifications:

(a) At least two (2) of the Grand Magistrates shall be members of the bar in good standing;

(b) A Grand Magistrate should be well-acquainted with the Masonic Law Book, Edicts, Circulars and other rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and a member of the Craft with recognized probity

and independence. PROVIDED, that the Presiding District Magistrate shall be a member of the Bar in good standing;

(c) A Grand Magistrate must have been a Master Mason in good standing for a consecutive period of at least seven (7) years immediately preceding his appointment, as certified to by the Office of the Grand Secretary.

Section 12. Term of Office. – The Grand Magistrates shall have a term of three (3) years. Provided, that of those first appointed, one Grand Magistrate shall have a term of three (3) years, the second shall have a term of two (2) years and the third shall have a term of one (1) year. Thereafter, all appointments or reappointments shall be for a term of three (3) years. The Grand Master shall have the sole prerogative of determining who among the three, including the Presiding Grand Magistrate, shall have the initial 1-year, 2-year and 3-year terms.

Section 13.The Grand Master shall appoint the Grand Magistrates and Presiding Grand Magistrates in each Division. The appointment shall state whether a particular Grand Magistrate is being appointed as a member or as the Presiding Grand Magistrate of a particular Division.

Section 14.Exclusive Original Jurisdiction. – The Divisions of the Grand Tribunal shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over cases wherein any of the parties involved is a District Deputy Grand Master or Past District Deputy Grand Master or higher.

Section 15. Venue. – The case shall be heard and decided by the Grand Tribunal where the offense was committed.

Section 16. Special Exclusive Original Jurisdiction of NCR Division. – The NCR Division of the Grand Tribunal shall have special exclusive original jurisdiction over cases involving Grand Lodge employees who are non-masons, whether as complainants or respondents, without prejudice to existing laws. It shall likewise take cognizance of cases filed by overseas lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Section 17. Appellate jurisdiction.– Each Division shall have appellate jurisdiction over cases decided by the District Tribunals belonging to their respective jurisdictions, i.e., decisions rendered by District Tribunals in NCR shall be appealable to the NCR Division; decisions rendered by District Tribunals in Luzon shall be appealable to the Luzon Division; decisions rendered by District Tribunals in the Visayas shall be appealable to the Visayas Division; and decisions rendered by District Tribunals in Mindanao shall be appealable to the Mindanao Division. The appeal shall be resolved by the appropriate Grand Tribunal within fifteen days from receipt of the entire records of the case.

Section 18. Automatic Review of Decision. – Decisions of the Grand Tribunals shall be subject to automatic review by the Grand Master. No motion for reconsideration or similar relief shall be entertained.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 19. Coverage. - This Edict shall govern all cases involving Masonic disputes under Article XVIII (On Charges, Trials and Procedures) of the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, EXCEPT (a) and (b) thereof, pertaining to charges preferred against the Grand Master and Incumbent or Past Elective Grand Lodge Officers other than the Grand Master.

Section 20. Uniform procedure in filing. - Charges or cases covered by Article XVIII (c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Constitution shall be governed by this Edict and shall be filed with the Office of the Grand Master, through the Office of the Grand Secretary.

Upon receipt thereof, the Grand Master shall forward the same to the appropriate tribunal for appropriate action. A complaint shall be given due course only when the complainant, whether an individual Mason or a Subordinate Lodge, is in good standing, as determined by the Grand Secretary.

All complaints shall, at least, be in six (6) copies. The original shall be retained by the Office of the Grand Secretary, for filing and reference purposes; the rest shall be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Master (1); the Tribunal concerned (3); and the respondent (1). In case of multiple respondents, additional copies corresponding to every additional respondent shall be provided by the Complainant.

Section 21. All Presiding District and Presiding Grand Magistrates are hereby directed to inform the District Deputy Grand Masters under their jurisdiction of their respective mailing addresses where pleadings and other documents are to be filed.

Section 22. For the purpose of determining which tribunal (District or Grand) has jurisdiction, the order in which the parties' positions or ranks are enumerated in Section 2, Article II (Part I) of the Masonic Law Book shall be the basis in ascertaining whether their ranks are higher or lower than DDGM or PDDGM.

Section 23. In case of temporary vacancy in a District Tribunal, the Presiding District Magistrate shall immediately inform the Grand Master of such vacancy. The latter shall have the following options in filling up the temporary vacancy:

a) By appointing a temporary replacement; or
b) By appointing a District Magistrate from the nearest District Tribunal, by way of a Special Order or Special Detail.

In the case of a Grand Tribunal, the Grand Master shall appoint a replacement by way of a temporary appointment who shall serve as Grand Magistrate until such time that the incapacitated Grand Magistrate shall have recovered or until the case where the inhibition took place has been finally terminated.

In case it is the position of the Presiding Magistrate of either the District or Grand Tribunal that has become temporarily vacant, the duty to inform the Grand Master shall fall upon the Senior Magistrate.

Section 24. Temporary vacancies are those that are caused by voluntary inhibition, prolonged illness or hospitalization, physical incapacity, travel abroad and similar causes. In case of voluntary inhibition, the replacement shall continue to perform his duties until the case is terminated. In case of temporary absence, incapacity or illness, the replacement shall continue to perform his duties until such time that the regular magistrate shall have recovered and reported back to work.

Section 25. In case of a permanent vacancy in either the District or Grand Tribunals, the Grand Master shall forthwith appoint a replacement who shall serve for the unexpired term.

Section 26. The Rules of Court shall, whenever practicable, be suppletorily applicable to proceedings before the District Tribunals and the divisions of the Grand Tribunal.

Section 27. Summary Proceeding. - Cases filed before the District and Grand Tribunals shall be covered by the Rule on Summary Procedure, wherein after the filing of the Complaint and Answer, the parties shall be required to submit Position Papers, attaching thereto all supporting documents and affidavits of witnesses, within a period of fifteen (15) days from notice. Upon the filing of all Position Papers or upon expiration of the period for the filing thereof, the case shall be deemed submitted for decision. Thereafter, the tribunal shall have fifteen (15) days within which to render its decision, unless it decides to conduct clarificatory hearings, in which case, it shall do so within a period of fifteen (15) days from the time all Position Papers are submitted or from the time the period to submit them has expired. Thereafter, without further delay, the tribunal shall render its decision within a non-extendible period of fifteen (15) days from the conclusion or termination of the clarificatory hearings.

Section 28. Reversal of decisions of the Grand Tribunal by the Grand Master. - A decision of the Grand Tribunal imposing a penalty may be reversed by the Grand Master either on the merits or by the exercise of executive clemency.

Section 29. If the reversal is on the merits, i.e., the penalty imposed on the respondent(s) has no factual or legal basis, the respondent shall be restored to all his rights and privileges prior to the imposition of the penalty.

Section 30. If the reversal is by reason of the exercise of executive clemency alone, the respondent shall re-acquire his rights and privileges but the same shall take effect prospectively. If the penalty imposed is expulsion, he shall further be considered unaffiliated.

Section 31. If the Complaint complies with the Edicts regarding the mandatory referral to the Temple of Harmony, the certification of the District Deputy Grand Master of the appropriate District Temple of Harmony, or the Certification of the duly designated Harmony Officer, shall be attached to the Complaint.

Section 32. If the Complaint does NOT comply with the Edicts regarding referral to the Temple of Harmony, the tribunal concerned shall refer the case to the appropriate Temple of Harmony for mandatory Dispute Resolution pursuant to Edict Nos. 82 (MW Puno), 82-A (MW Galvez), 82-B (MW Pagotan), 82-C (MW Aniag) and 82-D (Razon); and the latter shall submit its report/certification within 30 days from receipt of the Order issued by the tribunal concerned.

Section 33. If referral to the Temple of Harmony is impossible or impracticable, as determined by the tribunal concerned, the latter shall order the parties to undergo the mandatory Dispute Resolution, which shall be conducted by the tribunal itself within 30 days from the receipt by the parties of the Order requiring them to undergo the mandatory Dispute Resolution.

Section 34. Decisions of the tribunals shall NOT be executory pending appeal. However, in cases where the penalty imposed is merely REPRIMAND in open lodge, the losing party shall have NO RIGHT TO APPEAL, as the decision is final and immediately executory.

Section 35. Prescription of Offenses. All offenses cognizable by the Masonic Tribunals shall prescribe in four (4) years form the time of commission or discovery.

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Section 36. This edict shall be prospective in application. All pending cases shall continue to be governed by the old rules. For this purpose, the Trial Commissions shall continue to function and must terminate all pending cases within Sixty Days (60) from effectivity hereof. Such decisions rendered by the Trial Commissions shall, however, be appealable to the appropriate division of the Grand Tribunal and shall be governed by the provisions of this edict.

Section 37. If a Trial Commission cannot terminate its pending cases within Sixty Days (60) from effectivity hereof, the same shall be turned over to the appropriate Tribunal, without prejudice to any disciplinary sanction that may be imposed by the Grand Master.

Section 38. *Repealing Clause.* – All edicts, circulars, regulations and provisions in the Masonic Law Book which are inconsistent with the provisions of this edict are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly. The provisions of the Masonic Law Book on Trials, Charges and Procedures shall remain in full force and effect as long as the same are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Edict.

Section 39. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this edict is declared invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 40. *Effectivity.* - This Edict shall take effect immediately and shall be read in open lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and that action taken thereon recorded in the Minutes of the Lodge.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in Legazpi City, this 25th day of April 2015.

TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Grand Master

UPDATE ON ALLIED MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS

Satisfactorily complied with Edict Nos. 259 and 259-A. are the following:

1.	Quezon City Trowel Club
2.	Silanganan Temple Builders Association Inc.
3.	Square & Compass We – Connect
4.	Kuyang on the Level Club Inc.
5.	Masons Order of Law Association
6.	Grand Order of the Blue Rabbit
7.	Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of the Philippines
8.	Assembly of Customs Travelers, Inc. (ACT)
9.	KAMANAVA

Allied Masonic Association which are still pending for compliance of Certificate of Good Standing (CGS), Certificate of Proficiency in the Third Degree, and Written Consent of Lodges of their Officers, are:

1.	Batangas Masonic Associations, Inc.
2.	King Solomon Brotherhood Foundation of Makati, Inc.
3.	Masons of Tondo
4.	Traveler Multisport Square and Compass Club
5.	Travelers Plumb and Level Club Inc.

TRIBUTE TO MW RUDYARDO BUNDA, PGM

BY: MW REYNATO S. PUNO, PGM



For quite a time now, I have desisted from attending programs where I am given a talking part. I guess as you grow old, you realize the wisdom of the advice that it is best to bridle your tongue rather than let your tongue tattle. I have to break this self-imposed rule however when MW Rosendo Herrera, PGM requested me to speak to honor MW Rudyardo Bunda, PGM after he decided to retire from the Grand Treasureship of our Grand Lodge. There are compelling reasons for this change of attitude but let me just cite a few.

For one, very few of us PGMs have a fingertip familiarity with the masonic life of MW Bunda. The records reveal that MW Bunda saw the light of masonry in 1965 and I do not need any extra sensory insight to conclude that most of you were not even travelers at that time, hence, unaware of how he ascended the stairway to the Grand East. Let me give you a snapshot of his journey to the Grand East. In the decade of the 60s, Cavite was considered to be the first kingdom of masonry in the Philippines. It was the birthplace of a multitude of our national heroes, most of whom were members of the Craft. By their lips and their lives, these masonic heroes produced and reproduced masons in their distinct mould. For quite a length of time, the direction of our masonry was driven by the esoteric light reflected by these outstanding brethren from Cavite. One of them is MW Bunda who knocked at the door of masonry already loaded with a bag of achievements difficult to equal… the discipline of one who triumphed over poverty, the intellectual superiority of one gifted with both knowledge and wisdom, and one possessed with the unyielding tenacity to live a life from a high moral ground. In those years, long bygone and long clouded by the mist of time, the brethren kept an unerring eye on leaders on whom they can entrust the future of masonry without taking any tranquilizer. In 1979, MW Bunda was reluctantly persuaded to run for the position of JGW and I am sure he was surprised by his victory. Surprised because it was his first try to run as JGW and very few are exalted to the position on their initial attempt. Surprised because he was up against brother masons with longer track record in masonry, better known to the brethren and more adept in negotiating the treacherous highways and byways of masonic elections. Hence after his election as JGW, he said and I quote:

x x x

That I would be serving the Grand Lodge of the Philippines was farthest from my mind when I became a mason. When my name was mentioned. I was virtually unknown and therefore a poor third in terms of the Grand Lodge nomination. My only wish at that time was to have myself exposed to the august body gathered during that communication.

The Grand Architect of the Universe, however, overruled MW Bunda's humble wish. The GAOTU gifted Philippine masonry with the person and personality of MW Bunda.

I had the good fortune to work with MW Bunda. I was the Senior Grand Warden he wore the purple of the fraternity. Until now, his words keep ringing on my ears when he was installed as our Grand Master. He said, "I realize the enormous challenge that goes with the responsibility and just as I have always done, I shall give my everything – time, talent and what little blessings God has provided me in response to that challenge and in the carrying out of that responsibility." I was struck by predicate of that promise "just as I have always done." I have labored with him up close in the Grand Lodge for nearly four (4) decades in various capacities. And I can take the oath and swear that in all those years, MW Bunda never wavered in giving his best to masonry --- his time,

talent and treasure. More importantly, he never caused any embarrassment to the Craft. MW Bunda is a rock of the fraternity, unmovable, immovable, and unchangeable despite the tempest of the winds and the whiplash of the waves of adversities that have shaken the foundation of our Craft.

Let me advert to just two adversities which threatened and tested the unity of the Craft. First, I refer to the financial tragedy that befell the Acacia Mutual Aid Society. Acacia is one of the best ideas that came from the quarry of masonry to translate to living reality our value of charity. As its name depicts, it is a mutual aid society designed to benefit the brethren. We are among the pioneers in the field. For a long, long time, Acacia was a roaring success, especially when it was under the stewardship of MW William Quasha, PGM who also rebuilt St. Luke Hospital to become the top one hospital in the country. Considering its success, the Acacia model was pirated by other organizations, including the Knights of Columbus. Alas, sometime in the year 2000, with MW Quasha gone, Acacia started losing money for reasons difficult to discern. Its investments turned sour, its financial portfolio shrunk, and it reached its extremis when it could no longer serve the health needs of the brethren, their widows and orphans. It was a stinking mess and soon its stench reached the nose of the Insurance Commission and the regulatory body immediately took jurisdiction over the mess. The shame that faced the Craft was unimaginable and the victims of the mismanaged Acacia were all up in arms. There was only one brother who could bail out the Craft from the financial disaster --- MW Bunda, because of his recognized expertise in banking and accounting. MW Bunda did not fail us as the chosen white knight of the hour. For five years, MW Bunda patiently scrutinized the moving pieces of the problem, staved off the anger of the regulatory agencies, soothed the feelings of the victims, and he did a thousand things to save the Craft from its devastating fallouts. Frankly, I cannot imagine how MW Bunda prevented all the legal cases that could have been filed against Acacia and the Grand Lodge. In any event, after five years, MW pulled the rabbit out of the hat; in 2006, the brethren unanimously dissolved the Acacia and replaced it with the Financial Relief Assistance Program administered by MW Bunda. And catch this --- within a year, all outstanding debts of Acacia were paid and the new program resumed to provide financial aid and assistance to distressed masons, their widows and orphans.

Let me go to the second time MW Bunda played white Knight to the Grand Lodge. This is of more recent vintage and I need not jog your memory to remember. I refer to the incumbency of MW Romeo Yu as Grand Master where the dispute on the appointment of DDGM of Cavite started as a bonfire and blew into a forest fire that would have consumed the house of masonry in the Philippines. I said I will not reiterate its narrative but suffice to state that it led to the formation of a Grand Lodge whose members were largely drawn from the district of Cavite. The dispute became ugly. It led to the physical grabbing of same of our lodges and their jewels, expulsions, court battles, and campaigns abroad for recognition. It was another time of crisis for the Grand Lodge and again whom did the Grand Lodge tap to defuse the crisis? Once more, the task of walking on the water and do the magical fell on the shoulders of MW Bunda. The Grand Lodge formed a Special Committee to stop the secession with MW Bunda as Chair. True to form, MW Bunda and company stopped the fire from growing to a conflagration and today, what is left of it are but flickering embers. I know that they tried several solutions to bring the brethren who walked away back to the fold. I like to think, however, that a lot of them returned to the fold because of the personal touch of MW Bunda, his patience, his understanding, his compassion, and his forgiving nature. In due time, I am sure, there will be a closure to this problem, all thanks to MW Bunda.

In the last ANCOM, MW Bunda decided to retire from the Treasureship of the Grand Lodge. He has been elected and re-elected by the brethren as Grand Treasurer for sixteen (16) years. No brother holds that distinction and I cannot imagine how that record would be broken. That record speaks a thousand volumes how the brethren regard MW Bunda, how they trust him, how confident they are with his integrity, how certain they are that in his hands our financial coffer is safe as it can be. The brethren were 100% right. One of the enduring legacies of MW Bunda to the Grand Lodge is setting up its financial system which he did as the centerpiece of his program as a Grand Master. He was the watchman of our money and no mason lost a

nanosecond of sleep while he was guarding our treasury.

There is so much good to say for MW Bunda. It will take an encyclopedia to do so. There is only one MW Bunda in our fraternity. I wish we can clone MW Bunda so we can reproduce Bundas in all our blue lodges. Unfortunately, there is no way of doing it: science tells us not yet, theology warns, thou shall not. Since we cannot find the solution to the problem, we might as well settle with a substitute just what we did with the Lost Word.

May I then ask the brethren to give him a standing ovation and one by one give MW Bunda our brotherly hug as a token of our gratitude to his legacies to masonry in the Philippines.

MCCI ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION: A SUCCESS



"To alleviate the sufferings of differently abled children and assist them to be independent and productive member of our society" is the vision of Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCI) by providing medical, surgical and rehabilitation intervention to differently abled children since 1924.

On June 5, 2017, MCCI had their annual general assembly at Plaridel Masonic Temple in Manila.

Some of the highlights were presentation of reports, ratification of Acts and proceedings and election of the Board of Trustees and officers.

The assembly was represented by blue lodges' incumbent Worshipful Masters.

Chairman: MW Abraham N. Tolentino
President: RW Romeo Momo
Vice President: RW Rolen Paulino
Secretary: Efren Arayata Jr.
Treasurer: VW Gregorio Monreal
Asst. Treasurer: VW Dennis Cunanan
Auditor: VW Erwin Bollozos
Trustees:
WB Adriatico Tee
Bro. Dr. Alfonso Villaroman



FREEMASONRY:ITS GLORIOUS PURPOSE

By VW Lyndon J. Romero, CDGL, PDDGM. Timberland :: No. 219

BRETHREN OF THE LODGE, it is a divine gift that we are once again given the opportunity to pause from our labors and assemble as brothers to look into things, past and present, so that we may thereby gain wisdom and strength for the future.

Thus, we must endeavor not to waste it. Again, mindful of the duty we owe to our Ancient and Honorable Order, we have assembled to deliberate and to act for the good of the Craft.

For the good of the Craft, l again reiterate.

Well and proper is it that we should do so, for to our hands, in part at least, is committed the prosperity, the usefulness, and the honor of our association.

Far back in the past, where the moss of centuries clusters thick upon the pages of history, Masonry was. Its temples and its columns were reared, its principles taught, and its name revered, before even History itself was; the dim light of tradition alone can tell us its origin.

Not only ancient but honorable has been its name. It comes clad in the venerable garments of departed centuries, and crowned with the favor and countenance of the wise and good who have gone before us; its greatness in no place stained with cruelty or blood; its traditions so pure and so truthful that neither the most ardent or the most scrupulous of its votaries can wish for their change; its honors to be read in enduring monuments of wisdom and science, of industry and skill, and in the smoldering and stupendous ruins of the mighty works wrought by those ancient Masons who were both operative and speculative; its moral benefits to be seen in the well-ordered lives and conduct of those who are true Masons at heart, as well as in the homes made bright and happy by its influence, its kind and charitable dispensations.

This history, these noble deeds and enduring works, all these glorious recollections, are to be still further perpetuated and illustrated by us, if we are true to Masonry that was, and to Masonry that shall follow us.

But today, I do not desire to content myself with prying far back into the mist of ages for the antiquity of Masonry, to review its past glories, and then urge upon all Masons, as the extent of Masonry, a compliance with its rituals and strict fulfilment of the requirements of the great law of brotherhood alone.

These, my brethren, although obligations instilled upon us as Masons, are not all that we owe to ourselves or to Masonry.

Masonry's foundation is surely divine. No wisdom, short of that given especially by Omniscience, could have so framed an organization that it should outlive principalities and powers, and all other societies and arid associations; that, as century rolled after century, and age and generation followed close upon age and generation, it should but increase with its age, and strengthen with the lapse of time.

All other associations, all other monuments of human skill, or wisdom, or knowledge, have been transient and transitory; they lived and they passed away; the place that once knew them knows them no more; but, Masonry, in all ages, in all climes, still the same, unchanging and unchangeable, has endured and pressed onto the final fulfilment of the mission assigned to it by God himself at its outset.

Man, created pure, and endowed with all the attributes necessary for his earthly happiness, had wandered from the path of his God, had violated his solemn ordinances, had brought sin and death into the world.

Yes, quickly following his disobedience, crime succeeded crime, in still increasing magnitude, until murder and fratricide stained the world with a brother's blood: — the trail of the serpent had passed over all that was pure and happy, and left its blighting, withering curse behind.
That man might not be wholly lost, the bounteous Father of the Universe left him still with memory to recall the bright and glorious visions of Paradise, when he walked in Eden with his God, and inculcated in his mind-living principles of morality and right.

He taught him their necessities, their beauty and their worth, and clothed them for him in attractive hues.

Man saw and hoped. The Great Architect Of The Universe encouraged the hope, and implanted in his breast the love of those principles of morality and virtue which by His grace and blessing have since increased and flourished, and are now the foundation of Masonry and the root of all good. As men increased in knowledge and in social intercourse, they taught these principles to one another, and associated together that they might thereby be encouraged in the practice thereof.

From this sprang societies, and, as time passed on, and God again communicated with His creatures, these associations took upon them shape, until they finally culminated in Ancient Craft Masonry, that Fraternity which we all revere.

It however is but the body, the exemplification of those cardinal principles. They lay at the foundation of our Order, at the foundation of religion; and without them, we can neither be happy here, nor hope for happiness hereafter.

These are the teachings of Masonry. Belief in the goodness of God, and in man's accountability to Him.

As Masons, in God we must put our trust, and in one only God believe, in whatever name, reverent and venerated, we call Him, and have enduring faith in the sacredness and divine inspiration of the Scriptures - Masonry's Volume of the Sacred Law.

I care not who, having passed the outer door of Masonry, has witnessed its solemn ceremonial and learned its hidden arcana, if his heart be not enlightened and illuminated and his action controlled by a belief in these things, he is not a Mason, neither indeed can he be.

These are they which constitute Masonry. Its forms and ceremonies are but the symbolic representatives of its reality, and in the knowledge of the representation of these principles should all Masons be versed.

Believing firmly and implicitly in, and ever having present in our minds, the strict accountability we owe to God, we will necessarily and naturally desire to lead virtuous, benevolent, and upright lives; and as we view His bounteous goodness towards us, and His abundant charity towards all of our transgressions, our hearts will warm with brotherly love towards all mankind; and the humble prayer to Him, "to forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," will have a force, a significance, and apathos we have never before imagined.

We were taught that Masonry has been made the custodian of noble and sacred truths, and piously have they been transmitted from generation to generation; sometimes recognized and manifest in all their beauty and purity; and at all times diffusing their benign influence over its votaries.

THE INFORMATION FLOOD IN RELATION TO GLP

The instant access to information is on us. To those Freemasons who have no access to the information available through websites, social media and a click with google, they are missing a lot. As human beings with intellectual faculties, masons ought to learn and know. We are in an age where the corporate by-laws are written in such wise that summons and notices to members of associations and corporations are valid if the notices are sent to the members' email address. Thus, members are advised to regularly update their email addresses to the entity where they belong and non-receipt of the emails is not a valid ground to contest the lack of service of summons/notices.

To younger freemasons, keeping up with the information technology is not a problem. To the old ones, they are advised to secure the assistance of their children, grand-children or a Mason brother to assist them in having an email account or a social media account and synchronize it with their iPhone or Android. This has become of a "MUST" since the Grand Lodge is actively using the internet in reaching out to the Fraternity and recently, by opening the IMES studies through on-line system. Very soon, a digital magazine or an interactive edition of the Cabletow will be available thereby further reducing the printing costs, and still in the future, submission of reports from lodges will only be honored if submitted digitally. At present, our employees are still scanning our hard copies and converting them to digital files, this will be a work of the past.

Here are some of the internet addresses that are used by the Grand Lodge in their communications:

1. www.grandlodge.ph

This is the official website of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The site has a wide coverage of information and new "drop-down" fields are being requested and implemented to update the activities of allied organizations. Since this is an official website, only the administrator with internet publication knowledge can update this, and for which reason, some data found are not updated due to lack of personnel to handle sensitive GLP matters.

2. https://www.facebook.com/grandlodgeph/

This is the official facebook page of the GLP. Since this is a social publication in character with a wide immediate access, the items are updated regularly since the update can be done by an ordinary GLP officer with access to admin password for purposes of regulation.

3. https://www.facebook.com/groups/126872081214203/

Another another facebook page was created as an official forum to discuss the Special Communication of December 2017. Idea and opinions are regular readings and a brother should be cautious and prudent in assimilating the data available since the postings are not necessarily the opinion of the GLP but the opinion of a posting member. There is no intent to police this site since it was created to generate the pros and cons of the Speccom agenda. The simple rules of honesty, respect, brotherly love and avoidance of unmasonic expletives are observed and the participating brother is further cautioned to conduct himself with due order and propriety as a Mason.

4. https://www.facebook.com/ANCOM2017/

This site was created for the specific purpose of catering the needs of Ancom 2017 in Tagaytay City. Although the event was concluded in April of 2017, the postings and contents are still valid since they are part of the "collaterals" that were committed to the Ancom sponsors. After the final expiration of the event on April of 2018 this site will be closed and its data erased. At present, there is no FB account for Ancom 2018 and 2019 and the hosts for these Ancoms should be creating the sites by this time. It is advised of the said hosts to coordinate with the GLP so that their website will be property honored as official.

There are other countless websites and blogs that are used by different lodges and monitoring them by the GLP is nearly impossible. As Masons, prudence and obedience shall be the virtues to be exercised in this aspect. Prudence as a Mason should possess and obedience to the Edicts and Circulars of the Grand Master in the matter of regulation of our postings and sharing of information. Our legal bounds shall be the Electronic Law. Every brother should be on guard. Recently, the Fraternity has been used for proliferation of lewd and highly immoral images and articles used by "Hokage" groups claiming to be "Pastors" complete with use of bible verses. These have eroded our good repute and the brethren must report these activities to the GLP for proper action. Let us guard our gates together under the presence of whirling information pace.

//ams

















EACH PICTURE HAS ITS STORY TO TELL



THE GRAND LINE OFFICERS

Seated L to R : Sr. Grand Deacon Dexter Y. Macrohon, G. Chaplain Armando G. Cazzola, G. Treasurer MW Juanito G. Espino Jr., DGM Romeo S. Momo, GM Abraham N. Tolentino, SGW Agapito S. Suan , JGW Rolen C. Paulino, G. Secretary MW Danilo D. Angeles, G. Marshall Gilbert L. Mendoza, G. Sword Bearer Frederick W. Siao, AGS Nathaniel S. Golla

Standing L to R: Jr. G. Deacon Zondrex Allan Dizon, SR. G. Steward Johnny T. Pimentel, G. Historian Luduvico G. Badoy, G. Auditor Romeo A. Bartolome, G. Pursivant Henry S. Oamina Grand Orator Teodoro AlejandroY. Kalaw IV, SGL Marcus Antonios Andaya, Jr. G. Steward Efren Arayata Jr., Asst. G. Treasurer Gregorio M. Monreal, Grand Tyler Carlito B. Faustino G. Bible Bearer Leo Rafael M. Cueva, G. Organist Luis A. Ferrer IV

Photo by: VW Charles G. Agar