

The Cable Tow



GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

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At the Altar...
MW JOSE PERCIVAL L. ADIONG
Grand Master, 1996-1997

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

80th ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION CEREMONIES



MASONIC VISAS
Masons Built for
Country, and for



GRAND LODGE OFFICERS
FOR MASONIC YEAR 1996-1997

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Editorial Staff

J. Flor R. Nicolas
Editor

Charles G. Agar
Photo / Layout

B. J. Torres
Circulation / Exchange



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Grand Master's Message

I write to you for the first time as your Grand Master with ambivalent feelings. First of all, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you for having elevated me to the Grand Oriental Chair at the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Cagayan de Oro City, some highlights of which you will see in this issue.

But I also share with you the sorrow of having another link severed from the chain of our mystic circle. The Almighty Fiat has taken away from our midst one mighty pillar of the Temple of Philippine Masonry: MW William Quasha, Grand Master, 1962. The highlights of the funeral rites over which I had the honor to personally preside are also in this issue.

Although MW Quasha is no longer with us physically, we can rest assured that, in spirit, he will ever be with his beloved Craft. He will live forever in our hearts; for, like the other great builders of Philippine Masonry who have gone ahead to the Celestial Lodge, MW Quasha left us a rich heritage.

The best way to render ourselves worthy of that heritage is to emulate MW Quasha's example of "planning zealously on our trestleboard" and "laboring hard in the quarries" to further the interests of the Craft. The greatest tribute we can give to the other great Masonic leaders is to contribute our respective share to the completion of the Temple of Philippine Masonry, the foundation of which they made strong.

Consonant with our long-range Masonic Vision 2020, we envision a very vigorous and vibrant Philippine Masonry by 2017, the first centennial anniversary of our Grand Lodge. Precisely because we wholeheartedly dedicate ourselves to the task of working for peace and helping in rebuilding the Philippines, we see our country participating on free and equal terms in the realization of a global society where harmony and universal peace will prevail.

Following the vision of the late WB General Emilio Aguinaldo and other Master Masons who spearheaded our Declaration of Independence from Spain, the Grand Lodge participated in the celebration of the 98th anniversary of the Philippine Republic. An account of that participation, together with photos thereof, is published in this issue.

There are many items of Masonic interest we can share with our brethren. We must.

Let me invite you to send in articles, as well as reports and pictures of your activities, for publication in this, our very own "Cabletow". Together brethren, we will make our "Cabletow" an attractive window through which others clearly see that we Masons build for God, for country, and for mankind.



Jose Percival L. Adiong
JOSE PERCIVAL L. ADIONG
Grand Master

Building Freemasonry

True builders have a common attitude: while they are proud of the magnificent structure they have just completed, they have envisioned an even more magnificent one they would start today.

That was the attitude of those skilled craftsmen who built the grand and imposing cathedrals of Europe in the Middle Ages and who founded our Masonic Order. That was the attitude of those who conceived and organized the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, which marked the start of Symbolic Masonry as we know it today. That was the attitude of those illustrious brethren who, more than a century ago, transplanted Symbolic Masonry to Philippine shores, thereby providing the leaders of the Filipino people with a new experience in cooperation and a unity in their nationalistic goals. That, too, was the attitude of those who established the various appendant bodies in different parts of the country. That, certainly, was the attitude of those who unified Philippine Masonry and established our Grand Lodge in 1917.

As a builder, our Grand Lodge continued to spread the beneficent influence of Masonry throughout its jurisdiction, leading more and more men to a realization of the Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God, which alone can save mankind from the depths of depravity and even possibly its self-destruction.

In June 1923, our Grand Lodge started the publication of this periodical. Since then the members of the editorial staff have worked hard to make it an ever more useful working tool in continuing the building of Philippine Masonry.

To our worthy predecessors' accomplishments we in the current editorial staff look for inspiration, and to the future for opportunity to make this periodical ever more informative and attractive to you, our subscribing brethren, and your families, as well as to other readers.

But, as in the past, we need your help and support. Please help us update our mailing list, and send in articles and photos, as well as suggestions and comments. With your help and support, we will yet make this periodical a more effective implement for helping build up a very sturdy Temple of Philippine Masonry.

MW JOSE PERCIVAL LASMARIAS ADIONG:

Relentless Pursuer of Ideals

The Man and Brother elevated to the Grand Oriental Chair in Cagayan de Oro City on April 26, 1996 has shone as a bright star in the military and Masonic firmaments. Possessed by a strict sense of discipline, disinterested devotion to duty, and personal integrity, he has earned the respect and esteem of his colleagues and subordinates alike.

The boy born in Bais, Negros Oriental, who later graduated from the Negros Oriental High School, wanted at first to become a civil engineer. But when he was a freshman at the Silliman University, he passed the examinations for the Philippine Military Academy, from which he graduated as 2nd Lieutenant on March 26, 1962, 16 days after his twenty-first birthday.

After taking several basic and advance training courses, he was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant in March 1965. Subsequently, he was sent to Okinawa, Japan, where he underwent training in Allied Combat Intelligence.

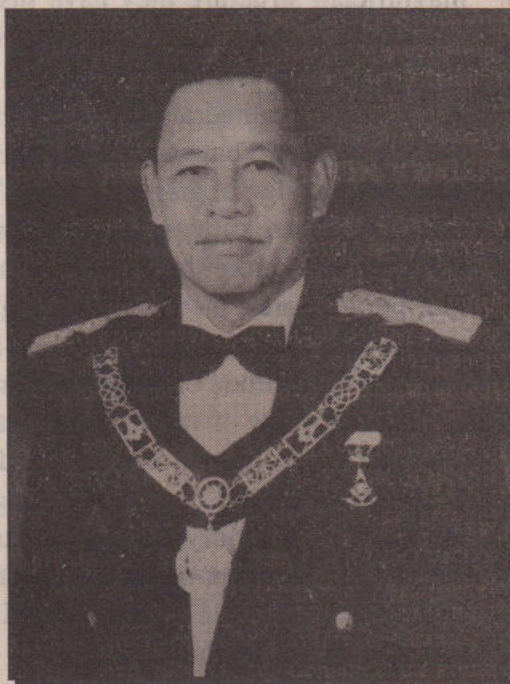
In the late 60s, he not only garnered for himself the Basic Parachutist Badge and the AFP Special Forces Tab, but he got promoted to the rank of Captain.

In 1969, he served as Commanding Officer of the 211th PC Company in Roxas City and then of the 453rd PC Company in South Cotabato, and later as OIC of the South Cotabato Constabulary Command (SCCC) and Chief of Police of General Santos City. In July 1971, after his advance Intelligence training in Silang, Cavite, he was promoted to the rank of Major (age 30) and sent back to General Santos City, where he served as the youngest Provincial Commander ever in postwar military history. At this time, he was decorated with the Military Service Medal and the Anti-Dissidence Campaign Ribbon.

In October 1972, he got promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel at the "thunder" age of 31 years and seven months.

In February 1974, he earned for himself the Senior Parachutist Badge.

Lt. Col. Adiong pursued his Master's degree in Business Management at the Asian Institute of Management in school year 1974-75.



From 1975 to 1978, he served at the General Headquarters of the AFP in Camp Aguinaldo and was detailed with DND and with the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC). He served as Executive Assistant for the VP for Visayas and Mindanao, then as General Manager of Cebu Stevedoring Company and finally as Manager of the PNO Security Department. In May 1978 he returned to the PC/INP and became the Chief of Operations of Metrocom and was awarded the Long Service Medal. From October 1979 to January 1982 he was Chief of Staff of the CHPG. (He was promoted as Colonel in December 31, 1979, when he was only 38 years old, almost two years ahead of all his classmates in the PC/INP.)



In 1980, Col. Adiong attended a seminar on Traffic Administration in Tokyo, Japan.

In 1982, he obtained his Master's degree in National Security Administration from the National Defense College at Fort Bonifacio.

In the next nine years, Col. Adiong served in various positions of responsibility, as follows: Deputy and Ex-O, PCCL; Commanding Officer, PCLS, Chief of Staff, Highway Patrol Group (CHPG); Deputy, NARCOM; Deputy Director for Operations, RECOM; and Director, Highway Patrol Group, PNP.

As HPG Director, he supervised operations that led to the death of Igmedio del Mundo (alias Boy Kano), then Bulacan's most wanted person, and his three cohorts. Moreover, he organized and directed Intelligence efforts and personally led the HPG operation that led to the capture of Romulo Kintanar of the CPP/NPA at the Makati Medical Center on August 5, 1991. As a consequence thereof, he was meritoriously promoted as Police Chief Superintendent (PCS) on September 24, 1991.

As NARCOM Director from August to September 1992, PCS Percy Adiong supervised the operations that led to the confiscation of almost P200 M worth of shabu, marijuana and

other prohibited drugs during a period of less than 2 months. As RECOM 3 Director from September 1992 to April 1993, he led the PNP elements that joined forces with the PACC's Task Force Habagat and the CIS in operations that resulted in the death of Alfredo "Joey" de Leon, then the country's public enemy no. 1. As a result, he received the Distinguished Service Star and the Bronze Cross Medal. This makes MW Bro. Percy one of the very few officers credited with neutralizing the No. 1 CPP/NPA and the country's No.1 Public Enemy.

On July 13, 1993 he was made Police Director. He served as Chief of the Directorial Staff up to July 1994, when he was appointed Deputy Chief for Administration of the PNP.

Not many Filipinos, including brethren, know that General Percy Adiong, together with a significant number of fellow Masons, provided our Catholic Pontiff, Pope John Paul II, with tight security measures during his last visit to the country.

On August 9, 1994 PCS Percy Adiong was promoted as Police Deputy Director General. He hopes to continue serving as such until his compulsory retirement on March 10, 1997.



Grand Master & Sister Gloria

General Adiong has been a Mason for almost three decades now. He was initiated, passed and raised in Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 in 1967. He has been an active member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of Amaranth, of which he was once a Royal Patron, and one of the very few members of the Royal Order of Scotland.

In 1979, he was elected Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge. The following year, he was chosen Grand Marshal, and in 1981 District (1B) Deputy Grand Master.

In the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge held in Davao City, April 1993, he was nominated for the very first time and was elected as Junior Grand Warden on the first ballot. Since then he has found time to serve the Grand Lodge and the brethren and their families despite his busy schedule as Deputy Chief for Administration of the PNP and as Police Deputy Director General.

The brethren close to MW Percy aver that, notwithstanding his prickly temper (which they say is quite similar to that possessed by the late

MW Bro. Manuel Luis Quezon, first Filipino Grand Master, and by the late Bro. Mickey Cochrane, who became baseball's finest major league catcher and eventually a Hall of Famer), he is kind-hearted, magnanimous, friendly and accommodating.

In the heart of our Grand Master springs eternal the fond hope that by 2020 Philippine Masonry will have become vigorous and vibrant because its members demonstrate their unity and pride in pursuing the various themes and program thrusts of those who reached the Grand East before him. His clarion call, then, to the brethren is to help build the Temple of Philippine Masonry for God, Country and Mankind.

His loving family, composed of Sis Gloria Carbajal, sons Jose Frederick, Napoleon Omar, Paul Jepthan, and Mark Oliver, and daughters Melanie Zorajaida and Marina Joy, share his illustrious life, as well as his optimistic vision for Philippine Masonry.

For sure, the brethren in this grand jurisdiction will extend their utmost cooperation and support to him, so that their Grand Lodge will realize that vision.



Sister Gloria, GM, daughter Marina Joy, and son Mark Oliver.

GRAND LINE OFFICERS Masonic Year 1996-1997

Grand Master	-	MW Jose Percival L. Adiong
Deputy Grand Master	-	RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr.
Senior Grand Warden	-	RW Enrique L. Locsin
Junior Grand Warden	-	RW Franklin J. Demonteverde
Grand Treasurer	-	MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM
Grand Secretary	-	MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM
Asst. Grand Treasurer	-	VW Agerico V. Amagna, Jr.
Asst. Grand Secretary	-	VW Benjamin J. Torres
Adm. Asst. to the GM	-	VW Mabini G. Hernandez
Grand Orator	-	VW Amancio S. Donato
Grand Marshal	-	VW Servando V. Lara
Grand Chaplain	-	VW Oscar V. Bunyi
Grand Standard Bearer	-	VW Leonardo T. Chua
Grand Sword Bearer	-	VW James C. Go
Grand Bible Bearer	-	VW Raoul V. Victorino
Senior Grand Lecturer	-	VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.
Junior Grand Lecturers		
Metro Manila	-	VW Medardo B. Apacible
Northern Luzon	-	VW Leonardo P. Chua
Central Luzon	-	VW Ely Dante B. Solano
Southern Luzon	-	VW Ricardo T. Tan
Eastern Visayas	-	VW Samuel K. Morgia
Western Visayas	-	VW Gil N. Octaviano, Jr.
Northern Mindanao	-	VW Luis Y. Sandoval
Southern Mindanao	-	VW Pakung "Pax" S. Mangudadatu
Overseas	-	VW Jose Arthur R. Chan, Jr.
Senior Grand Deacon	-	VW Ricardo T. Gloria
Junior Grand Deacon	-	VW Benjamin G. Brown
Senior Grand Steward	-	VW Samuel P. Fernandez
Junior Grand Steward	-	VW Felix C. Flor Cruz
Grand Pursuivant	-	VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr.
Grand Organist	-	VW Albert K. Tan
Grand Tyler	-	VW Epinetto C. Logico

BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

Chairman	-	MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM
Vice-Chairman	-	MW Agustin V. Mateo, PGM
Member	-	MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM
Member	-	MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM
Member	-	MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM
Secretary	-	RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., DGM

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

Masonic Year 1996-1997

1 (1A) - VW Alfonso D. Dualan	2 (10) - VW Nicolas G. Ricafrente
3 (1A) - VW Isagani G. Cruz, Jr.	4 (10) - (<i>Provisional</i>)
5 (1B) - VW Emiliano P. Langomez, Jr.	6 (11) - VW Emeterio Y. Bandong
7 (1C) - VW Cesar C. Mendoza	8 (12) - VW Ramon D. Borja
9 (9A) - VW Justo Wayland M. Cabanban	10 (28) - VW Antonio C. Bernal
11 (9A) - VW Manuel S. Crudo, Jr.	12 (13) - VW Santiago M. Turingan
13 ((9B) - VW Roberto Q. Pagotan	14 (36) - VW Nelson D. Doloiras
15 (20) - VW Ramoncito B. Piaña	16 (39) - VW Crisanto B. Afable
17 (34) - VW Dennis E. Provencher	18 (15) - VW Jose M. Asturias
19 (22) - VW Bobby L. Roberts	20 (14) - VW Pablo S. Chu
21 (30) - VW Michael R. Jugan	22 (27) - VW Miller V. Serondo
23 (7) - VW Jose B. Montejo, Jr.	24 (16) - VW Procopio B. Trabajo II
25 (8B) - VW Rogelio S. Zulueta, Jr.	26 (31) - VW Ruben P. Tan
27 (8A) - VW Romeo P. Ramos	28 (17) - VW Maximo G.W. Paderanga
29 (6A) - VW Juanito L. Bernardo	30 (17) - VW Carlito B. Tabaculde
31 (6A) - (<i>Provisional</i>)	32 (38) - VW Valentino D. Tiu
33 (6B) - VW Alexander G. Coloma	34 (33) - VW Felipe G. Zapatos
35 (29) - VW Jesus B. David	36 (25) - VW Henry K. Ang
37 (24) - VW Romulo D. Estrada	38 (40) - VW Julian I. Novida, Jr.
39 (3) - VW Alvaro S. Rumbaua	40 (35) - VW Joseph B. Baula
41 (2A) - VW Ernesto Y. Toquero	42 (32) - VW Virgilio G. Cania
43 (2A) - VW Felix D. Diaz, III	44 (18) - VW Antonio T. Uy
45 (23) - VW Angel T. Bacoling, Jr.	46 (26) - VW Cesario M. Ruizal
47 (4) - VW Ernesto S. Cua	48 (37) - VW Jesus C. Veneracion
49 (2) - VW Renato H. Cruz	50 (19) - VW Meinrad P. Yanga

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS Masonic Year 1996-1997

1 (1A)	- VW William Webb	- VW Heradel V. Feranil	
	- VW Andy L. Lim	- VW Cesar de Leon Go	
3 (1A)	- VW Celestino T. Ko	- VW Arturo Y. Capada	
	- VW Remigio B. Lumicao	- VW Leovigildo R. Romerosa	
5 (1B)	- VW Jaime Y. Gonzales	- VW Nestor V. Tampol	
	- VW Pedro L. Wong	- VW Ricardo E. Inocentes	
	- VW Sonny K. Wang	- VW Adriano S. Anastacio, Jr.	
7 (1C)	- VW Tomas O. del Castillo, Jr.	4 (10)	- (<i>Provisional</i>)
9 (9A)	- VW Saul R. Exmundo	6 (11)	- VW Romulo P. Alcalá
11 (9A)	- VW Rey A. Banaag		- VW Vicente D. Salazar, Jr.
13 (9B)	- VW Oscar S. Canlas		- VW Odilon C. Aquino
	- VW Danilo D. Lim	8 (12)	- VW Luis Ll. Vizcocho, Jr.
	- VW Sergio A. Salvador		- VW Anselmo A. Regis, Jr.
15 (20)	- VW Doroteo E. Camaganacan	10 (28)	- VW Nicomedus A. Suarez
	- VW Modesto B. Gagaring		- VW Placido V. Chavez
17 (34)	- VW Mariano A. Cantos	12 (13)	- VW Jose T. Seeping, Jr.
19 (22)	- VW Robert S. Wittwer		- VW Santiago P. Ferrer, Jr.
21 (30)	- VW Peter A. Sawyer	14 (36)	- VW Solomon S. Teh
23 (7)	- VW Alfredo M. Roxas	16 (39)	- VW Leland M. Castillo
	- VW Rogelio N. Fernando	18 (15)	- VW Patricio A. Coruña
25 (8B)	- VW Ricardo J. Leuterio	20 (14)	- VW Elias A. Conlu
27 (8A)	- VW Emiliano V. Leonor		- VW Emilio Young
29 (6A)	- VW Josefino B. Manayao	22 (27)	- VW Jose P. Gomez
	- VW Mario G. Pascual, Sr.		- VW Alejandro L. Tupas, Jr.
	- VW Danilo Uy Tak	24 (16)	- VW Jose P. Alamillo
	- VW Teodoro D. Saclolo		- VW Iluminado K. Nirza
31 (6A)	- (<i>Provisional</i>)	26 (31)	- VW Carlito B. Yebes
33 (6B)	- VW Felixberto C. Legarda		- VW Johnny T. Pimentel
	- VW Romeo D. Padolina	28 (17)	- VW Leon C. Go
35 (29)	- VW Albee O. Buayan		- VW Taurino C. Ong
37 (24)	- VW Rafael B. de Peralta, Jr.	30 (17)	- VW Teodorico B. Capuyan
	- VW Candito B. Quijardo		- VW Rexel M. Pacuribut
39 (3)	- VW Bartolome G. Cabato	32 (38)	- VW Apolonio B. Molina, Jr.
	- VW Edgardo B. Basilio	34 (33)	- VW Lemuel M. Tortola
41 (5)	- VW Conrado M. Dolor		- VW Justiniano B. Tamsi
43 (2A)	- VW James B. Copanut	36 (25)	- VW Juan B. Escarda
	- VW Pedro B. Pis-o	38 (40)	- VW Floresto E. Florendo
45 (23)	- VW Clemente S. Salvador, Jr.		- VW Marcelo T. Palabrica
	- VW Dionisio C. Panajon	40 (35)	- VW Raul G. Cabalang
	- VW Conrado U. Gabriel, Jr.	42 (32)	- VW Rodolfo P. Naromal
47 (4)	- VW Napoleon Neri A. Domingo	44 (18)	- VW William C. Louh, Jr.
49 (2)	- VW Romarico T. Agbisit	46 (26)	- VW Robert L. Chua
	- VW Rodrigo L. Bumarlong		- VW Jacinto C. Tomacmol
	- VW Romarico Q. Guaring	48 (37)	- VW Emmanuel E. Magrina
2 (10)	- VW Emmanuel B. Gan		- VW Regino A. Miguel
		50 (19)	- VW Victor C. Ho
			- VW Elmer S. Que

Recommitting Ourselves to the Task of Building for God, for Country and for Mankind

by MW Jose Percival L. Adiong

(editor's note: The first part of the newly installed Grand Master's speech consisted of expressions of appreciation to many people, including the Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies, dignitaries from our Sister Grand Lodges, our overseas brethren and sisters, brethren from distant districts of our archipelago, the brethren of the host district, the officers and members of his mother lodge, Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, all the Appendant Bodies that have afforded him opportunities for leadership, and all his brethren who have bestowed upon him the highest office within their power to bestow. The rest of his written speech is given below.)

As you have elevated me to the Grand Oriental Chair I will be eternally indebted to each one of you, my Brethren. I must concede that this is, decidedly, the most coveted and singular honor I have ever received. I am also aware that it carries with it great responsibilities, tremendous challenges, and a great deal of hard work.

For several reasons, however, I feel confident that I will be able to fulfill the responsibilities, face the challenges and do the work.

First. I have a very formidable elected team in the persons of RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., Deputy Grand Master; RW Enrique L. Locsin and RW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, respectively; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, our Grand Treasurer; and MW Raymundo N. Beltran, our Grand Secretary. We will play as a unified, harmonious grand team to deliberate on matters of administration of our Grand Lodge and the various Districts and Lodges.

Second. The appointed Grand Lodge Officers have been

carefully selected on the basis of their qualifications and their past association with me in the Fraternity. We can rest assured that they will give their utmost and cooperate with me and the other elected Grand Lodge Officers in the labors of our Grand Lodge, and that, when requested, they will respond instantaneously to the needs of the Grand Lodge.

Third. The Board for General Purposes is composed mostly of Past Grand Masters in whom we have a perfect example of continued dedication to Freemasonry in general and to our Grand Lodge in particular -- after each of them has faced the challenges of being Grand Master.

They will not only give us wise counsels and sound advices, but also help us refine and implement the program of administration designed to strengthen our Grand Lodge and its constituent Lodges and Districts.

I will avail myself, furthermore, of the mature judgment of my elders in the Fraternity, including those who have yet to be Grand Masters, in



order to obtain the best for Philippine Masonry, which we envision to build into a great structure by the year 2020.

Fourth. The DDGMs, the DGLs and the GLIs have been chosen on the basis of merit and commitment to the Craft. I know that they will extend all their cooperation necessary in the prosecution of our labors, particularly in the conduct of periodic seminar-workshops on Lodge administration and management — at the District or Regional level. We expect our Lodges to do an honest, critical and objective evaluation of every aspect of their operations, so that they will be of greater service to their members and, through the members, to the country and to mankind — for the greater glory of God.

Fifth. I am confident that the officers and members of all our Blue Lodges will extend their whole-hearted support to the Grand Lodge because, to borrow the words of the late MW Mariano Q. Tinio: "This is your Grand Lodge. Your Grand Lodge is here to help you. Having it is your desire. Maintaining it is your concern. Supporting it is your responsibility."

My brethren, one of my worthy predecessors, MW Johnny Nabong, Jr., adopted during his term the theme "Masons make it happen the Brotherly Way, for the Brotherly Way is the Masonic Way." In the light that while the number of our Lodges has increased, the membership therein has relatively decreased, I now make official Edict No. 173, which grants general amnesty to brethren who have been suspended for nonpayment of dues only, subject of course to certain conditions.

This Edict, my brethren, is to me an example of making things happen the Brotherly Way, the Masonic Way. It is an application of the five points of fellowship. It is a gentle way of reaching out to the "Lost Sheep" among us, which was one of the thrusts of our Grand Lodge during the term of MW Raymundo N. Beltran. I hope the Edict will result in our Fraternity's growth both in number and in strength.

I really believe that the strength of Masonry lies in doing things together in sincere love and fellowship, in working together in unity and showing pride in our Masonic membership. That is what our Masonic forebears did. United in purpose and proud of being Master Masons, they responded to our country's destiny. They became a vital and progressive force in the upliftment of our country.

I hope that all segments of the Masonic Family will come together and identify areas of cooperative and common endeavor.

One specific area of this endeavor is to initiate activities, as well as to actively participate in programs, in celebration of the centennials of the start of the Philippine revolution, led by Bro. Andres Bonifacio and other Masons, the execution of Bro. Jose Rizal, and the martyrdom of many other illustrious Masons.

Yes, our heroic brethren have passed on the torch of our Fraternity to us. We are duty-bound, as the late MW Joe Guerrero put it, to keep the flame of that torch burning. And, as MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., expressed it, the best way to do that is to keep the flame of Masonic tenets and principles ever aglow in our hearts and to share the Masonic light of those tenets and principles with our families, with our friends and acquaintances, and with the public at large. We must, as MW John L. Choa phrased it, recommit ourselves to making Freemasonry our way of life. This means, as MW Rizal D. Aportadera stressed, that in our daily lives we must be veritable Masons in Spirit and in Deed; for, as my immediate predecessor, MW Danny Angeles, has put it, the non-Masonic public will positively judge Masonry - not by our decorations, insignias, emblems, jewels of office, nor by our proficiency in our rituals — but rather, by our actions outside the lodgeroom. Our ancient and honorable Fraternity, after all, was built on the examples of men who lived their Masonry — men who always subdued their passions to the dictates of reason; fearless men of conviction, who fought evil

wherever it might be found; men who demonstrated their faith in God and firm belief in those self-evident truths taught within our Lodges, in words and in deeds. Men preeminent for their moral and intellectual attainments sought out Masonry because of such Masons who were, to borrow MW Teddy Baldonado's phrase, "diamonds among gems." Young men will seek us still if all of us, as MW Agustin V. Mateo stated, make Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth our continuing commitment. And, as MW Raymundo Beltran phrased it, since our Lodges are bastions of unity, peace and harmony, through Masonry, both individually and collectively, we can help in uniting our nation, which is still fragmented and divided.

I want you, at this juncture, to take into serious consideration these statements of the late Past Grand Master Conrado Benitez: "While we refrain from contention and partisan politics, we Masons cannot become fence-sitters or mere observers of the social scene. Our commitment to the service of mankind cannot but compel us to join, as all organized groups do, to help combat the rampant evils of our time. We must, in other words, find our place in our society and be counted among the other elements therein in the solution of national problems."

Like MW Benitez, then, I urge you, dear brethren, to help improve the peace and order conditions of your respective regions as part of your community development projects, to contribute your share in remedying unjust social structures and other maladies that infect Philippine society, and to help realize moral regeneration among our countrymen.

But, of course, like MW Benitez, we must be nationalistic with an international perspective; for, after all, the long-term goal of our Fraternity is the Brotherhood of all Men under the Fatherhood of God. That is why MW Reynold S. Fajardo adopted the theme "The World Is Our Temple."

We must, therefore, renew our resolve to pursue the Masonic ideal of the Brotherhood of

Men under the Fatherhood of God.

In brief, during my term of office, we will consolidate the long-range plans of my worthy predecessors in the Grand Oriental Chair.

I would like to conclude by quoting a part of an address given by PGM H. Dwight McAlister on the future of Freemasonry. He said and I quote:

"Masonry in action is a group of men at work, Godly men, seeking to overcome the spirit of Godlessness in the world, for the spirit of Masonry is a spirit of Godliness. There is a need for this spirit in the world today when God is being decisioned out of life. Masonry is not a religion, but it is made up of Godly men, men who have professed their faith, their belief in God.

"Masonry in action is a group of men at work seeking to overcome the spirit of selfishness in the world. The spirit of Masonry is a spirit of Friendship and Brotherly Love. Masonry is an organization in which we are taught, not only our duty to God, but also our duty to our fellowmen.

"Masonry in action is a group of men at work seeking to overcome the spirit of immorality in the world, for the spirit of Masonry is a spirit of morality and virtue."

And, if I may add: Philippine Masonry in action is a group of strong and good men at work, striving for the completion of the building of a spiritual temple, which is the individual's moral and spiritual growth. Let us, then, set ourselves to work — work together in close harmony — so that we will help build a better and finer Philippine society and a better and finer global society according to God's plan. Let us show to all and sundry that we Masons resolutely build for God, for Country and for Mankind.

Let us, brethren, start working.

Thank you very much and may God bless us all!

REVISED LIST OF MASONIC DISTRICTS AND LODGES

METRO MANILA, OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN LUZON

DISTRICT NO. 1 (formerly Dist. 1A)

Scottish Rite Temple - Taft Avenue, MMA

Manila Mt. Lebanon #1, Scottish Rite Temple
St. John's Corregidor #3, Scottish Rite Temple
Cosmos #8, Scottish Rite Temple
Mencius #93, Scottish Rite Temple
Jacques DeMolay #305, Scottish Rite Temple
Palawan #99, Puerto Princesa, Palawan

DISTRICT NO. 3 (formerly Dist. 1A & 1C)

Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino, MMA

Bagumbayan #4, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Island-Luz Minerva #5, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Biak-na-Bato #7, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Nilad #12, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Walana #13, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Labong #59, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Service #95, Plaridel Masonic Temple

DISTRICT NO. 5 (formerly Dist. 1B)

Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino, MMA

Dalisay #14, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Sinukuan #16, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Araw #18, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Dapitan #21, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Jose Rizal #22, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Zapote #29, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Luzon #57, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Kasilawan #77, Plaridel Masonic Temple

DISTRICT NO. 7 (formerly Dist. 1C)

Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino, MMA

Taga-Ilog #79, Plaridel Masonic Temple
F.D. Roosevelt Mem. #81, Plaridel Masonic Temple
High Twelve #82, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Hiram #88, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Noli Me Tangere #148, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Manuel A. Roxas #152, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Saigon #188, Plaridel Masonic Temple

SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

DISTRICT NO. 2 (formerly Dist. 10)

Cavite

Cavite #2, Caridad, Cavite City
Pilar #15, Imus, Cavite
Bagong Buhay #17, San Roque, Cavite City
Emilio Aguinaldo #31, Kawit, Cavite
Mount Mainam #49, Naic, Cavite
Pintong Bato #51, Bacoor, Cavite
Primera Luz Filipina #69, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite
Bagong Ilaw #97, Noveleta, Cavite
Indang #115, Indang, Cavite
Tagaytay #165, Tagaytay City
Magdiwang #238, Noveleta, Cavite
La Naval #269, Sangley Point, Cavite
St. Augustine #300, Tanza, Cavite
Mendez-Nuñez U.D., Tagaytay City

DISTRICT NO. 4 (Provisional)

DISTRICT NO. 6 (formerly Dist. 11)

Laguna

Malinaw #25, San Pablo City
Pinagsabitan #26, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Makiling #72, Los Baños, Laguna
Sierra Madre #181, Paete, Laguna
Jose P. Rizal #270, Calamba, Laguna
San Pedro #292, San Pedro, Laguna

DISTRICT NO. 8 (formerly Dist. 12)

Quezon Province

Balintawak #28, Gumaca, Quezon
Kalilayan #37, Lucena City
Tayabas #43, Tayabas, Quezon
Plaridel #74, Calauag, Quezon

DISTRICT NO. 9 (formerly Dist. 9A)*Capitol Masonic Temple, Quezon City*

Quezon City #122, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Rafael Palma #147, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Capitol City #174, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Laong Laan #185, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Andres Bonifacio #199, Capitol Masonic Temple

DISTRICT NO. 11 (formerly Dist. 9A)*Metro Manila Area - North*

Silanganan #19, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Marikina #119, Capitol Masonic Temple
 T.M. Kalaw #136, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Juan Sumulong #169, Capitol Masonic Temple
 Mandaluyong #277, Capitol Masonic Temple

DISTRICT NO. 13 (formerly Dist. 9A)*Metro Manila Area - South*

Batang Buhay # 27, Jacobo Zobel Temple
 Muog #89, Jacobo Zobel Temple
 King Solomon #150, Jacobo Zobel Temple
 Jacobo Zobel Mem. # 202, Jacobo Zobel Temple
 Pagkakaisa #282, Las Piñas, MM
 Kagitingan #286, Jacobo Zobel Temple

DISTRICT NO. 15 (formerly Dist. 20)*Guam, U.S.A.*

Charleston #44, Agana, Guam
 Milton C. Marvin #123, Agana, Guam
 Micronesia #173, Agana, Guam
 Ennon #179, Marshal Island

DISTRICT NO. 17 (formerly Dist. 34)*Okinawa, Japan*

Okinawa #118, Okinawa, Japan

DISTRICT NO. 19 (formerly Dist. 22)*Camp Zama, Japan***DISTRICT NO. 10 (formerly Dist. 28)***Batangas - Mindoro*

Batangas #35, Batangas City
 Tamaraw #65, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro
 Sixto Lopez (Batulao)#129, Balayan, Batangas
 Mindoro #157, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
 Mabini-Kalaw #195, Lipa City
 Halcon #249, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro

DISTRICT NO. 12 (formerly Dist. 13)*Camarines - Catanduanes*

Isarog #33, Naga City
 Camarines Norte #107, Daet, Camarines Norte
 Julian Ocampo Mem. #146, Iriga City
 Daet #247, Daet, Camarines Norte
 Naga City #257, Naga City, , Camarines Sur
 Catanduanes Island #291, Virac, Catanduanes

DISTRICT NO. 14 (formerly Dist. 37)*Southern Bicol*

Bulusan #38, Sorsogon, Sorsogon
 Mayon #61, Legazpi City

DISTRICT NO. 16 (formerly Dist. 39)*Samar Province*

Mt. Huraw #98, Catbalogan, Samar
 Northern Samar # 211, Catarman, Northern Samar
 East Gate #232, Borongan, Eastern Samar

DISTRICT NO. 18 (formerly Dist. 15)*Leyte*

Makabugwas # 47, Tacloban City
 Tacloban #221, Tacloban City
 Ormoc #234, Ormoc, Leyte

DISTRICT NO. 20 (formerly Dist. 14)*Panay Island*

Iloilo-Acacia #11, Iloilo City
 Makawiwili #55, Roxas City
 Hamtik #76, San Jose, Antique
 Kalantiao #187, Iloilo City
 Graciano O. Lopez Jaena #194, Sara, Iloilo
 Aklan #205, Kalibo, Aklan
 Tigbauan #229, Tigbauan, Iloilo
 Quintin Salas Mem. #231, Dumangas, Iloilo

DISTRICT NO. 21 (formerly Dist. 30)*Seoul, Korea*

MacArthur # 183, Seoul, Korea
 Morning Calm #189, Seoul, Korea

DISTRICT NO. 23 (formerly Dist. 7)*Bulacan-Pampanga*

Malolos #46, Bulacan
 Pampanga Masonic #48, San Fernando, Pampanga
 Leonard Wood #105, Angeles City
 Marcelo H. del Pilar Mem. #272, Meycauayan, Bulacan
 Cupang # 295, Bulacan
 Baliuag #301, Baliuag, Bulacan

DISTRICT NO. 25 (formerly Dist. 8B)*Bataan*

Bataan #104, Orani, Bataan
 Luis J. Reyes Mem. # 224, Mariveles, Bataan
 Meridian #268, Balanga, Bataan

DISTRICT NO. 27 (formerly Dist. 8A)*Zambales*

Lincoln #34, Olongapo City
 Pinatubo #52, San Narciso, Zambales
 Zambales #103, Iba, Zambales
 Unity # 285, Olongapo City

DISTRICT NO. 29 (formerly Dist. 6A)*Nueva Ecija South*

Cabanatuan #53, Cabanatuan City
 Nueva Ecija # 73, Quezon, Nueva Ecija
 Gen. Llanera Mem. #168, Capan, Nueva Ecija
 Pantabangan-Bonari #203, Rizal, Nueva Ecija
 Kapatiran # 228, Cabanatuan City
 Manuel L. Quezon Mem. #262, Baler, Quezon
 Zaragoza #263, Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija
 Talavera # 273, Talavera, Nueva Ecija
 Antonio R. Lamson Mem. #290, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija
 Kapitan Pepe #293, Cabanatuan City
 Sta. Rosa # 297, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija
 Mario S. Garcia Mem. # 306, Cabanatuan City
 Factoria # 311, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

DISTRICT NO. 22 (formerly Dist. 27)*Negros Occidental*

Kanlaon #64, Bacolod City
 San Carlos #186, San Carlos, Negros Occidental
 Negrense #200, Bacolod City
 Manuel Valencia Ko Mem. #210, Victorias, Negros Occidental
 Manuel Abello Mem. #260, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental
 Ernesto S. Salas Mem. #280, Bago City, Negros Occidental
 Dalusan #281, Sagay, Negros Occidental

DISTRICT NO. 24 (formerly Dist. 16)*Cebu - Negros Oriental*

Maktan #30, Cebu City
 Dagohoy #84, Tagbilaran City
 Mt. Kaladias #91, Dumaguete City
 Cebu #128, Cebu City
 Serafin L. Teves Mem. #248, Bayawan, Negros Oriental
 Mt. Moriah # 252, Cebu City

DISTRICT NO. 26 (formerly Dist. 31)*Surigao - Agusan*

Agusan Valley #160, Do-ongan, Butuan City
 Timberland #219, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
 Mount Diwata #236, Surigao City, Surigao del Norte
 Red Mountain # 241, Tandag, Surigao del Sur
 Kamayo #255, Mangagoy, Surigao del Sur
 Butuan #299, Agusan del Sur

DISTRICT NO. 28 (formerly Dist. 17)*Misamis Oriental - West*

Maguindanao #40, Cagayan de Oro City
 Macajalar #184, Cagayan de Oro City
 Punta Sulawan #242, Alubijid, Misamis Oriental
 Carmen Valley #250, Cagayan de Oro City
 Kintanglay #256, Initao, Misamis Oriental
 Makahambus #315, Cagayan de Oro City

DISTRICT NO. 30 (formerly Dist. 17)*Misamis Oriental - East*

Apo Kahoy #166, Gingoog City
 Leonardo T. Pañares Mem. #220, Cagayan de Oro City
 Camiguin Island #296, Camiguin, Island
 Cagayan de Oro #298, Cagayan de Oro City
 Benjamin O. Go Mem. #303, Misamis Oriental
 Antonio T. Cosin Mem. #308, Tagalcan, Misamis Oriental

DISTRICT NO. 31 (Provisional)

DISTRICT NO. 33 (formerly Dist. 6B)

Nueva Ecija North

Memorial # 90, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
General Manuel Tinio #167, Guimba, Nueva Ecija
Narra #171, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
Apolinario Mabini #235, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija
Molave #261, Lupao, Nueva Ecija
Eulogio R. Dizon # 264, Talugtog, Nueva Ecija
San Jose City #309, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija

DISTRICT NO. 35 (formerly Dist. 29)

Tarlac

Isagani # 96, Tarlac, Tarlac
Victory #116, Camiling, Tarlac
Anchor #159, Panique, Tarlac
Arcadio Evangelista Mem. # 254, Anao, Tarlac
Pura # 312, Pura, Tarlac

DISTRICT NO. 37 (formerly Dist. 24)

Pangasinan Province

Pangasinan # 56, Dagupan City
Agno #75, Tayug, Pangasinan
Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. #158, Tapuac Dist., Dagupan City
Lingayen #161, Lingayen, Pangasinan
Hur Ired Islands #201, Bani, Pangasinan
Edilberto A. Tamondong #217, San Nicolas, Pangasinan
Urdaneta #302, Urdaneta, Pangasinan

DISTRICT NO. 39 (formerly Dist. 3)

Nueva Vizcaya - Ifugao

Magat #68, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Nueva Vizcaya #144, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Salinas #163, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya
Cordillera #178, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya
Villaverde # 206, Ibang, Nueva Vizcaya
Ifugao #218, Lagawe, Nueva Vizcaya
Ari-Tau # 279, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya

DISTRICT NO. 32 (formerly Dist. 38)

Misamis Occidental & Zamboanga del Norte

Dipolog #162, Dipolog City
Bernardo A. Neri #214, Calamba, Misamis Occidental
Sindangan # 240, Zamboanga del Norte

DISTRICT NO. 34 (formerly Dist. 33)

Misamis Occidental

Mt. Malindang #130, Ozamis City
Gregorio O. Calit Mem. #154, Oroquieta City
Palilan #239, Misamis Occidental
Don Lorenzo Tan Mem. #265, Tangub, Misamis Occidental

DISTRICT NO. 36 (formerly Dist. 25)

Lanao del Norte

Maranaw #111, Quezon Ave., Iligan City
Iligan #207, Iligan City
Glicerio A. Lim Sr., Mem. #222, Baroy, Lanao del Norte
Lake Lanao #227, Marawi City
Manticao #243, Manticao, Misamis Oriental
Judge Valerio V. Rovira #259, Iligan City

DISTRICT NO. 38 (formerly Dist. 40)

Zamboanga del Sur

Pagadian #153, Pagadian City
Salug Valley #216, Molave, Zamboanga del Sur
Sibuguey #246, Buug, Zamboanga del Sur
Illana Bay # 274, Pagadian City
Margosatubig #275, Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur
Dr. Aurelio Mendoza Mem. #283, Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur

DISTRICT NO. 40 (formerly Dist. 35)

Bukidnon

Mount Musuan #155, Malaybalay, Bukidnon
Zosimo Montemayor #212, Musuan, Bukidnon
Lake Pinamaloy #230, Don Carlos, Bukidnon
Bukidnon #245, Valencia, Bukidnon
Don Camilo Osias Mem. #253, Malaybalay, Bukidnon
Manuel L. Quezon Mem. (Bukidnon) #271, Quezon, Bukidnon
Tangkulan #287, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon

DISTRICT NO. 41 (formerly Dist. 5)*La Union - Baguio*

Baguio # 67, Baguio City
 Union #70, San Fernando, La Union
 Siete Martires #177, Balaoan, La Union

DISTRICT NO. 43 (formerly Dist. 2A)*Kalinga-Apayao*

Rio Chico #182, Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao
 Mampiya-An #284, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao

DISTRICT NO. 45 (formerly Dist. 23)*Isabela - Quirino*

Isabela # 60, Ilagan, Isabela
 Cagayan Valley #133, Santiago, Isabela
 Maharlika #180, Cauayan, Isabela
 Mallig Plains #191, Roxas, Isabela
 Saranay #193, Cabarroquis, Quirino
 Tumauiini #251, Tumauiini, Isabela
 Rufino S. Roque Mem. # 289, Cordon, Isabela
 San Mariano #307, San Mariano, Isabela
 Ganano #313, Echague, Isabela
 Diffun U.D., Diffun, Quirino

DISTRICT NO. 47 (formerly Dist. 4)*Ilocos Sur - Abra*

Angalo #63, Vigan, Ilocos Sur
 Laoag #71, Laoag City
 Abra #86, Bangued, Abra
 Lam-Ang #164, Candon, Ilocos Sur

DISTRICT NO. 49 (formerly Dist. 2)*Cagayan - Mt. Province*

Mabini #39, Aparri, Cagayan
 Gonzaga #66, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
 Bontoc #140, Lakambini, Tuao, Cagayan
 Itawes #215, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan
 Sanchez Mira #233, Bontoc, Mt. Province
 Bessang Pass #No. 314, Tadian, Mt. Province

DISTRICT NO. 42 (formerly Dist. 32)*Davao del Norte*

Mati Aurora #190, Mati, Davao Oriental
 Shangri-La #196, Tagum, Davao del Norte
 Tagum #204, Tagum, Davao del Norte
 Panabo-Dalisay #237, Panabo, Davao del Norte
 Don Salvador P. Lopez #276, Mati, Davao Oriental

DISTRICT NO. 44 (formerly Dist. 18)*Davao del Sur*

Sarangani #50, Davao City
 Davao #149, Davao City
 Datu Bago #197, Davao City
 Digos #198, Digos, Davao del Sur
 Toril #208, Davao City
 Beacon #213, Davao City
 Podomo #294, Davao City

DISTRICT NO. 46 (formerly Dist. 26)*Cotabato*

Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110, Cotabato City
 Kidapawan Lodge No. 170, Kidapawan, North Cotabato
 Rio Grande Lodge No. 192, Kabacan, North Cotabato
 Bantugan Lodge No. 223, Cotabato City
 Shariff Kabunsuan Lodge No. 266, Cotabato City
 Midsayap Lodge No. 267, Midsayap, North Cotabato

DISTRICT NO. 48 (formerly Dist. 37)*South Cotabato*

Mt. Matutum #156, General Santos City
 Koronadal #209, Koronadal, South Cotabato
 Dadiangas # 225, General Santos City
 Daguma Mountain Range #244, Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat
 Kaduh #278, General Santos City
 Maribulan #304, Sarangani

DISTRICT NO. 50 (formerly Dist. 19)*Sulu - Tawi-Tawi*

Mt. Apo #45, Sta. Catalina, Zamboanga City
 Bud Daho #102, Jolo, Sulu
 Juan S. Alano #137, Isabela, Basilan Province
 Bud Bongao # 288, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
 Samboangan #310, Zamboanga City

SCHEDULE OF VISITATIONS AND DISTRICTS CONVENTIONS FOR 1996-1997

Visit No.	District Covered	Areas Covered	Date of Convention	Venue & Host
1	20	Panay	June 6-8	District No. 20 Aklan Lodge #205 Boracay, Malay, Aklan (VW Pablo S. Chu)
2	6	Laguna	June 19	District # 6 Bro. Jose Rizal Birth Anniversary & District Convention Pinagsabitan #26 (VW Emeterio Y. Bandong)
3	32,34,36,38 & 50	Western Mindanao		District #32 (VW Valentino D. Tiu)
4	46		July 27	5th Annual Dist. Assembly Masonic District No. 46 Kutang Bato #110
5	39	Nueva Vizcaya	July 27	Magat Lodge #68 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
6	12 & 14	Bicol Region	August 2-3	District # 12 Isarog # 33 (VW Santiago M. Turingan)
7		Overseas	August & September	
8	42, 44, 46 & 48	Southern Mindanao	Oct. 4-5	District # 44 Datu Bago # 197
9	26, 28, 30 & 40	Northern Mindanao	Oct 11-12	District # 28 (VW Joseph B. Baula)
10	39, 43, 45 & 49	Northeastern Luzon	Oct. 18-19	District #49 (VW Renato H. Cruz)

11	22	Western Visayas	Oct. 25-26	District #22 (VW Miller V. Serondo)
12	37, 41 & 47	Northwestern Luzon	Nov. 8-9	District #47 (VW Ernesto S. Cua)
13	23, 25, 27, 29, 33 & 35	Central Luzon	Nov. 15-16	District # 23 M.H. del Pilar # 272 (VW Jose B. Montejo Jr.)
14	16, 18 & 24	Eastern/ Central Visayas	Nov. 22-23	District # 18 Maktan # 30 (VW Jose M. Asturias)
15	2 & 4	Cavite	Nov. 30	District # 2 Bagong Ilaw # 97 (VW Nicolas G. Ricafrente)
16	9 & 11	Quezon City Caloocan City	Dec. 7	District # 11 T.M. Kalaw #136 (VW Manuel S. Crudo, Jr.)
17	1, 3, 5, 7 & 13	Manila/ Las Piñas	Dec. 14	District # 1 (VW Alfonso D. Dualan)
18	41st Mindanao Regional Masonic Convention		Dec. 13-14	Dipolog #162 Dipolog City
19	6,8, &10	Southern Tagalog	Jan. 10-11, 1997	District No. 10 (VW Antonio C. Bernal)
20		Overseas	January & Feb. 1997	

FVR URGES MASONS TO HELP GENERATE INNER RENEWAL

The cordial wish in the message of the President of the Philippine Republic, His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos, that the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippine have a most fruitful 80th Annual Communication in Cagayan de Oro City, April 25-27, 1996 came true.

President Ramos, whose father, the late Hon. Narciso Ramos, was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, stated: "The worldwide Masonic movement is an eloquent testimony to universal brotherhood which transcends barriers of geography, culture and race. Filipino Masons in particular are by themselves one unified force of committed and responsible citizens adding their just share to the cause of a united and progressive Philippines resting on solid moral ground."

On that basis, FVR said that it was his hope that Filipino Masons would continue to draw from their strong sense of brotherhood the spirit to unite and work together with the rest of the national community.

The Philippine President told the Masons of this grand jurisdiction: "From



*Fidel V. Ramos
President of the Republic of the Philippines*

your own moral strength and inner fortitude, may you help generate inner renewal and transformation in order to provide the progress that the country is finally achieving with a most vital moral counterpoint."

Brethren, let us take the cue from our President, Fidel Valdez Ramos.

The hardest thing of all in life is not the conquest of time and space, but of ourselves, of our stupidity and inertia of our greediness and touchiness, of our fear and tolerant dogmatism.

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN MINDANAO

by Hon. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr.

*(Speech delivered at the Annual Communication
of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, Cagayan
de Oro City, April 25, 1996)*

Let me thank PGM and Justice Reynato S. Puno, the MW Grand Master, Danilo D. Angeles, the incoming Grand Master, Gen. Perci Adiong, and all of you for the kind invitation you have extended to me to address your gathering this morning.

I am most gratified that I am asked to share my thoughts on the prospects for peace and development of our beloved island of Mindanao, where I have spent all of my youthful years and where my career as a lawyer and a politician had all begun.

Before I talk about peace and development in Mindanao, let me first give you a brief background of this island in the hope that you may better appreciate the critical role that the island has in terms of the modernization of the entire republic.

Background

Mindanao has an area of some 102,043 square kilometers. It is much larger than Belgium, Taiwan, Hongkong or Singapore.

The island has a population of 16.3 million people — again, much larger than Belgium's.

It has 24 provinces, 15 cities and 403 municipalities. It is being serviced by three international airports in Davao City, Zamboanga City and Gen. Santos City and within the next few years, a fourth international airport will be available to serve you in Cagayan de Oro City.

It has 18 sea ports, the foremost example of which is the Cagayan de Oro port, which probably has the best facilities for cargo handling compared with its counterparts anywhere in the Philippines.

Mindanao also has 53,102 kilometers of highways linking its provinces and cities. If time permits, I'd like to invite you to travel by car southwards to Malaybalay, the capital town of Bukidnon which is only an hour away; westward towards Iligan city, which is also about an hour away; and eastward towards Butuan City, which is about 2 hours and 45 minutes away. The roads are cemented and wide enough to assure your traveling comfortably fast and safe - even for strangers.

In terms of food security, the island has 4.08 million hectares of arable land which are more than enough to feed the whole country. It can likewise produce enough fish from its seas not only for the needs of its population but for export as well. As of 1993, Mindanao's production of brackish water fish was 33,325 metric tons; from municipal waters, some 364,352 metric tons; and from commercial fishing, 213,525 metric tons.

Mineral-wise, Mindanao is rich. It has gold, copper, iron, chromite, nickel and manganese. It too has some oil deposits offshore in the seas of Palawan and large gas reserves in the Cotabato area.

Having established direct business intercourse with Malaysian, Indonesian and Brunei business interests, investments in Mindanao this year total some P66 billion.

As for power, Mindanao's main power grid provides an operating capacity of 1,420.90 mw and its small islands' grid has an operating capacity of 15.43 mw. As of this year, Mindanao has an excess of 617 mw. By 2000, the excess will be 3,135 mw as its generating capacity will rise to 9,992 mw and the peak demands of industrial and home

power use will only be 6,857 mw. In brief, the National Power Corporation, which is headed by one of Cagayan de Oro's sons, Guido Delgado, is ready to provide adequate power for the needs of Mindanao up to at least the year 2000.

The Problem

Despite all the positive factors that ought to make Mindanao a Mecca of progress, it cannot yet maximize its potential for development because there is an on-going Muslim rebellion. It had actually started as a secessionist movement, but it has now been scaled down as a demand for genuine autonomy.

The movement has been fueled by the perception of many Muslim leaders and people in Mindanao that they have been left behind in the march towards modernization.

The so-called "Moro problem" has always been there - from the Spanish colonization of the country all the way up to the American occupation, the Japanese war, and the respective administrations of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Corazon C. Aquino and now Fidel V. Ramos.

The Muslim resistance escalated during the Marcos government in the early 70s. The rebels, in fact, briefly occupied Marawi City a month or so after the proclamation of martial law in September of 1972; they laid siege on Cotabato City soon thereafter and also captured Jolo, the capital town of Sulu, for a time before it was razed to the ground in the battle to recapture it by the government forces.

The early years of the '70s were particularly bad for the government as, in addition to the Muslim rebellion, the New People's Army opened up several fronts against the government all over the land. The Muslim war was such a financial drain because it cost the government some P1 million a day to keep our soldiers fighting. In the midst of all this, the price of oil spiraled, squeezing the coffers of government almost dry.

At the height of the Muslim war during the Marcos years, it is estimated conservatively that

some 50,000 people lost their lives and some 200,000 civilians — mostly Muslim — have been uprooted from their homes.

With assistance in many forms reportedly coming from Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran, the Muslim rebels kept up the pressure on the Marcos government. Fearful of the oil clout of these countries and apprehensive that the Muslim war would bleed his government to collapse, Marcos requested the Organization of the Islamic Conference to help bring about peace in Mindanao.

That is how the Tripoli Agreement, which was negotiated by Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, wife of Pres. Marcos, came into being. The agreement was signed in 1976 by the Undersecretary of National Defense Carmelo Z. Barbero in behalf of the Philippine government and by Chairman Nur Misuari representing the MNLF. To emphasize the role of foreign governments in its execution, the agreement was witnessed by Dr. Ali Abdulsalam Trexi, Minister of State, Libyan Arab Republic, and Bro. Amadou Karim Gaye, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Among other things, the Agreement committed the government to the establishment of an autonomous region for the Muslims of Mindanao covering 13 provinces and the cities and towns therein. The Muslims would have, among other things, their own legislative assembly, their own courts, their own educational system, their own financial system, their own security force.

This is the Agreement that Misuari now wants to be implemented - some 20 years after its signing. And he is banking on the support of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

There are, however, serious obstacles that lie in the way to its full implementation. For even during the Marcos administration, there never was any serious attempt to faithfully implement the Agreement. For instance, instead of creating only one autonomous region as envisioned in the Agreement, to divide and rule, Marcos established two autonomous regions: one based in Cotabato City and another based in

Zamboanga City. And to cover the arrangement with a facade of legality, he had it approved in a rigged plebiscite under martial law conditions. Moreover, Marcos made sure that the regional governments could not and did not exercise any substantial power but were fully subservient to the dictates of the central government.

In exasperation, Misuari denounced the Agreement and resumed hostilities. And so the Muslim rebellion, like an open, infected wound, festered from 1972 until Marcos was ousted and Cory Aquino was installed as the President in 1986.

In the meantime, the MNLF had fragmented into at least three groups: the MNLF originals who continued to recognize Misuari as their leader which was based mainly in Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Zamboanga; the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), with Hadji Murad as field commander, which was operating principally in Central Mindanao; and the MNLF Reformist Group, headed by Dimas Pundato, which roamed around primarily in the Lanao provinces.

All this time even as Marcos was in power, friendship with the MILF was cultivated by the government in an effort to prevent its partisans from teaming up with MNLF rebels. As far as the Reformist Group was concerned, it continued to fight the government apart from the bigger Moro rebel groups until, as will be discussed later, it was coopted by the government.

When the Aquino government took power, it was perceived as exhibiting a friendly disposition towards the aspirations of the Moro rebels. Thus, through mutual friends, the MNLF indicated its willingness to talk peace with the new government. Negotiations with Misuari were then officially resumed during the early days of the Aquino administration, first with the brother-in-law of Mrs. Aquino, Butz Aquino, taking the lead role in the talks. Then late in 1986, she asked me to take over as the chief negotiator of the government with the Muslim rebels.

Earlier, even as my formal appointment as President Aquino's chief negotiator with the

Moro rebels had not yet been issued, I had a one-on-one talk with Hadji Murad of the MILF at the Simuay Junction in Sultan Kudarat. Our conversation resulted in an agreement that his forces would refrain from engaging the Aquino government in a shooting war. The "interim cease-fire" agreement with Murad's MILF held for a long while until recently when serious fighting erupted in MILF - claimed territories, particularly in the Mal-Mar area in the border of Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

As the chief government negotiator with the Muslim rebels, I also sought out Dimas Pundato, chief of the MNLF Reformist Group in Kuala Lumpur, and convinced him that the future of the MNLF Reformist Group lay with their supporting the efforts of the new government to address their grievances. Pundato and his lieutenants came home from exile and subsequently joined the government in various capacities.

I also talked with Misuari in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Wanting to take the MNLF conflict out of the hands of foreigners, I asked Misuari and to his credit he agreed to discuss the substantive points of the MNLF demands inside Philippine territory rather than outside the country. It was the first time since the outbreak of the MNLF hostilities in 1972 that Misuari agreed to talk peace within the territory of the Philippines. Our conversations ended in the so-called Jeddah Accord with an agreement to have a cease-fire between the MNLF and the government forces. That cease-fire resulted in a relative peace for Mindanao for some time.

I had to leave the talks with the MNLF after our initial discussion here in Metro-Manila in 1987 as I prepared to run for the Senate. President Aquino then appointed former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez to take over as the head of the government panel. Pelaez met with the MNLF panel at Zamboanga City. Unfortunately, the talks eventually bogged down.

I was already in the Senate by then. But as I did not wish to see the end of peaceful attempts of the Aquino government to lay the basis for

peace in Mindanao, I authored a bill which became a law in 1989, that created an Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Respecting the MNLF's sentimental attachment to the provisions of the Tripoli Agreement, the law included the 13 provinces and the cities mentioned in the Agreement. It also contained, after consultations with Muslim leaders, the essential features of the Tripoli Agreement like the establishment of the office of the ARMM chairman, regional legislative assembly, their own courts known as the Shariah, their own educational system called the Madrasa, and a regional police force.

The implementation of the law creating the ARMM was, however, made subject to the approval of the people residing in the proposed area of the autonomy in a plebiscite that was required by the Constitution.

In the plebiscite that was held in 1989 in the 13 provinces and cities mentioned in the Tripoli Agreement, only four predominantly Muslim provinces voted for the creation of the ARMM. The nine other provinces and their cities said "no."

And that is why the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is composed only of the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Incidentally, the overwhelming affirmative vote of the people in these four provinces is all the more amazing because the MNLF had campaigned against the adoption of the ARMM and had asked the people to boycott the elections.

Thus, when the Ramos government succeeded the Aquino administration in 1992, an existing autonomous government in Muslim Mindanao which had jurisdiction over only four of the original 13 provinces mentioned in the Tripoli Agreement was already in place.

The effects of the creation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on the three Muslim rebel groups were varied. Misuari and the MNLF were disenchanted at this development. But the MILF largely kept their peace. And the MNLF reformist group

disbanded itself with their leaders, as mentioned earlier, accepting various positions in government.

To the surprise of many observers of the Mindanao situation, the Ramos government decided soon after it assumed power to renegotiate with the MNLF and in a foreign venue at that, which is Indonesia.

The only tangible result thus far of the negotiations is that "an interim cease-fire agreement" had been forged with the MNLF and, according to the government panel report, "contentious issues" still plague the MNLF demand on the creation of "a provisional government" and the submission of any agreement to a plebiscite.

Misuari wants a provisional government established in lieu of the present autonomous regional government in Muslim Mindanao without a plebiscite. Neither does he want any plebiscite on the inclusion of the nine other provinces which did not ratify the law creating the ARMM and on other matters the government panel and the MNLF may eventually agree upon.

I must say that a provisional government cannot be set up without a plebiscite. To do so would be to violate the Constitution. Neither may the government agree with the MNLF to expand the area of the present autonomy which covers only four predominantly Muslim provinces so that the nine other provinces and their cities mentioned in the Tripoli Agreement would in effect be absorbed into the new area of the autonomy whether they like it or not. For that is the effect of including the nine provinces in the ARMM set-up without a plebiscite. I would like to say categorically that it would be constitutionally impermissible for such an agreement to be entered into by the government with the MNLF or with any other group.

The original complicating sin committed by the government in negotiating with the Muslim rebels has been the internationalization by Marcos of the conflict which is essentially a domestic problem of the country. The Aquino

government tried to settle the conflict within the confines of the Republic. Its efforts were rejected by the MNLF. Now, the Ramos government is reinvesting the conflict with an international flavor by conducting the negotiations under the auspices of the Indonesians. I am sorry to say that we are actually relinquishing our sovereign right as a Republic to deal - peacefully - with the conflict as we should.

There's an impasse in the negotiations as far as I can see. Misuari's position of a deal with the government without a plebiscite cannot be done without doing violence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

What, then, is the solution? The negotiations must go on. Arafat and the PLO finally came to the bargaining table with Rabin and the Israelis. The negotiations have led to the creation of the State of Palestine carved out of lands occupied by Israel. The Irish IRA and the Protestants of Northern Ireland also came to the bargaining table, although lately there has been a spate of bombings attributed to the IRA in Northern Ireland and in England. The Croats and the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina likewise came to the bargaining table and established a basis - no matter how shaky - for peace in their hapless land.

There is no reason therefore why eventually the MNLF and the government cannot arrive at an agreement for peace in Mindanao for as long as they keep at it with sincerity and goodwill.

In the meantime, the elections for the chairman of the ARMM and the Regional Legislative Assembly as provided by law - which, incidentally, have been reset, unlawfully, I think - should be held as

scheduled.

And the ARMM government should be strengthened by fulfilling without any reservation and equivocation, on the part of the government, of its commitments to it. For example, the money intended to speed up the process of development in the ARMM, particularly in the construction of infrastructure - roads, bridges, power, telecommunications and transportation in the region - should be released and utilized for the purpose.

The Muslim rebellion in Mindanao will not ease unless the Muslim people themselves see that their needs are being attended to with sincerity and with a sense of immediacy by the central government. And thus far, the only legal and constitutional vehicle for doing that is the regional government of the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao.

Let me wind up this talk with this optimistic note: peace in Mindanao, as it is for any place in the world, is not as elusive as it looks. For Christians, peace starts with acknowledging that Christ is their Lord and Master. For Muslims, that there is no God but Allah. And for the rest of us, ordinary mortals, peace simply begins in our hearts.

The theme of your Annual Communication is "**BY OUR ACTS, SHALL MASONRY BE JUDGED.**" By the same token, I suppose that, by their acts, the MNLF and the government will be judged by the people as to their sincerity in the quest for peace in Mindanao.

I pray that you will have peace in your hearts, so that we may have peace in Mindanao, peace in the Philippines, peace in Asia, and peace in the world.

REDEMPTIVE WORK OF MASONRY IN THE PHILIPPINES TODAY

by VW Amancio S. Donato,
Grand Orator

Freemasonry has been in the Philippines for more than a century already and our predecessors under stresses and difficulties managed to bring forth the noble works of advancing the cause of freedom, human progress and development, however fragmented and humble their contributions may have been. In some instances, the conduit organizations they set up without staining the name of this noble order had bitter and oftentimes violent disagreements on how best to achieve the goals of leadership in the revolutionary struggle that ensued. Yet the brethren who participated in that great effort of national emancipation were duly recognized and given the accolade they all richly deserved.

After attending two recent summits for peace and order and the fight against poverty along with some brethren who are now here present, I cannot help but observe the apparent helplessness of both the government and the private sectors in coming out with solutions to the problems of our society today. Amidst the efforts of the present government to come up with some solutions that would address the problems, we still witness the continuing brazen disregard for human rights and human life where such life and human dignity of citizens are exposed to wanton and relentless assaults and brutalities generating a virtual climate of fear and insecurity in our communities. This situation plus the gargantuan problems of exploding population, unemployment, abject poverty, unmitigated adversities and the pernicious presence of graft and corruption both in public and private high offices with its telling effects can only but shock us and make us wish that someone, a savior perhaps, will come to our aid and help dispel the surrounding darkness that has suddenly engulfed our beloved country. It is on this score that I am prompted to put across this humble discourse in this 80th Annual Communication. A recent manifesto written by my friend, economist Ding Lichauco, appears in the pamphlet of Reynaldo Fajardo: Save the Philippines, Save the Filipino, dated December 15, 1995, and I quote:

"The Philippine society is disintegrating. We are experiencing the by-products of that disintegration like lawlessness gone out of control; the proliferation of private armies; the capture of state power by political and criminal syndicates; open looting of the national treasury by a government that has turned against the people; a police system that is a virtual extension of the underworld; wanton corruption of justice; a socially irresponsible elite inextricably tied to international capital

We are thus the lucky heirs to those struggles and the legacy they left behind is for us in turn to continue, pursue and emulate. Looking back to those years, when the foundations of this great movement of Freemasonry in the Philippines took its roots has in turn taught the wonderful tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth along with the other spiritual, humanitarian and social concerns of the fraternity and its members. We cannot help but ask the questions now. Have we done justice to the noble legacy in Freemasonry they left us to inherit? Or, are we now faced with fragmented and oftentimes less transparent efforts to make our just and important contributions to make our existence felt and justified in this country?

of insurgency; an armed forces too weak and backward to come to the defense of the country; the acknowledged futility of elections to change things for the better; and life progressively sinking to lower levels of misery and despair towards anarchy and barbarism.”

And tracing the contributing causes of this sad state of affairs confronting our country today, the manifesto went on further saying:

“At the root of this disintegration are the powerful, anti-social compulsion generated by poverty of our people: the compulsion to steal, to cheat, to rob, to betray, to kill, to join organized crimes in order to survive and cumulate funds to provide for the future... A society overwhelmed by these compulsions turns into a jungle, and lives by the code of the jungle. No institution, whether family, church or government, (or even our fraternity), can possibly survive the onslaught of these compulsions. In mass poverty, and the social disintegration that inevitably follows it, the country is paying the penalty that must be paid by any society which, in this age of space, remains stuck in the agrarian age, making do with a crude pre-industrial age economy that cannot possibly provide the resources of livelihood needed by a sizeable and fast growing population. Such a society, populated by deprived, desperate and hungry masses, must eventually explode and disintegrate in violence.”

While we may not entirely join in the observation of this gloomy and pessimistic picture in the sense that we still have the hope that springs in the heart eternal, yet we are too aware of the growing restlessness of our people who are sometimes already too calloused and insensitive, even cynical, to respond anymore to some kinds of appeal and well-intended crash programs of the government. The presence of the symptoms of these social and political maladies should indeed alarm us.

The government came out, as an initial remedy, with the various summits, honestly believing that, by so doing, the problems are identified and their solutions properly installed. Underlying all those efforts is the so-called moral recovery program (MRP) calculated to instill moral values and ethical practices among our people. But again, how can we drive home the point that people must be honest, virtuous and morally upright when they are generally without any moral leadership to follow or moral traditions to uphold or when they suffer from acute adversity and therefore no amount of persuasion registers with them anymore? Or when they are left with an eroded sense of values, dignity and their self-esteem sadly jeopardized or weakened? All these events in this country are still aggravated by calamities, disasters upon disasters, and tragedies wrecking havoc upon our once peaceful people who are stunned, bewildered, confused and desperate. Using our time-tested WTs (working tools), how can we collectively and individually aid and assist to uplift the critical situation besetting our country? Just recently the call of Grand Master Danilo D. Angeles for assistance was answered by the United Grand Lodge of England and other foreign Lodges substantially turning over the large amount to the PNRC through our MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines. In the meantime, we must now ask the question: How efficient are our charity works like spending a lot for some few crippled children and some other substantial contributions that we still make every year for other purposes? We ask these questions now — Are those monies we contribute through our respective Lodges spent wisely and accounted for properly? While it is laudable to care for the crippled children physically and to engage in some medical and dental activities, I now suggest that, along with other services, we refocus and integrate our Masonic light and charitable works to include the morally depraved, morally crippled and morally bankrupt segments of our populace. In the Grand Oration of 1993 Ancom, I stated: “A closer look into the sorry state of affairs and happenings not only in our communities but also within some of our Lodges in this noble Order will reveal some of our members’ disregard of an indifference to those great moral values that we Masons live by. In these critical times, more than ever, therefore, there is a crying need for values clarification among us Masons in this Jurisdiction. It becomes our duty to re-examine, analyze and seek out where some of us have failed in our high calling and profession despite the serious presentation of our initiates of those gems of great moral and spiritual teachings available to anyone who seeks enlightenment in our Craft.” We are elated, at this point in time, that two leading officials in the field of education of this country today belong to this noble fraternity... They are the honorable chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, WBrother Angel Alcalá, and Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain/Secretary of

Education, Culture & Sports, VVBro. Ricardo T. Gloria. We have high hopes that as both are Mark Masters, they will no doubt do their utmost to bring back the sanity of an upright citizenry through the most essential moral education, ethogenes awareness programs and ethical orientations hand in hand with other professional skills and technical training. If this fraternity, which is indeed an institution deeply ingrained with a system of morality veiled in allegory and imbedded in symbols, has a meaning and cause for existence at all, then it is high time that we in this jurisdiction take a stock of ourselves, and redeem ourselves as members of a great and noble Order. Are we prepared, then, to respond to the call of change in our society in terms of the moral regeneration program? In the meantime, how administratively efficient are our Blue Lodges in order to come up with a worthwhile strategic plan of action for this purpose? Or are there also some heretofore problems besetting us and the management of our Blue Lodges and higher Appendant Bodies? But we do join the efforts of the thoughtful among the Brethren from the various Lodges scattered throughout the country in trying to bring the tenets and goals of our Craft closer to the communities by various projects. Yet I fear that we are not addressing the social ills squarely. Hence, even our concerted acts could hardly affect directly these problems. What we need is to work out a well-calibrated moral education program first within ourselves in a tiled lodge and then we need to promote and evolve in this country the good and meaningful life of morally upright citizenry. For a start, we can help disseminate and propagate through our 266 Blue Lodges strategically located all over the country to teach, reproduce and distribute the Code of Ethics of Citizenship penned by our late President and Grand Master Manuel L. Quezon, which has been sadly set aside.

Our ability to respond and interface, however, is dependent again on our own effectiveness as an organization and noble Order. We must now, more than ever, make the necessary assessment of the situation on hand and indeed join the few strong hands in this jurisdiction in stemming the tide of hopelessness, fear and despair. We can only justify our existence as an institution by contributing our share in this effort of reconstructing this country through moral regeneration and BY OUR ACTS SHALL MASONRY INDEED BE JUDGED. In our installation ceremonies the WM is told:

“Charge the Brethren of your Lodge to practice outside the Lodge those great moral duties they were taught in it, and by amiable, discreet and virtuous conduct to convince mankind of the goodness of this institution, so that when a man is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrows, one to whom distress may prefer its suit, one whose hand is guided and strengthened by justice and whose heart is expanded in benevolence.”

This is our calling and profession, to positively respond to the needs of our nation during critical times. For indeed we are so ordained to be such sentinels of human progress, guardians of human liberty and committed nation builders. Borrowing the statement in the Short Talk Bulletin of the Masonic Service Association of the United States of America (Vol. 73 June '95):

“This is our calling, to be responders to the needs of our communities in the midst of darkening times, to be choosers of the light, restorers of peace to troubled minds, forgers of partnerships in purpose, practitioners of a moral geometry whose axioms are tried and unfailing principles, to be demanders of equality based upon the dignity of all human beings, to be voices with instructive tongues, seekers with attentive ears, searchers after wisdom, and believers in the possibility of a better world.”

In this Jurisdiction, we are close to 20,000 strong and if we can only act as one in harmony, this nation could indeed be strengthened by our presence, Tenets and Acts as Men and as Masons. “All around us,” said one great teacher, Annie Besant, “on every side, we see men and women seeking for light, struggling for growth, puzzled, confused and bewildered. To all and each one that we meet we owe a duty of being gentle, affectionate and helpful... The duty of protection, kindness and compassion for all.” Also, the editorial of The Victorian Mason, NSW, Australia, of summer 1994, read in part:

“If we are to make Freemasonry the vibrant and thriving society it once was, relevant and important in the lives of its members and their families, we must not remain insensitive to the rapid changes that are taking place in society today.”

John Ruskin, also a Mason and a philosopher of note, said: “Who can most help the world? Only

those who have learned to subdue themselves, though capable of the strongest passions, yet have found a calm as absolute as a deeply sheltered mountain lake which reflects the agitation of the clouds yet itself remains motionless.”

The serious duties and responsibilities of our Masonic Order lies in the ability of its members to effectively answer the distresses of our fellowmen and their search for more light in their otherwise sordid, meaningless and purposeless existence, not knowing any better. The Brotherhood of Masonry is the Brotherhood of Mankind as a whole and not a Brotherhood for Masons alone nor their families. It is not a Brotherhood of separation but of unity, harmony and order. It is a spiritual Brotherhood which mandates that we are our brother's keepers and therefore what ails him ails us too; for, indeed, as John Donne has rightly stated, “No man is an island entire of himself... Everyone is a part of the main... Every man's death diminishes us and everytime the bell tolls a requiem, it also tolls for thee.” In the language of the Filipino Bard, Francisco Balagtas “Ang sakit ng kalingkingan damdamin din ng buong katawan.” (What ails the small finger affects the whole body as well). We cannot remain aloof, indifferent and insensitive during these trying times. We either commit ourselves or not at all and therefore watch helplessly by while the world around us is in ferment and turmoil, and being destroyed by sinister forces within it... As aptly stated by Wor. Bro. Foster Bailey: “Masonry is a fitting rule and guide to our lives not to mark us off from others, but to bring us unto that deeper meaning of the plan of the Most High (T.G.A.O.T.U.) which by its very nature is universal and which in the long last must include us all.” This, then, is the redemptive work of Masonry in this country today requiring all of its votaries as enlisted co-workers of T.G.A.O.T.U., to conduct, first of all, a thorough self-examination and self-reflection, instead of superficially dealing with some petty activities that have no relevance at all to confront the problems of the nation. Let us follow the example of our President Fidel V. Ramos of rolling-up our shirt sleeves to symbolize preparedness to be involved in any Masonic work which rolled sleeves Masonry is also found in the rites of the higher degrees, to do battle with the forces of ignorance, poverty, indifference, neglect, hopelessness and helplessness, fear, intolerance and injustice! Our moral science and tested Code of Ethics were evolved from the noble precepts and teachings of the ancients and culled from the great religions of the world. It is our turn to spread out to the whole length and breadth of this country through our beneficent acts and worthy deeds, without proselytizing nor blaring of the trumpets, to establish harmony and order in our endangered societies. To be a dynamic and significantly good moral force, however, Masonry in this part of the world must redeem itself through the strengthened and properly coordinated, responsive and harmonious efforts of its members. The change must, however, come from within us, first and foremost. Let us, then, take a stock of ourselves as true and faithful members of one of the most noble orders and revered institutions of the world.

The success of a truly moral recovery program may depend largely upon our skill and ability to internalize as well as sincerely desire to improve our dedication to higher moral and spiritual values and the belief that it can be done. By all means, we must now extend our helping hand to our two Worshipful Brothers in their work, if acceptable, to help educate the youth of our land who are, after all, the fair hopes of the motherland. Masonry in the Philippines, in short, must continue its service to this country and the needs of its people or deteriorate as a mere association because it has degenerated and abdicated the very cause for its existence. I now close with sonnet 35 of the Gitanjali by the Poet-Philosopher of India, Sir Rabindranath Tagore, which is also now our prayer:

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arm towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sands of dead habits;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into an ever-widening thought and action —

Into that heaven of freedom, My Father, let this country awake!”

GOOD LUCK

80th ANCOM Sets Records

The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines held in Cagayan de Oro City was designed by the brethren of the host district, headed by their DDGM, VW Downey C. Valdevilla, to be “irresistible” and to make the brethren and sisters, both local and foreign, “feel the difference” between this and other Ancoms.

MW Danilo D. Angeles referred to the Masonic assemblage at Cagayan de Oro as “the mother of all Ancoms;” MW Reynato C. Puno, PGM, described it as the longest-running Ancom in terms of business sessions; some brethren dubbed it as “liveliest Ancom ever,” and still others “record-breaking.”

It was, indeed, the most attended Ancom — so far. There were 1,643 registered delegates, as well as a big number of unregistered brethren. Some 11 PGMs were in attendance, and there were a significant number of foreign dignitaries, brethren and sisters.

The convention hall at the Grand Caprice



←
GM Danilo Angeles opens installation ceremony.

⇒
PGMs led by MW M. Mandac



was filled to capacity. In fact, noticing that additional chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the delegates and visiting brethren, keynote speaker Aquilino B. Pimentel jestingly commented that it was not a “dagdag-bawas” operation, but plain “dagdag.”

On the day before the Ancom proper,



↑ PGMs welcomed by GM.



↑ MW Benette K.C. ING of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii



↑ MW Chris B. Pei, GM, Grand Lodge of China leads biggest delegation. ↓



↑ RW Demenico Della Ventura, Grand Lodge of Italy.

representatives of Lodges and districts actively participated in sports competitions, while the biggest number of Past Masters, so far, attended the convention of the Grand Guild.

For the first time the Grand Guild and the Order of DeMolay held a joint fellowship dinner. The host district tendered a buffet dinner in honor of the foreign dignitaries and visiting brethren and sisters, and MW Manuel Mandac, PGM, treated the Past Grand Masters and other Grand Lodge officers to a special dinner in his residence. The brethren, on their part, enjoyed the city’s healthy night life.

The Ancom proper started with a unique, well-orchestrated, meaningful wreath-laying ceremony, which was



↑ RW Norm Martin of the Lodge of Attainment #908, PDGM, Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia.



↑ RW David J. Roads, Grand Lodge of Ireland



↑ VW George Woodward, WB Emmanuel Rapinett, and party of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia.



↑ MW Teddy Baldonado, PGM, Master of Ceremonies, announces commencement of installation ceremonies.



↑ RW Arthur E. Thomas, Grand Lodge representative near the Grand Lodge of New South Wales.



↑ MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, Installing Officer, announces officers to be installed.



↑ Sis. Gloria Adiong and family, with Sis. Angelina Angeles, intently watch proceedings.



↑ MC directs RW Jose Percival Adiong to his seat in the East.



↑ MC presents JGW Frank de Monteverde and SGW Enrique Locsin.



↑ DDGMs, DGLs, and Grand Lodge officers listen attentively.



↑ DGM Bañez at the altar.



↑ Grand Master-elect takes oath at the Altar.

MW Baldonado summons the GM-elect.





↑ GM-elect fixes hat, while MC arranges Jewel.



↑ Look well to the EAST!



↑ Installing Officer reminds Grand Lodge Officers of old charges.



↑ IO to GM: "Accept this gavel, symbol of authority."



↑ "I now declare all elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers duly installed." - MC



↑ Masons salute their new GM.



↑ Newly installed Grand Master Jose L. Percival Adiong delivers inaugural address.



↑ Sis. Ching Herrera, Sis. Way, and other guests seem amused by GM's speech.

witnessed by a big non-Masonic crowd.

At the start of his welcome address, DDGM Downey Valdevilla ordered released 266 balloon representing all the Blue Lodges in the Philippine Masonic jurisdiction.

The business sessions were enthusiastically participated in by the brethren.

The Grand Master's Night, which featured a dinner and awarding of trophies to most outstanding individual brethren, lodges and districts, was attended by approximately 3,000.

The bidding for the 81st Ancom was, to say the least, interesting. In the end, Leyte won the bid.

The election of Grand Lodge officers Masonic year 1996-1996 reached past 10 pm because it was only after the third balloting that a Junior Grand Warden was elected in the person of RW Frank J. Demonteverde.



↑ Foreign dignitaries, too, listen attentively to the GM's address.



↑ The Grand Master's family, led by Sis. Gloria, are introduced.

MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, presents PGM's Jewel to MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM.



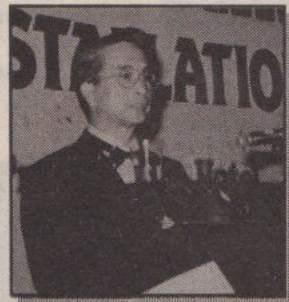
Foreign dignitaries rise to salute GM. ⇒



↑ GM Danilo D. Angeles and family



↑ Sis. Angeling proudly pins PGM's Jewel on her husband while MW Rey Puno looks on.



MW Danilo D. Angeles, IPGM, delivers response.

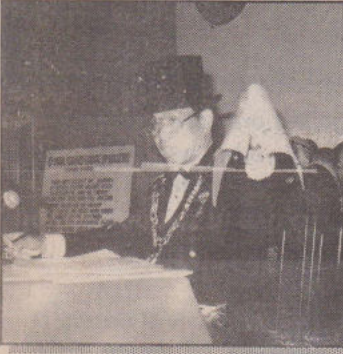




↑ *Newly installed Grand Master Jose L. Percival Adiong announces his program for his year in the Grand East.*



← *GM signs edicts.*



← *"I hereby decree a general amnesty for nonpayment of dues!"
- GM*



↑ *Grand Chaplain leads brethren in prayer.*

Cultural dance by host District. ⇒

The biggest number of brethren, so far, were conferred the Past Master's Degree.

Delegates averred that this was the most organized Ancom — so far. It was the first to provide the delegates with (1) eight aircon buses from airport and pier to hotels and from hotels to convention site, (2) free beer and mineral water upon arrival at airport and hotels, and (3) expensive and nice-looking kit. The computerized registration was so systematic that delegates were able to register in about two minutes only. Comprehensive, too, were the security measures provided.

Most of the delegates stayed up to the installation of Grand Lodge Officers at the Pryce Plaza Hotel on Carmen Hill. The post-installation



↑ *GM and dignitaries in the East at the retirement of flag.*



↑ *Thunderous applause after ceremonies*





↑ Foreign dignitaries try local folk dance.



↑ Token for GM



↑ VW Downey Valdevilla, DDGM, presents token to GM,



↑ Token for GM from Grand Lodge of Italy



RW J. Roads of the Grand Lodge of Ireland congratulates newly installed Grand Master.



↑ GM proudly shows his token from the host District.

⇒ Two right hands joined: foreigner and Filipino.



fireworks lasted for about 30 minutes. Fraternally warm were the inaugural dinner and ball. The raffling out of prizes to lucky winners was spiced by the presentation of tokens to MW Jose Percival Adiong by foreign dignitaries.

Delegates averred, too, that succeeding districts would be hard put to surpass the then Masonic District No. 17's feat of working together in close harmony to achieve their goal of making the 80th Ancom "irresistible" and making those who attended the event really "feel the difference." — eF.R.eN



⇒
Sis. Gloria and GM at inaugural banquet

⇐

Newly elected JGW Franklin J. Demonteverde and SGW Enrique L. Locsin greet each other after installation ceremonies.



⇒

Sis. Gloria and GM at inaugural banquet

⇐

⇒

Two PGMs and their loving wives (L-R: MW Gus, Sis. Lolit, Sis. Anching, MW Rudy)



⇐

The Grand Master with his mother and selected brethren

⇐

MW Theodore Way and wife



⇐

GM and SGW pose with some brethren.

⇒

Eastern Stars serenade new GM.



Winners in AnCom '96 Sportsfest

Bro. Bernard Tan of Beacon Lodge No. 213 was heaven-sent for the bowling team of District 9A (now simply No. 9), who was allowed by the Nueva Ecija teams to play for 9A. He did a "miracle" in the last three frames, thereby leading 9A to win over 1st runner-up District 6A (now No. 29). He also romped away with the Highest Score and Highest Pin awards.

In tennis it was the show of Bro. Edgar Roca of Mabini Kalaw Lodge No. 195, besting 1st runner-up Jose Percival L. Adiong of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 and 2nd runner-up Timoteo Alinsugay of Tanguan Lodge No. 287.

In basketball, Makahambus Lodge No. 315 edged out Dr. Aurelio Mendoza Memorial Lodge No. 283 to emerge as champion.

Philippine Masons increase financial support to MYOs, GL Library

The Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, in the last Annual Communication of their Grand Lodge in Cagayan de Oro City, approved an annual assessment of P50 for the growth and development of the Orders of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters. Of this amount, P30 will go to DeMolay, P10 to Rainbow, and P10 to Job's Daughters.

MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM and GM of the Order of DeMolay, meanwhile, reported that as of February 15, 1996, membership in the Supreme Council is 1,020, broken down as follows: Active Charter Members, 237; inactive members, 694; Charter Members, 12; Honorary Charter Members, 72; and Honorary Members, 5.

There are 63 DeMolay Chapters, seven of which are inactive. Of these, 36 were instituted from 1946 to 1982 (36 years and 27 from 1983 to 1994 (11 years). Since 1983, the Order has admitted 6,153 new members.

Said MW Herrera: "Since 1946, more than 20,000 have joined the Order... With the support of the Dads and Moms, the Order continues to grow in membership and in meaningful

programs, all designed to develop our young boys to become more responsible citizens, men, leaders of tomorrow."

The Grand Lodge's Committee on Youth, moreover, reported that at present the International Order of Rainbow for Girls has 19 Assemblies, with a total membership of 450 while the Order of Job's Daughters has 17 active and five inactive Bethels, with a total active membership of 400.

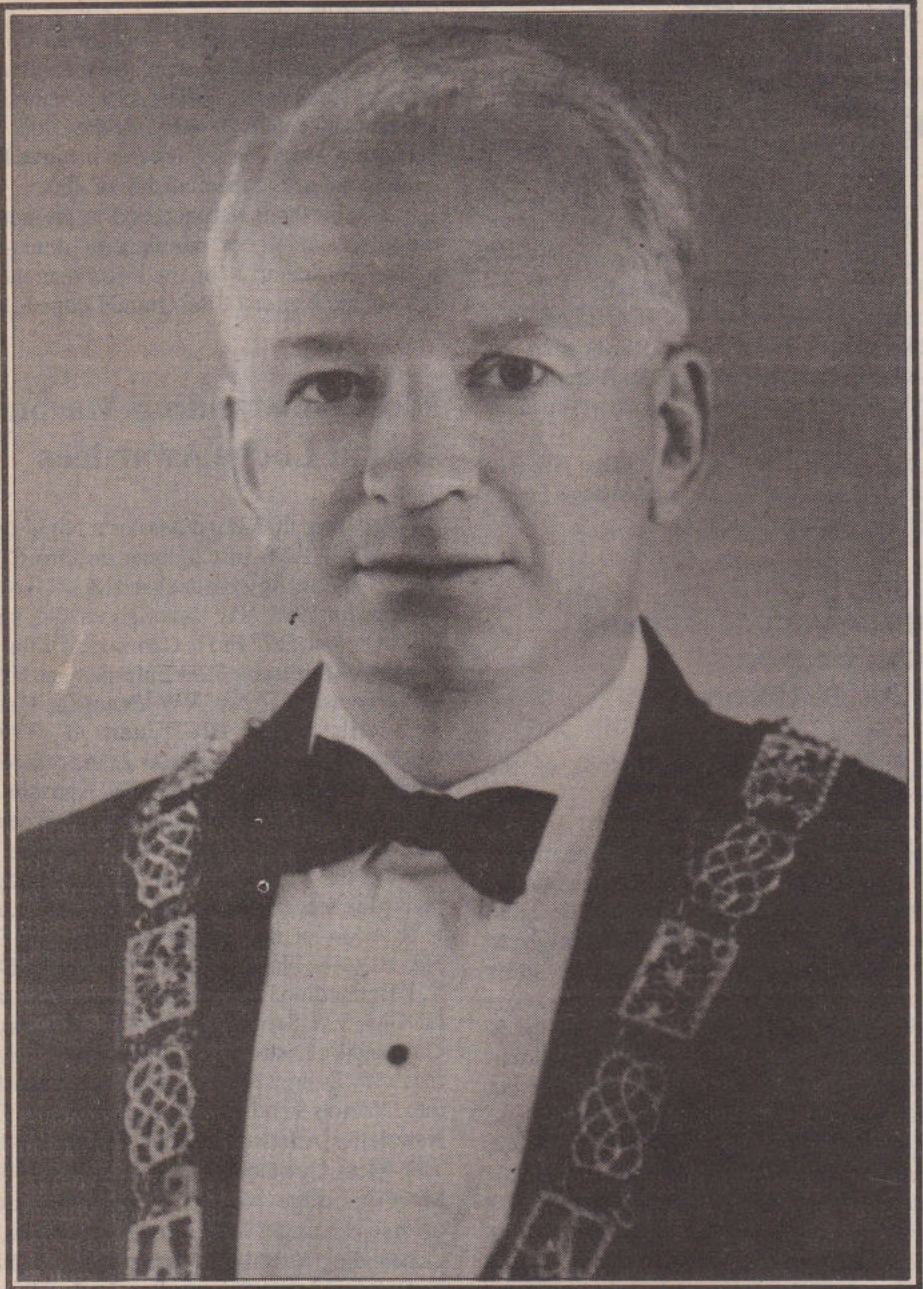
The brethren also acceded to an increase in their assessment for purchase of much-needed books, particularly for the enhancement of the Filipiniana section of the Grand Lodge Library.

Most Outstanding Masons, Grand Lodge Awardees

During the Grand Master's Night on April 25, 1996 in Cagayan de Oro City, the following were declared Most Outstanding Masons for 1996; VW Victoriano S. Go, Shipping Management; Bro. Pio P. Carranza, Military; Bro. Andres M. Superable, Law Enforcement; VW Jesus M. Elbinias, Judiciary; VW Vicente R. Hao Chin, Jr., Philosophy; Bro. Juan G. Frivaldo, Government; VW Abelardo L. Aportadera, Jr., Government Prosecution; VW Antonio P. So, Business; WB Antonio de Joson, Jr., Optometry; and WB Vicente B. Lopez, Public Service.

On the same occasion, the following were given due recognition by the MW Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines: Masonic District No. 10 (now No. 2), Most Outstanding District; VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., Most Outstanding DDGM; VW Serafin Eufrazio R. Manarin, Most Outstanding District Grand Lecturer; Square of 3 (Masonic District No. 9-A, which has been divided into Districts 9 and 11), Most Outstanding District Newsletter; Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, Most Outstanding Local Lodge; Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123, Most Outstanding Overseas Lodge; WB Michael V. Nava, Most Outstanding Worshipful Master (local); WB Bobby L. Roberts, Most Outstanding Lodge Secretary; The Level of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, Most Outstanding Lodge Newsletter; and VW Roberto Q. Pagotan, Most Outstanding Master Mason.

MW John L. Choa, PGM, served as the emcee during that enjoyable fellowship social.



William H. Quasha
May 19, 1912 - May 12, 1996
Grand Master, GLP, 1962-63

WILLIAM HOWARD QUASHA

Entered Apprentice Mason:

Feb. 8, 1951, Mla.-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1

Fellowcraft Mason : Feb. 15, 1951

Master Mason : March 8, 1951

July 26, 1951

30th degree, Malcampo Council of Kadosh, July 27, 1951

32nd degree, Rizal Consistory, July 28, 1951

Offices in the Lodge:

Junior Deacon

Senior Deacon

Junior Warden - 1953

Master - 1955

HONORS:

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, Feb. 14, 1958

Inspector General Honorary (IGH); 33rd degree, Feb. 10, 1967

Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG)

Grand Lodge of the Philippines

Grand Standard Bearer, 1955

Grand Orator

Junior Grand Warden, 1959

Senior Grand Warden, 1960

Deputy Grand Master, 1961

Grand Master, 1962

COORDINATE BODIES:

Far East Court No. 1, Order of the Amaranth

Honorary Life Member, ISLAM Temple

Noble, Mecca Temple, July 11, 1953

Membership in the Scottish Rite

14th degree, Lakandula Lodge of Perfection, July 2, 1951

18th degree, Burgos Chapter of Rose Croix,

Honorary Member of

Tagaytay Lodge No. 165, Aug. 1962

Island Luz Filipina No. 5

Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48

Eulogies for MW WILLIAM H. QUASHA

May 17, 1996

FOR THE YOUTH - THE DEMOLAY MOVEMENT

by MW Rösendo C. Herrera, PGM

The last time I saw MW Bill was at the Golden Anniversary celebration of the DeMolay in the Philippines which was held at the Manila Hotel last March 16, 1996.

He was one of the honorees that evening and even if it was a Saturday evening affair, he left for the Hotel very early in the afternoon in fear of the erratic traffic condition. He arrived at the venue at a little past 5:00 p.m. in a wheelchair with an emergency oxygen tank beside and the two nurses who cared for him.

The program was to start at 7:00 pm but by

some reasons, guests started coming in at half past seven and were seated at exactly 8:00 pm.

Although some of the organizers of the affair and the Past Grand Masters present took turns in talking to him, MW Bill looked very uneasy. The very punctual man that he was, I felt that he was quite agitated with the delay in the program but being a true gentleman, he stayed up to the time

for him to give the response.

When he spoke, he expressed the way he felt, being kept waiting in his not so healthy condition. He chided the latecomers to be considerate to others who try to come on time.

He spoke vividly that one should not take his own sweet time while others are waiting and waiting uncomfortably. He reminded everyone present to live, not only for one's self, but for others as well. Everybody was dumbfounded as he spoke.

It was MW Bill's vintage way of expressing - frank, sensible and direct to the point. Never mind if it was supposed to be a time for merrymaking. He had to make his point.

There was a thunderous applause at the end of his message. There was no denying that his presence and his words gave more meaning to the affair and for sure, his last words to the crowd would long be remembered — especially when one thinks that that was perhaps his last Masonic attendance for the DeMolay movement.

Much respected and revered, MW Bill is considered a pillar of Masonry and its Appendant Bodies - especially the Order of DeMolay.

He was the Dean of the Legion of Honor Preceptory of the Supreme Council of the Order -- a position he acquired through love and respect -- testimony of his support to the Order of DeMolay.

MW Bill is known for his philanthropic work, but looking much deeper into all his

achievements as such, one sees his person is the most valued of all his contributions to the youth and even mankind.

The way he charted and lived his life, the way he shared his blessings, and the way he instilled discipline to people working with and for him are such golden contributions to inspire young men in their quest for a better place under the sun.

If there should be an eighth to the seven cardinal virtues that enlighten the boys in the Order, it could be that of our MW Bill's. His virtues had brought him to the summit of his dreams. It had made him live his life to the fullest.

There are countless lives he had touched, but for the DeMolays, he would be an excellent Dad Mason — worthy of emulation.

As I say goodbye in behalf of the Boys and the Order, we thank the good Lord, MW Bill, for having you in our midst for the wisdom, time and care you shared with us.

And I thank you, too, my Brother, for being a steadfast partner in working for God, for Country, and for DeMolay.

We shall miss you, but we will surely see you in all the kindness we receive from others — in the triumph and success of each young man in the Order — in all the challenges that you taught us to overcome.

Rest now, my Brother, in the love and peace that you truly deserve.

MW BILL QUASHA: MY IDOL AND MODEL

by MW John L. Choa, PGM

I first met MW Bill Quasha when I was a ward at the Children's Garden, an orphanage founded by another Past Grand Master, MW Charles Moosebrook. Hence, most of the members of the Garden's Board of Trustees were Masons, among whom was MW Quasha. It was in that orphanage that I personally witnessed the love, affection and concern of the Masons for the

orphans in the Children's Garden. So impressed was I, as an orphan, with the charitable works of the Masons that I promised to myself that I, too, would one day become a Mason.

Much later, when my income had become stable, I immediately knocked at the door of Freemasonry and became a member of Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1, the Lodge to which

Gen. Douglas MacArthur belonged. So, I sat in the same Lodge with MW Bill Quasha, no longer as a ward, but as a Brother.

Still several years later, I was privileged to be elected as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Garden. Hence, MW Bill and I became not only Brothers but co-trustees.

Then in 1990 I was elected Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine jurisdiction. Hence, I became a peer of MW Bill Quasha, who has served as my model and idol.

Because brethren perceived that I was close to MW Bill, they'd invariably approach me, asking for my intercession that their children be admitted into the St. Lukes Medical Center. This became too frequent — almost every week — that I sometimes felt so embarrassed approaching our beloved MW Bill for his help and assistance. But he never turned down any request from our Masonic brethren.

Today, hundreds of children of our brethren are successful doctors and nurses here and abroad; many are still medical students. All of them have received the aid and assistance of MW Bill Quasha.

On December 19, 1990, when our New Grand Lodge Temple was finally completed after 11 long years, we had the Temple blessed and dedicated in an appropriate ceremony. One of the highlights of that celebration was to honor all our living Past Grand Masters. Each of them received a specially crafted memento from our Grand Lodge. As Grand Master, I personally picked my idol, MW Bill Quasha, to deliver the response for and in behalf of all the PGMs. Proudly, I introduced him as the most senior living Past Grand Master. When he reached the podium, he immediately corrected me. "I may be the most senior," he said. "But definitely I am not the oldest; for in my heart I feel I am only 30 years old."

MW Bill was, indeed, young at heart. He has devoted a lot of his productive time in the service of humanity and, in so doing, has touched the lives of so many people, including mine.

Perhaps MW Bill will be long remembered for his dedication to the St. Lukes Medical Center.

He has tirelessly worked to transform the St. Lukes Hospital then located at Magdalena Street into what it is today: the best and most modern medical institution in our country.

MW Bill has always been supportive of the younger members of Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1. Notwithstanding his age, he has always attended the Lodge's important functions and activities, and Sister Isabel has always been his faithful companion.

The last function of our Lodge he attended was the Christmas Fellowship in Bro. Albert Awad's residence at Forbes Park.

Let me recount an incident in our Lodge where MW Bill figured. A petitioner's application was rejected simply because the investigator assigned had found out that the petitioner was once a member of the band of Pengkong Masons, considered a clandestine group of Masons in this jurisdiction. But the petitioner was very persistent and eager to join our Fraternity; so, he requested for a dispensation to ballot his petition again. That petitioner was very lucky that MW Bill Quasha was present during that meeting. Although he did not know the petitioner personally, MW Bill stood up and delivered a very compassionate speech.

"It is not the fault of the petitioner to have joined the band of the Pengkong Masons," he said. "After all, he is but a talent and not a bonafide member of that Fraternity. I appeal to you, brethren, that we give the petitioner a chance to prove himself."

After the speech, the brethren unanimously accepted the petitioner to be a member of the Lodge.

It came to pass that the petitioner really proved his worth. He became the permanent Lecturer of our Lodge. In fact, he served our Grand Lodge for two consecutive years.

MW Bill, through our Lodge, has tirelessly worked for others. Through his intercession, our Lodge raised P400,000, which was subsequently deposited with the St. Lukes Medical Center with a guaranteed interest of 15% per annum or a net interest of P60,000 a year. This amount is, in turn, donated to the St. Lukes Medical School,

so that it can sponsor one indigent yet deserving medical student.

Again, through the intercession of MW Bill Quasha, the Manila Bodies, A. & A.S.R., donated a very substantial amount, which was used for the operation of an indigent heart patient.

Such was MW Bill Quasha in life. He has lived a full life, a life that his children and children's children can always be proud of.

And so, Sister Isabel, you have been a faithful companion to our Brother, MW Bill, in

all his attendance in our Lodge activities, and to his children, this we tell you. If and when you need any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to approach any one of his Brother Masons not only here but wheresoever dispersed; for it is a duty of every Mason to help and assist the widow and orphans of a departed Brother Mason.

MW Bill, my friend, my idol, my model and my Brother, farewell — till we meet again in that Lodge eternal in the heavens.

MW WILLIAM QUASHA, PGM

May 17, 1996

by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM

It is difficult to capture the many faceted life of MW Quasha in a few, fleeting minutes of eulogy. Indeed, I am not sure whether any canvass is big enough to contain the complete portrait of MW Quasha's life. For MW Quasha is not only part of the history of this country; he helped write part of its history even if he was not a citizen of this country. Until the time of his demise, he was the *only*, the only foreigner licensed to practice law in the Philippines. Just a few months ago, he also received a Presidential Citation from President Ramos for his humanitarian work in favor of Filipinos.

Masonry stands for freedom and not infrequently Masons fight for freedom wherever it is threatened firmly believing that an attack on freedom anywhere is an attack on freedom everywhere. When World War II broke out, the young MW Quasha joined the U S Army and operated in the Southwest Pacific area theater of war. He first set in the soil of the Philippines with the staff of another famous Mason, Gen. Douglas McArthur. He fought the war with characteristic courage and at the young age of 33 was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the US Army. He was the recipient of numerous military honors, among which was the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Philippine Legion of Honor, officer's rank.

Thus started the love and long-time romance between MW Quasha and the Filipino people. And our people easily requited MW Quasha's love for unlike other soldiers, he was not only

good in war but even better in peace. Amidst our ruins, MW Quasha showed the character of a Mason as a master builder. He was well prepared for the challenge for he was well honed by excellent universities in the United States. He had a mechanical engineering degree and a masteral degree from the New York University. He also obtained his LL.B. degree at St. John's University in New York. He taught in the US and survived the scholar's public-or-perish rule by writing path-breaking articles. Among his major writings is the Revised Minnesota Board Test, a pioneer work on testing mechanical aptitude. He co-authored it with the renowned Dr. Rensis Likert in 1933. Last year, in recognition of his academic excellence, and humanitarian endeavors, the Lyceum of the Philippines conferred on him an honorary doctorate degree.

During his lifetime, MW Quasha got himself

involved in organizations devoted to character building and to charity. One of these organizations is the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He himself was an Eagle Scout with 36 merits badges. He earned several scouting awards including the bronze, silver and gold medals of merit and the Silver Tamaraw, the highest of all scouting awards. He was chairman of the International Liaison Committee of the 10th World Jamboree for which work he was awarded the Philippine Presidential Gold Plaque.

MW Quasha was for several years chairman of the Elks Cerebral Palsy Project. For its outstanding contribution to humanity, it received the highest award from the Philippine Medical Association. Needless to emphasize, he is credited with upgrading the medical facilities of St. Luke's Hospital. The number of lives saved in this hospital is legion, and to great extent, you can credit

them to the incomparable leadership provided by MW Quasha. MW Quasha is a high-priced lawyer, but I know for a fact that he donated his legal services to St. Luke's Hospital for free.

But while MW Quasha was involved in other organizations like the Jaycees, the Lions, the Toastmasters Club, and others, it was to Masonry that he gave his all and gave his best. He was a Past Master of the then Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 80, served as Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Orator, then Grand Junior Warden, Grand Senior Warden, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master in 1962. The brethren elected him Grand Master at age 50 when the Grand Lodge was celebrating its 50th or golden year. The coincidence did not escape him. On his inaugural address, he said: "I must confess, and I hope you will agree that this represents more than the will of the brethren; that it involves the will of the Great Architect of the Universe and I am grateful to God and to my brethren for having placed me in this exalted position."

Reading his Grand Master's Report to the brethren in our 47th Annual Communication in

1963, I have no doubt that he was one of our most worthy Grand Masters. His theme was a beautiful one: "A Mason has a golden heart. He practices the golden rule." He lived his theme in life. All Masonic watchers consider as MW Quasha's most outstanding achievement his efforts to bridge the gap between Masonry and the most numerous Church. Upon his ascension to the Grand East, he declared, as a policy:

"First of all, I shall continue in my efforts to bridge the hiatus, which exists between Masonry and the Roman Catholic Church. Many of you know that I have been working on this since 1955, that in 1959 I went to the Vatican and had an exploratory talk on the subject and that in January of this year I had an audience with

His Eminence Rufino G. Cardinal Santos. I expect to have another talk with him next month. My proposition is simple: Those who believe in God are faced

***"A Mason has a golden heart.
He practices the Golden Rule."-***

MW Quasha

with extinction by communism which has sworn to destroy us both. Communism is Godless and relentless; it is aggressive and destructive; it is ambitious and resourceful; it is powerful and capable; it is treacherous and cruel. In order to defeat this enemy, all freedom-loving people need to cooperate. We cannot afford to dissipate our energies by quarreling amongst ourselves. Shop-worn ideas and outmoded attitudes must be scrapped. We must convince the Roman Catholic Church that it ought to reexamine its ideas about Masonry. We must convince the Roman Catholic Church that the greatest single step it can take towards accomplishing an Ecumenical Movement is to withdraw its Encyclical against Masonry."

He made a trip to the Vatican, saw the Pope and, on record, is the only Grand Master with this distinction. His contribution to the understanding of Masonry by the most numerous Church cannot be overstated. The wonder of wonders is that MW Quasha is not even a Catholic. He was, however, a very religious man.

During his term as Grand Master, he encouraged the brethren not to be content with saying prayers in lodge meetings but to attend a Church of their own choosing and to support their Church. He also demanded that lodges engage in the program of intercessory prayer. He was the first Grand Master to pursue this program with passion.

In one of his Masonic writings, MW Quasha emphasized and I quote: "Masonry today makes special demands on its members. Every Mason ought to be a man with a mission." As Grand Master, he worked like a man possessed. He logged 50,000 miles visiting brethren here and abroad. By the end of his term, he reported to the brethren that he has visited every lodge in this jurisdiction. I know of no Grand Master who can claim this distinction and just hinge of the rough and rugged roads at that time. He also exerted his level best to help the public schools. Finding that one of their problems was lack of books, he campaigned for book donations among American Grand Lodges. Within a year's time, the books came pouring in. He was able to gather 95 tons of books or 2 million books and pamphlets and distributed them to our poor public schools. There were 8 million public school students at that time and 2 million books from MW Quasha was noteworthy feat. He also urged our lodges to give Teacher of the Year Award to recognize the efforts of our outstanding public school teachers. Explaining his intense interest in education, he said in one of his messages as Grand Master: "Masonry is largely responsible for the provision in our Constitution that every Filipino child is guaranteed a free public education xxx National survival demands proper education of children." To be sure his one year accomplishments as Grand Master are dizzying - he revised our Constitution; an American, he caused the translation of our ritual in Pilipino; he initiated the practice of choosing our most outstanding lodge for which the lodge was given the Grand Master's Cup, later to be

known as the Quasha Cup, etc.

After his stint as Grand Master, MW Quasha continued to serve the Grand Lodge in its various committees. He served as our Senior Past Grand Master and just about every newly elected Grand Master paid him a courtesy call to get his counsel. He extended a helping hand to every brother he could help. As chairman of the Board of Trustees of the St. Luke's Hospital, he helped a lot of brethren by slashing their medical bills. The more fortunate ones were given free medical services. MW Quasha gave himself to the Craft up to his last earthly moment. In his last days, disease has devastated him. He was as thin as a reed. He was hardly ambulatory. Before his last operation, he jokingly told me that he holds the record of being medically cut the most number of times and was not afraid of being cut again. He was surrounded by 4 or 5 nurses in his last days but he never missed a function of the Grand Lodge and he came always ahead of all others. The last function he attended was the meeting of the Past Grand Masters to choose the brethren who were to be elected in our last ANCOM. He conducted the meeting briskly and informed the Past Grand Masters he was again going under the knife in a few days time. He was prophetic of his fate. He said it could be his last meeting with the Past Grand Masters. MW Quasha was right but he was also wrong. No, MW Quasha, your permanent sojourn to the celestial lodge above does not mean you have parted ways with your brethren. Socrates said the dead governs the living for the living always draws on the past to live the present. MW Quasha is dead and I say, "Long live the dead!"

Like other brethren, MW Quasha is not gone; he...has just gone ahead. Two days from now or on Sunday he will be celebrating his first birthday with no less than the Great Architect of the Universe. From one Taurus celebrant to another, I say: "*Happy Birthday, Brother Bill.*"

MASONIC FUNERAL SERVICE IN HONOR OF MW BILL QUASHA, PGM

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines held a Masonic Funeral Service on May 17, 1996 at the Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic

Temple to honor MW William H. Quasha, PGM, who was called to the Celestial Lodge above on May 12.

Officers for the funeral rites were:



↑ Grand Lodge Officers sorrowfully surround coffin of him who gave so liberally of his time, talents, and leadership to Freemasonry.



↑ MW JPL Adiong: "MW Bill, Philippine Masonry has given you, one of its finest sons and leaders, to the eternities. But forever the light of your life will illumine our labors, and our halls of memories, and we shall walk in the shadows of your greatness and goodness."



↑ **MW Damaso C. Tria, PGM, places acacia leaf on coffin of his predecessor in the Grand East.**

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, Grand Master;
 RW Enrique L. Locsin, Senior Grand Warden;
 MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, Junior Grand
 Warden; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, Grand
 Treasurer; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM,

Grand Secretary; VW Servando V. Lara, Grand
 Marshal; VW Oscar V. Bunyi, Grand Chaplain;
 VW Raoul V. Victorino, Grand Bible Bearer;
 VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., Senior Grand
 Deacon; WB Benito Tan, Junior Grand Deacon

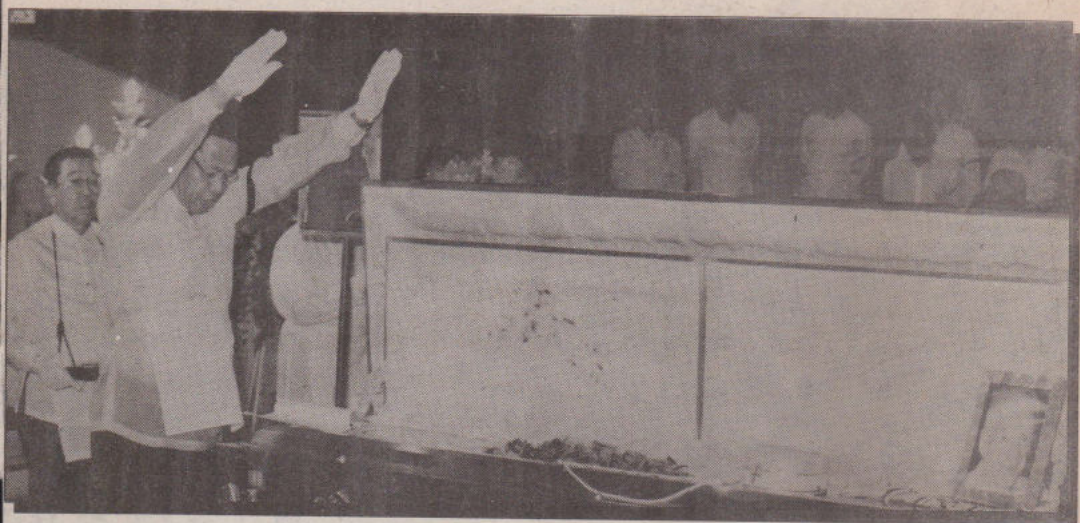


↑ **Brethren line up to pay last tribute to a cherished Brother and Past Grand Master—one whose record in the Fraternity will stand as a bench-mark of excellence for generations to come.**

VW Cesar Mendoza, Senior Grand Steward; VW Alfonso D. Dualan, Junior Grand Steward; and VW Epineto C. Logico, Grand Tyler.

The following delivered eulogies: MW

John L. Choa, PGM, in behalf of Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1; VW Eduardo M. Espejo, President, Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc.; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, Grand Master,



↑ **Grand Master: "Farewell, my friend. My brother, farewell. We, your brethren, rest assured you now rest from your labor on earth in the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."**



↑ **MW Bill's bereaved family and brethren to MW Bill: "To live in the hearts you have left behind is not to die."**

Supreme Council of DeMolay; MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council, 33rd & Last Degree, A. & A.S.R.; and MW Reynato S.

Puno, PGM, Chairman, Board for General Purposes.

The late PGM's son, Wayne Quasha, gave the response.



↑ *Wayne Quasha: "Your expressions of love and sympathy for our loss will forever be in our memories.... I believe the best tribute you could give in your Past Grand Master's honor is to live your Masonry the way he did."*

**When the final summons comes,
to take that last long trip
Adorned with Lambskin Apron white,
and gems of fellowship;
The Tiler at the Golden Gate, with square,
and rule, and plumb, Will size up your pin,
and say, "Walk in--I see you've traveled some."**

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Grand Lodge Representatives Attend American Memorial Ceremonies

by WM Charles G. Agar #82

VWBs Alfonso Dualan, Emiliano Langomez and Cesar Mendoza, DDGMs of MD Nos. 1, 5 and 7, respectively, as well as WM Carlos N. Villanueva of FD Roosevelt Memorial Lodge No. 81, WB Emilio C. Dalican of Hiram No. 88, this reporter, and other brethren represented the Grand Lodge at the ceremonies on Memorial Day, May 27, at the American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

The inclement weather notwithstanding, the program started as scheduled, at exactly 4 pm. The Philippine Army Band played the Philippine and American national anthems. Rev. Benjamin A. Jance III led the invocation. And Hon. Renato S. De Villa, Secretary of National Defense and Hon. Donald F. McConville, Charge d'Affairs a.i. U.S. Embassy, led the wreath-laying ceremony in honor of those soldiers who fought and died in the Pacific during World War II.

WB Stanley B. Phillips, President of the American Association of the Philippines, said in part: "To our fallen heroes ... long may they live ... in our hearts ... in our minds ... in our consciences. Let us not forget that they gave

their lives so that we may live in freedom. Let us not forget them . . ."

Hon. McConville cut his message short due to short circuit, and Hon. de Villa did not deliver his address anymore.

The Philippine Army honor guard executed the firing salute, and the Philippine Army Band played the Taps. This seemed to make Mrs. Negropente, wife of the American Ambassador to the Philippines, and the representatives of various civic and military organizations feel the courage of the honored dead.

After the benediction given by Fr. Gil R. Abesamis, both the Philippine Army and the U.S. Marine Corps retired the colors.



From left to right: VW Alfonso D. Dualan, WB Eduardo S. Ramos, VW Cesar C. Mendoza, WB Emilio Dalican, VW Sonny Wang, WB Carlos Villanueva, VW Celestino Ko, VW Emil P. Langomez, Jr., WB Eugenio P. Pua

District 20 Convention

by WM Charles G. Agar #82

District 20 held its convention at Pilar Beach in Boracay, Malay, Aklan on June 7 and 8, 1996, with Aklan Lodge No. 205 as host.

In the afternoon of June 7, VW Pablo Chu, DDGM, received with grand honors GM Jose Percival L. Adiong, DGM Leon A. Bañez, Jr., JGW Franklin J. Demonteverde and Grand Chaplain Oscar V. Bunyi. With the arrival RW Enrique L. Locsin, SGW, on the following day, in this first district convention for Grand Lodge year 1996-1997, the "lights" of the Grand Lodge were in full attendance.

WM Dominador V. Briones of the host Lodge, as well as WM Ivan Chu of Macawiwili Lodge No. 55, welcomed the delegates and visiting dignitaries. Malay Mayor Jose Yap, on

his part, gave a capsule history of Malay in general and Boracay in particular.

MW Adiong, in his message, stressed the importance of unity in achieving growth and progress. He admonished the brethren to be wary of persons who spread deception and distorted reports designed to malign the Fraternity and sow disunity amongst Masons. He furthermore explained the rationale of granting amnesty to brethren who have been suspended for nonpayment of dues, as well as that of increasing the mutual benefit assistance from P1,000 to P10,000. Finally, he urged the delegates to work together in close harmony to give significance and substance to this year's theme: "Masonic Vision 2020 - Masons Build for God, for Country, and for Mankind."

*DDGM Pablo Chu
being received.*



*Grand reception for GM,
DGM, JGW, and Grand
Chaplain.*



After the open forum, the delegates returned to their respective cottages for a brief respite and then reconvened at Casa Pilar Restaurant for dinner.

Later the Grand Master, Sis Gloria, Mark



↑ WM Ivan Chu introduces next speaker.

DDGM Pablo Chu presents gavel
← to GM Jose Percival L. Adiong.



↑ Hon. Jose Yap,
Municipal Mayor of Caticlan and Boracay,
welcomes delegates.

↑ Opening prayer
by Grand Chaplain Oscar Bunyi.

Oliver Adiong and Marina Joy Adiong, together with three *balikbayan* guests, were invited into the hall, at the center of which were a cake, a basket of flowers, and a beautifully wrapped gift. All this signified that the affair was the district's



↑ GM with the Hon. Mayor.



↑ Dominador V. Briones of
Aklan Lodge #205 gives welcome address.

surprise party for the Grand Master and Sis Gloria, who were celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary.

After dinner, individual brethren and various groups rendered songs in the celebrating couple's

honor. Toward the end of the program, MW JPLAdiong dedicated a song to Sis Gloria, who sang to him in response. The couple blew the lighted candles out, cut the cake, and kissed — to the delight of the brethren. Finally, they expressed appreciation to the host district, especially to DDGM Pablo Chu, for the memorable evening.



←
MW Jose Percival L. Adiong delivers his speech before the delegates.



↑ **Wedding Anniversary celebrants gaily dance.**

⇒
MW Jose L. Percival cracks a joke.



Brethren of District #20 render song in honor of GM and Sis. Gloria.



GM renders song to the delight of guests. ⇒

⇒
GM and Sis. Gloria blow cake for their 32nd Wedding Anniversary.





↑ GM, DGM and brethren exhibit smiles.



↑ RW Leon Bañez deliver his Masonic lecture.



↑ RW Locsin talks on history of Freemasonry.

The whole morning of June 8 was free time. Most of the brethren and their families frolicked in the crystal water of Boracay, a few played tennis, and the rest enjoyed the bountiful beauties of Nature around.

The Grand Master, meanwhile, accepted the invitation of the Visayan Command for him to witness the culmination of the exercises several kilometers away.

The plenary session started at 2:00 pm. RW Bañez spoke on the unwritten history of Masonry. SGW Enrique L. Locsin, who had just arrived, focused on the principal tenets of the Fraternity; and RW Demonteverde delved into Masonry as a moral philosophy.

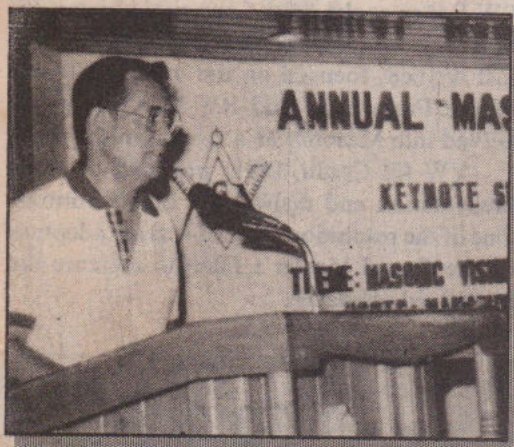
VW Eli Conlu, DGL, presided over the presentation and disposition of resolutions. One of the resolutions passed was the adoption of the Grand Master's Edict to increase the mutual aid assistance.



↑ JGW Demonteverde elucidates tenets of Freemasonry

The next district convention will be in Iloilo City.

The main dish during the Grand Master's dinner was roasted cow. The host district prepared a post-dinner dance party. But by this time most of the brethren seemed tired, so that they preferred to just listen to the music. Then they retired for the night.



VW Elias A. Conlu proves he deserves his appointment as DGL.



DDGM gives token to DGM.



SGW receives token from DDGM.



A token from the district.



"RW Sir, a simple token to you from the District." - VW Chu.



↑ Closing of convention by VW Pablo Chu.



↑ Send off remembrance: GM, DGM with delegates.



↑ "Bless us, O, Lord, and this thy gift..."



↑ GM and DGM with brethren of Aklan Lodge; at the background is Lodge under construction.



↑ DDGM Pablo Chu of MD #20 and GM.



↑ Fraternal lunch...

Early in the morning of June 9, RW Demonteverde and his wife, together with their party, took a ferry to Caticlan, whence they would travel by road to Iloilo, where they would take a ferry once more en route to Bacolod.

The Grand Master and VW Oca Bunyi played tennis against brethren of Kalibo.

Later, the Grand Master and his party traveled to Kalibo, where they were treated by WM Dominador Briones and his lovely wife to a sumptuous luncheon composed of *inubadan manok*, shrimps, crabs and other local foods.

After the luncheon, the Grand Master went to deliver a talk before the officers and men of the Kalibo PNP Command, while the rest of his party visited the Kalibo Medical Center and the Kalibo Lodge building, which was under construction.

Upon MW Adiong's return, we were taken by brethren and PNP officers to the Kalibo airport for the ride back to Manila.

RW Bañez leads Masons in Kawit Independence Day Festivities

Led by DDGM Nicolas G. Ricafrente, approximately 300 brethren, Jobbies, DeMolays, Eastern Stars and members of other Appendant Bodies proudly marched from the Aguinaldo Lodge to the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite in the parade participated in by various civic organizations and civil employees of the province.

Guests and other dignitaries, meanwhile, were already inside the Shrine waiting for the arrival of President Fidel V. Ramos. The Grand Master, MW Jose Percival L. Adiong attending the flag raising ceremony at the Luneta, the Grand Lodge was represented by RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., DGM; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and VW B.J. Torres,



←
**Rainbows
girl
marshalling
the parade.**

⇒
**Demolays,
Jobbies, and
Eastern Stars...**



AGS; VW Oscar Bunyi, Grand Chaplain; VW Alfonso Dualan, DDGM, M.D. No. 1; VW Roberto Q. Pagotan, DDGM, District No. 13; and VW Ricafrente.

In front of the Shrine, the Grand Lodge Officers and brethren were met by Senior Grand Deacon and DECS Secretary Ricardo Gloria, who invited ten of them to enter the premises of the Shrine. Inside, brethren in uniform warmly greeted the Grand Lodge Officers.

A 21-gun salute announced the arrival of President Ramos, who right away led the flag-raising ceremony, assisted by Cavite Governor Epimaco Velasco.



←
**GL and
 District
 Brethren
 march
 toward
 the
 Aguinaldo
 shrine.**

After the President's Independence Day message, the Grand Lodge officers proceeded to the Aguinaldo Lodge, where an entertaining program ensued. DDGM Ricafrente welcomed the Grand Lodge officers and other guests, and Grand Secretary Beltran delivered an inspirational message. The Jobbies, Eastern Stars and DeMolays presented a cultural dance. Prizes and gifts were given away, breakfast was served and lunch packs were distributed. RW Bañez, for and in behalf of the Grand Master, addressed the assemblage of Masons — *WM C.G. Agar #82*

⇒
**FVR greets
 RW Leon Bañez
 Jr. inside the
 Aguinaldo shrine.
 At background
 VW Bunyi, VW
 Gloria of DECS
 and
 Mrs. Ming Ramos.**



GRAND LODGE IN LUNETA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

We assembled in front of the Knights of Rizal Building at approximately 1:30 pm. Our contingent, composed of approximately 50 brethren, was assigned to march behind the centennial float and in front of the colorful drum and bugle corps of Caloocan City. But it was only at about 4:25 that the float ahead of us began to move.

Four brethren carried a long banner labeled GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES. WM Custodio of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148 carried the GLP flag; WB Emil Dalican served as standard bearer. Among the brethren in our contingent were VW Amang Mariano, VW Cesar Mendoza, VW Medardo Apacible, VW Alfonso Dualan, and VW Amancio Donato, Grand Orator.

When we were near the Grandstand, some brethren in uniform, such as WB/Gen. Ebdane, WB Gen. Job Mayo, Jr. and WB/Major Vic Bantigue, waved their hands to give our contingent moral support.

When we were in front of the Grand Stand, the emcee announced that our contingent was composed of descendants of the pillars of the Philippine Revolution. We waved our hands toward MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, who was seated two rows behind President Ramos and Vice President Estrada.

The President stood up and waved his hands in return. Our Grand Master also stood up when it was announced that the Masons were headed by him.

Tired though we were, but we were proud to have represented our Grand Lodge in the parade.

—WM C.G. Agar #82



← *The contingent behind the centennial float.*

The entourage passing in front of the Grandstand



↑ *Curious participants inspect the GL flag*



WREATH LAYING AT RIZAL SHRINE

by WB Charles G. Agar #82

RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., DGM, and VW Emeterio Bandong, DDGM of MD No. 6, led the brethren in offering a wreath of flowers at the Rizal Shrine in

Calamba, Laguna on June 19, 1996, the 135th anniversary of the hero's birth.

The brethren in attendance included VW Oscar Bunyi, Grand Chaplain; WB Bartolome



RW Bañez DGM, and Emeterio Bandong in wreath laying ceremonies at Calamba, Laguna



Governor Bro. Joey Lina with RW Leon Bañez, DGM and VW Emeterio Bandong, DDGM of MD, #6 and brethren



Quintana, PM, Makiling Lodge No. 72; Bro. Joey Lina, Governor of Laguna; Bro. Conrado Capa of Cosmos Lodge No. 8, Chief of Police of Calamba; this reporter; and brethren from MD No. 6.

The wreath-laying was preceded by the raising of the flag, singing of the national anthem, and the opening prayer.

Also present during the ceremonies were representatives from the government, the business sector and civic organizations.

Masons must not rest while a tyrant breathes on earth; while the night collects the meaning sounds of the oppressed; while there be slaves; while there be oppression. — J.P. RIZAL

← **Bro. Governor Joey Lina and RW Leon Bañez, DGM joins in offering a wreath to Bro. Dr. Jose Rizal.**

Masonic District No. 6 Convention

by WM C.G. Agar #82

Masonic District No. 6 held its convention at Villa Mary Silangan Subdivision in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on June 19, 1996, with Pinagsabitan Lodge No. 26 as host

WM Mauro M. Nequinto of Pinagsabitan received DDGM Emeterio Bandong, who in turn received RW Leon A. Bañez, DGM, and party (VW BJ Torres, AGS; VW Oscar Bunyi, Grand Chaplain; VW Alfonso Dualan, DDGM, MD No. 1; and VW Maning Lee, PDDGM).

VW Perfecto Alibadbad recited the opening prayer; WB Nequinto gave the opening remarks; VW Rodolfo R. Soriano, PDDGM and PGP, welcomed the delegates; and VW Tan, MD No. 6 DGL, talked about the life of Rizal as a Mason.

Lunch was spiced by an entertaining program. The Square & Compass Ladies Club of

Laguna dedicated their Tagalog songs to brethren of MD No. 6. They dedicated "Bakya Mo, Neneng" to Sierra Madre Lodge No. 181 in Paete, which is famous for carving, and "Balot, Penoy" to Pinagsabitan Lodge No. 26.

After the approval of the minutes of the 37th district convention, every Lodge gave a report. This was followed by the presentation of awards and the giving of awards and plaques of recognition.

Recess and merienda . . .

After the merienda, the Grand Master arrived. He was received by VW Bandong and introduced by AGS B.J. Torres.

"Today," he said, "marks not only the 135th anniversary of the birth of our martyred Brother,



←
**RW Leon
 Bañez being
 received by
 VW Emeterio
 Bandong,
 DDGM
 in Masonic
 District
 Convention at
 Sta. Cruz,
 Laguna.**

Dr. Jose P. Rizal, but also the struggle of our forebears to liberate this country. Almost 80% of those who were engaged in that struggle were Masons.”

“Now,” the Grand Master continued, “it’s time for us Masons to stand and be counted. We are going to lose this beautiful country by default if we will not move and act, for there are vested groups that are aligning their forces secretly to take away this country from us. Let’s emulate our forebears by aligning our forces to combat and stop this scheme.”

The Grand Master also urged the brethren to start a revolution of thought, never a violent revolution, because our people’s moral values are degenerating.

“If the moral degeneration among our youth is not curtailed,” he said, “our country will not progress.”

“This is so,” he stated, “because of our individualistic attitude, more love for our own selves, our own families, our own places or regions, but not for our country as a whole. We lack a sense of nationalism or the sense of national community.”

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong then further explained his first three Edicts: the renumbering of Districts, the general amnesty for nonpayment of dues and the giving of grand honors to elected members of the Grand Line. He also explained the need the increase of the mutual benefit assistance from P1,000 to P10,000. By a very reasonable contribution of only P160 per member



⇒
**MW Jose
 Percival L.
 Adiong being
 received by
 VW Emeterio
 Bandong.**

in good standing, the widow and orphans of every Brother Mason who dies will receive P10,000. He punctuated his closing remarks with this statement: "Brethren, once more I urge you to stand and be counted. Let's now align our forces and pursue the fight that our forebears have started." The Lodge having been closed in short form, dinner followed at the Columbian Restaurant.

Ladies Square and Compass Club of Laguna rendering a variety song.



MW JPL Adiong delivers his keynote address.



GM with Brethren of host District #6



AROUND THE LODGES

Labong Outreach Project

Brethren of Labong Lodge No. 59 conducted a medical-dental outreach project in Barangay Paliparan, a resettlement area in Dasmaniñas, Cavite, on May 5, 1996. A handful of brethren from F.D. Roosevelt Lodge No. 81 and Dalisay Lodge No.

14 participated in the project. A honorary member of Labong, MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, together with Sis Gloria, also joined the group.

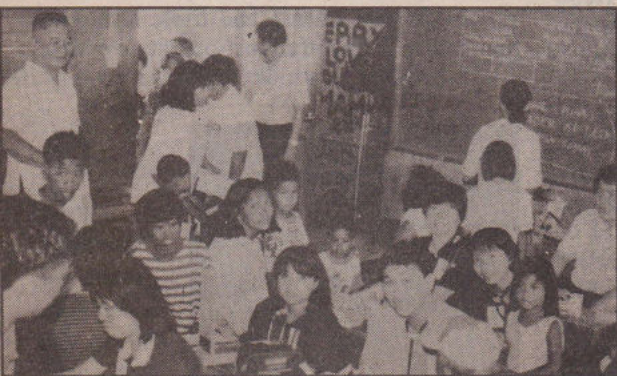
Bro. Renato Dragon, a member of Labong Lodge and a congressman of Cavite, tendered the fraternal breakfast. Many patients, meanwhile, were already waiting and more were arriving.

More than 650 medical and around 270 dental patients were treated.

"One of the most interesting portions of the outreach mission," WM Benito K. Tan revealed, "was the successful treatment, through the acupuncture method, of a male patient who could hardly walk even with a cane. After the treatment, the man rose without any support and then started walking around without his walking cane."

Added WB Rudy L. Ong, PM: "Sister Gloria Adiong, who is registered nurse both in the Philippines and in California, assisted in the preparation of cotton balls, registration of patients, and distribution of medicines, including multi-vitamins, to the beneficiaries, particularly to the nursing mothers and malnourished children."

The project was a success because VW Celestino Ko, VW Isagani Cruz, Bro. Diosdado Melegrito, the Worshipful Master, the Past Masters, and all our other brethren and sisters worked together in close harmony.



↑ Medical doctors in action.



↑ Sis. Adiong, Sis. Julie Ong, Sis. Dorothy L. Tan, Sis. Liza Ong, preparing cotton balls and registering patients for dental services.

Dentists in action ⇒
From left to right: WB Rudy L. Ong;
Bro. Congressman Renato Dragon;
MW Jose Percival Adiong.



ALSML 158 ADOPTS MARITES PATIENT

by WM Roy V. Serrano

The covering of a Lodge is no less than the clouded canopy or star-decked heaven where all good Masons hope at last to arrive by aid of that theological ladder which Jacob in his vision saw reaching from earth to heaven, the principal rounds of which are denominated Faith, Hope and Charity, which admonishes us to have Faith in God, Hope of immortality, and Charity for all mankind. The greatest of these is Charity; for our Faith may be lost in sight, Hope ends in fruition, but Charity extends beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity."

This beautiful teaching contained in the lecture of the first degree must have inspired our very charitable Brother, WB Jose "Mang People" Benin, to recommend to me, as early as February of this year, a very shy nine-year-old cripple, Marites Cantillo Vidal, the second child of Romulo Vidal, a *magbobote*, and Merlita Cantillo-Vidal, a *labandera*, who are residing with their four children at 82 Bonuan Catacdang, Dagupan City.

Because of poverty, Merlita had a very irregular prenatal check-up, with occasional intake of prenatal vitamins. She spontaneously delivered the baby girl at home, assisted by a *hilot*, who first noted the congenital deformity of her feet. It was a case of bilateral clubfoot.

From infancy, Marites never had the

benefit of being examined by a physician. She grew up, forced to accept her handicap and often subjected to mockery by her peers. The whole family had resigned her fate to God. Then they heard of the good Masons in this part of the country.

The Masons referred Marites to Dr. Raul F. Sabado, a very well-known and competent orthopedic surgeon. He examined the child and assured us that she had a good chance of improvement.

So the dream of Marites' parents to have her operated on came to reality on April 3, 1996. Marites underwent a successful "bilateral postero-medial release and triple arthrodesis" and had an uneventful post-operative course.

Marites' outlook in life is now quite



←
Marites before the operation. Marites Vidal, a nine-year-old girl with bilateral clubfoot.



↑ Brethren of ALSML 158 at the recovery ward with Marites. WM Roy V. Serrano, SW Alexander A. Aurelio, JW Daniel C. Uy and Bro. Sec. Joseph Hupano visit Marites after the operation.

illuminated. She is very happy that her lower extremities have been transformed from their unsightly and debilitating deformity to their normal and functional form. She is excited over the prospect of being able to walk, play and live a normal and productive life like all the other children around her. She is happy that there are good Masons in Dagupan City, particularly those from Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, who have extended to her their love, care and support.

Happier still are the Masons in the thought that they have touched the life of a young girl, supplanting her feeling of despair with hope for a brighter future and vibrant life. We are confident that Marites will never forget that, once upon a time in her life, the Masons made a great difference.

Summer Jobs for the Youth

by VW Eduardo Dalusong, Jr.

Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, in its effort to further project the image of Freemasonry to the community, launched the "Summer Jobs for the Youth Project," which ran through the months of April and May 1996.

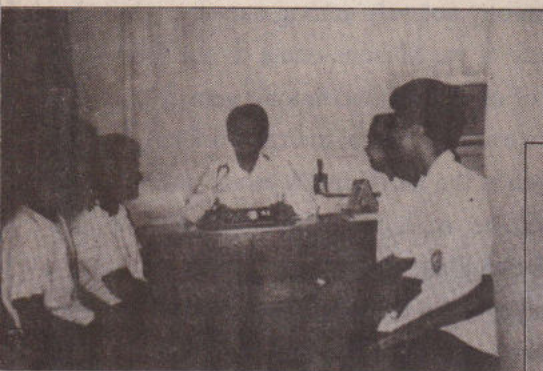
The project's main objective was to inculcate into our youth moral values, such as dignity of labor, responsibility, maturity, resourcefulness, and fortitude; for, after all, today's youth are tomorrow's citizens and leaders of our nation.

WB Roy wrote a letter to Sis Perla T. Cornel, principal of Dagupan City National High School, requesting her to recommend students who come from low-income families but who are honest, deserving and willing to work. He also called on brethren with business establishments to open summer jobs for those student applicants to be found deserving after careful screening by the Lodge.

Those brethren who responded to the Worshipful Master's call include Bro. Armando Gonzales of Cindy's Dagupan, who accepted Reynante Carrera and Theresa Basa; Bro. Claro M. Nava and Bro. Art Manuel of Rural Bank of Balungao and Rural Bank of Itogon, who accepted Rundell Lopez and Santy Soriano; and RW Clemente M. Nava and SW Alexander Aurelio of Stronghold Insurance Co., Inc., who accepted Allan Bautista.

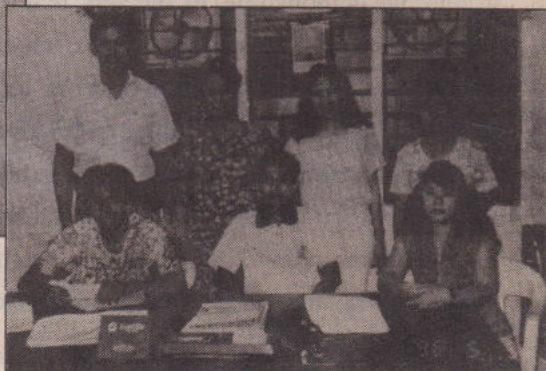
His experience as a young man must have prompted WB Roy to initiate the project. You see, in his youth, WB Roy, whose father was a farmer and his mother a plain housewife, had to do manual jobs on weekends to earn his weekly allowance and do summer jobs to save for the next school year. Armed with diligence, sincerity and dedication to work, determination and luck, he was able to finish the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His present status, in fine, is the fruit of his perseverance, his humble beginnings notwithstanding.

"We have developed among the chosen youth positive values in the form of responsibility and love of work," he told the brethren. "This will undoubtedly help them in the moulding of their future."



WM Roy V. Serrano visits Allan Bautista (seated in front of WM), one of the beneficiaries of the Summer Job Program. ⇒

← Applicants being interviewed by WM Roy V. Serrano



MASONIC VISION 2020: MASONS BUILD FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY, AND FOR MANKIND

Philippine Masonry had already enjoyed a glorious past, for our Brother Masons did much to shape the destiny of our country. But its golden age is not in the past but in the future. The best is yet to come if we persistently pursue the long-range plans laid down by the present and past leadership of our Grand Lodge. That is to say, we can forge a brighter future for our Fraternity sooner if, by our acts, we consistently project a positive image of our Fraternity in the eyes of the non-Masonic public; if we share the Masonic Light with fellow Masons and non-Masons alike; if we prove to all and sundry that we are true Masons both in spirit and in deed; if we demonstrate our continuing commitment to the tenets and principles of Masonry, particularly Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; if we keep the flame of Masonic principles ever aglow in our hearts, so that we will contaminate the people we come in contact with; if we practice Freemasonry as a way of life, making sure that we cast no aspersion against the reputation of our Craft; if we work together the Masonic way to make things happen, particularly in the all-important task of building for God, for country, and for mankind; if we, as Masons, work hard to achieve unity, peace and harmony not only among ourselves, but also among our countrymen and among nations; if we Masons relate to our fellows in such a way that they will see in each one of us a "diamond among gems" precisely because we demonstrate, by our acts, that we are a group of men at work striving for the completion of a spiritual temple, which is the individual's moral and spiritual growth; and if we make the world our temple, each one of us helping to build a better and finer world according to the Divine Plan.

Ours is a rendezvous with responsibility - the responsibility of realizing our dream of a very vibrant Masonic Brotherhood through a longer-term vision 2020, much like the perfect 20/20 eyesight, much more capable of building better men, a better country, and a better world all for God's greater glory.

ge of Free and Accepted Mas
of the Philippines

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION
INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

Plaza Hotel

1 27, 1996



ELECTED OFFICERS 1996-1997

RW FRANKLIN DEMONTEVERDE, Junior Grand Warden; RW LEON A. BANEZ, JR., Deputy Grand Master; MW JOSE PERCIVAL L. ADJONG, Grand Master; and RW ENRIQUE L. LOCSIN, Senior Grand Warden



Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE 1440 SAN MARCELINO ST., ERMITA, MANILA

MASONIC VISION 2020:

MASONS BUILD FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY, AND FOR MANKIND



**"BY OUR ACTS SHALL
MASONRY BE JUDGED"**

"SHARE THE MASONIC LIGHT"

"MASONRY IN SPIRIT AND IN DEED"

**"BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH
-OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT"**

"KEEP THE MASONIC FLAME BURNING"

"FREEMASONRY: OUR WAY OF LIFE"

**"MASONS MAKE IT HAPPEN THE BROTHERLY WAY,
FOR THE BROTHERLY WAY IS THE MASONIC WAY"**

"UNITY, PEACE AND HARMONY THROUGH MASONRY"

"A MASON AMONGST MEN IS A DIAMOND AMONGST GEMS"

"THE WORLD IS OUR TEMPLE"

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VW Emil Langomez