



The Cabletow

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



MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master (with hat), together with MW Romeo A. Yu, PGM (to his right), CDO Mayor & Bro. Vicente Y. Emano (4th from right), and other Mindanao Masonic leaders pose before Centennial Marker



VW Edgardo B. De Veyra RX-A, declares the 55th Mindanao Masonic Convention and Centennial Anniversary of Freemasonry in Mindanao duly closed.

IN CELEBRATION OF CENTENNIAL OF FREEMASONRY IN MINDANAO



MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, and other Masonic leaders pay Misamis Oriental Governor Oscar S. Moreno a courtesy call.



The Grand Master, PGM Romeo A. Yu, and other Grand Lodge Officers with CDO Mayor/Bro. Vicente Y. Emanó.



Brethren of Maguindanao Lodge No. 40 with Centennial Marker at the background.

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THE CABLETOW



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LOOKING BACK TO WHAT WE'VE ACCCOMPLISHED SO FAR, LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT WE STILL HAVE TO DO

Now that 10 months of my year in the Grand East have elapsed and soon I'll be descending from the time-honored Grand Oriental Chair, Janus-like, I tend to look back to what we have accomplished so far and to look forward to what we still have to do.

Besides performing our ceremonial duties with fidelity and conscientiousness, such as constituting new Lodges and attending district, multi-district and regional conventions, we officially visited foreign Grand Jurisdictions, such as the Grand Lodges of Washington, California and China, to strengthen our fraternal relations with them. We also visited our overseas Lodges like those in Guam, Saipan and the Marshal Islands to make them feel we always have a zealous regard for their interest, welfare and prosperity.

Moreover, we launched "Sagip Kalikasan Dos" as a follow-up of the initial nationwide simultaneous tree-planting activities. Lodges and Districts returned to the places where they had planted seedlings/trees last year and replaced those which failed to survive in the initial planting.

We also conducted in November 2010 an interfaith worship at the Lodge, District or Regional levels, where diverse faiths offered simple prayers for peace and prosperity in the different parts of our Grand Jurisdiction. The brethren and others who attended the interfaith worship partook of the meals prepared by the hosts in an atmosphere of brotherly love, friendship and camaraderie.

Besides, we strengthened the mentoring programs of the different Lodges for their new members and directed the Lodges' Committees on Masonic Education to use judiciously the Lodge System of Masonic Education prepared by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Recently, we undertook several activities to make the celebration

of the 98th anniversary of the founding of our Grand Lodge meaningful and memorable. On December 17, 2010, we inaugurated the improved GLP Library and held the ceremonial pouring of concrete for the new GLP Dormitory Building. On that memorable day, history repeated itself. In 1984, then Grand Master Reynato S. Puno called for support for the establishment of the GLP Library, and his call for support was answered by approximately 112 individual Masons, Masonic Lodges and other Masonic Bodies. On December 17, 2010, we similarly saw 120 individual Masons, Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies heed again the GLP's call for the improvement of the GLP Library.

We improved the GLP Library to make the brethren more knowledgeable on the deeper meaning of Freemasonry. The object of Freemasonry, after all, is to make men better by stimulating them to learn avidly its priceless precepts and pure principles and then to live these precepts and principles consistently in daily life, as well as to disseminate them widely among non-Masons, so that the latter will also ennoble and exalt themselves.

We likewise undertook the initial stages of the building of a Masonic Dormitory to ensure that Masons from the provinces would have a nice place to stay in when they visit the GLP.

The two undertakings came about to infuse greater dynamism to the Fraternity and make it more relevant in these rapidly changing times. The new GLP Library, therefore, has

been provided with computers with internet connection. An electronic library has been set up to enable the brethren to access the vast information about the Craft and other fields related to it all over the world. It will not only make our brethren more technologically savvy but also more conforming to our Masonic tenets and teachings. With new means of accessing information, the brethren can truly exploit their capabilities to improve themselves and their fellowmen.

Our vision, furthermore, is to provide our SGL, JGLs, DGLs, and members of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) with electronic tablets like locally produced ipads for the their connectivity to the same electronic library and the entire world. Once this plan materializes, their skills in imparting Masonic Education will surely be not only enhanced but revolutionized as well. All of these efforts to improve and modernize the GLP Library are motivated by our desire to fully operationalize it after it was burned down together with the entire Plaridel Masonic Temple in 2000. Its transformation during this Masonic year is likewise a manifestation of our admiration of, as well as our gratitude to, MW Reynato S. Puno, our Grand Master in 1984, who first established this repository of Masonic knowledge. It is only fitting and right that we now build on what he started.

The same quest for excellence spurred us to start the construction of the GLP Dormitory Building. We want to give proper accommodations to the brethren from the provinces when

they come to the GLP for meetings and other Masonic functions. Once it is erected, the Dormitory Building will serve as a comfortable place for them to stay in at subsidized prizes.

The ceremonial pouring of concrete over, the construction of the Dormitory Building is now in full swing, and it will continue to be during the terms of RWBs Juanito Abergas, Santiago Gabionza, Jr., and Juanito Espino, Jr.

To make the celebration of the 98th anniversary of the founding of our Grand Lodge all the more significant, we launched the celebration of the centennial of our Grand Lodge with fitting ceremonies held at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite and honored distinguished Masons in Government with a testimonial lunch held in Island Cove, also in Kawit, Cavite. Each of the honorees was given a medallion and certificate.

We have also installed a new elevator in the GLP Building.

Next, I hope that the officers of our subordinate Lodges installed during the first three months of 2011 discharge their respective duties faithfully

and conscientiously, so that our Lodges will be recognized widely as potent forces for good available to intelligent and promising young men in our communities.

I look forward with much anticipation to seeing all of you, dear brethren, in the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Davao City on April 28-30, 2011. Let us all contribute to making it a veritable "showcase" for Philippine Masonry because we have actively and enthusiastically participated in all the proceedings therein.

Meanwhile, I urge you to continue to make the practice of all the virtues, as well as of the precepts and principles of Masonry, distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons, so that we will be able to induce others, by both precept and example, to ennoble and exalt themselves likewise.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us always. *Mabuhay po tayong lahat!*



AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.

Grand Master

Let us all contribute to making the ANCOM of our Grand Lodge in Davao City a veritable "showcase" for Philippine Masonry by actively and enthusiastically participating in all the proceedings therein.

SOME LESSONS WE MAY LEARN FROM THE CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS

THE INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS is a very opportune time for re-dedicating ourselves to fulfilling our charge to help preserve unsullied the Fraternity's reputation and to assist in removing every aspersion against it; for the Ceremony of Installation conveys lessons that apply not only to the officers to be installed but to all other brethren as well.

All of us, and not only the officers, are expected to be highly skilled or proficient in the ritual and ceremonies of our Craft; for these are what distinguishes us from other organizations.

All of us, and not only the officers, must also be zealous and enthusiastic in our regard for the interest, welfare, and prosperity of our respective Lodges in particular and of the Fraternity in general; for if we are not, who will be?

All of us, and not only, the officers, must persistently practice the virtues, as well as faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties, which the various symbolic working tools, hieroglyphical emblems, and other implements presented in the Ceremony of Installation have been selected to illustrate.

We must, for instance, proficiently use the Square, by regulating all our actions and letting our conduct be governed by the principles of morality and virtue.

We must, moreover, proficiently use the Compasses, as well as the Point within a Circle, by limiting our desires in every station and never suffering our passions, prejudices and selfish interests to become the masters of our judgment.

We must also proficiently use the Rule, by undeviatingly performing all our duties, ever pressing forward in the straight path of right and truth, without inclining to the one hand or the other in all our doings because we constantly keep eternity foremost in our minds.

Besides, we must make proficient use of the Plumbline, by avoiding all dissimulation or pretense and by pursuing that honest and upright course in life which will tend to our elevation in the higher realms of immortality.

All of us, and not only the officers, must reverently study the Book of Holy Writings, the great light in Masonry and the rule and guide of our faith, and consistently use its life-giving

precepts and lessons of wisdom and truth for leading rich, abundant and meaningful lives.

We must, of course, diligently search the Constitutions of Masonry, particularly the Constitution of our Grand Lodge, as well as help the officers carefully and punctually execute the By-Laws of our respective Lodges; for if we ourselves do not strictly observe our own laws and regulations, we cannot, and must not, expect others to do so.

We must, in addition, be proficient users of the Level and the Plumb; that is to say, we must strictly observe and widely disseminate the principles of Equality among all men, Brotherly Love and Relief, as well as walk uprightly justly in our several stations before God and man, be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of our own inclinations during our social fellowships, and exert much effort to avoid converting the means of refreshment into intemperance and excess.

On all occasions, we must tye ourselves; that is, we must set a guard over our thoughts, a watch to our lips, and post a sentinel over our actions. By doing so, we will guard effectually against the approach of every unworthy thought, word and action, and therefore preserve our own consciences void of offense toward God and man.

We must, furthermore, persistently practice out of the Lodge those great moral duties we have learned in it. Since the indiscreet or irregular behavior of just one Mason will negate or

set asunder the noble deeds of a thousand or more brethren, we must conduct ourselves so amiably, discreetly, and virtually at all times and in all places that the non-Masons public will recognize Masonry as a continuous pursuit of excellence, personal perfection, or self-mastery; as one of the most potent forces for good available to the modern world; as an art and science of character building and high ethical living that walks arm in arm with progress toward a better way of life; as a fraternal organization like no other.

Adequate knowledge of Masonic philosophy and jurisprudence, uprightness of character and integrity of purpose, and faithful and conscientious discharge of duties should distinguish our conduct as men and as Masons.

We must earnestly endeavor to make Harmony the strength and beauty of our respective Lodges. We must sincerely strive to transform every one of them into a "society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."

Those of us who have been chosen to govern our Lodge must be kind and condescending to their subordinates, and be sufficiently conversant with the general rules of propriety and the laws of our Institution that they will avoid exceeding the powers entrusted to them. The brethren who are inferior in rank or office must not envy the preferment of the officers of the Lodge but must be obedient and submissive

to them; The equals or peers among us must always show courtesy and affability to one another. Whatever role we may play, we must exhibit humility. All of us must have but one aim: to please one another and unite in the grand design of promoting happiness.

To enjoy our membership, participation, and involvement in the Lodge and in the Craft, we must work together in close harmony toward common goals. Doing things together, accomplishing things together, sharing things with one another in sincere love and fellowship, and demonstrating our pride in the Lodge and in the Fraternity not only to one another but to the general public as well – all this will make wonderful things happen. That is what Masonry is all about. If we lose that, we have lost it all.

Masonry, decidedly, is a fellowship. We must, therefore, ensure that we can indulge that fellowship in our meetings and in all our other activities.

In sum, we must eagerly learn

the precepts and principles of Masonry, live them consistently in daily life, and diffuse their light and lustre as widely as we can among our fellowmen, particularly our countrymen, and especially those who come within the circle of our influence; for, to paraphrase a significant statement of Bro. Albert Pike, 33^o:

“If men were all Masons and strictly obeyed with all their heart the mild and gentle teachings of Masonry, then this world would be a paradise, while ignorance and intolerance, prejudice and injustice, bigotry and tyranny, oppression and exploitation, dogmatism and extremism, and other moral evils make of it a hell.”

In fine, the installation of Lodge officers is a very opportune time for us to renew, if not to strengthen, our fidelity and commitment to Masonry, as well as our resolve to study, practice, and disseminate its ideals and principles, its values and precepts, its tenets and teachings.

Doing things together, accomplishing things together, sharing things with one another in sincere love and fellowship, and demonstrating our pride in the Lodge and in the Fraternity to one another and to the general public – all this will make wonderful things happen...

OUR GRAND MASTER'S JANUARY TO APRIL 2011 ACTIVITIES

2011

JANUARY

- 05 - Meeting regarding procurement of books @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- 06 - Courtesy Call, Manila Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1 – 2 p.m.
- Guest of Honor & Speaker, Installation of Maginoo Shrine,
black suit with red tie @ Camp Crame, Quezon City
- Cosmos Lodge Stated Meeting @ SRT – 5 p.m.
- 08 - Election of Mabuhay Shrine Temple @ GLP - 1 p.m.
- 13 - Courtesy Call, Supreme Officers, Order of Amaranth
@ GLP - 3 p.m.
- 14 - Corporate Board and Board of Regents Meeting @ GLP – 5 p.m.
- 17 - Meeting with Committee on Resolutions – 9 a.m.
- Meeting with Cabletow Committee @ GLP – 2 p.m.
- Meeting with Committee on Cemetery @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- Meeting with Saipan-Guam delegations @ GLP – 5 p.m.
- 18 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Installation of Officers,
Manila Mt. Lebanon No. 1 @ SRT – 5 p.m.
- 19 - Meeting with IMES Accounting Committee @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- 20 - Courtesy Call, Grand Master of Grand Lodge of China
@ GLP – 4 p.m.
- Call by Ill. Bro. Thomas Santiago @ GLP – 4:30 p.m.
- 21 - Guest of Honor and Speaker, Installation of Officers,
Dr. Sun Yat Sen Lodge No. 398 @ GLP – 2 p.m.
- Closing Remarks, Installation of Officers, Cosmos Lodge No. 8
@ SRT – 6 p.m.
- 22 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Installation of Officers, Mabuhay
Shrine @ Cebu City – 7 p.m.
- 24 - Meeting with IT and Accounts Committee with Librarian – 2 p.m.
- 25 - Meeting with Masonic Clock Committee – 4 p.m.
- 26 - Meeting with Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc.
- Meeting with Philippine Balanghay
@ Golden Fortune – 7:30 p.m.
- 27 - Meeting with Masonic Park Committee – 2 p.m.
- Guest of Honor & Speaker, Installation of Officers,
St. John Corregidor @ SRT
- 28 - Meeting with Ancom Davao Committee – 3 p.m.
- Dinner with Council of Elders @ Dragon Gate Restaurant,
Pasay City – 7 p.m.
- 30 - Guest of Honor & Speaker, Escudo DeMolay Chapter
@ SRT – 4 p.m.
- 31 - Meeting with Committee on Procurement of Books – 2 p.m.
- Meeting with Committee on Revision of the Constitution

FEBRUARY

- 02-06 - District Convention and Overseas Visitation, Masonic District Overseas-A, Guam and Official Overseas Visitation, Masonic District Overseas-E, Saipan
- 07 - Meeting with Grand Organist Committee @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- Meeting with IT Committee – 4 p.m.
- Official Lodge Visitation, Trinity Lodge No. 367 – 7 p.m.
- 08 - Meeting with Dormitory Committee @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- GH/S, Installation of Frank Reed Horton Lodge No. 379 @ SRT – 5 p.m.
- 09 - Divans Committee Meeting @ GLP - 2 p.m.
- 10 - Meeting with Budget Committee of Mabuhay Shriners – 2 p.m.
- 12 - Cosmos Lodge No. 8 Ladies Night @ Corinthian Plaza Building @ 7 p.m.
- 15 - Meeting with Procurement of Books Committee @ GLP - 3 p.m.
- Meeting with Cavite Lodge Recovery Team – 4 p.m.
- 16 - Meeting with VW Jose Matutino, DDGM, RIIL-F @ GLP – 2 p.m.
- 17 - Meeting with Masonic Charities for Crippled Children @ 4 p.m.
- Meeting with Masonic Park Committee @ GLP – 4 p.m.
- Gala Dinner with Knights of Rizal at Manila Hotel – 7 p.m.
- 18 - Mabuhay Shriners General Assembly @ GLP – 2 p.m.
- Dinner with Council of Elders @ BISTRO Remedios Restaurant, Adriatico St., Manila – 7 p.m.
- 21 - Meeting with VW Vic Yu, VW Nelson Yau, AGS, AAGM, EAGM regarding GM's report – 5 p.m.
- 23 - Cavite Lodge Recovery Team Meeting with RW Gabionza, Jr. @ GLP - 2 p.m.
- Corporate Board Meeting @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- PGMs meeting with VW Guillermo Lazaro @ GLP – 5 p.m.
- 24 - Meeting with IT Committee @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- Meeting with Special Directory Committee @ GLP – 4 p.m.
- 25-26 - 55th. Mindanao Regional Convention, Host: RX-A,
Maguindanao Lodge No. 40, Cagayan De Oro City
Western Mindanao Region
Northern Mindanao Region
Southern Mindanao Region

MARCH

- 03 - Meeting of OSM @ Causeway – 6 p.m.
- 04 - Meeting with IT Committee @ GLP – 4:30 p.m.
- 07 - Meeting with AGS regarding Ancom Preparations – 1 p.m.
- OSM Stated Meeting @GLP, Black Suit – 6 p.m.
- 09 - Meeting with Committee on Revision of the Constitution @ GLP – 1 p.m.
- Meeting with Grand Treasurer – 2 p.m.

- Meeting with Masonic Park Committee @ GLP - 3 p.m.
- Official Visitation, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Lodge No. 398 @ 6 p.m.
- 10 - Official Visitation, La Guardia Lodge No. 378 @ 3 p.m.
- 11-12 - Annual Session, Scottish Rite Temple, Manila
- 14 - Ancom Preparations Meeting with AGS & AAGM – 2 p.m.
- 15 - Cavite Lodge Recovery Team Meeting @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- 22 - Ancom Preparations Meeting with VW Vic Yu, AGS & AAGM
@ 4 p.m.
- 23 - Shrine Divans Committee Meeting @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- Corporate Board Meeting @ GLP - 5 p.m.
- Dinner with Council of Elders @ Sze Chuan Restaurant,
Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard – 7 p.m.
- 24 - Meeting with VW Jose Matutino, Jr., DDGM RIII-F, VW Edwin
Abuan, WB Oliver Ang, WB Rod Leo Banalagay
@ GLP - 3 p.m.
- 29 - Meeting with Masonic Park Committee @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- 30 - Ancom Preparations Meeting with VW Vic Yu,
AGS & AAGM – 3 p.m.
- Shurtah Meeting – 7 p.m.
- 31 - Shrine Ceremonials hosted by Bamboo Shrine Club
@ Las Brisas, Antipolo – 3 p.m.

APRIL

- 01-02 - Shrine Ceremonials (continuation)
- 04 - OSM Stated Meeting @ Causeway – 6 p.m.
- 05 - PGMs Meeting with ELECOM @ GLP – 3 p.m.
- 07 - Maginoo Shrine Club @ Swiss Inn – 6 p.m.
- 11 - Cavite Lodge Recovery Team Meeting – 3 p.m.
- 13 - Official Lodge Visitation, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Mem. Lodge No. 398
- 14 - Official Lodge Visitation, La Guardia Lodge No. 378 @ GLP
- 15 - Dinner with Council of Elders @ Dragon Gate Restaurant
- 16 - Guest of Honor and Speaker, Cornerstone Laying,
Mendez-Nuñez Lodge No. 316 Temple @ Brgy. Anuling,
Lejos II, Mendez, Cavite
- 20 - Dinner for Brethren from Washington @ Sze Chuan Restaurant,
Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard @ 7 p.m.
- 26 - Grand Master's Golf Tournament @ Apo Golf and Country Club,
Davao City – 6 a.m.
- 27 - Guest of Honor and Speaker, Annual Convention, Grand Guild
of Past Masters @ Davao Masonic Center – 2 p.m.
- 28-30 - 95th. Annual Communication, Davao City
Host: RXI-A

Deadline of Submission of Committee Reports

In his 22nd Circular, which he issued on Jan. 6, 2011, our Grand Master, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., urged the chairmen of the standing and special committees of the GLP to submit to the Grand Lodge the reports of their respective committees on or before Feb. 15, 2011, so that the Grand Lodge would have sufficient time to produce enough copies of the said reports for inclusion in the kits to be given to registered delegates to the GLP's Annual Communication in Davao City on April 28-30, 2011.

It is hoped the committee chairmen heed our Grand Master's urging.

Examination for Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2011-2012

To insure that elected and appointed Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2011-2012 are duly and truly prepared to discharge their respective duties, the Grand Lodge Inspectors and District Grand Lecturers, under the supervision and guidance of the District Deputy Grand Masters, are enjoined by MW Razon, in his 23rd Circular dated Jan. 7, 2011, to conduct the examination prepared by the Senior Grand Lecturer.

Masters-elect, Wardens-elect and Lodge officers to be appointed shall be examined as to their proficiency in the opening and closing of the Lodge, the presentation and retirement of the Flag, reception of dignitaries, and the singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn.

Masters-elect and Wardens-elect shall also answer questions on the rules and regulations pertaining to the government of a Lodge (Attached to the Circular is a questionnaire on this subject).

Junior Grand Lecturers should be ready to assist the aforementioned District Officers in conducting the examinations either within a Lodge or in a district meeting.

Besides, DDGMs must make sure that no Master-elect of any Lodge shall be installed unless he has served as Warden in a Lodge.

Appointment of New AGS

In his 24th Circular dated Jan. 12, 2011, MW Razon informs all Grand Officers, Masters and Secretaries of Subordinate Lodges that since VW Godofredo

V. Señires, Jr., appointed Assistant Grand Secretary (AGS) for Masonic Year 2010-2011, has tendered his resignation effective January 2011, he has appointed VW Julio M. Cabali as the new AGS to replace VW Señires, Jr.

The Grand Master fraternally requests all brethren wheresoever dispersed to extend full assistance and give due courtesies to VW Cabali as he discharges the responsibilities of his new office.

Appointment of New Grand Web Master

VW Eugenio V. Sicat, appointed Grand Web Master for Masonic Year 2010-2011, has tendered his resignation effective November 27, 2010. Therefore, in his 25th Circular, dated Feb. 5, 2011, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, informs Grand Officers as well as Masters and Secretaries of Subordinate Lodges, that he has appointed RW Ross Rosales as the new Grand Web Master to replace VW Sicat.

States MW Razon, Jr.: "RW Rosales has accepted the appointment for the best interest of Freemasonry. I am, therefore, fraternally requesting all Brethren withersoever dispersed to extend full assistance and give due courtesies to RW Rosales as he discharges the responsibilities of his new office."

(Congratulations, Kuyang Ross Rosales!)

Music for Subordinate Lodges

In his 26th Circular, dated February 7, 2011, MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, informs the brethren that:

"We are aware of the importance of music in making any ceremony solemn. However, it has been noted that each lodge plays its own set of music. In the hope of standardizing the set of music to be played during ceremonies in our Grand Jurisdiction, the Grand Organist was tasked to identify the list of music to be played for every ceremony. A three-member committee, composed of VW Arnel M. Ofendo Reyes – Grand Organist, VW Emmanuel J. Diesta, Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master, and Bro. Arnel C. Chua of Mencius Lodge No. 93, was formed for this purpose.

"In this regard, a list of music for each ceremony is now available. Please coordinate directly with Bro. Arnel C. Chua at barcheck.chua@gmail.com or you may see VW Emmanuel J. Diesta at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to receive the CD along with the instructions."

Ladies Certificate

Our Grand Master, MW Avelno I. Razon, Jr., in his 27th Circular, dated Feb. 8, 2011, states the following:

"The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines will start issuing 'Ladies Certificate' to the Master Masons wife to make her feel the honor of being a 'better-half' of a proficient Master Mason. This patent could be used to seek the protection and assistance of all Freemasons throughout the World, unto whom this present shall come.

"The issuance, however, of this Certificate requires the Brother Master Mason to be a holder of a Master Mason's Certificate."

Preparation and Submission of Minutes of Stated Meetings, Treasurer's and Secretary's Financial Reports

The Grand Master's 28th Circular, dated Feb. 16, 2011, reads as follows:

"The Grand Lodge has received reports of minutes of Lodge meetings which vary in length and substance. In fact, some of those reports appear to be so careless in sentence construction that they are quite difficult to understand. Besides, it has found the financial reports submitted by Lodge Secretaries and by Lodge Treasurers to be different in both content and form. Therefore, the Office of the Grand Secretary has found it rather difficult to determine from the reports the actual operation and financial status of the subordinate Lodges.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, AVELINO I. RAZON, JR., by virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby enjoin the brethren concerned to submit regularly and punctually reports that conform to the following requirements:

"1. In reporting the Minutes of Stated Meetings, Lodge Secretaries must strictly follow the order outlined in the attached "Agenda in the Stated Meeting," and be more careful than before in constructing their sentences as to make their reports clear, coherent and therefore comprehensible.

"2. In their respective financial reports, Lodge Treasurers and Secretaries must fill out all lines with the required figures, as is provided in the "Annual Report Assessment Forms," they may attach to the Grand Lodge Standard Forms their own Lodge's parallel supplemental forms, but these must follow standard accounting procedures and the total amounts shown therein must jibe with those indicated in the Grand Lodge Standard Forms."

Attached to the Circular is the "Agenda in a Stated Meeting," as follows:

1. Opening of the Lodge;
2. Flag Ceremony;
3. Singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn;
4. Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Stated Meeting;
5. Financial Reports –
 - a. Secretary's Financial Report
 - b. Treasurer's Financial Report

- c. Almoner
- d. Auditor's Report
6. Committee Reports
7. Reading of Grand Lodge Edicts and Circulars
8. Masonic Education
9. Petition(s) Received
10. Balloting
11. Birthday Celebrants
12. Almoner's Duty: passing of bag of fraternal assistance
13. Proficiency Examination
14. Conferring of Degrees
15. Additional announcement of the Worshipful Master
16. Address of any Grand Line Officers, if any
17. Closing of the Lodge
18. Signature of the Lodge Secretary and Worshipful Master's approval

Wearing of Distinctive Lodge T-Shirts during the Grand Master's Night in Ancom

Our Grand Master's Circular No. 29, issued on Feb. 16, 2011, reads as follows:

"It is our burning desire to make every Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge a veritable 'showcase' for Philippine Masonry. It has been noticed by the Grand Lodge leadership that delegates of subordinate Lodges to the Annual Communication wear barong tagalogs that identify them as members of particular Lodges. This is indicative of their desire to exhibit their pride in their respective Lodges not only to one another but also to other brethren and even to the general public, thereby demonstrating their deep sense of belonging to their respective Lodges.

"Now, the Grand Master's Night, which is to take place on Thursday, April 28, 2011, should be one of the highlights of the Annual Communication in Davao City. This is a very opportune occasion for showing our pride in as well as our sense of belonging to, our own Symbolic Lodges.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, AVELINO I. RAZON, JR., by virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby encourage and particularly request members who will attend ANCOM 2011 in Davao City to wear distinctive Lodge T-shirts during the Grand Master's Night."

Ancom Grand Master's Cup: 10th Sonny Razon's Golf Classic

"Pursuant to Circular No. 7 – Razon dated July 2010 re 2010 Grand Master's Cup and in connection with the 2011 Annual Communications in Davao City, the Committee on Resource Generation and Development, chaired by RW Juanito G. Espino, Jr., Junior Grand Warden, shall conduct the ANCOM 2011 Grand Mas-

ter's Cup: 10th Sonny Razon's Golf Classic on 26 April 2011 in APO Golf and Country Club.

"The Grand Lodge intends to hold such tournament purposely to raise funds to augment the financial requirements on various infrastructure projects specifically the Grand Lodge Dormitory and other charity and community programs for the less privileged people in our society. The ANCOM 2011 Grand Masters Cup also purports to develop camaraderie among the brethren and its partners in other sectors of society for a more healthy and vibrant friendship.

"For proper management and coordination of the tournament, a Special Committee is hereby formed with the appointment of the following brethren who shall manage, direct, coordinate, organize, and supervise the preparation and groundwork of the event:

Chairman	:	WB Jaime P. Naranjo, PM
Vice-Chairman	:	VW Arnold O. Ancog, PDDGM
Members	:	VW Lito Caballero, PDGL VW Edward Sevilla, DGL WB Rolando Periquit, PM
Coordinators	:	Bro. Adelfo B. Castro Bro. Nonoy P. Albinda Bro. Diaralcasan Ibrahim Bro. Zainal Ompig Bro. Roger Tero Bro. Wilson Ibrahim Panawidan Bro. Franklin Buno

"The Committee shall also establish close coordination with RW Juanito P. Abergas, DGM, RW Juanito G. Espino, Jr., JGW, and WB Alexander I. Go, PM, regarding the tournament's status and development.

"All collections pertaining to such shall be made by the Committee and the same shall be remitted to the bank account of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines with the proper issuance of official receipts for accounting and auditing purposes.

"Other details and specific information of the golf tournament shall be covered by a separate issuance. The Committee is advised to submit a final report to the Grand Lodge fifteen (15) days after the tournament."

The duties incumbent upon the Grand Master in his most exalted station are fraught with grave responsibilities.

ANG EBOLUSYON NG WATAWAT NG PILIPINAS

Isinalin sa Tagalog ni Pinaka Marangal Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GS; inilahad ni Marangal na Guro Jaime Y. Mangahis noong Disyembre 18, 2010 sa Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite.

Tinatamasa ng mga Pilipino ngayon ang KALAYAAN dulot ng tunay, matapat at matatapang na mga kalalakihan na nagbuwis ng kanilang buhay sa altar ng pagpapakasakit --- mga bayaning nagdilig ng kanilang mga dugo sa ating banal na lupain. Lingid ba sa kanilang kaalaman kung ano ang nagbigay lakas sa mga Pilipino upang mag-aklas tulad ng mga Pranses, Amerikano at mga Mexicano? Ang lakas ng Masonerya na samahan at ng Hongkong Junta na kinabibilangan ng mga Pilipinong may lubos na hangaring bumalik sa pinakamamahal na bansa --- nang di man lamang nasilayan ang buwang liwayway ng tunay na Kalayaan. Ipinagpatuloy nila ang laban, sa paniwalang ito ang nararapat bagaman alam nila ang halaga ng Kalayaan.

Yaon ang nagbunsod upang maging simula ng nabubuhay na sigaw ng makataong karunungan kung alin ang tama at mali.

Kakaunti ang nakakakaalam sa Kapatirang ito ng tao na ang palatandaan ay ipinahiwatig ng pambansang watawat na dinala ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo dito sa Pilipinas. Ang araw na sumisikat sa Silangan ay nagsasabog ng liwanag sa buong maghapon at nagkakadkad ng angking ganda sa katanghalian bago tumiklop sa Kanluran at ang tatsulok na nagpapahiwatig ng pinakamatayog na Karunungan na siyang batayan ng mga Mason ng kanilang mga Gawain --- mga palatandaan kung paanong ginagawa ang pagmamahal ng walang pag-iimbot ng mga Kapatid na Mason at mga bayaning nagsiyao sa kabilang buhay upang matagpuan ang buhay na walang hanggan at sa gayo'y nakamit natin ang katarungan at walang katapusang kapayapaan sa bawa't isa sa atin at sa mga bansa.

Mga Kapatid, inaanyayahan ko kayong magpugay tayo sa ating Wata-

wat.

Ang ating Watawat ay sagisag ng makuilay na pamana sa atin ng Masonerya na buong puso nating iniingatan. Nararapat lamang kung gayon na tayo'y magpugay ano mang oras na hinihingi ng pagkakataong gawin ito.

Ang mga mahahalagang Watawat sa panahon ng himagsikan ay ang mga sumusunod:

1. Ang kauna-unahang Watawat na KKK ng 1892 = may tatlong malalaking titik na KKK sa kalagitnaan ng rektangulong telang kulay kundiman. Tatlong KKK na kumakatawan sa Kataastaasang Kagalangalang Katipunan. Ang kulay Kundiman o pula ay sumasagisag sa Katapangan ng mga Katipunerong nakahandang lumaban para sa Kalayaan dumanak man ang dugo kung kinakailangan. Ito ang Watawat na iwinagayway noong "UNANG SIGAW

NG BAYAN" sa gawing hilaga ng Maynila noong Agosto 1896.

2. Ang ikalawang Watawat ng Katipunan noong 1892 = isang Watawat na pula na may titik na tatlong puting KKK sa ayos ng tatsulok sa gitna ng malapad na rektangulong tela.

3. Sina-unang Watawat ng Katipunan na may isang titik na K = sa ibang mga lugar, isang titik na K lamang ang nakalagay sa gitna ng rektangulong telang pula.

4. Watawat ni Andres Bonifacio noong 1892 = isang pulang Watawat na may mga titik na puting KKK sa ilalim ng puting mga sinag ng araw. Ito ang ginamit sa kuta ni Bonifacio, ang Dakilang Pangkaraniwang Mamamayan.

5. Watawat ng Magdiwang = ginamit ang Watawat na ito ng mga Katipunero sa Cavite, lalong-lalo na ng hanay ng Magdiwang. Ayon sa Kasaysayan, ito ang ginamit na Watawat ni Aguinaldo hanggang sa malagdaan ang Kasunduan sa Biak-na-Bato.

6. Unang Pisyal na Pagbabago = Ang kauna-unahang opisyal na pagbabago ng Watawat ay nangyari matapos ang pagpupulong sa Naic noong 1897 na pinanguluhan ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo.

7. Ang Watawat ni Mariano Llanera = Ang may kadilimang itim na Watawat na may isang titik na puting K at ng bungo at magkaekis na mga buto. Ang itim na pantakip sa mga Katipunero nang sila ay lihim na tanggapin bilang mga kasapi ang siyang

nag-udyok upang itim ang ginamit sa Watawat na ito. Ang Watawat ding ito ang iwinagayway sa Kuta ni Heneral Mariano Llanera sa Cabiao, Nueva Ecija na siyang nagbigay sa kanya ng bansag na isang matapang at walang takot na mandirigma. "LALABAN TAYO HANGGANG SA WAKAS" ang isa sa kaniyang mahalagang mga pananalita. May namutawi ding pabirong salita buhat kay Andres Bonifacio na ang Watawat na ito ay Watawat ni Llanera.

8. Sumisikat na Araw na Watawat ni Pio del Pilar noong 1896 = Isang pulang Watawat na may puting tatsulok sa gawing kaliwa, higit na nakilala sa kapanahunan ni Heneral Pio del Pilar ng San Pedro de Makati nang gamitin niya noong isagawa ang kasunduan sa Biak-na-Bato. Ang bawat sulok ng tatsulok ay may titik na K. Ang sumisikat na araw sa gitna nito, ay mayroon walong silahis na kumakatawan sa unang walong lalawigang isinailalim sa batas military ni Gobernador Blanco, ang Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Manila, Cavite, Laguna at Batangas.

9. Ang Watawat na may tatlong kulay ni Gregorio del Pilar noong 1897= Ang Watawat na halos ay kawangis ng kasalukuyang Pambansang Watawat ay siyang ginamit ni Heneral Gregorio del Pilar, "ang batang bayani ng labanan sa Tirad Pass." Ang malapad na habing pula sa gawing itaas ay nagpapakilala sa kulay ng Katipunan; ang itim sa gawing ibaba ay nagpapahiwatig ng Watawat ni Heneral Llanera; at ang bughaw na tatsulok sa gaing kaliwa ay hinalaw sa Watawat ng Cuba na noon ay naghihimagsik laban sa Kastila.

10. Ang kasalukuyang Watawat = Ang Ating Pambansang Watawat ngayon hinabi ayon sa lahat ng anyo at katan- gian ng mga naunang Watawat ng Ka- tipunan. Ang mga kilay, mata, ilong, bibig na itim ng sinaunang makasay- sayang Araw ay inialis. Mga maliliit na silahis ay idinagdag; ang bitwing may Limang sulok ay siyang pinili kaysa may tatlong sulok. Ang mga katagang "VIVA LA REPUBLIKA FILIPINA VIVA" ay tinanggal.

Itinakda ang tumpak na laki at mga kulay ng ating Watawat nang lagdaan ni Pangulong Manuel L. Que- zon ang kautusan Blg. 23 noong Marso 25, 1936.

Mga Kapatid, ang Watawat ng ating bansa ay nasa harapan natin ngayon, may mga kulay na Pula para sa

Katapangan, Puti para sa Katahimikan at Bughaw para sa Katarungan; sagisag ng isang Bansa sa ilalim ng pangangal- aga ng DIYOS, di mahahati, na may Ka- layaan at Katarungan para sa lahat. Mga Kapatid, alalahanin natin na ang ating mga pambansang bayani, mga nilalang na nag-alay ng kanilang mga dugo at luha sa Altar ng Pagpapakasakit ay mga bayaning MASON.

Ang Watawat na ito ay ku- makatawan sa puso ng Bansa. Siya ang nakaraan, ngayon at hinaharap ng Bayan at kaniyang Mamamayan.

Higit sa lahat, ang Watawat na yan ay siyang kabuuan ng lahat ng ating mga pangarap at hangrain bilang ma- mamayan --- na ang pagkakaisa, katahi- mikan at kasagaaan ay maghari naway sa ating Kapuluan.

• Jose Rizal: "Let's always love our country, desiring nothing but her welfare; for by doing so, we will labor in conformity to the purpose of humanity dictated by God, which is the universal peace and harmony among His creatures."

• Apolinario Mabini: "Strive for the happiness of your country, by making of her a realm of reason, justice, and work; for if she is happy, you and your family will also be happy."

Pagpupugay sa Watawat

Isinatagalog ni Kapatid Antonio C. Villafuerte
Magat Lodge No. 68



Ang mga pinagtagpi-tagping kulay na nakaladlad sa inyong harapan, ay sumasagisag sa watawat ng ating inang bayan – Ang Pilipinas.

Ito ang kumakatawan ng sangkatauhan, nagkakaisa ang bawat layunin upang maging ganap ang kabuoan, magkabalaklaw na lupain na kailanman ay hindi maghihiwalay, na ang kapangyarihan ay panglipunan, na may iisang adhikain, malaya at makataong gawa.

Ito a simbulo ng ating pambansang kalayaan, binuo sa isipan at pumailanlang sa lahat ng mga mapagmahal at maharlikang nilalang sa baying sinilangan.

Nililok sa panahon ng magti-tipunong kamay, inilunsad ng mga taong mapagpahalaga sa bayan at iginiya ng mapagpalang kalikasan sa tamang patutunguhan.

Isang moog na bakas ang sa atin ay ipinamana at buhay na ala-ala sa karapatan ng bawat isa.

Kasaysayang naisulat sa panahon ng pagsisimula at pagbabalangkas ng isang matatag na bansa.

Lukso ng damdaming nasa dibdib ay mananatili, mga pagmumuni-muni na kaya lang mapapawi, kung wala na ang lahi at ubos na ang lipi.

Ang araw ay naglalarawan ng patuloy na pagsibol ng bayan, at nagpapatunay sa buhay na walang hanggan, ito ang pumapatnubay sa landas ng ating nilalakbay.

Ang kanyang walong sinag ay palatandaan ng unang walong bayan na nagsama-sama para sa kalayaan, ang kislap ng tatlong bituin at liwanag ng tatlong lugar na lupain, handog ng Poong Maykapal sa atin.

Ang putting tatsulok sa atin ay hated, matiwasay at makakapwang pahiwatig na ang kawangis ay tunay at dalisay na paggalaw, ito ang pakahulugan sa tatlong mukha ng kapatiran, tapat na paniniwala, walang hanggang pag-asa at wagas na kawang-gawa.

Ang asul na bahagi ay nagsisawalat, ng taos pusong paglilingkod at ng ating kalidad, na may malinis na hangarin para sa lahat.

Ang kulay pula ay siyang nagbabadya n gating lakas na walang hanggan, na dapat pakahawakan sa nasa-sakupang kalawakan.

Sa kalahatan, ang araw, ang tatsulok at tatlong bituin na bumubuo sa ating bandila ay simbulo ng Mason-erya, "Kapatiran ng tao na nasa pangangalaga ng Diyos Ama."

Bilang pangarap ng ating mga kanunuan, ito ay bayaang mawagay-way ng malaya sa ating mga lupain ng buong tiwala.

Inyong pagmasdan an gating watawat, na inililipad-lipad ng hanging habagat, na sa kanyang ganda at dilag ay walang kahalintulad.

Ang siyang pinagkukunan ng lakas at tapang ng ating mamamayan sa buhay na tahimik, malaya at may sariling galaw.

Ito ay dapat pugayan sapagkat dito nagmumula, ang tuwa at kagalakan, ng ating mga ninuno at bayani maging noong una pa mang kapanahunan.

Ang labi ay idampi bilang pagkilala sa bandila, ng mga matatapang na bunga ng ating Rajah Soliman at Maria Clara.

Ikuyumos sa dibdib ang pinahalalagahang kulay, na ang kaakibat ay ang inang bayang Pilipinas.

Ito'y isapuso para matantong ganap ang kadakilaang gumagabay sa bawat alon n gating buhay.

Igawad ay pagmamahal upang malasap ang katumbas sa pagbubuwis ng buhay, ng ating mga namayaning kapatid sa digmaang tinugaygay.

Ibigay ang karapat-dapat na paggalang, dahil ito ang aninong gumagalaw na sa atin ay lumulukob sa lupang sinilangan.

Ipaubaya sa kataas-taasan hanggang sa dako pa roon, kahit ito ay piping saksi na nagkanlong, sa mga duguan at luray-luray na himaymay ng ating mga bayaning binawian ng buhay.

lalay ang kabanalan sa ating Panginoon ng mga kapatid at bayaning hindi na nakabangon, na ngayon ay nasa kalinga ng Mahal na Poon.

At ipagkatiwala ng buong tapat sa kalangitan at sa mabuting kaugalian na ating kinagisnan, sana ito ay pakaingatan para sa ating kinabukasan ng ating mga anak at mga anak pa ng ating anak, ito ay matamang papurihan at taimtim na dasalan na ang mga namatay ng dahil sa bayan ay hindi namatay lang ng walang kabuluhan.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the Philippines and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

VW Gazmin Responds to the Honor Conferred upon Him and
Other Distinguished Masons in Government at Island Cove,
Kawit, Cavite on Dec 17, 2010.

RENDERING GENUINE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE...

by VW Voltaire Gazmin
Secretary of National Defense

On behalf of my fellow honorees and on my personal behalf, allow me to express our warmest fraternal greetings on this special and pleasant occasion of the formal launching of the Grand Lodge Centennial Celebration.

We thank you most sincerely for this distinct recognition and honor that you have so kindly bestowed upon us. We are truly humbled, and we can only wish that we are worthy.

It is with deep humility that we convey our appreciation for your exaltation of our humble selves, even as we happily share with you our modest achievements as your Brother Masons.

Rendering genuine service to our nation and people is the patriotic duty of our citizenry. This is among the worthy teachings of our forebears on the true meaning of service and love of country. We should not turn our backs but gladly accept the challenge. For with us are the rich lessons on the meaning of service from our Craft, and it reassures us that we shall prevail over every adversity that may come our way.

With your kind permission, fellow honorees, allow me to equally represent you by relating my humble story.

I was contented and happy as I dwelt and labored for our Craft with our brethren at Palanyag Lodge No. 323, until I was awakened by the nagging call to perform a delicate citizen's duty.

In all modesty, serving our country and people has been an in-

tense vocation for me. For 36 continuous years, I devoted my life to the precarious calling of soldiery. And, again, for about two years, I involved myself in the intricate career of diplomacy.

I figured out that I had done more than my share of serving our beloved Motherland, so that I had resolved to give myself a break. I spent most of my time into my recreational passion – playing golf, and enjoying our brethren's company in pleasant fellow-

ships. I thought that having retired for good, these were the ideal activities for me. I never realized that I was wrong, not until the presentation of this third opportunity.

Once more, I have listened to the summon to serve our country in another capacity. I cannot be so naïve and wanting of the sense of nationalism and moral responsibility. I was glad to do it again, my brethren – for our Craft, for our countrymen, and for our endeared nation.

Thus, on that fateful day of July 1, 2010, I took the reins of our Defense Department to perform the mandates

of a new duty. And so I am here with you now at the behest of our Masonic Edict, very appreciative and happy for this district privilege that you have accorded to all of us, your humble honorees today.

Let me thank you, once again, for this rare distinction that you have so kindly accorded to us today. To all of you, our brethren, we share this honor, a small but tangible contribution of our Craft for the ultimate well-being of our beloved country and people.

To MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr, we thank you very much for the pleasure of your generous indulgence...."



MUNTING HANDOG PARA SA MAG-AARAL NG SICAYAB

by WB Richard C. Timosa

WE HAVE ADOPTED Sicayab Elementary School in Sicayab, Dipolog City. We periodically visit the school to find out what the pupils thereof need.

Invariably at the opening of the school year, we distribute school kits to the grade one pupils of the said school. Each kit contains crayons, ruler, pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener, pad paper, notebooks, colored paper, and bond paper.

Joy is for us to make the grateful pupils happy.





“KAILANGAN NATIN NG MAHABA-HABANG PAGHAHANDA PARA SA SELEBRASYON NG SENTENYAL NG G.L.P.”

- Dakilang Guro Avelino I. Razon, Jr.

*(Talumpati na binigkas niya sa Island Cove,
Disyembre 17, 2011)*

Bilang panimula, nais kong ipahayag ang aking matinding kasiyahan na makasama kayo ngayong umaga. Sabay nating natunghayan ang isang seremonyang alinsunod sa tradisyon nating mga Mason. Kinakatawan ng seremonyang ito ang pagsisimula ng ating paghahanda para sa ika-isandaang taong aniversaryo ng Gran Lohiya ng Pilipinas. Ito’y isang paglulunsad ng nata-tanging padiriwang sa patuloy na tagumpay ng ating Kapatiran.

Bagamat sa Disyembre labing siyam, sa taong dalawang libo at labing dalawa pa idaraos ang ika-isandaang taong anibersaryo ng GLP, inumpisahan na natin ngayon ang preparasyon para sa naturang okasyon. Kailangan natin ng mahaba-habang paghahanda upang maging matagumpay ang anibersaryong ito. At wala na yatang lugar na mas aangkop pa sa okasyong ito kundi ang Kawit, Cavite. Alam nating lahat na makabuluhang lugar ang Kawit, Cavite dahil dito ipinanganak at lumaki si Pangulong Emilio Aguinaldo na isa ring Mason. Sa ating mga Mason, ang Cavite ay nabibilang rin sa tatlong Lohiya na bumuo ng unang itinatag ang Gran Lohiya ng Pilipinas noong taong isang libo at siyam na daan labing dalawa. Higit sa lahat, makasaysayang lugar ito dahil hind rin malilimutan na dito sa Kawit, Cavite unang iwinagayway ang bandila ng Pilipina nang makamtan ng ating bansa ang kalayaan noong taong

isang libo at walong daan siyam na pu’t walo.

Tunay ngang hitik sa kasaysayan at tradisyon ang ating seremonya ngayong umaga. Ang pagsisimula ng ating paghahanda para sa sentenaryo ng GLP sa taong dalawang libo’t labing dalawa ay pagpapatunay sa ating dedikasyon sa Masonerya. Tayo’y pinagbuklod ng ating paniniwala at katapatan sa mga prinsipyo ng ating Kapatiran.

At ang pagiging isang Mason sa atin ay malawig ang kahulugan. Hindi lamang natin isinasakaturapan ang mga prinsipyo ng Masonerya; ipinapalaganap din natin ang mga tradisyon nito na karamihan ay nakapaloob sa mga ritwal. Kasama na rito ang seremonya ng pagdiriwang ng mahahalagan kaganapan tulad ng sentenaryo ng ating samahan.

Nagsimula na ang ating paghahanda sa natatanging selebrasyon na ito. Nag – umpisa na ang ating pagpupugay sa lalawigan mismo ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo na isang Mason at kauna-unahang Pangulo ng ating bansa. Isang tanda ng paggalang sa kanyang alaala ang pagkakapili ng kanyang lalawigan kung saan idinaos ang seremonya ng paglulunsad ng ating paghahanda sa ika – isandaang anibersaryo ng GLP. Ito nga ang panimula ng pinakamahalagang okasyon para sa mga Pilipinong Mason.

Sana’y maging inspirasyon din ang kaganapan na ito sa bawat isa sa atin. Inaasahan kong magiging gabay ang kaganapang ito sa pagpatuloy ng ating mabubuting gawain para sa ating kapwa lalo na ang mahihirap at api. Palaganapin natin ang mga mithiin ng Masonerya gaya ng pagmamahal sa kapwa, pagtatanggol sa katotohanan at pagkakawanggawa. Sa ganitong paraan

lamang natin mapapatunayang isinaspuso natin ang kasalukuyang paksa ng ating Kapatiran. Ayon sa paksang ito, dapat natin isakatuparan ang ating mga adhikain upang tayo’y maging mabuting tao at mason“ lyan ang paksa na naglalayong palakasin pa ang Masonerya sa makabagong panahon. Pagsikapan nating sundin ang mensahe ng paksang ito alang – alang sa ating misyon na tulungang iahon sa kahirapan at pagdurusa ang mahihirap at api.

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdalo sa okasyong ito. Ikinagagalak kong makasama kayo sa pagsisimula ng ating paghahanda para sa isang napakahalagang isang daan taong pagdiriwang ng Gran Lohiya ng Pilipinas. Sana’y lagi tayong patnubayan ng Dakilang Diyos!

Muli, maraming salamat Mabuhay ang Gran Lohiya ng Pilipinas! Mabuhay kayong lahat !



WHAT ELSE DO MASONS DO?

The brethren of Kalantiao Lodge No. 187 went to Barangay Tanza-Bonifacio, repainted the fences around the monument of Bro. Andres Bonifacio, replaced the old Katipunan flag with a new one, and then, together with the officials of the barangay, offered floral wreaths at the monument.



THE NEED TO CHANGE THE 1987 CONSTITUTION

by MW and Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno (Ret.),
PGM, GMH



In the last few decades we have witnessed the birth of many “democratic states.” Statistics tell us that in 1914, with the disintegration of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires there were only 55 honest-to-goodness states. Their number jumped to 59 in 1919, to 69 in 1950 and to 90 in 1960. When the cold war ended, the number of democratic states skyrocketed to unprecedented height. After the independence of East Timor in 2007, their total number became 192. Some of these democratic states are now classified as failed states. Freedom House categorized most of these new states as only “partly free.” In the case of the Philippines, some scholars have started to cast a doubting eye on our capacity to comply with the essential requirements of democracy. As early as 2003, they warned against what they call as our “incubus of failure”. They noted our accumulating democratic deficits.

The observation is far from flattering considering our checkered history of fighting for freedom and our elongated experience as a democratic nation. If we look at Asia’s pantheon of ideas, we will find that Jose Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar, and other Filipinos espoused the ideals of democracy ahead of their cerebral counterparts, Mahatma Gandhi included. Indeed, social scientists regard pre-Spanish Philippines as one of Asia’s early hatching grounds of natural rights where the embryo of human dignity was nurtured even by its indigenous people.

It is thus no happenstance that in Asia, we were among the first, if not the first, to constitutionalize the basic rights of man, rights that were to define democracy. A blast from the past will refresh us. In November 1897, Aguinaldo declared our independence from Spain

at Biak-na-Bato and adopted a constitution whose principal features were lifted from Cuba. In a month’s time, however, the Pact of Biak-na-Bato was signed and pursuant to its terms, Aguinaldo agreed to surrender, got exiled to Hongkong in exchange for amnesty, an indemnity of Php 1.7M and the promise of rosy reforms. Thus, our first written constitution came to an end before we would savor our freedoms thereunder.

As fate dictated, the United States and Spain came to war and Aguinaldo and company were caught in the middle. Lured by a false sense, Aguinaldo fought side by side with the Americans against Spain. With the defeat of Spain looming as a certainty, Aguinaldo repaired to Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898 and boldly read the document entitled “Act of the Proclamation of Independence of the Filipino

People," which ruptured every relationship of the Philippines with Spain. At the foot of the Proclamation, it was curiously stated: witnessed by "the Supreme Judge of the Universe" and protected by "the Mighty and humane North American Nation." The new Philippine flag was unfurled and the newly minted national anthem was played.

Aguinaldo's dream that the "mighty and humane North American Nation" would recognize Philippine independence quickly metamorphosed to a nightmare. The US defeated Spain and declared its sovereignty over the Philippines. Thence on, all efforts of Aguinaldo to preserve the Philippine Republic went down the drain. But to his credit, Aguinaldo did one great act of significance to the development of constitutionalism in our country. He convened the Malolos Congress that drafted a new constitution patterned after the constitutions of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Belgium, France and Brazil. It was principally prepared by Felipe Calderon with the sage advice of Cayetano Arellano. The Malolos Constitution was promulgated by Aguinaldo on January 21, 1899. UP historian Teodoro Agoncillo hailed the Malolos Constitution "as a great monument to the capacity of the Filipino people to rule themselves in a democratic way." I quote him:

"xxx The Malolos Constitution was the first important state document that the Filipino people, speaking thru their representatives, ever produced. Democratically oriented, the Congress worked hard to have a Constitution for the people, which was democratic in its aspects. According to this Constitution,

the government established was 'popular, representative and responsible'. It was divided into 3 branches: the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The Constitution also provided for national and individual rights not only of Filipinos, but also of foreigners.xxx The Assembly had only one house...it was unicameral. The President was elected by the Assembly. The department secretaries xxx were responsible not to the president but to the Assembly."

It is worth noting that under the Malolos Constitution, the Assembly was made more powerful than either the executive or the judiciary. Calderon explained why they tilted the balance of power in favor of the Assembly. They were afraid, he said, that if the executive branch became powerful, then the ignorant soldiers who were for Aguinaldo would dominate the government.

Next, we orbited around the sun of sovereignty of the United States and we had to undergo the whitening of our brown democracy. President McKinley formed the First Philippine Commission to study how a civil government would be established in our war-ravaged country. In its Report, the Commission stated that the Filipino people wanted above all "a guarantee of those fundamental human rights which Americans hold to be the natural and inalienable birthright of the individual but which under Spanish domination in the Philippines had been shamefully invaded and ruthlessly trampled upon." Guided by this pious wish, President McKinley issued on April 7, 1900 his instruction to the Commission that the civil government to be erected in the Philippines must

be based on certain "inviolable rules," by which he meant the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution. Hence, the Philippine Bill of 1902, which temporarily provided for the administration of a civil government in the Philippines, carried these "inviolable rules" or Bill of Rights. Likewise, the Philippine Autonomy Act of 1916 or the Jones Law, which called, among others, for an autonomous government for the Filipinos, contained these "inviolable rules" or the guarantees of the US Bill of Rights.

In 1934, the Philippine Independence Law or the Tydings-McDuffie Law was enacted. It guaranteed independence to the Philippines and authorized the drafting of a new Constitution for the Philippines. Two sine-qua-non conditions were imposed by the US --- first, the government to be established must be republican in character and second, it should contain a Bill of Rights. The delegates to the 1935 Constitutional Convention were elected and they chose the eminent Claro M. Recto to be its President. They drafted a Constitution that heavily borrowed democratic precepts from the US Constitution. The resulting Constitution was signed on February 19, 1935, approved by President Roosevelt on March 23, 1935 and ratified by a majority of the Filipino people on May 14, 1935. It served as our fundamental law even after the US granted our independence on July 4, 1946. Notably, it contained an Ordinance which granted US citizens equal rights as the Filipinos in the disposition, exploitation, development and utilization of our natural resources. This economic imposition lasted until July 3, 1974. Despite this economic imposition, the 1935 Constitution served us

in good stead in rebuilding our country from the devastation of World War II. It catapulted us as among the leader countries in Asia in the decades of the 50's and the 60's.

In the 1970's, our constitutional journey took an undemocratic detour. Then President Ferdinand Marcos suspended the writ of Habeas Corpus and shortly thereafter proclaimed Martial Law, ostensibly to quell a communist rebellion and restore peace and order in the country. President Marcos used his extraordinary commander-in-chief powers even while a Constitutional Convention under the leadership of former President Diosdado Macapagal was in progress revising our 1935 Constitution. President Marcos' exercise of emergency powers was upheld by the Supreme Court and the 1973 Constitution was ratified under contentious circumstances. The 1973 Constitution totally reorganized government, validated all the martial law decrees of President Marcos and allowed him to govern with unprecedented powers, including legislative powers.

It took years to bring down the authoritarian regime of President Marcos. One explanation for its long life was the Cold War between the US and Russia. Both superpowers unblushingly patronized client-countries even if they were ruled by dictators who showed no compunction butchering the rights of their people so long as they kept their loyalty to either country. The Cold War enabled all types and stripes of dictators to reign all over the world --- in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, including the Philippines.

In 1986, the regime of President Marcos came to an end. As is the usual case, it was cut down by a revolution of the people, miraculously a peaceful one. The revolution catapulted Corazon C. Aquino to the Presidency. During a short transition, she governed by means of decrees under a Freedom Constitution. She, however, immediately appointed commissioners to draft a new Constitution in lieu of our 1973 Constitution. The Constitutional Commission was headed by Cecilia Muñoz Palma, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court. Its draft Constitution was approved by the Commission on Oct. 12, 1986, signed on October 19, 1986 and was ratified by the people on the plebiscite held on February 2, 1987. The 1987 Constitution established a more democratic government by, among others, expanding the range of human rights of our people, rebalancing the powers of government, and giving the sovereign people more power to govern directly thru referendum, recall and initiative.

Given the age of the 1987 Constitution and the geopolitical changes going within and without the country, the question is whether there is now a need to reconfigure the Constitution to make it more responsive to the interest of our people. To be sure, the world has radically changed since 1987. The Cold War has been replaced by the War on Terror, which is eroding some of our civil and political rights. Communism collapsed and the visible hand that guided its economy has been ousted by the invisible hand behind free enterprise. Capitalism has gained a cultic following and is pushing governments to let loose its regulation of private in-

terests. Globalization is resulting in the rise of supra-regional arrangement of states like the European Union, which is sapping the sovereignty of states. Certainly, these are changes, which were not foreseen by our Constitutional Commission. In the home front, we see the defacing of our democratic façade. We have witnessed, thru the years, the overt attempts at coup-d'etat by the military, its undemocratic role in regime changes, its unconstitutional coddling by leaders of government. We also saw the sickening deadlocks between the Executive and the Legislative, especially in instances when the latter exercised its power to investigate in aid of legislation to crush corruption in government. We saw the raw use or misuse of the political power of impeachment by Congress; we saw the overarching exercise of the power of judicial review even on arguable political issues. We saw the proliferation of political dynasties despite their prohibition. We saw the tightening of the stranglehold by monopolies and oligopolies. We saw the continuing marginalization of the masses by an elite that believes there is constitutional right to be selfish. In short, our declining democracy is not giving the people a responsive and responsible government. Unfortunately, due to impoverished public discussion, all attempts in the past to amend or revise the Constitution to strengthen our democracy have not taken off the ground. It is too tardy in the day to dissect the overt and covert political reasons for these failures, but it is never too late to restart efforts to save our Constitution from irrelevance, strengthen our democracy and enable government to meet the felt necessities of our time. There is reason to believe

that now is the perfect time to rekindle this thought for we have just elected a new President and inaugurated a new government. There is hardly any doubt about the pristine intention of our new President to make our democracy work for our people and it is our duty to help him succeed. I have been in government in all its branches for about forty years and with no exception, I say that our elected officials, early on their term, wanted to succeed in office and leave a legacy to our people. A lot of them failed, for their good intentions were devoured by a system of government that has been overtaken by time and corrupted by unscrupulous men.

The big question is How do we get out of the belly of the whale? My task is merely to provoke debate on the necessity of amending our 1987 Constitution, change some of its dinosaur ideas, improve its institutional mechanisms, all with the end in view of strengthening our democracy and constitutionalism. We need not change the Constitution from root to branches but merely diminish its defects. But we need a modified Constitution to guide our leaders for we cannot allow our leaders to govern by clairvoyance. Let us not be hogtied; let us not be hobbled by orthodoxies for the first rule in the search for solutions to any problem is to be uncertain of the certain. Let me therefore pinpoint some areas of concern which are shared by others watching our difficult journey to democracy.

First. Our representative system of government leaves much to be desired because more than 100 years after exercising our right to suffrage, our elections are still not freed, fair and

honest. This is a proposition that proves itself. It is futile to be blind to the fact that our elections are too expensive; they are often won by force or fraud; they are not issue - oriented and they are more popularity contests where an unenlightened electorate usually trumps the enlightened. The result is a Congress, which is the domain of the elites and dynasties, where our Muslim and indigenous brothers are underrepresented. We need to amend the Constitution to give more reality to the political equality of our people, where the vote of each is of equal value with the vote of others. We do not have a representative government for significant sectors of our society are underrepresented or unrepresented in our policy-making institutions like the legislative. We have a synthetic democracy where the system allows our leaders to be elected not by the majority but a mere minority. A hallmark of democracy is rule by the representatives of the majority and democratic majority includes not only the who is who but also the who is not in society.

Second. Our democracy is not only tainted by political inequality but also by a worsening social and economic inequality. A pestering social and economic inequality is anti-democratic and anti-republicanism. For they breed people who lack the capacity to exercise effectively their civil and political rights. Democracy is about who makes decisions and it cannot succeed in a setting where sovereignty resides in the many who are not free because they are uninformed. We need no evidence to prove these tearful facts: the eyeball evidence of the millions of Filipinos living below the poverty line stares at

us everyday; just follow your nose, and their stench will lead you to their hovels they call homes. At the very least, there is a need to amend our Constitution in order to make some of the basic socio-economic rights of the people, like the right to education and the right to health, demandable from the state in the same manner as our civil and political rights are demandable from the government. Constitutions of countries like South Africa and India have treated these essential socio-economic rights as not merely directional in character but demandable from government for they are considered as requirements of democracy. Lack of finances did not deter them and their democracy became more vibrant. Unless we empower the many by improving their economic lot, we will continue to be ruled by a few who reject the ethics that enough is enough.

Third. The Presidential system of government has resulted in gridlock especially when the leaderships of the executive and legislative departments belong to different political parties. These gridlocks usually prejudice the common good and result in bad governance.

We saw these gridlocks in the past when executive officials refused to obey the summons of Congress exercising its power of investigation in aid of legislation. These refusals shrunk the right of Congress in crafting laws, especially anti-corruption laws. These gridlocks will always stop the wheels of government from working and will not bring about a government that ought to work together for the people. Again, there is need to amend the Constitution

to delineate more clearly the demarcation line between executive privilege and the power of the Congress to investigate in aid of legislation and avoid abuse in the misuse of the power to investigate. Will the adoption of a parliamentary form of government eliminate these gridlocks in a presidential system of government? Will it result in a more responsive government because the Parliament can be dissolved whenever the ruling party fails the people? Will it eliminate the threats of coup-d'etat which are destabilizing to democracy? It is time to audit the merit of all of these arguments.

Fourth. We have a Judiciary that is not completely shielded from partisan politics. No ifs and buts about it, our Judiciary lacks financial independence. A judiciary with a bent back and a begging bowl is anathema to real democracy for it will have no backbone to check the excesses of the other branches of government. A Judiciary independent in paper but a pauper in reality is inimical to constitutionalism for it makes easy for unscrupulous politicians to whip judges to join their halleluiah chorus. It is bad enough for the judiciary to be begging Congress every year for a decent budget but it is worse, walking to the DBM on bended knees for the release of an indecent budget. This has resulted in the tragedy of the High Court citing the DBM for contempt and the greater tragedy of the Executive thumbing their nose to the High Court despite the citation for contempt. This, to my mind, is an unmitigated tragedy to the rule of law. We compound the problem when poverty drives the Judiciary to rely on the benevolence of foreign funders. Again,

let us consider the suggestion that the Constitution should allow a certain irreducible percentage point of the budget for the judiciary and provide for its automatic release.

Fifth. There is need to strengthen the Judiciary by further depoliticizing appointments to the bench. Unless we can remove this virus of partisan politics, molecule by molecule, to disinfect appointments to our Judiciary, our system of checks and balances will never fully work, again to the detriment of democracy. The Judicial and Bar Council can further diminish its vulnerability to partisan politics. Three of its members --- the Secretary of Justice, the representative of the Senate and the Representative of the House --- are carriers of the virus, yet they can be the swing votes on who to include in the short list of nominees to be submitted to the President for appointment to the Judiciary. Even the regular members of the JBC representing the non-partisan stakeholders of our justice system are not totally invulnerable to the arrows of partisan politics. They have an achilles heel which is the desire to be re-appointed as members of the JBC and this desire needs fulfillment by bowing to political pressure. Again, these political vulnerabilities can be plugged by amending the Constitution and reviewing the composition of the JBC and the manner of appointment of its members.

Sixth. There is need to relieve the High Court of its clogged docket and prevent its packing by the appointing authority. Justice to be of real value to democracy must not only be fair but must be fast for if democracy

is boring to the people it is because of justice that travels in the slow lane. It must, above all, be credible. Given the unceasing influx of new cases, the High Court will continuously be burdened with clogged docket, and time constraint is the womb of decisions poor in insight and short in foresight. The possibility of an incumbent President appointing all the members of the High Court during his or her incumbency has come to pass. Right or wrongly, it has raised quizzical eyebrows on the independence of the Judiciary. But, however it maybe, no democracy can succeed without a judiciary enjoying the trust of the people. Ours is the task to produce a Judiciary without these burdens. One way to declug its docket is to amend the Constitution to delimit the High Court jurisdiction only to significant cases. We must also restrict its power so that it will not be having the roving commission to review all acts of government on the ground of "grave abuse of discretion," a term with an amorphous content. There is no democracy in the world where the Judiciary has been empowered to be the policeman of government. Also, the Constitution should be amended to prevent its packing by any President and thus, avoid the perception that courts are mere instruments and extensions of partisan politics. Again, we cannot afford a Judiciary with a cracked confidence.

Seventh. When representative democracy is not fully functioning, as in our case today, then the means by which the people themselves can exercise direct democracy should be improved. More than any of our Constitutions, the 1987 Constitution placed greater

stress on the democratic nature of our state more than the republican character of our government. The Declaration of Principles and State Policies of both the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions simply state: "The Philippines is a republican state xxx." On the other hand, the 1987 Constitution went further as it states: The Philippines is a democratic and republican State..." It is not hard to understand why the 1987 Constitution described our State first as democratic and then secondly, as republican. It is because our 1987 government was brought about by direct action of the people thru what has become known as the peaceful People Power Revolution of 1986. Consequently, the 1987 Constitution as well as its implementing laws introduced novel mechanisms by which the people can exercise direct democracy, together with the representatives they elected or in spite of them, in case they default in effectuating their will and protecting their interest during their governance. Thus, for the first time, under the 1987 Constitution, the people gave themselves the direct power to propose amendments to the Constitution thru the process of initiative. Similarly, our laws now provide for the use of referendum by the people to resolve policy issues and the recall of some elected officials who perform below their expectations. Consistent with the democratic character of our State, the powers of the people to direct our government themselves should be expanded. There ought to be more liberal use of the referendum and a bigger coverage of our elected officials who can be recalled and the liberalization of the process of initiative in amending our Constitution. To put too much stricture in the right of our people in the exercise of direct democ-

cracy nullifies the spirit of EDSA and will bring us back to the misrule of leaders who betray the interest of the people.

The constraints of time shackle me from fingering other areas of concern. These additional areas are the systemic changes needed to address the unabated violations of human rights, changes to uproot the deep-seated corruption in the bureaucracy, changes to make us globally competitive and, changes to provide a more flexible constitutional framework to accommodate the demands of insurgents and separatist groups but without compromising our general interest.

We elect our leaders and it is our duty to provide them with a constitutional framework of government where it will be difficult for them to fail the people. I reject the argument that there is no urgency in amending the Constitution to arrest the decline of our democracy. We do not need a democracy in a stretcher. We cannot wait for our democracy to be in the ICU before calling the doctors.

I started by saying, I am only peddling proposals of change in the hope of provoking debates. If I have done anything correct this afternoon, it is to choose the University of the Philippines as the marketplace of discussion of these proposals. It is one venue where the irrelevant is not treated as irreverent, where there is no idea that is considered as inciting to sedition, where we are taught to doubt and to doubt doubt itself.

Mabuhay ang UP, Mabuhay ang UP College of Law.

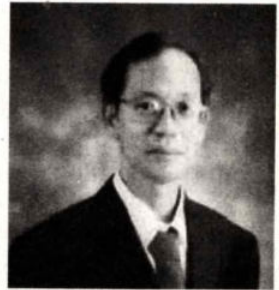
BRETHREN WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THEIR INITIAL NOMINATION BY THE PGMs FOR THE POSITION OF JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN - THEIR BIO-DATA AND INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

EDWARD Y. CHUA

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Birth and Family

Bro. Edward was born on May 14, 1959 at Tacloban City to Bro. Santiago L. Chua, PDDGM, and Sis. Federica Young-Chua, a member of the Orders of the Amaranth and the Eastern Star.



His brother Edwin is a PDDGM, too; his sister Eden, a Past Royal Matron of Tacloban Court, Order of the Amaranth; and his brother Edison, a Past Master of Santiago L. Chua Commemorative Lodge No. 336.

He is married to Sis. Elisa Ida-Chua, also a member of the Orders of the Amaranth and the Eastern Star.

Education

He attended elementary and secondary classes at the Sacred Heart School (SHS) in his native city. He graduated Magna cum Laude from the Divine Word University (DWU) with the degree of AB-Economics. He obtained from the same university his MA-Economics, Master in Business Administration (MBA), MA in Philippine Studies, and Doctor of Philosophy

Work Experience

He was Head of the Economics Dept., College of Commerce, DWU, in 1981-85; Coordinator, MBA Dept., DWU, in 1983-87; Chairman, MBA-MBEd Dept., DWU, in 1989-95, Dean, Graduate School, Asian Development Foundation College (ADFC) before becoming its Executive Vice-President in 2002. He has been a Special Lecturer at the RTR Medical School and the Executive Director of the Institute for Development Studies and Management since 1990. Presently, he is a President of a Rural Bank of Javier and Asian Development Foundation College, CEO.

Government Service

He was a member of the Sangguniang Panglungsod in 1980-85; Tacloban Motion Pictures Review Board, 1980-85; Regional Development Council, 1981-85; City Development Council & Katipunan ng Kabataan National Executive Manage-

ment Board Member, 1983-86. President Kabataang Barangay National Execom 1982-1985. Member of Philippine Parliament, 1985-86.

Honors, Awards

Among these are Citation for being Governor of Leyte during the National Students Week; Outstanding Alumnus for Community Leadership, SHS, 1983; KB Study Grant Magna Cum laude, 1984; National KB Loyalty Award, 1985; Chevalier Award, 2000; DeMolay Grand Roll of Honor, 2000; Cryptic Mason of the Year, 2003-2004; Most Outstanding Scottish Rite Mason in Eastern Visayas, 2004, and Most Outstanding Mason in the Philippines in the Field of Education, 2004.

Organizations

He was President, Tacloban Kabataang Barangay City Federation, 1979; President, Eastern Visayas Chess Association, 1980; Editor-in-Chief, Press Club South East Asian Youth Program News; Regional President, Kabataang Barangay, 1980-1985; City Executive Officer, Youth Barangay Brigade, 1980, Director, Tacloban Chess Training Center, Inc., 1981-83; Executive Board Member, Philippine TOT Baseball League, Leyte Chapter, 1980-83; Vice-President, Philippine Economic Society. Eastern Visaya Chapter, 1982-1987; President, Tacloban Consumers Protection Association, 1982-83; Executive Editor, Sulhog KB Regional Paper, 1980-83; Editor-in-Chief, PANDAY, KB National Paper, 1983-85, Regional Chairman, Malayang Kabataang Barangay of Eastern Visayas, 1986-88; President, Association of Private Secondary Schools in Tacloban, 1983-99; President for Region VIII, Philippine Amateur Baseball Association, 1999-present; President, Regional

Sports Association, 1995-99; President, PRISAA, Eastern Visayas, 2001-present; Director, National Schools Athletic Association, 2001-present; President, Association of Private Colleges, Eastern Visayas, 2001-present; President, Association for Graduate Education, Region VIII, 2005-present; President, Regional Association Higher Education Institution for Region VIII; President, Leyte Amateur Athletic Association, 2005; President, Hotel & Restaurant Association of Leyte, 2005-present. National President, Private School Athletic Association, 2009-present.

Masonic Career

He served as Worshipful Master of Makabugwas Lodge No. 47 in 1996. He is a member of Santiago L. Chua Commemorative Lodge No. 336, Sogod Bay Lodge No. 337 and Biliran Lodge No. 338.

He was DGL, 1997; DDGM, 1998-99; JGL for Eastern Visayas, 2000-04; Grand Orator, 2004-05; JGL for Central & Eastern Visayas, 2005-2008.

He was Venerable Master of Leyte-Samar Bodies, A.&A.S.R., 2002-03; Venerable Master, Leyte Lodge of Perfection, 2003-04; and Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH), Supervisor, Leyte Bodies. He is at present Sovereign Grand Inspector General; (SGIG) for Leyte and Samar. He is Past High Priest, Royal Arch, Eastern Visayas Chapter No. 30; Past Illustrious Master, Council of Royal & Select Masters, Eastern Visayas Council No. 19; Past Commander, Knights Templar Commandery, Eastern Visayas Council No. 19; and member, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests (See of Tiberius LXX) and also a Nights of York Cross of Honor.

He is a member of Aloha Temple, AAONMS.

He was Worthy Patron, Morning Star Chapter No. 12, OES, 2003-04; Royal Patron, Tacloban Court, Order of the Amaranth, 2004-05; Grand Assembly of the Philippines, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, 2004-05; Director of Finance, Tacloban City, International Order of Job's Daughter; Master Councilor, Dr. Manuel Bernardo Chapter, 1975-77; Executive Officer for Eastern Visayas, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, 1994-present; Past National President, DeMolay Alumni Association of the Philippines (DAAP), 1999-2000; Chevalier Degree, 2000; Legion of Honor Degree, 2002 and Nights Templar.

PROGRAM FOR THE FRATERNITY

Freemasonry has assumed a distinctive and exclusive position in the Philippines. Thus, we take pride and honor in being a member.

A well-managed Grand Lodge meets the expectations and ensures the continuity of our ancient and accepted Masonic Fraternity.

We must remember that effectiveness of any organization is determined by its leadership. Effective Masonic leadership lies in mastering a wide range of skills in executive and ritual work, from implementing and administering processes of inspiring the brethren to achieve excellence.

Through various programs and activities, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, as the mother of all subordinate Lodges, has set forth and exemplified the tenets and teachings of

Freemasonry, promoted brotherly love, relief and truth; and achieved harmony among Masons and fellowmen.

The programs I envision are in conformity with the development plans of the Grand Lodge, including the following:

1. The development of the youth through stronger and expanded activities for the Orders of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughter; the care and preservation of the environment; and promotion of closer Masonic Ties among members of the Masonic Family.

2. Continuous Masonic Education is important to equip Masons with the correct tools --- tools to guide us through life.

The Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) is worth our serious attention. A standard curriculum implemented through a modular program and Masonic forum must be considered for every member to advance in Masonic Light, in order to make us relevant and face the challenges of our Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges. This will result in enhanced understanding of the teachings of our brotherhood. This can be implemented through a distance education program.

The more we understand Masonry, the stronger will be our commitment to the Fraternity.

3. The administration and membership must be a vital consideration. For effective and efficient management of the Grand Lodge and its subordinate Lodges, there are two (2) essential el-

ements to be considered, namely, (a) Harmony of the Grand Lodge and its subordinate Lodges (most essential at all times) and (b) Management of property and financial affairs.

For harmony and strong leadership to increase the number and quality of members, we must train and prepare our brethren for Masonic leadership, through their participation in a Masonic Leadership Academy that will develop them for service to the Craft. Their training would include values formation, leadership integration, Grand Lodge program implementation such as scholarship, Masonic assistance, service, net-working, adopt-a-school and community projects. Through this, we will be able to sustain the existing programs and plans of the Grand Lodge.

For Grand Lodge management

of properties and financial affairs, it must (1) be able to maintain a responsive growth in accordance to the mission, goals and objectives of the Fraternity and (2) be able to source and provide funds to support the operations and activities of the Grand Lodge through fund sourcing activities that would be viable throughout the jurisdiction.

4. The most important is, or should be, the Public Relations Program. This program will give a better image of the Fraternity to the public, which ought to know us better.

Good public relations, simply, is priceless.

DOMINADOR VICTOR R. EUGENIO

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Personal Information

Bro. Eugene was born in Manila on November 17, 1987 to Marcelo Sarmiento Eugenio and Eriberta Gaité Revistual.



A Roman Catholic, he is married to Sis. Teresita Atento Claudio, with whom he has two sons: Rainier Carlo and Ralph Chester.

He resides at 718 Lunas St., Brgy. Malamig, Mandaluyong City

Education

He studied at the Mauway Elementary School from 1965 to 1971; at the Divine Word Seminary from 1971 to 1975. He obtained from the same seminary his Associate of Arts in Philosophy in 1976. In 1979 he graduated from the University of Sto. Tomas with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.

Work Experience

In 1980-82, he worked as a Medical Sales Representative at the Bayer

Phils., Inc.; in 1982-85, as a Professional Sales Representative at E.R. Squibb and Sons.

In 1985-90, he served as Training Instructor at Fortune Medicare. Later he was promoted to the positions of Marketing and Sales Manager, Marketing Services Manager and Marketing Services Supervisor.

In 1990-91, he was Account Executive at Logos Shipping Inc.; in 1991-92, Senior Account Executive at Eagle Express; 1992-2001, Line Manager at MOF Company Inc. for Europe Trade Lane, Asia Trade Lane, and Manila-Hongkong-China Trade Lane.

In 2001, he moved to Airspeed International Corp., where he served as Vice-President for Seafreight Sales.

From 2003 to the present, he has worked as Asst. Vice-President at Overseas Freighters Shipping Inc.

Masonic Career

He was initiated, passed and raised at Primera Luz Filipina No. 69 on Aug. 16, Aug. 30 and Sept 13, 1986. On Oct. 4, 1986, he passed the 3rd degree proficiency exam with flying colors.

Since October 1996, he has been a dual member of King Solomon No. 150. A member of the Plaridel York Rite since 1996, he holds membership in the Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpents.

In 1994, he served as the Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge. In the year following, he chaired the Sem-

inar & Workshop Committee for the District Convention of the then MD 10 (now RIV-A1 and RIV-A2), thereby contributing significantly to the same district's winning of the Most Outstanding District Award in the 1996 Ancom.

In 1997, he served as DGL for the said district.

In 1998, he chaired the same district's Plans & Programs Committee. Thus, he contributed to the winning by the district of the Most Outstanding District and Most Outstanding DDGM Awards.

In 2009, he was one of the Outstanding DDGMs in the whole Grand Jurisdiction.

He served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) in the following capacities and years:

- Member, Committee on Works, 1998
- Vice-Chairman, Committee on Works, 2000
- Junior Grand Lecturer (JGL), 2000
- Vice Chairman, Committee on Necrology, 2001
- Member, Committee on Works & Rituals, 2004
- Member of the Committees on Charity, and Cavite Affairs, 2010
- Grand Marshal, 2010

Professional, Masonic Awards & Recognitions

In 1981-82, he was granted by Bayer Phils., Inc. the "Canesten Silver Medal" Award for Highest Sales, both in Cream Preparation and in Solution

Preparation.

In 1984, he received from E.R. Squibb & Sons the "Beat Mercury Sales" Award.

In 1986, Fortune Medicine Inc. granted him the Achiever Award as Most Outstanding Employee (Supervisory Level).

From 1992 to 2001 he was recipient of Service Awards from the MOF Company Inc.

He has received from various Lodges under the GLP some 28 Plaques of Appreciation and Certificates of Merit.

In 1997, he was Most Outstanding District Lecturer of Cavite.

In 2000 he received from the GLP the Grand Master's Plaque of Merit Award.

In 2009, he was adjudged by the GLP as one of the Outstanding DDGMs in the whole Philippine Jurisdiction.

Bro. Eugene's Fervent Prayer:

"In you, my dear GOD, I place my whole being – my mind, my heart, my soul, my family, my needs – everything that I have and will be – I place in your Hands – for I am your servant. Grant me thy Grace to change for the better – to serve Thee through my fellowmen without reservation – without expecting anything in return. Let me not hunger for fame and glory nor fall into temptation of power, greed and money

but let me realize that I am here for a mission and purpose – THAT IS TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF TRUE SERVICE WITH A HUMBLE AND COMMITTED HEART – A MASON STEADFAST IN HIS INTEGRITY AND MORAL PRINCIPLES THAT CAN'T BE CORRUPTED NOR INFLUENCED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH SELFISH AMBITION FOR POSITIONS OF POWER – A TRUE MASTER MASON LABORING IN THE QUARRY OF LIFE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND AND FOR YOUR GREATER GLORY, MY DEAR GOD.... Amen."

For our fraternity to endure and grow, UNITY OF VISION AND CONTINUITY are key factors. There should only be ONE VISION and our objectives should be committed to achieving this VISION. To continue and further develop the good programs of our esteemed and respected Brethren that occupied the Grand Oriental Chair should be of utmost importance for the growth and prosperity in all aspects of our fraternity, namely, morality, uprightness, dignity and integrity. Thus, if given the opportunity to ascend the Grand South and ultimately the Grand Oriental Chair, continuity and further development of our existing Grand Lodge programs shall be the priority. Participative and consultative management of the Grand Lodge and the Blue Lodges shall be given importance and be implemented with the end in view of achieving Harmony, Dedication, Commitment and Involvement of all the Brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction.

PROGRAM FOR THE FRATERNITY

1. Continue and further intensify Masonic Education with strong emphasis

on Masonic Moral Principles and Value Formation. Proficiency in our Rituals is good but UNDERSTANDING and ACTUALIZATION of its meaning in our daily life is the MOST ESSENTIAL. "Practice makes a Mason Perfect."

2. Promote Inter-Lodge and Inter-District interaction through activities such as Degree Conferral Competitions in Lodges and Districts, sports, family fun day, environment awareness programs and most important of all, the involvement of the YOUTH Committee in these activities.

3. Rationalize and institutionalize the Grand Lodge Scholarship Program so as to have clear-cut guidelines and policies of its implementation. Education to needy or less fortunate students in their quest for knowledge shall leave a lasting imprint that shall transcend time as these students shall tell to all that Masons helped them to be where they are today.

4. Continue and promote better Grand Lodge Management thru PARTICIPATIVE MANAGEMENT of the following:

A.) GRAND LINE OFFICERS:

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN – be in charge of the Administrative Department of the Grand Lodge with the guidance of the Grand Secretary.

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN – be in charge of the Operations of the Grand Lodge.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER – be in-charge of the FINANCE Department of the Grand Lodge with the guidance of the Grand Treasurer.

GRAND MASTER – go around the whole Jurisdiction to check on the status of implementation of the various programs of the Grand Lodge and hold dialogues with the Blue Lodges and Masonic Districts regarding problems and find solutions.

B) DISTRICT OFFICERS – oversee and monitor full implementation of the programs of the Grand Lodge by the Blue Lodges and give feedbacks on a regular basis on what is happening in their respective districts

This will enable the incoming Grand Line Officers to have a better and clearer understanding of the functions and problems of each department in the Grand Lodge as well as be involved in finding solutions to preclude such problems.

On the part of the Grand Master, he will have more opportunity to reach-out to and interact with Brethren of the Districts and Lodges in order to know their problems and suggestions for better governance of our Institution. This gesture shall foster closer ties between GLP and the Blue Lodges.

In fine, the realization of these plans depends on you, my dear Brethren – let us cast our votes in accordance with the dictate of our Conscience and not through pecuniary or self-serving influences. Always remember that the future of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction depends upon the sanctity of our votes.

BONAFEBE D. LEYSON

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Birth, Education

Bro. Bonafebe Diel Leyson was born in Macrohon, Southern Leyte on May 20, 1950.

He studied at the Macrohon Elementary School and then at the Macrohon Institute.

He took up A.B. – Political Science at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. Then he enrolled at the Xavier University, Ateneo de Cagayan, where he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws (L.B.)

Professional Qualification, Occupation

A lawyer by profession, he is LRA Regional Director, Region No. 10, and Registrar of Deeds IV, Registry of Deeds for Cagayan de Oro City.

Wife and Children

He is married to Sis. Teresita Dabon-Leyson, an architect, with whom he has three daughters: Katherine L. Galera, a CPA-lawyer and licensed realtor; Fel Angela D. Leyson, a Phil. and U.S. registered nurse, who is now a Canadian immigrant; and Ma. Theresa D. Leyson, a business management graduate.

Residence

He resides in Cagayan de Oro City

Fraternal Affiliations

He is a regular member of Maguindanao Lodge No. 40 in R-10-A, where he was initiated on April 4, 1987; passed on May 21, same year; and raised on June 18, same year.

He is an active member of Maguindanao Bodies, A.&A.S.R.; Mindanao Shrine Club, under the Jurisdiction of Mabuhay Shriners Phils.; and Cadena de Amor Chapter No. 16, Order of the Eastern Star.

He is an honorary member of Punta Sulawan Lodge No. 242, Camiguin



Island Lodge No. 206, and Luzon Shrine Club.

Positions Held in the Fraternity

- Secretary, Maguindanao Lodge No. 242, 1995
- Senior Warden, same Lodge, 1996
- Worshipful Master, same Lodge, 1997
- GLI, Punta Sulawan Lodge No. 242, 1998
- District Deputy Grand Master, Worshipful Master, and Chairman, Mindanao Masonic Convention, 2000-2001
- Junior Grand Lecturer, Northern Central Mindanao, 2001-2002
- Convention Chairman, 88th Ancom, 2004
- Junior Grand Lecturer, Northern & Western Mindanao, 2006-2007

Fraternal Awards

- Most Outstanding DDGM, 2000-2001
- Grand Master's Awards, 88th Ancom, 2004

PROPOSED PLANS AND PROGRAMS: A Five-Year Progressive Masonic Journey for the GLP

1. LODGE GOVERNANCE

Objective: To establish an efficient and effective system of management for the Blue Lodges.

A strategic planning session will be conducted by each of the Lodges under the GLP jurisdiction based on a guideline which will ensure that important areas affecting the success of the

blue Lodge operations for the ensuing year are achieved. The program will focus on the duties and responsibilities of the Lodge officers where it aims to instill and teach them the need to faithfully perform their assigned task especially on the following areas:

- a) Annual Budget Preparation;
- b) Comprehensive Treasurer's and Secretary's Financial Reports;
- c) Preparation of Minutes of Stated Meetings;
- d) Preparation and Submission of Grand Lodge Reports such as the Monthly Membership Report.

2. EMPOWERMENT OF THE DISTRICT

Objective: To enable the district officers to effectively perform their mandated task as provided in the Masonic Law Book and thus help the Grand Lodge of the Philippines address the many issues and concerns faced by the brethren.

The means to empowerment is knowledge. The appointed district officers should be knowledgeable of their duties and responsibilities. A basic orientation and workshop on the duties and responsibilities of the district officers will be conducted by the GLP before they are installed to their respective positions.

The GLP will conduct periodic evaluation of the district based on a simple system of reporting and will make sure that all the Grand Line positions are fully functional so that they may be able to assist in and complement the labors of the district officers.

3. YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Objective: To bolster the spirit of patriotism and nationalism among the brethren, our appendant bodies and affiliate Masonic Associations; and to advocate social and civic consciousness as our inherent role in nation building.

A comprehensive social and civic awareness program will be presented to the brethren that will guide them on GLP priority projects;

a) The Masonic commemoration of important national events such as: Philippine Independence Day; Rizal Day and other National Heroes Day. A protocol will be made for uniformity in the commemoration of these events nationwide, so that wherever a Mason will join a similar undertaking, he will be guided accordingly. Besides, it will give the public a more memorable impression.

b) To support and guide our youth organizations and to take more direct involvement in molding them into better individuals. We will review the present set-up of these youth organizations. The GLP must be involved because any action that these youth organizations make affects the Fraternity e.g. as when someone connected with Masonry is accused of hazing. There is no way the GLP cannot be involved.

c) To continue implementing institutionalized projects such as the "Sagip Kalikasan" and "Interfaith Forum for Peace and Prosperity." And to implement more sustainable projects that will foster goodwill between the GLP and the society, e.g. medical missions,

liturgy program and other environmental protection projects such as tree planting, coastal clean-ups and garbage segregation projects.

d) In view of the rise in crimes involving juveniles, we see the need to get the youth more involved in noble undertakings such as the scouting movement whose ideals and principles are consistent with Freemasonry. Through our Oplan Sagip Kabataan, we will tie-up with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and get as many out of school youth involved with emphasis on skills enhancement and livelihood activities.

4. SCHOOLING or CONTINUING MASONIC EDUCATION

Objective: To come up with a dynamic and relevant Continuing Masonic Education Program that will enable our members to practice what they have learned with the end of improving themselves in particular and benefiting the whole of mankind in general.

The Institute of Masonic Education and Studies will continue to play an important role in cultivating our God-given faculties so that they may be used for the greater good of all. The program of the IMES will be regularly revisited so that they will remain simple, doable and relevant to the educational needs of our members. A lodge of instruction will be required at least twice a year to be spearheaded by the district and participated in by the Lodges under its scope.

Under this program, the GLP will attempt to update on a regular basis the Masonic Law Book, integrating the Edicts that have been approved by

the AnCom which have been passed as part of our Masonic laws. We will also sort and classify the various circulars and edicts that are commonly used as reference and have them printed in a booklet to guide the brethren in the day-to-day affairs of their respectively Lodges.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Objective: To achieve a sound and efficient process of addressing the needs and concerns of the GLP and all its stakeholders through an effective system of management and administration.

This will entail the conduct of a comprehensive review and evaluation of the present organizational structure of the GLP and its systems and procedures, and when needed, to implement changes that would result in a more responsive and cost-effective corporate entity that is not only financially sound but ever-ready to address the needs of all concerned.

A comprehensive program would also mean going over all the departments in the GLP and coming up with specific tasks description to avoid overlapping of functions and to increase productivity. This will also involve reviewing the systems and procedures used by the Cabletow, including the other GLP committees that affect in general the performance of the GLP as far as Management and Administration is concerned.

The computerization program will continue to take center stage so

that information is made fast and accessible. Revenue generating departments such as the Supplies office and the Office in-charge of Space Rentals will be given top priority in order to further boost the income capability of the GLP.

And more importantly, we will endeavor to formulate and implement a better way to ensure that the funds of the GLP and the Lodges are well spent according to approved budgets and schedules.

6. NEW MEMBERS OR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Objective: To promote sustained growth in membership consistent with our Masonic Laws and to be able to attract "quality" applicants to go through the degrees of Freemasonry.

This program will emphasize on the blue lodges the importance of strictly conducting investigation by following the prescribed methods set by the GLP, and to appoint members of known integrity and competence to be part of the Committee on Investigation.

It is also imperative that a mandatory orientation for petitioners be strictly conducted and that a report is submitted to the GLP through the DDGM. The program will attempt to create a pool of lectures on a lodge or district level for all the degrees to impress upon the petitioners/candidates the significance of joining the Masonic fraternity.

Part of the membership program is to be able to attract our inactive members back to the fold of the fraternity. Conventional practices include home visitations, greetings during special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries and inviting them to join our fellowships. Regular bulletins and notices of meetings should continue to be sent to them. We will continue to employ this means to win back our inactive or suspended members.

The mentoring system has yet to be effectively implemented. This will help a neophyte member assimilate himself easily to his newfound organization and thus avoid "dropouts" on the first year of membership. It will also motivate the new member to be active and will equip him with strong Masonic fundamentals that he will find very

useful as he continues to go through his Masonic journeys.

Institutional support will be established likewise for easy access to Masonic supplies and paraphernalia including access to information via a more user-friendly and interactive website.

In the area of membership welfare, the program will aim to improve on the existing benefits and privileges by making the responsible committees more dynamic and sensitive to the needs of the members. Death benefits, medical privileges, educational grants and other related incentives will be revisited and a handbook will be printed for the proper guidance of all its members.

EDGAR D. LIM

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Birth and Family

He was born in Santiago, Isabela on February 10, 1959.

He is married to Sis. RONALDA L. LIM, with whom he has four sons: Ralph Edward, 18; Ronn Edward, 17; Renz Edward, 15; and Rich Edward, 14.

Education, Training Courses Completed

He is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA), major in Marketing, at the University of the East, Manila.

He completed Pollution Control Officer Training Course and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority Training Course.



Business Affiliations

He is President of Golden Dragon Int'l Terminals Inc. and of Majestik Trading Corp.; Director of Amcrown Inc. and of Isabela North Pearl Corp.; Consultant to Founding Stone Ventures Inc.; and Owner, Shintian Restaurant.

Hobbies, Interests

Besides being a devoted family man, he is interested in managing business ventures, conducting medical missions, attending Masonic meetings, giving Masonic education lectures, and serving as Installing Officer in various Blue Lodges.

Professional, Fraternal Membership/Officership

He is an active member of (1) Philippine Che Yong Kua-Chua Association, (2) Maharlika Shrine Oasis and Mabuhay Shriners Phils., (3) Philippine Balanghay Association, and (4) PAK Philippines.

He serves as Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Caloocan Filipino Chinese Fire Volunteer Brigade.

He is Past President of the CAMANAVA (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) Travelers Club Inc.

Masonic Career

He held the following positions in the Craft in the years specified:

- Junior Deacon, F.D. Roosevelt Memorial Lodge No. 81 in 1996.
- Junior Warden of the same Lodge in 1997.
- Worshipful Master of the same Lodge in 1998
- Worshipful Master of Dapitan Lodge

No. 21 in 2000

- District Grand Lecturer, Masonic District No. 7 (now NCR-D) in 2000
- District Deputy Grand Master of the same district in 2003.
- Junior Grand Deacon in 2008.

He has been active likewise in the Appendant Bodies.

In 2002-2005, he served as High Priest of Plaridel York Rite Bodies.

In the Grand York Rite of the Philippines, he is KYCH and Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest.

He has been a leading member of Luzon Bodies, A.&A.S.R., of which he was Venerable Master in 2007, the year he was made a 33rd Inspector General Honorary.

Besides serving as Installing Officer in Blue Lodges, he has assisted several Grand Masters in instituting and constituting new Blue Lodges; conducted Masonic Education lectures/seminar-workshops in different parts of this jurisdiction; visited various Blue Lodges in this Jurisdiction; participated in, as well as helped organize conduct, medical missions sponsored by the CAMANAVA Travelers Club Inc. and various Blue Lodges. These are what he considers as his key achievement as a Master Mason.

Among the **awards** he received are the following:

- Most Outstanding Worshipful Master of District 7 (now NCR-D), 1998.
- Gen. Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters Int'l Award, 2005.

- Most Worshipful Grand Master's Award, 2008
- Sovereign Grand Commander's Award, 2008 shield

PROGRAM FOR THE FRATERNITY

His Vision for the Fraternity may be summed up in two key words: Commitment and Proficiency.

States he: "While it is true that what makes us Master Masons is our Obligation, we cannot be fully regarded as worthy and exemplary, as well as just and upright, Masons without commitment and proficiency."

Commitment is, to him, dedication, loyalty, devotion, and strict adherence to the ideals, principles and values of Masonry.

Commitment means "persistence with a purpose." All of us must have the will to help Masonry attain its self-imposed mission, which is to establish upon earth a true Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God; we must have the desire to succeed in all our Masonic endeavors; we must have the persistent urge to show to non-Masons, particularly our families, relatives, friends and associates, the true meaning of Masonry.

The Grand Lodge leadership must, therefore, continuously, stimulate all Master Masons in this Jurisdiction to avidly learn the true meaning of Masonic Commitment and Responsibility; for without these, we will just be dues-paying members of the Craft. It must constantly urge the brethren to learn eagerly the precepts, principles,

ideals and values of Masonry, a significant number of which are couched, embedded or hidden in "symbolical forms borrowed principally from the mason's trade and from architecture."

But since many brethren find it quite difficult to study the various aspects of Masonry (its ritual, history, philosophy, symbolism, jurisprudence, etc.) on their own initiative, the Grand Lodge leadership must motivate them to avail themselves of the expertise, knowledge and services of the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) in Manila, as well as those of its branches/extensions in the different regions of the country.

Yes, the Grand Lodge leadership must stimulate the brethren to periodically renew their commitment to learn the Fraternity's lessons and teachings, and then to live them consistently in daily life. We must be committed to do what we came here to do: to learn to subdue our passions and to improve ourselves in Masonry. In our words, we must be committed to attain our own perfection or to master ourselves, so that we will be better able to contribute to the amelioration of our local and national communities. We must be committed to develop ourselves into men of honor, virtue and charitable feelings – men to whom others may look for example, inspiration and edification.

Commitment requires us to become highly proficient in the rituals and ceremonies of the Craft; for these are what distinguishes us from other organizations. It requires us to confer the degrees of Masonry with a high

level of proficiency. It also requires us to proficiently use the symbolic working tools and hieroglyphical emblems with which the Craft has equipped us. This means we must practice persistently the various duties and virtues which those tools and emblems have been selected to illustrate.

Commitment entails not only getting highly proficient in the labor of the Lodge, but also regularly attending and actively participating in the major activities of the Craft at all levels (Blue Lodge, Masonic District, Grand Lodge).

Indeed, to Bro. Edgar Lim, to be a worthy and exemplary Mason means, first and foremost, to be truly committed to Masonry and to become increasingly proficient in the conduct of its rituals and ceremonies, as well as in the use of its symbolic working tools and hieroglyphical emblems.

To encourage the brethren to participate or enroll in the courses it

offers, the IMES should get its course offerings duly accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) toward enabling the participants/enrollees to earn a Master's Degree in Masonic Education and Studies.

The Grand Lodge leadership, in collaboration with the IMES, should help Blue Lodges/Masonic Districts to educate their members Masonically or to conduct high-level Masonic education lecture series and seminar-workshops the whole year round, with particular stress on Commitment to the Craft at all levels and Proficiency in Masonic rituals and ceremonies.

Bro. Edgar Lim also intends to continue the worthwhile plans, programs and projects initiated by the past administrations of the GLP. He is also highly resolved to find solutions to problems encountered by the Craft at all levels.

ROMEO S. MOMO

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Education, Family, Avocations

He graduated from high school as Salutatorian.

He was an Academic Scholar in the Mindanao State University (MSU), from which he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE).

He is happily married to Eleanor Darwin of Davzo City, with whom he has four children.

He loves to play lawn tennis and golf.

Present Position in Government

He is at present the Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Department



of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Affiliations:

- Past President: Rotary Club of Butuan RY 2005-2006
- Assistant Governor – District 3860 Rotary International
- Past District Deputy Grand Master: District 26 of the F&A.M. of the Philippines
- Past First National Vice President: League of Infrastructure Directors of the Philippines
- Member of the National Board: Road Engineering Association of the Philippines
- Member of the National Board-Phil. Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE)
- Member of the National Board – National Union of Career Service Officer (NUCESO)
- Past President; Association of Caraga Executives
- Member: Road Engineering Association Asia & Australasia
- Assistant District Governor, District 3860 Rotary International
- Member, American Society of Civil Engineers
- 1st Vice President, Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE), 2010-2011

Attendance in Foreign Seminars

Studies:

- Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC) Exec. Com. Mtg., (Busan, Korea)
- American Society of Civil Engineers, Conference (ASCE), (Kansas City, Missouri, USA)
- Philippine Institute of Civil Engineering (PICE) Annual Meeting & Int'l. program, Fukuoka City, Japan
- American Society of Civil Engineers

(ASCE) Convention, Pittsburg, USA

- Delegate to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Convention, Orlando Florida, USA
- Road engineering Association of Asia and Australasia, Bangkok, Thailand
- Advance Road Engineering Studies and Safety (Brunei, Darrusalam)
- International Road Federation Convention (Bangkok, Thailand)
- Member of the Philippine Team to the World Charity Service (WCS) – Chiba, Japan
- Moderator, 4th Civil Engineering Conference for ASEAN Regions (Tapei, Taiwan)
- Delegate to the Annual Conference & the International Round Table Discussion of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) – Tohoku University, Japan
- Delegate to the Annual Conference & the International Round Table Discussion of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) – Tohoku University, Japan
- Delegate to the American Society of Civil Engineers 2008 Annual Conference, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA

Masonic Career

He was initiated, passed and raised in Red Mountain Lodge No. 241 on May 30, June 30, and July 18, 1981.

He is a charter and dual member of Intramuros Lodge No. 363.

On May 17, 2007, he became a Life Member by Longevity (LML) of Red Mountain Lodge No. 241; in consequence thereof, he was presented with a certificate and pin.

In 1989 and in 1992, he served as Worshipful Master of his Mother

Lodge; in 1994-95, as District Grand Lecturer for Masonic District RXIII-A; in 1995-96, as Secretary of his Mother Lodge; in 1998 and 1999, as Junior Warden and Auditor of the same, respectively.

In 2002, he again served as District Grand Lecturer for Masonic District RXIII-A; in 2004 and 2005, as DDGM of the same district.

In 2010, he became an active member of the Quezon City Bodies, A. & A.S.R., and of the Bamboo Shrine Club.

In 2005, he served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines as member of the Committee on Ways and Means; in 2009, as member of the Committee on Resource Generation and Development.

STATEMENT OF PROGRAM FOR THE FRATERNITY

Theme

In light of better service, if he is elected and given the mandate by the brethren to eventually occupy the highest position in our fraternal society, Bro. Romeo Momo will untiringly urge the brethren to use "Synergy: Optimizing Masonic Services through Collaboration and Linkages" as the thematic focus of the Craft's activities.

Vision

He envisions Philippine Masonry to be a legendary and dynamic Brotherhood of men devoted to the service of God and mankind, as well as

committed to develop better men, who are at all times responsive to the needs of the society.

Mission

To fortify the Craft by effectively adapting to the rapidly changing environment, geared towards the upliftment of the common good.

Objectives

1. Unceasingly nurture and inculcate the moral and spiritual values of Masonry through a more focused Masonic Education Program.

2. Cultivate the goodwill and support of brethren, friends, and institutions for a strong and sustainable Brotherhood.

3. Enhance the good name of Masonry by spreading far and wide the meaning of fraternity through extensive community outreach programs and charity works.

4. identify and source out funds to support and implement Grand Lodge policies, programs and activities.

5. Operationalize a nationwide coordinating body to integrate the annual plans and programs of all the Lodges, Appendant Bodies, and Allied Orders.

6. Strengthen administrative and financial control system for better governance.

7. Develop mutually sustainable linkages and networks of Lodges, Appendant Bodies, and Allied Orders.

8. Support the Government programs in the conservation of nature and environment.

ALAN LM PURISIMA



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Birth, Family

He was born in San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur on Nov. 21, 1959.

Sis. Ramona Lydia and he are blessed with four sons: Eumir Von Andrei, Rainier Van Albert, Alan Jr., and Jason Arvi.

Educational Background

He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1981 with the degree of Bachelor of Science.

In 1995, he obtained his Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the Manuel L. Quezon University. He earned units in Doctor of Philosophy, major in Peace and Security, at the Bicol University.

Police/Military Training/Scholarship Course

The following are the courses he took at the schools specified:

- Intelligence Officer basic Course, Special Intelligence Training School, Fort Santiago, Metro Manila
- VIP protection Course, Presidential Security Group, Malacañang Park, Manila
- Hostage Rescue Team Training, Presidential Security Group, Malacañang Park, Manila.
- Police Officer Advance Course, Intelligence Training Group, Camp Crame, Quezon City
- Police Attache Course, Camp Crame, Q.C.
- Police Intelligence Officer Senior Executive Course, Camp Crame, Q.C.
- Senior Crisis Management Seminar, Washington, DC.

Service Records (Government, Military, Police)

Inclusive Date	Position/Rank	Unit/Station/Location
30 July 2010 to present	PCSUPT-Regional Dir.	Police Regional Office 3, Camp Olivas City of San Fernando Pampanga
31 March 2010 to July 2010	PCSUPT-Deputy Dir.	Directorate Investigation Acting and Detective Management
03 Feb 2010 to 30 March 2010	PCSUPT-Executive Officer	Directorate Investigation and Detective

16 August 2008 to 03 February 2010	PSSUPT – Executive Officer	Management Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management
16 November 2007 15 August 2008	PSSUPT – Chief Directorial Staff, CSG	Civil Security Group, Camp Crame, Quezon City
05 June 2006 to 12 February 2007	PSSUPT – Provincial Dir.	Pangasinan Police Provincial Office, Lingayen Pangasinan
	PSUPT – PSSUPT Chief, PACER	Camp Crame, Quezon City
Nov.1989 to Feb. 1991	CAPT – Operations	PC Special Action Force Officer Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan Taguig M.M.
July 1988 to Aug 1989	1LT/CAPT Executive Officer	SRU, PSG, Malacañang Park, Manila
Jun 1986 July 1987	1LT – Commanding Officer	E Company, Presidential Guards PSG, Malacañang Park, Manila
Sept 1982 to March 1986	2LT/1LT – Intelligence Officer	Nueva Ecija Constabulary/INP Command

Medals, Awards, Commendations Received

- PMAAAI Cavalier Award for Police Operations
- Police Cavalier Association Inc. Cavalier Award
- Distinguished Conduct Star
- 2 Medalya ng Kadakilaan
- 8 Medalya ng Kagitingan
- 6 Medalya ng Kasanayan
- Military Merit Medal (Bronze)
- Spearhead Device
- 8 Medalya ng Papuri
- Medalya ng Papuri with 1st Bronze Anahaw Leaf
- Medalya ng Paglaban sa Manliligalig

- Medalya ng mabuting Asal
- Medalya sa Pagtulong sa Nasalanta
- Anti Dissidence Campaign Ribbon
- Basic Parachutist Badge
- 12 Certificates of Appreciation
- 38 Letters of Commendation

Masonic Profile

He was initiated, passed and raised at General Mariano Llanera Memorial Lodge No. 168 in Gapan City, Nueva Ecija on June 25, Sept 3, and Sept 22, 1983, respectively.

He is a dual member of San Leonardo Lodge No. 386 in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, as well as an honorary member of Zaragosa Lodge No. 263, Palayan City Lodge No. 331, AR Lamson Lodge No. 290, and MS Garcia Memorial Lodge No. 306.

In 2004, he served as Junior Warden of his Mother Lodge; in 2005, as Worshipful Master of the same; in 2006, as GLI for Zaragosa Lodge No. 263; in 2007, as DGL of MD RIII-D; and in 2010, as DDGM of the same district.

Among the awards he received are Certificate of Life Membership from the GLP; Outstanding DGL, 2007; and Most Outstanding WM in MD RIIID.

STATEMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE FRATERNITY

1. Continuing Masonic Education

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) has had in its projects the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) program. This program has been able to educate a significant

number of Master Masons within the jurisdiction; however, the project was discontinued due to organizational and financial difficulties. GLP's powers and resources must be harnessed to transform IMES into a totally empowered and independent Masonic institution. GLP must further consolidate the gains of its efforts on Masonic education and development and institutionalize Masonic doctrines consistent with the Masonic law book and ancient land marks. Small groups of dedicated Masons should be identified and organized for the purpose. We must aim for its financial empowerment by dedicating to its budget an appropriate amount from the capital contribution of all Masons similar to regular budget being received by program being supported by GLP.

It must endeavor to identify best Masonic practices being observed by some Lodges for adoption in the grand jurisdiction as well as detect gaps and malpractices being resented by the Lodge officers and institute appropriate corrective measures to insure the relevance and existence of all Masonic institutions.

It must include in its program procedures in conducting investigations and the appropriate manner of imposing discipline on erring brethren. This includes principles and methodologies provided for in our monitor.

We must endure to the best of our ability to insulate IMES from the dynamics of personal and group politics that will distract it from performing its principal mandates and responsibilities.

2. Masonic Mentoring Leadership

It has been noted that there are misunderstandings and frictions within the Lodges and affecting the harmony of its members. As a result, we have a divided Lodge. In order to address this problem, we shall promote mentoring leadership culture among Past Masters

by harnessing cooperative potential of the Guild of Past Masters. A sizable number of Past Masters have become inactive after performing their duties in the oriental chair. By mentoring leadership, we shall harness their leadership potential and utilize them to impose discipline in lodge proceedings.

OTHER NEWS, DEVELOPMENTS

OUR TRIP TO AND FROM CEBU: A SHORT ACCOUNT

by eF.R.eN

Saturday, January 22, 2011

At 7:30 a.m., Saturday, January 22, 2011, together with visiting dignitaries from the Grand Lodges of China, Alaska and Hawaii, who were, in turn, accompanied by several others close to them, we proceeded from the Manila Pavilion to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), where we boarded a Cebu Pacific airplane bound for Cebu. At the Mactan Cebu International Airport, we were warmly welcomed by our Cebu Brethren and Sisters.

We partook of a delicious lunch at the Pino Restaurant, hosted by MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. and his lovely wife, Sister Elizabeth, together with the Nobles of Cebu.

After lunch, we proceeded to the Waterfront Hotel, where we checked in. Nobles and other Brethren from other places also checked in at the same hotel.

After refreshing up, we were driven to the Oakridge Pavilion at the Oakridge Business Park in Mandaue City, Cebu.

Cocktails over, the programme of Installation of the Officers of Mabuhay Shriners Philippines for 2011 commenced with an invocation led by Noble Rodolfo V. Ledesma, Jr.....

Noble Joseph Y. Ngo, President of Filipinas Shrine Club, delivered the welcome remarks. Then Noble Dennis R. Villamor, Past President of the same Shrine Club, introduced the guests.

Next the Installation Team were introduced: Illustrious Sir Terence M. Derby, PP, Installing Potentate, and Illustrious Sir Randolph T.S. Chang, PP, Installing Marshal.

Installed were Illustrious Pablo

C. Ko, Jr., Potentate; Noble Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Chief Rabban; Noble Tomas G. Rentoy, III, Assistant Rabban; Noble Victor Antonio T. Espejo, High Priest and Prophet; Noble Robert C. Sing, Oriental Guide; Noble Manuel C. Espiritu, Jr., Treasurer; Noble Crispulo M. Fernandez, Jr., Recorder; Noble Wilfredo S. Reyes, 1st Ceremonial Master; Noble Roy S. Tan, 2nd Ceremonial Master; Noble Felix J. Vicuña, Jr., Director; Noble Emmanuel M. Sanico, Marshal; Noble Romy U. Cua, Captain of the Guard; and Noble Raymund W. Lee, Outer Guard.

The Ceremony of Installation was, to say the least, very solemnly and impressively conducted by the Installing Team.

Illustrious Sir Terence M. Derby, PP, presented a Scepter/Gavel to the newly installed Potentate of Mabuhay Shriners Philippines, for 2011, Illustrious Pablo C. Ko, Jr.

MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines and newly installed Chief Rabban of Mabuhay Shriners Philippines, challenged his fellow Filipino Nobles to work a little harder than before to alleviate the sufferings of burned, crippled and other handicapped children throughout the land.

Illustrious Pablo C. Ko, Jr. then delivered his inaugural address. First, he conveyed his sincerest thanks to the Installing Team. Then he acknowledged the disinterested, dedicated Nobles and Brethren who, in one way or another, contributed their share to convincing

the Imperial Council to grant to Mabuhay Shriners Philippines a Dispensation to operate independently as one of the Temples under its Jurisdiction.

"We are, certainly, indebted to the brethren who worked hard to persuade the Imperial Council to grant a Charter to Mabuhay Shriners Philippines," he said. "Thanks to the unselfish and dedicated labors of these brethren and Nobles," he continued, "we have become a full-fledged Shrine Temple."

Illustrious Pablo C. Ko, Jr. next expressed his warmest fraternal appreciation and gratitude to the members of his Divan during Shrine year 2009-2010, namely: Noble Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Chief Rabban; Noble Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, Assistant Rabban; Noble Rafael J. Roxas, High Priest & Prophet; Noble Enrique Y. Co, Oriental Guide; Noble Emmanuel M. Sanico, Treasurer; Noble Victor Antonio T. Espejo, Recorder; Noble John Co Tan, 1st Ceremonial Master; Noble Robert O. Sing, 2nd Ceremonial Master; Noble Felix J. Vicuña, Jr., Director; Noble Edgardo R. Elechicon, Marshal; Noble Froilan G. Tecson, Captain of the Guard; and Noble Ricardo Gutierrez, Jr., Outer Guard.

He also commended the High Shereefs and other officers of the different Shrine Clubs for having done their job well during the preceding year. Said he: "I want to thank in particular those Shrine Clubs whose members extended to Mabuhay Shriners Philippines their able and willing hands for the successful conduct of Ceremonials in different places."

He challenged the officers and members of the different Shrine Clubs to enhance their works of charity and benevolence for the benefit of the many unfortunate and disadvantaged children in our local communities.

Finally, he said, "The duties incumbent upon me as Potentate are, to say the least, fraught with grave responsibilities. But I am pretty optimistic that, with the blessing of the GAOTU, I will be able to perform the awesome duties of the office to which the brethren's suffrages have called me. My optimism is founded on the fact that the incumbent members of my Divan are a band of hardworking, dedicated, and other-oriented Nobles and Masons, who are deeply committed to promoting the noble and glorious cause of Shrinedom in particular and of Freemasonry is general We will work together as a great team of players committed and dedicated to getting Mabuhay Shriners Philippines recognized and known as an organization of closely united men that

promotes the welfare and happiness of children, particularly the burned, crippled and other disabled ones, who are also entitled to live truly human lives."

After the benediction, dinner and entertainment ensued.

Sunday, January 23, 2011

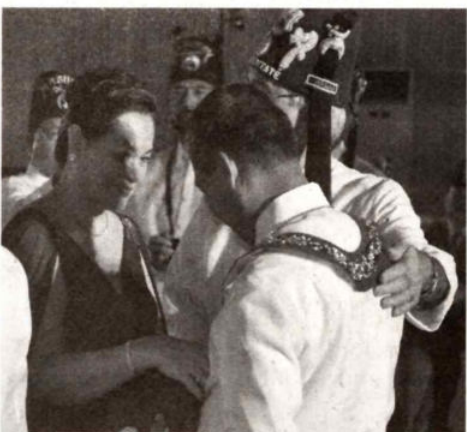
In the morning, the Ko family, together with some of our Cebu brethren, treated the visiting foreign dignitaries and their guests to a luncheon-fellowship at the Tambuli West Resort.

In the evening, they treated the visiting dignitaries and their guests to dinner at Ching's Palace.

Monday, January 24, 2011

In the morning, we flew back to Manila via Cebu Pacific Air Lines. Then the visitors from Taiwan flew back to their land, while those from Hawaii and Alaska were left behind because they wanted to visit other tourist spots in the country.





Shriner's Creed

Shriners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling diseases, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family; we respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals, we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relations will be trustworthy and our spirits forgiving of each other.

As brothers, we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together, we will support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we and our communities will be better because of our fraternity and its principles.

As Shriners, we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shriners Hospitals to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.

HORTON GOES TO CATANDUANES

by Bro. Kristoffer "Bang" Llacuna

In the evening of March 17, 2011, we brethren of Frank Reed Horton Mem. Lodge (FRHML) No. 379, led by WB Roberto "Mr. Charity" Sing, left the GLP grounds for Catanduanes, the home province of our Senior Warden and of Senior Grand Warden Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., to attend the 21st Public Installation of Officers of Catanduanes Island Lodge (CIL) No. 291.

With us were VW Allan Bontuyan, PDDGM of NCR-E, and WB Roberto "Bong" Fajardo, PM of Laong Laan No. 185, whom we fetched at Camp Simeon Ola in Legazpi City in the wee hours of March 18 and who treated us to a sumptuous meal and a dessert of Sili Ice Cream.

Amidst bad weather and angry waves, we crossed the sea from Tabaco to San Andres, Catanduanes and then to Virac. We had coffee and maruya at the residence of our Senior Warden. At night time, the brethren of CIL No. 291, led by WB Fred Tubale, treated us to a fellowship at the Kemji Resort. Incoming WM Ignacio Odiaman footed the bill.

In the morning of March 19, we joined the brethren of CIL No. 291 in a tree-planting activity in Brgy, Calabnigan, where the CIL Masonic Temple is located. Later we had a tour of the Marivina and Twin Beach Resort. Afterwards, we had lunch provided by Bro. Odiaman. Then we proceeded to the hotel where we were billeted and had a short dip in the pool.

An hour before the installation ceremonies, we arrived at the Provincial Capitol Dome, where we turned over to WB Tubale some books and school supplies for the needy students

in the province. This is part of WB Roberto Sing's pledge to support the project of CIL No. 291 to help poor students in the province.

Installing Officer Greg Macero and Master of Ceremonies Luis Vargas, assisted by Past Grand Orator Carlos Briones, conducted the installation ceremonies superbly. The musical arrangements prepared by VW Allan Bontuyan made the ceremonies even more solemn.

Catanduanes Congressman Cesar V. Sarmiento, a nephew of RW Gabionza, was the guest of honor and speaker. He jokingly narrated how he was obliged by his father-in-law, VW Ariston Sarmiento, to attend the installation ceremonies.

Among the dignitaries seated in the East were WB Joseph Cua, Catanduanes Governor, and VW Roberto "Abing" Rodulfo, Councilor of Bato, Catanduanes, both PMs of CIL No. 291.

Brethren of various Lodges in Bicol, as well as others from distant places, were in attendance. VW Leo Intia, DDGM of Region 5-A, was represented by DGL John Buendia. VW Jessie Amihan of Isarog Lodge No. 33 and WB Amador Sabado of Malindang Lodge No. 130, considered "fathers of Free-

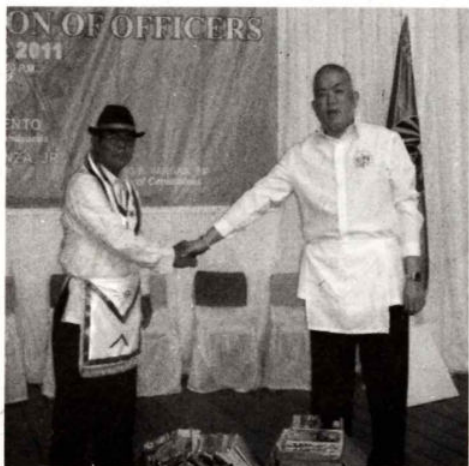
masonry in Catanduanes," were called to the stage and given citation. They in turn narrated the hardships they had encountered in putting up the Lodge.

There were lots of foods and drinks during the fellowship, and the brethren enjoyed a long evening of dancing and fine music.

In the morning of March 20,

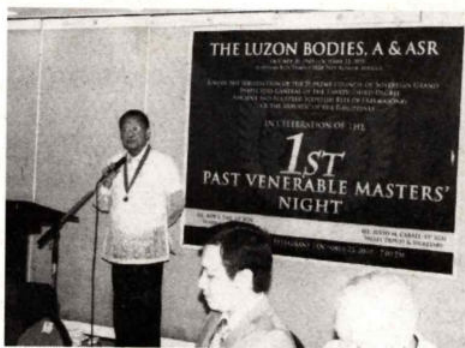
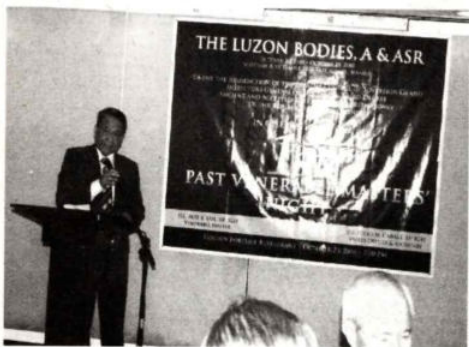
we embarked on a ferry in San Andres, Catanduanes to return to whence we came. During the trip, we had fun sharing with one another memories of our brief stay in Catanduanes.

"I'll be back with my wife," commented JW Bellie Tamayo. Replied Bro. Sec. Gene Illenberger: "Me too, but next time, on a plane." Knowing what he meant, the brethren all laughed...



FIRST PAST VENERABLE MASTERS NIGHT OF LUZON BODIES, A.&A.S.R. IN PHOTOS

Hereunder are selected photos taken during the First Past Venerable Masters of Luzon Bodies, A.&A.S.R., organized by Ill. Roy Tan, 33rd IGH, incumbent Venerable Master.



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Noli me Tangere Lodge #42

General Manager

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Valid until December 31, 2011 upon presentation of Lodge I.D



Potentate Pablo C. Ko, Jr., and His Divan