The Cable Tow



THE ACHIEVER

Most Worshipful Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr

95TH & CENTENNIAL GRAND MASTER OF MASONS
IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE PHILIPPINES

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CENTENNIAL GRAND LINE OFFICERS WITH THE GRAND MASTER

In this Issue...

2	From the Grand East
4	Editorial Comments
6	Freemasonry & Nationalism
8	On Excommunication, Mostly
10	Brethren Elect Grand Lodge Officers for the Centennial Term
12	Grand Lodge Officers for the Centennial Year Duly Installed!
14	A Biographical Sketch of Our 95th and Centennial Grand Master
18	Our Grand Master's Inaugural Speech
22	The Centennial Grand Lodge Team
26	Pre-ANCOM Activities
29	ANCOM 2012 Proper: Sidelights & Highlights
41	Other ANCOM Speeches
31	ANC0M 2012 in Photos
55	Events / Developments
57	News from our Lodges
59	Centennial Year Calendar and program guide, etc.

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The Cable Tow

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From the Grand East



HIGHLIGHTING OUR THEME FOR THE CENTENNIAL TERM

BRETHREN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH for elevating me, by dint of your suffrages, to the time-honored Grand Oriental Chair. By doing so, you reposed your trust and confidence in my ability to lead you in promoting the interest and welfare of our MW Grand Lodge, its constituent Districts, and its subordinate Lodges during the Centennial Term. During my installation as your 95th and Centennial Grand Master, when I solemnly and humbly received the charge you had entrusted to me, I most sincerely promised to fulfill the same to the best of my ability and most fervently prayed that the Great Architect of the Universe grant me a competency of His divine wisdom, so that I would be able to faithfully and conscientiously discharge all the duties and responsibilities of the most exalted position to which you had catapulted me. I am confident that, with the GAOTU's guidance and with your unstinted support and whole-hearted cooperation, I will capably lead you in building up the Temple of Philippine Masonry, the cornerstone of which our distinguished predecessors laid a hundred years ago.

To show our sincere appreciation of the dedicated and disinterested labor of the founders and pioneering members of our MW Grand Lodge, as well as that of their equally zealous and enthusiastic successors, we must resolutely pursue our journey toward even greater Masonic light, ever striving hard to attain our own perfection or self-mastery, by means whereof we will be better able to promote not only our own interests and welfare as a Craft but the happiness and well-being of our children's children and succeeding generations of brethren as well.

Besides, we must work together in close harmony toward accomplishing the mission which those brethren of ours initiated, namely, to bring about a strong, dynamic, and relevant Masonic fraternity in this sovereign Jurisdiction. This task requires us, among other things, to dedicate ourselves selflessly and tirelessly to giving due meaning and substance to the theme "Building on Our Past. Excelling in the Present, Providing for Our Future: MORE Masonry for All!"

This theme highlights my firm determination to be, with God's grace, a genuine "Centennial Grand Master" NOT simply in terms of supervising the celebration relating to the first 100 years of our MW Grand Lodge BUT more strategically in guiding our ancient and honorable fraternity to seize the opportunity to seamlessly unify our past, present, and future.

I invite all of you to join me and the other Grand Lodge officers in giving due stress to the significance of the celebration of

the Centennial of the founding of our MW Grand Lodge ("Building on the Past"). We must take this once-in-a-lifetime event as an opportunity for us to showcase Philippine Masonry as an organization of excellence precisely because it is composed of men of honor, virtue, and charitable feelings – men to whom others might look for example and inspiration ("Excelling in the Present"). By doing so, we will make Philippine Masonry stronger, more dynamic, and more relevant than before ("Providing for the Future").

We urge you to help us implement successfully the strategic initiatives of the Centennial Term, which are contained in our theme through the acronym **M-O-R-E**. We will do the best we can not only to return to our strong Moral Foundations but also to achieve Organizational Empowerment, Responsible Stewardship, and External Outreach. By commemorating our Centennial, we are not only celebrating but building upon it today for the future by practicing MORE Masonry – MORE Masonry NOT in terms of bigger numbers of new members and Lodges BUT in terms of returning to the core purposes of our ancient Craft (M), ensuring that members are true brethren in creed and in deed by empowering them to pursue Masonic education and fellowsip (O), developing the Fraternity as a stronger and more relevant institution through responsible stewardship (R), and showcasing Philippine Freemasonry locally and internationally through collaboratively celebrating the Centennial of our MW Grand Lodge (E).

We deliberately chose "MORE Masonry for All" as the concluding phrase of our theme in order to emphasize that Freemasonry is an agent for the common good; for its principal purpose is to build better men, who will, in turn, better contribute to social welfare and human progress. The Centennial Term finds our Republic in times as those that faced our ascendants. We should take comfort in the fact that the times of those who had gone before us were much more challenging. As they endured, so can we.

The resurgence of interest in our Craft in recent years provides both opportunities and potential pitfalls. As we go forward, we must fully understand that responsibilities of stewardship are truly heavy. I am confident that, with the GAOTU as our guide and through the beneficent influence of the priceless precepts and pure principles of Masonry, our Brethren today and in the future will continue to lead the way even as some in our country permit it to go astray from time to time. For just as our nation was founded on the pillars of Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, and other principles of Freemasonry, so will our nation eventually arise as a truly mature democracy through a persistent and committed application of the ideals and virtues of the Craft.

Brethren, MORE Masonry for all of us!

Fraternally,

SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Grand Master

Editorial Comments

1. HELPING GRAND LODGE BRING ABOUT A STRONGER, MORE DYNAMIC, MORE RELEVANT PHILIPPINE MASONRY

OUR INCUMBENT GRAND MASTER and his set of Grand Lodge officers, together with the Centennial Committee, which is ably chaired by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, are leaving no stone unturned to crown the ongoing celebration of the Centennial of our MW Grand Lodge's founding with much success and fruition. Hence, they have initiated certain projects like writing and publishing books on the story of the Craft in this Jurisdiction (e.g., Coffee Table, PGM Book, History Book, and Grand Orations Book); getting articles on the same story published in national newspapers and magazines; organizing symposia on Philippine Masonry, as well as inviting eminent personages to give lectures on relevant topics during Multi-District Conventions; sponsoring the showing of a movie premier, holding fun runs and golf tournaments, as well as selling Centennial books and other Centennial-related items like commemorative stamps and car plates, in a well-coordinated manner in order to raise funds needed to defray expenses incurred in the process of carrying out the projects they have lined up for our Centennial celebration; and inviting dignitaries and other brethren of foreign Jurisdictions to attend the Special Communication of our MW Grand Lodge, which will held in Manila on December 17-19, this year. The President and the Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines will grace the events of the last day with their presence.

We can actively assist the Grand Lodge leadership in making our Centennial celebration a resounding success not only by purchasing the aforementioned books and items and participating in the fund-raising activities, specified above, but more importantly, by using various means of communicating to the non-Masons in our respective regions what our MW Grand Lodge, its constituent Districts, and its subordinate Lodges have achieved in the past 100 years, particularly in the promotion of the personal development of the members of the Craft and its appendant organizations or allied orders, the welfare of Philippine society, and the progress and prosperity of our nation, which our Masonic forebears founded on the pillars of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and which succeeding generations of Masons have helped build up on the columns of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

By working together in close coordination and cooperation toward making our Centennial celebration "an affair to remember," we will demonstrate our great pride in Philippine Masonry not only to one another but to the general public as well.

But we will not be able to bring about a stronger, more dynamic, and more relevant Philippine Masonry unless we immerse ourselves more intensely than before in an honest-to-goodness study of Masonry; for, as Rev. Dr. Joseph Fort Newton has poetically phrased it,

> *"Masonry is a great institution of learning because it teaches man how to be both brave and gentle, faithful and free; how to keep a fine poise of reason between the falsehood of extremes; how to accept the joys of life with glee, and endure its ills with patient valor; how to look kindly upon the folly of man and not forget his nobility – in short, how to live cleanly, kindly, calmly, open-eyed and unafraid, in a sane world, sweet of heart and full of hope."*

Besides, we must give due meaning and substance to the theme of the Centennial Term: **"Building on the Past, Excelling n the Present, Providing for the Future: MORE Masonry for All."**

As we see it, the aforementioned theme requires us to persistently practice in daily life the priceless precepts and pure principles of Masonry, which is at once a fraternity that tends to make all men honorable who are strictly obedient to its tenets and teachings and an institution that has for its foundation the practice of the social and moral, as well as the domestic and public, virtues.

Decidedly, by seriously studying Masonry as

a science of character building and an art of high ethical living and by persistent practicing its tenets and teachings in daily life, we will be better enabled to face with courage and faith the difficulties and disappointments, as well as the challenges and chores, of existence.

But we must remember that, like the padlock in Lewis Carroll's celebrated opus, *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*, who runs about on his thin, spidery legs, rushes up to everybody he meets, and says, *"I am looking for the key to unlock me,"* every human being is looking for the key to a satisfying and fulfilling existence or to important roles to play in life. So, we must unselfishly provide others with opportunities to get acquainted with Masonry, so that they will find in it, as we have done, the key to rich, abundant, and meaningful living.

It is imperative for us not only to practice persistently all the virtues but also to disseminate Masonic truth as widely as we can among others; for, to paraphrase a significant statement of Bro. Albert Pike in his celebrated *MORALS AND DOGMA, "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, dogmatism and extremism, tyranny and bigotry, oppression and exploitation, and other moral evils make of it a hell…."*

Indubitably, if we effectively tell others the truth about Masonry, as well as inspire and edify them with our exemplary conduct, they will, in turn, strive hard to attain their own perfection or self-mastery, and thereby be better able to help us transform this world of continuing enmities and inhumanities into a place where men of different countries, sects, and opinions will dwell together in peace and harmony.

During the Centennial Term, then, we have to effectively employ various means of communicating to the non-Masonic world what the founding fathers and pioneering members of our MW Grand Lodge, as well as their worthy successors, have contributed in the areas of personal development, social welfare, and human progress, But the best tribute we can render to the memory of those brethren of ours is to constantly live the kind of Masonry which they passed on to us and which we have to pass on to the brethren who will come this way after us, as well as to diffuse the Masonic light to all who come within the circle of our influence each day. By doing this, we will surely show off to the world around us the true glory and the dynamic, vibrant and vigorous state of Philippine Masonry.

2. ATTRACTING, MAINTAINING MEMBERS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY

WE CAN HELP GRAND LODGE bring about a stronger, more dynamic, and more relevant Masonic Fraternity in this Jurisdiction by fulfilling our commitment to attract and maintain members of the finest character or of the highest quality. This commitment entails utmost vigilance and circumspection during the entire screening and selection process.

We must admit into our fellowship only good materials (i.e., the good nd true, the honest and sincere, or the worthy and well-qualified), and never suffer bad materials (i.e., the vicious, the evil doers, the deceitful and hypocritical, those with dubious character or mercenary motives, and the perennially undisciplined) to surreptitiously sneak into our ranks. To be able o do this, we have to be more resolute than before to strictly adhere to the non-solicitation rule, the wisdom of which was explained by the late Past Grand Master Carl H. Claudy in the following manner:

> *Masonry is bigger than any man. Its principles are greater and more far-reaching than the influence which any man can possibly wield. To have Masonry seek the man is to belittle the greatest philosophy, the most beautiful of brotherhoods, the finest of associations, and make it less than a reputation of an individual. Never a monarch, king, potentate, or president was worthy of being asked to join the Masonic Order. Many of them have joined it, from Washington on. Many of our presidents have been proud to be Masons and humble in their gratitude for the opportunities it offered them to better understand their coun-*

(***Continued*** *on Page 40)*



Corner Stone

by VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, SGL

This is the initial article of our Senior Grand Lecturer; it fittingly focuses on the theme for June, which is . . .

6

FREEMASONRY AND NATIONALISM

JUNE, THE MONTH OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, should be an opportunity for all of us brethren in the Jurisdiction, our families, and the greater community to realize the relevance and continuing significance of our ancient fraternity in shaping and developing our national identity. Accordingly, the Masonic precept that our Grand Lodge Masonic education will focus on for this month is appropriately the unique flavor of regular Freemasonry that has come to thrive and develop in our country – That Freemasonry is being Filipino.

Who, How, and Why

As highlighted by Most Worshipful Teodoro M. Kalaw and other scholars of Philippine Masonry, the inclusion of the equilateral triangle in the Philippine flag is precisely to recognize the influence of Freemasonry in the realization of the Revolution of 1896.

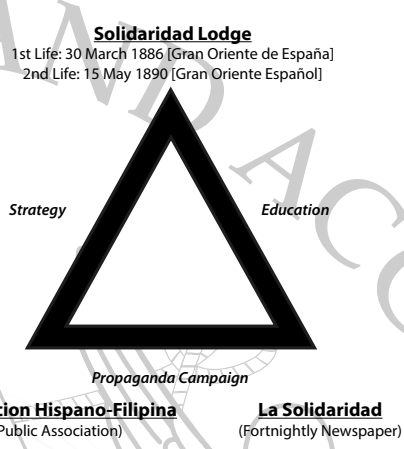
Many Brethren know by heart the following oft-quoted passage by the President of the First Philippine Republic, Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Emilio Famy Aguinaldo:

"The successful Revolution of 1896 was masonically inspired, masonically led, and masonically executed. And I venture to say that the first Philippine Republic, of which I was its humble president, was an achievement we owe, largely to Masonry and the Freemasons"

Because of our common knowledge of the many Brethren who filled the ranks of the revolutionary leadership, we often tend to see Worshipful Brother Aguinaldo's broad assertion above in terms of how the Revolution of 1896 was implemented and guided. Just as deserving of emphasis for both our ancient order and our country, however, is his point that the 1896 Revolution was not only a matter of "who" ("masonically led") and "how" ("masonically executed"), but also "why" ("masonically inspired") – for it is the "why" that allows us to really assert that Freemasonry is indeed about being Filipino.

Inspiring a Revolution

As taught in required high school history classes and the statutorily-mandated college course on our foremost national hero, Jose Rizal, the "inspiration" for the 1896 Revolution can be directly traced to the efforts of the Propaganda Movement as organized by continental Masons like Rizal and the man many acknowledge to be the Father of Philippine Masonry, Marcelo H. del Pilar, given the latter's leadership in organizing many of the initial Masonic lodges in the colonized Archipelago.



Like a Masonic triangle as depicted above, the Propaganda Movement arose from three vehicles for reform organized by Filipino Freemasons, namely, **Solidaridad Lodge, Asociacion Hispano-Filipina, and La Solidaridad.**

In its two incarnations under different Masonic Jurisdictions, Solidaridad Lodge provided the initial private venue for Filipino Freemasons to organize **and** develop their vision of reforms for the then colony.

Having organized themselves through the medium of the Craft, these first Brethren in turn organized the Asociacion Hispano-Filipina as the public face of the Propaganda Movement and the cause of colonial reforms.

Such a cause needed a voice, which led to the setting-up of the Movement's channel for disseminating its views – what our earliest Brethren had planned to be the fortnightly newspaper La Solidaridad.

With the lodge and public association handling strategy, education on the advocacies of the movement could then be handled through the lodge and the newspaper, in turn allowing for the implementation of a reform campaign through the public association and the newspaper. With such a foundation, our earliest Brethren breathed life to what would become the seed of our national identity.

The Three Foundations of Nationhood

What was this seed? Fundamentally, the Propaganda Movement as organized by our first Brethren in the manner described above gave us – for the first time in our history – essentially the three foundations of our nationhood: a unified campaign for reforms, liberal ideals of public governance, and the fostering for the first time of a genuine sense of nationhood.

A Unified Campaign for Reforms. The Propaganda Movement, primarily through those Brethren of ours, was the first to facilitate an organized and unified campaign across the various parts of the then colony against the abuses of the Spanish imperial regime and the local church hierarchy.

Liberal Ideals of Public Governance. The Propaganda Movement, primarily through our continental Brethren, initiated discussion that would lead to the eventual adoption of liberal ideals that would become the basis for our system of public governance. These include:

- The governance of the people through elected representatives;
- The separation of church and state;
- Enforcement of fundamental personal freedoms (religion, speech, press, assembly);
- Regulation of basic education by the State, as against by the religious orders; and
- Equality and fraternity of Mankind under law.

(***Continued*** *on Page 38)*

Out of the Humdrum

By VW Robert O. Asuncion, PSG
(Series 1 – 2012) I.



As suggested by a significant number of readers of this Masonic publication, we requested Past Senior Grand Lecturer Robert O. Asuncion to resume "Out of the Humdrum, which provides a "comic relief" vis-à-vis, the serious articles contained herein, and he graciously acceded to our request.

ON EXCOMMUNICATION, MOSTLY

In the time of Christ, excommunication was already a recognized penalty among the Jews. A distinction is drawn in the Misnah, the compilation of Jewish scriptural law, between two degrees of excommunication, the milder of which was the Niddui, which involved the exclusion of the excommunicated one from the community life for 7 to 30 days.

Pope Urban VII was pope for 13 days in September of 1590. This is the shortest papal reign in history. His short passage in office gave rise to the first "smoking-in-public ban" ever known in the world. He issued an edict banning all tobacco "in the porchway of or inside the church, whether it be by chewing it, smoking it....." The penalty for breaking this edict was Excommunication.

Legend has it that Pope Clement, who reigned from 1523 to 1534, was so fond of mushroom that he made it illegal for anyone else to eat those mushrooms growing on the papal states so that there would be no shortage. He died in 1534 from eating a poisonous mushroom.



There is a persistent myth that Pope Calixtus III "excommunicated" the 1465 apparition of the Halley's Comet because he believed it to be a bad omen for the Christian defenders of Belgrade from the invading army of the Ottoman empire.

For his radical spirituality, the great writer Leo Tolstoy, noted for such classic masterpieces as War and Peace and Anna Karerina, was excommunicated in 1901 by the Russian Orthodox Church.

The "most famous" excommunication in Christian history happened in 1054, the year of the great schism. The Pope and the Patriarch excommunicated each other. This lasted until 7th December 1965 when Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I met in Jerusalem, kissed, and lifted the excommunication their churches had imposed on each other some 900 years earlier.

For his adherence to the revolution, Fr. Gregorio Aglipay was excommunicated by Archbishop Bernardino Nozaleda in 1899. In turn, in his capacity as acting bishop of Nueva Caceres, Fr. Aglipay counter-excommunicated Archbishop Nozaleda, claiming he had misrepresented the conditions of the Filipinos before the Pope.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had an organ donation card. When he was elected as Pope Benedict XVI, the card "automatically became invalid." The president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, explained that the body of Pope Benedict belongs to the whole Church, and its preservation is understandable in view of possible future veneration

The registration plate of the Popemobile reads "SCV 1". SCV stands for Stato della Città del Vaticano, which is Italian for the Vatican City State.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle has been tagged as a papal contender by a respected international Vatican watcher, CNN Senior Vatican analyst John Allen, Jr., who described Archbishop Tagle as "a rising star in the Asian Church; his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI deserved to be on the global Catholic radar screen."

Brethren Elect Grand Lodge Officers For the Centennial Term

ONLY VOTING DELEGATES WERE allowed by the COMELEC to be inside the Camarines Sur Capitol Convention Center (CSCCC) in the afternoon of Friday, April 27, 2012 in order that the election of Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic year 2012-2013 would proceed in a clean, honest, and orderly manner.



The voters elevated RW Brothers Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., Juanito G. Espino, Jr., and Alan LM Purisima to the exalted positions of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Senior Grand Warden, respectively. By their suffrages, they decided that MW Rudyard V. Bunda, PGM, GMH, and MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, GMH, should remain as Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, respectively.

Finally, they gave a Bicolano, VW Tomas G. Rentoy III, Grand Organist, a landslide victory over his rivals for the most coveted position of Junior Grand Warden.



Grand Lodge Officers for the Centennial Year Duly Installed!

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, both elected and appointed, were installed in solemn and impressive ceremonies held at the Avenue Plaza Hotel in Naga City in the afternoon of Saturday, April 28, 2012. After MW Juanito P. Abergas, Grand Master, called the assembly of Masons, their families, friends, and guests to order, Grand Chaplain Nelson T. Graza invoked God's blessing on the assembly.

The 9th Edition, Peñafrancia Basilica Minor Family Choir led the assembly in singing the Nationa Anthem and the Grand Lodge March.

Then, ably assisted by MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., who served as Master of Ceremonies, MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, eloquently, solemnly, and impressively installed the Grand Lodge officers, namely, the DGLs, the DDGMs, and the appointed and elected Grand Line officers, Next, MW Puno presented the PGM's Jewel and Ring award to Immediate Past Grand Master (IPGM) Abergas, who in turn joyously accepted the twofold award



presented to him by MW Puno. (The texts of their speeches are printed in the section "Other ANCOM Speeches.") Newly-installed Grand Master Santiago Gabionza, Jr. delivered an eloquent inaugural speech, and the assembly gave him a standing ovation.

After the closing of the Grand Lodge in short and public form, brethren, sisters, guests, etc. made the most of the opportunity given them to have their pictures with the Grand Master taken for posterity's sake. Cocktails and the Grand Master's Banquet ensued. Then the Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn was launched. The brethren and guests who were still around watched and listened to a video interview with the composer of the music and lyrics of the Hymn, VW Magdangal M. de Leon, Past Master of Araw Lodge No. 18, Past Grand Chaplain of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP), and Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, who also composed the music of the Grand Lodge March. (For the lyrics of the Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn, as well as VW Magdangal de Leon's explanation of the why's and wherefor's of his composing it, please refer to "Guide to the Centennial Year" on subsequent pages of this issue.)

Brethren, sisters, and guests continued to have social fellowship; the dancers among them displayed their prowess in the art on the floor of the installation hall.

This marked the end of yet another memorable ANCOM of our MW Grand Lodge.



A Biographical Sketch of …

Our 95th & Centennial Grand Master



MW SANTIAGO "BOY" T. GABIONZA, JR. is at once our 95th and Centennial Grand Master since it is during his term of office that we engage ourselves in a variety of projects as we continue celebrating the Centennial of the founding of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (GLP, for short). Our celebration of this once-in-a-lifetime event will reach its climax on December 19, 2012.

The Best One Can Be

Born on 21 November 1957 in Bato, Catanduanes to Santiago Y. Gabionza and Rosa Tejada Gabionza, our 95th and Centennial Grand Master may be described, at least in part, as a man and a Mason who does and is his best in all his initiatives or undertakings.

As a student, he always aimed at attaining academic excellence. It is not surprising, then, that he graduated from the Bato Central Elementary School as Second Honorable Mention; from the Catanduanes Institute as Salutatorian; from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, where he obtained his AB-Economics degree, as Summa Cum Laude; and from the Ateneo de Manila University, where he earned his Bachelor of Laws (Ll. B.) degree, as Silver Medalist or Second Honors. He was, moreover, a staff member of the student publications of both Letran and Ateneo.

He has had a wide-ranging work experience in the academic and corporate worlds. He started his professional career as a college instructor at the Catanduanes Colleges in 1977. (Later on he would also teach at the Philippine School of Business Administration and other institutions of higher learning in the National Capital Region.) Then in 1982, he served as Director and Corporate Secretary of both AEON, Inc. and ARMPHIL, Inc.; in 1983-1987, as Reviewer on Business Law at AEON Review Dorm; in 1983-1990, as Senior Associate in De Santos, Belgas & Perez Law Office; in 1988, as Asst. Corporate Secretary of Omico Mining & Industrial Corporation; in 1990, as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of Manila City Bus Corporation; in 1991-2001, as Managing Partner of Villanueva, Bernardo & Gabionza Law Offices; in 1998, as Director and President of Northern Power Development, Inc. and as Corporate Secretary of Binga Hydroelectric Plant, Inc.

In 2005, he was Director and Corporate Secretary of Algena Fashion and Garments, Inc.; ASM Trading Counter Corporation; and People's Independent Media, Inc. In 2006, he labored as Director and Corporate Secretary of Monica Publishing Corporation; OIC-President of Maynilad Water Services, Inc.; and Consultant to the Commission on Justice, House of Representatives, Congress of the Republic of the Philippines. In 2007, he was Consultant to the Secretary of the Department of National Defense.

A proficient user of the 24-inch gauge, this Senior Founding Partner of Villanueva, Gabionza and De Santos Law Offices in Makati City has discharged faithfully and conscientiously his many professional duties and responsibilities. Since 1987, he has performed with utmost responsibility as Corporate Secretary of the Laboratory of Computer Medicine, Philippines; since 1994, as Director and Corporate Secretary of Rajah Travel Corporation; since 1996, as Director and Treasurer of VBG Insurance Agency, Inc. and as Director and President of VBG Realty Corporation; since 2000, as Director and Treasurer of Videgades Realty Corporation; since 2003, as Corporate Secretary and Rehabilitation Counsel of Victorias Milling Corporation; and since 2006, as Rehabilitation Receiver for Steel Corporation of the Philippines. Since 2007, he has served efficiently and effectively as Director and Corporate Secretary of Lingap Kawal Foundation, Inc.; as Corporate Secretary of Globorocks Mining Corporation and as Consultant to the Honorable Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Decidedly, our 95th and Centennial Grand Master will make the most of his experiences in the academic and corporate worlds as he endeavors most earnesbtly to lead the GLP, both as a corporation and as a fraternal organization, to greater heights of achievement. Of this we can be sure because in all his professional affiliations, he has exemplified the oxymoronic dictum **"Busiest men find time"**; has lived by the Masonic teaching **"Time, patience and perseverance will accomplish all things"**; and has been guided by this precept of Katipu-

nan Supremo and Brother Andres "Sinukuan" Bonifacio: **"All your desires will be crowned with success if you exhibit serenity, constancy, reasonableness and confidence in every one of your endeavors."**

In 2003-2005, he was the President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Makati Chapter, the activities of which he is still actively involved in. Besides, he is a member not only of the Ateneo Alumni Association but of the Fraternal Order of Utopia as well. He is also Director of the Legal Management Council of the Philippines; Asst. Vice-President of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.; President of the Catanduanes Foundation, Inc.; and Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Model Family Man & Craftsman

Despite his hectic schedule as a professional, he manages quite well to be a faithful and devoted husband to Sister Aileen, a Medical Technologist, as well as a loving and caring father to Miguel Angelo and Kara Patricia. He firmly believes that if one is a failure as head of his own family, his successes in the professional realm would mean little or even nothing.

No matter how busy he may be as a family man and as a professional, he still finds enough time to be very active in Ancient Craft Masonry. On April 8, May 13, and June 10, 1989, respectively, he was initiated, passed and raised in Quezon City Lodge No. 122, of which his brothers Dennis, Jerome and Joe are also active members and leaders. Like his three brothers, he is a charter and dual member of Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291, which presented him with Writs of Recognition and Appreciation in 1990.

In 1993, in acknowledgment of his unselfish labor for the welfare and best interests of the Craft, the GLP awarded to him a Testimonial Plaque of Appreciation.

In 1994, 1995 and 1996, he served his Mother Lodge, Quezon City No. 122, as Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Worshipful Master, respectively, with credit to himself and honor to the Fraternity. it was during his stint as Junior Warden that the GLP bestowed upon him the Grand Master's Award of Merit.

Since February 1997, he has been an active member of Quezon City Bodies, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (A. & A.S.R.).

His Path to the Grand Oriental Chair

In 1998, in recognition of his knowledge of Masonic Jurisprudence, the GLP assigned him as a member of its Committee on By-Laws. In the year following, he labored zealously and enthusiastically as the Grand Master's Deputy for Masonic District No. 9 (which was subsequently divided into Districts NCR-E and NCR-F). In the same year, he devotedly served the GLP as a member of its Committee on Investments and its Committee on Resolutions, and as Vice-Chairman of its Committee on By-Laws. Thus, he was not undeserving of the Grand Master's Fraternal Award that the GLP presented to him that year.

In 2000, to demonstrate its pride in the accomplishments of its member, VW "Boy"Gabionza, Quezon City Lodge No. 122 presented to him a well-deserved Plaque of Recognition.

In the succeeding years, he steadfastly served the GLP as either Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or member of its Committees on Jurisprudence, Legal Aid, Revision of Constitution and By-Laws, Cemetery, Accounts, and so forth.

In 2005, he served the GLP as Grand Auditor with much dedication and disinterestedness.

He participated so actively, eloquently and consistently in the deliberations during the plenary session of many an Annual Communication (ANCOM) of the GLP that he caught the brethren's attention and gained their respect, esteem and admiration. Consequently, they invited him to be their Guest of Honor and Speaker on special occasions, during which he received from them **Tokens of Appreciation**. In 2007, for instance, the officers and members of Isagani Lodge No. 96 presented him with such a token, and Masonic District NCR-E awarded to him a Certificate of Recognition.

In its 2008 ANCOM in Bacolod City, the GLP gave him due recognition as Outstanding Master Mason in the Field of Corporate Law.

In the 2009 ANCOM held in Cagayan de Oro City, VW "Boy" Gabionza shared with the brethren an outline of his administrative program for the Fraternity. The brethren must have perceived his sincerity that they catapulted him, by dint of their suffrages, to the exalted and coveted position of **Junior Grand Warden (JGW)**. That program he would gradually refine In the next three years.

As **Junior Grand Warden**, RW "Boy" Gabionza proved to the brethren that he was worthy of the confidence they had reposed in him by serving the GLP and the Craft "with freedom, fervency and zeal." As **Senior Grand Warden (SGW)** in 2010, likewise, he set the edifying example of obediently observing the Grand Master's will and pleasure. As **Deputy Grand Master (DGM)** in 2011, he did not only serve well as Secretary to the Board for General Purposes and as a member of the Masonic Coordinating Council and the Committee on Information Technology, but he also extended his able assistance to MW Juanito P. Abergas in the performance of the Grand Master's manifold duties, which are fraught with grave responsibilities.

His Message to Us,
Our Corresponding Response

Stresses MW "Boy" Gabionza: *"We ought to work a little harder than before at continuously studying Masonry and persistently practicing in daily life its priceless precepts and pure principles, particularly Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, if we want Masonry to work well for us. We must focus our thrusts and programs on those precepts and principles if we want Philippine Masonry to go from good to great. We should, each of us, show to all and sundry that we deserve to represent Masonry."*

Let us, then, extend to our 95th and Centennial Grand Master and his set of Grand Lodge Officers our unstinted support and wholehearted cooperation toward the successful implementation of his program of administration, which centers on the joyful, meaningful and fruitful celebration of the Centennial of the founding of our Grand Lodge. This must be our commitment, which we are to fulfill with utmost dedication and devotion.

Centennial Grand Master's Schedule of Activities 2012 - 2013

(as of June 29, 2012)

APRIL

28 Launching of Centennial Hymn at the Avenue Hotel, Naga, Camarines Sur

MAY

4 Guest of Honor and Speaker, District Turnover Ceremonies, MD RIII-C at Unity Lodge No. 285, Zambales

5 Guest of Honor and Speaker, District Turnover Ceremonies, MD RIV-B at San Pedro Lodge No. 292, Calamba, Laguna

6 Guest of Honor and Speaker, Annual Session of the Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth, Grand Lodge of the Philippines

7 Guest of Honor and Speaker, District Turnover Ceremonies, MD NCR-G at Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202, Makati City

9 Courtesy Call, Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 led by Worshipful Master Mel Sison, GLP Centennial Anniversary Committee meeting with MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH

12 Guest of Honor and Speaker, District Turnover Ceremonies, MD RIII-D at Nueva Ecija Doctors Multi-Purpose Gym, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

(***Continued*** *on Page 54)*

Our Grand Master's Inaugural Speech



CREED, IDENTITY, DREAMS:
THE BLESSINGS AND CHALLENGES OF OUR CENTENNIAL
by MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr.

THE FIRST, AS WELL AS THE MOST IMPORTANT, WORD I can ever utter in a gathering of brethren of this magnitude is WELCOME! We open not only the portals of this convention hall but also the gateway to our hearts that you, especially our sojourning brethren from foreign jurisdictions, may experience and feel the warmth of our reception. Known as Bicol hospitality, this unique trait of the Bicolano is as mouthwatering as our "gulay na laing" and as hot as the "Bicol Express."

My long and arduous travel in this venerable Fraternity began on the second Saturday of the same month, April, 23 years ago, when I took my obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason before my Mother Lodge, Quezon City No. 122, and it culminated today in my ascension to the great and exalted Grand Oriental Chair. But, for me, the journey has just begun.

Allow me, therefore, the opportunity to express my admiration for the brethren of Masonic District V-A, led by their outgoing DDGM, VW Nyorito P. Galvan, for providing for the comfort, relaxation and entertainment of our spouses and children, while we hold our own gathering here. This is an entirely new and much welcome addition to our Annual Communication. Primarily due to their efforts, our annual assembly this year is indeed turning out to be an ANCOM to remember! May I request everybody to give these gallant brethren of Masonic District V-A a round of applause!

Likewise, allow me, together with my beloved wife, Aileen, and our children, Miguel and Kara, who have joined me here today, to express my most heartfelt thanks to you, dear brethren, for your vote

of confidence in calling upon me to take upon the charge that I enter into this afternoon.

As I solemnly assume what you have entrusted to me for this Masonic Term, I am truly humbled that you have chosen to do so on this momentous occasion of the Centennial of our MW Grand Lodge.

I fervently hope and pray that just as our distinguished predecessors have cleared the path for our ancient Fraternity in this sovereign urisdiction, we may receive the wisdom and guidance from the Great Architect of the Universe to continue on our journey towards even greater Masonic Light – for us, our children's children, and succeeding generations of Brethren.

I highlight our distinguished predecessors because their efforts during the past 100 years have truly made a difference. A hundred years of blazing trails for our Ancient Craft in this sovereign jurisdiction is not only a benchmark to celebrate, but a model for us to emulate as well.

With the foregoing point in mind, let me, therefore, introduce the Centennial Theme,**"Building on Our Past, Excelling in the Present,, Providing for Our Future: MORE Masonry for All!"** This theme will organize and focus our efforts this Centennial Year.

Essentially, it describes the way forward for our Ancient Craft in this sovereign jurisdiction by leveraging our rich and unique heritage and philosophy because we should not only celebrate what we have today, but also continue to commemorate those who have gone before; because we should not only educate others about the achievements and contributions of our distinguished Fraternity, but also empower the Brethren so that our Ancient Craft will continue to grow and be relevant to our times; and because – most strategically for our travels ahead – we should not only commemorate 100 years of making a difference, but also ensure the foundation for our next 100 years.

In this manner, we will not just celebrate the first 100 years of our MW Grand Lodge but also guide our honorable Order to seize the opportunity to seamlessly unify our past, present, and future.

We build on the past by founding all that we do in creed and in deed on an even greater understanding and study of our unique philosophy, which forms both the ideal and the core of our identity as the world's oldest philosophical Fraternity of brothers mentoring brother, of men guiding men to be better gentlemen.

We build on the past by duly recognizing our Ancient Craft's unique historical role in forging our national identity, and applying the same to further nourish the authentic sense of nationalism that we need to sustain us as we continue to build our nation.

We build on the past by ensuring that we return to these two essentials, so that we can in turn appropriately *commemorate a Centennial of what freemasonry is, Filipino style* – **A Freemasonry that fuly conforms with the practice of the Ancient and Honorable Craft of our regular Brethren throughout the wrld, and yet embodies the real heart and soul of our patriot Brethren who were the first true Filipinos**.

The first of these essentials – **our unique philosophy** – is best summarized by a brother long recognized as one of the most eminent Masonic scholars in the field of Masonic Jurisprudence: Albert Gallatin

Mackey. Brother Mackey, who many of us are familiar with today as the definer of the concept of *"Masonic landmarks,"* repeatedly emphasized in his lectures that **"The ultimate success of Masonry depends on the intelligence of her disciples."** In doing so, Brother Mackey was not claiming that only geniuses can be Masons. On the contrary, he was only making evident the ideal that ours is a fraternity that most values thinking and reflection.

Our original Brethren who gave birth to the Propaganda Movement echoed Brother Mackey's sentiments and came to be the nucleus of our national identity. For it was thinkers like Brothers Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar and Apolinario Mabini who constructed the rationale for reforms and eventual revolution. It was the spirited discussions in our first Filipino Lodges that ignited the reflection necessary to realize that we could be more than the extension of another country or that we could emerge as an independent nation.

This, Brethren, is our established history. This is what we are as Freemasons and Filipinos. And this is also why I am calling upon all of youn now to join me in dedicating the Centennial Term of our MW Grand Lodge by focusing on a return to our roots, the second of our two essential natures, so that we can more ably leverage our Centennial Term to excel in the present.

Excelling in the present is all about emphasizing the significance of our MW Grand Lodge's Centennial not just as an opportunity to showcase our Fraternity but as an impetus to build a stronger foundation towards our MW Grand Lodge's Bicentennial 100 years from now.

Excelling in the present is all about practicing MORE Masonry, NOT in terms of more members and lodges, BUT in terms of returning to the core purposes of our Craft and best ensuring that Brethren are true Masons in creed and in deed.

Excelling in the present is all about highlighting that we should use the contemplative nature of our Craft to build better men who will in turn better contribute to a stronger and more caring Filipino nation.

Our Centennial Theme is thus really about recognizing and building upon our MASONIC HERITAGE –a heritage we only have to refocus on to regain in order to provide for our future. I now, therefore, invite all of you to join me in regaining what some amongst us believe to be lost, but which has been with us all along.

Such refocusing in order to provide for our future will be done by your incoming Grand lodge Team through seven key strategic initiatives organized around the acronym "MORE" – **M -O – R – E**.

M stands for Moral Foundations. Our Centennial Year will see us consolidating all our Masonic education and research activities into a uniform academic and administrative system, with common syllabi and protocols to best promote and expand Masonic study and scholarship under the clear and capable guidance of the MW Grand Lodge.

O stands for Organizational Empowerment. Our Centennial Year will see us revitalizing our mentorship programs in terms of consistency in our esoteric work and the provision of specific guidelines and better resources to build mentorship of junior Brethren in our Blue Lodges. Our Centennial Year will also see us finally leveraging information technology to fully empower Brethren not just in terms of relating with the MW Grand Lodge but managing their own Lodges as well.

R stands for Responsible Stewardship. Our Centennial Year will see us updating both our internal legislation and dispute resolution mechanisms so that our organizational structure and institutional processes will truly facilitate a Grand Lodge for the Brethren in total harmony with one another, instead of the Brethren being members at the service of the Grand Lodge. Our Centennial Year will also see us reaffirming our leadership role in the Masonic Jurisdictions encompassing the Asia-Pacific region by reviving the Conference of Asia-Pacific Grand Masters during our Centennial Special Communication, as well as educaing our youth today – through a nation-wide essay-writing contest implemented through our public and private schools – on the importance and relevance of our Masonic heritage.

E stands for External Outreach. Our Centennial Year will see us meaningfully commemorate our first 100 years as a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Our Centennial Year will also see us becoming more sustainably involved and more visible in the projects and activities of the different segments of our Masonic Fraternity or Family, as well as in the affairs of the communities we live and serve in.

MORE Masonry for All, Brethren!

MORE Masonry by returning to the core purposes of our ancient Craft.

MORE Masonry by rekindling the Masonic notion that practicing Freemasonry is truly being Filipino.

MORE Masonry by reclaiming our Masonic heritage.

To thus reiterate, dearest Brethren, **such reclaiming is also essentially my dream of how to provide for our future.**

It is a dream founded not only on what has gone before, but also on what we are and what we can be going forward.
It is a dream those who have gone before us have blessed us with, and those who will come after us expect us to keep striving towards.

But unless we here today, together with our other brethren in all the Blue Lodges of our sovereign jurisdiction, join together in committing ourselves to believe and live out such a vision in our daily Masonic lives, **it will remain a dream.**

Brethren, I have a dream – the same dream our predecessors shared, the same dream our children's children will, with the grace and guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe, eventually realize.

But first we must dare to dream!

Postscript

At this point, the 9th Edition, Peñafrancia Basilica Minor Family Choir sang "I Have a Dream," from the musical MAMMA MIA the lyrics of which were flushed on screens installed for the purpose. Then MW Gabionza punctuated his speech with these words: "Mabuhay ang Masoneriya sa Pilipinas! Magandang hapon pos a inyong lahat! Dios mabalos po saindo gapos!" As mentioned earlier, the assembly rewarded the Grand Master's eloquent delivery with a standing ovation.

The Centennial Grand Lodge Team

GRAND LINE

The ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS who are to assist our CENTENNIAL GRAND MASTER, MW SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR., in skillfully and assiduously managing the various concerns of our MW Grand Lodge, its constituent Districts, and its subordinate Lodges are the following:

JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR.	Deputy Grand Master
ALAN LM. PURISIMA	Senior Grand Warden
TOMAS G. RENTOY, III	Junior Grand Warden
RUDYARDO V. BUNDA, PGM, GMH	Grand Treasurer
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM, GMH	Grand Secretary.

The following are the APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS who are to extend their supportive and cooperative hands to MW Gabionza toward the successful implementation of his program of administration:

DENNIS T. GABIONZA	Assistant Grand Treasurer
J. WALDEMAR V. VALMORES	Assistant Grand Secretary
SIXTO C. ESQUIVIAS IV	Grand Auditor
JESSE D. ALTO	Grand Chaplain
EDILBERTO P. CARABBACAN	Grand Orator
RICARDO C. MARQUEZ	Grand Marshal
ROGELIO D. GEVERO, JR.	Grand Historian
ROMALINO G. VALDEZ	Senior Grand Deacon
ROBERTO O. SING	Junior Grand Deacon
JUANITO B. VAŃO	Grand Standard Bearer
NORBERTO M. CUE	Grand Sword Bearer
EMMANUEL M. SANICO	Grand Bible Bearer
TEODORO ALEJANDRO Y. KALAW IV	Senior Grand Lecturer

Junior Grand Lecturers

LYCEO C. MARTINEZ	JGL for National Capital Region (NCR))
RUDY L. ONG	JGL for National Capital Region (NCR))
WILFREDO DS. REYES	JGL for National Capital Region (NCR))
NYORLITO P. GALVAN	JGL for Luzon
LAVERNE L.MANAGBAO	JGL for Luzon
NARCISO B. NIETO	JGL for Luzon
FRANCISCO IGNACIO C. RAMIREZ III	JGL for the Visayas
RAFAELITO R. SACDALAN	JGL for the Visayas
JOSE JOEY Q. SORIANO	JGL for the Visayas
EDWARD Y. CHUA	JGL for the Visayas
TOMMY O. QUE	JGL for the Visayas
HUBERT D. TUBIO	JGL for the Visayas
ADONIS G. AGREDA	JGL for Mindanao
REY PETER GILLE	JGL for Mindanao

GLENN D. POLINAR	JGL for Mindanao
ANGEL C. BALDEMOR	JGL for Overseas Districts
GREGORY B. BLAS	JGL for Overseas Districts
TRESE D. WENCESLAO	Senior Grand Steward
NOEL I. FUENTEBELLA	Junior Grand Steward
APOLONIO B. BAIT	Grand Pursuivant
ELPIDIO S. DE CHAVEZ	Grand Organist
ROBERTO MARIA C. GASTARDO	Grand Tyler

BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

The Past Grand Masters (PGMs) who constitute the BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES, the body that serves as adviser to the Grand Master, are as follows:

REYNATO S. PUNO	Chairman
HERMOGENES E. EBDANE, JR.	Vice-Chairman
ROSENDO C. HERRERA	Member
DANILO D. ANGELES	Member
PABLO C. KO, JR.	Member
PETER U. LIM LO SUY	Member
and AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.	Member
JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR., DGM	Serves as Secretary to the Board

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS (DDGMs) & DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS (DGLs)

The DDGMs and DGLs, who are to labor zealously and enthusiastically in their respective areas of responsibility with much zeal and enthusiasm to help MW Gabionza accomplish the mission, as well as give due meaning and substance to the theme, for the Centennial Term, are listed below:

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)

NCR-A (Metro Manila)
DDGM - GREGORIO G. ARCANGEL
DGLs - ELMER GARCIA, MELVIN MALLO, ALBERT MANLULU & ANGELITO VERDADERO

NCR-B (Metro Manila)
DDGM - RENATO M. PAYNAGANAN
DGLs - JIMMY ANG, JAIME AREGLO, WINSTON CHINGKIAT, & OSCAR T. GARCIA

NCR-C (Metro Manila)
DDGM - CESAR AUGUSTUS F. CORTES
DGLs - ORLANDO C. DY, ALLAN IBASCO & EDWARD SEVILLA

NCR-D (Metro Manila)
DDGM - TOMAS D. TAGRA, JR.
DGLs - ROLANDO A. DE CASTRO, MANUEL WELSIE P. LOPEZ, JR. & GIOVANNI T. TUMANENG

NCR-E (Metro Manila)
DDGM - ROSELLER M. MALABANAN
DGLs - MIGUELITO M. AQUINO, ROBERTO B. FAJARDO, ROSALIO M. REMO & BENITO G. SE

NCR-F (Metro Manila)
DDGM - ELISEO DL. DE LA PAZ
DGLs --- ROGEL SJ. CORRAL, GERMAN B. DORIA, ALEXANDER I. GO & ZOMER A. OCHAVILLO

NCR-G *(Metro Manila)*
DDGM - OLIVER V. YABUT
DGLs - RAMON CLAVECILLAS, XERXES APRONIAN S.CORONADO, ARLEN P. DE GUZMAN, & HERBERT P. QUIMPO

NORTHERN LUZON

CAR -A *(Mt. Province, Kalinga, Apayao)*
DDGM - BENJAMIN C. MANGACHEO
DGLs - ABRAHAM M. BANGA-AN & LUDAR T. LUYABEN

RI-A *(Pangasinan)*
DDGM - BENJAMIN S. BENIN
DGLs - RENE D. CACHO, FRANKLIN Q. CARMELO, & LEON L. PALAGANAS, JR.

RI & CAR-B *(Baguio & La Union)*
DDGM - ALBERT PAUL B. DIMAS
DGL - RODERICK L. MAGNAYON

RI & CAR-C *(Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra)*
DDGM - MARIO E. BUMANGLAG
DGLs - HAMILCAR P. BEGORNIA & DEXTER DIOVIC CORPUS

RII-A *(Nueva Vizcaya-South)*
DDGM - OSCAR B. DAMIL
DGLs - JESSY L. GARMA & JOSE ALEXANDER V. GONONG

RII-B *(Isabela-North)*
DDGM - RAMON T. LUGO
DGLs - VIRGINIO M. GOMEZ, JR., VALENTINO C. PERDIDO, & EDUARDO B. VALDEZ

RII-C *(Cagayan Valley)*
DDGM - BENJAMIN M. LASAM
DGLs - MARIANO PEREZ PAGADDU & MATEO P. PANUGURAN

RII-D *(Isabela-South, Quirino)*
DDGM - ROMY U. CUA
DGLs - RAMON A. DIZON, R., PROSPERO C. STO. DOMINGO, & EDGAR ALLAN E. RAMOS

RII-E *(Nueva Vizcaya-North, Ifugao)*
DDGM - FELIXBERTO A. VIERNES
DGLs - LUPO B. ALAVA & FABIAN A. EVANGELISTA

CENTRAL LUZON

RIII-A *(Pampanga)*
DDGM - RICARDO C. RAMOS, JR.
DGLs - NICCOLO VITTORIO A. GO & RODOLFO A. SALIENTES

RIII-B *(Bataan)*
DDGM - EDUARDO Q. ROMAN
DGL - MARIO A. BALBUENA

RIII-C *(Zambales)*
DDGM - NEIL C. FARALA
DGLs - MANUEL D. ARCE, FRANCISCO A. BARRETTO, JUN OMAR C. EBDANE, RICHARD M. RHODES, JR. LUIS C. VITUG, & VICTORIO V. VIZCOCHO, JR.

RIII-D *(Nueva Ecija-South)*
DDGM - RAMIRO M. CRUZ
DGLs - ADELAIDO D. AGAPITO, LEONIDO M. DE GUZMAN, SR., MARCELINO D. DRIZA, SHERWIN B. HERNANDEZ, GIL DON P. INTERIOR, JUAN JEROME T. MALACA, GARY P. MANINGAS, AMBROCIO U. PALOLAN, JR., REYNALDO M. SAMONTE, & JOSELITO E. VILLAROSA, JR.

RIII-E *(Bulacan)*
DDGM - ERIBERTO P. CRISOSTOMO
DGLs - EDUARDO M. ALFONSO, RUEL V. ANGELES, PEDRO V. DE RUEDA, & RAMON C. MAÑALAC

RIII-F *(Nueva Ecija-North)*
DDGM - EMMANUEL C. BUSTAMANTE
DGLs - EDGARDO S. DELA CRUZ, REYNALDO R. ESTRELLA, RAUL A. FAIGAL, ALFREDO F. LEYBAG, JR., FREDDIE R. LAZARO, ALEXANDER GEORGE P. PACHECO, & CRISPINO B. PARIÑAS

RIII-G *(Tarlac)*
DDGM - RODIL L. MILLADO
DGLs - ROSALINO A. ACERET, JR., RONNIE R. JUMAWID, CARLO GOMER M. LADIA, & ELISEO L. MARTINEZ

SOUTHERN LUZON

RIV-A-1 *(Cavite)*
DDGM - EFREN F. BARCELONA
DGLs - JOSE L. BAUTISTA, JR., FEDERICO M. LIMOS, JR., GONZALO Q. MAPILI, JR., & JUANU-ARIO T. MELLONA
RIV-A-2 *(Cavite)*
DDGM - EMMANUEL Y. VELASCO
DGLs - LAUDEMER ASTUDILLO, NONATO NELSON G. NOCEDA, ANTONIO C. PAULITE, II, & SEBASTIAN C. SIGA-AN

RIV-B *(Laguna)*
DDGM - JOSELITO V. MAGHIRANG
DGLs - ROD A. ADRICULA, JOEVEY C. BABAGO, & AVELINO S. LUBAG, JR.

RIV-C *(Quezon, Marinduque)*
DDGM - VICTORIO S. PANGANIBAN
DGLs - ERIC A. ELARDO, JEFFERSON C. UY, & JORGE B. VARGAS,

RIV-D *(Batangas)*
DDGM - ARISTOTLE OLAN LIWAG
DGLs - ARIS A. CHAVEZ & RAFAEL A. FRAN-CISCO

RIV-E *(Mindoro)*
DDGM - REDANTE D. DIWA
DGLs - RONITO P. DACULA & DOMINGO S. TAMESIS

RV-A *(Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes)*
DDGM - RICHARD EMMANUEL P. RAGRAGIO
DGLs - FRANCISCO B. PEÑAFLOR, GERARDO RAMON DO. ROMANO, & FREDDIE GREGORIO I. VELASCO

RV-B *(Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate)*
DDGM - WILLIAM E. ERLANO
DGL - RUF SERANFIN V. ROSERO

VISAYAS

RVI-A *(Iloilo, Antique, Aklan)*
DDGM - WILSON CUA LOCSIN
DGLs - DANTE A. DENATE & ARNEL NOEL P. GELLADA

RVI-B *(Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental)*
DDGM - GIL JOSEPH OCTAVIANO III
DGLs - OMAR FRANCIS DEMONTEVERDE, JOSE C. MIRAFLOR, & FRANKLIN DELANO C. TUMANENG

RVII *(Cebu, Bohol)*
DDGM - NICOMEDES S. LEONOR, JR.
DGLs - HERNAND T. ONG & HUDSON M. ONG

RVIII-A *(Samar)*
DDGM - RIO A. AFABLE
DGLs - RUFINO G. ESTRADA & GILBERT F. LAYON

RVIII-B *(Leyte)*
DDGM - CESAR A. AQUITANIA
DGLs - ALLAN S. LEE & JERRY S. UY

MINDANAO

RIX-A *(Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay)*
DDGM - LAURENCE T. ESTERA
DGLs - RODOLFO D. DEJELO, ANECITO T. PAG-SIAT, & LLOYD C. TRIA

RIX-B & X *(Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte)*
DDGM - GADWIN E. HANDUMON
DGLs - NESTOR B. RAMOS & DAN S. SANTOS

RIX-C *(Zamboanga, Basilan Sulu, Tawi-Tawi)*
DDGM - MICHAEL L. LOPEZ
DGLs - CONRAD D. ISAHAC & LEON V. TAN

RX-A *(Misamis Oriental)*
DDGM - JEOFFRE W. ACEBIDO
DGLs - JOSE LEONARD B. GILLE, NELSON P. MABAYLAN, CESAR A. MERLAS, & JOEL DEXTER C. NAGTALON

RX-B *(Misamis Oriental, Camiguin)*
DDGM - SALIC B. DUMARPA
DGLs - FRANCIS S. CELIS, RAUL P. CINCO, JOSE FAUSTINO S. EPON, & RICARDO E. GABON

RX-C *(Misamis Occidental)*
DDGM - DIOSDADO MANOLO Y, DYBONGCO
DGLs - RONNIE M. ORTEGA & JONATHAN V. RUBIO

RX-D & ARMM *(Lanao)*
DDGM - COSAIN I. ABBAS
DGLs - LAURENTE M. FERNANDEZ, SALDALE S. MOHAMAD, & JORGE C. PADERANGA, JR.

RX-E *(Bukidnon-North)*
DDGM - RAMON B. MANLUNAS
DGLs - BOB D. MANINGO, EVIDENCIO C. METIAM, & JON MARK N. SIAO
RX-F *(Bukidnon-South)*
DDGM - ARMANDO S. EVANGELISTA
DGLs - ARAMIS A. ABELLA & EDGAR R. DADANG

RXI-A *(Davao City, Davao del Sur)*
DDGM - ARTHUR N. ESCALANTE
DGLs - FEDERICO L. BAÑEZ & FELICISIMO V. RAMOS, SR.

RXI-B *(Davao Province, Davao Oriental)*
DDGM - RANDOLPH M. CADIOGAN
DGLs - ARTURO B. LADERA & NICANDRO R. SUAYBAGUIO

RXII-A *(Cotabato City, North Cotabato)*
DDGM - HECTOR A. EMBERGA
DGLs - REYNARD R. GAPUL & CHOWASKEE B. UY

RXII-B *(SOCKSARGEN)*
DDGM - AGUSTIN DEMA-ALA
DGLs - EPHRAIM ELIAS L. AGCAOILI, JOSE G. AGREDA, & CESAR L. NAZARIO, JR.

RXIII-A *(Agusan, Surigao)*
DDGM - SEGIO G. MAILIG
DGLs - BENIGNO J. DAGANI, JR., NATHANIEL G. LAYOLA, & LYNDON . ROMERO

OVERSEAS DISTRICTS

Overseas A *(Guam)*
DDGM - LORENZO E. DELA TORRE
DGL - ROLAND J. GOGUE

Overseas B *(Okinawa, Japan)*
DDGM - HARRY W. FARMER, JR.
DGL - HIROSHI YAGI

Overseas C *(Camp Zama, Japan)*
DDGM - ULYSSES L. LOR
DGL - DAVID L. INGRAM, JR.

Overseas D *(Korea)*
DDGM - HERMINIGILO R. FLANCIA
DGL - ISAGANI E. BENOZA

Overseas E *(Northern Marianas Islands)*
DDGM - WILFREDO G. CHING
DGL - DANIEL E. BAÑEZ

Pre-AnCom Activities

"Early Birds"

Brethren from different parts of the Philippine Jurisdiction and from foreign lands started to "invade" Naga City and the surrounding areas as early as Monday, April 23, 2012. Many of these "early birds" brought members of their own families and friends along with them. Some went to register at the Camarines Sur Capitol Convention Center (CSCCC), while others visited different tourist spots, including restaurants and beaches, or went shopping for "pasalubong" in the city's malls and markets.

The 28th GGPMP Annual Assemblage

In the afternoon of Wednesday, April 25, the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP) held its annual convention at Villa del Rey in Cadlan, Pili. Let's read the report on the proceedings of the convention given next page.

The 28th GGPMP Annual Convention

By Samuel P. Fernandez, PGH
Grand Guild Secretary

THE SPANISH COLONIALISTS WHO settled in the province called it "Camaronchomes" or "Camarines," a Spanish word for kamalig, a small nipa or bamboo-made house where Filipino natives (whom they derisively called Indios) stored their rice. The Spanish settlers frowned upon the idea of dividing the province into Camarnes Sur and Camarines Norte; instead, they insisted that ambos Camarines (both Camarines) should remain as one province. They made Naga the capital of the province, but they renamed it Nueva Caceres. (Caceres is a province in Spain). Through the years, Ciudad nin Naga has been known as the "Heart of Bicol" and "An Maogmang Lugar" (The Happy Place). At present time, it is where most of the hotels in the province are located. Hence, it became the happy meeting place of brethren who attended ANCOM 2012.

The venue of ANCOM 2012, however, was the Camarines Sur Capitol Convention Center (CSCCC) in Pili. This municipality was made the capital of the province by virtue of Republic Act No. 133, which was approved on June 16, 1955.

Grand Guild officers present during the convention held at Villa del Rey in Cadlan were MW John L. Choa, PGM, President; MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, Chaplain; VW Benito Ty, Auditor; and this reporter, Secretary, who was assisted by WM LouieThom-Arman E. Yu of Palilan Lodge No. 239 in taking notes of the proceedings . Also in attendance were Past Grand Masters Rosendo C. Herrera, Pacifico B. Aniag, and Avelino I. Razon Jr., all members of the Council of Advisers. The convention was likewise graced by the presence of RW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., Deputy Grand Master.

Since its creation in 1984 by then Grand Master Reynato S. Puno, the GGPMP has sponsibly performed its mandate, which is carried out its mandate, which is to protect and promote the welfare and interest of Past Masters, their widows and orphans, Testimonies of beneficiaries of is hospital and death gratuity grants, such as the following, are proofs of its dedicated stewardship:

> I also take this opportunity to thank the leadership for the sound management and operation of the Grand Guild, most especially in its financial management. The benefit given is a manifestation of the principal tenets of our beloved Fraternity to us Past Masters.— ***Romulo M. Camat, Sr., PDDM***

> Thank you so much for your immediate response to the request. It is gratifying to note that the brethren who are handling the Grand Guild of Past Masters, are very much attuned to the needs of the provincial brethren. -- ***Bernardo T. Tan, PM, Beacon Lodge No. 213***

> Indeed, in times like this, it bears to emphasize that charity, not the ostentatious and unmeaning doling of alms, but that which translates into brotherly love, is a virtue which we all should practice. The cry of need is ever sounding in our ears and in our ears must never be closed. – ***Bro. Jess Zachael B. Espejo, Beacon Lodge No. 213***

> Sister Melanie and the whole family of the late WB Steve, wish to express their sincerest gratitude and appreciation to you and the Grand Guild of Past Masters. -- ***Milo M. Moselina, PGLI, Secretary, Unity Lodge No. 285***

We are very grateful for all the moral and financial support you have extended to the family of the late Past Master Edgar, who dropped his working tools last Feb. 19, 2011. We really treasure much all the concerns you have shown to us all the way during our critical and trying times. – ***Sis. Ruvi O. Penola, PRM, Iligan Court No. 21, Order of the Amaranth***

I acknowledge receipt with gratitude the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00), a token of brotherly love from the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines, through the facilitation of WB Winston Alvero, Secretary. Truly this gratuity assistance benefit for the death of my husband, WB Patricio A. Coruna is a rt. Bandoquillo elief and a big help extended to my family. Indeed, we are very, very grateful.
– ***Sis. Antonieta D. Coruna***

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the check in the amount of P15,000.00 only on October 12, 2011, representing the gratuity assistance benefit for the death (on May 25, 2011) of my father, Teodorico B. Torotoro, PM. Thank you so much and rest assured that the amount shall be used for my widow-mother, who has been sick/bed-ridden for sometime now. – ***Jubane T. Bandoquillo***

My late father, WB Antonio Que Hanko of Mabini Lodge No. 39, would have been very grateful for the help you extended to me. I am sick with Diabetes (insulin injection – advanced stage) enlargement of the heart, Gerd (acid reflux) allergy and elevated blood pressure and cholesterol. Your assistance helped me sustain the purchase of urgent-ky-needed medicines. – ***Nancy C. Que Hanko***

To encourage its members to register for, and attend, its annual assemblage, the GGPMP has adhered to its policy of giving out awards. This year, the following brethren were blessed and fortunate to take home mementoes:

Earliest Registrant : WB Elmer Pinli, St. John the Baptist Lodge No. 362
Youngest Past Master to Register: WB Elmer Pinli
Oldest Registrant: Benjamin Villanueva, Capitol City Lodge No. 176
Largest Delegation by Lodge: Cordillera Lodge No. 178
Largest Delegation by District: NCR-A Metro Manila
Longest Serving Past Master: VW Samuel P. Fernandez, Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 42
Most Outstanding District Guild: RIII-C, Zambales
Most Outstanding Grand Guild President: VW Tomasito Angeles
Farthest Distance Delegate: VW Rabinal Roger, Milton C. Marvin No. 123
Youngest Past Master: MW Pacifico B.Aniag, Malolos Lodge No. 46

The convention was, of course, highlighted by the report by the GGPMP President, MW John L. Choa, PGM. He said in part:

We have been able to increase the benefits for our Past Masters, primarily because all the amounts we received are purely devoted for the benefits of our Past Masters. Whenever I am invited by the brethren to be either their installing officer or their guest speaker, I never charge the GGPMP for honorarium, allowance, airfare, gasoline expenses, or merienda. Nor have the other Guild Officers, such as MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM (our Vice President), VW Mariano Sih (our Treasurer), VW Samuel P. Fernandez (our Secretary), and VW Benny Ty our Auditor) charged the GGPMP any amount for their services, To all of them, therefore, I say, "A million thanks for your dedication and sacrifices."

As in past years, we closed the GGPP'S 28th Annual Convention by forming a fellowship circle and singing "Auld Lang Syne." This is to signify that we brethren, including those who had gone to the Great Beyond ahead of us, are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection – an affection that goes beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity.

A Very Festive Governor's Night

In the evening of the same day, brethren, guests, and friends of Masons assembled at the CSCCC, where a very festive Governor's Night took place. They were treated not only to a sumptuous dinner but also to an entertaining program featuring the award-winning Governor"s Dance Troupe, which greatly helps the provincial government in promoting CamSur as a rapidly developing haven for both local and foreign tourists. .

VW Nyorlito P. Galvan, the Grand Master's Deputy for host District RV-A, and Hon. L-Ray Villafuerte, Governor of Camarines Sur, took turns in extending warmest welcome to the sojourning brethren and members of their families, friends, and guests.

In his closing remarks, MW Juanito P. Abergas thanked Gov. L-Ray Villafuerte for graciously hosting the fellowship dinner and welcomed the Past Grand Masters and visiting foreign dignitaries, some of whom were accompanied by their beloved spouses.

AnCom 2012 Proper
SIDELIGHTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Ceremonies

RW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, presided over the tyled opening of the MW Grand Lodge; then he solemnly received MW Juanito P. Abergas, Grand Master, into the convention hall.

The latter in turn formally received the following: Past Grand Masters of our MW Grand Lodge; representatives of Appendant Bodies/Allied Orders; visiting foreign dignitaries; Hon. Elrey Villafuerte, Camarines Sur Governor; and Hon. Jesse M. Robredo, DILG Secretary, Guest of Honor and Speaker.

VR Nelson T. Graza, Grand Chaplain, led the assembly in invoking God's blessing upon the labors of the ANCOM.

After the flag ceremony, VW Nyorlito P. Galvan and Hon. L-Ray Villafuerte delivered their respective welcome remarks.

Keynote Speech

DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo delivered his keynote speech entitled "The Everyday Mason." *(For the text of this speech, refer to "Other ANCOM Speeches.")*

Roll Calls

MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, Grand Secretary, called the rolls of the Past Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers, and his Assistant, VW (now RW) Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., the roll of the subordinate Lodges.

After announcing that there was a quorum for transacting the official business of the ANCOM, MW Danilo Angeles called the roll of the Grand Representatives of Grand Lodges near our MW Grand Lodge. MW Abergas thanked the Grand Representatives for continuing to build stronger fraternal relations between our MW Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodges they represent. The grand lodge representative in turn assured the Grand Master and the brethren that they would discharge their duties as such with more fidelity and conscientiousness than before.

Grand Oration

VW Reynato D. Puno, Jr. delivered a meaningful Grand Oration entitled "We Need Moral Heroes," (For the text o the grand oration, please refer to "Other ANCOM Speeches.")

Proceedings of Last ANCOM

Since the Proceedings of the 95th Annual Communication had not been printed and bound for easy perusal by the brethren, its reading, discussion, and approval was postponed to the Special Communication of our MW Grand Lodge in December this year.

Labors of the ANCOM Suspended

Due to the unexpected brownout, a significant number of the delegates left the convention hall, which had become, to them, unbearably hot. This development prompted MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, to suggest that the labors of the ANCOM be suspended "until the sound of the gavel in the Grand East." The brethren who remained in the hot convention hall unanimously agreed with MW Puno.

Grand Master's Night, Awards Night

The CSCCC Compound took on a very festive atmosphere as the brethren, both local and foreign, together with members of their families, friends and guests, convened to give due honor to Grand Master Juanito Abergas.

As those who attended the affair dined and drank together, the hosts entertained them with a program featuring dance presentations and song renditions. As in the past, warm friendship and sincere fellowship prevailed among them. "Behold! How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The recipients of well deserved awards were the following brethren, Lodges, and Disricts:

VW LUIS M. TUASON, JR. (NCR-C)
Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master

VW PAUL C. IBASCO (NCR-A)
VW EDUARDO S. ALCARAZ (NCR-G)
VW WESLEY A. BARAYUGA (R VI-A)
VW ELMER C. BALBIN (R VI-B)
Outstanding District Deputy Grand Masters

VW JOHN CO TAN (NCR-A)
Most Outstanding District Grand Lecturer

WB ROBERTO O. SING
(Frank Reed Horton Memorial Lodge No. 379)
Most Outstanding Worshipful Master

WB MANFRED E. SOLERO
(Benjamin O. Go Mem. Lodge No. 303)
WB MARIANITO GUERRERO
(Model Lodge No. 373)
WB FRANCIS S. CELIS
(Macajalar Lodge No. 184)
Outstanding Worshipful Masters

VW JEOFFRE W. ACEBEDO
(Maguindanao Lodge No. 40)
WB JUANITO M. ACANTO
(Graciano Lopez Jaena Mem. Lodge No. 194),
VW DAVID U. ONG, PDGL
(Labong Lodge No. 59)
Outstanding Masons in the Judiciary, Education, and Sports, respectively.

(***Continued*** *on Page 39)*













AnCom 2012 in Photos



















THE SONG OF SOLOM


















Annual Communications 2012 in Photos



































Annual Communications 2012 in Photos

















The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
INTEGRITY.














GRAND INSTALLATION
For Masonic Year 2012-2013

Grand Lodge
Officers
















AnCom 2012 in Photos






(***Continued*** *from Page 30)*

Greatly gladdened by the success of the night dedicated to his honor, MW Juanito Abergas thanked the brethren and their families for extending their support and cooperation to hm and his set of officers toward the implementation of the Grand Lodge's administrative program during his one-year sojourn in the Grand East.

ANCOM Labors Resumed

The labors of the ANCOM were resumed in the morning of Friday, April 27. The following presented their respective reports for the brethren's consideration and approval: the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children Inc. (MCCCI), the GGPMP, the Fraternal Relief & Assistance Program (FRAP), the Committee on Charity, the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Senior Grand Lecturer, and the various Standing and Special Grand Lodge Committees.

NOTE: The Office of the Grand Secretary will provide the brethren with information on "Matters Approved in the ANCOM."

Venue of Next ANCOM

Majority of the brethren approved the motion that ANCOM 2013 would be held in Iloilo City.

Election of Grand Lodge Officers

Invariably, this is considered as the most awaited and most exciting part of the ANCOM. Generally, the brethren were satisfied with the results thereof, which were reported earlier on.

Tribute to the PGMs

While many of the brethren, together with their spouses, friends, and guests, attended the victory party of the Junior Grand Warden-elect, and others dined in some restaurants in Naga City, MW Juanito P. Abergas, Grand Master, hosted a fellowship dinner in fraternal tribute to the Past Grand Masters of our MW Grand Lodge. The sojourning foreign dignitaries graced this occasion with their presence.

Saturday Ante-Meridiem Events

In the morning of April 28, VW Edilberto P. Carabbacan, Senior Grand Lecturer, and his team conferred the Installed Past Master's Degree upon the brethren who had applied for the purpose and whom they had found worthy at the CSCCC.

Afterwards, incoming Grand Master Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr. briefed his set of Grand Lodge Officers on the Grand Lodge's program of administration, with particular focus on the theme for his year in the Grand East. He provided each of them with a copy of the Manual for Grand Lodge Officers for 2012-2013.

Closing Invocation

Grand Chaplain Jesse D. Alto, a theosophist in his own right, solemnly recited the invocation given below as part of the closing of the Grand Lodge in short and public form.

LET US HAVE a few moments of inner silence…. Let us make our bodies relaxed, and our emotions serene and calm.

Let us be aware of our minds, and allow our thoughts to settle down.

Let us now raise our awareness to the highest in us, beyond our thoughts and feelings, to that which transcends our ego, towards the highest level of our compass, that which is universal and unbounded.

Let us be attuned to the Supreme Grand Master, that great and transcendent Con-

sciousness with whom we are one in the deepest recesses of our Spirit.

Let us give thanks to Him for blessing our Grand Lodge with one hundred years of unselfish service and for continuing to endue us with a competency of His divine wisdom.

May we always be open to His inspiration and guidance, not only during these installatio ceremonies but in our daily lives as well.

May we awaken the inner wisdom that will enable us not only to see what is important and what is not, what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is false, what is good and what is evil, but also to make love, relief and truth the guiding spiritual possession in our lives.

May such inner wisdom serve as a beacon of light that will guide us in carrying out our Masonic labors and in steering our Grand Lodge, its constituent Districts, and its subordinate Lodges through right and wholesome pathways toward contributing further personal development, social welfare, and human progress.

May the innermost light shine upon the hearts and minds of all of us here present, of our honored guests, of our other brethren and their families, and of all others who are sympathetic to the noble cause of Masonry. May it shine likewise upon our country and the rest of the world.

May true brotherhood prevail among men of every country, sect and opinion, so that, eventually, Masonry will accomplish its self-imposed mission, which is to bring about a world where there are no more wars, where is no more hatred, and where love, sympathy, and compassion. Amen.

(***Editorial*** */ Continued from Page 5*)

trymen. But no man is big enough to be asked. A father should not ask his son, (and) a brother should not ask a brother, to join. The initiative must come from them.

Each of us must refuse to recommend anyone to a participation in our privileges, unless you have strong reasons to believe that, by a similar fidelity, he will ultimately reflect honor on our ancient Institution, ever bearing in mind that *"Masonry regards no man on account of his worldly wealth or honors," or that "it is the internal and not the external qualifications which recommend a man to be made a Mason."*

Investigators must, therefore, exert all-out effort to learn the reasons which have led them to desire to join the Craft. We suggest that they use as guide the following pointers given in an article posted on the website of the MW Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia in Canada:

- The petitioner who wants membership in order to promote his business is seeking something holy for sordid reasons. The man who desires merely to satisfy his curiosity is not worthy of the knowledge he seeks. The applicant who hopes, through influential friends to be acquired in Lodge, to secure place and power would prostitute for selfish ends the institution he seeks to join.
- The "good" reasons which every petitioner should have for wishing to be made a Mason include (1) a sincere and unselfish love for his fellowmen; (2) a hunger to follow where his father, grandfather, uncle or blood brother has gone; (3) a respect and veneration for an ancient and honorable fraternity whose interest has been, in every age and country, encouraged and promoted by men preeminent for their moral and intellectual attainments as well as by men of royal or noble blood; and (4) a sincere desire to be help and service to others, to love and honor the Great Architect of the Universe, to be with many friends in activities they enjoy, to secure the moral and social welfare of loved ones, and/or to explore one's inner self and by doing so, to become a better man.

(***Continued*** *on Page 63)*

Other AnCom Speeches

Let's now take a close look at the texts of the Guest of Honor and Speaker's keynote address, VW Ringo Puno's grand oration, MW Reynato Puno's presentation of the PGM's Jewel & Ring Award, and the IPGM's speech of acceptance of the award presented to him.

The Everyday Mason

by Hon. Jesse M. Robredo
DILG Secretary



YOU AND I ARE STANDING at a crucial juncture -- a turning point, if you will -- in our country's history. We have gone through two unfinished EDSA revolutions.

We have another opportunity with a popular President who wishes nothing for himself and who believes in the best in us.

President Aquino is right to keep believing in the best in us. Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, and Apolinario Mabini, all Masons, have captured the great Filipino aspirations. Many individual Filipinos in our day and age prove our nation's greatness.

But what do we have to show for their brilliance? I know that the pace of the development of our nation is erratic, and that the progress of our society is intermittent. So, we often ask ourselves if we really have what it takes to claim our rightful place among the region's tigers.

Consider the following: A 26-year-old Harvard dropout is one of the richest persons on the planet. He has made it so that publishing to millions is as easy as setting up for free a Facebook account.

But what of the Filipino children in our poor municipalities and cities? They are lucky to have one workbook and textbook for every 12 children. They can't even take the books home.

Engineering brainiacs at Google change cultures across the globe just by making information accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. Contrast that with our Local Government Units (LGUs), where the digital divide seems wider than the Niagara. In Lanao del Sur, for example, you don't go online to influence your constituents. You speak on a two-way radio.

Did you know that computer models are now developed to predict outbreak and casualties of civil uprisings? To top it all, we are now moving towards the third industrial revolution with the digitization of jobs. That's not something our people in the poorest islands, who have no jobs themselves, could appreciate.

Global developments are moving at dizzying speeds. Yet our nation moves erratically. What will it take for our country to move forward, and what is this juncture I am talking about?

If you've noticed, society has been slowly opening its doors to government, and both are willing to network for the sake of change. The government is capitalizing on this openness with new programs tat harness real people power.

Yesterday, we launched three initiatives that concretize the belief of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in openness and engagement. After this event (ANCOM), I am flying to Iloilo to push the Department's advocacy of shaping LGUs to be "bukas, matino at mahusay." The three initiatives that we launched -- the Seal of Disaster Preparedness, the higher levels of the Seal of Good Housekeeping, and the National Gawad Pamana ng Lahi-- are meant to bring excellence and good governance to every town and municipality of our nation.

The success of our programs will depend on real people power anchored on the values of integrity and excellence. Thus, what we need now, at this crucial juncture, is people cementing collaborations to fight corruption, mediocrity, and division in our society. / What we need now are people like you, who are leaders and thinkers -- Masons who live and propagate the values of commitment to truth, justice, patriotism, and selflessness. .

I have absolute admiration for your desire to keep in view the larger interest of society and the country rather than yourselves or your particular organization. I have always said that the secret of a truly progressive and enlightened society is when people put others first.

So, the challenge for you is this is, gentlemen: The narrative from your little everyday acts of justice and fairness, of honesty and truth, of sacrifice and diligence is the key to our country's unveiling as a global power.

I hope you truly realize the power of the words in your creed that say: "Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal."

I find it very interesting that your creed merges well with the DILG's philosophy. Human progress and liberty of thought means "I am smart." Freedom of conscience and guarantee of equal rights translate to "I am straight." It's not enough to be smart. It's also important to be straight. Knowing many things is easy. Search Google. Using that knowledge to truly serve -- that's what it means to be a Mason.

The words of your creed crystallized into everyday actions wherever you are -- in a corporation, in government, in the police force, in politics—will fuel the wheels of change in our nation. You can be Masons in big things. But more importantly, you must be Masons in small things as well.

Let me move to my second point. We do not need another EDSA. EDSA is a dramatic event that I hope we will never need again because we were driven to it by a dictator. For me, for our country to move ahead, EDSA must be everyday. That means we try to involve everyone. That means everyone understands he has an obligation to serve. That means reform is an everyday activity. That means that the daily grind is more important than the one-time heroic moment.

This supports the dramatic change happening all over the world at present. Global power shifts are happening, and some believe these will be followed by turbulent times. We are seeing the shifts from local to global, from individuals to networks. We are interconnected in ways that have never been seen before.

The citizens of our country epitomize this connection: they are scattered all over the globe but do not forget their roots. They Skype, they chat, they text back to the Philippines, and they still want to retire here. They send money home to their local roots. They are citizens of our local governments but also citizens of the world. But in that space, they are also exposed to the risks of the world -- bird flu, global calamities, financial upheavals.

How do we harness peoples' talents and strengths and positions, but at the same time protect them from the insidious effects of these power shifts? We need to arm our people -- both those abroad and those at home -- with the right leaders, the right thinkers, and definitely the right Masons.

You are the right Mason when you are "mahusay at matino." You are a real Mason when you are unbending in your "paninindigan". You cannot focus on simply what you want to become; you need to care about how you will get there. By doing so, you will be the embodiment of your creed.

Ask yourself now: "What can I do to make this happen? Do I hold the interests of others above my own? Do I guarantee equal rights to all, and not just to my brothers in the organization?" Your vigilance in guarding against un-Masonic behavior will shape the reputation of Masonry in the Philippines. More importantly, your commitment to your values can shape our country's future from this juncture onwards.

Some say that Masons favor Masons over others when it comes to privileges or favors. A dark cloud over Masonry identifies it as a clique that discriminates against those who are not Masons. I am sure this is not true, but you must show to others that Masonic ethics rise above discrimination and favoritism. Dispel this dark cloud hanging over the organization, so others will see it as the enlightened organization that it is.

I understand that membership in your organization is only by invitation. You are here because someone believes in your integrity. That is an honor and a privilege. If you have joined the ranks of the Masons to gain from the privileges rather than the opportunity to serve, your desire will weaken what the organization stands for. But if you have joined to embody the obligation to serve, now that's really something to be proud of.

May I say that never has the country needed your participation more than today. Our success in this revolution could be the needed boost towards that greatness Rizal, Mabini, and Bonifacio dreamed of. It will be a change that is not caused by a crisis; it will be a change that is borne from daily conscious acts of virtue.

Your network, your organization, is one of the oldest in the world. It needs to step up in ways it has never done before. Collectively, you have so much to offer in terms of expanding the cultures of merit and service. Will you step up and be daily heroes as real Masons?

Your decision could help determine where we all go from this juncture onwards. It is my greatest wish that all of you Masons here present will take the challenge both as individuals and as a group. Maybe then we can reap the greatness we were meant to have, starting from this juncture onwards.

More power to you, and thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

We Need Moral Heroes

by VW Reynato D. Puno, Jr.



THIS YEAR WE ARE celebrating the Centennial of the establishment of our Grand Lodge. Predictably, we shall be looking again with a magnifying glass at our storied past. Once more, we will be resurrecting the heroism of Rizal, del Pilar, Bonifacio, Mabini, etc., which the tide of time will never efface. Without meaning to diminish their heroism, I respectfully suggest that in our Centennial celebration, we should focus less of our yesteryears but more of our afteryears as Masons. We cannot be entombed in the graveyards of our heroes. I dare you to think that if our heroes have any wish, it must be for new Masonic heroes to rise from their graveyards.

How do heroes become heroes? An unblemished view of world history will tell us that heroes were swept in their iconic status by what philosophers call the concatenation and conspiracy of circumstances often imposed on them. In the case of Rizal and company, they rose to heroism because the times swept the waves of colonialism into our shores. They were able to slay the evils of colonialism by losing their lives that the people's right to brotherly love, relief and truth may live . In the case of Masons like Churchill, McArthur, etc., they were pushed upward to the pedestal of heroes because their time saw the explosion of a world war where they led their people to resist the evils of fascism and nazism by raising the banner of freedom under democracy.

The world wars are just a faint memory. Even the Cold War is but the subject of fireside chit-chat. The new millennium is in with all of its new challenges as well as its promises. If we want to produce new Masonic heroes, we must have a fingertip familiarity of these challenges and promises to our people. I was reading a book entitled Fifty Facts That Should Change the World, by Jessica Williams. I wish to share with you a few of these facts and hopefully, these facts will inspire us to do little acts of heroism in our lives, small acts that will transform our lives from good to better, from better to best in the Masonic tradition.

First Fact. In 2001, thirty countries around the world were fighting in 37 armed conflicts. These fightings involve 2.29 billion people. Pres. Eishenhower once pointed the dark side of war as follows: :Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

Second Fact. Eight hundred million go hungry every day, which means one in five of the world's population. Two billion people die each year from hunger-related diseases. Listen to this ... hunger is not caused by food shortages for the world produces enough food each year to feed all of its inhabitants. The Nobel Prize-winning economist Amarthya Sen, a foremost authority on the causes of hunger, says that hunger is not caused by a country's inability to produce food but by lack of income and political circumstances are often to blame.

Third Fact. The United States spends $10 billion on pornography each year … the same amount it spends on foreign aid to poor countries. The pornography business is getting bigger all the time. More than 200 new adult films are produced each week and there are more than 300,000 internet sites dedicated to naked flesh.

Fourth Fact. One in five of the world's people lives on less than$1 a day. Every cow in the European Union is subsidized by $2.50 a day. Japanese cows receive $7.50 a day. According to the Catholic Aid Agency, for the money the European Union spends protecting its farmers, each of the EU's 21 million cows could go on a round-the-world trip once a year.

Fifth Fact. The Christian Cross is one of the most potent symbols of faith in the Western World. It used to be that the Cross is the most recognized symbol in the Western world. Not anymore. In a 6-country survey involving 7,000 people, the result shows that people now recognize the McDonald Golden Arches, the Shell Oil Logo the Mercedes badge and the five Olympic rings more than the Christian Cross. No wonder, during Christmas time, they no longer greet each other Merry Christmas. They greet each other Happy Holidays.

This is the setting of our society, 100 years after the founding of our Grand lodge; this is the ambiance at the start of the new millennium – where there is all the chance for man to be superman, a chance also for for man to destroy his fellowman. To borrow some lines from Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities

X xx
It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us.

Even if I have to butt heads with some, I like to submit the thesis that for all its stinking status quo, this is the opportune time for new Masonic heroes to rise. These new heroes will come from the ranks of the morally excellent, from the quarry where men have the moral clarity to know that to gain the eternal, you must face the courage to lose the insignificance of life.

One of these quarries is Masonry; for if Masonry has any synonym, it is morality. The serum of truth has been injected in our veins that morality is one of the greatest virtues of man. Our challenge as Masons is to be moral and our commitment is to spread morality to all mortals. We have been warned by our Masonic gurus that it is not easy to live in a morally polluted environment and for certain, there will be occasions when we will stumble. But our Masonic teachings tell us that falling down in life is normal but is staying down for good that is bad. That is the reason why to me the most edifying moment in our degree work is when the lion's grip of a brother Mason raises us up to a new life, to a new beginning where we can appreciate that we are governed by a God of second chance.

The moral man will be considered a hero; for in the time to come and that time may be now, it will be more and more difficult to be moral. The moral man will be dismissed and diminished in a world that will be driven more and more by materialism. The struggle for survival of the fittest will be sharper as the earth's finite resources get to be exhausted. The number of the lost, the least and the last in society will be more, and the temptation to eliminate them as burdens will be greater. The elite will be fewer, but they will wield more

power, and some of them will devour the powerless with tearless eyes. It is no wonder that today we see the thinning of the ranks of Masons in nearly every corner of the world. In a world enveloped by a moral fog, it is not easy to be a Mason. But however difficult it may be, to be moral is not an option on the part of a Mason but a mandated choice, a correct choice.

As a final word, let us not despair when Masons and moral men turn out to be the minority in the world. For moral men to succeed, they do not need the strength of the majority; for it is not number that assures victory in life but our faith in God. Remember the story of Gideon in the Old Testament. Gideon was faced by an enemy composed of 135,000 soldiers. He had only 32,000 men. Instead of being discouraged by lack of number, Gideon even put his men to a test in order to reduce their number.

First, all the men who were afraid of the big number of the enemy were ordered to go home. 22,000 left and only 10,000 stayed.

Second, those who stayed were told to drink water. 9,700 drank water by lapping the water as the dogs do. They were told to go home. Only 300 men drank water from their hands. Gideon told them to stay and to fight their enemy composed of 135,000 soldiers. Thus, a tiny minority of 300 fought with faith in their hearts, with the unflinching belief that God would make them prevail, and true to their faith, they prevailed.

My spiritual eyes make me see that this new millennium will produce new heroes. They are not the supermen, they are not the super geniuses, they are not the most politically powerful, they are not the most economically influential, they are not the most militarily mighty. Rather, the new heroes will be the moral men -- men with a soul, men whom others cannot make with their own hands, men who will worship the one and only true God, the God of Love, the God of Forgiveness the God of Mercy, the God who never changes in Goodness. In the making of these new heroes, the moral men, Masonry has an advantage for Masonry is morality.
God bless Masonry!

(***CORNERSTONE*** / *Continued from Page 7*)

A Genuine Sense of Nationhood. Directly because of the above and most significantly for our history, the Propaganda Movement, primarily through our continental Brethren, first conceptualized the need to foster a genuine sense of nationhood from formerly disperse regional interests.

Freemasonry is being Filipino.

This is why our Craft is so uniquely relevant to the shaping of our history. Simply put, Freemasonry was directly instrumental in the forging of our national identity. The Propaganda Movement that first sought to initiate colonial reforms was just as much masonically inspired, led, and executed. It was this very same inspiration that the Craft gave to our earliest Brethren in the Propaganda Movement – a unified campaign for reforms, liberal ideals of public governance, and the creation of a genuine sense of nationhood – that in turn was the same spark which would ignite the Revolution of 1896.

The roots of being Filipino therefore really do arise from the simple application of the precepts that our Ancient Craft teaches. Hence, Freemasonry is being Filipino.

MW Abergas' Most Enduring Legacy

by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH



TODAY, APRIL 28, 2012, a Saturday, the hour of 5:15, we are honoring a brother who for one year sat on Masonry's highest seat of POWER, THE Grand Oriental Chair and is stepping down from its revered steps with a chorus of approval from the brethren.

I purposely underscored the word "power" in describing the Grand Oriental Chair; for even if for a nanosecond alone, I want to emphasize its potential use for good or for evil. To the uninitiated, to those with a dim view of Masonry, you will be surprised to know that since time immemorial, Masonry has been structured on the basic principle that Masons should be ruled by a brother vested with a near-absolute power. For we entrust on our Grand Master the full faith and outmost confidence that he will be richly blessed with the luminous mind to make our laws, the passionate heart to interpret our laws, and the skillful hand to execute our laws. Trusted with such a plenitude of awesome power, every Grand Master wears the crown of Masonry with the highest care and concern for the brethren, well knowing that it could either be a crown of love or a crown of thorns.

MW Abergas occupied the Grand Oriental Chair last year and wielded its gavel burdened with more than the usual expectations of a new Grand Master. This is because half of his term as Grand Master will protrude in the year we shall be celebrating our Centennial as a Grand Lodge. Whether we like it or not, our great past, the heroism of our Masonic forefathers, will always be used as a measure of our modern Grand Masters. While this glorious past can inspire and guide us in our Masonic journey, MW Abergas was keenly aware that greatness is not hereditary, that no one has franchise to greatness and therefore he has to strive to greatness by his own strokes and his own style. And this he did with great aplomb; hence, today, he has surrendered the throne of Masonry to his successor in as shining condition as when it was entrusted to him.

The historian-philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset said, "Tell me what you pay attention to and I will tell you who you are." In his inaugural speech as Grand Master in our last Annual Communication, MW Abergas informed us loud and clear what he would pay attention to during his watch in the Grand East. He revealed that in his theme "Integrity, Fidelity, Ability: Hallmarks of a True Mason." To be sure, that was a great theme for Masonry teaches us more to be faithful and less to be famous. And MW Abergas walked his talk – there was no dysfunction between his promise and performance; for he consistently displayed the virtues of Integrity. Fidelity and Ability while running the day-to-day affairs of the Grand Lodge so reminiscent of the legendary King Hiram Abiff. I do not wish to make a reinventory of the many achievements of MW Abergas as Grand Master. But let me just underscore what I believe is his most enduring legacy as a Grand Master: His legacy in leaving an office of a strong Grand Master; for he was a Grand Master who did not wince in exercising the totality of our executive, legislative and judicial powers; in weeding out those who have desecrated our temples, those who ran roughshod over our inviolable landmarks, those who will destroy our Masonic heritage, root and branch.

MW Abergas fought and fought well; for he knew that there are no worthwhile victories without wars, and no worthy champions without a fight. MW Abergas rescued the positon of Grand Master from descending into weakness, gave it new muscle and stronger tendons, and in so doing, he assured us that our Masonry can survive the uncertain tide of times so long as we have a Grand Master who is faithful to his charge, a Grand Master wno will not hesitate to use his powers to serve the brethren and preserve the virtues of Masonry.

MW Abergas, in joining the ranks of PGMs, I assure you that you will not grow old; for, according to Oscar Wilde, those whom God loves grow young.

Welcome to the ranks of PGMs.



"This Award Is Only Mine in Trust"

MW Juanito P. Abergas, IPGM

I WANT, FIRST OF ALL, to thank the Great Architect of the Universe for all the favors He has bestowed upon me, particularly that of having been chosen by the brethren in this Jurisdiction as their 94th Grand Master.

Secondly, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to you, MW Rey Puno, for eloquently presenting to my humble person and character the award of the PGM's Jewel and Ring. Your glowing description of me as Grand Master sounded to me like my eulogy. As I listened intently to your presentation, I imagined my soul standing naked and alone before the Great White Throne, there to receive judgment for deeds done while still in the body; then I heard the Judge Supreme utter the welcome words, "For doing your job as Grand Master well, welcome into the joy of Thy Lord."

But, kidding aside, I really admire your uncanny ability to pinpoint the particular strength of any Grand Master to whom you present the two emblems. I thank you most sincerely, MW Sir, for believing that I skillfully and assiduously managed the various concerns of our MW Grand Lodge, its constituent Districts, and its subordinate Lodges during my one-year watch in the Grad East. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for appreciating my earnest effort to stimulate the brethren to strictly obey the precepts which our Masonic Law Book ordains or the ordinances which it promulgates; for, like you and the others who occupied the Grand Oriental Chair before me, I firmly believe that "There is no other human institution which requires of its votaries a more faithful and conscientious discharge of duties than does the Masonic fraternity." Therefore, I saw to it that offenders against our laws, rules and regulations must be punished for their indiscreet and improper conduct.

MW Sirs and brethren, I can proudly say that I did the best I could to discharge the duties and responsibilities attendant to the Grand Oriental Chair so faithfully and conscientiously as to promote the welfare, progress, and prosperity of our MW Grand Lodge, its constituent Lodges, and its subordinate Lodges. Hence, I think I am not undeserving of the twofold award presented to me this evening.

But, to me, this twofold award is only mine in trust. It was entrusted to me by you, dear brethren, and other members of the Masonic Family in this Jurisdiction who extended to me and my set of Grand Lodge officers your unstinted support and whole-hearted

cooperation toward the successful and fruitful implementation of the plans and programs which a group of dedicated brethren and I had meticulously put together in order to take the Craft in our Jurisdiction to greater heights of achievement.

Brethren, for your disinterested contributions to making my tenure as Grand Master very memorable, enjoyable, and fulfilling, maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!

Thank you very much for helping me and the other Grand Lodge officers realize, in a small degree at least, the vision of our Craft during my one-year term, which we stated in the following manner:

To make of the Craft in this Jurisdiction a dynamic fraternal organization dedicated to attracting and retaining men of the finest character or of the highest quality by renewing our commitment to providing progressive quality programs and services for the brethren, members of their families, and heir friends in a spiri of fellowship, fun, and friendship.

Thank you very much for extending to us your active assistance and sympathy toward accomplishing, to a certain extent,the Craft's mission during my year in the Grand East, which we stated in the following words:

To attract and retain high-quality members by maintaining a positive environment conducive to developing leadership skills; by providing fellowship and enjoyment for every member; and by enabling the continuous growth of membership. By doing so, we will ensure our prominence as the most recognized and effective fraternity.

Thank you very much, dear brethren, for exerting all-out effort to give due meaning and substance to the theme "INTEGRITY, FIDELITY, ABILITY: HALLMARKS OF A TRUE MASON."

We believe you did all this because, like us, you want the general public to regard us as an organization of excellence.

I need not mention here and now the gains we have made, or the accomplishments we have reaped, during my one-year watch. Suffice it to say, dear brethren, that without your support and cooperation, we could not have accomplished anything.

I must express my most cordial appreciation of the wise counsel which the Chairman and members of the Board for General Purposes gave me during my sojourn in the Grand East.

I must also convey my profound gratitude to the officers of the Grand Line and the various Masonic Districts for their dedicated and disinterested labors during my term as Grand Master.

I must, moreover, convey my sincerest thanks to the members of the Grand Lodge staff for performing their respective assignments to the best of their ability, thereby helping me and the other Grand Lodge officers run the day-to-day affairs of our MW Grand Lodge efficiently and effectively.

I must, of course, express my most profound gratitude to my loving wife, children, grandchildren, and relatives for their unending understanding and inspiring support in all my Masonic undertakings. Decidedly, they have served – and will continue to serve -- as "the wind beneath my wings.".

I also convey my heart-warm thanks to the officers and members of Toril Lodge No. 208, Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277, and the other Lodges with which I am affiliated, as well as to all others who worked with much dedication and disinterestedness to help us implement successfully our plans and programs for my year in the Grand East.

I repeat: In behalf of all who assisted me and my set of Grand Lodge officers toward attaining the worthwhile goals we had set before us, I do accept the two awards presented to me, which are actually outward symbols of our relative success in realizing our vision, accomplishing our mission, giving due meaning and substance to our theme, and carrying out the projects and programs for my year in the Grand East. Now that I am a Past Grand Master, I assure you, dear brethren, that I will not suffer the luster of this jewel and this ring to be dimmed through any act of mine, and that I will continue to serve the Craft to the best of my ability. Maraming salamat sa inyong pagdinig. Mabuhay po tayong lahat! Maligaya't makabuluhang gabi sa ating lahat

Events & Developments

MW Gabionza Issues Edict No. 253

GRAND MASTER SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR., in Edict No. 253, which he issued on May 23, 2012, decrees that the following kinds of disbursement shall be exempted from pre-audit procedures:

1. Payment of employees' salaries, allowances, or compensation along with the mandatory payments for government exactions, such as withholding taxes, SSS. Pag-ibig, etc;
2. Payments for utilities, such as electricity, water, and telephone, evidenced by duly issued bills or statements from the service provided; and
3. Payment of pety cash fund and vouchers for payments of supplies and materials and other emergency purchases of relatively small value not exceeding Php 10,000.

He issued the Edict not only because it has always been a common advocavy that good governance promotes efficient and effective systems and procedures, but also because the Chairman of the GLP's Committee on Accounts has observed that there are disbursements made from time to time where pre-audit adds a layer of red tape resulting in delay of ime-bound payments which on he other hand can be adequately covered by post-audit procedure, and therefore has recommended that pre-audit procedures on certain disbursements be dispensed with in order to avoid delay on time-bound payments, but without prejudice to post-audit.

MABUHAY SHRINERS

Nobles Observe Shriners International Awareness Week

LED BY PAST GRAND MASTER and Illustrious Potentate Avelino I. Razon, Jr. and his Divan, members of the different Shrine Clubs under the umbrella of Mabuhay Shriners participated in the various activities undertaken in observance of Shriners International Awareness Week on the first week of June.

On Sunday, June 3, they joined the colorful Shrine Parade held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., Grand Master, and other Grand Lodge officers were conspicuously in attendance during the special event.





Most Worshipful Santiago T. Gabionza leads Grand Lodge of the Philippines' Independence Day 2012 Rites

Grand Master of Masons, Most Worshipful Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr. headed the traditional Masonic rites Independence Day Celebration on June 12 in Manila.

MW Gabionza—together with the NCR district councils, appendant bodies and allied orders—joined the civic flag-raising ceremony and wreath-laying before the Rizal monument at Luneta. Then, he led the Masonic party back to the Grand Lodge in a "Centennial Walk."

In the GLP compound, MW Gabionza led the brethren again in an exclusively Masonic flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies. RW Edilberto Carabbacan, current Grand Orator, extolled the deeds and sacrifices of the 1896 Masonic heroes. "Today, we are reminded once again to symbolize the Filipino people's commitment to the cause of freedom and the defense of liberty by exemplifying Masonic ideals and virtues," he said.

But the fight for independence does not end with self-government alone, he said. He raised four points why we must not yet let our guards down.

First, democracy relies on popular participation in running it. The ruling must not be left to the rulers alone. Second, democracy requires the wherewithal for its upkeep. If not, "political independence can die in the lips of poverty and injustice." Third, the better off must look after the destitute which is both a civic and Masonic duty. And fourth, love in its various forms, must prevail. The affection, irrational as it may be, can compel moral compunction and keep order.

MW Gabionza capped the rites with a closing remark. "If we would be true Masons, we should be like Bro. Rizal," he said, "not only exemplary in the discharge of our civil duties but also zealous and enthusiastic in promoting the welfare, best interest and progress, and prosperity of our own country."

Breakfast and fellowship followed after the ceremonies in the Aguinaldo Hall.

Independence Day 2012 Rites




















CENTENNIAL WALK




CENTENNIAL WALK






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PING


S.L.P.
S.L.P.
S.L.P.
S.L.P.

(***CENT..L GRAND MASTER'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES*** / *Continued from Page 17*)

2 Guest of Honor and Speaker, Constitution and Installation of Bulacan Lodge No. 400 at Kulinarys Resto Bar, Malolos, Bulacan

6 Guest of Honor and Speaker, Constitution and Installation of Isaac Puno Memorial Lodge No. 401 at GLP, Manila

9 Official Lodge Visitation, Quezon City Lodge No. 122, Capitol Masonic Temple

12 Independence Day Celebration Flag raising & Wreath Laying Ceremony at Rizal Monument, Luneta Park Centennial Walk led by RW Alan LM Purisima, SGW with NCR Brethren from Rizal Park to GLP, Flag raising and Wreath Laying Ceremony at GLP Courtesy Call, Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth led by HL Arceli B. Dela Cruz, Grand Royal Matron and SK Rodel Riezl Reyes, Grand Royal Patron at GLP Special Installation of Grand Line Officers at Jose Abad Santos Hall, GLP

13 Courtesy Call, Supreme Council of Demolay at GLP; Courtesy Call, Grand Sec Reynold S. Fajardo Lodge no. 383, GLP

14 Centennial Anniversary Committee meeting with MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH

19 Guest of Honor Speaker, Dr. Jose P. Rizal's 151th Birthday Celebration at Historic Rizal Shrine, Calamba, Laguna
Guest of Honor and Speaker, Jose P. Rizal Lodge No. 270 30th Dispensation Anniversary and Commemoration

20 Courtesy Call, Supreme Assembly International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Philippines led by Sis. Eleanor Redor, GLP; Courtesy Call, Brethren of Malacanang Square and Compass Club, GLP

21 Honoree of the Club, Testimonial Dinner and Regular meeting of the Manila Travellers Square and Compass, Inc. at Bayleaf hotel, Intramuros, Manila

23 Guest of Honor and Speaker, 111th Founding Anniversary Celebration & Past Master's Night of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 at Light and Sound Museum, Intramuros, Manila

25 Courtesy Call, Philippine Balanghay Association, Inc. led by Sultan Manuel Gaerlan and Lakan Adam Sim, GLP

27 Corporate Board Meeting – 4:00 p.m.

28 Courtesy Call, NCR-B led by VW Renato M. Paynaganan, DDGM, Centennial Anniversary Committee meeting with MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH

Cabletow chief downed by stroke twice

Cabletow editor-in-chief Jesus Flor R. Nicolas suffered two instances of cardiac arrests all in a month's time. Both classified as "mild stroke," yet the last on July 15 had him confined in an intensive care unit (ICU) and lying unconscious for a couple of days.

Presently, Bro. Nicolas is taking rest at home and catching up on his recovery.

The Cabletow and all brethren who know Bro. Nicolas wish this Masonically knowledgeable and prolific writer, a Cabletow pillar himself, a speedy recovery and return to his typewriting table.

Events & Developments

For the brethren's guidance, MW Gabionza specifies in his 5th Circular the events dates, guidelines, and procedures. . . .

Fund-Raising Requirements Reiterated

OUR INCUMBENT GRAND MASTER in his Circular no. 12 dated June 5, 2012, informs us that, as before, our MW Grand Lodge has thought of establishing mechanisms whereby every Masonic District or Blue Lodge shall conduct its fund-raising activities with utmost transparency and accountability. In such an activity, the District or Lodge must promote the Masonic spirit of showing concern or caring for the less fortunate in our society.

For this purpose, MW Gabionza attaches to his Circular the fund-raising requirements specified in Circular No. 24 of MW Enrique L. Locsin, our Grand Master in 1998-1999, and enjoins all Districts and Lodges to strictly comply with the requirements specified in MW Locsin's Circular.

Grand Master Stresses Need to Improve Intra-Lodge, Inter-Lodge Harmony

ALTHOUGH WE AVOW THAT HARMONY is the strength and beauty of our noble brotherhood; misunderstanding among members of a Lodge or between brethren of one Lodge and those of another has persisted, even to the extent of filing charges of unmasonic conduct, which are most frequently brought to the Grand Master for disposition and resolution.

In his Circular No. 7 dated May 28, 2012, therefore, MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., Grand Master, stresses that all of us should revisit Edicts 82-A (Galvez), 82-B (Pagotan), and 82-C (Aniag) in order to equip ourselves with a strong mooring and discernment on the purposes and wisdom of the said Edicts for our appropriate guidance in maintaining and promoting harmony among us.

Concludes our Grand Master: "In this light, I urge the immediate activation of the mechanisms as provided in the aforesaid Edicts and compliance report to be submitted to the office of the Grand Secretary."

Commemorative Items Available at the Grand Lodge Masonic Supplies Store

Lodges, individual brethren, and other interested parties may now purchase the following items at the Masonic Supplies Store of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines:

1. Copies of the Grand Orations Book
2. Commemorative Car Plates
3. Commemorative Stamps



Charity Benefits for Master Masons Increased

IN the 94TH ANCOM of our MW Grand Lodge held in Cagayan de Oro City in April 2010, the Committee on Charity happily and proudly announced, among other things, that due to its judicious and proper management of the funds entrusted to its care, effective May 1 2010, the Death Gratuity Grant for Master Masons should be increased from Php 8,000 to Php 10,000, and the hospital Gratuity Grant, from Php 4,000 to Php 5,000 per year or every 12 months. In view of the foregoing, MW Gabionza, in his Circular No. 8 dated May 30, 2012, states, "All Master Masons in good standing who are not Past Masers and who either have been hospitalized or have dropped their working tools may avail of such a benefit upon evaluation by the Committee on Charity."

Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn to Be Sung in Masonic Functions

HENCEFORTH, THE GRAND LODGE CENTENNIAL HYMN, Gran Lohia, Mabuhay Ka, the music and lyrics of which were composed by VW Magdangal M. de Leon, Past Master of Araw Lodge No. 18, Past Grand Chaplain of our MW Grand Lodge, and Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, shall be sung in every Masonic function, whether tyled or public, after the singing of the National Anthem and the Grand Lodge March. Thus enjoins MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr. Grand Master, in his Circular No. 11 dated June 5, 2012.

NOTE: *The lyrics of the said hymn and the explication by the composer, VW Magdangal de Leon, of the why's and wherefor's of his composition are to be found under "Guide for the Centennial Term" infra.*

A Masonic Museum Soon to Be Constructed

SINCE A MASONIC MUSUEM will be constructed at the premises of the Plaridel Masonic Temple (PMT), the Grand Lodge leadership encourages us brethren and Lodges to donate artifacts and memorabilia which we deem worth displaying in the Masonic Museum. Further states our Grand Master in his Circular No. 9 dated May 31, 2012:

"The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any memorabilia or artifacts sent to it for display at the proposed Museum."

Brethren and Other Members of the Masonic Family Urged to Join Centennial Fun Run Series

WE BRETHREN AND OTHER members of the Masonic Family in this Jurisdction are urged to join the Centennial Fun Run Series, dubbed "Run, Kuyang, Run," which aims to gather all of us Masons, our families and friends to experience running and having fun togeher as one big family, as well as to raise funds needed for the successful celebration of the Centennial of our MW Grand Lodge. By participating in the fun run series, we will exhibit to the non-Masonic public the unity and brotherly love that prevail among us.

The Mindanao leg of the series will take place in Davao City on November 25, this year; the Visayas leg, in cebu City on December 2; and the Luzon leg, in Cabanatuan City on December 9. The culminating fun runwill be on December 16 at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

The Centennial Committee, which is chaired by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, has appointed Shadowfax Events and Marketing Management Services as the events and marketing manager. It is managed by Bros. Lawrence Plata and Noel Pangilinan of Dapitan Lodge No. 21. At the CamSur ANCOM, each Blue Lodge was provided with 50 copies of the registraton form for the fun run.

In Circular No. 5 dated May 22, 2012: "Each Lodge is required to field at least 20 Masons and at least 30 family members, friends, and guests of Masons. There is no limit on the numbers of allowable participants per Lodge. You may request for additional registration forms from our event organizer, Shadowfax Events…."

News from our Lodges







Brethren of Lodge No. 329 Undertake "Brigada Eskwela '12"

THE BRETHREN OF MA-BU-TI LODGE No. 239, as shown in the photos above, undertook and continued to promote the welfare and happiness of public school learners, this time by undertaking their "Brigada Eskwela '12) project in order to contribute to the Grand Lodge's "Adopt-a-School-program.

News from our Lodges









BIRTH Constructs School Building

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL YEAR of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and AcceptedMasons of the Philippines, the Bureau of Internal Revenue Travellers Haven (BIRTH), Inc. recently finished the construction of a two-school room structure in Calaca, Batangas as part of its outreach program in aid of free public education in the country.

On March 31, 2012, BIRTH entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the school authorities of Madalunot Elementary School, located in a poor farming community in Barangay Madalunot, Calaca, Batangas. BIRTH responded to the appeal of the school authorities for the possible replacement of its ageing school building, a 57-year-old structure which had already been condemned for demolition but which the school was still forced to use for lack of available replacement.

By conducting fund-raising campaigns among its members and outside donors, BIRTH finished construction in less than two months, turning over the new school building, dubbed as "BIRTH-TYPE BUILDING," to the school authorities on May 26, 2012, in time for the school opening on June 4, 2012. The building comprised of a total land area of 160 square meters and consists of two 9 sq.m. x 8 sq. m. classrooms, complete with all necessary instructional facilities.

Aside from this, BIRTH members likewise donated two television sets, one office table, picture and LCD projector, two DVD players, two micro phones, and one music deck player.

BIRTH's sponsorship covered the cost of construction materials, labor and other miscellaneous expenses. For this initiative, the Municipal Council of Calaca issued its Resolution 12-33 to express profound thanks to BIRTH, Inc. Masonic Foundation for extending help to public schools in the Municipality of Calaca.

The turn-over ceremony was attended by the school and municipal authorities and the parents and pupils of Madalunot Elementary School, who presented the BIRTH delegation with a well-prepared program of acceptance. The school principal, Mrs. Victoria Samonte, led the recipients in thanking the Masons of BIRTH for a lasting gift they would never forget. "Now, thanks to your Masonic foundation, we can sleep better, knowing that our pupils will not have to stay in our old condemned class rooms."

The BIRTH delegation was led by VW Conrado C. Lee, President; VW Percival Salazar, Chairman Emeritus; and VW Oliver Yabut, Project Coordinator. In his speech, VW Conrad Lee said, "Free public education is close to the heart of every Mason because education ensures freedom from ignorance and poverty.

Every now and then, we at BIRTH find ways to extend assistance to public schools, but this is the first time we ever attempted a project this big. I personally feel that to be successful in life, it is not enough for one to be hard-working or to simply have perseverance. Equally important, he must also be learned. The building of this school is a step towards ensuring that the poor school youth of your community can have not only the necessary facility but also equal opportunity in their primary education."

Guide to the Centennial Year



Explication of the Centennial Logo "Revisited"

The symbolism behind the CENTENNIAL LOGO by its designer, **Bro. Jose Eugenio B. Illenberger** of **Frank Reed Horton Memorial Lodge No.379**, was first printed in the March-April 2011 issue of this publication. We are reprinting it here for the information and enlightenment of the brethren who were not able to read the said issue. It reads as follows:

1. The three stars represent the three American Lodges that formed the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands.
2. The encircled words are self-explanatory.
3. Below is highlighted the Grand Lodge's area of jurisdiction as indicated in the original GLP Logo.
4. To your left and your right are the years 1912 and 2012, which are the GLP's founding year and centennial year, respectively.
5. At the very middle is the Square & Compasses, on each side of which are the Angels of the GLP Logo. The Angels represent Dexter and Sinister, who stand for Silence and Circumspection, guarding our demeanor as Freemasons.
6. Right in their middle is the Philippine Map, which should remind us to take good care of our demeanor as Filipino citizens.
7. The Square & Compasses hovering over the Philippine Map represents the GLP's area of jurisdiction. If one looks at the map, one seems to to behold sound-waves. This suggests that Philippine Masonry is alive and well, with the noble deeds of its members known far and wide within its jurisdiction.
8. Finally, the 100 years, the cabletow, and the scroll below connote that for a century Philippine Masonry has thrived because of the strength of the members' cabletow, the symbol of our fraternal ties made stronger by our motto (Scroll inscription: In the Lord is all our Trust).

Guide to the Centennial Year

GRAN LOHIA, MABUHAY KA
(Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn)

Mula sa silanganan
Ang liwanag nating tanglaw
Dakilang kapatiran
Binigkis ng kabayanihan
Sa puso't budhi naghahan
Dalisay na mithi
Bawa't kilos at salita
Ay gintong halimbawa.

Koro:

Gran Lohia ng Pilipinas
Saguisag ng dunong at lakas
Pagdamay sa ating kapwa
Pagsasalamat sa Lumikha
bandila'y iwagayway
Bayan natin ay itanghal

Tayo na't magbuklod
Maglingkod nng tos
Gran Lohia, mabhay ka

(Ulitin ang Koro)

Tayo na't magbuklod
Maglingkod ng tao
Gran Lohia, Mabuhay ka



GRAN LOHIA, MABUHAY KA
Sa paliwanag ni VW Magdangal M. de Leon

Let's also read the following adapted version of the original video interview with the composer of the lyrics and music of the hymn, VW Magdangal M. de Leon, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, who also composed the music of the Grand Lodge March.

Inspiration. Ang aking inspirasyon sa paglikha ng Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn ay natural lamang na batay sa aking karanasan bilang isang kapatid sa Masoneriya.

I was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1981; became Worshipful Master of Araw Lodge No. 18 in 1986; and was appointed Grand Chaplain in 2009 by MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy.

Ang aking inspirasyon ay ang aking pagsisikap na maging "flesh-and- blood example" sa paggawa sa tunay na buhay ng ating mga balinghasa. (My inspiration is my striving to be a "flesh-and-blood example" in the practice in actual life of our noble tenets and teachings.)

Isang malaking hamon sa akin ang pinagusapan namin ni MW Grand Master Reynato S. Puno, who later became Chief Justice. Nag-request siya na mag-compose ako ng Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn. Pinag-usapan namin na ang Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn ay dapat sa wikang Filipino. Mas madaling isulat ang awit sa wikang tagalog o wikang Filipino kaysa wikang ingles.

Ngunit dahil ang mga termino natin sa Masoneriya ay sa wikang ingles, ang hamon sa akin ay kung paano ko isasalin sa tagalog hindi ang literal kundi ang tunay na diwa ng ating Kapatiran sa loob lamang ng labing pitong linya. Sinabi ko kay MW Justice Puno:

Hwag masyadong mahaba ang awit natin dahil kung mahaba, mas mahirap maisaulo ito. Dapat maikli lamang siya, ngunit ang titik niya ay tungkol sa diwa at espiritu ng ating misyon bilang mga Mason.

Opo, ang aking inspirasyon sa paglikha ng Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn ay ang aking karanasan at aking pagsisikap na maisagawa sa pang-araw-araw na buhay ang mga aral ng ating kapatiran...

Meaning. Ang Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn ay may labing-pitong linya. May isang linya na sumobra. Ang plano ko'y labing-anim na linya lamang. Pero ang huling-huli, Gran Lohia, Mabuhay Ka, ay naging ika-labing pitong linya dahil nandoon po yung pinaka-impact ng ating lmno -- gaya ng

"O Hail, Grand Lodge of Masons!" sa ating Grand Lodge March...

Let's examine our Hymn line by line.

Mula sa silangan / Ang liwanag nating tanglaw -- Ang ating inspirasyon ay galing sa Silangan...As we travel from the West "in search of the Ancient Word," the light of the East shines on our faces...

Dakilang kapatiran / Binigkis ng kabayanihan -- Alam din natin na ang mga lider ng ating rebolusyon, mula noong 1896, ay mga Kapatid natin -- sina Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Apolinario Mabini, Emilio Jacinto, Graciano Jaena Lopez, at iba pa. Lahat po silang naging dakilang lider sa himagsikan laban sa mananakop ay mga kapatid nating Mason. Kaya, ang ating kapatiran ay binigkis ng kagitingan , katapangan, at sakripisyo. Nagbuwis ng buhay ang ating mga bayani -- bayaning mga Mason -- upang makamit ang ating kalayaan. Kaya, ang ating kapatiran ay binigkis ng kabayanihan o heroism.

Sa puso't budhi naghahari / Dalisay na mithi -- These lines are about purity of heart and conscience. The conscience of each one of us is, or should be, governed by pure and unselfish motives --.mga banal na lasap. Dapat dalisay at wagas ang mga layuninn at mithiin ng bawait isa sa ating mga Mason.

Bawat kilos at salita / Ay gintong halimbawa -- Bawat Kapatid na Mason ay dapat "exemplary in both words and deeds." Nakikita ang..mga aral ng ating kapatiran hindi lamang sa ating sinasabi kundi mas higit sa ating ginagawa sa araw-araw..

Gran Lohia ng Pilipinas / Sagisag ng dunong at lakas -- In these first two lines of the Chorus (in English, Grand Lodge of the Philippines / Symbol of wisdom and strength), we directly address our MW Grand Lodge, assuring her that we acknowledge her as our center -- the center of the activities of the Craft in this Jurisdiction. Totoo naman na kung wala ang Gran Lohia ng Pilipinas, walang magbubuklod sa ating lahat…. Lahat tayong mga kapatid na Mason ay tumatanaw sa Gran Lohia ng Pilipinas kasi nandyan po ang Grand Master at ibang mga opisyal ng ating Kapatiran. Ang mga opisyal at miyembro ng ating Gran Lohia at ng kanyang mga Distrito at Lohia – lahat tayo po ay sama-samang bubuo ng isang dakila at makabuluhang kapatiran o brotherhood na tumutulong sa ating bansa at sa ating kapwa tao.

Pagdamay sa ating kapwa / Pasasalamat sa Lumikha -- Ang mga linyang ito ay tungkol po sa isang napakamahalagang aral natin: pag-ibig at pagdamay sa ating kapwa tao. Ito po ay pagpapadama natin ng pasasalamat sa Lumikha sa atin. (This is how we express our gratitude to our Creator.) Ang pagdamay natin sa kapwa ay pasasalamat sa ating Lumikha.

Bandila'y iwagayway / Bayan natin ay itanghal -- Clearly, these lines are about love of country or patriotism. Sa mga linya pong ito, sinikap kong ihayag ang katungkulan o tungkulin ng bawat mamamayan, ng bawat Kapatid na Mason, na mahalin, itanghal, itampok, ipagtanggol, isulong ang kapakanan ng ating Inang Bayan

Tayo na't magbuklod / Maglingkod ng taos -- All of us must join hands and work together in close harmony in order to be better able to serve our Craft, our country, and our fellowmen, particularly our countrymen, and especially those who are in dire need of help, for the greater glory of our Creator. Thus, we will show our pride in our MW Grand Lodge not only to one another but to the general public as well.

Gran Lohia, Mabuhay Ka (Grand Lodge, Long Live) – This last line is the rallying cry of all Masons. It is also the title of our Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn, which is not far from that of the Grand Lodge March: O Hail, Grand Lodge of Masons.

Why Hymn instead of March? Baka po maitanong ninyo, mga kapatid, "Bakit ngayon ay Imno (Hymn) at noong araw ay Martsya (March)?"

Upang hindi natin maipapalit ang dalawa, dapat alam natin ang "characteristic" ng bawat isa sa kanila.

Noong 1984, kinausap ako ni MW Reynato S.Puno, ang ating Grand Master sa taon na 'yon,… Tinanong niya kung pwede akong gumawa ng isang awitin na para sa Masoneriya dahil wala pa tayong sariling awit na magbubuklod sa lahat ng Mason sa Pilipinas. Sabi ko naman sa kanya:

Maganda nga po 'yan, Ang paniniwala ko ay

dapat bawat institusyon ay may sariling awit, kasi bawat inaawit ito, ma-inspired ang lahat ng myembro ng institusyon... Iba po ang kapangyarihan ng musika kesa sa salita lamang. Music is the power to bind, to unite hearts, minds, and souls of people. Napaka-powerful po ng music… makapangyarihan. Kaya, ako po'y natutuwa ako'y napili na gumawa po ng kantang 'yan.

Part of my mission in this lifetime is to create what is called institutional songs, Gumawa na ako ng maraming "love song," ngunit mas gusto ko po ang gagawa ng isang awit para sa isang institusyon because it is sung by the members of the institution, association, or organization. Ang awit ay isang malaking tulong upang magkakaisa po ang mga myembro na tuparin ang anumang dakilang layunin ng kanilang samahan.

Kaya, nagkasundo po kami ni MW Puno na Martsya ang gagawin ko. Ang gagawa po ng titik ng Grand Lodge March ay si Associate Justice Jesus Elbiñas, who later became Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals, He is from Hiram Lodge No. 88. Ako naman ay taga-Lohia Araw Bilang 18. Nag-usap kami. Sinabi ko sa kanya na sa bawat stanza ay dapat mayroon "O Hail, Grand Lodge of Masons." …

After a few weeks, Bro. Jess Elbiñas gave me very beautiful lyrics for the Grand Lodge March. Medyo po mahaba, dalawampu't apat na linya. pero wala po akong pwedeng tanggalin. Napakaganda po ang kanyang titik. Those 24 lines contain very poetic and lyrical words, crafted by a great writer like Bro Jess Elbiñas. Nilapatan ko po ng musika…

Ano po ba ang pagkakaiba ng Martsya sa Imno?

Normally ang Martsya po ay tinutogtog ng isang military band -- para po ang mga sundalo ay magmamartsya ng sabay-sabay…. Usually, a March requires 100-120 beats per minute. If I am not mistaken, the tempo or rhythm or measure of the Grand Lodge March is 105 beats per minute.

(At this juncture, VW Magdangal de Leon demonstrates the tempo and rhythm of a March by simultaneously rapping on the table in his office 11 times and saying "pam..pam..pam.pam..pam ….")

Dagdag ni VW Magdangal del Leon: "'Yan ang pinaka-characteristic ng ating Grand Lodge March...Lest I forget, the meter or beat of a March is 2/4, 2/2 or 6/8...

Iba po ang Hymn o Imno. Mabagal po siya – 90 or 85 or even fewer beats per minute. Our Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn is around 87 beats per minute..So, a Hymn, which is actually a generic term for a song of praise or adoration, is slower in beat but more solemn.. Kaya po, ang ating Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn ay mas mabagal kaysa Grand Lodge March, but more solemn…

Tignan natin ang kaibahan ng "Bayang Magiliw," na isang Martsya, sa "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" ni Pacifico Santiago, na isang Imno. (VW Magdangal de Leon sings a portion of each song.) Kitang-kita po natin na mas mabilis ang "Bayang Magiliw," ang ating Pambansang Awit, kaysa "Pilipinas Kong Mahal.."

That's also the difference between the Grand Lodge March and the Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn. The latter is slower in beat, but it is more solemn, more dignified, and more majestic in spirit than the former.

Singers of the Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn.
In the past, I always got the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the best choir in the Philippines, to sing my works or compositions. Incidentally, when I joined the group in 1970, it was still known as the UP Madrigal Singers since most of its members were from UP.
Ang dating kinukuha ko na aawit sa mga kanta na ginawa ko ay mga alumni ng Philippine Madrigal Singers, ngunit paminsaminsan, may "incumbent" o kasalukuyang myembro na sumasali. Ang kinukuha ko ay "mixed choir" dahil madali lang pong mag-areglo kung may babae at lalaki. Ngunit ang ating kapatiran ay pang-lalaki lamang. Kaya, ang gagawin ko pong areglo o "arrangement" ay para sa "male choir" lamang….

Fortunately, in April, several incumbent male members of the Philippine Singers were not so busy during the summer hiatus. So, I got eight of them to participate in the recording of he Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn, which I set in April.

Ako po naman ay taagang sinwerte dahil sumama sa recording ang mismong choir master ng

Philippine Madringal Singers, si Mark Carpio. Kilalang- kilala po 'yan na "Master Choral Conductor."

Minus One. Since we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of our MW Grand Lodge this year, I saw to it that our Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn should sound so triumphal and majestic as to provide those who sing it, and even those who listen to it, with the impression that our centenarian Grand Lodge is a great, honorable, and dignified fraternal organization…. Kaya, makita ninyo na 'yan pong aking minus one ay parang "full orchestra"; ang "orchestration" ay kumpleto po – may string dyan, meron pang tympany, at cymbals… I used all the instruments in all parts of the Hymn – introduction, Chorus, and ending – in order to create the effect of something triumphal, something .majestic, something great, something noble… This effect can be conveyed.

through the power not only of the arrangement of voices but through that of the minus one. I made the minus one in such a way that the orchestra seems to convey to the singers of our Hymn, as well as the listeners thereto, that Masonry is the biggest, if not the greatest and best, fraternity in the world.

Message to the Brethren? Ang awitin ko pong ito ay hinahandog ko sa inyong lahat, mga kapatid kong Mason sa buong bansa. Sama-sama po nating awitin ang ating Grand Lodge Centennial Hymn, Gran Lohia, Mabuhay Ka.

(The recorded Gran Lohia, Mabuhay Ka, is played.)

(***Editorial*** / *Continued from Page 40*)

Yes, investigators must provide the members of their respective Lodges with first-hand knowledge of the character, abilities, attainments, and general reputation of applicants for Masonic membership. If they fail to do this, they themselves will inflict a serious injury on the whole Craft. But if they recommend only men of the finest character or of the highest quality to receive the degrees of Masonry, they will help strengthen the Fraternity and consequently receive *"Master's wages,"* which consist in both the inner happiness which comes when we truly say to ourselves, *"I have helped Masonry forward by my work,"* and the knowledge that their respective Lodges are better than before because they have paid back, in a small degree at least, the interests and the labor their brethren invested in them.

How important, then, it is for us to "make haste slowly" during the entire screening and selection process. Because of our failure to do so, quite a number of misfits or undesirables now dwell in our midst. Henceforth, therefore, we must refuse asylum to the unworthy and enforce more strenuously than before a steady obedience to our tenets, laws, rules, and regulations; for it is only by a due regard to them, as shown in our own conduct, that we can expect others to obey them.

Brethren, let us guard the portals of our respective Lodges so carefully and cautiously that only the good, if not the best, materials will be allowed to pass in. Once these materials have passed in, we must proficiently and impressively confer upon them the degrees of Masonry, provide them with continuing Masonic education and training, as well as get them actively involved in activities which meet their needs and which promote their growth, development and advancement in the Craft.

In sum, we can help our incumbent Grand Master and his set of Grand Lodge officers bring about a stronger, more dynamic, and more relevant Fraternity in this Jurisdiction by discharging all our duties and obligations with much dedication and devotion; by fulfilling all our charges with utmost fidelity and responsibility; by working together in close harmony and unity toward the successful implementation of the program of administration they had carefully put together; and by organizing meaningful activities designed to inform Masons and non-Masons alike about the achievements of our MW Grand Lodge, its constituent Districts, and its subordinate Lodges in the past 100 years.

Centennial Year Calendar of Activities

LET US MAKE OURSELVES familiar with the activities lined up in celebration of the Centennial of the founding of our MW Grand Lodge.

The Centennial Term may be divided into three phases, each of which focuses on a different part of the Centennial theme. Phase 1, May-August 2012, focuses on Building on the Past, by returning to our core purposes; Phase 2, September-December 2012, on Excelling in the Present, by showcasing Masonry to all; and Phase 3, January-April 2013, on Providing for the Future, by developing and empowering our brethren.

In this issue, we take a look at the themes and activities of Phase 1, in the next those of Phase 2 and 3.

PHASE 1

MAY 2012

Theme: Our Centennial Year Theme
(District Turn-Over and Term Orientation).

Major Activities:

1. District Turn-Over Ceremonies / District Centennial Term Orientations
2. GLI Installations / Centennial Term Orientations during Blue Lodge Meetings
3. Chartering of New Lodges (as approved in ANCOM 2012)

JUNE 2012

Theme: Freemasonry & Nationalism (Freemasonry Is Being Filipino).

Major Activities:

1. Nationwide Independence Day Celebration (Tuesday, June 12), including Launch of Centennial Speaker Series & GLP Centennial Roadshow)
2. Rizal's Birthday Celebration (Tuesday, June 19) – Special Commeorative Rites by originally-Filipino Lodges that fused in 1917 with the American Lodges that had established the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands; this fusion resulted in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines
3. Conduct by Districts/Blue Lodges of their GLP mandatory activities for November can be scheduled here. (Optional)

JULY 2012

Theme: Brotherly Love
(Rededication to Masonic Membership & Education)

Major Activities:

1. Philippine-American Friendship Day, Wednesday, July 4 – Special Commemorative Rites by orlginal GLP Lodges founded by Americans
2. Visayas Multi-District Convention, Saturday, July 28
3. Annual District Lodges of Instruction (highlighting new Monitor & Ladderized Masonic Education Program)

AUGUST 2012

Theme: Masonic Light & Heroes
(Freemasonry as a Lifetime Journey).

Major Activities:

1. Southern Luzon & Bicol Multi-District Convention, Saturday, August 11
2. Quezon Day Celebration, Saturday, August 19
3. District Events, Monday, August 27 (or near such date as convenient)
4. Commemorating Masonic Heroes & Prominent Masons (with emphasis on Blue Lodges chartered in memory of prominent Mason)
5. Continuation of District Lodges of Instruction

Summary Guide to the Centennial Year Programs

TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE unity of purpose and action during the Centennial Term, all of us Masons in this sovereign Jurisdiction must understand what we specifically want to achieve during the term through accomplishing the strategic initiatives mentioned below...

We must work together in close harmony toward achieving M-O-R-E Masonry. This task requires us to return to our strong Moral Foundations through a Comprehensive and Uniform Masonic Education & Research System, as well as to achieve Organizational Empowerment through the Enhanced GLP Information Technology Initiative; Responsible Stewardship through both the Centennial Internal & External Strategic Stewardship Initiatives; and External Outreach through the GLP Centennial Commemoration and the Centennial Community Legacies Initiative.

Moral Foundations. The Centennial Term should see the realization of a comprehensive and unified Masonic education and research system to facilitate basic and enhanced studies in the Craft, through a ladderized approach to Masonic formation and education, in terms of:

1. A strong and vibrant INSTITUTE OF MASONIC EDUCATION & STUDIES (IMES) to train prospective Masonic lecturers, with a COLLEGE OF FELLOWS (Faculty) dispersed throughout the different Masonic districts;
2. A rhevived PHILIPPINE LODGE OF RESEARCH to concentrate producing an annual journal of Masonic literature in the Jurisdiction – the PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF MASONIC STUDIES;
3. Expansion and extension of the GRAND LODGE LIBRARY through increased collections and the digitalization of resources for uploading on the Grand Lodge Website, as well as the launching of the GLP MUSEUM at the Plaridel Masonic Temple (PMT); and
4. Coordination with the above and the appendant bodies on the consolidation and production of a COMPREHENSIVE SYLLABUS OF MASONIC EDUCATION for the Jurisdiction, introducing a LADDERIZED APPROACH TO MASONIC FORMATION AND EDUCATION.

Key initiative metrics for (M1) Comprehensive & Uniform Masonic Education & Research System:

Lead Coordinator:
VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, SGL

Core Working Team:
- GL Committee on Works;.
- All DGLs and GLIs;
- Ex-officio -- VW Jesse D. Alto (Grand Chaplain), VW Edilberto P. Carabbacan (Grand Orator), VW Rogelio D. Gevero, Jr. (Grand Historian);
- Institute of Masonic Education & Studies (IMES); and
- Philippine Lodge of Research.

Target accomplishment benchmarks are:

1. A truly active IMES with a competent College of Fellows; Revived Philippine Lodge of Research / Launch of Philippine Journal of Masonic Studies;
2. Enhanced GLP Library (Actual and Online)/Creation of GLP Museum at the PMT; and
3. Consolidated Comprehensive Masonic Education Syllabus/Introduction of Ladderized Masonic Education.

Organizational Empowerment. This consists of two strategic initiatives, namely: (1) Revitalized and Active Masonic Mentorship Program and (2) Enhanced GLP Information Technogy Initiative.

The revitalized and active Masonic mentorship program shall be carried out on the Blue Lodge level -- but, of course, under the guidance of the SGL and his JGLs.

This program should be one that can be carried on in future years, with the following mandatory components:

1. Publication of, and orientation on, the CENTENNIAL MONITOR (i.e., consolidated ritual and floor work guide);
2. Publication of, and orientation on, the new "GUIDE TO MASONIC EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP" detailing the ladderized Masonic Formation and Education Program, for implementation particularly at the Blue Lodge level, including guidance on the handling of petitioners, trestle board members, and newly-raised brethren, and including maerial on membership of junior brethren by senior brethren; and
3. In conjunction with GLP Centennial Celebration , production of a CENTENNIAL SPEAKER SERIES featuring prominent speakers, as well as a standardized lecture by the Senior and Junior Grand Lecturers on "FREEMASONRY IS BEING FILIPINO" highlighting the significance of Freemasonry in Philippine history

Key initiative metrics for (01) Revitalized Masonic Mentorship Program are:

Key Coordinator:
VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, SGL

Core Working Team:
- GL Committee on Works;
- All DGLs & GLIs.

Target Accomplishment Benchmarks:

1. Publication of, and orientation on, the Centennial Monitor (combined ritual and floorwork cipher)
2. Publication of, and orientqtion on, Guide to Masonic Education Mentorship detailing ladderized Masonic Education concept & mentorship;
3. In cooperation with GLP Centennial Celebrations, Centeenial Speaker series featuring prominent lecturers as well as the provision of standardized lecture on: Freemasonry is Being Filipino" by the Corps of Grand Lecturers.

The Centennial Term, moreover, shall witness the consolidation or enchancement of all information technology initiatives of the MW Grand Lodge to create the following services:

1. A truly useful GLP INTERNET PORTAL, with these minimum features: (a) online membership & Lodge Administration Database; (b);comprehensive introduction and visual showcase of Philippine Freemasonry; (c) online Resource Center, providing digital copies of all Grand Lodge publications as well as a link to the online catalog of the Grand Lodge Library and complete links to all GLP Lodges online; (d) online Events Blog/Calendar; and (e) online Forum incorporating the official GLP listserv / yahoogroup.
2. Standardized template and technical assistance for the creation of Lodge websites, including the hosting of server space for such; aiming at an online presence for at least 50% of all GLP Lodges
3. Simplified and fully computerized Grand Lodge systems, allowing for electronic filing of Lodge reports through the GLP Internet Portal

Key initiative metrics for (02) Enhanced GLP Information Technology Initiatives are :

Lead Coordinator:
VW Juanito G. Espino, Jr.,
Deputy Grand Master

Core Working Team:
- Initiative Executive Director: WB Alan Ponce;
- VW Dennis T. Gabionza, Asst. Grand Treasurer;
- VW Waldemar V. Valmores, Asst. Grand Secretary;
- VW Sixto C. Esquivias IV, Grand Auditor;
- VW Rey Alfred Y. Hernandez, GL Head Executive Assistant;
- GL Special Committee on Information Technology; and
- GL Internet PortalTeam

Target Accomplishment Benchmarks are:

1. Fully functional and user friendly GLP Internet Portal

2. GLP Website Program (server space and technical assistance
3. Fully computerized GLP administrative systems

Responsible Stewardship. This likewise consists of two strategic initiatives: both Centennial Internal and External Stewardship Initiatives.

To better ensure the stability and development of the Fraternity as an established fraternal and social institution of Philippine Society, the Centennial Term will be the avenue within the sovereign Masonic Jurisdiction for:

1. Under the direction of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, the publication of a fully updated Centennial Masonic Law Book, with orientations on the same during the months traditionally reserved for Lodge installations, and
2. The development of a more efficient and faster Masonic dispute resolution process that will better address grievances and ensure harmony among brethren.

Key initiative metrics for (R1) Centennial Internal Strategic Stewardship Initiative:

Lead Coordinator:
VW Benito T. Ty, Joint Chair, GL Committees on Revision of the Constitution and Jurisprudence

Core Working Team:
- GL Committee on Revision of the Constitution;
- GL Committee on Jurisprudence; and
- GL Committee on Works

Target accomplishment Landmarks:

1. Publication of, and orientation on, the fully-updated Centennial Masonic Law Book
2. Development of a more efficient and faster Masonic dispute resolution process.

To better ensure the continuing relevance of the Fraternity as a meaningful agent of genuine development for Philippine Society and the greater Masonic world, the Commemoration of the GLP Centennial will facilitate:

1. Asserting GLP leadership in the Asia-Pacific region by reviving – through a special meeting in December 2012 – of THE CONFERENCE OF ASIA-PACIFIC GRAND MASTERS;
2. Publicly leveraging Masonic charity initiatives through the concentration of charity activities on one designated weekend a year, preferably in September 2012 (MASONIC CHARITY WEEKEND); and
3. In cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education, the implementation of a NATIONAL ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST ON THE MASONIC CENTENARY through participating colleges and high schools in various regions of the country.

Key initiative metrics for (R2) Centennial External Strategic Stewardship Initiative:

Lead Coordinator:
RW Alan LM Purisima,
Senior Grand Warden

Core Working Team:
- Initiative Executive Director, National Essay-Writing Contest on the Masonic Centenary : VW Ben Alegre;
- All DDGMs

Target Accomplishment benchmarks:

1. Parallel to December 2012 Special Communication, revive Asia-Pacific Conference of Grand Masters (one-afternoon special meeting).
2. Leverage Masonic Coordinating Concil to streamline and focus Masonic Charity initiatives on one weekend a year (Masonic Charity Weekend).
3. In cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Departmentof Education, conduct of a national essay-writing contest on the Masonic Centenary for college and public high school students.

External Outreach. Again, this consists of two strategic initiatives, namely, the GLP Centennial Commemoration and the Centennial Community Legacies Initiative.

As supervised by the Centennial Committee, the GLP shall ensure appropriate and exemplary celebrations and commemorative activities highlighting the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge 's Centennial, including the following:

1. A Centennial Special Communication during the actual Centennial Week (December 17-19, 2012) , including the International Masonic Family;
2. Four Commemorative Books: An official commemorative coffee table book, a new work focusing on the Past Grand Masters, the complete collection of grand orations to date, and the continuation of the official history of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge from World War II to the present;
3. Three Commemorative Projects: Commemorative postage staps, commemorative currency, and commemorative license plates; and
4. Complementary fund-raising activities, as appropriate.

Key initiative metrics for (E1) GLP Centennial Commemorationare:

Lead Coordinator:
MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH

Core Working Team:
- GLP Centennial Committee;
- All DDGMs

Target Accomplishment Benchmarks are:

1. Centennial Special Communication, December 17-19 2012
2. Publication oand distribution of all four commemorative books
3. Circulation and marketing of all three commemorative projects
4. Conduct of complementary fund-raisiers, as appropriate
5. Furthermore, complementary to to the centennial celebration and under the supervision of the respective DDGMs, the implementation in each Masonic District any one, and preferably all, of the following:

- Conduct a community awareness drive/ forum about Freemasonry;
- Seek to achieve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with cooperative partner institutions (for example, with local government units (LGUs) on cherishing contributions by Freemasons in their respective localities;
- For Blue Lodges chartered in memory of prominent Masons, and the Masonic Districts they are in, conduct commemorative rites in August, preferably on or near National Heroes Day (August 27, 2012), highlighting their lives and accomplishments; and
- Conduct a program complimentary to Lodges of Remembrance during October, specifically to recognize and honor Masonic families linked to each Lodge.

Key initiative metrics for (E1) GLP Centennial Commemoration:

Lead Coordiators: All DDGMs

Core Working Team:
- Respective Masonic District Councils;
- Initiative Secretariat:
- GLP Committee on Works

Target Accomplishment Benchmarks are:

1. The conduct of community awareness drives/forums about Freemasonry and GLP Centennial
2. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with partner institutions/agencies
3. Commmmemorative rites for Masonic Heroes and prominent Masons (particularly Blue Lodges chartered in their memory)
4. Enhanced Lodge of Remembrance by Blue Lodges with special tribute to longstanding Masonic families.



CENTENNIAL DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS & DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS WITH THE GRAND MASTER



ELECTED CENTENNIAL GRAND OFFICERS WITH THE PAST GRAND MASTERS