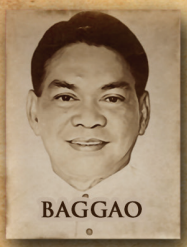
Volume 97, No. 3.104 - ANCOM ISSUE 2021

THE CABLE TOW

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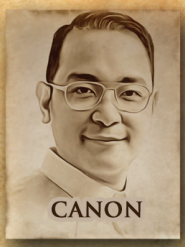
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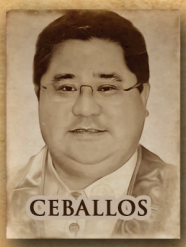
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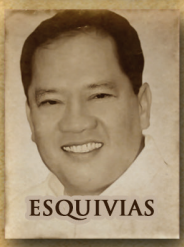
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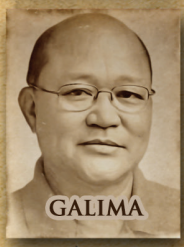
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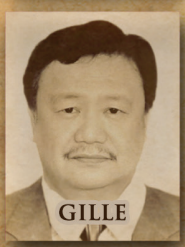
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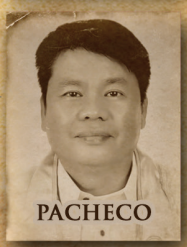
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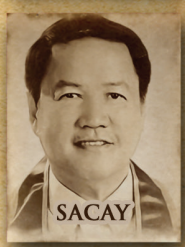
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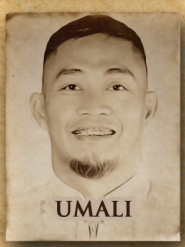
UMALI

THE 13 NOMINEES FOR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

SURIGAO LA SUERTE CORPORATION

3rd Floor Eustaquia Bldg. Osmeña St.,
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Tandag City

ENGR. RUEL D. MOMO

President

FROM THE GRAND ORIENTAL CHAIR

MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.

This Special Issue of the Cable Tow prominently features the thirteen (13) official nominees for the position of Junior Grand Warden to be subjected to the selection and voting processes this coming ANCOM 2021. It contains vital information about the candidates. This edition underscores two crucial events. First, after last year's postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we shall now hold a hybrid system of ANCOM calling for the physical attendance of able-bodied delegates and allowing the on-line participation of delegates who are compromised for health reasons.

By holding a modified Annual Communication, we shall ensure the stability of the administration of our beloved institution and re-affirm the integrity of our established Masonic laws, customs, and traditions. The ANCOM is composed largely of representatives from subordinate lodges and the right, power, and privilege of delegates to exercise their authority as the highest governing body of Masonry must always be held inviolable. It should not be postponed because we have taken enough prudence to see this through.

It is said that holding a modified event such as this incoming ANCOM 2021 in Olongapo City, not only present certain risks but also calls for the employment of untested or ad hoc practices. Let me assure one and all that while there will always be health issues associated with a large gathering of people, we have put in place very strict health protocols to keep such risk at a minimum. Safety measures will surely cause personal inconvenience to attendees but attending ANCOM is more than a job or a duty but a sworn commitment of every Mason who value their membership highly. A minor swab procedure should not stop one from participating in this important privilege.

And the 104th Annual Communication must proceed this year. So many things depend on it. Two Masonic years have already elapsed, and actions taken by the Grand Master during this extended period must be acted upon by the delegates in order to attain finality. The application for charters of Lodges U.D. needed to be acted upon; grievances and dispute resolutions must be affirmed; and the budget appropriations for the succeeding term must be expressly approved by the body. These are just some of the important agenda among many other items tackled in the ANCOM. And so, being presented with the technical capability of holding it, we cannot opt to simply sit by and again do nothing.

Next, we must bring about the annual election and turn-over of Grand Lodge leadership to the incoming set of elected and appointed officers. By force of circumstance, my team and I had to serve for an extended term. It was a necessity given the uncertainty of the situation. True, there are some merits to a two-year term as we have discovered for the past two years, but our jurisdiction is not yet ready for it. Let future ages work out this possibility, if ever. For the time being, our system and processes are geared for a term of only one Masonic year and this we must upheld and work with as we have done so for more than 100 years of Masonry.

Ours is a progressive system of leadership which calls for a yearly transition from the incumbent to the elected. It ensures vitality and enthusiasm of governance. It keeps officers on their toes, promoting fast action due to their limited time at the helm. Highly performing leaders leave their guiding light for others to follow, while revolving doors are always a sure thing for the slackers and the mediocre. In Masonry, there is no monopoly of kindness or good leadership and our system of in-house training and actual immersion to duties assure our organization of a competent core of future leaders. Your nominees have been carefully scrutinized in all levels and all have been found to be worthy. We just have to choose the best among them.

And so, vote we must for issues that affect all of us as brethren of this Fraternity. Elect the leaders who will guide us to further successes. Exercise the collective power of the ANCOM. To do that, you must participate in the process. Register to be there physically or be present on-line if you must. Just be there and be counted, and ensure the good future of our Craft.

Grand Lodge of the Philippines
City of Manila
March 8, 2021

AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

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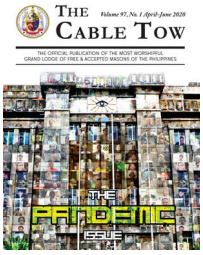

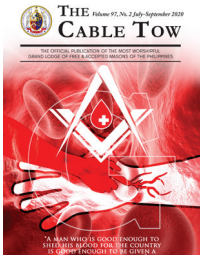

Coming in hot for summer is the Cable Tow's ANCOM 2021 Edition - a special release under Vol. 97. Published between Regular Issue Nos. 3 & 4, it is numbered 3.104 to mark the 104th time that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines convened since the first Annual Communication on February 4, 1913.

Inside are official instructions for online registration. The event is an extraordinary blend of both physical and online presence that every Master Mason in Good Standing is encouraged to bear witness. Compiled in 124 pages are relevant ANCOM information. Should the Brethren have further inquiries, the Registration Committee can be reached at **09192228820** / **09278888207** or thru email **ancom2021_reg@grandlodge.ph** Do not hesitate to ask for they will readily answer.

On page 25 we call the attention of the Brethren to the letter G for an added meaning. It is the first letter of the mobile app called **Grand Lodge of the Philippines ANCOM Digital Kit or GladKit**. It is the digital version of the usual portfolio issued to delegates of ANCOMs past but this time its paperless feature makes our attendance "lighter". It is also a guarantee that no trees were sacrificed to provide attendees 2 years-worth of Reference Materials. All that it takes is to install the mobile app in our smart phones and the information can be readily available at the palm of our hands. Included in this installment are several related literatures for the everyone's perusal. Our Brother Writers have supported us with articles in sync with the season.

Lastly, we encourage our readers to examine the 52 special pages allotted to 13 of our Brothers - one of whom can become our future Grand Master. The Cable Tow Team labored diligently to gather essential information from the 13 nominees for Junior Grand Warden with the goal of sharing their credentials for our Brethren to know more. They are the finest harvest throughout the jurisdiction, and it will now be up to our **registered voting brothers** to choose who they think is best for the future of Philippine Masonry.

About the Cover:

Arranged on a square are 16 pictures consisting of 3 symbols & 13 portraits. The three are positioned as great lights in a lodge altar with a distinct symbolism. The Square & Compass in the northeast corner is for Freemasonry in General; the GLP Logo at the left bottom represents the jurisdiction in particular; opposite is the jewel of the office being voted upon. It is the 4th highest position among the ranks of Masons. The holder of which can later advance to Senior Grand Warden, the Deputy Grand Master, ultimately leading to the Oriental Chair as Grand Master.

The thirteen are portraits of nominees for the elective rank culled from different regions. Each photo was meticulously converted into sepia style finish for consistency, thanks to the efforts of Bro. GAV of 202. Laid out in alphabetical order are Bros. Baggao, Canon, Cayanan, Ceballos, Chua, Esquivias, Galima, Gille, Pacheco, Rosal, Sacay, Tan, and Umali. The Lodge Altar arrangement is a reminder to all of the sanctity of the ballot being both sacred and secret. This in preparation for the election of the new Grand Line Officers for Masonic Year 2021- 2022.

See you in ANCOM Brother Sirs. Whether onsite or online, voting or not, let us make this happen and help move the Craft one careful step forward the Level of Time. SALUD!

Pasig City, 12 March 2020

VW J. Harold W. Santiago, GSc
Editor-In-Chief

The Cable Tow

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WB Raymond L. Wong, IPM (323)

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Bro. Noel T. Patelo (273)
WB Cary Duval Uy, IPM (357)

Visayan Region

WB Jeff Edward L. Pintac, IPM (153)

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VW Edgardo Villareal II, JGL (77)
Bro. Giovanni Villegas (202)
VW Victorio V. Vizcocho, Jr., PJGL (52)
RW Junior Washington (59, MWPH GLWA)
VW Oliver Yabut, AGS (150)

THE CABLE TOW is a quarterly publication of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. Main Office: Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila, D 2801, Philippines. Members of Blue Lodges in this grand jurisdiction are regular subscribers thereto. Brethren in other grand jurisdictions are invited to subscribe to it at US $30 a year plus postage. Send check payable to the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, with complete mailing address, to THE CABLE TOW at the address given above. Subscribers are advised to notify THE CABLE TOW of address changes. Share your stories with The Cable Tow. We welcome written articles in MS Word Format. Photos should be sent as separate attachments. Kindly indicate your complete name and masonic title (use Bro ONLY IF from the floor), your Mother or Parent Lodge and contact numbers. Then send to cabletow@grandlodge.ph / Original articles are subjected to editing and, when published, become Cabletow property. Any article in THE CABLE TOW may be reprinted in full, or excerpts thereof reproduced, provided proper attribution to the author is made, the source is given due credits, and the Cabletow office is furnished with a courtesy copy of the reprinted material.

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Are You Ready Brethren for the 104th Annual Communication?

By VW Anthony Tan, PDGL
TCT Circulation Manager

One of the duties of a Lodge (Part II, Ordinances, Article III, Section 2, Paragraph J, page 82 of our Masonic Law Book 2019 Edition) is "to submit to the Grand Lodge its annual report for the preceding year within the fifteen (15) days of January of each year and remit the required dues, fees or other charges for the current year within the first quarter of the current year..."

Furthermore, our Masonic Law Book 2019 Edition (Part 1, Constitution, Article VI, Section 9, page 22) provides that "no Subordinate Lodges which failed to submit its Annual report and pay in full its dues and fees to the Grand Lodge within the period provided for in the Ordinances shall be entitled to representation at the Annual Communication."

As of this writing, GLP has issued at least 3 Communications in preparation for the upcoming 104th Annual Communications in Olongapo: Circular 55, Circular 16, and Edict No. 340. For the benefit of the brethren, the Cable Tow Team presents their salient points as follows:

Circular 55 – MW Suan Jr. (Issued - 06 January 2021) Submission of 2020 Annual Report and Election Returns, where applicable, and Remittance of 2021 Annual Dues

In order to be entitled to representation in the Annual Communication at Olongapo City on April 22 & 23, 2021, all Subordinate Lodges are enjoined to settle their outstanding obligations together with the submission of Annual Report, Election Returns and other mandatory Lodge Reports (where applicable) for the period January to December 2020.

In addition, the remittance of Annual Dues for Year 2021 should be effected not later than February 25, 2021. Lodges can make payments on or before February 28, 2021 through any of the Grand Lodge accounts as follows:

Bank: Bank of the Philippine Island (BPI)
Account Name: Grand Lodge of the Philippines
Account Number (Maxi-One Account) :
4981-0026-66
Branch: Taft-Faura Branch

Bank: Metrobank
Account Name: Grand Lodge of the Philippines
Account Number : 3-211-50411- 1
Branch: Gen. Luna/Paco Branch

For GCash Payment :
Open your GCash app, scroll to "Payment Solutions", click the "Grand Lodge of the Philippines", and fill up the other information.

The GCash app shall automatically issue transaction receipts complete with details for all successfully executed transactions. The Grand Lodge will nevertheless issue a separate acknowledgment. Lodges making payments through any branch of BPI and Metrobank must send the deposit slips (proof of payments) to the Grand Lodge specifying the nature of payments, thru Grand Lodge email receiving@grandlodge.ph

This Circular shall take effect immediately upon promulgation and posting at the

Grand Lodge Website or transmission via official email and shall be read in open lodge at the stated meeting next following its receipt and that action taken thereon recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Lodge.

Circular 16 – MW Suan Jr. (Issued - 16 September 2020) Raffle Draw for the 104th Annual Communication.

Our Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. Rolen C. Paulino, Jr. and his team are now in the process of preparing for the 104th Annual Communication (ANCOM). As part of their preparations, the team and Host District R3 Zambales are spearheading a raffle draw to generate funds for the different events during the ANCOM 2020 in Zambales. The raffle tickets shall be distributed to all the Lodges in the Jurisdiction. Each lodge will be given 150 tickets at P300.00 each.

We encouraged Lodges NOT TO USE LODGE FUND, but rather dispose the tickets to members on a voluntary basis, or perhaps avail of outside contacts or friends of Masons who are willing to sponsor 2 x P25,00O. OO package for which the following incentives will be given:

1. FREE REGISTRATION to the 4 voting delegates;
2. FREE REGISTRATION to the PAST MASTER'S OF YOUR LODGE,
3. 150 chances of winning in the raffle draw that includes 2 Cars, and other raffle prizes;
4. Acknowledgement of Donors by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines;
5. Entitlement of the Sponsor to the following exposure:

   a. Page AD in our SPONSOR'S DIGEST
   b. Logo inclusion in various marketing materials for ANCOM2O2O

Non-voting delegates of lodges shall be entitled to free registration with the purchase of 12 raffle tickets @ 300.OO and shall have 12 chances of winning in the said raffle.

Payments/remittance shall be coursed thru the following bank details.

Bank: East West Bank
Branch: Olongapo
Payee: ANCOM 2020
Account No.: 00013107083

Lodges are hereby enjoined to extend assistance to RW Bro. Paulino on this endeavor to help him and his team prepare for the ANCOM 2020 in Zambales.

For Edict 340 – MW Suan Jr. (Issued - 10 February 2021) which contains the Modified Procedures for ANCOM 2021 (Olongapo City), can be found on the next page.

Special Advisory

on Covid-19 Vaccination or Negative Swab Test Result:

Per advice of ANCOM 2021 Chairman VW Jordan Dizon, ANCOM I.D.s will only be issued to delegates upon presentation of Certificate of Covid-19 Vaccination or Negative Swab Test result. The ANCOM I.D. will be used to enter the Plenary Hall and Installation Venue.

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MW Bro. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

MW Bro. DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 340

MODIFIED PROCEDURES
FOR ANCOM 2021 (OLONGAPO CITY)

WHEREAS, ANCOM 2020 has been cancelled and moved to year 2021 in view of the legal restrictions on private and public mass gathering following the declaration of a state of corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic in the country early last year;

WHEREAS, the danger to health and safety due to the virus still prevails and requires the Grand Lodge to implement certain temporary procedural measures in order to hold the ANCOM this year by, among others, allowing the virtual participation of ANCOM delegates who are Senior Citizens, those with co-morbidity issues, those with travel constraints, and those with other restrictions, through remote viewing and remote voting;

WHEREAS, in the past year, the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges have employed and adopted on-line technology in conducting referendum voting, seminars and other masonic activities with satisfactory result and with wide acceptance among the brethren, proving that the said technology can be adequately utilized and specifically adjusted for ANCOM 2021 in accord with current laws of the land;

WHEREAS, other Grand Lodge jurisdictions with amity relations with the GLP have likewise adopted the use of on-line technology in their own Masonic Communications due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings and the same is now an accepted method of conducting fraternal business in the international masonic community amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, hence not violative of the spirit of our masonic laws, landmarks, customs and traditions;

WHEREAS, there is no more impediment in the holding of ANCOM this year which can no longer be postponed in order to finally effect the election and appointments of the incoming leadership of the fraternity and to pass upon all the actions taken by the incumbent Grand Master in the past two Masonic years.

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

SECTION 1. One Day Plenary Session – The Grand Lodge shall open the 2021 Annual Communication physically following the traditional masonic manner in the designated convention site at SMX Center Olongapo City and shall thereafter proceed to discharge its plenary business, including the election of officers, in one day or on Thursday, April 22, 2021, guided by the abbreviated Order of Business hereto attached as **Annex A *(ABBREVIATED ORDER OF BUSINESS).*** All ceremonials, including the installation of elected and appointed officers shall be held the following day or on Friday, April 23, 2021, after which the Grand Lodge shall close the Annual Communication.

Section 2. ANCOM Delegates - AnCom delegates shall include all Qualified Voters and Registered Delegates who are physically in attendance or virtually present during the convention.

a. **Qualified Voters** shall be the only eligible voters for all elective offices of the Grand Lodge and can vote on issues to be decided in the ANCOM. They comprise of the voting representatives of accredited Subordinate Lodges (*incumbent Worshipful Master, Wardens and the Immediate Past Master*); the Past Grand Masters (PGMs); incumbent elective and appointive Grand Lodge Officers (GLOs) except Grand Lodge Inspectors; and the Immediate Past Masters in representation of all Past Masters of lodges.

b. **Registered Delegates** shall refer to all attending and duly accredited Past Masters of subordinate lodges. Together with the Qualified Voters, they are eligible to vote on issues to be resolved by the ANCOM.

c. **Physical Attendance.** Olongapo City is classified as Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) area and implements the 50% seating capacity rule. For this reason, only the first 450 AnCom delegates representing 50% of the seating capacity of the main convention area shall be allowed inside. The excess shall be accommodated in an adjacent area within the SMX complex and shall be connected to the main convention site for remote viewing and remote voting. Preference to main convention site shall be given to Voting Delegates, including all incumbent and incoming Grand Line Officers.

d. **On Line Attendance.** ANCOM Delegates who prefer to attend on-line shall use their previously registered email address for registration, viewing and voting purposes. Those not using registered email addresses shall be denied access.

e. **Advance Registration.** All delegates shall register in advance thru on-line registration at least thirty (30) days before ANCOM**,** indicating in the registration form whether they are attending physically or by remote viewing. Delegates who have previously registered for the 2019 ANCOM shall register anew.

f. **Compliance Requirements.** Subordinate Lodges that have not complied with the mandatory ANCOM requirements, i.e. submission of required reports and payment of annual dues, shall be denied representation.

Section 3. Plenary Voting In-Situ and On-Line - All ANCOM Delegates defined above may vote on site or by remote voting for the approval or disapproval of matters requiring ANCOM decision or ratification. Those physically present shall vote in the traditional manner while those present virtually shall vote using the ZOOM Polling System.

Section 4. Digital ANCOM Kits – All papers and documents, proceedings, Grand Lodge Officers' Reports, Reports of Standing and Special Committees and other reports submitted to the ANCOM for action or ratification shall be available for downloading in the GLP Website. In addition, the usual ANCOM Kits shall be furnished to all duly registered ANCOM Delegates in digitized format, the full contents of which shall be made available to all registered voters at least thirty (30) days prior to the ANCOM.

Section 5. Prior Objections – All ANCOM Delegates presenting proof of registration may submit their written comments or objections to any substantial matter requiring express action or approval of the ANCOM, such as Edicts, Circulars, and other items in the Grand Master's Report, Reports of Standing Committees, Budget/Appropriation Report, etc. at least fifteen (15) days prior to ANCOM by letter or email addressed to the Grand Master at

ogm@grandlodge.com or glp_ogm@yahoo.com. The Grand Master shall respond to the same at least five (5) days after receipt. If the objector is not satisfied with the reply, his objection shall be included for direct plenary voting without further debate. Both the objection and the answer shall be posted on-line or prominently displayed during the plenary. No objection or debate on other issues shall be entertained on the floor.

Section 6. Election for the Position of Junior Grand Warden – On election day (Thursday, April 22, 2021), the PGMs, thru their representative, shall announce the list of seven (7) candidates to be considered for election. Thereafter, the representative of the PGMs physically present in the ANCOM shall draw the final list of five (5) candidates to be voted upon. Only candidates who are present physically and duly registered in the ANCOM can be elected. Voting delegates present at the site shall vote in the traditional manner, while voting delegates registered on-line shall vote thru the on-line election system to be administered by the ELECOM.

Section 7. Electoral Committee - Both physical and on-line voting on issues and election of officers shall be under the exclusive control and supervision of the ELECOM to be headed by a Past Grand Master. The ELECOM chairman is empowered to appoint four (4) other members from the jurisdiction. He is authorized to call on the IT Committee and other Grand Lodge Committees as may be needed to assist him in the performance of his duties.

Section 8. Mock Voting – As soon as all ANCOM delegates have registered their email address, the Grand Lodge shall schedule a mock election supervised by the ELECOM for the purpose of testing the system and identifying possible technical issues to be resolved prior to ANCOM.

Section 9. Swab Test and other COVID-19 Health Protocols. - The Grand Lodge shall strictly implement all government mandated minimum health standards and protocols in the conduct of a physical ANCOM, including requiring all attendees to undergo swab test or saliva test prior to entry. Provided, that Health Certificate attesting to a negative COVID-19 infection and dated five (5) days prior to ANCOM, or Vaccination Certificate, as the case may be, shall be sufficient. It shall be the responsibility of the ANCOM host to procure all needed government permits and other health safeguards for ANCOM 2021 and to ensure that all national laws, local government rules and regulations are complied with during the ANCOM.

Section 10. Applicability Clause. – Except as otherwise affected by the *ad hoc* provisions of this Edict, all other provisions of Edict No. 268-F (MW Momo), all laws and regulations relating to Electioneering and all relevant Grand Lodge edicts and regulations in the conduct of ANCOM shall remain applicable .

This Edict shall take effect immediately upon publication in the official Grand Lodge Website and shall be submitted to the ANCOM delegates as its first order of business during the plenary session.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 10th day of February 2021.

AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

ABBREVIATED ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE 104th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION APRIL 22 - 23, 2021 / OLONGAPO CITY

Thursday * APRIL 22, 2021

MORNING SESSION

1. Opening of the Grand Lodge by the Deputy Grand Master
2. Reception of the Grand Master and turn-over of gavel to the GM
3. Announcement of the attendance of dignitaries by the Grand Secretary
4. Announcement of the attendance of Past Grand Masters on-site and on-line
5. Reception of the Flag, Singing of the Anthem, Panunumpa, GLP Hymn
6. Opening Prayer by Grand Chaplain
7. Welcome Remarks by host district
8. Reception and address of the Guest of Honor and Speaker
9. Address of the Guest Speaker
10. Grand Oration
11. Declaration of quorum by the Grand Secretary based on lodges represented at convention and delegates of lodges registered on-line (no more roll-call of lodges)
12. Approval of Edict on Modified Procedures for the current ANCOM
13. Approval of the Proceedings for the 103rd AnCOM at Cagayan de Oro City
14. Approval of resolution that the current proceedings be adopted by the GLP as a corporate body
15. Acknowledgement of Grand Representatives present
16. Approval/Rejection/Notation of reports of GLP Officers, various attached organizations, standing and special committees for MY 2019-2020 and MY 2020-2021

AFTERNOON SESSION

17. Turn-over of gavel to the Chairman of the Electoral Committee
18. Casting of Votes for the Position of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary
19. Announcement of Qualified Candidates for the position of Junior Grand Warden as trimmed down by PGMs from 12 to 7
20. Selection of five (5) final candidates (drawn by a representative of PGMs)
21. Speech of Candidates (5 minutes each)
22. Physical voting of delegates at convention site / simultaneous on-line voting
23. Canvassing of Votes and Proclamation of Winners
24. Recess of Grand Lodge

EVENING

Grand Master's Night

Friday, April 23, 2021

25. Reopening of Grand Lodge
26. Installation Ceremonies
27. Closing of the Grand Lodge

Separate Activity

Conferral of Past Master's Degree shall be handled by the Senior Grand Lecturer only for those physically present. The next conferral shall be on ANCOM 2022 or earlier as may be ordered.

Lodge Secretarial 101

by VW Anthony Tan, PDGL

Series 04 of 05

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING ANNUAL COMMUNICATION (ANCOM)

Legal Basis of the ANCOM

Section 1, Article IV (Communications), Part I of the Masonic Law Book (MLB) provides:

"The Grand Lodge shall hold its Annual Communications for the transaction of business in the City of Manila or in any other place as may be authorized by law, commencing on the fourth Thursday of April of each year at nine o'clock in the morning subject to the following general rules:

a. No business shall be acted upon at the Annual Communication until after reference to, and report upon it by, the proper committee, except by a demand of two-thirds of the members present.

b. No appropriation of money shall be made until reference to, and report by, the Committee on Finance.

c. No appropriation of money shall be made at any Annual Communication after the election of Grand Officers, except by a demand, and two-thirds vote of, the members present."

Section 3 of the same Article provides: "The presence of the Masters, Wardens and/or representative of at least one-third of the chartered Lodges shall constitute a quorum for the Grand Lodge to transact any business validly, either at an Annual or Special Communication. On occasions of ceremony, however, the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative, with a sufficient number of Members present to fill the Grand stations and places, may at any time, open the Grand Lodge and perform ceremonies for which it has been convened."

Section 4 of the same Article provides: *"No member of the Grand Lodge shall be represented by proxy in any Communication of the Grand Lodge"*; *and Section 5 of the same Article clarifies: "Only the officers and members of the Grand Lodge and representatives of other Grand Lodges shall be present at the opening of the Grand Lodge. After the Grand Lodge shall have been declared open, Master Masons who are not members of the Grand Lodge may be allowed to attend and be present during the sessions of the Grand Lodge."*

This section raises the logical question: who are the members of the Grand Lodge?

Section 1, Article II (Members, Officers and Titles of Officers), Part I, of the Masonic Law Book provides the answer:

"The Grand Lodge shall be composed of the Past Masters, the incumbent Masters, and Wardens of all its Subordinate Lodges, any Past Master of any Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction who is a resident of the Philippines and a member of a Subordinate Lodge, and those who have been granted honorary membership or honorary Grand Titles."

The foregoing provisions inform us who the members of the Grand Lodge are; the quorum necessary to conduct business; the indispensable requirement of referral to the proper committee before any business can be acted upon; and that representation by proxy is not allowed. We also realize that only members and officers of the Grand Lodge are allowed to be present during the opening of the Grand Lodge; although all Master Masons are welcome to attend the sessions once the Grand Lodge has been declared open.

What to expect during ANCOMs

After the Opening Ceremonies and the Reception of Dignitaries, the reading and presentation of the reports of the various committees will follow. A typical ANCOM programme should contain the following: Grand Master's Report, Grand Treasurer's Report, Grand Secretary's Report, Report of the Senior Grand Lecturer, Report of the Committee on Finance, Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, Report of the Committee on Grievance, Report of the Committee on Resolutions, Report of the Committee on Administration of Lodges, Returns and Charters, Report of the Committee on Awards, Report of the Committee on ANCOM Evaluation, Report of the Committee on Scholarship, Report of the Committee on Youth, Report of the Committee on Charity, Report of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines, Inc. (GGPM), Report of the Financial Relief Assistance Program (FRAP) and Report of the Committee on Resource Generation and Development; and reports of other committees that may have been created during the term of the outgoing Grand Master.

Each committee report shall be presented to the brethren for approval. It is during these committee reports that interesting topics and details are disclosed to the brethren. It is up to us to be alert and curious enough to maintain interest and focus during the rendering of these reports. Most of us just sit back and listen to the reports without really understanding what's going on. Others simply go to sleep while some would go out of the session hall and come back the next day for the election. When we go back to our lodges, we learn that very important decisions were made and yet we don't have the faintest idea about what actually happened; and that we missed a lot of important or interesting things!

For instance, it is during the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence that we learn of several interesting cases involving all kinds of masonic offenses. We learn of a brother's wife being made the object of sexual interest by another Master Mason. We learn of a balloting incident where one of the Lodge's lights, in effect, declares the absence of a black cube, contrary to the findings of the other lights. We learn of an incident where a Worshipful Master is punched by a member of his lodge. We learn of a brother who is swindled by another brother to the tune of millions of pesos. We learn of so many juicy details and the action taken thereon by the Trial Commissions and Lodges, as well as the recommendations of the Committee on Jurisprudence or the Committee on Grievance. It is during the committee reports that we learn why a lodge under dispensation (U.D. lodge) was denied a Charter and a Lodge Number; we learn how much funds flowed into the Grand Lodge and how much was spent and will be spent; and we witness how Masons react to certain issues and how they behave during heated discussions and debates; we learn all about the improper things that we thought could never happen inside or outside of the lodge. During these discussions, we discover the personalities of our brethren. Some gain our respect, while some don't. We are able to observe the good and the bad; and we learn what to do and what not to do inside and outside of the lodge. In short, by keenly observing the proceedings, we gain a lot of Masonic education.

Of course, the culminating activity of the ANCOM is the election of the Junior Grand Warden. In this regard, we should keep in mind that there are new rules and guidelines governing the nomination process for the position of Junior Grand Warden. For instance, all nominations for the position of Junior Grand Warden (JGW), shall originate from the subordinate lodges only. Each subordinate lodge may nominate, in writing, only one candidate for the position of JGW; provided, that a nominee must be a regular or plural member of the nominating lodge. Nominees should now realize that the nomination, once accepted, cannot be withdrawn. Such acceptance shall be valid and effective from the lodge level up to the ANCOM level; any form of withdrawal by the nominee shall be reported by the DDGM or Host DDGM concerned (at the Lodge, District and

Multi-District levels) to the Grand Secretary; and, if unjustified, shall cause his disqualification for nomination for the next three years.

Likewise, voting delegates should be aware that certain acts and omissions are now punishable, to wit: failure or refusal to vote during any ANCOM, despite being qualified to vote and being duly registered as a voting delegate; failure or refusal to be present inside the convention venue during the ANCOM election, despite being qualified to vote and duly registered as a voting delegate; and engaging in election sabotage or staging a walk-out during the election proceedings. The penalties for the foregoing infractions range from suspension to outright expulsion, depending on whether the violation is a first, second or third offense.

The benefits of attending the ANCOM

The brethren attending the ANCOM are of two kinds – voting delegates and non-voting delegates. For the voting delegates, it is quite obvious why attendance at ANCOMs is important. There is no need to belabor this point.

All of the attendees, whether voting or non-voting are encouraged to witness the proceedings, especially during the plenary session. Aside from the Masonic education and insights that we gain from attending ANCOMS, attendees are given the rare opportunity to be actually present at a gathering of brethren from all parts of our Grand Jurisdiction where they are able to talk, interact and exchange ideas and experiences.

It is akin to watching a basketball game or a boxing match live, at the venue itself, as compared to watching the same on television. The level of excitement, anticipation and experience is a lot higher when you are actually or physically present where it actually happens. Moreover, the stated meeting of a lodge takes place every month, but the stated meeting of the Grand Lodge takes place only once a year. So, for instance, if you miss this year's ANCOM, you will have to wait for one year for the next opportunity.

Attending the ANCOM is like transitioning from High School to College, from a smaller pond to a bigger pond. We get to know different fish coming from other ponds. We are exposed to different lodge cultures. We find ourselves comparing our practices to that of other lodges. They should be the same, but we are surprised to know that there are some variations. Thus, we start to get interested in reading our Monitor and Masonic Law Book to find out which is right. We start to expand our views and horizons. We begin to realize that there is a lot of Masonry out there and not just the Masonry we know in our Lodge or District. In short, we get to know the world of Masonry from a bigger, wider, and deeper perspective.

On the other hand, for those who attend ANCOMs regularly, the importance of the ANCOM might be obscured and obfuscated by their desire to jump to fellowships and R & R. A word of caution. Here lies the danger in attending the ANCOM for the wrong reasons. Of course, there is nothing wrong in looking forward to the fellowship gatherings that are very much a part of any Masonic activity. However, if this becomes the main reason for attending the ANCOM, then the cure becomes the poison, in a manner of speaking.

The ANCOM is part of our Masonic tradition, culture, and system. It is where we elect our future Grand Master. Undoubtedly, it is an indispensable part of our Masonic lives. Without it, Philippine Masonry, as we know it, will start to disintegrate. Thus, we should always endeavor to attend and support the event. By doing so, we enrich ourselves and at the same time we strengthen our beloved Fraternity.

Due to the Pandemic Covid-19 Situation in our Country, new ANCOM protocols will be implemented through Edict 340 - MW Suan Jr. (10 February 2021) Modified Procedures for ANCOM 2021 (Olongapo City). Please check separate article regarding this issue (Online Preparation and Requirements for ANCOM Olongapo 2021) for further details.

"Freemasonry has endured not because of its Antiquity, its influence, or its social standing, But because there have been so many who have lived it.

The effectiveness of Masonic teachings will always be the measure by which the outside world Judges Freemasonry; the proof of Freemasonry Is in our deeds and it is in our deeds that Freemasonry is made known to non-Masons. The Only way that the Craft can be judged is by its Product. The prestige of Freemasonry lies squarely on the shoulders of each of us."

~ G. WILBUR BEST,

Extracted from the Southern California Research Lodge, 'Fraternal Review', May 2004

Applicable provisions of our masonic law book pertaining to our Annual Communication.

PART I
CONSTITUTION / ARTICLE IV / COMMUNICATIONS

Sec. 1. Annual Communication. Kindly refer to the opening paragraph of this article.

Sec. 2. Special Communications. Special Communications may be called by the Grand Master whenever such shall promote the welfare of the fraternity. They shall also be called by the Grand Master upon an application in writing signed by the Masters of at least one-third of the chartered Lodges, setting forth the causes which demand them.

Every call for a Special Communication shall designate its object so far as is proper to be written and, unless such Special Communication is called merely for the performance of some Masonic ceremony, written notice shall be issued to each Lodge and Grand Officer at least thirty days before the day stated for the Special Communication. No business shall be transacted thereat other than that for which it shall have been specially convened.

Sec. 3. Quorum. The presence of the Masters, Wardens and/or representative of at least one-third of the chartered Lodges shall constitute a quorum for the Grand Lodge to transact any business validly, either at an Annual or Special Communication. On occasions of ceremony, however, the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative, with a sufficient number of Members present to fill the Grand stations and places may, at any time, open the Grand Lodge and perform the ceremonies for which it has been convened.

Sec. 4. No official delegates shall be represented by proxy in any District and Multi-District Conventions, Annual and Special Communications of the Grand Lodge (Edict No. 317 MW Tolentino).

Sec. 5. Only the officers and members of the Grand Lodge and Representatives of other Grand Lodges shall be present at the opening of the Grand Lodge. After the Grand Lodge shall have been declared open, Master Masons who are not members of the Grand Lodge may be allowed to attend and be present during the sessions of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 6. Past Masters, being members of the Grand Lodge, who are in good standing and duly registered, are allowed to speak, comment, object, move, second, manifest and/or participate in any discussion and deliberations and vote on any matter; except in the election of the Grand Lodge elective positions, during the District and Multi-District Conventions, Special and Annual Communications, subject to the adopted rules of procedure for deliberation during said District, Multi-District Conventions, and Special and Annual Communications. (Edict No. 322 MW Momo)

ARTICLE V
ELECTION, QUALIFICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Sec. 1. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be elected by a secret ballot and by Lodge representation at each Annual Communication and, thereafter, before its closing, installed. They shall hold office until their successors have been elected and installed. Subject to the Rules Governing the Election of Junior Grand Warden detailed in Section 5 of this Article, a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for an election. (Edict Nos. 268-E & 268-F, MW Momo)

Sec. 2. All other Grand Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master-elect immediately after his election at each Annual Communication. They shall be installed before the close thereof and shall hold office at his will and pleasure.

Sec. 3. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in any elective office of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall fill the same by appointment and the officer so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term only.

Sec. 4. Minimum Qualifications for Grand Lodge Elective Office. No member shall be eli-

gible for nomination and election as an elective officer of the Grand Lodge unless:

a. He is at least forty (40) years of age at the time of the ANCOM election.
b. He shall have been a Master Mason in good standing for at least ten (10) consecutive years immediately preceding the ANCOM election without any suspension for whatever reason and regardless of the duration.
c. He shall have served and completed his term of office as Master of a Lodge of Master Masons;
d. He is an actual resident of the territory within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for at least two (2) years immediately prior to the ANCOM election.
e. He has not been found guilty by competent authority of unmasonic conduct or convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any offense involving moral turpitude. In both cases, such finding or conviction must be by final judgment (Edict No. 268-B MW Rentoy).

Sec. 5. Nominations.
a. The Grand Master shall call the Past Grand Masters to a meeting not earlier than April 10 for the purpose of nominating qualified members for any of the elective positions except for the Junior Grand Warden whose nomination and election shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules Governing the Election of Junior Grand Warden. The presence of the five Past Grand Masters shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

Only the incumbent Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Warden who were elected as such and Deputy Grand Master shall be deemed automatically nominated to the next higher position, respectively, and the incumbent Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall be deemed renominated to their respective positions, without prejudice in all these cases to other nominations that may be made by the Past Grand Masters; Provided, however, that only Past Grand Masters may be nominated to the position of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.
b. No member shall be eligible for election unless he is deemed automatically nominated or is nominated by the Past Grand Masters.
c. The names of the nominees shall be submitted to the Electoral Committee not later than April 15 for screening of their qualifications.
d. Rules Governing the Election of Junior Grand Warden.

Lodge Level

1. All nominations for the position of Junior Grand Warden (JGW, for brevity), shall originate from the subordinate lodges only. Each subordinate lodge may nominate, in writing, only one candidate for the position of JGW; provided, that a nominee must be a regular or plural member of the nominating lodge. In addition, he must possess all the qualifications enumerated in Section 4, Article V (Part 1) of the Constitution.
2. The nominee shall duly accept his nomination in writing. Said nomination and acceptance shall be submitted by the nominating lodge to the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) not later than fifteen (15) days before the District Meeting, which shall be convened by their respective DDGMs any day from July 15 to August 15 of each year to elect their nominees for the position of JGW.
3. The nomination, once accepted, cannot be withdrawn. Such acceptance shall be valid and effective from the lodge level up to the ANCOM level: any form of withdrawal by the nominee shall be reported by the DDGM or Host DDGM concerned (at the Lodge, District and Multi-District levels) to the Grand Secretary: and if unjustified, shall cause his disqualification for nomination for the next three (3) years.
4. A brother can be validly nominated in only one (1) Masonic District. Once he accepts his nomination from a particular subordinate lodge, he shall be disqualified from accepting another nomination from another lodge belonging to another Masonic District. However, a brother may be nominated by one or more subordinate lodges; provided, that said lodges belong to the same Masonic District; and provided, further, that he is either a regular or a plural member of either of the nominating lodges.
5. A subordinate lodge cannot validly nominate a brother belonging to a Masonic District other than the District where the nominating lodge belongs.

District Level

6. After the receipt by the DDGM of the nominations from the subordinate lodges, each lodge in the District shall be furnished by the DDGM thru the respective Lodge Secretaries with a Certified List of all nominees not later than five (5) days before the District Meeting.

7. The qualified nominees of the District shall then be voted upon thru secret ballot by the voting members of the District during their District Meeting scheduled between July 15 and August 15 of each year. The voting members are the Incumbent Masters, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens of the Lodges in the District, the Past Grand Masters, and other Grand Lodge Officers, elected and appointed, as provided in our Constitution; provided, that they are regular or plural members of any of the subordinate lodges within that particular District. The Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI) shall not be a voting delegate. Voting members at the District Level shall vote for one (1) nominee only.

8. The incumbent DDGM and District Grand Lecturers (DGLs) shall act as the Chairman and members, respectively of the District Electoral Committee (ELECOM) and shall not be entitled to vote. They may call on the brethren in the District to assist them in the discharge of their duties.

9. Districts with seven (7) or less lodges shall be entitled to one (1) nominee and the brother garnering the highest number of votes shall be the official nominee of that particular district. Districts with more than seven (7) lodges shall be entitled to two (2) nominees and the two brothers, who garner the highest number of votes, shall be their official nominees. Only nominees who are personally present at and duly registered in, the District Meeting can be elected. A deliberate or unjustified absence at, as well as a deliberate or unjustified failure to register in the District Meeting shall be tantamount to a withdrawal of candidacy which is expressly prohibited, and which will merit similar sanctions prescribed by Sec 5 par d-3. This fact shall be reported by the host DDGM to the Grand Secretary for future reference.

10. The brethren who garner the highest number of votes according to the aforementioned entitlement shall then be proclaimed by the District ELECOM as the District's official nominee/s to be included in the Multi-District election of nominees for the position of JGW.

11. In case of a tie, the tied candidates shall exclude those with a lower number of votes. If, after excluding the candidates with a lower number of votes, a tie still remains for one slot the same shall be broken by a toss coin and the candidate who wins in said toss coin shall be proclaimed the winner. The toss coin shall be done in public by the DDGM.

12. The DDGM shall, within ten (10) days after the proclamation by the District ELECOM, officially communicate to the DDGM of the Host District of the Multi-District Convention, the official nominees of the District for the position of JGW.

13. Within ten (10) days after their proclamation by the District ELECOM the winning nominees shall secure a certification from the Office of the Grand Secretary to the effect that they have all the qualifications for Grand Lodge elective office as provided for in Section 4. Article V of the Constitution. This certification shall be submitted to the host DDGM of the Multi-District directly or through the District Secretary in order to qualify them for inclusion in the Consolidated Official and Certified List of nominees in the various districts for the position of JGW.

14. To avoid giving undue advantage to any incumbent Grand Lodge Officer once he is elected as a nominee for the position of JGW at the District Level he shall ipso facto be considered RESIGNED from his Grand Lodge position. The act of accepting his nomination in writing at the lodge level and his participation in the nomination process shall be the operative acts constituting his assent and acquiescence to this proviso.

Multi-District Level

15. After receipt of the official list of the nominees from the Districts, the Host DDGM thru the District Secretary shall prepare and disseminate to each District a Consolidated Official and Certified List of Nominees from the various districts for the position of JGW, not later than fifteen (15) days before the Multi-District Convention. For this purpose, the Multi District Convention to elect the Multi-District's nominees for the position of JGW shall be held from September 1 to No-

vember 30 of each year following the schedule prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

16. Based on the number of Lodges and the number of members in good standing, the DDGM of the Host Multi-District shall prepare the number of Multi-District nominees by coming up with a short-list from the Consolidated Official and Certified List of District Nominees submitted by the various Districts, in accordance with the following entitlement:

LUZON	Northern Luzon	4 nominees
	Central Luzon	6 nominees
	Southern Luzon	4 nominees
NCR	Natl Capital Region	7 nominees
VISAYAS		2 nominees
Overseas		2 nominees
Northern Mindanao		2 nominees
Western Mindanao		2 nominees
Southern Mindanao		2 nominees
Total MINDANAO Nominees (from 3 Multi- Districts)		6 nominees
TOTAL:		31 shortlisted nominees

17. During the Multi-District Convention, the Host DDGM shall publicly draw by lot the above number of nominees from the Consolidated Official and Certified List of nominees of the various districts for the position of JGW. Thereafter, the names of the brethren drawn by lot shall be voted upon thru secret ballot, to determine the Multi-District's Official nominees in the selection process of JGW at the Annual Communication (ANCOM) level in accordance with the following entitlement, to wit:

LUZON	Northern Luzon	2 nominees
	Central Luzon	3 nominees
	Southern Luzon	2 nominees
NCR	Natl Capital Region	3 nominees
VISAYAS		1 nominee
Overseas		1 nominee
Northern Mindanao		1 nominee
Western Mindanao		1 nominee
Southern Mindanao		1 nominee
Total MINDANAO Nominees (from 3 Multi- Districts)		3 nominees
TOTAL:		15 shortlisted nominees

18. The brethren garnering the highest number of votes according to the entitlement provided in the preceding section shall forthwith be proclaimed by the Multi- District ELECOM as the Multi-District Convention's official nominees in the selection process at the ANCOM Level for the position of JGW.

19. Only nominees who are personally present at and duly registered in the Multi-District Convention may be elected. A deliberate or unjustified absence at as well as a deliberate or unjustified failure to register in, the Multi-District Convention shall be tantamount to a withdrawal of candidacy which is expressly prohibited, and which will merit similar sanctions prescribed in Sec 5 par d-3. This fact shall be reported by the host DDGM to the Grand Secretary for future reference.

20. The Host DDGM and his DGLs shall act as the Chairman and members of the Multi District ELECOM and shall not be entitled to vote. They may seek the assistance of the brethren in the Multi-District to assist them in the discharge of their duties.

21. Only the incumbent Worshipful Masters and Wardens shall be the voting members of the Multi-District, including the Past Grand Masters and other Grand Lodge officers, elected, and appointed, as provided in our Constitution; provided that, they are regular or plural members of any of the subordinate lodges in that particular Multi-District. The Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI) shall not be a voting delegate. Voting members at the Multi-District Level shall vote for one (1) nominee only.

22. The brethren who garner the highest number of votes according to the aforementioned entitlement (paragraph 17 above) shall then be proclaimed by the Multi-District ELECOM as the Multi-District's official nominees for the position of JGW at the ANCOM Level.

23. In case of a tie, the tied candidates shall exclude those with a lower number of votes. If after excluding the candidates with a lower number of votes a tie still remains for one slot the same shall be broken by toss coin and the candidate who wins in said toss coin shall be proclaimed the winner. The toss coin shall be done

in public by the DDGM of the Host District.

24. The DDGM of the host District shall, within ten (10) days after the Multi-District nomination, officially communicate and certify to the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Past Grand Masters, through the Office of the Grand Secretary, the names of the brethren who are the official nominees of the Multi-District, by way of a Consolidated Official and Certified List of Nominees for said Multi-District.

25. This Consolidated Official and Certified List, together with the respective program of governance of each nominee, shall be announced and disseminated thru The Cable Tow, Grand Lodge website and a corresponding Circular of the Most Worshipful Grand Master addressed to all the Subordinate Lodges on or before December 15 of each year.

26. Upon being elected at the Multi-District Level the prohibitions and restrictions Enumerated hereunder shall strictly apply. Thus, all nominees elected at the Multi District level are strictly enjoined to follow all the laws, edicts, rules, and regulations governing Masonic elections. Any breach thereof, whether done directly or indirectly, personally, or thru agents or representatives shall not be tolerated. In addition to the present laws, edicts, rules, and regulations, said elected nominees shall bind themselves, in writing and under the Masonic oath, to refrain from committing any or all of the following acts:

(a) Directly tolerate any person or group of persons to work in favor of his election;
(b) Attend any blue lodge meetings (except in his mother lodge), district or regional Convention;
(c) accept any invitation to be the speaker or lecturer in any blue lodge meeting or district or regional convention or be the guest honor or installing officer in any blue lodge installation, and attend or participate in any Masonic function, fellowship or gathering whether in the blue lodge or appendant bodies and other related institutions;
(d) Commit any act, directly or indirectly, in violation of Sections 4 and 5, Article VI, part I of the Constitution.

Compliance with the foregoing prohibitions shall be monitored by the ELECOM. The prohibition shall last until the day of election for the position of Junior Grand Warden.

27. It is understood that the foregoing restrictions and prohibitions do not apply to situations wherein the nominees are constrained to register and be present at the District Meetings. Multi-District Conventions and ANCOM in order to be qualified to vote and be voted upon or elected as nominees for the position of JGW. Annual Communications (ANCOM) Level.

28. The complete list of nominees for the position of JGW submitted by various Multi=Districts to the Grand Secretary shall be forwarded to the most senior member of the Past Grand Masters at least (30) days before the election of a Junior Grand Warden but not later than April 15 of every year. Immediately thereafter, the Past Grand Masters (PGMs) shall convene and make a preliminary determination as to who they believe are best qualified to be considered by the brethren as Junior Grand Warden. Of the fifteen (15) nominees elected by the various Multi-Districts, the PGMs may opt to reduce the number of candidates to not less than seven (7). Such option by the PGMs to reduce the number of candidates shall not be exercised if for any reason, only seven (7) nominees or less are submitted by the various Multi-Districts. (Edict Nos. 268-E & 268-F, MW Momo)

29. On the day of the election, and right before the election of JGW the Past Grand Masters present shall choose from among themselves a representative or representatives who shall draw by lot in public. FIVE (5) names from among the nominees elected by the various Multi-Districts and as may be reduced in accordance with the immediately preceding section (Edict No. 268-C MW Gazmin).

30. The five (5) candidates drawn by lot shall be required to speak briefly (not to exceed ten [10] minutes each) according to the order in which their names were drawn on their respective platform of governance, plans and programs (Edict No. 268-C MW Gazmin).

31. Only candidates who are personally present at and duly registered in the ANCOM may be elected. A deliberate or unjustified absence at as well as a deliberate or unjustified failure to register in the ANCOM shall be tantamount to a withdrawal of candidacy which is expressly prohibited, and which will merit similar sanctions prescribed in Sec 5 par d-3. This fact shall be reported by the ELECOM Chairman to the

Grand Secretary for future reference.

32. The ANCOM Electoral Committee (ELECOM) shall, in accordance with and as mandated by the Constitution, conduct the election of the Junior Grand Warden and other elective Grand Lodge Officers.

33. The incumbent Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Immediate Past Masters shall be the voting members at the ANCOM, including the Past Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers, elected, and appointed, as provided in our Constitution. The Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI) shall not be a voting delegate.

34. In the election of the JGW, the candidate who obtains the highest majority vote cast by the voting delegates shall be declared the winner. Should none of the candidates voted upon garner the required majority votes on the first balloting, the election shall proceed to a second balloting. Only the candidates who obtain the first and second highest number of votes shall be qualified to be voted upon on the second balloting. (Edict Nos. 268-E & 268-F, MW Momo)

35. The candidate who obtains the highest number of votes by plurality in the second balloting shall be proclaimed the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden. In case of a tie, the same shall be broken by a toss coin and the candidate who wins in said toss coin shall be proclaimed the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden. The toss coin shall be done in public by the Chairman of the ELECOM (Edict Nos. 268-E & 268-F, MW Momo)

36. The number of votes currently required by our Constitution to elect the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary shall remain.

Continuity Clause

37. Henceforth, all lodge nominations, with the written acceptance of the nominees concerned, shall be submitted to the respective Masonic Districts WITHIN THE PERIOD June 30 to July 31 of every Masonic Year depending on the date of the District Meeting. All Masonic Districts shall elect their respective District nominees within the period July 15 to August 15 of that Masonic Year; and Multi-District conventions shall be convened from September 1 to November 30 of the same Masonic Year in accordance with the schedule to be prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

38. The DDGMs of the different Host Districts shall, within ten (10) days after the conclusion of their respective Multi-District nominations, officially communicate and certify to the Most Worshipful Grand Master through the Office of the Grand Secretary, the names of the brethren who are the official nominees of the said Multi-Districts, by way of a Consolidated Official and Certified List of Nominees.

39. Such Consolidated Official and Certified List, together with the respective program of governance of each nominee, shall be announced and disseminated thru The Cable Tow, the Grand Lodge website and a corresponding Circular of the Most Worshipful Grand Master addressed to all the Subordinate Lodges, on or before December 15 of each year. (Edict No. 268-B MW Rentoy)

Penal Clause

41. Any violation of the foregoing shall be considered as unmasonic conduct, and after due notice and proper proceedings, be punishable with a penalty of Reprimand in Open Lodge, Suspension or Expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense and the attendance of modifying circumstances, if any (Edict No. 268-B MW Rentoy, as further amended by Edict No. 282 MW Rentoy).

ARTICLE VI
VOTING, REPRESENTATION AND ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

Sec. 1. Qualified Voters.

Only the following members of the Grand Lodge in good standing are qualified to vote during the election of officers of the Grand Lodge during the Annual Communications:

a. All the incumbent elective and appointive officers of the Grand Lodge, except Grand Lodge Inspectors;
b. The Past Grand Masters;
c. The incumbent Masters, Senior and Junior Wardens of the accredited Subordinate Lodges;
d. The immediate Past Master of an accredited Subordinate Lodge, in representation of all Past Masters of his Lodge.

Sec. 2. Only the qualified voters duly accredited in accordance with existing rules and regulations, who have registered for the Annual Communications and who are actually present and in attendance during elections shall be entitled to one (1) vote each and allowed to cast their ballots during the voting.

Sec. 3. No voter shall be allowed to fill up the ballots and cast the votes for and in behalf of any other voter.

Sec. 4. It shall be unmasonic conduct for any member, directly or indirectly, to provide food, accommodation, entertainment, or any other means to solicit for himself or for any other Mason, an elective or appointive office in the Grand Lodge. The commission of any of these acts shall disqualify the offender from the office which he may have attained by virtue thereof and he and any other Mason who may have committed such act may be subject to disciplinary action by the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 5. Soliciting votes and support or campaigning in violation of the provisions of Section 4 of this Article for nomination/election to any elective position in the Grand Lodge and engaging in any other form of prohibited activity shall be cause for one's disqualification. Those campaigning for him may be dealt with for unmasonic conduct.

Sec. 6. The Electoral Committee.
The Electoral Committee (ELECOM) of the Grand Lodge shall be composed of a chairman and four (4) members appointed by the Grand Master from among the members of the Grand Lodge not earlier than three months before the Annual Communication who shall have the same qualifications as provided for in Section 4, Article V and whose term of office shall automatically cease at the end of the election and proclamation of the Junior Grand Warden during the Annual Communication. Appointment to any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, or incapacity of any member of the Committee shall be for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee member (Edict No. 314 MW Tolentino).

Sec. 7. The ELECOM shall have the following powers and functions:

a. To promulgate, enforce and administer the rules or procedures relative to the conduct of nominations and elections.
b. To screen, evaluate and determine the qualifications of the nominees.
c. To act on written complaints under oath against any violations of these rules and regulations by a nominee or any of his supporters. A vote of three (3) members shall be sufficient to disqualify a nominee/candidate.
d. To supervise the election of the Grand Lodge Officers during the Annual Communication. (Edict 268-B MW Rentoy):
e. To decide all questions affecting the returns and election of all Grand Lodge Officers. It can suspend the installation of any candidate whose election appears prima facie to have been procured thru any violation of these rules.
f. Not later than three (3) hours before the election the members of the Committee on Credentials, under the control and supervision of the ELECOM, shall draw up the official list of qualified electors who have registered in the Annual Communication.
g. Only the members whose names appear in the official list of qualified voters shall be given the official ballots to be filled out during the voting.
h. The presence of at least (3) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business. The vote of three (3) members of ELECOM shall be necessary for the approval of any matter considered by it.
i. The decision of the ELECOM on any matter relative to or concerning the exercise of its powers and functions provided for in this section shall be FINAL and immediately executory, and there can be no appeal of its decisions to either the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

Sec. 8. No Grand Officer, Past Grand Master or Past Master, voting in that capacity, shall vote in any other capacity.

Sec. 9. No Subordinate Lodge which failed to submit its Annual Report and pay in full its dues and fees to the Grand Lodge within the period provided for in the Ordinances shall be entitled to representation at the Annual Communication.

Sec. 10. Lodges under dispensation may send their Masters, and Wardens as delegates to the Annual Communication and, provided they are duly registered for the Annual Communication, may be admitted to seats, permitted to speak, and allowed to vote on all questions, but shall have no vote in the election of Grand Officers until their Lodge shall have been constituted.

PART V
MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS
RULES OF ORDER AND ORDER OF BUSINESS - GRAND LODGE RULES OF ORDER

I. When a member desires to address the Grand Lodge, or deliver any matter for its consideration, he shall arise and respectfully address himself to the M.W. Grand Master and confine himself to the subject matter under discussion.
II. All motions, resolutions or proposition shall be reduced in writing, and read by the Grand Secretary, and if seconded shall be considered as before the Grand Lodge for its action.

III. All communications, returns, petitions and documents, unless otherwise ordered, shall be referred to appropriate committees, who shall report thereon in writing signed by the members of the committee making the report.

IV. Any motion or proposition may be withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the seconder at any time before decision or its amendment by, or its reference to a committee.

V. A question may be divided at the request of a member. A member requesting a division of a question must state definitely into how many parts he would have it divided. Each of these parts must be able to stand alone, and the remainder must be able to stand in like manner and be consistent and entire.

VI.When an amendment is pending, motions to amend must be limited exclusively to that amendment.

VII. A motion to amend an amendment shall preclude all further propositions to amend until it shall be decided; and the question on the proposition to amend, last made, shall be put first.

VIII. All questions shall be put in the order in which they were moved; and in filling blanks, the largest sum or quantity, and the longest time, shall be put first.

IX. A motion substantially the same as the one disposed of, or under advisement or inconsistent with one adopted, cannot be entertained in the same session.

X. When a question has been decided in the affirmative or negative, it shall be, in order for any member who voted on the side which prevailed to move a reconsideration thereof on the same day on which the decision was had, or on the next day thereafter. A motion to reconsider, if rejected, cannot be moved again.

XI. When a question is postponed indefinitely, the same shall not be acted upon again during the same session.

XII. A motion to reconsider does not bring up the merits of the propositions for discussion. The propriety of reconsidering it is the only matter debatable. If the proposition is reconsidered, it is before the Grand Lodge in the same form it was immediately before it was voted on.

XIII. No member shall speak more than once on the same question, without leave of the Grand Lodge, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer, of the matter pending; in which case he shall be permitted to reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

XIV. When a member rises on a question of privilege or order, the M.W. Grand Master will recognize the member, and the question of order or privilege, shall be disposed of at once. The member temporarily interrupted then resumes the floor.

XV. The M.W. Grand Master shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Grand Lodge.

XVI. Every brother shall have the right to vote, and any brother who is present, when the question is put, shall vote unless for special reasons he be excused.

XVII. No brother shall vote, who is present,

when he is particularly and personally interested; nor shall there be any debate after the question is put by the M.W. Grand Master.

XVIII. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received unless to amend it, to commit it, to postpone it, or for the previous questions.

XIX. The previous question being moved and seconded, the question shall be "Shall the main question be put now?" and if a majority present vote in the affirmative, the main question shall then be put.

XX. The ordering of the previous question shall only be to cut off debate and subsequent amendments; and the question shall be on amendments pending, beginning with the last successively back to the original proposition.
XXI. The previous question shall be decided without debate.

XXII. These rules shall not be modified or suspended, except by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and entitled to vote at the time the vote is taken.
XXIII. These rules are for the government of the Grand Lodge alone and not for Subordinate Lodges.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. Prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

II. Calling of the roll of Officers and permanent members of the Grand Lodge and noting absences, if any, by the Grand Secretary.

III. Calling the roll of Lodges, and noting those represented, and announcing the result.

IV. The solemn ceremonies of opening the Grand Lodge.

V. Reading and approving the Minutes of the previous communication not before read and approved unless dispensed with.

VI. The announcement of the Committee on Credentials; and any business affecting the organization of the Grand Lodge.

VII. Address of the M.W. Grand Master, and reference thereof.

VIII. Annual Report of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and reference thereof; and the Committee on Correspondence

IX. Appointment of Regular Committees and filling vacancies, if any, in Standing Committees.

X. Reports on unfinished business.

XI. Presentation and reference or other disposition of memorials, petitions, and communications.

XII. Motions and Resolutions, and reference or other disposition of the same.

XIII. Reports of Regular and Standing Committees and action thereon, preference to be given in accordance with the order named in the Constitution.

XIV. Reports of Special Committees and action thereon.

XV. Special orders, if any.

XVI.Consideration of amendments of the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, if any.

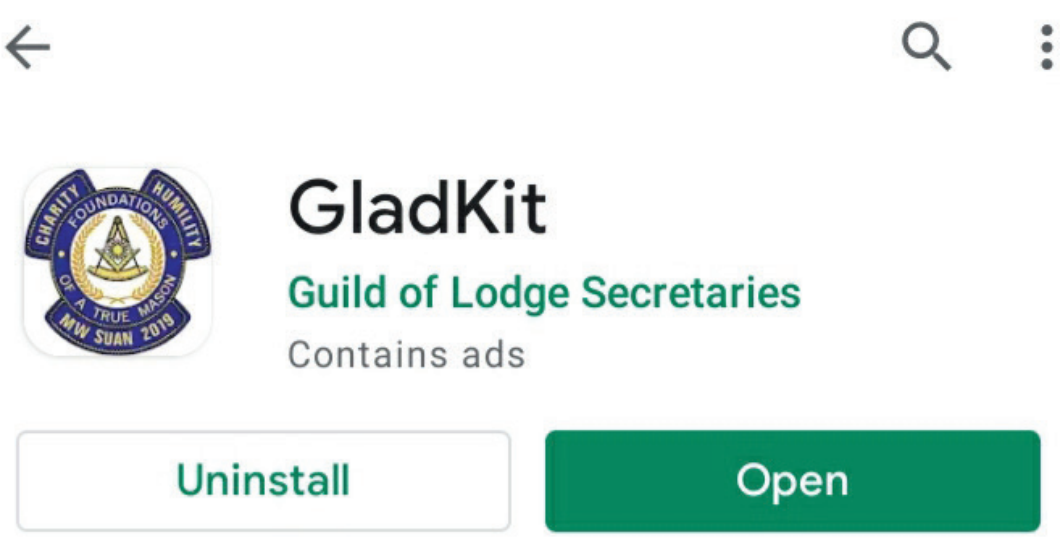
XVII.Miscellaneous business, if any, not included in the above.

XVIII.Election of Grand lodge Officers, and Installation of Elective and Appointive Officers, Appointment of Standing Committees.

Sources:

Masonic Law Book 2019 Edition / Manual for Grand Lodge Officers - 2015-2016

Inquiries, comments, clarifications, or suggestions for this column can be sent to glp96@grandlodge.ph or the author's personal numbers at 0917-771-2966 (Globe/Viber) and 0920-9219-452 (Smart/Viber)



Have you the GladKit?

By VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago, GSc

Sometime in December 2020 our Grand Master announced that with the 104th Annual Communications pushing through in April 2021, ANCOM Kits will be distributed in digital format like the Cable Tow publications via the TCTReader App. MW Suan was referring to the GladKit – a mobile app developed by Bro. John Paul Narisma of Shangri-La Lodge No. 196. The same talented Brother who developed the TCTReader (Circular 56) and GLProceedings App.

An acronym for Grand Lodge of the Philippines ANCOM Digital Kit, the GladKit app is a paperless substitute to the traditional Masonic Kits being issued to registrants of ANCOMs past. For this upcoming event, instead of a cumbersome bag filled with 2 years-worth of GLP reports, all reference documents were digitized to fit in a smart phone as big as the palm of a hand.

Section 4 of Edict No. 340 – Suan provides that the usual AnCom Kits in digitized format shall be available to all duly registered delegates, as such, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. personally supervised in its creation. The mobile app will contain the digitized version of Grand Lodge Reports from the various Grand Lodge Offices and Committees, as well as the Digital Compilations of Edicts and Circulars. Its features and functionalities are the same as the TCTReader and GLProceedings, it also has a log-in password.

Considered another first in GLP history, the GladKit mobile app is a part of our Grand Master's digitization program. It will be distributed during ANCOM thru the Secretariat.

Our Grand Lodge has embraced the advances of technology and by the grip and tenacity of our Grand Master's effort to pursue these advancements, GLP has become a technology-driven Masonic Grand Jurisdiction laying the foundation of Technology for the coming generations of Free & Accepted Masons in the Philippines.

ON THE LEVEL

By VW Edgar S. Bentulan, DGL

PRAXIS OF SYMBOLISMS, ANCOM 2021

This Annual Communication punctuates in unique hybrid of technology the conclusion of the extended term of MW Agapito S. Suan Jr., who after 1946, is the first Grand Master (GM) to have served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in two Masonic Years. Year 1942 up to 1945, World War II, was the last time that AnCom was canceled and remained unconvened, leaving MW John McFie as GM. When he died in 1945, then SGW Michael Goldenberg had to take over in lieu of the Deputy Grand Master who was killed during the war. MW Goldenberg was officially elected as GM during the AnCom in 1946.

MW Suan had to be extended in his term as GM when the 2020 AnCom was called off after the country was declared in the state of pandemic. He served the GLP, in strictest term in this oddest era, headstrong. From what we heard from his lawyer son and city councilor, Bro. Lordan Gualberto Suan, here in Cagayan de Oro, his brother father has never come home since March last year. He has made the Grand Lodge his home this long one-year of quarantine and lockdown, steering GLP by on-line video conferencing and whatever activities and projects the resilient Brethren all over the grand jurisdiction could scrounge - doing so under the restrictive milieu of the pandemic.

The usual large in-person gathering and attendance of Brethren and guests, travelling from all over the country and outside the local area of the venue, SMX Complex, Olongapo City will not have to be expected now, unfortunately. But this Annual Communication must happen by the cautious aid of technology to avoid risks of the viral infection -- and God forbid!

Definitely, this pandemic will be here for no certain time, but certainly our labors cannot remain in suspended animation forever or for long -- not with modern technology at our behest and our resiliency and innovativeness to optimize our purpose in so many serious agenda affecting the immediate future of the Grand Lodge under consideration.

We may have to miss our customary embraces and handshakes in socialization and fellowship as we had in past AnComs. Reminiscing those sterling moments of fraternal bonding is all that can content ourselves for now.

I was barely eight months as a Master Mason when I attended the installation of MW Rizal D. Aportadera in Davao City in 1993, my first AnCom experience. Its luster has stuck in my Masonic consciousness -- for all eternity. I mean, my impression of the genius and spectacle of how the rituals, plenary and conference dynamics were conducted, was in its acme of wonder and marvel, and would ever be in my remembrance forever.

More amazing that time was the unique solemnity and masterful management of the installation program with the extraordinaire musical background provided by the 'Brothers & Sisters in Harmony' ensemble, embellish-

ing the Grand Master's ascent to the Grand Oriental Chair in the jampacked but aircon-cool Central Bank convention hall. From Day One to installation night, my fellowships in conviviality with the brethren of Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro and other lodges, were simply awesome. From then on, I really hated missing any AnCom.

Now, we may, meanwhile, have to forget about all these fun and hobnobbing excitements. This 104th AnCom will have to be done with extreme health precautions and safety distancing. That is why it must be a hybrid of face-to-face meeting and virtual, on-line communication event. This may set the precedence for all other institutions to resume their own conventions this pandemic period.

As per Edict 340 on Modified Procedures, only the first 450 delegates or 50% of the seating capacity of the main convention venue at Olongapo City's SMX Complex will be admitted in physical attendance. The excess of delegates will be accommodated in an adjacent space within the complex venue for remote viewing and voting. Those delegates who opt to stay home can still attend and vote on-line provided they have registered with their e-mail address at least 30 days before the AnCom.

Swab test and health protocols will be strictly observed for delegates physically attending; movements for sight-seeing and shopping necessarily constrained.

Spaces in the venue are thought out to accommodate a seating arrangement adequate for social distancing (three to six feet apart as feasible) in both plenary segment and fellowships.

Close interaction and fellowship must be reduced and shortened, of course, made more different from normal times.

The convention plenary session and election will be held in one day, guided by an abbreviated order of business, to be followed the next day by other ceremonials and installation of the new grand master and other officers, and then closing of the communication.

During this two-day event, the usual self-serve, unlimited food and drinks, share and buffet style dishes, may have to be replaced by pre-packed meals or set-down plated meals, if not a less stringent equivalent, in compliance with health protocols.

We may have to forgo with our physical intimacy and vivacity in our interaction and fellowship for now. However, whether face-to-face or on-line, the essence of communing together in countrywide intensity, in one beehive spirit of brotherhood under God's Fatherhood, is part of what the yearly AnCom is all about. Experiences here will be peculiar somewhat, because of the absence of freedom affecting space and movements vital in human intercourse. But we, Masons, as what H. L. Haywood points, after having been shown each through our rituals and symbols "the way toward a new birth" of our nature, have been brought with some kind of "divine power" that makes us sublimely different. We are not without the puissance to transcend limits.

Our sacred praxis on mysteries and moral symbolisms in the Craft distinguishes us profoundly from other institutions. It is our mystic secret. Inexorably, we keep on finding ways to lead and perform the labors as what our tested ancient practices and traditions taught us to do, in harmony and with order and beauty reigning, even in the most dangerous of health hazards and darkness as this pandemic. Our indissoluble chain of sincere affection moves in mysterious ways to make us easily agree.

Congratulations, Most Worshipful Jun Suan Sir! For the oddest job superbly done! Kudos and Good Luck, Right Worshipful Rolen C. Paulino on your rise to the Grand Oriental Chair!

THE 4 GRAND LIGHTS

Editor's Note:

The Cable Team took time to include the mandates of the offices of the 4 Great Lights as stated in 2019 Edition of the Masonic Law Book. Unlike the Blue Lodge which is supported by 3 Pillars. The Grand Lodge has four lines of succession in Leadership – the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden. Notice the immense differences between the offices of the Grand Master as compared to the Deputy, and the Wardens.

POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GRAND LIGHTS

PART I - CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IX - THE GRAND MASTER

Sec. 1. The Grand Master, between Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, shall exercise all its executive powers, except the granting of Charters, all its judicial powers, and such legislative powers as may provide needed legislation that shall be harmoniously complementary to this Constitution. His actions are effective immediately.

Sec. 2. The Grand Master shall have the authority to exercise generally all such powers as by ancient general masonic usage are given him by virtue of his office, among which are;

a) To grant dispensations:

1. **For the organization of new Lodges and to extend or continue dispensations until the next Annual Communication;**
2. **For a Lodge to hold the election of an officer or officers at any date other than that of the stated meeting prescribed by the By-Laws of the Lodge for the election of officers;**
3. **For a Lodge to receive and act on the petition for degrees of a person whose previous petition was rejected by that Lodge within less than twelve (12) months;**
4. **For a Lodge to receive and act on the petition of a petitioner for degrees of a person belonging to or serving in the Armed Forces of the Philippines or a Diplomatic Agency in the Philippines who satisfies partially of the qualifications of residence;**
5. **For a Lodge to confer degrees upon more than five (5) candidates at any meeting and to confer degrees upon more than one (1) candidate collectively;**
6. **For a Lodge, in an emergency, to transact business with less than seven (7) members present; and**
7. **For a Lodge to meet for the transaction of business and/or to confer degrees in a place and at a time other than those fixed by its By-Laws, Charter, or Dispensation.**

b) To convene any Lodge, preside therein, inspect its proceedings and compel its conformity to the Constitution and Masonic Usages, Ordinances, Rules and General Regulations;

c) To open a Lodge when the Master and Wardens are absent from the territorial jurisdiction of said Lodge, or to delegate such power to a duly qualified Brother;

d) To open or close the Grand Lodge or any Lodge in short form provided that the opening and closing prayers are given;

e) To accept the voluntary surrender of the Charter of a Lodge;

f) To entertain proceedings on the forfeiture of the Charter of a Lodge;

g) To arrest, withdraw or revoke for good reasons the Charter or Dispensation of any Lodge until the next Annual Communication;

h) To reactivate any Lodge in accordance with masonic law and procedure;

i) To suspend the Master, or any officer of a Lodge, from office until the expiration of his term or until the next Annual Communication;

j) To transfer the trial of an accused Brother to another Lodge, upon the request of the Master to whom the charge of unmasonic conduct has been presented, whenever such transfer is in his opinion necessary and expedient and to direct that the charges and the order of transfer be transmitted to the Master of the Lodge to which such transfer shall be made;

k) To require the attendance of and information from any Grand Lodge Officer respecting matters appertaining to the duties of his office;

l) To appoint representatives near recognized Grand Lodges, and to receive and accredit representatives therefrom;

m) To create Regional Grand Lodges and to appoint the Regional Grand Master;

n) To require the attendance of, and information from, any Grand Lodge Committee respecting matters appertaining to the duties thereof;

o) To divide the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge into Districts, and to appoint his official

representative, to be known as District Deputy Grand Master, for each District;

p) To appoint one or more District Grand Lecturers for each Masonic District;

q) To appoint a Grand Lodge Inspector for each Lodge in this jurisdiction;

r) To make use of the Board for General Purposes as a consultative group, an advisory body, a planning group and/or an implementing agency;

s) To fill any vacancy in any elective office of the Grand Lodge by appointment and the officer so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term;

t) To approve By-Laws of Lodges and any amendments thereto;

u) To suspend the Charter of any Subordinate Lodge whenever it has any indebtedness to theGrand Lodge unpaid for the period of one (1) year from the date of the earliest unpaid indebtedness and to reinstate the Charter of the Lodge after the Lodge shall have completely settled every indebtedness to his complete satisfaction; and

v) To hear and decide on the expulsion or grant of pardon to an expelled brother pursuant to Edict on Abandonment (Edict No. 303 MW Tolentino).

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master:

a) To exercise careful supervision over the Craft, and to see to it that the Ancient Landmarks,the Uniform Code of By-Laws, Ordinances, Edicts and Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge are obeyed;
b) To institute Lodges under dispensation and constitute chartered Lodges, in person or by a representative, in accordance with the ancient usages and regulations;
c) To discharge all duties and perform all functions of the Grand Lodge between communications;
d) To preside at all Grand Lodge Communications;
e) To present at the Annual Communication a written message setting forth all his official acts during the year, the state and general condition of Masonry within the Jurisdiction, and recommend such legislation as he may deem necessary, proper or expedient for the welfare of the Craft;
f) To submit a copy of his Annual message to the Committee on Grand Lodge Officers' Reports two (2) weeks before the Annual Grand Communication; and
g) To choose, with the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens, a bank or banks wherethe moneys belonging to the Grand Lodge shall be deposited.

ARTICLE X - THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master:

a) To assist the Grand Master in the performance of any and all his official functions and duties;
b) To perform the official functions and duties of the Grand Master in the event of the latter's death, his absence from this jurisdiction, or his inability to perform his official functions and duties; and
c) When the Grand Master is outside of the Jurisdiction, the Deputy Grand Master, in case of emergency, may issue orders, sign certificates and dispensations as "Acting Grand Master". If the Grand Master is unable to perform his duties, the Deputy Grand Master becomes the Acting Grand Master. When the Grand Master expects to be out from Manila for some time and is therefore unable to sign routine papers, he may authorize the Grand Secretary or the Deputy Grand Master to sign such routine papers with the words "For the Grand Master" preceding the signature. Any formal documents, such as checks and contracts must be signed by the Grand Master, or by the Deputy Grand Master as "Acting Grand Master" when the Grand Master is not within his jurisdiction, or when by reason of sickness or other disability the Grand Master is not performing the duties of his office. When a Grand Master dies in office, the Deputy Grand Master should, as a matter of courtesy, use the title "Acting Grand Master" until after the funeral services have been completed. However, during the funeral ceremonies, he will be addressed as "Most Worshipful Grand Master". If there is a printed program, the title of the Deputy Grand Master should be shown as "Acting Grand Master".

ARTICLE XI - THE GRAND WARDENS

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master at all times and, in his absence and that of the Deputy Grand Master, to preside at Communications of the Grand Lodge in the order of their rank.

Sec. 2. In the event of death, absence from this jurisdiction, or inability of both the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, they shall in the order of their rank, be vested with all the powers and duties assumed.

SMX Olongapo City Convention Center, venue of the 2021 Annual Communications (AnCom) of all Masons under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons in the Philippines. Photo by VW Victorio V. Vizcocho, Jr., PJGL

PUSONG MASON

ANCOM 2021:
OLONGAPO BECKONS
By VW Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr., PJGL (52)

OLONGAPO, the scenic city that once hosted the largest offshore US Naval Base in Subic Bay, beckons despite the COVID-19 Pandemic that has scourged the nation, and the world, for over a year now.

But for Masons in the Philippines, all roads lead to Olongapo, some 100 kilometers North-West of Metro-Manila, for the coming Grand Lodge of the Philippines' Annual Communication on April 22-23, 2021 at SMX Olongapo City Convention Center.

An American Military Reservation at the turn of the 20th century, its rich history enhanced by the influence of the US Naval Base, as well as the Spanish Navy which first used Subic Bay as a military facility, manifests in the various attractions that the city offers.

While organized tours have been dropped by the AnCom2021 organizing committee due to the Pandemic, there is no stopping the brethren, as well as their spouses and children, from exploring and discovering more of Olongapo. On hand upon request to serve as "tour guides" are the Pusong Mason brethren of Masonic District R3 Zambales.

To name a few must see, in the heart of the city is the rotonda where the iconic "Ulo ng Apo" monument from whence the name of the city – Olongapo – evolved, that of the legendary good village chief who was beheaded by his abductors but became the unifying force among the village people to fight and defeat their evil enemies.

Nearby and only across the AnCom venue is Marikit Park that boasts of a playground, an amphitheater, and shady trees that compliments its purpose as a park.

A few kilometers away jutting into the Bay providing a majestic view of Subic and the city is Kalaklan Point, where a decades-old but still functioning lighthouse stands, guiding ships and other commercial vessels to safely navigate the bay as it did to US Navy ships in the past.

Next to city hall, where a monument of our hero brother Mason Jose P. Rizal towers over, is the Rizal Triangle, built in cooperation with the Americans during the Naval Base days "dedicated to a lasting friendship between two nations," a witness to many important and historic events forging the close ties of Americans and Filipinos in general, and specially in Olongapo in particular, for generations.

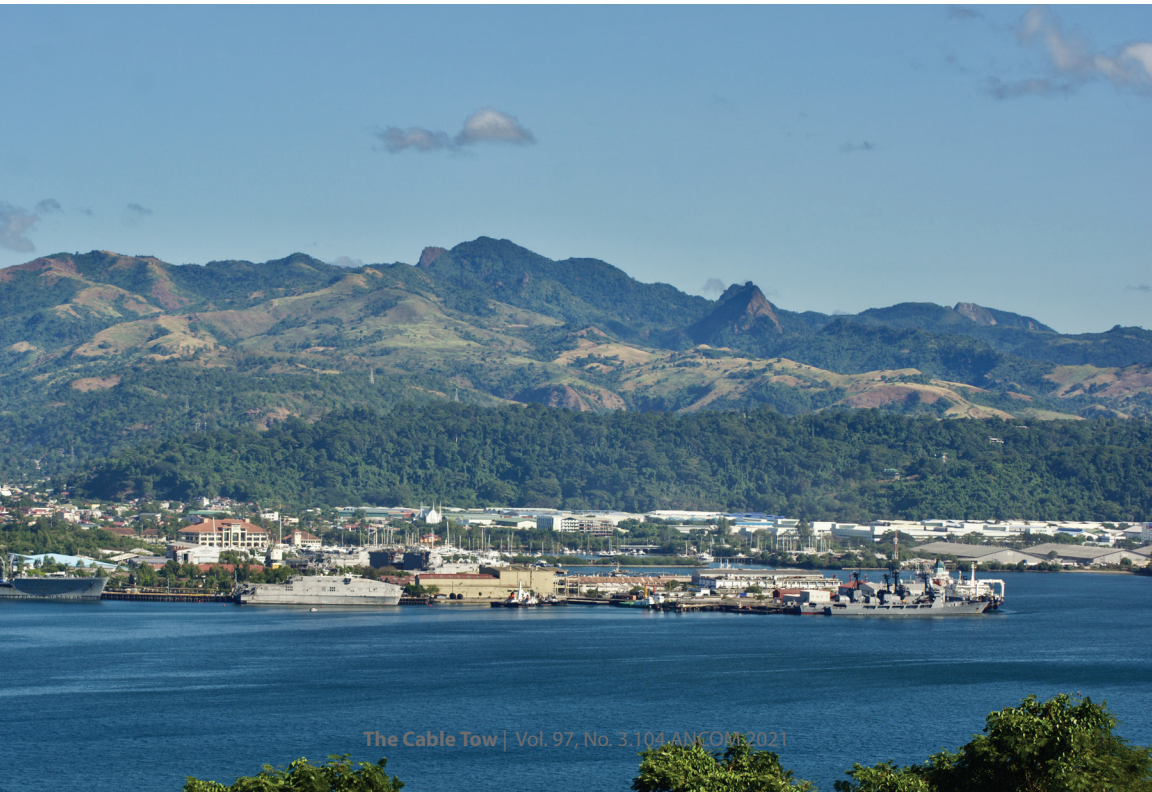
Wildlife and marine life abound in Olongapo, as well as the Subic Bay Freeport, with beaches, waterparks, jet-ski shops and scuba dive shops that give enthusiasts the chance to explore what's under the waters of Subic Bay, including coral reefs and shipwrecks that range from Spanish vessels to Japanese and American ships.

There is more to see and experience in Olongapo, and the AnCom Committee members and Pusong Mason Masonic District R3 Zambales brethren will be available to assist delegates and their families, according to Committee Chair VW Jordan M. Dizon who also assured that a minimum of thirty (30) merchandizers of Masonic items and Zambales-made products will be spread in the four-storey SM Olongapo Central, home of the SMX Olongapo City Convention Center.

"It would have been grandiose last year with our massive preparations before the COVID-19 pandemic struck and forced the postponement of the event," VW Dizon told The Cable Tow, "nevertheless, we endeavor to make this year's event as pleasant and fruitful as possible for everyone as we make sure IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force) protocols are duly complied with, in line with the instructions of our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Agapito S. Suan, Jr."

During the 104th Annual Communication, Right Worshipful Rolen C. Paulino, a former city mayor of Olongapo, will be installed as Grandmaster, the first ever from the Masonic District in over a hundred years. For the Pusong Mason brethren of the District, it has been a century in waiting, a waiting worth the wait, the COVID-19 Pandemic notwithstanding. (VVV)

The natural beauty of Olongapo City and Subic Bay, venue of the 2021 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, has always been an attraction to local and foreign tourists alike. Photo by VW Victorio V. Vizcocho, Jr., PJGL



Meet The 13 nominees for Junior Grand Warden

VW GLENN MATHEW G. BAGGAO, PDDGM

Nominee from Northern Luzon
Isabela Masonic Lodge No. 60
Masonic District RII Isabela (North)

BORN OUT OF MYSTERY, IMPARTING BROTHERLY KINDNESS IN THE NAME OF MASONRY

"One of the many ways to make a difference in this world is to be kind. Kindness will not cost anyone a single centavo but is guaranteed to leave the giver a sense of contentment and inner calm. Random acts of kindness can inspire others to do the same. Even small acts can leave a big mark in the heart. It may be a mystery how one imparts kindness, but the ripples and waves that it creates does not need an explanation - the positive effect simply multiplies. Our brotherhood should always be founded on kindness. For as we reach out to the multitude, the waves and ripples will surely return to us with satisfying meaning to our existence."

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Date of Birth : 24 February 1962
Place of Birth : Ilagan, Isabela
Spouse : Ma. Nona Perpetua Abarca Baggao
Occupation : Dentist
Affiliation : Member, Order of the Amaranth, Queen Isabella- Ilagan City, Isabela

Children:

- **Mark Nicholas A. Baggao / Actuarian, Manulife – Toronto, Ontario, Canada**
- **Glenn Mark A. Baggao / Government Employee, Winnipeg City, Manitoba, Canada / Affiliation - Senior Warden, Fil Can Cabletow Lodge No. 189, Grand Lodge of Manitoba Canada**

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- **Post-Graduate Virgen Milagrosa University**
- **Doctor of Medicine / University of the Philippines / 1983-87**
- **Master in Hospital Administration / University of the Philippines / 1993-94**
- **Master in Nursing / 2007-08**
- **Tertiary / University of the East / Bachelor of Science in General / 1978- 82**
- **University of La Salette / Bachelor of Science in Nursing / 2004-06**
- **Secondary / Isabela High School / 1974-78**
- **Primary / Ilagan Central School / 1968-74**

AFFILIATIONS / ORGANIZATIONS

- **Fellow**
  Philippine College of Hospital Administrators
- **Fellow**
  Philippine Society of Medical Specialists, Inc.
- **Philippine Medical Association**
- **Philippine Nurses Association**

ELIGIBILITY

- **Physician Licensure Exam**
- **Professional Regulations Commission / 1988**
- **Nursing Licensure Exam**
- **Professional Regulations Commission / 2006**

MASONIC POSITIONS

- **Raised as Master Mason: November 1997**
- **Member – Khartum Shriners- Manitoba, Canada**
- **Member – Scottish Rite- Philppines**
- **Member – Isabela Masonic No. 60- Ilagan City, Isabela**
- **Member – Fil Can Cabletow Lodge 189- Grand Lodge of Manitoba Canada**

- **Charter Member / Deodoro C. Go Mas. No. 445**
- **Honorary Member / Mallig Plains Mas. Lodge 191**
- **Honorary Member / San Mariano Mas. Lodge 307**
- **Honorary Member / Tumauini Mas. Lodge 191**
- **Honorary Member / Aurora Mas. Lodg No. 405**
- **Honorary Member / Mabini Mas. Lodge No. 39**
- **Immediate Past District Deputy Grandmaster / Masonic District RII Isabela North**
- **Past District Grand Lecturer MD RII Isabela North**
- **Past Master / Isabela Mas. Lodge No. 60**
- **Past Royal Patron / Order of The Amaranth, Queen Isabella Court No.14**

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Medical Center Chief II (Present) Cagayan Valley Medical Center**
- **Medical Center Chief I Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital**
- **Development Management Officer IV Department of Health DOH Regional Office 02**
- **Provincial Health Officer / LGU – Isabela**
- **Municipal Health Officer / LGU-San Mariano**
- **Chief of Hospital San Mariano Medical Hospital**
- **Chief of Hospital / Tumauini District Hospital**
- **Chief of Hospital / Cauayan District Hospital**
- **Resident Physician Isabela Provincial Hospital**

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Born out of Mystery, Imparting Brotherly Kindness in the Name of Masonry.

The burdens of time, the incessant challenges of many and the discerning eyes of the public surely traverses the inner doors of masonry. Although, we knew for ourselves the real essence of masonry, I humbly submit that it is our duty as well to meekly show in our own humble ways, what our fraternity has to offer. We have been through thick and thin, yet masonry survived. Nevertheless, with the influx of so many intrusive interpretations and malicious insinuations, the number of good men in masonry is being blemished. Thus every master mason should exhibit personal and masonic accountability despite the demands of time. A master mason should always act beyond moral reproach. In any event of misdemeanor, he must be willing to take full responsibility. In the same vein, masonry should preserve its integrity rather that dealing with trivial and innocuous matters. Thus, it will be timely to instill that masonry maintains accountability and integrity amidst diversity.

The medical field gave me a pillow bed in shaping my perspective on how to lead and guide individuals of varied interest and inclinations. The common goal of serving beyond par through commendations, continuous education and community relations makes up still a good paradigm. Hence, if the Supreme Being and the dearest brethren will give me a chance, I will humbly implement my five-point agenda.

1. Development of fraternity management software. This plan will include dues collection tools, bills payment features, GLP site advertisement, financial reporting and donation tracker.

a. Collection of dues: Some brethren may have the necessary cash to settle their dues but the same does not fall on a meeting and neither the person in charge to collect is not around too. Hence, the facility of the wide and commonly availed payment partners should be immediately available;

b. Bills payment. Masonic supplies and provisions from the Grand Lodge should now be available via internet orders from the members of the craft and be shipped accordingly so as not to burden them from travel and asking someone to do the errands for them. This way we would eradicate as well the perennial complaints where petitioners and candidates are asked to buy and get some things at the Grand Lodge.

c. Advertisement. Brethren who are engaged in commercial trades or offering services should be given the priority of having their trades and services be advertise in the GLP site for a minimal fee. This strengthens and supports their business and at the same time, it will generate funds that may aid the GLP in its special projects.

d. Financial transparency. The brethren should be given a ready account of their blue lodges

and how the same has been manage. They should be able to view at once their finances and matters that have been reported to the Grand Lodge accurately. A backstage check of the lodge finances must be adequately provided and avoid any financial scrap.

e. Donation tracker. The software must be able to properly account the generosity and benevolence of the donors. The altruistic feeling that they have eased the burdens of the needy somehow is reflected when the efforts have been assured that it was accounted and had reached in due time the one needing the same.

2. Accountability

a. Codification of penal sanctions. The penal regulations of the Grand Lodge contained in the Edicts and jurisprudence must be codified and distributed to the blue lodges to serve as a reminder and deterrent unto the brethren. A fair warning should be given unto them to show that the Grand Lodge is dead worthy in the implementation of its own laws if only to weed out persons who did not bother to protect the integrity of our institution.

b. The proper decorum and masonic intercourse both through the medium of internet and personal dealings must be regulated as well by a proper and comprehensive guide so as not to leave room for doubts and will streamline misunderstanding if not to purge the same.

c. Penalty for omission. The officers too must be willing to accept a higher penalty for their infraction and must share in the burden due to either omission, in jest commands or failure to lend a proper counsel unto the erring brothers in the craft. A command responsibility under certain scenario should make out its way in order to lash out similarly situated misdemeanors.

3. Member education/continuous education

a. The IMES courses should adopt a continuous course to include the updates upon the new edicts in order for the members and to keep themselves abreast in order to abbreviate the proceedings in the blue lodges. Different submissions based on uncodified and out of date understanding leads to deeper issues in lodges.

b. Leadership training. A semi-annual leadership training for the incumbent lights and district officers or 6 months after their installment will serve as a booster and a vaccine to initiate in their veins again the necessary duties, functions and wisdom that they should follow while governing their respective stations.

4. Ritual review

a. The rituals need no revamp or change but we need to decide what are the things that should not be done in a certain proceeding or degree works, to include opening or closing of the lodge. The instructions have been written in our monitors and the like but arguments regarding the word innovations have gone a long way. Thus, in order to uniformly addressed the same, an annotation of the things which are improper and surplusage must be provided. Several officers are banking on the fact that it was not expressly provided, then they could do it, hence, we will approach the said problem, by preserving the rituals, but giving the details of the things that should not be done in the premises.

b. Notices. During the last week of March preceding the AnCom, the pamphlets and matters to be discussed in the plenary will have to be sent unto the authorized delegates of blue lodges in order for them to be aware of the matters that will be thoroughly considered therein. A surprise sometime is a pain and may taint relationships and cooperation.

5. Positive communal relations

a. Apart from the numerous charity works that are along the way, the establishment of a library for each masonic district coupled with a museum will always count in bringing out who are the freemasons.

b. A revitalized environmental program must be at stake as well in cooperation with the various agencies of the government. Taking care of the planet goes to say that we are nurturing the same for the benefit of our fraternity and generations to come.

VW RAUL E. CANON, JR., PGA, HA

Nominee from Southern Luzon
Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69
Masonic District RIV Cavite East

BAWAT ISA SA MASONERIYA AY MAHALAGA

"Bawat isang Mason ay mahalaga dahil bawat isa ay haligi ng kapatiran. "Kapag nabuwal ang isa, mai-tatayo siya ng kanyang kasama. x x x Kung ang nag-iisa'y maaaring magtagumpay laban sa isa, lalo na ang dalawa. Ang lubid na may tatlong pilipit na hibla ay hindi agad malalagot". (Ecclesiastes 4: 10-12)"

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- **NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**
  Master in National Security Administration (MNSA
  October 2014 – September 2015

- **SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF LAW**
  Mendiola, City of Manila
  Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)
  June 2004 – March 2010

- **UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES**
  Diliman, Quezon City
  Bachelor of Arts in English Studies (Language)
  June 1995 – October 2000

- **PASIG CATHOLIC COLLEGE**
  Malinao, Pasig City
  Secondary Education (High School)
  June 1991 – March 1995
  Primary Education (Elementary)
  June 1985 – March 1991

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
  Deputy Administrator
  January 28, 2021 – present

  Special Assistant to the Administrator
  June 20, 2019 – January 27, 2021

- **VERGEL DE DIOS MARITIME LAW OFFICES**
  Partner (on-leave)
  January 16, 2018 – present

- **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

  Assistant Secretary
  December 12, 2016 – January 15, 2018

  - Maritime – Legal Concerns
  - Procurement
  - Vice-Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
  - Alternate Member, Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB)
  - Alternate Member, Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) of GPPB
  - Alternate Member, GPPB Review Committee (GRC)

  Director III
  September 28, 2016 – December 11, 2016

  Director III
  September 28, 2016 – December 11, 2016

  OIC-Director
  July 4, 2016 – September 27, 2016
  Legal Service
  - Regular Member, interim Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
  - Chairman, Site Acquisition and Right-Of-Way (ROW

  Attorney V
  March 26, 2013 – July 3, 2016
  Chief -- Contract Review and Documentation Division (CRDD)
  Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs
  [March 2013 – March 2016]
  Legal Service
  [March 2016 – July 3, 2016]

  Attorney III
  March16, 2012 – March 25, 2013
  Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs

- **YASAY REGALADO ATIENZA MENDOZA LAW OFFICES**

Legal Associate
October 15, 2010 – March 15, 2012

- PHILIPPINE EXPORT-IMPORT CREDIT AGENCY

  Agenda/Minutes Officer
  March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2010
  Office of the Corporate Secretary

  Legal Researcher
  February 16, 2007 – February 29, 2008
  Office of the Chief Legal Counsel

- PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT

  Legal Researcher
  January 11, 2006 – May 31, 2006
  Legal Department

- OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

  Executive Assistant V
  December 19, 2003 – November 30, 2005
  Ombudsman Proper

  Executive Assistant IV
  October 24, 2002 – December 18, 2003
  Ombudsman Proper

- OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

  Executive Assistant IV
  August 13, 2001 – October 16, 2002
  OSG Secretariat

- MANILA JOCKEY CLUB, INC.

  Legal Assistant
  April 2001 – June 2001
  Legal and Administrative Departments

  Marketing Assistant
  March 2001 – June 2001
  Marketing Department

SEMINARS AND TRAININGS ATTENDED

- The New Philippine Bidding Documents on Procurement of Infrastructure by Center for Global Best Practices
  December 9, 2020
- The New Philippine Bidding Documents on Procurement of Goods by Center for Global Best Practices
  December 4, 2020
- Corporate Governance Orientation Program for GOCCs
  by Institute of Corporate Directors
  November 26, 2020 – November 27, 2020
- Unleashing the Strategic Leader: The Move from Operational to Strategic and Innovative Leader
  by Guthrie-Jensen Consultants, Inc.
  August 6, 7, 13, and 14, 2020
- Fundamentals of Strategic Planning
  by Business Coach, Inc.
  June 23, 2020
- Effective Conflict Management
  by Business Coach, Inc.
  June 22, 2020
- Creative Problem Solving and Decision Making
  by Business Coach, Inc.
  June 17, 2020
- Effective Change Management
  by Business Coach, Inc.
  June 16, 2020
- Crisis Leadership Module Series
  by Asian Institute of Management
  May 12, 14, 19, 21, and 26, 2020
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 7th Compliance Period
  by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
  Compliance Period: April 15, 2019 – April 14, 2022; valid until April 14, 2025
- Leadership and Management Training: Manager's Role in Capacity Building by Civil Service Commission
  November 28, 2019 – November 29, 2019
  Sulo Riviera Hotel, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
- CSI Leadership Series: Disruptive Leadership
  by Civil Service Commission
  November 20, 2019
  CSC Auditorium, 4/F CSC Resource Center
  CSC-CO, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
- Leadership and Management Training: Ethical Leadership
  by Civil Service Commission
  November 6, 2019 – November 8, 2019
  Sulo Riviera Hotel, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Government Leaders
  by Civil Service Commission\
  October 28, 2019 – October 30, 2019
  CSI Training Room, 4/F CSC Building, CSC-CO, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
- Mentoring and Coaching for Leaders
  by Civil Service Commission
  October 24, 2019 – October 25, 2019
  CSI Training Room, 4/F CSC Building, CSC-CO, IBP Road, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines
- NDCP Talks on Women: Ending Violence against Women
  by National Defense College of the Philippines
  NDCP Auditorium, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
  December 5, 2018
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 6th Compliance Period
  by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
  Compliance Period: April 15, 2016 – April 14, 2019; valid until April 14, 2022
- 2nd Philippine Airport Modernization and Expansion Summit
  by Asia Pacific Security Magazine
  May 24, 2017 – May 25, 2017
  Solaire Grand Ballroom, Solaire Hotel, Manila, Philippines
- Career Executive Service Board (CESB) Accredited Training Program on Managerial Leadership
  by HURIS, Inc.
  May 11, 2017 – May 12, 2017
  Astoria Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City, Philippines
- Best Practices Guide on How to Prepare Your Bidding Documents Seminar
  by Center for Global Best Practices
  April 20, 2017 – April 21, 2017
  Manila Mariott Hotel, Pasay City, Philippines
- Government Procurement Act (R.A. 9184) and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations and Updates Seminar
  by Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA)
  March 7, 2017 – March 8, 2017
  Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City, Philippines
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations Seminar
  by Japan International Cooperation Agency
  February 23, 2017
  New World Makati Hotel, Makati City, Philippines
- Development, Financing and Post-Contract Management of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects Training
  by PPP Center, Asian Development Bank in partnership with DLA Piper Australia and Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & Delos Angeles
  November 22, 2016 – November 23, 2016
  Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
- Capacity Building / Training – Workshop on Contract Price Escalation Determination Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9184 or the "Government Procurement Reform Act"
  by National Economic and Development Authority
  November 10, 2016 – November 11, 2016
  Subic Holiday Villas, Subic, Zambales City, Philippines
- 2015 Training Program for International Railway Officials
  by Seoul Metropolitan Government
  October 14, 2015 – October 21, 2015
  Seoul Metropolitan Infrastructure Headquarters, Seoul, Korea
- Security Congress APAC 2015 Conference
  by National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) and

NDCP Alumni Association, Inc.
July 28, 2015 – July 29, 2015
Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines

- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 5th Compliance Period
by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
Compliance Period: April 15, 2013 – April 14, 2016; valid until April 14, 2019
- DBRF International Conference
by Dispute Resolution Board Foundation
May 16, 2014 – May 17, 2014
Singapore
- Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF Training Workshop)
by Dispute Resolution Board Foundation
May 15, 2014
Singapore
- The FIDIC Contracts – Practical Guide to Using and Understanding the International Conditions of Contract
by Cornerstone Seminars
April 10, 2014 – April 11, 2014
Cornerstone Seminars, 2 Claremont Road, Teddington
Prague, Czech Republic
- Building Leadership and Practitioners' Capabilities to Implement Public-Private Partnership Transactions for the Government of the Philippines Workshop
by TEMASEK Foundation Singapore
February 17, 2014 - February 21, 2014
Singapore
- ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Investigation Skills Training Course
by ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area
February 6, 2014 – February 7, 2014 and
February 10, 2014 – February 11, 2014
Manila, Philippines
- Effective Leadership Program
by Department of Transportation and Communications
October 24, 2013 – October 25, 2013
Development Academy of the Philippines, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
- TEMASEK Foundation Centre for Trade and Negotiations (TFCTN) Workshop on Trade Facilitation
by TEMASEK Foundation Singapore
October 16, 2013 – October 19, 2013
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies – Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Orientation of Personal Policies
by Department of Transportation and Communications
August 15, 2013
DOTC Training Room, 15th Floor, Unit 156 Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- 1st National Conference on Business / Organizational Performance for the Public Sector
by Academy's Center for Quality and Competitiveness
November 16, 2012
Heritage Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
- Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for the 4th Compliance Period
by Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office
Compliance Period: April 15, 2010 – April 14, 2013; valid until April 14, 2016
- Seminar on Completed Staff Work (CSW)
by Department of Transportation and Communications
October 10, 2012 – October 12, 2012
Richville Hotel, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- 2012 UP National College of Public Administration and Governance: Tradition and Transformation International Conference by UP National College of Public Administration and Governance
June 27, 2012 – June 29, 2012
EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- Republic Act 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees Training by CSC Head of Office for Legal Affairs and Director IV Atty. Ariel G. Ronquillo
May 13, 2009 – May 14, 2009
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Personal Finance Workshop
by the Colayco Foundation for Education, Inc.
October 28, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center
Makati City, Philippines
- PhilEXIM Charter and Related Laws Seminar
by Risk Management Office and Office of the Chief Legal Counsel
October 20, 2008 – October 24, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Risk Identification in Trade and Letters of Credit Transactions Training by PhilEXIM President and CEO Francisco S. Magsajo
September 02, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Anti-Money Laundering Seminar
by Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat
July 25, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines
- Corporate Compliance Program
by Risk Management Office, PhilEXIM
March 25, 2008
PhilEXIM Multi-Purpose Hall, 3rd Floor, Citibank Center, Makati City, Philippines

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- Born in Quezon City on December 2, 1978
- Civil Service Eligible (Professional) and Bar Passer (2011 Bar Examinations)
- Gold Medalist (Leadership Award) recipient and Class President of MNSA Regular Class 50
- Member, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR), December 2017
- Member, Knights of Rizal: Bagumbayan Chapter, May 27, 2019
- Member, Fraternal Order of Eagles: Maagap Sorteo Eagles Club, February 22, 2021
- Commissioner, Commission on Bar Discipline, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, March 2018 up to present

MASONIC HISTORY

PRIMERA LUZ FILIPINA LODGE NO. 69
Binakayan Masonic Temple, Congbalay Street, Kawit, Cavite

- Raised - April 03, 2004
- Passed - March 20, 2004
- Initiated - March 06, 2004

DUAL/PLURAL/HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- TAGAYTAY MASONIC LODGE NO. 165
August 15, 2012
Dual Member

- ISAAC I. PUNO MASONIC LODGE NO. 401
2012
Charter Member/Plural Member

- BAGONG ILAW MASONIC LODGE NO. 97
September 2013
Honorary Member

- N.S. AMORANTO MASONIC LODGE NO. 358
October 27, 2015
Honorary Member

- PANGARAP MASONIC LODGE NO. 448
Instituted last September 03, 2018
Charter Worshipful Master
Constituted last June 3, 2019

MASONIC POSITIONS HELD

- WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69
MY 2011-2012

- GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR
  Tagaytay Lodge No. 165
  MY 2012-2013

- DISTRICT GRAND LECTURER
  Masonic District Region IV-A1 (Cavite EAST)
  MY 2013-2014
  Was awarded the Most Outstanding District Grand Lecturer in the entire jurisdiction of the MWGLP

- JUNIOR GRAND LECTURER
  Southern Luzon --- CAVITE
  MY 2014-2015

- GRAND AUDITOR
  MY 2015-2016
  Also rendered the Grand Oration in ANCOM 2016 as GRAND ORATOR

- DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
  Masonic District Region IV CAVITE EAST
  MY 2018-2019

- CHARTER WORSHIPFUL MASTER
  Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448
  MY 2019-2020

APPENDANT BODIES/ SOCIAL CLUBS

- SCOTTISH RITE
  Member since 2004, QUEZON CITY BODIES

- YORK RITE
  Member since 2010, LUZON BODIES

- MABUHAY SHRINERS
  Member since October 2009, PRIMERA CLASS

  Dual Member, CAVITE SHRINE CLUB, 2010
  Dual Member, SAIGON SHRINE CLUB, 2012
  Charter Member, KABUKIRAN SHRINE CLUB, 2012
  Club President, MAHARLIKA SHRINE CLUB, 2015

- GRAND AND GLORIOUS ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE CREEPING SERPENT
  Member since May 2010, Xi CLASS

- PAGONG AKO KUYANG
  Member since 2010, LAGUNA POND

- ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR
  Member since 2011, PEARL OF THE ORIENT CONCLAVE No. 496
  Charter Member, PILLARS OF THE WEST CONCLAVE No. 10
  CHARTER SUPREME RULER, CAVITE CONCLAVE No. 20
  Member, AZURE CONCLAVE No. 21
  Charter Member, BULACAN CONCLAVE No. 22
  Honorary Member, THE CONCLAVE OF NUEVA ECIJA No. 23
  Charter Member, IBALONG CONCLAVE No. 24
  Charter Member, BATANGAS CONCLAVE No. 25
  Charter Member, LAGUNA CONCLAVE No. 26
  Past Grand Steward, Grand Conclave of South East Asia (appointed March 2019)

OTHER MASONIC POSITIONS HELD

- DISTRICT SECRETARY
  Masonic District Region IV-A1 (Cavite EAST)
  MY 2012-2013

- DISTRICT GUILD OF PAST MASTERS
  Vice-President, Masonic District Region IV-A1 (Cavite EAST)
  MY 2012-2015

GLP COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

MY 2013-2014

- Committee on Masonic Temples and Buildings, Member
- Committee on Credentials, Member
- Committee on Cavite Affairs, Member
- Committee on Public Relations, Member
- Committee on Environment and Disaster Preparedness, Member

MY 2014-2015

- Committee on Ways and Means, Member
- Committee on Cavite Affairs, Member
- Committee on Credentials, Member
- Committee on Charity, Member
- Committee on Necrology, Member
- Committee on Environment and Disaster Preparedness, Member

MY 2015-2016

- Committee on Accounts, Chairman

MY 2018-2019

- Committee on Cavite Affairs, Member

OTHERS

- MY 2013-2014 & 2014-2015
  Temple Editor, Mabuhay Shriners

- MY 2018-2019
  Outer Guard, Mabuhay Shriners

- MY 2019-2020
  Member, Organizing Committee of Mabuhay Shriners

- HIRAM AWARDEE
  Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69 (M.Y. 6019 A.L.)

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

BAWAT ISA SA MASONERIYA AY MAHALAGA

Over-all plan is to support and continuously build on the efforts and accomplishments of the leaders of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, who have steered the Fraternity for the past years (the Past Grand Masters, as well as the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens) and to serve as the bridge or connecting link of both the traditional and contemporary members of our Fraternity. One brick at a time to the splendid edifice of our esteemed Fraternity will definitely go a long way as a personal contribution in the development and the eventual history of Freemasonry.

As a famous author once said: "There are a lot of great inventors and improvers in the world. But those who hack world-class success tend to be the ones who can focus relentlessly on a tiny number of things. In other words, to soar, we need to simplify." Hereunder are the simplified programs proposed:

Masonic Education

Formal Studies:

IMES is suggested to be made as two-tier: basic and advance learnings. The first-tier or "basic" will be purely voluntary and open to all Master Masons and will cover the general topics of Masonic education. The second-tier or "advanced" is more comprehensive and will be mandatory for brethren who have been duly-elected as one of the three (3) Lights of their respective Lodges, and thus emphasizes on leadership and proper governance. While the first-tier is optional, the second-tier is obligatory. It addresses both the need for the requisite formal Masonic knowledge among the brethren, while at the same time maintaining harmony in Blue Lodges by upholding the sanctity of the will of the brethren during Lodge elections.

In line with this, **electronic learning (IMES online) can be further enhanced** so that brethren can afford to learn much more and with better facility. The pattern of success by online educational courses offered in universities and learning institutions can be imitated, in order to ensure that there is flexibility of schedule and a more comfortable learning environment for the brethren. While attendance in person have always been welcome as it provides an opportunity for brethren to meet and greet, the benefits of information technology can also be harnessed to facilitate the main reason why said brethren congregate: for Masonic Education.

Uniform Masonic lectures is a must, but **with open discourse** in Blue Lodges. It is earnestly suggested that the lectures of all Grand Lecturers be made uniform and easily understandable, but never losing the esoteric teachings of Freemasonry.

Providing **Courses for Lecturers (Lecturer's Academy):** a highly knowledgeable lecturer is a well-respected dignitary, which all brethren can emulate and learn from. Aspiring to become a lecturer should have this pre-requisite, in order for a Masonic dignitary to be worthy of his title of Very Worshipful, as one is considered learned inasmuch as he is honorable.

Encourage more write-ups in Cabletow Publication, so that more Masonic teachings and updates can be readily made available in Lodges and our Masonic library.

Mentoring:

Mentoring has always been the secret of the greatest achievers throughout history. **Informal mentoring** is the colloquial term used for a relationship where one gains insight, knowledge, wisdom, friendship and support from the other. It has been proven to have a broader and more significant influence in a person's journey than *formal mentoring*, which is mostly structured, based on a specific objective and primarily exists on the basis of compatibility.

Sharing more personal time together with the newly-raised brethren, and even those who are still candidates for the degrees, helps in assimilating the best example of a Master Mason. From the Masonic rituals and Lodge learnings, they can also learn from and about each other in their daily grind, which leads to **a journey-focused mentorship** and not just a mere focus on the Lodge's best practices.

Membership

Periodic updating of Masonic records, both in Lodges and in synchronization with the Grand Lodge has been a so-near-yet-so-far aspiration of every leader of our Grand Lodge. Continuing the previous initiatives made by the GLP (i.e. GLP website, GLP app), in order to successfully apprise the Grand Lodge of the new status or updates regarding its members, is another good initiative we may embark upon.

Further enhancing the initiatives of having **e-communication and information technology in the reportorial requirements** submitted from Lodges to the Grand Lodge, and **also Grand Lodge issuances** to the various Lodges (thru Lodge Secretaries) and directly to individual brethren. Also, with further increase in communication, and for every GLP issuance published or every article written and disseminated, we increase our access to the great examples in our Craft worthy of emulation. It therefore allows the brethren to study the proper moves that make traditional Master Masons highly-distinguished, which is a great start for the contemporary brethren.

Continuous payment of annual dues in Lodges and **timely settlement of degree fees**, so there is more financial sustainability for each Lodge.

Fair and gentlemanly treatment of petitioners, so Masonry and its members can continually be seen as most decent and respected members of the society. This allows the petitioners or candidates to fully comprehend the lessons and core concepts of Freemasonry. After all, Masonry is and should always be a safe haven for good men who seek to become better men.

Governance

Convene with the Past Grand Masters and the incumbent leaders of our Craft and come up with **a common plan geared towards the same direction** for the next ten (10) years as a long-term plan, the next five (5) years as the medium-term plan, and the year of incumbency as the short-term plan. This is in order to have both strategic and tactical plans for the GLP, and **to streamline Masonic efforts and resources into activities that are commonly agreed upon.** Renewing said common plan during the medium term can also be had to either add or make the common plan attuned to the times is likewise very much welcome.

Emphasize the importance of each Lodge's term plan in order to provide direction for Lodge expenditures and thus rationalize Lodge solicitations or fundraising activities. A timely and well-thought of Lodge Term Plan, both by the Worshipful Master and the brethren of a Lodge, will maximize the efforts of its members in their projects and conveniently allocate the resources needed to fund all its endeavors.

ESSENCE

To sum up the proposed plans and programs, all the aspects presented actually direct our attention to the **perennial need** for each Master Mason, especially its leaders, to **ensure the welfare of each brother in the Craft**. The proposed plans and programs are all doable and are easily measurable by the brethren during its eventual implementation. And I not only humbly propose these measures for the time-being, but also commit myself to implement them, as well as the other doable and easily measurable propositions by my co-candidates for the Junior Grand Warden position.

An esteemed Past Grand Master used to tell me: *"The universe has its own great plan for things."* May the GAOTU's plans unfold for each and every one of us. May his wise and grand plan for the Craft be laid out through each and every one of you. Maraming salamat po sa pagkakataon na mapaglinkuran ang ating Kapatiran. Mabuhay ang Masonerya!

VW ARIEL T. CAYANAN, PDDGM

Nominee from NCR
Walana Lodge No. 13
Masonic District NCR-B, Manila

TOGETHER BRETHREN
WE SURVIVE, RECOVER, GROW, AND HEAL AS ONE

"Masonry has been tried and tested in different eras, World Wars, Natural Disasters, fatal Calamities, and World Economic Crises to name a few. Most recent is the COVID-19 Pandemic where the craft once again experienced its disastrous effects and harsh impact. Our Brother Frontliners from different professions made various sacrifices and some of them becoming casualties in the performance of their duties. Recognized as modern day heroes, they inspire those who survived to continue and move on. The World will HEAL - that is a certainty, and with HOPE, FAITH, & LOVE our fraternity shall continue to thrive. Strengthened and emboldened it shall unleash the true tradition of brotherhood. The individual strands under the masonic canopy shall be interwoven and bundled into a strong fiber. Our goal right now is to aid and assist one another as we survive and recover hand in hand in the new norm of collective growth. Let us, therefore show our fallen Brethren watching over from the celestial lodge above that we remain UNITED."

PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPUTER MADE SIMPLE – AUTHOR
- COLLEGE PHYSICS WORKBOOK 1ST AND 2ND EDITION
  PART I, II, III, AND IV – CO-AUTHOR
- THE EFFICACY OF USING THE COMPUTER AS AN AIDE FOR TEACHING VARIOUS TOPICS OF PHYSICS VS THE CONVENTIONAL WAY OF TEACHING PHYSICS ALONE

Project that was defended on August 15, 1998 at the MIT for the Degree of M.S.E – COE) chosen and presented as one of the major concerns at the annual convention Philippines Association of Technological Educators PATE last April 1999.

- MAPUA TECH'S COMPUTER INTEGRATED MANUFACTURING: A MODULE TOWARDS A MORE RELEVANT CURRICULUM THAT IS INDUSTRY BASE

A paper that was chosen and presented last April of 2004 in the Productions Operations Management Society (POMS) International Conference that was held in California, USA.

- USING VIDEO CONFERENCING AS AN INNOVATION TO THE MANUAL BASED MODULE OF TEACHING CIM COURSES

Presented and was evaluated last October of 2005 as one of the finalist for the prestigious annual selection for the best practice in teaching. The result showed its significance and won the contest.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

GRADUATE STUDIES

- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Passed the Comprehensive Exam / Dissertation Writing / Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) / Intramuros, Manila / November 2000-2003
- Master of Science in Engineering
  (Major in Computer Engineering) (MSE-CoE)
- Mapua Institute of Technology / Intramuros, Manila / November 1998
- Master of Business Administration
- Rank #1 Comprehensive Examination
- Rank #1 Case Study and Oral Defense
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) / Intramuros, Manila / April 13, 1998
- MST Physics (Acad. Units finish)
- De La Salle University / Taft Ave. Manila / January 1995-April 1996

TERTIARY

- Bachelor of Business Management
  Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) / Intramuros, Manila / April 13, 1998
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering / Mapua Institute of Technology / Intramuros, Manila / June 1989-April 1994

WORK EXPERIENCES

- UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS & AGRI-FISHERIES MECHANIZATION / Department of Agriculture / Diliman, Quezon City / February 14, 2017 to present
- NATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR / PHILIPPINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PRDP) / Department of Agriculture / August 23, 2016 to present
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fishery
  Apacible Hall, DA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City / March 30, 2015 - September 2016
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / National Agricultural and Fishery Council
  Apacible Hall, DA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City / February 12, 2012 to March 29, 2015
- FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AND CONSULTANT / Digi Lighting Inc (DLI) / 2007-2008
- GENERAL MANAGER / Dear John Services Inc. / Unit J Dear John Bldg, Garrido St., Sta. Ana Manila / 1997-2009
- BUSINESS ANALYSIS MANAGER / SM Star Appliance Center Inc SACI
  Building C, Corporate Building, Mall of Asia, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City / 2005-2007
- LABORATORY HEAD / Computer Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory Mapua Tech / Intramuros, Manila / 2001 to December 2005

ADDITIONAL WORK ASSIGNMENTS

- Concurrent Undersecretary for Agri-Fisheries Mechanization
- National Project Director / Rice and Corn Program
- National Project Director / Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)
- Chairperson / Covid 19 Food Resiliency Task Force
- Principal Representative / National Task Force Against Covid 19 National Incident
- Command-Emergency Operations Center (NTF-NIC-EOC)
- Permanent Representative / Inter-agency Task Force on Zero Hunger
- Alternate Representative of the Secretary / Task Group on Food Security / Inter-Agency
- Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infection Diseases (IATF-EID)
- Chairman - Farmers & Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Council (FFEDC) & National Sagip Saka Program Steering committee for the Implementation of RA 11321 – SAGIP SAKA ACT
- Creation of the Organizational Structure for the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program DA Cold Storage Warehouse Composite Team (CSWCT) Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC)
- Project Steering Committee (PSC) & Technical Working Group for Crafting the Framework for the Project Maunlad Na Agricultura sa Nayo (PAMANA)
- Project Steering Committee for the Philippines Climate Change Adaptation Project (PHilCCAP)
- National Management Committee, Technical Working Group And Secretariat for the Implementation of the Corn Germplasm Utilization through Advanced Research & Development
- Committee on Farm Tourism Development and Promotion
- Regional Inter-Agency Steering Committee (RISC) and its Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Rural
- Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Improvement under the DA-Integrated Natural Resources & Environmental Management Project
- Committee on Agriculture on Palawan Council on Sustainable Development
- DA National El Nino Task Force
- Co-Chairperson - National Program Steering Committee, National Program Management Office and National Program
- Technical Working Groups for the National Farmers and Fisherfolks Information System Head
- Project Steering Committee and National Project Management Office for the Enterprise Development Support Of Four DA-KOICA Modern Integrated Rice Processing Complexes in the Philippines and Philippines-Korea Rice Processing Complex in Aurora
- DA Official Representative / NEDA Board National Land Use Committee

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- First Meeting of Philippine Israel Joint Working Group in Agriculture / Head of the Delegation – Tel-Aviv, Israel; November 2-8, 2019
- 6th Meeting of the China – Philippine Joint Committee on Agriculture / Head of the Delegation – Beijing, China; July 14 – 18, 2019
- 2nd Intergovernmental Conference on the Crafting of a Legally Binding Agreement on Conservation & Sustainable use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond national Jurisdiction / (BBNJ) as Head of the Delegation –New York, USA; March 25 – April 5, 2019
- First FAO/WHO/ AU International Conference on Food Safety / Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; February 10-15, 2019
- Global Forum for Food and Agriculture / Berlin, Germany; January 15-21, 2019
- 4th Australia-Philippines Agricultural Forum / Canberra, Australia; November 26-30, 2018
- 40th meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture & Forestry & 18th Meeting of AMAF Plus Three as Head of the Delegation – Hanoi, Vietnam; October 8-14, 2018
- 8th Session of Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Conference of Parties (COP8) as Head of Delegation – Geneva, Switzerland; September 28 – October 8, 2018
- 1st Intergovernmental Conference on the International Legally Binding Instrument Under Unclos on Conservation & sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction Head of Delegation – New York, USA; September 4 – 17, 2018
- 1st Mekong HUB Knowledge & Learning Market / Head of Delegation - DA Nang, Vietnam; July 3-7, 2018

- **1st ASIA International Water Week / As Speaker – Gyeongju, Korea; Spetember 20-23, 2017**
- **Senior Officers Meeting – ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture & Forestry / Head of Delegation – Singapore; October 5 – 9, 2016**
- **Special Officials Meeting of the 36th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture & Forestry (Special SOM-36th AMAF) & the Special SOM of the 14th AMAF Plus Three countries (Special SOM-14th AMAF+3) / Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar; September 20-26, 2015**
- **35th AMAF and Special SOM – 13th AMAF+3 / Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar; August 12-18, 2015**

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

- **AWARDEE FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE / Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines / 2018**
- **The OUTSTANDING MAPUANS (TOM) AWARDEE FOR THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR / 2017**
- **BEST PRACTICE IN TEACHING Mapua Institute of Technology**
- **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION Rank #1 Comprehensive Examination Rank #1 Case Study and Oral Defense Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila / 1998**

AFFILIATIONS

- **DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER (DDGM) Masonic District NCR – B / 2019**
- **WORSHIPFUL MASTER WALANA Lodge #13 / Masonic year 2017 – 2018 and 2018 – 2019 (Two Terms)**
- **MASTER MASON Walana Lodge #13 / Raised on August 24, 1999**
- **MEMBER Mabuhay Shriners Philippines**
- **Ambassador to Mizpah Shrine Temple No. 114 (Fort Wayne, Indiana)**
- **MEMBER Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry**
- **Rear Admiral (Equivalent to a two (2) STAR General in the Military) / PCGA Subic and Manila Division-Squadron 111 / Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA)**
- **Designated as Squadron Director in 2014 / Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA)**

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

"Together Brethren we Survive, Recover, Grow and Heal as One"

Proposed plans and program of VW Ariel T. Cayanan for his nomination as candidate for the position of Junior Grand Warden for ANCOM 2021 – Olongapo City:

1. To continue and further improve the good works started and institutionalized by the Current and Past Grand Masters which have enormously contributed to the current status and glory of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.
2. To institutionalize the "rotational system" of appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGM) among the lodges of masonic district to guaranty that all lodge will be given an opportunity to produce a DDGM that will represent the Grand Master. The Grand Master's prerogative will not be curtailed and limited. The Grand Master will choose from a list of nominees to be given by the Lodge which will not be less than Five (5) names who are all qualified to be a DDGM for the masonic district. The system is designed for several purposes, such as (a) Appointment of qualified and deserving brethren for the position of DDGM; (b) Limitation of politicking which is a common practice; and (c) Equalization of the playing field for all the lodges in the district whether the lodge may be a young lodge or an old lodge.
3. To permanently create a ratio of 1:1:1 District Grand Lecturer, Grand Lodge Inspector per lodge to guarantee the proper dissemination of Masonic knowledge down to every mason in every lodge especially the newly raised brethren who are thirsting for Masonic Knowledge and Information. This will ensure that every lodge will be given a DEDICATED DGL who will be appointed after completing his Special IMES Program for DGLs that will be designed and implemented by the IMES. Together with this program is the imposition of a mandatory "ladderized" system that the brethren must complete before being appointed a DGL such as being a Past Master and a Past Grand Lodge Inspector. Hence, no brethren may be appointed as DGL unless he has been a GLI before and has completed the new module for DGLs.
4. To further strengthen the IMES as repository and source of Masonic educa-

tion creating specific and dedicated programs or modules for DGLs, GLIs, Masters of the Lodge, Lodge Secretary and Conferral Directors of Lodges. The IMES president will also be given a longer term of TWO (2) years instead of one year to allow him to create a continuing program for the span of two years. Creation of the positions of Vice President for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will also be undertaken to allow a focused program for the brethren outside NCR. The creation of the Office of the Vice President of IMES will be coupled with the creation of IMES Offices in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to allow the widest dissemination and coverage of Masonic Education. Finally, modules and curricula will be standardized as approved by the Grand Master and will be used by accredited lecturers who finished a comprehensive lecturer/professorial training.

5. Creation and building of a Masonic Health Services Unit (MaHSU) that will cater to the basic health needs of brethren and their immediate family by providing a subsidized if not free Medical Laboratory Test, Medical Check-Up, Dental Services, Minor Surgery and possibly Optometry Services first in the GLP and eventually in key Masonic areas in the North and South of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao areas. Respected brethren in the medical, dental, and optical profession will be invited to provide guidance. Brethren in good standing may enjoy the enormous discounts and savings from the services of MaHSU which can benefit the financial standing of the brethren. MaHSU will be run by a competent brother Medical Director who may serve as the Official Medical Officer of the GLP who may attend to different official masonic functions. MaHSU will also be responsible for coordinating the various medical missions of lodges.
6. Initiation of a FOUR (4) year program starting during the Grand Junior Wardenship and culminating during the Grand Mastership of building the 1st MASONIC ACTIVITY CENTER (MAC) that will house various recreational activities for brethren and their immediate family as well as World Class Venue for masonic functions and activities and state of the art offices and additional lodge halls. MAC will be a long term goal that culminates before the assumption to the Grand East. It also supports the concept that the Office of the Junior Grand Warden is a functional and active office supportive of the Goals of the sitting Grand Master. This proposal is aimed at empowering the offices of the JGW, SGW and the DGM to be active supporters of the GM not only in terms of ceremonial functions but on a more participative nature that supports the direction, goals and program of the GM.
7. Instituting a Masonic Judicial System (MJS) that will be manned by trained and qualified brethren on a "fix term of office" that will ensure the delivery of speedy justice to erring brethren in the shortest possible time thereby relieving the brethren who may just have been harassed while punishing the brethren who may have violated our laws and obligation. The program will guarantee a resolution of masonic complaints in less than three (3) months upon filing with the hope that brethren will avoid commission of violations for fear of possible expulsion or suspension while emboldening brethren to bring their redress in the proper masonic forum rather than just losing their faith in our masonic brotherhood. A rule book detailing the procedural steps and requirements for filing a complaint and answering the same will be crafted and codified. A pool of Masonic Counsels will be established under a training program making them "experts" of Masonic Laws and Edicts where the complaining or defending brethren may solicit assistance. We believe that our Masonic Laws and Edicts are better interpreted, enforced and defended by masons and not by non-masons.

VW GERARD A. CEBALLOS, PDDGM

Nominee from NCR
Pinaglabanan Masonic Lodge No. 374
Masonic District NCR-F, Quezon City

PAGTULONG AT PAGDAMAY: PANGUNAHING ADHIKAIN NG ATING KAPATIRAN

"Vital to our brotherhood's survival is stretching a helping hand, more so to our brethren in need and with the aim of focusing in supporting the brotherhood even further especially with the recent events. Thus, the benevolent heart of the Grand Lodge will open its doors not just for charity but to aid and assist the brethren withersoever dispersed."

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Born on August 09, 1974 in Quezon City,Philippines
Married to Dr. Liezl M. Ceballos (Dentist), with two boys, Freddie II (14) and Giancarlo Rafael (11)

EDUCATION

Masters in Management
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
2002-2003

Bachelor of Arts in Management
Major in Human Resource Management
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
1992- 1995

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA
Dean's List (Second Honor) 2nd Term, 1991- 92
1989- 1992

GEORGE WASHINGTON IDGH SCHOOL
Dean's List (Second Honor) 1st Term, 1988-89
(First Honor) 2nd Term, 1988 -1989

WORK EXPERIENCE

PRESIDENT
88 BEL-AIR RESIDENCES, INC.
Property Development Company
2009-2016

PRESIDENT
NORTH BEL-AIR RESIDENCES, INC.
Property Development Company
2009 – Present

MANAGING DIRECTOR
SOLLABEC HOLDINGS CORP.
Engage in property rentals and development.
2006 - Present

COO
GENERAL MERCANTILE CO. INC.
Engage in government (Philippines) biddings for the supply and delivery of goods.
1998-Present

MANAGING DIRECTOR
JG VERTEX COMPANY, INC.
Leads the company into trading marketing collaterals and services.
2001-2003

STOCKBROKER
UNICAPITAL SECURITIES
Generated new accounts and expanded transaction volumes.
2000-2000

PRESIDENT
GAC II VENTURES
Engaged in the distribution of alcoholic beverages in restaurant, bars and hotels in Metro Manila. Traded marketing collaterals.
1999-2001

ASSISTANT MANAGER
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE BANK
In-charged of expanding deposit volumes, Assisted in the day-to-day operations of the head office.
1997 – 1998

SALES OFFICER
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Generated new accounts and established multi-product relationships, Expanded deposit/loan volumes
1996-1997

SALES OFFICER
CITYTRUST BANKING CORPORATION
Generated and expanded relationships within the distribution center's target market.
1996 June-Oct

MASONIC BACKGROUND

- District Deputy Grand Master for MD NCR-F / 2017-18
- District Grand Lecturer for MD NCR-F / 2016-17
- Worshipful Master / 2015-2016
- Senior Warden / 2013-2015
- Junior Warden / 2012-2013
- Assistant Treasurer & Assistant Secretary 2011-2012
- Senior Deacon / 2011-2012
- Grand Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent (GGOKCS) Vice President, Chi Class / 2018-Present
- President, Makasaysayan 284 Class / Mabuhay Shriner's International (Maharlika) / 2017-Present
- President, 3rd Eye Turtles Class / Pagong Ako Kuyang Pilipinas, Inc (Turtles) / 2016-Present
- Master of the Royal Secret of the 32nd Degree / Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite / Quezon City Bodies / 2012
- Graduate of IMES / Class no. 2012-2012
- Member / Order of the Secret Monitor - Pearl of the Orient Conclave No. 496

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Most Outstanding DDGM for MY 2017-18
- Outstanding DGL for MY 2016 -2017
- Grand Lodge of the Philippines "Best Publication" for MY 2015-2016
- Most Outstanding Lodge in NCR-F for MY 2015-16
- Most Outstanding Worshipful Master in MD NCR-F for MY 2015-16
- Outstanding Club in Rotary District 3780 for RY 2012-2013
- Outstanding President in Rotary District 3780 for RY 2012-2013

EXTRA – CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Assistant Governor, Rotary District 3780 / ROTARY CLUB OF COMMONWEALTH, D3780 / 2015-2016
- Member, ROTARY CLUB OF COMMONWEALTH, D3780 / 2011-Present
- President / ROTARY CLUB OF COMMONWEALTH, D3780 / RY 2012-2013
- CFC – Singles for Christ/ Household Head / Makati Chapter / 1998-2002

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Pagtulong at Pagdamay: Pangunahing Adhikain ng ating Kapatiran

PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

From the time I became more involved in our craft, I have been made aware of the exemplary deeds and programs of our Past Grand Masters, of which, I intend to continue for the benefit of our fraternity. Listed below are my 8-Point-Program of Governance, should destiny guide me to the Grand East.

- Leadership by consensus - making use of the wisdom of our Past Grand Masters.
- The 3 HP of Masonry - Humility, Harmony, Honor, and Patience.
- Increase the coffers of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) Temple Fund
- Renovating the GLP to put it at par with the Grand Lodges at other jurisdictions without using the current GLP funds.
- Highlighting the importance of the IMES and adding the Masonic Values to its curriculum.
- Enhancing the corporate system of governance of the GLP, particularly, by computerizing the documents submitted, so that it is easily tracked by the concerned member and/or the staff and employees of the GLP.
- Opening up the database of the members of the GLP to its members and classifying the same by profession. This gives our brethren a chance to assist others in their respective livelihood; thus, giving each one a chance for a brighter future for their respective families.
- Focusing on a stronger Blue Lodge; instilling in its members that we need to become better men; that each brethren needs to have diplomacy and order during Masonic functions. Learning these traits and programs from the Administrations of our Past Grand Masters.

VW EDWARD Y. CHUA, PGO

Nominee from the Visayas
Makabugawas Lodge No. 47
Masonic District RVIII Leyte

MASONRY : The Living Temple of Brotherhood and Enlightenment of Humanity

"The poignant wish for a tranquil life will find sanctuary in the temple of our hearts by following the masonic Truths of justice, equity, labor, charity, fidelity and wisdom to achieve a nobler brotherhood. Masonry teaches that man has duties to perform, and a destiny to fulfill, that the present is our scene of action to enlighten the souls and minds, instruct the brethren and enlighten humanity."

Spouse : Elisa Ida – Chua
Date of Birth : May 14, 1959
Place of Birth : Tacloban City
Father : Santiago Lasala Chua
Mother : Federica Y. Chua
Religion : Roman Catholic

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Elementary : Sacred Heart School
  Tacloban City / 1966-1972
- High School : Sacred Heart School
  Tacloban City / 1972-1976
- College : AB Economics
  Divine Word University
  Tacloban City / 1976-1979
- (Magna Cum Laude)
  Graduate School : Master of Arts with Specialization in Economics
  Divine Word University
  Tacloban City / 1979-1982
- Masters in Business Administration
  Divine Word University
  Tacloban City / 1980-1985
- Master of Arts in Philippine Studies (Cand.)
  Divine Word University
  Tacloban City / 1988-1992
- Doctor of Philosophy
  Divine Word University
  Tacloban City / 1995

MILITARY TRAINING

- Graduate Advance Reserve Officer's Training Corp 1979
- Regimental Commander/Corps Commander ROTC WATC Unit DWU ROTC, 1084 HDC, 7HOU ARESCOM
- Tactical Officer
  DWU CMTU, Tacloban City
  1981 to 1982
- Admin Tactical Officer
  DWU CMTU Tacloban 1084 HDC ARESCOM
  1982 to 1985

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Magna Cum Laude / Bachelor of Arts 1979
- Efficiency Medal / ROTCU 108th HDU ARESCOM
- YMCA / Outstanding Student Award
- University Scholar / Divine Word University of Tacloban
- Citation for being the Governor of Leyte during the National Student Week
- Merit of Outstanding Scholastic Achievement /1978
- Award of Merit DWU CMTU - 1084 HDO 7th DHU ARESCOM / 1978
- Outstanding Alumni for Community Leadership, SHS / 1983
- KB Study Grant 1984
- National KB Loyalty Award 1985
- Grand Cross of Colour 1999
- Chevalier Award 2000
- DeMolay Grand Roll of Honor 2000
- Most Outstanding Scottish Rite Mason in Eastern Visayas – 2001
- Legion of Honor – 2001
- Knight Commander of the Court of Honor - 2003
- Sovereign Grand Commander's Award – 2004

- International Cryptic Honor Awards – 2005
- Most Outstanding Mason of the Philippines in the Field of Education – 2005
- KYCH Knight Yolk Cross of Honor- 2008
- Knight Commander of the Temple Award Yoke Rite – 2011
- Grand Master's Humanitarian Service Award – Masonic Year 2013-2014
- Cross of Honor Order of DeMolay-2017
- Adult Youth Leadership Award - General Grand Council of Cryptic Masson International October 16, 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

- President
  Asian Development Foundation College
  Tacloban City
  2013 to Date
- Chief Executive Officer
  Asian Development Foundation College
  Tacloban City
  2002 to Date
- Executive Vice President
  Asian Development Foundation College
  Tacloban City
  2002 to Date
- Dean
  Graduate School
  Asian Development Foundation College
  Tacloban City
- Executive Director
  Institute for Development Studies and Management Consultancy Group
  1990 to Date
- Special Lecturer
  RTR Medical School
- Coordinator
  MBA Department / Divine Word University
  1983-1987
- Head
  Economic Department / College of Commerce
  Divine Word University / Tacloban City / 1981-1985
- Graduate Chairman
  MBA-MBED Department / Divine Word University
  Tacloban City
  1981-1985
- Instructor
  Economics Department / College of Commerce
  Divine Word University
  Tacloban City
  1979
- Marketing Assistant
  Imelda Village Construction & Management Group
  1979

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Member / Sangguniang Panglungsod (City Councilor) Tacloban City / 1979-1984
- Member - City Development Council / 1979-1984
- Member - Tacloban Motion Review Board / 1980 – 1985
- Member - Regional Development Council / 1980-1985
- National Executive Management Board Member - KKK ng Kabataan / 1983 – 1986
- Member of the Parliament - Batasan Pambansa / Mambabatas Pambansa / 1985 – 1986

ORGANIZATIONS

- Executive Coordinator / The Movement for United Studentry / 1975-1976
- Society Chairman / AB-Commerce Economic Society / 1977-1978
- President / Student Association of Future Entrepreneurs / 1979
- Federation President / Tacloban Kabataan Barangay City Federation / 1979
- President / Eastern Visayas Chess Association / 1980
- Editor-in-chief / Press Club South East Asian Youth Program News
- Regional President / Kabataan Barangay / 1980-1985
- Adviser / DOVE Life
- City Executive Officer / (Youth Brigade) – Barangay Brigade
- Director / Tacloban Chess Training Center, Inc.
- Executive Board Member / Philippine TOT Baseball League /Leyte Chapter
- Vice President / Philippine Economics Society Eastern / Visayas Chapter 1982 – 1987
- President / Tacloban Consumers Protection Association / 1982 – 1983
- Vice Chairman / Kabataang Barangay National Executive Committee 1982 – 1983
- Nat'l Chairman / President / Kabataang Barangay National Executive Committee / 1983 – 1985
- Executive Editor / Sulhog KB Regional Paper / 1980 – 1983
- Editor – in – Chief / PANDAY – KB National Paper / 1983 1985
- Vice Chairman / NP – KBL Party / 1988 to 1994
- Regional Chairman / Malayang Kabataang Barangay Eastern Visayas / 1986 – 1994
- President / Association of Private Secondary Schools in Tacloban 1993 to 2000
- Member / Sto. Niño Parish Council / 1995
- President / Regional Sports Association / 1995-1999
- President for Region VIII / Philippine Amateur Baseball
  Association / 1999 to Present
- President / Rural Bank of Javier / 2000
- President / Private School Athletic Association (PRISAA) Eastern Visayas / 2000 to Date
- President / Association Private Colleges Administration Region VIII/ 2001 to Date
- President / Private School Athletic Association (PRISAA) Eastern Visayas / 2000 to date
- President / Association for Graduate Education Region VIII / 2006 to date
- President / Association Private Colleges Administration Region VIII 2001 to date
- President / Association of Private College in Eastern Visayas / 2003
- President / Hotel & Restaurant Association of the Philippines Leyte Chapter / 2004 to date
- President / Leyte Amateur Athletic Association / 2006 to date
- Chairman / HEI Regional Council / 2008-2010
- President / Regional Association of Higher Education Institution Region VIII / 2008-2012
- National Board Member / Federation of School Sports Association of the Philippines.
- Regional President / Council of Economic Educators

/ 2009-2021
- Regional President / Council of Dean and Education in Business Region VIII / 2009 to date
- Regional President / Eastern Visayas Association of Higher Education Institutions / 2014 to date
- Regional President / Eastern Visayas TVET association (EVTA) / 2020 to date

EDUCATIONAL SECTOR SERVICE

- Vice-Chair / Regional Technical Education & Skills Development Committee / TESDA
- Member / Technical Committee for Graduate Business Education
- Chairman / Evaluation of Graduate Education of the Philippines
- TWG / Technical Panel Business and Management Education
- Member / Technical Committee for Business Administration
- National Assessor / Institution Monitoring and Evaluation for Quality Assurance (IOuAME)
- Regional Quality Assessor / Team Region VIII
- Member / Regional Evaluation Committee CHED-HEI Best Research Program Award 2006 & 2008
- Member / Regional Extension Award Committee, CHED Outstanding Extension Program Award 2008

PUBLISHED WORK

- Author – Masonic Education Companion / 2008
- Author - Lodge Essentials Source Book / 2009
- Choice of College Course of Student from Selected Private Higher Education Institution: Implication for Economic Rationality Scholars Trust Volume 1 Number 1- August 2008

UNPUBLISHED WORK

- Teaching Tertiary School Administrator Public Relations Study – 2008
- Divine Word University Student's Choice of College Courses: Its implication on Regional Manpower Development
- Proposed Institute for Philippines Studies: A DWU-KB Venture Towards the Development of a Chinese manual Beginners

TEAM RESEARCH

- Tacloban Socialize Housing Project (Conducted for Tacloban City Government)
- Team Leader – Metro Tacloban Urban Transport Study – 2000 (Conducted for Tacloban City)
- Metro Tacloban Urban Transport Study (Conducted for Tacloban City Government)

TRAVELS

- Philippines Batasan Pambasa Representatives: Young Political Activist Program (USA) 1986
- Delegation Head / Preparatory Committee on Political Affairs (Soviet Union) 1985
- Kabataan Barangay Representative, Youth Development Conference (Hongkong) 1984
- Philippine Delegate, Southeast Asian Youth Program Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan) 1980
- Local Partner- Haiyan Humanitarian Yolanda Super Typhoon) operation conference Kimse Yok Mo, Turkey 2015

MASONIC AFFAIRS

Blue Lodge

- Worshipful Master/ Makabugwas Lodge No. 47 (1996)
- Charter Member / Santiago L. Chua Com.Lodge No. 336
- Charter Member / Sogod Bay Lodge No. 337
- Charter Member / Biliran Lodge No. 338
- Charter Member / Palo Liberation Lodge No. 397
- District Grand Lecturer / 1997 - 1998
- District Deputy Grand Master / 1998 - 1999
- Junior Grand Lecturer - Eastern Visayas / 2000 - 04
- Grand Orator (GLP) / 2004 - 2005
- Junior Grand Lecturer - Eastern Visayas / 2006 - 2012
- Deputy Grand Inspector General for Visayas / 2015 - 16
- President, Regional Institute for Masonic Education Center Eastern Visayas / 2015 - 2016

Scottish Rite

- Venerable Master / Leyte- Samar Bodies (2002-03)
- Venerable Master / Leyte Lodge of Perfection (2003-04)
- Knight Commander of the Court of Honor 2003
- Inspector General Honorary – 2004
- Sovereign Grand Inspector General – 2007 to date
- Supreme Council 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
- Grand Orator – 2011 to 2016
- Supreme Council 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
- Grand State Minister 2017-2018
- Grand Prior – 2019 to date
- Executive Editor Far Eastern Free Masonry-2020
- Dean, Scottish Rite Academy of the Philippines 2020

York Rite

- Past High Priest / Royal Arch Visayas Chapter No. 30
- Past Illustrious Master / Council of Royal & Select Masters Eastern Visayas Council No. 19
- Past Commander / Knights Templar Commandery Eastern Visayas Council No. 19
- Knight Companion / Knight York Court of Honor
- Knight Companion / Manila York Rite College No. 170 / Grand College of North America
- Eminent Preceptor / Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests (Sea of Tiberias LXX)
- Knight Companion / Red Cross of Constantine

Shrine

- Member/ Aloha Temple Hawaii, USA
- Member / Mabuhay Temple

Order of Eastern Star

- Royal Patron / Tacloban Court (2003-2004)
- Worthy Patron / Morning Star Chapter No. 12

Order of Rainbow for Girls

- Grand Rainbow Dad / Grand Assembly of the Philippines International

International Order of Job's Daughter

- **Director of Finance / Bethel No.17 / Tacloban City**

Order of DeMolay

- **Master Councilor / Dr. Manuel Bernardo Chapter / 1975-77**
- **Executive Officer for Eastern Visayas, SCOD / 1994**
- **Past National President / DeMolay Alumni Association of the Philippines**
- **Knight Templar / 2000**
- **Chevalier Degree / 2000**
- **Segues of Honor / 2001**
- **Chevalier Degree / 2000**
- **Legion of Honor Degree / 2001**
- **Cross of Honor/ 2017**
- **Grand Junior Councilor/ SCOD**
- **Grand Senior Councilor / SCOD**
- **Centential Grand Master Fellow / SCOD / 2019**
- **Centential Knighthood Degree / SCOD / 2020**
- **Centential Degree of Ebon / SCOD**
- **Deputy Grand Master / SCOD / 2019**

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

MASONRY

The Living Temple of Brotherhood and Enlightenment of Humanity

The Program of Government

We must allow our organization to be more proactive than reactive in shaping our future.
It should initiate and influence the strategic direction of our program delivery in realization of our vision and mission.

1. Strengthen the Strategic Administrative System

A. A viable administrative system is vital to the delivery of services to the brethren.

Having a good information system and operating data is integral to competent administration and operation of the Grand Lodge. The institutionalization of the Information Technology framework and infrastructure would require continuous improvement programs to sustain the innovative design to have a strong interactive relationship with the membership and be able to serve their unique needs.

B. Development of Leadership Institute that will inspire Lodge leaders for capability building, based on the principles and teachings of Freemasonry.

A true Mason labors for tomorrow's Masonry.

2. Strategic Direction of Service Program Delivery

Masonic Education

To develop a Masonic education in an activity that challenges our belief, inspire our imagination, and expand our understanding of the Masonic world.

It will propose a curriculum for the general aim of Masonry, which the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies will have to pursue for a major area or subjects in a specific content that will translate every member hope for Masonic education into concrete reality.

A learned Mason is a committed Mason.

3. Strategic Focus on Youth Development Program

Youth Development Program

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines has accommodated the youth appendant bodies as part of our Masonic family.

One important program is to develop our DeMolays, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters to become transformational leaders that will make positive changes and collaboratively develop new vision that will make them stand out in the community, which will be a strong reflection of our Masonic contribution to the society.

Building good citizens for a strong nation.

VW SIXTO S. ESQUIVIAS IV, PSGL

Nominee from NCR
King Solomon Lodge No. 150
Masonic District NCR – G, Makati, Las Pinas, Paranaque

ENERGIZED MASONRY WITHIN & WITHOUT: DISCHARGING OUR DUTIES WITH CREDIT TO OURSELVES AND HONOR TO THE FRATERNITY

"The past two years have been marked by unforeseen events which slowed down Masonic activities and somehow dampened the fires of our brotherhood. We need to reenergize ourselves for a better Masonry within and without. Internally, through the revitalized improvement of masons in their character, morality, skills and knowledge, coupled with the continuous refinement of the capability and efficiency of the Grand Lodge towards a more responsive and transparent administration of its executive, legislative and judicial functions. Externally, by pursuing an aggressive and visible charitable projects and community aid programs designed to enhance the good image and reputation of Masonry in Philippine society."
"

Birthdate : December 16, 1955
Birthplace : Manila
Wife : Ma. Corazon Angeles-Esquivias

Children :
- Julius A. Esquivias – 39 years old/ Member KSL No. 150 / Lawyer
- Luis A. Esquivias – 37 years old / CPA, CFA, MBA
- Ma. Carmela E. Lumagui – 32 years old / Lawyer

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- BSC Accounting, Far Eastern University
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
- Ateneo de Manila University
- 1975 – Passed CPA Licensure Examinations
- 1980 – Passed Phil. Bar Examinations

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2000 – 2008 / Managing Partner, The Law Firm of Esquivias Conlu
- 2009 – present / Vidanes & Yabut
- 2008 – 2009 / Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue
- 1986 – 2011 / Professor of Taxation, University of the Philippines
- 1997 – 2000 / Deputy Commissioner, in charge of the Legal & Enforcement Group, Bureau of Internal Revenue

MASONIC LIFE

- 2003 / Initiated, Passed and Raised at KSL 150
- 2005-06 / Junior Warden, KSL No. 150
- 2006-07 / Senior Warden, KSL No. 150
- 2006-07 / President, BIR Travelers Haven, Inc.
- 2007-08 / Worshipful Master, KSL No. 150
- 2008-09 / Grand Lodge Inspector, General Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322
- 2009-10 / Grand Historian, GLP
- 2010-11 / District Deputy Grand Master, NCR-G
- 2011-12 / Chairman, Committee on Jurisprudence
- 2012-13 / Centennial Grand Auditor
- 2013-14 / Senior Grand Lecturer
- 2014-15 / Worshipful Master of Muntinlupa City Lodge, UD
- 2016-17 / Executive Assistant to the Grand Master
- May – Aug, 2019 / Chairman / Committee on Jurisprudence

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

"ENERGIZED MASONRY WITHIN AND WITHOUT: DISCHARGING OUR DUTIES WITH CREDIT TO OURSELVES AND HONOR TO THE FRATERNITY"

Foremost of the chief aims of Freemasonry is to make good men better. From this tenet proceeds the progress and perfection of the craft. Yet, apparent complacency or apathy has set in. There seems to be not only declining standards in Masonic ritual, skills, and aspirations but also a lowering in the observance of the standard of morality and virtue.

Thus, unwittingly our fraternity may be losing its general good reputation such that its luster no longer shines as bright as before. There is a need to re-energize Philippine Freemasonry both inside and out.

BETTER MASONRY WITHIN

Under the theme "Energized Masonry within and without: Discharging our Duties with Credit to Ourselves and Honor to the Fraternity", the Grand Lodge will implement programs targeted at the continuous improvement of individual masons in their character, morality, skills and knowledge; the refinement of the systems and procedures of the lodges in the selection of candidates and development of masons; advancing the financial viability of blue lodges; and upgrading the capability and efficiency of the Grand Lodge towards a more responsive and transparent administration of its executive, legislative and judicial functions in the jurisdiction.

BETTER MASONRY WITHOUT

In its dealings with the outside world, Philippine Free-

masonry will pursue an active and visible charitable projects and community aid programs designed to enhance its good image and reputation in Philippine society in general. It will exhort and assist its members to be individual ambassadors of the craft, duly recognizing and promoting their individual achievements in their respective fields both publicly and within the craft. By and large, through the individual contributions of masons and the collective action of the lodges, Philippine Freemasonry will demonstrate that it is not only an old, well-established and reputable institution but also a relevant, caring, and significant organization worthy of respect and admiration in the modern age.

REFLECTING HONOR UPON THE FRATERNITY

Pursuing an energized and better masonry within and without everyday will ultimately redound to a greater result – the worthy activities of closely united men and brothers translating to reflect the general good reputation and honor of Philippine Freemasonry in this jurisdiction and to the world. Hence, the membership at large should be conscious of a central thought – will my actions reflect honor upon the fraternity? A positive answer would have no other result – a better man doing freemasonry a greater good.

PROPOSITIONS:

Specific plans and programs will be designed to focus on internal and external improvements centered around these vital agendas:

PROFICIENCY AND COMPETENCE

A lodge of master masons is composed of highly competent individuals who were accepted into the craft on the basis of strong physical, moral, and intellectual attributes. In many respects, and as proven by Masonic screening process, a master mason possesses above average intelligence and perseverance.

Therefore, there is no reason why a lodge should be lacking in proficiency in the esoteric rituals of the craft. The key performance indicator of proficiency and competence should be a lodge highly adept in the performance of floor works, officers reciting from memory without aid of monitors, and members who can perform a degree work in the most proficient manner possible. Refinement of Masonic skills will be the norm all throughout the term.

QUALITY MEMBERS

Freemasonry is not an ordinary college fraternity or a regular socio-civic club. It does not rely on quantity of members but emphasizes its ability to attract only

good men into its fold – men who strongly exhibit desirable traits on morality, on intellect, and ability to serve their fellow men. Therefore, programs will be implemented to refine the candidate admission system to stress the importance of attracting quality candidates with strong potential to ultimately give honor to the Fraternity.

MANDATORY LODGE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Stated meetings of blue lodges should not only be spent discussing the usual prescribed agenda, often closing in ordinariness which is not conducive to attracting good attendance of members, not to mention wasting a crucial opportunity in the furtherance of membership development. Ideally, all stated meetings should result in the imparting of useful knowledge to members on vital aspects of the craft such as Masonic law and jurisprudence, morality and ethics, Masonic rituals, history, philosophy, etc. Members should always depart from a stated meeting as a better informed mason. Toward this end, more time will be designed to implement a mandatory system of lodge instructions.

HARMONY AMONG MEMBERS

Conflicts and disputes among masons are a sad reality in a fraternity which is the foremost proponent of harmony, friendship, and tolerance among men. Part of the problem lies on our inability to respond swiftly to a developing or ongoing dispute. Masonic charges, when filed, are made to linger indefinitely causing division among concerned lodges and brothers. Programs will therefore be designed towards a more responsive, fast, and decisive dispute resolution process.

STRESSING MORALITY AND VIRTUE

A master mason does not deserve his title if he is not able to regulate his every action and let his conduct be governed by the principles of morality and virtue. Lodges should not tolerate members who continue to exhibit disgraceful conducts which reflect badly on the fraternity. An incorrigible member should not remain unpunished. Toward this end, a strong censure and reformation system will be implemented in accordance with our rules.

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE GRAND LODGE

Just like any on-going organization, the Grand Lodge must maintain viable sources of revenue to sustain its operations. Toward this end, the Grand Lodge should devise ways and means to derive potential revenues from its assets and veer away from total reliance on membership dues. The Grand Lodge must develop investment policies and programs to ensure the future prosperity of the fraternity.

ENHANCED CHARITY PROGRAMS

In the light of the occurrence of natural calamities in the country which adversely affect a large number of our countrymen, the need for charity is more underscored now than in any other times. Yet, our fraternity seems to lag in prominence as a foremost dispenser of vital aid and sustenance. While the fraternity is not a service organization, it must respond adequately and visibly in its charity missions.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE GRAND LODGE

Grand lodge funds and properties belong to the Fraternity and not subject to the sole discretion and control of the incumbent. Strong internal audit and accounting procedures must be implemented. The Grand Auditor must be empowered to put in place fool proof systems to curb incidence of waste, pilferage and mismanagement of Grand Lodge funds and properties.

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER AND GRAND WARDENS

The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens should not be relegated to purely ceremonial roles but must take active part in the management of the affairs in the grand jurisdiction. Specific and well defined functions will be assigned with each performing assignment on executive, judicial and legislative functions of the Grand Lodge.

ADDRESSING ELECTIONEERING PRACTICES

Our current rules on the nomination and election of Junior Grand Warden have already instituted needed reforms to curb the ugly practices of electioneering. However, this needs further legislation to plug possible loopholes. The Grand Lodge should define all punishable offenses and penalties as well as define the precise procedures and mechanisms to be observed in the district, multi-district and ANCOM levels.

VW EPIFANIO LAMBERT D. GALIMA, JR., PDDGM, HA

Nominee from Northern Luzon
Nueva Vizcaya Lodge No. 144
Masonic District Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao

BRING BACK MASONRY TO MASONS.

"Masonry allows us to say that we would be better men than before. But that promise is not self-executing, we must claim it by acting like Masons in our service of God and our distressed worthy brother, in our usual vocations, and even during refreshment and repose. We ought to show it to others with the way we carry ourselves and with the way we treat ourselves. Only in practicing the virtues and principles taught us in the Craft can Masonry be validated through us."

Atty. Epifanio LD. Galima, Jr., or Lambert, as he is called by brothers Mason and friends and relatives, is a Mason through-and through, a lawyer by profession, a businessman by calling, a farmer, a planner and a man of action.

Lambert Galima was raised as Master Mason in 1977 in Nueva Vizcaya (Masonic) Lodge No. 144, F & A.M., a year after passing the bar examinations. He became one of the youngest Worshipful Master in 1981 at the age of 31. While still a Master Mason, he was instrumental in putting up Villaverde Chapter of the Order of DeMolay in 1978 where he was Chairman of the Advisory Council sponsored by his Lodge. He continues to be a Dad Advisor to this date. A very loyal DeMolay, Lambert belongs to the Jose Abad Santos Chapter housed at the Grand Lodge where he was the Master Counselor in 1969-70. He was a known DeMolay leader in the then Jurisdiction of the Philippines, Guam and Okinawa where he presided over the Conclave in Olongapo.

As Worship Master of his Lodge, he instituted a variety of reforms, including Masonic Education which became standard in the then Masonic District 3. He led brethren in putting up Mt. Pillai (Masonic) Lodge No. 420 which was instituted in 2015. He immediately spearheaded his lodge members in putting up their Masonic Temple in Baresbes, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya. Through his leadership, Lambert was able to put up the temple in record nine (9) month- time on a 1,000 square meter lot he purchased. Lambert was the Dispensation Worshipful Master Mt. Palali in 2013 and reigned as such until the end of 2017. He was thus the WM for four (4) years.

Lambert Galima was the District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District RII-E in 2005-06 during which he delivered various Masonic Education speeches in the different lodges in his district.

PDDGM Lambert Galima was the Vice Governor of Nueva Vizcaya for six (6) years, ending in 2019. Before being involved in provincial politics, he was the municipal mayor of the commercial town of Solano for nine (9) years. He also served as Provincial Administrator, after which he was elected as Senior Provincial Board Member. As Municipal Mayor, he became the Secretary General of the Municipal Mayors League of the Philippines at which time he was one of leaders who lobbied for the approval of the now Local Government Code of the Philippines.

Lambert Galima is a 1975 law graduate of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. He also finished Bachelor of Business Administration major in Management. To beef up his knowledge as local administrator, he took up Local Administration Development Program at the UP Class 33. Later, he would finish Strategic Legislative Management at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and Executive Course on Adaptive Leadership in Ateneo de Manila University.

Lambert is a Scottish Rite Mason IGH, a Mabuhay Shriner belonging to the Lumabang Chapter and is the Batch President of Siglat 38. He is also currently the President of Pugad Lawin, Vizcaya Chapter, and an active member (SSFPRMG) of the Guardians Philippines II anti-crime group where he is National Tribune and Region II President.

Lambert is happily married to Perla Bince Gamboa with whom he has seven (7) children, all professionals and working on their own. They have nineteen (19) grandchildren. He leads a printing business and publishes a newsweekly. Lambert is also a leader of Aldersgate College in his town. He belongs to different organizations in his province.

PROGRAM OF GOVERNANCE

When given the chance to be part of the governance of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, I would opt for a greater participation of all the grand officers, particularly the elected officers, in the activities of the Grand Lodge. We believe that it would be best if the Grand Wardens, while waiting for their term, would be given a chance, even more authority, to help the Grand Master in his visitations of the Lodges. In this way, they would get the necessary experience and exposure to the workings of the Grand Lodge while waiting for their time to govern it. It is important that when the new Grand Master assumes the Grand Oriental Chair, he would already be ready to assume the awesome works appurtenant to the position. We believe that, in this way, the

Grand Wardens would already be exposed to the workings with the experience that he is exposed to while on the waiting.

ANCOM
OLONGAPO CITY
•2021•
TO BUTIG FALLS
Gordon Heights
Barretto
BARRETTO BEACH
INFLATABLE ISLAND PH
RIZAL TRIANGLE
Mabayuan
ULO NG APO ROTUNDA
GORDON COLLEGE
OLONGAPO OVAL TRACK
OLONGAPO CITY SWIMMING POOL
KALAKLAN LIGHTHOUSE
UNITY FOUNDATION ROTUNDA
Kalaklan
OLONGAPO
Kalalake
Banicain
MAGSAYSAY DRIVE
SUBIC BAY
FREEPORT
VOLUNTEERS PARK
JAMES L. GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Olongapo Public Cemetery
Osir Basin
MARIKIT
306

DEMOGRAPHY

Population - projected at 270, 277 individuals (2015 projected)
Annual Population Growth Rate - 2.19%
Total Projected Number of Households - 60,062 (2015 projected)
Average Household Size - 4.5 people per household (PSA, 2010)
Sex Ratio - 98 males for every 100 females (2015 projected)
Gross Population Density (total land area) - 1,460 person per sq.km. (2015 data)
Urban Density (land area of 17 barangays) - 3,656 persons per sq. km. (2015 Data)

GEOGRAPHY

Total Land Area - 18,500 hectares or 185 square kilometres
Build up Area - 7,545 hectares or 13.56% of total land area
Watershed Area - 10,536 hectares
Major Mountain Ridges (2) - Kalaklan Ridges and Balimpuyo Ridge
Major Water Bodies (5) classified as rivers - Sta.Rita River, Mabayuan River, Nagunao River, Jadjad River and Tawiwang Salite River
Major Water Bodies (3) classified as creeks - Iram Creek, Licab Creek and Pamo Creek
Barangays - 17 political and administrative government units, name as "Barangays" occupying an estimated land area of 7,390.73 hectares

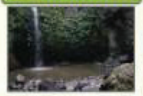
HEALTH

Crude Birth Rate - 23.02 per 1000 population
Crude Death Rate - 6.20 per 1000 population
Maternal Mortality Rate - 0.56 per 1000 live births
Infant Mortality Rate - 12.62 per 1000 live births
Fetal Mortality Rate - 5.08 per 1000 live births
Percentage Immunized Children - 94.94%
Malnutrition Prevalence Rate - 4.51%
Top 3 Leading Cause of Mortality - Heart Disease, Pneumonia and Malignant Neoplasm
Top 3 Leading Cause of Morbidity - Upper Respiratory Infection, Pneumonia and Dengue

EDUCATION

Literacy Rate - 98.6% (CBMS, 2011)
Number of Schools (2014) -
(Public) Pre-Elementary 28, Elementary 28, Secondary 12 and College 1
(Private) Pre-Elementary 28, Elementary 28, Secondary 16 and College 12

TO MARTIN FALLS



TO MAMPUENG FALLS

Holy Spirit Subdivision
Bernese St.
Tabacuhan
Tabacuhan Rd
Forestry Rd.
Kalayaan Development Industrial Corporation
Old Cabalan
Boy's Town
Landfill
Tagumpay
3

WORLD PEACE MEMORIAL

TY HALL

PUBLIC MARKET

PARK

Finback
Bonita
Corner
Flug
Halder
Finback
Groupet
Argonaut Highway
Familiar Peak
Aim High Av.
Efficiency Av.
CUBIC BAY GATEWAY PARK
Braveheart Rd.
Ruel
E5
E5
Argonaut Highway
Causeway Rd.
Binictican Drv.
NGAPO ORT

Produced by
OLONGAPO CITY TOURISM OFFICE
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Layout/Design: Billy Mostajo
Photos from: City Public Affairs Office

Map from **www.mapz.com**

VW GILBERT B. GILLE, PJGL

Nominee from Mindanao
Maguindanao Lodge No. 40
Masonic District RX Misamis Oriental & Cagayan De Oro City

MASONRY IS OUR WAY OF LIFE: STRENGTHENING OUR BROTHERHOOD THROUGH SERVICE

"Let the purpose of brotherhood be to serve the brethren and the community in need. This is our inevitable and moral duty to do and uphold when we took the obligations, that is made more resolute when sworn before the ambient lights at the altar. As is our commitment and way of life, we must let our service shine as light for all to see and emulate, making our fraternal bond stronger and perpetually immovable."

I. PERSONAL PROFILE

- Born on January 21, 1961 in Malaybalay Bukidnon.
- Residing at B 3 L 27 Scions Elite Subd. Kauswagan Cagayan de Oro City.
- Married to Elspeth Deborah M. Gille, MD, DPPS, FPSMS – Past Grand Royal Matron Order of the Amaranth (Practicing Pediatrician at Cagayan De Oro City).
- Blessed with one daughter – Ghislaine Kristal M. Gille, MD – Past Honored Queen Jobs Daughter International. (Resident Physician of the Department of Internal Medicine Northern Mindanao Medical Center, Cagayan de Oro City).

II. EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

- Elementary Education and Secondary School Education Malaybalay, Bukidnon – With honors.
- College Education – Mindanao State University – Marawi City B.S. Zoology (1982) – Scholar
  Graduated at Ateneo de Davao University
- Davao Medical School Foundation (1986)
- Fellow – Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (2006)
- Fellow – Philippine Society of Medical Specialist Inc.
- Past SSS Head Medical Unit (Senior Physician)
  Cagayan de Oro Branch
- OSH PRACTITIONER - DOLE-BWC accredited No: 1033-111024 K-0041 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / 2011-20
- OSH CONSULTANT (Occupational Safety and Health)
  Dole- BWC accredited No: 1030-012821-OSHC-138
  valid up to January 28, 2024.

III. MASONIC PROFILE

- Raised: December 6, 1997 (Maguindanao Lodge No. 40)
- 2004 January – Elected Worshipful Master
- As WM Raised 14 Master Masons, Accepted 7 Dual Members, and Restored 4 Members
- Charter & Dual member of KAGAY-AN LODGE mo. 385.
- Charter & Dual member of Mt. Kitanglad UD.
- Charter & Dual member of Chocolate Hills UD
- Honorary Member of Tolomeo Galarrita lodge No. 242 (formerly Punta Sulawan).
- 2005 - 2006 Appointed Grand Lodge Inspector of Macajalar Lodge No. 184
- 2011 - 2012 Appointed DGL District Grand Lecturer
- 2018 - 2019 appointed JGL (Junior Grand Lecturer Northern Mindanao)
- 3 term President (2008 - 2010) of Maguindanao Masonic Temple Association.

IV. APPENDANT BODIES AFFILIATION

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE MASON

- October 16, 1999 – 4th to 14th Degree
- December 16, 2000 – 15th to 18th Degree
- January 27, 2001 – 19th to 30th Degree
- January 27, 2001 – 31st to 32nd Degree
- January 27, 2001 – 32nd Degree Master of Royal Secrets
- March 11 - 12, 2005 invested 32nd Degree Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
- 2005 - 2006 Elected twice as Wise Master Rafael Palma Chapter of Rose Croix Mindanao Bodies
- 2007 - 2008 – Elected twice Venerable Master Mindanao Bodies Scottish Rite – A. & A.S.R.
- 2009 - Appointed Bodies Supervisor Mindanao Bodies Scottish Rite & A.S.R.
- 2009 - Coroneted Illustrious Sir 33˚ Inspector Grand Honorary (IGH) by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Philippines
- 2010 - Appointed Valley Deputy Orient of Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon Scottish Rite – A. & A.S.R.
- 2019 - Designated to assist in the reactivation of Bukidnon Bodies – A. & A.S.R.

ORDER OF THE AMARANTH PROFILE

- Main organizer in chartering NOEMI L MANDAC MEMORIAL COURT NO. 45 of CDOC during my incumbency as WM in 2004 with my 2 other Bros. VW Rey Peter Gille, PJGD & VW Jose Leonard Gille PDGL with our HL'S Elspeth Deborah, Melania & Evelyn. Also, with VW Dennis & HL Denia Guitarte. Also, with the guidance of PGM & PGRP Manuel Mandac and all his siblings, especially HL Emma, our Charter RM.
- Together with us HL Elspeth and myself SK Gilbert B. Gille with the participation of HL Emma Mandac Drilon our SK Nestor Abanil. As the Main organizers of Bukidnon Court no. 45 along with my siblings SK Rey Peter and HL Melania, SK Jose Leonard and HL Evelyn with the charter RM Corazon Gille Alava & RP Wilfred Alava. Charter sibling members HL'S Nenita, Merlyn, Charito Joy and with our nieces HL's Coreen, Sarah Jane, Melinda, Beryl Honeygold.
- 2008 - Became RP with HL Elspeth as RM
- 2009 - DDGRP with HL Elspeth as DDGRM
- May 5- 7, 2013 – Session Chairman 37th Grand Annual at Pearlmont Inn Cagayan de Oro City. Dubbed as SWEET MEMORIES SESSION with the theme CELEBRATE AMARANTH…. Lead the way (GRM HL ARCEL DE LA CRUZ & GRP SK REZEL REYES)
- HL Elspeth Deborah Manginsay Gille was elected Grand Associate Conductress.
- 2013 – 2014 Appointed Grand Fraternal Correspondent with HL Elspeth as GAC, HL Elspeth was elected as Grand Conductress.
- 2015-16 HL Elspeth Elected GAM
- 2015-16 SK Gilbert Elected GAP
- 2016-17 HL ELSPETH ELECTED GRM
- 2016-2017 SK GILBERT ELECTED GRP
- 2017-18 Elected Grand Commissioner on Appeals for 3 years
- 2018-19 Elected Grand Commissioner on Appeals for 2 years
- 2019-20 Elected Grand Commissioner on Appeals for 1 year
- 2017-2018 appointed DSRP DSRM to HONGKONG
- 2018-2019 Appointed DSRP DSRM to HONGKONG
- 2019-2020 Appointed DSRM DSRP PATHFINDERS.
- Attended:

  119th Supreme Assembly dubbed as "The Garden" In Norfolk Virginia USA on June 25-30, 2016. With outgoing Supreme Royal Matron DIANE DEAN and Supreme Royal Patron SK George "Stoney the Rock" Pavlik and Incoming SRM/ JEANIE MELTON and SK ALLEN SPAIN.

  AS GRP Visited all the 39 subordinate Courts all over the Philippines.

- Hosted the most successful and one of best Grand Session dubbed as " Golden Friendship Session "Held in Luxe Hotel Lim KetKai Center Cagayan de Oro City May 7-8-9, 2017.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR PROFILE

- 1999 Member

SHRINER A.A.O.N.M.S

- Became member on October 2004 - Aloha Member, Filipinas, Mabuhay, and Agila

V. MEDICAL PROFILE

- President / Philippine Society of Medical Specialists Inc. Northern Mindanao Chapter / 2015-21
- Chairman / Clinica Specialista Inc. / 2016-2021
- Chairman / Clinica Specialista Health Service Coop / 2018-21
- Past National Board of Director & Regional Director of Mindanao / Phil. College of Occupational Medicine / 2012-15
- Past Nat'l Vice President / Philippine College of Occupational Medicine / 2014-15
- Past Con-Con Commissioner / Phil. Medical Association / 2013-14
- Past President / Safety Organization of the Philippines Inc, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon Chapter / 2012-13, 2014-15
- Past President / Phil. College of Occupational Medicine, Northern Mindanao Chapter / 2009-12
- Past President / Philippine Academy of Family Physicians Misamis

Oriental Chapter / 2004
- Past President / Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists Cagayan de Oro Chapter / 2005-07
- Past Board of Director / Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines Inc. / 2012-13
- Past Board of Director / Occupational Safety & Health Network Inc. R 10 / 2012-13
- Medical Consultant / Compensation and Occupational Medicine at Cagayan De Oro Medical Center, Capitol University Medical City, Maria Reyna Xavier University Hospital and Doctors Sabal Hospital.
- Share Stockholder of Cagayan de Oro Medical Center and Maria Reyna Xavier Hospital
- Board Director and Major Stockholder / Clinica Specialista Inc., an Ambulatory Surgical/ Medical and Laboratory Clinic / 2013

VI. CIVIC PROFILE

- President / Share Foundation 1985 INC., CDOC / 2011-21
- President / Government Corporation Athletic Association, Region 10 / 2008-21
- Past President / SCIONS Subdivision Homeowners Association, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City / 2008-13
- Past President / Xavier University PTA College of Nursing / 2010-12
- Past Director Auxiliary Squadron / Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary 1001st Squadron of CDOC / 2012-15
- Past Director Auxiliary District DAD CGADNM / with the rank of Commodore (one star general) / 2016-18
- Past Board of Director / Xavier University Confederated Parents and Faculty Association / 2010-2012
- Founder & Commissioner / Sojourners Basketball Club Cagayan de Oro City / 2008-14

VII. OTHER FRATERNAL AFFILIATION

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES PROFILE

- Member Cagayan de Oro Eagles Club / THE MOTHER CLUB of MINDANAO / 2004
- Club PRO / 2005
- Club President / 2006
- Re-elected Club President / 2007
- November Elected as the 27th National President during the 25th Eagles National Congress in Iligan City / 2007
- National Congress was Held at Naga City with Kuya Vic Avila as my Congress Chairman / 2007
- Charter President Kauswagan Goldcoast EC AUG 31, 2012
- Charter President honorary Consolacion CDO Gateway EC 2012
- Charter Chairman Emeritus of Camaman-an EC March 24, 2019
- Charter President - STAR Eagles Club / Safety Trained Advocates Resources / March 7, 2021
- Vice Chairman / PENAPLE PHIL. EAGLE NATIONAL PRES LEAGUE / 2008
- PENAPLE Vice Chairman / 2016-2017
- Charter National Chairman / PECOP Philippine Eagles Council of Presidents 2016-2021.
- PENAPLE CHAIRMAN - PHILIPPINE EAGLES NATIONAL PRESIDENTS LEAGUE 2018-2019.
- Was given the Honor and Privilege to induct "Eagles On Sight"
- KUYA RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE PRESIDENT REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES then Mayor of Davao City during the induction of Officers of CDO Eagles Club on Dec. 12, 2014 at Dynasty Court.

VIII. National Convention Speaker

- On the topic "Employee's Welfare & Patient Medical Benefits" at the 46th National Industrial Safety Convention with the Theme: "Strategy Towards Exceptional Practices (STEP)" conducted at Pearlmont Inn, Limketkai Drive, Cagayan de Oro City November 13-15,2013.
- Safety Organization of the Philippines (SOPI) – as the Plenary Speaker on the topic "Emergency Preparedness Welfare and Benefits of Agricultural Workers and Employees" and" Ergonomics and the Working Environment for Agricultural Workers" at the 3rd National Agricultural Safety Convention with the Theme "Safety Safe Food World" conducted at Pearlmont Inn, Limketkai Drive, Cagayan de Oro City August 6-8, 2014.
- Philippine Society of Medical Specialist Inc. (PSMSI)-as the Ple-

nary Speaker on topic "Employee's Welfare & Patient Medical Benefits" at the 3rd Annual Convention with the theme " Empowering Government Physician Amidst Challenge in Healthcare Globalization" at Crowne Plaza, Ortega's Ave, Corner Asian Development Bank Ave, Quezon City, November 17-19, 2013.
- Speaker during the PCOM MIDYEAR ILOILO - "Employee's Welfare & Patient Medical Benefits" October 15-17, 2015 at ILOILO Convention Center.
- OSH Lecturer – Basic Course on Occupational Medicine for Doctor of Medicine and Dentistry. 1st Batch- July 6-13, 2011 / 2nd Batch- September 2011 /3rd Batch- July 23-30, 2014
- Diplomate Course - on Occupational Medicine for Doctors of Medicine Held in Cagayan de Oro City (first time Outside Metro Manila) February to June 2013.

IX. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ATTENDED

- International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) SEOUL KOREA – 31st International Congress on Occupational Health. MAY 31 TO JUNE 5,2015.
- International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) 2018 DUBLIN IRELAND – 32nd ICOH Congress at Faculty of Occupational Medicine Royal College of Physician of Ireland. APRIL 29 TO MAY 4, 2018 & Official delegate from ICOH Philippines as National Secretary to ICOH Congress.

X. AWARDS/TITLE RECEIVED

Awarded most outstanding WM (District RXA & RXB 2004) and a finalist in the National category.

Recipient of the PAST MASTERS BROTHERS AWARD along with VW Rey Peter B Gille PM (2003) Punta Sulawan lodge 242 & WB Jose Leonard B. Gille PM (2006) Makahambus Lodge No. 315 given on 2007 by VW ATONG GUERRA PRESIDENT CDO Past Masters Guild.

Recipient of the Diploma of Merit as Most Outstanding Scottish Rite Mason 2008.

Coroneted Illustrious Sir 33˚ (2009) Inspector Grand Honorary (IGH) by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Philippines

Recipient of the Sovereign Grand Commanders Award and Medal 2009.

Philippine College on Occupational Medicine Awards:

- National Awardee - Award of distinction as most outstanding president and chapter from the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) during the midyear convention at Subic, Zambales, on October 22, 2011.
- National Awardee – as the most outstanding president and chapter from the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) during the annual convention at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Manila, on March 16, 2012.
- Special Recognition –as Regional Director of Mindanao for conducting in Cagayan de Oro the first ever successful diplomate in occupational medicine conducted outside Metro Manila, on June 2012.

Philippine Coast Guard Awards:

- Awarded As Squadron of Year
  Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary 1001st Squadron as Director
- Auxiliary squadron of Coast Guard Northern Mindanao District
- National Awardee as "Outstanding DAD Director Auxiliary District of CGADNM"
- 2 Ribbons / Ribbon of Merit and Ribbons of Commendation-Given during the 34th NACON in SMX Lanang Davao City May 19-20, 2017. Keynote Speaker & Guest of Honor President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.
- National Awardee of 4 Ribbons for: 2 Merit Awards and 2 Commendation Awards During the 39th Year Founding Anniversary of PCGA on Feb. 24, 2018 at Heritage Hotel Manila By VADM VALENTIN PRIETO PCGA.
- National Awardee for PCG Distinguished Award as DAD of CGADNM on June 1, 2018 at Buffalo Grill Cagayan de Oro City by COMMO LEOVIGILDO PANOPIO PCG District Commander CGDNM.

Awardee as Outstanding Mindanaonon - by Mindanao Daily News The 1st Mindanao Governance & Leadership Excellence Award on March 7, 2019 at Luxe Hotel Cagayan de Oro City

PLANS AND PROGRAMS
MASONRY IS OUR WAY OF LIFE
JGW Term Theme: STRENGTHENING OUR BROTHERHOOD THROUGH SERVICE

Should I be favored to serve as Junior Grand Warden, I intend to put into practice my term theme.

As a medical doctor, I am sworn to serve people. As a Mason, I was taught to regard the whole human species as one family who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other. I keep this oath and teaching in mind as I continue my journey in Masonry.

SERVICE shall be the defining role of my labors.

S - Support the continuing health and wellbeing of the Brethren by organizing/setting up medical consultations and related activities in all the Masonic Districts of our jurisdiction. Special emphasis shall be focused to adult medicine on medical compensation and prevention such as lifestyle modification, exercise and diet for common diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, renal concerns and the like. Covid 19 prevention by vaccination.

E - Extend the outreach of the Brethren by organizing community-oriented projects and activities, singly or in cooperation with appendant bodies and kindred spirits.
10

R – Re-enforce the Brethren's inherent link with the environment by launching environment-related activities to help address climate change.

V – Vitalize lodges through member development activities such as applied Masonic education, regular masonic lectures, expansion and decentralization of IMES classes, and online libraries.

E – Enhance fraternal bonds through regular inter-lodge and inter-district activities to include sports, ritual competition, joint community projects and the like.

I promise to aid and support to the incumbent Grand Master in putting into play his own program such as:

- Strengthening the institutional. capacities of the GLP to provide a broad-range of administrative and operational services to all constituent lodges.
- Harnessing the potentials of IT (Information Technology) to promote and enhance the efficiencies of the Grand Lodge and the constituent lodges.
- Promoting legislative reforms and awareness by updating our Book of Edicts and the regular publication of such pronouncements.
- Promoting the fiscal stability of the Grand Lodge through the design and adoption of a comprehensive Master Plan for Financial Sustainability.
- Enhancing socioeconomic linkages among the brethren.
- Expanding our work with and assistance to Masonic Youth Orders.
- Promoting community-based charity work.

VW MARIANITO C. PACHECO, JR., PSGS

Nominee from Central LUZON
Gov. Eduardo L. Joson Masonic Lodge No. 326
Masonic District Nueva Ecija (North)

MASONIC CHARITY PERSEVERES

"Masonic Charity appropriates the responsibility upon the kind care and protection of every Freemason whithersoever dispersed; the noble duty to ease his fellow man of the miseries and pain within the bounds of his means. In like manner, it should and must be inherent with the same virtue to Persevere; notwithstanding the hindrances that shall come in the way. Which is why we – as Free and Accepted Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction should be one and united in our quest under this Grand and Glorious design – to aid and assist in the perpetuation and preservation of humanity within the context of the Principal Tenets of our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity…"

Spouse : Laiza R. Pacheco / OB – Gynecologist
Children : Lara R. Pacheco MD- Medical Intern & Jobriel Wilson R. Pacheco (21 yrs. Old / BS in Aviation)

EDUCATION

BS Biology / University of Baguio
S.Y. 1986 – 1990 Graduated
Master of Education

GLP PAST POSITIONS

- Past Grand Lodge Inspector
- Past Grand Senior Steward (2014)
- Constructed Eduardo L. Joson Lodge No. 326
- Form and established Muñoz Traveller's Cooperative
- Past Worshipful Master
- Past District Grand Lecturer
- Past Installing Officer
- Over – All Champion in Annual District Sports Fest
- Nominated for the position of Junior Grand Warden (JGW)
- 4th Visiting Deacon / Order of the Secret Monitor
- Pagong Ako Kuyang Philippines (PAK)
- Past 2nd Vice President / Mabuhay Shriners Club
- Charter Member / Order of the Secret Monitor (OSM) Conclave # 23
- Charter Member / Shriners Saigon Club
- Charter Member / Kabukiran Shriners Club
- Charter Member / Arayat Shriners CLUB
- Charter Member / Magiting Shriners Club
- Charter Member / Pagong Ako Kuyang Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

MASONIC CHARITY PERSEVERES

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

VISION: For the members of the Craft to exemplify the true and amiable transformation in their character from that of a good man to someone made better through the teachings of Freemasonry

MISSION: To encourage the brethren adhere to the principal tenets of Freemasonry and unite in the grand design of promoting harmony which is the strength of humanity

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To relieve the distressed; to soothe the unhappy and sympathize with their misfortunes; to show compassion in their miseries, and to reinstate peace in their troubled minds

PHILOSOPHY

Persevering Charity to all Mankind

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

1. LODGE ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A. OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen the organization into a more competent and sensitive partner towards the achievement of the mission, goals and objectives of the GLP
- To enhance the administrative and management aspects of the Subordinate Lodges and the GLP in accordance with the dictates and needs of the times
- To optimize the disposition of financial and logistical resources and funds of the Fraternity

B. STRATEGIES

- Conduct management and operations audit
- See to it that programs to be implemented are in harmony with that of the past GLP administration as the case may be
- Revisit the systematized computerization of all records
- Improve the income of the GLP through means of revenue generation from the operation of its properties and authorized income-generating activities
- Exercise judicious use of GLP finances
- Make a full inventory of GLP assets

2. MASONIC EDUCATION AND GROWTH

A. OBJECTIVES

- Fortify the moral values, proficiency and competence of members
- Establish a pool of potential leaders and improve the quality in membership growth
- Enhance attendance in the Blue Lodges

B. STRATAGEMS

- Encourage members to attend IMES course
- Introduce Masonic Education courses aimed to supplement the IMES courses
- Implement a Mentoring Program at the Blue Lodge level
- Guard well the West Gate

3. FRATERNITY AND COMMUNITY

A.OBJECTIVES

- Revitalize harmonious fraternal relations among the brethren
- Engage in programs, projects and community-oriented undertakings that will redound to and fortify the relevance of the Fraternity with the society
- Induce public awareness about the Fraternity through means of community relations activities

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MAY
- 1st District Meeting
- Turn-over of District Officers
- Organization of District Councils
- DDGMs Briefing and Presentation on "STRATEGIC ROADMAP"
- DDGMs Night
- Installation of GLIs

JUNE
- Independence Day Celebration
- Bro. Jose P Rizal's birthday
- Continuation of Installation of GLIs
- District-sponsored Lodge of Instruction

JULY
- Continuation of District-sponsored Lodge of Instruction
- District Sportsfest
- Subordinate Lodge-sponsored Public Forum
- Constitution and/or Institution of Lodge Under Dispensation

AUGUST
- Tribute to MW Manuel Luis Quezon
- Tribute to Bro. Marcelo H. del Pilar
- Masonic Charity Outreach Program
- Visitation of other Grand Lodges
- Commemoration of Widows and Orphans

SEPTEMBER
- Honoring the Past Masters and Senior Masons
- Environmental Care Month
- Multi-district Convention

OCTOBER
- Remembering the Brethren who joined the Celestial Lodge
- Lodge of Remembrance
- Continuation of the Masonic Charity Outreach Program
- Multi-district Convention

NOVEMBER 30
- Tribute to Bro. Andres Bonifacio
- Multi-district Convention
- Regional Sportsfest

DECEMBER
- Election of Officers of Subordinate Lodges
- Christmas Party and Fellowship
- GLP Founding Anniversary Week
- Bro. Jose P. Rizal's Death Anniversary

JANUARY
- District-Sponsored Seminar on Lodge Management
- Proficiency Examination for the WM, SW, JW
- Installation of Officers for Subordinate Lodges

FEBRUARY
- Continuation of Installation of Officers for Subordinate Lodges
- Masons' Ladies' Night; a Valentine's Day Treat

MARCH
- Continuation of Installation of Officers for Subordinate Lodges
- District Recognition and Awards Night

APRIL
- Family Fellowship Month
- ANCOM 2022

VW NOEL W. ROSAL, PJGS, HA

Nominee from Southern LUZON
Mayon Lodge No. 61
Masonic District RV Albay, Sorsogon & Masbate

BRIDGING MEN THROUGH HARMONY & BROTHERLY LOVE: MAKING BETTER MEN FOR BETTER SOCIETY

"Brotherhood of men is the strength and beauty of our noble brotherhood. By interacting with one another we better understand the 3 Tenets of Masonry, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. If we become a better mason, we become a better citizen to inspire men and women to contribute their ideals for the betterment of Mankind."

PERSONAL & EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

A Bicolano, he was born on January 2, 1964 and married to Carmen Geraldine Barrameda. They have two children, Gerald Noel and Gillian Noelle. He took up the degree of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering at Adamson University and finished the course in 1985. He completed his degree in Master in Business Administration (1997-1998) at Aquinas University Legazpi City wherein he also took up some units in Bachelor of Laws. He is an enthusiast of scuba diving and aikido martial arts and plays basketball and golf.

WORK EXPERIENCES

With utmost sincerity and full commitment, he started his political career as Barangay Captain of the place where he grew up that is, Barangay Gogon, Legazpi City, and served for two terms (1989-1995). He moved on and became the City Councilor of Legazpi from May 1995 to June 2001, wherein he became the Chairman of the Sangguniang Panlunsod Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Utilities and Communication.

At present, he is on his fifth term as Mayor of the said City, one of the more prominent local government units in the Albay Province as well as in Bicol Region.

He also became the President and General Manager of ASAPHIL CORPORATION, which is famous for mining operation of perlite materials. Before he was prompted to his position, he started as Checker/ Foremen and consequently occupied the position of Operation Manager.

BUSINESS AND AFFILIATIONS

He has performed key function in various associations as follows:

- Chairperson / Regional Development Council
- Chairperson / Regional Peace and Order Council
- Regional President / Road Engineering Association of the Philippines (REAP) /

Bicol Chapter
- Senator / Junior Chamber International
- Council Chairman / Legazpi City Council / Boy Scout of the Philippines
- District Auxiliary Director / Coast Guard Auxiliary District Bicol
- Junior Grand Lecturer / The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Mason
- Past Master / Mayon Lodge No. 61
- Chairman / Bicol Region League of Cities of the Philippines
- Region V Representative / League Cities of the Philippines
- Past President / Rotary Club of Legazpi West
- Post National V-Pres. / Philippine Jaycees, Inc / 1995
- Past President / Legazpi Jaycees, Inc. 1994
- Director / Provincial Mining Regulatory Board
- Director / Philjury
- Director / Albay Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Director / Philippine Tuberculosis Society Albay chapter

AWARDS RECEIVED

- Presidential Lingkod Bayan / Civil Service Com / Oct 2016
- Regional Awardee / 2016 Search for Outstanding Public Official & Employee
- Civil Service Pagasa Awardee / Civil Service Com / Aug 2008
- National Awardee for Peace & Order DILG / June 2008
- Outstanding Performance Award DOH – Bicol / Jan. 25, 08
- Nat'l Kabalikat Awardee - LGU Category TESDA / Aug. 22, 07
- Regional Kabalikat Awardee / TESDA / Aug. 22, 07
- 3rd Best City Peace & Order council / NPC/NPOC/ Sept. 21, 07
- 2nd Fastest Growing Small City Asian Institute of Mgt. (AIM) 2006
- in the Philippines
- 2006 Huwarang Palengke / Dept. of Agriculture / 2006 (One of the most progressive markets In the Philippines)
- Most Outstanding Peace & Order Council DILG – PNP / 2005
- Most Outstanding Police Station In Region V / DILG – PNP / 2005
- Most Outstanding PESO in Region V / DOLE – Region V / 2005
- One of the ten Most Competitive Growing Asian Institute of Mgt. / 2005
- Cities in the Philippines
- Most Outstanding Police Community Relations / DILG – PNP / 2005
- 4th Fastest Growing City in the Phil. Asian Institute of Mgt. 2004
- National Literacy Award (Regional Winner) DepEd / 2003
- The CAPIU award / Diocese of Legazpi / Dec. 14, 2002

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOP ATTENDED

- Joint Migration and Dev't Initiative Academy (UNWTO) - Turin Italy/ Madrid Spain
- Local Education Policy Workshop (ULAP)
- Climate Change Leadership
- Academy on Urban Climate
- Adaptation in Jakarta Indonesia
- United Nations / LCP Philippine Representative / New York
- Drug Summit / Guest Speaker / Aquinas University (Jan 30, 2008)
- 2008 YP Workshop on Social Housing / Keynote Speaker / DENR (Jan. 24, 08)

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCES PASSED AS CITY COUNCILOR

- When he was a City Councilor, he passed a number of resolution and ordinances which have become ultimately advantageous to the people of the City, the Legazpeños. Some of the most significant are the following:
- Ammendment of Traffic Ordinance No. 09-86
  New Bus and Jeepney Route
  No Parking street
  One way street
- Resolution re: opening of new city roads – Brgy. Oro Site linking to Brgy. Capantawan
- Ordinance 01-96- An Ordinance using the burned Legazpi Supermarket as temporary parking area for fee.
- Ordinance 07-95- Opening of additional

160 units franchise for tricycle operations in the City as a mean of Livelihood.
- Draft ordinance on designated parking area for a fee.
- As a Chief Executive of LGU – Legazpi, his first and foremost concern for the City and its people is Peace , progress and Prosperity – ultimately and continuously.

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Bridging Men Through Harmony and Brotherly Love: Making Better Men For Better Society

In my being a Mason for more than 10 years now has helped me to be a better person especially in the essence of brotherhood and service to humanity. - It has also contributed to my success as a public servant because of the many lessons learned from the Craft. - I noticed also that in the last two decades Freemasonry seems to have flourished in the Philippines and it is no coincidence that despite the many unfair criticisms still a lot of men wants to gain personal improvement and contribute for the betterment of the society. In order to live the expectation of this men who wants to join us and those and those already members of the craft, here are my proposed plans and programs:

Improvement of the knowledge of the Brethren regarding the purpose and objectives of our Craft not only for personal but for the betterment of the world. The lectures in every stated meetings should not only about the rituals but more so about the history of nations and governments wherein Freemasonry has been a part of it. We have to impress upon them the dignity and importance of Masonry. Admonished them never to disgrace it and practice out of the Lodge those great moral duties which they have been thought in it. Of course, reminding them always that harmony is the strength or our Noble Brotherhood.

More tangible projects to the community where they belong meaning the Lodges should be active not only inside the Lodge but also in community related programs like feeding program, medical missions, scholarships and other noble programs like bloodletting and environmental protection program.

Other tangible projects like Obelisk, Markers, directional signs, parks, to showcase the presence of Masonry and its contribution to the community.

The Lodges if given the chance should be a partner of the Local Government Unit where they belong meaning they can be accredited as member of the Local Development Council as part of the decision makers in the community.

Will give rewards and incentives to those Lodges performing good and noble programs to the community. In this way they will be inspired to implement such programs.

The Laws and Edicts are already for me good enough and effective it is just a matter now of properly cascading it to the Brethren.

Those provinces with big population and with many districts but has only one Lodge should be encouraged to expand or open Lodges at least one per districts to better contribute to the community and opportunities who wants to join the Craft.

I am hoping that this plan and programs of mine will be given the chance if ever elected in this years' ANCOM 2020. Again, I would like to express my gratitude to you all Past Grand Masters for giving me this opportunity to meet you and explain my plans and programs.

VW EMMANUEL R. SACAY, PDDGM, HA

Nominee from Central LUZON
Malolos Lodge No. 46
Masonic District RIII Bulacan - West

HARMONY: THE STRENGTH AND SUPPORT OF PHILIPPINE MASONRY. Freemasonry on the GO... SACAY NA!

""During the opening and closing of the Lodge, the Senior Warden says in the elaboration of his duty, "that none may go away dissatisfied, harmony being the strength and support of all societies especially of ours. This injunction recognizes that Masons are men of various beliefs, persuasions, and creeds. These differences could create conflicts, for each would naturally stand firm by his own personal convictions. The hope for a unifying force that can unite us is our adherence to the tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth- principles that cannot be in conflict with whatever dogmatic creed anyone embraces. And in order to give strength and support to this unity, each one is encouraged to be lenient in the treatment of his brother, understanding our differences, and accepting those traits that instead of separating us, should instead unite us into a new relationship built upon the blending together of differences. That is what HARMONY does! Harmony puts and blends together seeming differences. This can most effectively be done when one tones down his opinions and preferences, and listens to the voice of others, accepts the differences, and tries to harmonize the various facets of the situations into a better and more beautiful new idea. In common parlance, this can be achieved thru the "give and take" procedure. I believe that such is the nature of the term "HARMONY". Harmony fulfills and sustains us. Indeed, "Harmony is the Strength and Support of Philippine Masonry"

EDUCATION

- Post Graduate / Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Leadership & Development Management Course
- University of the Philippines (UP) / National College of Public Administration and Governance
- College / Philippine College of Criminology B.S. Criminology
- Secondary / Marcelo H. Del Pilar High School
- Primary / Malolos Central School

MASONIC CAREER

…squaring our actions throughout our life

- Raised: May 31, 2003
  Malolos Lodge # 46
- Worshipful Master 2006 - 2007
- District Deputy Grandmaster 2008
  Orchestrated Mindanao Caravan of MW Pacifico B. Aniag
- 2008 Asia Pacific Grandmaster's Meeting
  Part of MW Pacifico B. Aniag's Entourage
- Member / Bulacan Bodies of Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite / 2007
- Hiram Awardee - 2019

POLITICAL CAREER

Destined to be a leader

- Barangay Captain / 3 Terms 1989 -1998
- Chairman Kabataan Barangay / 1975 - 1982
- City Councilor / City of Malolos / 1998 – 2004 / 2016 - Present
- Barangay Kagawad / 1982-89
- Vice Mayor / City of Malolos / 2 Terms 2004-2010

AWARDS

- Outstanding Barangay Captain / 1982 – 1989
- Outstanding City Coucilor (Provincial) / 2000
- Outstanding City Vice Mayor (Provincial) / 2010
- Outstanding City Vice Mayor (National) / 2010

OTHER POSITIONS HELD

- Member / People's Law Enforsement Board (PLEB) / 2001-2010
- Board of Director / Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines / 2007-2010
- Director / Philippine Councilor's League / 1998-2004
- Chairman / Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines / 2007-2010
- Secretary General / Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines / 2004-2007

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Harmony: The Strength and Support of Philippine Freemasonry

Three (3) Point Agenda as Grand Master

For the Grand Lodge
Relocation of Plaridel Masonic Temple to a provincial place for lesser taxes, leasing out current lot for income and use the old GLP as a Museum

For the Brethren
Health Care Benefits for all Masons under the Jurisdiction of the MWGLP

For Freemasonry in General
Establishment of a Lodge of Research in the Philippine Jurisdiction

VW NABIL A. TAN, PJGL, HA

Nominee from Mindanao
Bud Daho Lodge No. 102
Masonic District RIX & ARMM
Zamboanga City, Sulu, Basilan & Tawi-tawi

LIVING IN HARMONY: THE ESSENCE OF BROTHERHOOD

"Masons are bonded together by their obligation to make one another a better person. This bond forms the brotherhood of men of different races, religions, backgrounds, and even political beliefs. As Masons, we are charged to maintain the truly Masonic ornament of brotherly love which unites all men of every country and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. To live in harmony, which we have been taught as the strength of all societies especially of ours, teaches us that people and nations can come together and find areas of agreement for the betterment of mankind. When living in harmony, people can share whatever good things they have and better understand and accept opinions that are different from theirs. Brethren, Masonry can bring unity, peace and progress to all mankind as the values that we have been taught are based on fairness and integrity."

BIRTH & FAMILY

Nabil Alfad Tan was born on April 2, 1955 in Maimbung, Sulu. He is married to Amelyn Izquierdo-Tan with whom he has two children. He is an avid tennis player and bike rider.

EDUCATION

He finished his high school in 1972 at the Notre Dame High School for Boys in Jolo, Sulu. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of the East in 1976 and a Bachelor's Degree in Law also from the University of the East in 1980. He passed the Bar Examinations in 1981.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Incumbent Member of Parliament, Bangsamoro Transition Authority, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), appointed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in February 2019.
- Undersecretary at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) during the administrations of Presidents Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (for her two terms), Joseph Estrada, and Fidel V. Ramos.
- Undersecretary at the Office of the Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa during the term of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III.

Commendations / Awards Received

- Presidential Legion Award conferred by Pres. Fidel V. Ramos in 1998.
- Certification of Appreciation presented by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) Negotiating Panel with the Military Rebels during the 4th Anniversary Commemoration of the Signing of the General Agreement for Peace between the GRP and RAM-SFP-YOU in 1999.
- Symbol of Peace presented by the GRP-MR Panel, Altas Panel and RAM-SFP-YOU Panel in 1999.
- Model Regional Secretary Award presented by the Office of the Regional

Governor-ARMM in 1993.

- Foreign Seminars/Conferences/Studies Attended Regional Workshop on Design of Roadmaps in the Field of Dealing with Transitional Justice (Bangkok, Thailand / November 26-30, 2018)
- Peace and Beyond Conference (Belfast, Northern Ireland / April 10-12, 2018) Panel Discussion on the Role of Civil Society on Countering Violent Extremism and Workshop on the Management of Terrorist Rehabilitation in Southeast Asia (Tokyo, Japan / February 28-March 1, 2016)
- East Asia Summit Symposium (Singapore / January 25-26, 2018) Anti-Kidnapping and Anti-Extortion Senior Leadership Consultation (Bogota, Colombia / October 20-27, 2014)
- Regional Improvised Explosive Devices Seminar (Jakarta, Indonesia / June 17-19, 2014)
- Senior Crisis Management Seninar (Virgina, U.S.A. December 9-12, 2013)
- 12th Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (Bangkok, Thailand / July 5- 6, 2012)
- 16th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (The Hague, Netherlands / November 28-December 2, 2011)
- 13th Annual Meeting of National Authorities on the Chemical Weapons Convention (The Hague, Netherlands / November 25-27, 2011)
- 3rd APEC Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings (California, U.S.A. September 15-18, 2011)
- 11th ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (Singapore / September 15-18, 2011) Counter-Terrorism Task Force Meeting during the 2nd APEC Senior Officials' Meeting and Other Related Meetings (Montana, U.S.A. / May 11-12, 2011)
- 6th Asia-Europe Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue (Madrid, Spain / April 7-9, 2010) Workshop on Promoting Ownership of Humanitarian Norms by Armed Non-State Entities (Geneva, Switzerland / March 9-11, 2010)
- 5th Regional Interfaith Dialogue (Perth, Australia / October 28-31,2009)
- 8th General Conference of the Islamic Call Society (Tripoli, Libya / October 27-30, 2008)
- 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Baku, Azerbaijan / June 19-21, 2006)
- Regional Peace and Reconciliation Forum (Melbourne, Australia / July 16-19, 2003)
- Special Individual Training Program (Tokyo, Japan / February 2-13, 2003)
- Executive Forum on Anti-Terorrism (Washington, D.C., U.S.A. / September 13, 2002)
- Philippines-Australia Short-Term Training Program on Customized Course on Conflict Management and Resolution (Melbourne, Australia and Auckland, New Zealand / August 7-30, 2000)

HIGHLIGHTS OF MASONIC CAREER

- Raised on August 22, 1992 at the Bud Daho Masonic Lodge No. 102, Jolo, Sulu.
- Charter & Dual Member of Keystone Lodge No. 100
- Past Master of Keystone Lodge No. 100 (2008)
- Past District Deputy Grand Master (2014)
- Member, Grievance Committee GLP (2014)
- Life Member by Longevity / Bud Daho Masonic Lodge No. 102

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

LIVING IN HARMONY The Essence of True Brotherhood

It is indeed a blessing that our Fraternity has, for its members, brothers from varying faiths, creeds, cultures, economic circumstances and political persuasions. From this diversity, I believe, comes our strength as a Fraternity, as it provides us the blessed opportunity to gain the knowledge of perspectives dissimilar from ours under the umbrella of enlightened understanding and acceptance of those that are different.

Freemasonry strongly abides by the Underlying Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and by the Cardinal Virtues of Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude, and Justice. These values allow us to appreciate and reflect on the values of all the faiths, societal standings and philosophical influences, and gives us the valuable prospect of learning and putting into practice the Masonic values of tolerance and acceptance. It is in so doing that we all become stronger, better men and Masons.

Openness and tolerance are a few of the core values that give our Craft that special quality as an organization. Not only do we accept our diversity, we also embrace and encourage such that we can all come to a complete and sublime level of understanding that enhances our Fraternity.

In terms of religion, Freemasonry opens its doors to all men, regardless of religious conviction. Our Lodges teach us to leave to every Brother the choice of his creed, but we draw no sword to compel others to adopt ours.

Masonry does not abide by political discussions within the confines of the Lodges as engagements colored by political agitation and partisan politics may disrupt the peace and harmony of any meeting of assembled Freemasons. It must not be inferred, however, that Freemasons are to disregard social or political issues. Instead, involvement in politically controversial issues is not encouraged to prevent dissension in the Lodges.

Freemasonry does not align itself politically, but it prescribes to the guidelines that its members must be peaceful citizens; they must be true to government; just to the country while never denouncing disloyalty or rebellion; and patiently submits to legal authority.

By definition, harmony is the relationship in which various components exist together without destroying one another; a relationship characterized by a lack of conflict and exemplified by agreement. As Freemasons, we learn to never bring anything offensive or defensive into our Lodge. Our Lodge is where division has no place in so that Masons can openly engage in activities that unite, not separate.

If and when elected as Junior Grand Warden, I intend to observe all the edicts and jurisprudence of the Past, as it is my belief that it was crafted with brilliance and aided by the learnings of the pasts, save perhaps for some adjustments as with regard to:

The 6 Attendance Rule in Mother Lodges. This can be maintained but the 6 Attendance rule should include attendance in one's Plural Lodges and not only in the Mother Lodge for practical reasons. This is to apply not only to our brothers in the AFP and PNP but also to our civilian brothers.

Masonic Education. This should continue and be enhanced further through mentoring and tutorship of the Lodge, aside from the IMES and Lodge Education during Stated Meetings.

Continued Building of the Good Image of Freemasonry. This will be achieved through information dissemination and organization of charity projects.

Enhanced and Effective Coordination between Blue Lodges and the Grand Lodge. This is to apply especially to the lodges in remote areas of the country.

Strong Administrative and Financial Control System. To be achieved through maintaining the measures that allowed us to properly manage the administrative and financial concerns of the Lodge.

More active involvement of Freemasonry in the important issues that affect the peace and security of our country. For we know our people better and such is dictated by our mandate of promoting harmony as "the strength and support of all societies, especially of ours."

VW EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI, PDDGM, HA

Nominee from Central LUZON
Cabanatuan Lodge No. 53
Masonic District RIII Nueva Ecija – South

MASONRY: CRADLE OF GOODNESS AND TRUTH
MASONERYA: LUNDUYAN NG KABUTIHAN AT KATOTOHANAN

"To be good and true is the first lesson we learn in Masonry. A good and true Mason is one who is distinguished by sincerity and plain dealing in all aspects of his life. A true Master Mason is good and true not only to others but more importantly to his self. Unfortunately, the complexities of our time and the vagaries of the mind have caused us to lose sight of this valuable lesson first inculcated in all of us when we were initiated into the mystical apprenticeship of the Craft."

"Pagsisikapan kong maibalik at higit na mapatingkad sa kamalayan at kaugalian ng mga Gurong Mason ang mga dakilang aral ng Kabutihan at Katotohanan."

Birthday : November 26, 1973
Age : 46 years old
Wife : Emily
Children : Sean Michael, Antonina Isabel, & Antonio Juan

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- The Optical Shop 1994
- Eye Referral Center 1995- 1998
- Ciba Vision - 1999- 2000
- House of Representative / Cong Aurelio M. Umali / Political Asst. Affairs III / 2001-2007
- Congw. Czarina D. Umali / Political Asst. Affairs III / 2007-2010
- BOARD MEMBER, 3RD DISTRICT / Province of NUEVA ECIJA 2010-2013
- VICE MAYOR OF CABANATUAN CITY / Province of Nueva Ecija 2016 – 2019
- Vice Mayors League / PRESIDENT NUEVA ECIJA CHAPTER
- Vice Mayors League REGION3 CHAIRMAN
- Vice Mayors League NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
- Union of League Association of the Philippines (ULAP) 2017 / Present Assistant PRO
- Vice Governor of Nueva Ecija / 2019 – Present
- Director For Central Luzon League of the Vice Governors of the Philippines

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- Elementary
  College of Immaculate Conception
  Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija 80-86
- High School
  Holy Child Academy, Novaliches, Quezon City, MM 86-90
- College
  Manila Central University, Doctor of Optometry, Caloocan City, MM 90-94
- Pass Board Exam July 94
  as License Optometrist

MASONIC HISTORY

- Cabanatuan Lodge No. 53
- Initiated - July 7, 2002
- Passed- October 5, 2002

- Raised - November 23, 2002
- Worshipful Master - 2006
- District Grand Lecturer - 2007 MDR3D
- District Deputy Grand Master - 2009
- Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite - 2003, 32° MRS
- Ancient Arabic Order of Mystic Shrine, 2005, Makisig Class
- Maharlika Shrine Club
- Kabukiran Shrine Club, 2015 President 2018
- Grand Glorious Order Knights of the Creeping Serpent 2006, Kappa Class,
- Secretary / Grand Glorious Order Knights of the Creeping Serpent
- IMES Graduate 2006
- Member / BALANGHAY 2010
- Member / Order of the Amaranth / Nueva Ecija Court No. 31 / 2010
- Past Royal Patron 2012 / Order of the Amaranth / Nueva Ecija Court No. 31
- York Rite 2017 Capitol Club
- Red Knight Class, President
- Order of Secret Monitor, Nueva Ecija Conclave No.23, 2018
- GLP Representative to the Grand Lodge of Montana, USA / 2010 -present
- Life Member of the Supreme Council of DeMolay 2010
- Outstanding Master Mason - 2003
- Outstanding Worshipful Master - 2006
- Outstanding DDGM - 2009
- Hiram Awardee
- Charter Member of Model Lodge No. 373 and Kadangalaan Lodge No. 392

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

- Tau Gamma Phi 1992
- PGBI 2003
- Cursillo2003
- Cavaliers 2003
- Lions Club 2006
- Rotary East Club 2017
- Papagayo 2016
- Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrist 1994
- Batang Nueva Ecija Foundation Incorporated 2000

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Masonerya: Lunduyan ng kabutihan at katotohanan (Masonry: Cradle of Goodness and Truth)

About the Theme

To be good and true is the first lesson we learn in Masonry. A good and true Mason is one who is distinguished by sincerity and plain dealing in all aspects of his life. A true Master Mason is good and true not only to others but more importantly to his self. Unfortunately, the complexities of our time and the vagaries of the mind have caused us to lose sight of this valuable lesson first inculcated in all of us when we were initiated into the mystical apprenticeship of the Craft.

Pagsisikapan kong maibalik at higit na mapatingkad sa kamalayan at kaugalian ng mga Gurong Mason ang mga dakilang aral ng kabutihan at katotohanan.

Areas of Emphasis

Under the overarching mission of diffusing Goodness and Truth among the brethren, intend to focus on the following areas of emphasis:

1. Good and True Affection Towards Others
2. Good and True Management of Lodges' Affairs
3. Good and True Union of Brothers

The major thrusts for each area of emphasis are highlighted below.

1. Good and True Affection Towards Others

As children of one Almighty Parent and inhabitants of one majestic planet, we are called to aid, assist, and protect one another but most especially a distressed worthy brother, his widow, and orphans. More specifically, I shall endeavor to:

- Encourage more intentional community outreach programs among the blue lodges, with such programs consisting of single-focused and multi-year activities conducted within the lodges' expressed jurisdictional limits
- Advocate for the institutionalization of a permanent Almoner's Fund among the lodges to aid and assist all verified concerns of a brother; the fund shall absorb all existing related brethren-assistance fund and shall be replenished regularly
- Initiate the development of a regularly updated Registry of Masonic Windows and Orphans at the GLP level which shall be the basis for the development and conduct of permanent and regular Widows and Orphans Relief and Assistance programs among the lodges and thus become true to our obligation of caring for and assisting our widows and orphans.

2. Good and True Management of Lodges' Affairs

Decentralization

As the fraternity continues its journey into the 21st century, the task of adequately overseeing, managing, and coordinating a diverse group of individuals and lodges scattered in the various corners of an archipelago has become a formidable task. A possible solution is decentralization.

Towards this end, I shall convene a special study group composed of brethren with expertise on decentralized forms of management and governance to examine the necessity, feasibility, and viability of setting up Regional Grand Lodges in this jurisdiction in accordance with one of the the expressed powers of the Grand Master as expressed in Article IX, Section 2, item m, of our Constitution which states that, "The Grand Master shall have the authority to exercise generally all such powers as by ancient general masonic usage are given him by virtue of his office, among which (is): m) To create Regional Grand Lodges and to appoint Regional Grand Master."

Paperless Organization

It is heartening to note that our fraternity is gradually transforming itself into a paperless organization by harnessing the utility of various productivity and communication tools and applications of digital communication and information technology. But there is a need to encourage and improve the competencies of the subordinate lodges to incorporate such modern-day tools in their organizational and even esoterical labors. In so doing, the subordinate lodges will be able to increase their operational efficiencies, cut costs, and improve communication between and among the GLP and other lodges, as well as improve their abilities to store, preserve, maintain, and disseminate their continuing and unfolding histories.

Thusly, I shall endeavor to mobilize our brethren from the IT profession, organize them into teams, and deploy these teams to the various lodges under this jurisdiction. These teams shall extend technical services to the lodges and the districts on how to painlessly embrace and utilize IT technology in their administrative, financial, and operational systems in harmony with the prevailing system used by the GLP.

Rationalizing Fundraising Activities

Among our lodges nowadays, a key scheme to generate much-needed fiscal resources is the fundraising activity. Such activity are quick-gestating one-off affairs that could be in the form of a golf tournament, shootfest, movie premiere, raffle, bingo socials, and the likes. Unfortunately, such fundraising activities have become so prevalent that they have become highly-competitive free-for-all forays at the lodge, district, and even GLP levels but targeting only a single universe of donors, the brother Mason. I am afraid the brethren are now exhibiting tell-tale signs of donor fatigue.

Without unduly regulating the conduct of such fundraising activities, I shall spearhead the conduct of a series of sharing sessions among the districts to elicit good fundraising schemes as well as identify mistakes and obstacles in implementing such schemes. The results of these sessions shall be disseminated

to the lodges that they may improve their approaches and encourage the more focused and even cooperative ways of raising fiscal resources.

But since fundraising schemes are but enabling mechanisms of the proposed program of works of a lodge, it shall be highlighted that a good and true budget is a prerequisite for devising the ways and means of generating resources. In short, a good plan dictates the fundraising devices and not the other way around. Towards this end, the planning and budgeting capabilities of the brethren particularly the officers of a lodge shall be heightened through the provision of online tools and mentoring as well as the conduct of workshops and lectures.

It shall also be pointed out that fundraising schemes are not just mechanisms for obtaining willing donors but they are also powerful platforms for informing the public about the goodness of Freemasonry and our advocacies, and at the same time, for generating social capital in the form of public trust and goodwill.

3. Good & True Union of Brothers

Taking Stock of Ourselves

The Order sped to where it is now in such a fast and furious manner that we never had time to catch our breath. Our roster of brethren and lodges have increased so dramatically much to the envy of other Grand Lodges in other parts of the world. It is now but proper for us to pause and refresh ourselves, and see if any improvements can be made either for beauty or strength. It is an opportune time to look inwardly.

In this regard, a Lodge Self-Assessment Toolkit shall be prepared to identify enabling as well as constricting factors that placed the Lodge where it is now. Through a participatory process of instrospection, the toolkit shall determine if the lodge is still true to the ancient landmarks and is actually assisting the individual Masons by providing the Masonic and spiritual trestle board in the building of that temple "not made with hands, eternal in the heavens".

Continuing Masonic Education

A proficient and well-informed brother makes for a good and true brother. In this regard, the continuing Masonic education of the brethren shall be highlighted and expanded, In cooperation with the SGL, IMES, and the relevant GLP committees, a comprehensive form of continuing education shall be put into play.

Such comprehensive continuing Masonic education shall consist of: the regular IMES offerings, refresher courses for those who have taken the IMES course more than five years ago, specialized courses for Glis and Harmony Officers, online classes, and the likes.

The JGLs and DGLs, past and incumbents, shall be given special trainings to enable them to handle decentralized IMES classes in their regions. In this regard, all Master Masons shall be directed to take the IMES Diploma Course within two years from the time of their raising. In support of the abovementioned activities, the following shall also be put into play:

- Regular conduct of interlodge and interdistrict ritual and quiz competitions to culminate on a national competition
- Establishment of a Digital Library which shall initially consist of: a) an updated and periodically updated Masonic Law Book; b) compendium of Edicts with annotation as necessary; c) standard guides to non-degree rites and ceremonies (funeral rites, installation ceremony, rite of remembrance, and the likes)

My Commitment

This is my guide in my labors towards fulfilling my vision of a fraternity composed of men good and true. It is, however, a work in progress. As I gain more experience and acquire deeper insights and appreciation, I shall revisit and modify it accordingly, ever remembering that there must always be wisdom to contrive, strength to support, and beauty to adorn all great and important undertaking.

THE GLP DURING THE PANDEMIC OF 2020-2021

By VW Ali C. Espina, Grand Historian

LIFE EDITOR

The Grand Lodge during the Coronavirus Pandemic - Part 2

THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OF 2019 (COVID-19) is a Life Editor. For obvious reasons. As of this writing, more than 114 million have been infected in the world and more than 2.5 million have died. COVID-19 is undoubtedly the most serious challenge not only of this jurisdiction (or the craft in general) but this generation has ever faced. It has reshaped and reformatted the things we do in the past. Not only with our Masonic lives, but with life in general.

It has changed the way we live. Lockdowns and quarantines changed how people work – it meant people were allowed to work remotely, which led to fewer office spaces, which for some businesses, it meant shutdowns. In an article a few weeks ago, the months of December to February would have been the flu season in the United States. But lockdowns made it almost non-existent due to limited movement.

It has limited how we travel. People around the world have had fewer car or land travel and air travel in the past year. Even the best countries in dealing with the virus made drastic adjustments in the way they lived. Countries like New Zealand, South Korea, and Taiwan lifted their lockdowns but, at one point after, had to "close" again due to a resurgence of cases from foreigners coming into their respective countries.

Last 8 December, a grandmother in the UK became the first person to receive the vaccine made by Pfizer. This is just one year since the first patient was identified. The fastest vaccine to be developed in recent years. In January 2021, some countries begin to vaccinate their respective citizens.

Although major strides have happened in the last few months since March 2020, the Philippines (major parts of it) is still in quarantine. It is actually the country with the longest continuous quarantine period. As of this writing, General Community Quarantine is once again extended until the end of March in Metro Manila and other major cities in the country. The bit of good news is that it has already started the vaccinations of frontliners albeit in limited numbers only because of supply availability.

16 March 2021 will be the 500th year of the arrival of the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan in the Philippines. The Embassy of Spain announced that they will be sending the Spanish Navy training ship Juan Sebastian Elcano to commemorate the day. But it will go straight to Cebu and skip Manila due to the lockdown.

Here in our jurisdiction, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of The Philippines, the virus has changed how we conduct our business, meetings, interact with our brethren, even the focus of our charity. This report was never meant as a two-part series. Two consecutive terms for both the Grand Lodge and Lodge officers were unheard of. But the lockdown and the virus changed all of these. Edited these.

What is it to edit? To edit is to change. To check. To revise. Oftentimes to rewrite. With the intent to improve. And so, any action to change for the better may be considered a journey to perfection.

For why else did we join the craft? To change for the better! We are all (hopefully) good men trying to be better as we always say. We want to revise our characters - become more just, more prudent, more good-tempered, more "on the level" and "upon the square." Freemasons always check their behavior. What else could be the reason why we call our little book "Monitor" but to guard us against ill manners.

TO EDIT IS TO CHANGE & REVISE.

When one thinks about the word "edit" it is commonly associated with "writing." The first things that come to mind when one wants to edit are "to change" and "to revise". But changing and revising in writing somehow does not necessarily mean the message or intent is replaced. Revising may sometimes mean finding another way to deliver or communicate. Change may sometimes be subtle and at certain times - like during the time of the COVID-19, drastic.

An Extended Term and A New Way.

The first thing COVID-19 did with the Craft is changing how we conducted our businesses and meetings. And this we adapted by looking towards the advances of technology.

Last 21 May 2020, after long meetings, consultations, and at the request of the Grand Line in-waiting, Grand Master Agapito S. Suan, Jr. issued Edict No. 332, Resetting the Holding of the 104th ANCOM to April 2021. This effectively extended the offices of all elected and appointed Grand Line officers.

Depending on how strict one is in counting, MW Suan is the second or third brother to govern the jurisdiction for two consecutive years (After MW Eugene Stafford; elected in 1912 and assumed the position until 1914; and MW Michael Goldenberg who in his capacity as acting Grand Master, re-established the Grand Lodge in 1945 after WWII and was regularly elected the following year).
While it was still considered unsafe to hold meetings, the brethren adopted the online meeting platforms of Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook Rooms, and the like. Online consultations, caucuses, and unofficial meetings were practiced to maintain communications with the brethren.

When the government lowered the quarantine classification of some areas, the Grand Master issued last 30 September 2020, Edict 333 – Resumption of all Masonic Activities under certain conditions and imposing Health & Safety Guidelines in every Stated Meeting. In gist, all labors and business of lodges and the Grand Lodge are to resume while observing government-mandated safety and health protocols. It was to start on 01 October 2020.

Realizing the abbreviated terms of the incoming lodge officers, Edict 334 was issued last 26 October 2020 – Cancellation of the Annual Election of Lodge Officers Scheduled in December 2020 and extending the term of Office of All Incumbent Lodge Officers until Masonic Year 2021-2022. Like the Grand Lodge Officers, this essentially extended the terms of all lodge officers to another year.

Third Wednesdays In The West.

For learning not to remain stagnant VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, the Senior Grand Lecturer, announced last 11 July 2020 a series of online seminars (i.e., webinars) starting on 15 July 2020. As the sessions fell on Wednesdays, and on the third week of the month, VW Kalaw eventually named it "Third Wednesdays In The West." Hundreds virtually flocked the webinars and it became the primary source of Masonic Education. Open even to non-Masons, the topics delved into history, organization, and laws of the craft:

- 15 July 2020 – The 2019 Masonic Law Book: An Orientation
- 19 August 2020 – Sponsoring and Recommending Candidates to The Craft
- 16 September 2020 – The Masonic Lecturer: His Role and Functions From Antiquity To Today

- 21 October 2020 – Masonic Philosophy - The Masonic Initiatic Experience: Concept and Rationale
- 18 November 2020 – The Roots and Genealogy of Phil Masonic Ritual
- 16 December 2020 – Masonic Landmarks: Understanding The Fundamental Elements of Masonic Traditional Law
- 20 January 2021 – Lodge Management - Masonic Harmony and Mediation
- 17 February 2021 – Masonic History – When Fake News Masks Masonic History: Addressing the Sources of False Allegations about the Craft

The Grand Scribe And Grand Cyber Warden.

The creation of the new positions among the Grand Line Officers was forthcoming.

The Editor-In-Chief of the Cable Tow is one of the less than acknowledged but deserving officers of the Grand Lodge. During this pandemic, he is the one who produces the most concrete output on a regular basis among the Grand Lodge Officers. The work of the EIC and the Cable Tow is the extended version of the Grand Historian's report. The work of the Cable Tow identifies almost every detail of what has happened and what would be unfolding. So much so that a few months in the position of Grand Historian, this brother felt that the EIC should already be the concurrent Grand Historian.

The Cable Tow's content has never before more important than this time of the pandemic. Limited meetings and the limited number of allowed members give a fraction of the work of the Grand Lodge. And so, the responsibility of communicating news and announcements to the brethren increased, if not doubled.

On the other end, what was once just a seeming footnote among the standing committees, the Information and Communications Technology Committee has now become at the forefront of how the brethren communicate within and without the Grand Lodge. Like many others in the corporate setting, COVID-19 forced the brethren in doing some of the lodge duties digitally. The Grand Lodge has been wise to pick the very best people to occupy the position of Chairman.

Issued last 30 October 2020 was Edict No. 335 – Instituting the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) standards in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and Creation of the GLP-ICT Committee as a permanent Standing Committee. It standardized the web domain, practices and even assigned official email addresses to all positions in the grand lodge requiring such. In so doing, it made the transactions, submissions, and other administrative duties of lodges vis-à-vis the Grand Lodge easier. The distribution of electronic addresses was also done to subordinate lodges; essentially making the distribution of regular communications in the form of circulars, edicts, and announcements valid through digital means.

Edict 335 reinforced MW Suan's resolve to bring the Grand Lodge of The Philippines into the digital space. It brings together the digital projects of 2020 – a faster, more responsive, and complete website, the incorporation of the Grand Lodge into GCash (alternative money sending-receiving app), and Amber, the short messaging platform used for text announcements.

On 19 December 2020, during the Past Grand Masters' celebration, Grand Master Suan gifted the brethren with the all-new The Cable Tow (electronic) reader, or "TCT Reader." All issues of The Cable Tow can now be read via mobile phones and tablet devices. What was once almost impossible to access was now readily available anytime and anywhere the brethren wish to do so.

With these, it was no wonder that Edict 338 was issued last 11 Jan 2021 – Institutionalizing the Offices of Grand Scribe and Grand Cyber Warden. This recognizes the importance of the duties and responsibilities of these formerly unheralded officers.

It is with great pride to personally know and have worked with both the "newly" installed or minted VW Joseph Harold Santiago (Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48), Grand Scribe,

and VW Jose Pangilinan (Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No. 333), Grand Cyber Warden.

TO EDIT IS TO CHECK.

The virus is an extraordinary situation that made people adjust. Everything adjusted to make things work. Work as we know it before now adjusted to shifting schedule to accommodate the transportation or commute issues of employees. When the extraordinary like our community quarantine becomes ordinary, we tend to forget the things that we do normally or regularly.

LTO On Wheels.

Several of the things that the pandemic initially did to people is prevent daily, weekly, monthly, and even annual tasks. In this case, the annual task of renewing the registration for one's vehicles. With this in mind, the Grand Lodge partnered with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and offered vehicle-renewal registrations, license renewals, and RFID installations to our medical frontliners and brethren. Two lodges sponsored the logistics and food arrangements for the LTO personnel. Labong Lodge No. 59 sponsored last 27 & 28 July 2020, and 18 December 2020. While Katarungan Lodge UD sponsored the 22 February 2021 schedule.

Masonic Blood Drive.

There are two major prime movers of the Masonic Blood Drive. SCWC – Dugong Mason, and Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay, Inc.

Square & Compass We Connect (SCWC) is an accredited allied organization of the jurisdiction. It was founded in 2011 by several charitable brethren wanting to give immediate assistance to in-distress brothers. Founded by VW Alex Daniel of Biak-Na-Bato Lodge No. 7, it first started as a short messaging (text) group where brethren can inquire or ask assistance on any circumstance and they will be directed to other brethren in the vicinity or who can give the said help. Since then, it has spread its assistance/advocacies to or via communications (Konek), business help-portal (Kuyang's Marketplace), and blood drive (Dugong Mason).

Specifically, SCWC – Dugong Mason is the brainchild of WB Feliciano "Jojo" Narciso (Island-Luz-Minerva Lodge No. 5 & Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No 430) back in 2012. Back then, Dugong Mason was in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross. Currently, it is in partnership with several hospitals and medical institutions.

Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay, Inc (DADBI), on the other hand, is a non-profit (non-Masonic) organization advocating for the unconditional donation of blood. It doesn't matter who one is – Mason or non-Mason can benefit. It can be accessed anytime and anywhere. This is made possible by conducting year-round blood-letting drives through the help of untiring volunteers.

"Kapatid, Kaibigan, Kapitbahay" – the three sets of people you know who can give blood when you cannot. Words from VW Akok Tan when he attended Labong Lodge No. 59's stated meeting promoting DADB. He and WB Jimmy Ngan, both Past Masters of Biak-Na-Bato Lodge No. 7, have been the champions of DADB since they witnessed how the effort helped people in need of blood in 2016. They have made rounds to several lodges and organizations promoting DADB and have supervised hundreds of blood-letting drives in and outside the Grand Lodge premises. They have been the go-to brethren when a brother or a friend or family of a brother needs blood.

These two organizations have been there even before the pandemic. Their stories are worth noting because, even at the height of and in the middle of lockdowns and quarantines, they have been busy fulfilling their vocations of free blood for all.

TO EDIT IS TO IMPROVE.

Ultimately the reason why one edits is to improve. To make something right. To make something better than it was before.

The New Plaridel Masonic Temple and the Grand Lodge Building Engineer

Of sojourning brethren who have been to the temples of the likes of the United Grand

Lodge of England, New York, Philadelphia, California, or just even in neighboring jurisdictions like Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore, you'll know that, sadly, the Plaridel Temple does not match any of those mentioned.

This did not go unnoticed. Despite the difficult situation of building brought by the ever-extended community quarantine, the Grand Master was undeterred in making the Plaridel Temple worthy to be the jurisdiction's seat of leadership.

The improvement of the temple started on the temple grounds. Ornamental plants were cultivated, and the over-all landscape was improved. Thanks to the initial efforts of VW Ariel Cayanan (Walana Lodge No. 13) and his wife who regularly visited to check the condition of the plants.

Through the efforts of the Committee of Ways & Means chaired by VW Jaime A. Pacanan (Intramuros Masonic Lodge No. 363) and Vice Chaired by VW Jeffrey N. Co (Dr. Sun Yat Sen Masonic Lodge No. 398) and the generous donations of districts, lodges and individual brethren, a new elevator was installed. New tiles were also laid out and glass partitions were installed on the fourth floor among other improvements. This happened before the quarantine happened. The new elevator was inaugurated, blessed, and made operational last 12 December 2019.

Similarly, through the efforts of the Special Ways & Means Committee, created by virtue of Circular No. 46, and again chaired by VW Pacanan, the dilapidated Stafford, Palma & Bonifacio halls were renovated, complete with their built-in speakers, improved acoustics, new air-conditioning system, seats, flooring and even their own sets of aprons and jewels and lodge paraphernalia. This was again made possible through the handsome donations of charitable brethren; led by no other than the Grand Master himself who was the first to donate with a one million pesos gesture. The said committee was also originally vice-chaired by VW Cayanan but was relinquished to VW Eulalio Lorenzo when the former accepted his nomination for Junior Grand Warden.

It is for these reasons that MW Suan eventually issued Edict No. 336 last 11 January 2021 - Creating the Office of the Grand Lodge Building Engineer and Defining his Duties & Responsibilities; to preserve and maintain the Temple and grounds to its restored state. It is no surprise that the newly created position of Grand Lodge Building Engineer was appointed to VW Pacanan; him being the chairperson of the committees mentioned and one of the brothers responsible for the vast improvement of the temple.

As of this writing, improvements are almost, if not totally, finished to the East wall of the Jose Abad Santos Hall on the third floor.

For most of us, while 2020 certainly is probably the most memorable, this has not been the most productive. But for our Grand Master and a select number of brethren, this has been the most productive and the opportune time to improve the appearance of the Plaridel Temple befitting the seat of the jurisdiction.

TO EDIT IS A JOURNEY TO PERFECTION.

The journey from rough to perfect ashlar is a rough and rugged road. It is also endless. The idea that human perfection or purification has an end is an illusion. Becoming better men is beset by challenges and inequities and does not stop. There is no end, only new beginnings.

Chartered and Instituted Lodges. New Beginnings.

It becomes expected to think that during these times, no new lodges will be formed. But once again, several brethren have proven that no virus can stop them. How can you stop when our Grand Master does not? MW Suan attended all of these auspicious events, but not without regard to the virus.

These lodges were chartered and instituted during the 2-Year term of MW Suan:

- Davao de Oro Masonic Lodge No. 443
  15 May 2019
- Cabuyao City Masonic Lodge No. 441
  20 May 2019
- Bantayang Bato Masonic Lodge No. 447
  29 May 2019
- Deodoro C. Go Masonic Lodge No. 445
  31 May 2019
- Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448
  03 June 2019
- Calasiao Masonic Lodge No. 449
  05 June 2019
- Moncada Masonic Lodge No. 446
  06 June 2019
- Primera Republica Masonic Lodge No. 444
  13 June 2019

Approved Lodges Under Dispensation (UD)

- MW Jolly R. Bugarin Masonic Lodge UD (Manila, NCR-A)
- South Palawan Masonic Lodge UD (Palawan, NCR-A)
- Master Builder Masonic Lodge UD (Manila, NCR-C)
- Commonwealth Masonic Lodge UD (Quezon City, NCR-F)
- Katarungan Masonic Lodge UD (Makati, NCR-G)
- Mamayang Pilipino Masonic Lodge UD (Makati, NCR-G)
- Santiago City Masonic Lodge UD (Santiago City, RII-Isabela)
- MW Leon A. Bañez Lodge UD (Cagayan, RII-Cagayan)
- Angat Masonic Lodge UD (Angat, RIII-Bulacan East)
- Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Lodge UD (Lubao, RIII-Pampanga)
- Green City Masonic Lodge UD (Tarlac, RIII-Tarlac)
- Enrique Cojuangco Masonic Lodge UD (RIII-Tarlac)
- Allium Cepa Masonic Lodge UD (Bongabon, RIII-Nueva Ecija South)
- Jaen Triangle Masonic Lodge UD (Jaen, RIII-Nueva Ecija South)
- Ang Bagong Bayan Masonic Lodge UD (Llanera, RIII-Nueva Ecija North)
- Carmona Sorteo Masonic Lodge UD (Carmona, RIV-Cavite East)
- Cavite Progresus Masonic Lodge UD (Dasmariñas, RIV-Cavite Central)
- Morong Masonic Lodge UD (Morong, RIV-Rizal)
- WB Gil E. Fernando Lodge UD (Marikina RIV-Rizal)
- Filipinas Bondoc Peninsula Lodge UD (RIV-Quezon & Marinduque)
- Masaraga Masonic Lodge UD (Ligao City, RV-B, Albay)
- Omar Manabilang Masonic Lodge UD (RX & ARMM)
- Tani U. Telow Masonic Lodge UD (RX-Bukidnon South)
- Agusan Marsh Masonic Lodge UD (RXIII-Agusan & Surigao)

Typhoons and Earthquakes

COVID-19 is just the poster boy of calamities of 2020. It did not come unaccompanied. Earlier in the year, Taal Volcano erupted, Mindanao experienced several earthquakes and the whole country was ravaged by typhoons.

In the previous report, MW Suan joked about him being the "Grand Master of Disasters." Nature however was serious as it was unrelenting in giving the Grand Master and the jurisdiction challenges. Last 01 November 2020, the extremely devastating super typhoon Rolly (International Name: Goni) landed in the Bicol region and severely affected regions 2, 4, and 5. It was followed by Typhoon Ulysses (International Name: Vamco) on 08 November 2020. The Grand Lodge sent help to Isabela and Cagayan, two of the most devastated areas as soon as it was able to mobilize. Extreme flooding was also experienced in nearby Marikina, which was unexpected because there was a popular belief that no flood of that scale would happen in the near future after Typhoon Ondoy in 2009.

In February 2021, residents nearby Taal Volcano were asked to evacuate from an impending eruption of the said volcano. Not to be undone, last 4 March 2021 the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology issued an Alert Level 1 warning for Mount Pinatubo as it has monitored more than a thousand "imperceptible" earthquakes since 20 January 2021.

WB Greg Macasaet and New Masonic Heroes.

Worshipful Brother Romeo Gregorio "Greg" Macasaet is the recent and one of the very best examples of a good man who sacrificed to be better. His heroism as a medical doctor and death due to the virus was the content of newspapers and the talk of the brethren at the beginning of the lockdown. His mother lodge, Keystone No. 100, paid their final respect last 07 November 2020 during their Lodge of Sorrow.

WB Greg Macasaet and Brother Dr. David Jonathan Pagaduan, another fallen brother from Dr. Filemon Aguilar Lodge No. 332 were posthumously awarded the Jose Abad Santos Medal, the highest award given by the Grand Lodge to deserving brethren. Together with the two, 95 other living brethren from the medical field were honored during the 108th anniversary of the Grand Lodge last 19 December 2020.

06 January 2021, VW Danilo D. Lim, Grand Pursuivant and MMDA Chairman, dropped his working tools less than three weeks after attending the Grand Lodge anniversary. He was diagnosed to have contracted the virus last 29 December 2020. Before this, on 26 May 2020, beloved and respected Past Grand Master MW Eugenio Labitoria dropped his working tools after being transported from Manila to his hometown in Nueva Vizcaya.

THIS IS THE ENDING. THIS IS NOT THE END.

Let this brother end his report by quoting MW Reynato Puno, PGM's speech during the 108th anniversary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines last 19 December 2020.

"…I would like to think, MW Suan, that it is not a mere quirk of fate that you are our Grand Master when this COVID-19 descended on us like an unseen terror. The Grand Architect of the Universe must have preordained that you and no other brother Mason should wield all the powers in the Grand East; to enable Masonry in this part of the universe to survive this COVID-19 crisis that has brought the whole of mankind down to its knees.

As the fountainhead of all wisdom, as the source of all knowledge, The Grand Architect of the Universe is always right for you, MW Suan as his choice to successfully lead and continue to lead the fraternity from the grip of this COVID-19 that up to this date threatens to severe the mystic tie that binds all of us. The Masons of today and the Masonry of tomorrow will always memorialize, less in marbles but more in their hearts, the extraordinary sacrifice that you made of your time, your talent, and your treasure to keep the Masonic flame burning. Your sacrifices, MW Sir, will be part of our rich Masonic lore, etched in big print in our Masonic legend. And I am confident it will never be relegated as footnotes in our history; even if our history is revisited, revised, and rewritten."

The journey of Freemasonry is never-ending. Perfection is more of a vision rather than a destination. And so, the journey of our soon-to-be Past Grand Master MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., together with his Grand Line officers continues – in our Mother Lodges, other lodges, districts, again in the Grand Lodge in their new appointments, appendant bodies, allied organizations, and other memberships.

Good luck to our incoming Grand Master, Right Worshipful Rolen Paulino. Good luck to his able Grand Line Officers. May you all be exemplars of servant leaders as were all the brethren before you. May you ever remember that Charity and Humility are the true foundations of a true Mason.

May we all ever be mindful that the Father's care is always over us and that Thine all-seeing eye is ever upon us.

Stay safe always, brethren.

SOME NEGLECTED PERSPECTIVES: Masonic Decorum Outside the Lodge

By VW Oliver V. Yabut
Assistant Grand Secretary

We voluntarily applied to join Freemasonry and eventually admitted as members after a difficult and intricate process because we desired to be one. And we are fiercely proud of our membership. Foreign brethren often marvel at how a Filipino Mason proclaims his identity to the world at large. Invariably, a Pinoy Mason will wear a Masonic ring, he will put on Masonic caps and shirts marked with prominent square and compass, and he will have Masonic emblems in his car, in his cell phone, computers, belt buckles, socks and other personal belongings. He will even have Masonic decals displayed in the gate or door of his house. This is our peculiar style and this, in our jurisdiction, is all right.

But in doing so, let us not forget the attendant responsibility that comes with it. People are prone to form a negative opinion of the craft on the basis of what they see in us. All the more reason for us to be conscious in our carriage and demeanor, in our behavior and speech, in the ways we do our private business, for any bad perception that we create individually or as a group reflects badly on the craft. For that matter, fellow Masons are likewise put off by the unsavory behavior of some brethren who think that being Masons entitle them to take certain liberties with their fellows.

The following are presented as gentle reminders of right decorum as well as practices to avoid outside the lodge:

Being a member of the craft does not entitle you to name drop brothers for your personal convenience

A most common occurrence is to use Masonic connections to get out

of a simple traffic violation. As Masons, we are duty bound to respect and obey the laws of the land, including common traffic rules. When accosted, you may argue your way politely but please leave Freemasonry and your brothers out of it. And please, do not produce the calling card of your influential brother, or call even him to extricate you out of a possible infraction. Being a Mason is not a badge which can exempt you from any violation of laws.

Seeking undue favors from a brother.

It is true that each one of us is bound by a Mystic Tie of Brotherhood. However, this is not a license to curry undeserved favor from another. Hence, a law practitioner should not seek out a brother judge and expect him to rule in his favor just because he is a brother. Or a Mason should not seek a brother doctor and expect not to be billed for services rendered. Similarly, those brothers engaged in government contracts should not expect the brother head of office to steer the contract in his favor. Or a brother businessman wanting to be spared payment of the right taxes by a brother revenue officer. Remember, the tie of Freemasonry is not about business, monetary or other mercenary considerations. The relief of Masonry is confined to a worthy brother in distress but limited by the extent of the cable tow of the giver.

Bad mouthing a brother.

It is quite damaging to our reputation for a non-Mason to hear a brother speaking ill of a fellow brother. It not only causes unfairness to the brother but also damages our fraternity. At all costs, do not air grievances over the internet which is a public domain. You are not expected to defend a brother who happens to have a bad reputation but neither should you air judgment particularly if you do not have personal knowledge about the brother or his situation. The best rule is - if you do not have a good thing to say about a brother, then do not say anything at all. But if you can back up your grievance, then by all means bring the erring brother to account before our Masonic justice system and let the ax fall.

Praising the craft to high heavens.

It is all right for us to express our high opinion of the craft, especially among ourselves or in the presence of friends or families. But please, do not overdo it or be overbearing about it in the presence of strangers. Angry and overzealous arguments in favor of Freemasonry should be avoided. Remember, strangers could not be expected to have the same high opinion of the craft as you do. Do not put them off by being so boastful about your membership. Chances are those who hear you may themselves belong to another fraternity or denomination for which they are equally proud of. You do not want to be engaged in a point by point comparison about our fraternity and theirs. Freemasonry is a quiet and dignified institution which requires no defense or publicity for its continued existence.

Noisy fellowships outside the Lodge.

Please note that it is all right to be loud, to banter, and to display the usual cheerful trademarks of Masons having fellowship within the confines of the lodge fellowship room. But a group of Masons doing the same stuff in a public place creates undue attention and may be viewed as being too overbearing by others. “Eto na naman ang mga mason; Ang iingay ng mga mason, mayayabang pa”; - are untoward impressions that should be avoided.

Avoid solicitation for membership but take advantage of any expression of desire to join from a good prospect

Solicitation is strictly prohibited. It means no Mason should actively entice another to join the craft. However, where a potentially good candidate expresses a firm interest in Masonry and asks something about it, do not just clam up and foolishly say that everything is secret. There is very little that is secret about our fraternity and those are adequately covered by our obligation. Instead, offer every helpful general information about the craft which can help him form his own opinion and decision.

Shun vicious vices or habits.

Have you ever seen a car full of Masonic decals or emblems parked in a place of ill-repute or in gambling places? We may have seen some here and there and it leaves a bad taste in the mouth for us Masons and more so in the passing public. We are taught to chip off our bad habits and vices, and avoid excesses. We do not get drunk in public or create alarm and scandals due to intoxication. And no mason ever indulges in drugs! So be particularly conscious of any uncompromising situations. But if your job, business or if the call of friendship brings you to some unsavory places, then please be very discreet about it.

A mason always pays his debts.

A Mason engages in business or commercial transactions like normal people do. But a Mason is true to his word and avoids dishonesty in any shape. If he contracts a debt, he is expected to pay it. If for some reason, he is unable to fulfill it, then he should bravely face his creditors and not run away from them. In everyday life, debts cannot be avoided. But a Mason should be careful that his debts do not stray into the realm of fraud because it has a telling effect on his good membership in the craft. Contracting a loan with a fellow Mason usually lead to friction in case of payment failures, sometimes leading to charges of Unmasonic conduct. The better practice is to avoid incurring a debt of money with brother Masons, save for pressing emergency situations.

A Mason is always a gentleman.

The craft charges a Mason to be protectors of virtue and chastity of women. Thus the high importance placed by our obligation to support and protect the chastity of a brother's wife, daughter, mother, sister or widow. But sometimes, this is taken to mean that all other women not of the class mentioned are outside his obligation. Masons are gentlemen to the core and should always indiscriminately treat the opposite sex with the same respect, care and protection we accord to our wife, daughter and other women relatives.

A Mason does not neglect his domestic duties.

Another way by which a Mason should be kno indiscriminately wn is for being always a good father of the family. Therefore, he is diligent in his means of livelihood so as to remain a good provider for his wife and children and not rely on his fellow Masons for support. He must remember that it is not the prime obligation of his brother Masons to assume this same responsibility while he is productive and healthy. Family is too important to a Mason and he should do all things possible to maintain the interest, safety and integrity of his family.

No boasting of connections or influence.

Nothing is more demeaning to the craft and its reputation than for a Mason to boast of his Masonic connections or fraternal relationship with brothers who hold positions of power and influence, in his conversation or interaction with people. Among others, Masonry stands for justice and equality and cannot tolerate blind patronage to any member. All other things being equal, you may receive preference but only if the brother deems you to be worthy.

No Masonic emblems in business.

Masons should refrain from using Masonic emblems as business signs or calling cards as well as the use of the word 'Masons', or 'Masonic', or the use of the name of a Lodge, including the addition of Masonic titles or positions (WB, VW, RW, MW), in connection with any private business. In Masonry, no one works for money. A Mason's wages are paid in gratitude or appreciation and that is payment enough.

A Mason is a Mason no matter where he is, be it inside the lodge, in the home, office or in the outside world. Be aware of your stature. Let people admire and see you for being an exemplar of a good and true man and you will do Freemasonry a great service a lot more than you will ever know.

LIFE AND MASONIC JOURNEY OF MW JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PGM

Memorialized in the P1000 peso bank notes are Jose Abad Santos, Gen. Vicente Lim and Josefa Llanes-Escoda (founder of Girl Scouts of the Philippines), who all died resisting and defying Japanese colonial military encroachment of the Philippines during the Second World War. Two were brother masons: Jose Abad Santos and Vicente Lim. Bro Jose Abad Santos was the fifth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

Before his departure for the United States, Bro./President Manuel L. Quezon left a letter dated March 17, 1942 to Bro. Abad Santos with the following instructions: "In addition to your duties as Chief Justice and acting Secretary of Finance, Agriculture and Commerce, I hereby designate you as my delegate with power to act on all matters of government which involve no change in the fundamental policies of my administration of which you are familiar. Where circumstances are such as to preclude previous consultation with me, you may act on urgent questions of local administration without my previous approval. In such cases, you are to use your own best judgment and sound discretion.

"With reference to the government-owned corporations, you are also authorized to take such steps as will protect the interest of the government either by continuing, curtailing or terminating their operations as circumstances warrant."

MASONIC LIFE

Bro. Jose Abad Santos filed his petition for membership in Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 on Feb. 23, 1919 and was elected on April 19, 1919. As he was in the United States with the first Independence Mission, Bro. Abad Santos was initiated as Entered Apprentice in March by courtesy of a Masonic Lodge in Washington, D.C. Upon returning to the Philippines, he was passed to the Fellowcraft on Aug. 27, 1919 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on Sept. 6, 1919.

In 1934, Bro. Abad Santos was Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands, Junior Grand Warden in 1935, Senior Grand Warden in 1936, Deputy Grand Master in 1937, and Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1938.

In 1938, the Grand Lodge declared Plaridel Temple its official home. MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, writes that during the Annual Communication in 1938, "the Grand Lodge approved plans for the renovation of the Plaridel Temple to make it more suitable for Masonic needs. The alterations were completed during the term of Grand Master Jose Abad Santos. A two-storey addition was made along the entire width of the building facing San Marcelino St., and a second floor was constructed over the Social Hall in the north wing. On October 15, 1938, the first meeting in the renovated building was held. Lakandula Lodge of Perfection conferred the 14th degree in full ceremonial form upon a class which included Grand Master Abad Santos himself."

The Philippine Bodies of the Scottish Rite elected Bro. Jose Abad Santos to receive the degrees from 4th to 32nd. He was made Master of the Royal Secret on October 22 of the same year. Then at their session in 1941, the Supreme Council 33rd, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, invested him as Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.

In honor of MW Abad Santos, the biggest hall at the new Plaridel Masonic Temple was named after him. In 1946, the Philippine Bodies sponsored the organization of Jose Abad Santos Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

In my article "Jose Abad Santos, Martyr and Hero," in the book entitled Kinship to Greatness (1983), published by MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, I concluded my essay thus: "In war and in peace, he (Bro. Abad Santos) was a natural leader. In peace, he used his high office for serving his people. In war, together with other patriots, he .struggled to preserve his government against seemingly unsurmountable odds. Though physically frail, he chose to remain with his captive people rather than escape to safety in

the United States. In captivity, he was faithful to his oath of allegiance; executed, he remain truly noble." Had it not been for his premature but heroic death in 1942, he would have served Masonry longer.

EARLY LIFE

Bro. Jose Abad Santos was born on February 19, 1886 in San Fernando, Pampanga to Vicente Abad Santos and Toribia Basco. He took his segunda ense□anza at the private school of Roman Velez. In 1904, the Philippine government sent him to the United States where he was a student in Santa Clara College, San Jose, California. He studied law in the University of Illinois and later transferred to the law school of Northwestern University, where he received his Bachelor of Laws on June 4, 1908. Bro. Abad Santos then pursued his graduate studies at George Washington University and received his Master of Laws on June 19, 1909.

As a government pensionado, Bro. Abad Santos was obligated to serve the government for a certain length of time, and so upon his return to the Philippines, he entered the government service on December 1, 1909 as a temporary clerk in the Archives Division of the Executive Bureau. After passing the bar examinations in September 1911, he became a clerk of the Bureau of Justice. On April 22, 1922, he was appointed Secretary of Justice. On December 24, 1941, Bro./President Manuel Quezon appointed Bro. Abad Santos as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In all these positions, Bro./Justice Abad Santos served with honesty and faithfulness, never taking advantage of the trust bestowed on him.

FAMILY LIFE

Bro./Justice Jose Abad Santos married the former Amanda Topacio in 1918, his loving inspiring wife. The couple had five children: two boys (Jose and Osmundo) and three girls (Luz, Amanda and Victoria). A devout and ardent Methodist, Bro. Abad Santos worshiped at Central United Methodist Church along T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila (then known as Central Methodist Episcopal Church). Bro. Abad Santos was a quiet-spoken individual. He was deeply religious in the best sense of that term, and had no heart for bigotry or intolerance.

WORLD WAR II

On December 8, 1941, the Pacific War broke out. Bro./President Manuel L. Quezon was advised by Bro./Gen Douglas MacArthur to establish a government in exile. On December 24, 1941, Bro./President Quezon moved out to Corregidor bringing with him his war cabinet. On December 30, 1941, Bro./Chief Justice Abad Santos administered the oath of office to Bro./President Quezon and Vice President Osmena. On March 17, 1942, Bro. Abad Santos bade goodbye to Bro./President Quezon at Zamboangita Point (Oriental Negros). In the words of Bro./President Quezon,

Bro. Abad Santos was "one of the noblest, purest, and ablest men in the government service."

On April 11, 1942, Bro. Abad Santos, his son, Jose Jr (nicknamed Pepito), Col. Benito Valeriano and two other enlisted men were captured by the Japanese in barangay Tubod, in Barili, Cebu. On April 26, 1942, Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi took Bro. Abad Santos aboard a ship and arrived on April 28 at Parang, Cotabato (now Maguindanao). The next day, father and son were brought to Malabang, Lanao. On May 2, 1942, Bro. Abad Santos was brought to Gen. Kawaguchi who informed the jurist of his execution orders by the Japanese Command. Bro. Abad Santos requested the General for a few minutes to see his son, which was granted in the fine tradition of Buchido (samurai's code). Bro. Abad Santos told Pepito: "I am going to be executed." The son burst into tears. Bro. Abad Santos comforted him thus: "Do not cry, Pepito. Show these people that you are brave. It is a rare opportunity for me to die for our country. Not everyone is given that chance."

Bro. Abad Santos and son, Pepito, knelt down and prayed together and after praying the jurist told his son: "Tell your mother, brothers and sisters not to grieve over my passing. Tell them that we shall be together again in the next life. From your strength, let them draw theirs. Teach them to be brave."

Bro. Jose Abad Santos was, decidedly, a patriot, a jurist, an educator, a statesman, and a Mason.

In patriotic tribute, the Brethren of Mabalacat, Pampanga named their blue lodge, Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No. 333.

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By WB Don Dayandayan (334)

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS since the *Philippine Lodge of Research* (PLR) was created. Yet, where is it now? Some are saying that the lodge only met a few times for planning and organizing purposes, and barely carried out any of the works of a true Lodge of Research. Then, years later, a more successful organization – the *Institute of Masonic Education and Studies* (IMES) – came into existence, and the PLR was forgotten, like many other Masonic groups that merely come and go.

The last few years have seen a renewed interest in the PLR, partly because of the discovery of its existence by new generation Masons through the technology of social media. Such interest also came from social media's influx of Masonic education materials coming from the *authentic* or *realistic schools*. For the longest time, local Masonry had relied heavily on materials leaning more on the moral, philosophical, and esoteric aspects, such as those by Manly Hall, Albert Pike, Joseph Fort Newton, etc. What little materials that once existed locally on the research and scholarly aspects seemed to focus only on Philippine Masonic history, such as the works of the late MW Reynold Fajardo. Other reliable Masonic education materials pertaining to Craft history itself, ritual evolution, symbolic interpretation, and even developments on new Masonic discoveries and happenings around the world, were relatively scarce, hence the consequent lack of interest on such topics among Masons who seemed already content with whatever knowledge was fed to them by their mentors and by other established teaching institutions. To question them, or to inquire further than what was taught, may be viewed by some to be rebellious or non-conforming, especially if such questions posed the possibility that what they have been told could be incorrect.

Objectively, the purpose of Masonic research is to find truth – factual and verifiable truth. Opinions and personal discourses on Masonic philosophy may have little place in a scholarly endeavor, for there are other venues for such discourses – the Blue Lodge being one of them, along with the other appendant bodies geared towards *further light in Masonry* and in *"making good men better."* Masonic research is something else. It is highly academic, both in nature and in objective. It involves thorough investigation and a discipline for strict methodology and accurate documentation. Such is probably the reason why the PLR failed to sustain itself throughout the years – that majority of Masons may not be cut out for heavy scholarship. Research

is far too tedious, time consuming, and, for some Masons, even pointless, as such delving into the *who, where, when, and what* may have no bearing in *"making good men better."* For many, research is not what Masonry is all about.

Let it be clear though that Masonic research is just as important as any other aspect in Masonry. It is through Masonic research that we are able to discover our past, our origins, and evolution. It is through Masonic research that we are also able to confirm and validate everything we believed or thought we knew. It is through Masonic research that we are able to identify what we may possibly have been doing or saying wrong in our rituals, thereby avoiding misinterpreting their meanings and their reasons for being. It is through Masonic research that we are able to gather pertinent data that may later prove important in making certain decision for the fraternity. For instance, just recently we have seen that it was because of Masonic research that VW Teodoro Kalaw IV was able gather vital information for his speech called *"United,"* which clarified certain issues regarding our past, and which MW Reynato Puno, PGM reportedly remarked as being the best Grand Oration he has heard in years. It was the Masonic research papers of Bro. Joey Villegas that eventually led to the correction of some inaccurate local rituals and practices in the appendant Rites, and likewise to the introduction of long-forgotten Masonic traditions as well. It was the persistent researches of VW Harold Santiago in the archives of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP), scouring through old records and proceedings, that led to his unearthing of numerous significant information which otherwise would have been deemed forgotten or lost in time.

RENEWED INTEREST IN MASONIC RESEARCH

During those first attempts to form the PLR more than thirty years ago, time was perhaps not yet ripe to do so, even if it did involve some of the giants of the Philippine Masonic academe, like MW Reynold Fajardo, VW Jesus Flor Nicolas, VW Fernando Pascua Jr., and VW Samuel Fernandez. Things seem to be different now as more Masons like them have emerged and are currently engaging in their own individual Masonic researches even without the PLR and without anything personal to gain.

Year 2016, a Facebook (FB) group called Philippine *Masonic Research Special Interest Group*[1] was created by Bro. Esmeraldo Cabana of Model Lodge No. 90, himself an academician by profession. The said FB group provided a venue and forum for local Masons to read, discuss, share, and conduct Masonic researches. In effect, it became a virtual Lodge of Research, sans the administrative hassles of an actual formal organization. Postings from members were smart and relevant. Many Masonic questions have been asked and likewise replied by whoever happened to have the answers or knew where such could be found. It became a melting pot of diverse topics, ranging from history to symbolism – a welcome change from all the usual forums concerning lodge and Grand Lodge administration and jurisprudence. Instead of discussing mostly about Masonic politics and management, Masons began actually talking about *further light* in Masonry and other topics related.

Over the course of many discussions within the said FB group, one topic was bound to come up sooner or later – the PLR. While many were unaware of its existence, there were those few who did know and wondered what became of it and why it became dormant. Could it be because of politics or internal disagreements? Who knew? Nevertheless, many wanted to revive it yet again. Others opted instead on forming an independent Masonic research society, free of the trappings of Masonic politics inherent on anything under Grand Lodge proviso.

Upon discussion with other Masons, WB Richard Cane of Palawan Masonic Lodge No. 99 tried to organize informal meetings in April 2018, to discuss a possible establishment of a *Philippine Masonic Research Society* (PMRS). The first meeting was supposed to be in Davao during AnCom season, but few responded. Another attempt to organize a meeting came a month after, in Manila, but again, few answered the call. Location and unavailability were limiting factors for most of those who were invited. There was limited information dissemination as well that kept other interested Masons unaware. It was also observed that those interested and inclined in Masonic research are not gen-

erally drawn to organizing into groups, while those who are good at organizing and managing groups are generally the ones with little skill-set on research work. Perhaps there is a need to include Masons who are good at organizing groups and nurture their interest along the way by means of active involvement. It is indeed worth the ponder.

STORY OF THE PLR

Looking as far back as the early 1970s, then RW William Councell once said that the need for a Lodge of Research in the Philippines had already been brought to his attention.2 As such there were many attempts to establish local Masonic research groups, but all eventually died out, such as the call to implement the previously-existing Masonic Research Council, through Circular No. 1, dated July 29, 1978. The setup of the original Research Council was first resolved from the 1947 Proceedings which the then Grand Master *"voted to be implemented without delay."*[3] Another short-lived initiative was the Masonic Study Club supposedly formed to foster Masonic research.[4] On March 29, 1990, through Edict No. 109, the *Philippine Lodge of Research* (PLR) was established by then Grand Master, MW Juan Nabong Jr. himself.[5]

According to MW Nabong, there were no shortages of Masonic researchers, historians, and writers in the Philippines at the time. When he saw that several Masons sought to rekindle a Lodge of Research, he then decreed the constitution of PLR. On April 10, 1990, he issued Edict No. 109-A, designating its first officers, with MW Reynold Fajardo as Master.[6] For local Masonry, it was, as it seemed at the time, an effort most historic.

Supposedly, the PLR would be limited to twenty regular members meeting at least twice a year. It was reported, however, that such meetings were scarce, so it never got going into fulfilling its purpose. PLR eventually became dormant – existing but never meeting. About four years later, VW Flor Nicolas appealed for the revival of PLR.[7] It was suggested that invitations be sent to qualified Masons to become members, associate members, even members emeriti.

Then on January 7, 1998, MW Fajardo called for a PLR meeting where VW Fernando Pascua Jr. was elected as the new Master of the lodge. It was there where MW Fajardo suggested the work of translating GLP documents from Spanish to English as a startup.[8]

Later, on October 21, 1998, PLR was formally constituted by the GLP and its new officers installed, thus completing the lineup of officers and members of the country's very own Lodge of Research.[9]

Eight years of inactivity therefore since it was first formed, the PLR, with its ceremonial installation of the above new officers, was finally given renewed hope. A Grand Lodge charter was allegedly issued to the PLR with aspirations of rebirth from the first several attempts that died out. Alas, however, the winged father time had not dried the tears of the weeping virgin. The PLR remained inactive as it did before. In the years that followed, there were several other attempts to reactivate it, but all were in vain. Why? What were the reasons? What possible force or hindrance, whether internal or external, could be preventing such a noble initiative from succeeding? Were the members at conflict or in disagreement with certain policies and directions? Was support not being granted from the powers-that-be or, worse, even opposed? Or maybe – just maybe – time was indeed not yet ripe for PLR to endure.

PLR vs. a PMRS

Trying to analyze the unfortunate history of the PLR, the idea of an independent *Philippine Masonic Research Society* (PMRS) suddenly becomes more viable. In an interview with Bro. Joey Villegas of Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202, he casually remarked: *"One would have to think long and hard before forming or joining a Lodge of Research. It requires an awful lot of commitment to keep it going, and not everyone is cut out for dense scholarship. That's probably why the PLR didn't last in the first place. Also, why does it have to be a 'lodge' anyway? Why can't it be a simple group like this one (referring to the Masonic Research Special Interest Group on FB)? To make it a lodge is exhausting, costs money, and takes so much time and effort following strict protocols just to open and close meetings. It would literally take time away from actual research work. There would be reading of min-*

PHOTO ABOVE: Fajardo and Mojica - the first WM and SW respectively of the PLR

utes, financial reports, edicts, and so on. In the end, members would just end up being too tired and too disinterested to go on. If you really wish to set up a research-oriented Masonic group, perhaps a Lodge of Research may not be way to go, judging from previous failed attempts, unless its members would really commit to actually doing research works. Besides, I fear that if it is in the form of a lodge birthed by the Grand Lodge, it would just end up like another one of those exclusive 'elite' groups populated by the same people who merely join in order to add another star or credential to their Masonic bio-data. I may be wrong, however."

To a further extent, WB Richard Cane agreed with the sentiment. He said that establishing a Lodge of Research under the control of a Grand Lodge, Grand Master, or any other possible governing body, like the IMES for instance, may be detrimental to the work of Masonic research itself, as mundane duties and responsibilities would slowly be imposed by those in control. An autonomous, self-governing research society with objects and guidelines set by its own members seems more feasible. WB Esmeraldo Cabana also agreed, adding that an independent research society should be similar in structure to a professional or academic group, with different levels of membership that have corresponding roles and benefits. For instance, associate members may have the benefits of subscription to research publications, while those who have actually submitted papers may qualify as *Fellows* of the research group.

Essentially, as some elder Masons have said, the PLR envisioned by MW Labong in the 1990s was nothing more than the precursor of today's IMES – a set of classroom-type sessions on Masonic history, symbolism, jurisprudence, liturgy, ritual-execution, lodge management, etc. Unlike the PLR however, IMES enjoyed unprecedented success, partly because the GLP made its diploma courses mandatory before any Mason could occupy an elected office in the lodge. But then, the two are not comparable, as the IMES is a teaching arm that imparts the operational education that all Masons should have, while the PLR is the next phase, whose scope encompasses even subjects not yet generally known, hence *"research."* The formation of a PLR or PMRS, therefore, would pose no redundancy or conflict with IMES. Think of it this way: We have all used different publications as guides for our Masonic studies, have we not? The PLR/PMRS and IMES would surely complement one another. What one discovers, the other imparts, for knowledge not shared is knowledge lost. It is certainly worth noting that idea.

Recently, VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, current Senior Grand Lecturer of the GLP, expressed his plans of an independent research initiative for Philippine Masonic scholars. His concept was that *membership annual dues* would be in the form of actual scholarly work produced instead of in-

dividual monetary payments. No contributed work during the Masonic year would automatically correspond to *"suspension for non-payment of dues (SNPD)."* His concept also included that financial support would be provided by the GLP in exchange for the publication and dissemination of output works. VW Kalaw asked around in social media if Masons would be willing to commit to or participate in such an initiative. He also announced that he needed about 5-12 committed Masons to get things going.

Still, the feasibility of the venture is being determined. But high hopes abound with VW Kalaw's impressive track record in leading and organizing successful Masonic undertakings. His recent Masonic webinars during the time of the pandemic are indeed outstanding in scope and magnitude.

Noting on the future success of the PLR/PMRS, VW Benito Ty critiqued that for a research initiative to become worthy of its name and nature, members should be admitted only after having submitted an approved research paper, which may even be published in the Cable Tow periodical. Thereafter, regular members should regularly present at least one paper to be read in the body, and a compilation of which would then likewise be submitted for publication in the periodical.

Of course, such ideas seem scary to some and would definitely put off the great majority of local Masons. But that's exactly the point. It has now become obvious that the key to success of either the PLR or a PMRS lies in the choice of would-be members. It is definitely not for everyone. Active membership participation will ultimately play the most vital role in the realization of an endeavor centered on actual and tangible work. It is therefore essential to weed out the inactive, the disinterested, the unqualified, and the quasi.

MEMBERSHIP IS THE KEY

There are many who believe that the PLR or PMRS – or whatever research body eventually gets formed or reformed in the future – should compose some of today's younger yet more established Philippine Masonic researchers with an already impressive mileage of Masonic works. Just some who immediately come to mind include: VW Kalaw himself, who is in fact the local representative of the world's premier Lodge of Research – Lodge Quatuor Coronati No. 2076, UGLE; VW Harold Santiago of Pampanga Lodge No. 48, current Editor-in-Chief of the Cable Tow periodical of the GLP, and whose team was the only one that was able to successfully implement the elusive task of scanning past issues of the publication, making them available to everyone; and Joey Villegas, the first in the Philippines to recommend the establishment of a *Traditional Observance Lodge*[10] – a special type of lodge made popular in the US with portions very similar in nature and purpose to a Lodge of Research. Bro. Joey has likewise already written numerous academic articles and studies on Masonic orders, degrees, rituals, and their origins, being himself a holder of such progressive degrees, and having even authored several rituals and libation ceremonies already in adoption.

Few others come to mind as potential members for consideration, including: Richard Cane, the first in twenty years to attempt to organize informal meetings on the possible resurrection of PLR or formation of a PMRS; Larry Carbonel of Victory Masonic Lodge No. 116, a scholar of early Philippine Masonry and its Continental roots; Lloyd Llaga of Kalilayan Masonic Lodge No. 37, an articulate writer and current Editor-in-Chief of the Far Eastern Freemason publication of the Scottish Rite of the Philippines; Paul Bilaoen of Nilad Lodge No. 12, an ardent learner of the different Masonic rites and systems; Cameron Sloan of Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034 (Manila) of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, who could significantly contribute from his vast knowledge and experience in Scottish, English, and Far East (Asian) Freemasonry; and perhaps as additional pedigree, Samuel Fernandez and Vicente Hao Chin – both regular fixtures in the Philippine Masonic academe, and two of the most highly accomplished among the few remaining links to the PLR. Some of the other elder members of the PLR may no longer be practical to be included because they may either be already retired, in other countries, or simply no longer reachable. Besides, the old PLR had its chance – twice, in fact – and it still hasn't lived up to its mandate. Perhaps it is time to give chance to new blood and to a whole new mode.

New Generation Students of the Authentic School: Santiago, Carbonel, & Villegas

In fact, Bro. Luke Jickain, who belongs to the new generation of Masons, offered his honest and unsullied opinion that the purpose of Masonic research is not just to find truth in order to dispel falsehoods, but also to appreciate the uniqueness of what we already have and already know. More to that, Masonic research, he said, is an endeavor to satisfy a yearning for knowledge – whatever sort of knowledge that may be – be it esoteric or exoteric; philosophical or empirical. Masonic research must be fueled and motivated by the desire to know.

Reassuringly, many individual Masons in small groups have already been doing the work of a research initiative – whether collectively or independently. For instance, the *Masonic Research Special Interest Group* on FB has already been functioning as a de facto research group in the Philippines in the absence of an organized one; and that perhaps the reason for its continued existence may be precisely because of its lack of structure and organization. There are no officers, no meetings, no formal memberships. It is just a place where any Mason may – anytime, anywhere – inquire and share freely therefrom and thereto.

Some lodges and appendant bodies have also found ways to maintain interest in further Masonic studies during the time of the pandemic by regularly conducting group discussions online on certain topics, where participants are free to share their own insights with each other. Examples are the online interactive forums headed by WB Alvan Balazo for select Scottish Rite brethren; Ang Tipolo Masonic Lodge No. 334's webinar series, spearheaded by its Committee Chairman Bro. Medardo Bombita, with topics such as Masonic national heroes Aguinaldo and Rizal; the cyber-tyled *"Masonic Way to Strengthen the Higher Self and Control the Lower Self;"* and the *"Resilience of Filipino Freemasons: Casting Light Beyond Boundaries*," that were actively attended by the Masons under the GLP and Filipino Masons from the Grand Lodges of New York, New Jersey, and Victoria, Australia. Thanks to modern technology, Masons are still, in spite of physical constraints, able to virtually meet and gather.

Therefore, it is safe to conclude that, although little may it be known to some, the spirit of Masonic research is very much alive in the Philippines, with or without an existing Masonic research entity. New generation Masons therefore ask: Do we still need to organize or resurrect such a formal entity? Perhaps the tears of the weeping virgin will now be dried by the winged father time, as he finally reveals what the future might hold. Perhaps things are already happening for Masonic research to once again try to peek into the limelight. Just recently, we heard news that an actual PMRS began organizing, as jointly spearheaded by the Cable Tow and the Far Eastern Freemason publication teams, together with VW Kalaw – something called the Mabini Society. This indeed is something to watch out for in the coming days. Stay tuned.

Notes:

1. Masonic Research Special Interest Group, www.facebook.com/groups/1354418604585723.
2. William Councell, "Genealogy of our Grand Lodge," The Cable Tow (Vol. 46, No. 9, GLP, September 1970), 6.
3. Circular No. 1, Series of 1978 – Dalisay: Research Council (Implementation (GLPI, July 29, 1978).
   Reprinted in The Cable Tow (Vol. 55, No. 8, GLP August 1978), 14-15.
4. "Organizations for Masons Only," The Cable Tow (Vol. 62, No. 8, GLP, July-August 1986), 78.
5. "Edicts," The Cable Tow (Vol. 67, No. 1, GLP, May-June 1990), 65-66.
6. Ibid, 67.
7. Jesus Flor Nicolas, "Masonic Harvest," The Cable Tow (Vol. 71, No. 2, GLP, July-August 1994), 41.
8. Nicolas, "Philippine Lodge of Research Reorganizes," The Cable Tow (Vol. 74, No. 6, GLP, March-April 1998), 22-23.
9. "Philippine Lodge of Research Constituted and its Officers Installed,"
   The Cable Tow (Vol. 75 No. 4, GLP, November-December 1998), 65-68.
10. Joey Villegas, Traditional Observance (A Primer),
    The Far Eastern Freemason (2nd Quarter 2015, Supreme Council A&ASR Philippines, June 2015), 18.

THE REGIUS POEM

By Bro. Patrick Azanza (12)

Kept safely in the King's Library of the British Museum is the oldest Masonic document on record that dates back to circa 1390: The Regius Poem. Interestingly, while the existence of the manuscript has long been known, it has not drawn the attention of Mason antiquarians perhaps because it was catalogued in the British library with the title that read as: "A Poem of Moral Duties."

It was only when a non-Mason, James Orchard Halliwell, presented his paper before the Society of Antiquarians (1838-1839 Session) entitled, "A Poem on the Constitution of Masonry" and later published it as, "The Early History of Freemasonry in England" (1840) along with the transcript of the poem, that the manuscript drew the interest of the brethren. The Regius Poem has become not only an interesting material but rather a compelling one because it contains strong evidence of Masonic adherence to God as a Supreme Being which debunks the claim of accusers that Freemasons are non-believers. Otherwise referred to as the "Halliwell Manuscript," Freemasons agreed it is a faithful copy of the Book of Constitutions adopted by the General Assembly that was supposedly held at York City in year 926.

The Regius Poem is written in a medieval language that is older than the Wicliffe's version of the Bible. It contains 794 lines in rhymed couplets, plus 34 headings for a total of 828 lines published in 64 vellum pages, with an inscription on top: "Hie incipiunt constituciones artis gemetriae secundum Euclydem." which translates as: "Here begin the constitutions of the art of Geometry according to Euclid." The great historical figure being pertained to is no other than Euclid, the Greek Mathematician who is recognized as the "Father of Geometry." For a mysterious organization like Freemasonry which is known to be the oldest fraternal organization in the world and whose origin has remained obscure mainly due to its concealed rules and secret symbols that are incomprehensible to non-members, the Regius Poem serves as a breakthrough discovery that many consider crucial in unlocking the secrets behind the Legend of the Craft.

Basically, the Poem is structured into 10 sections:

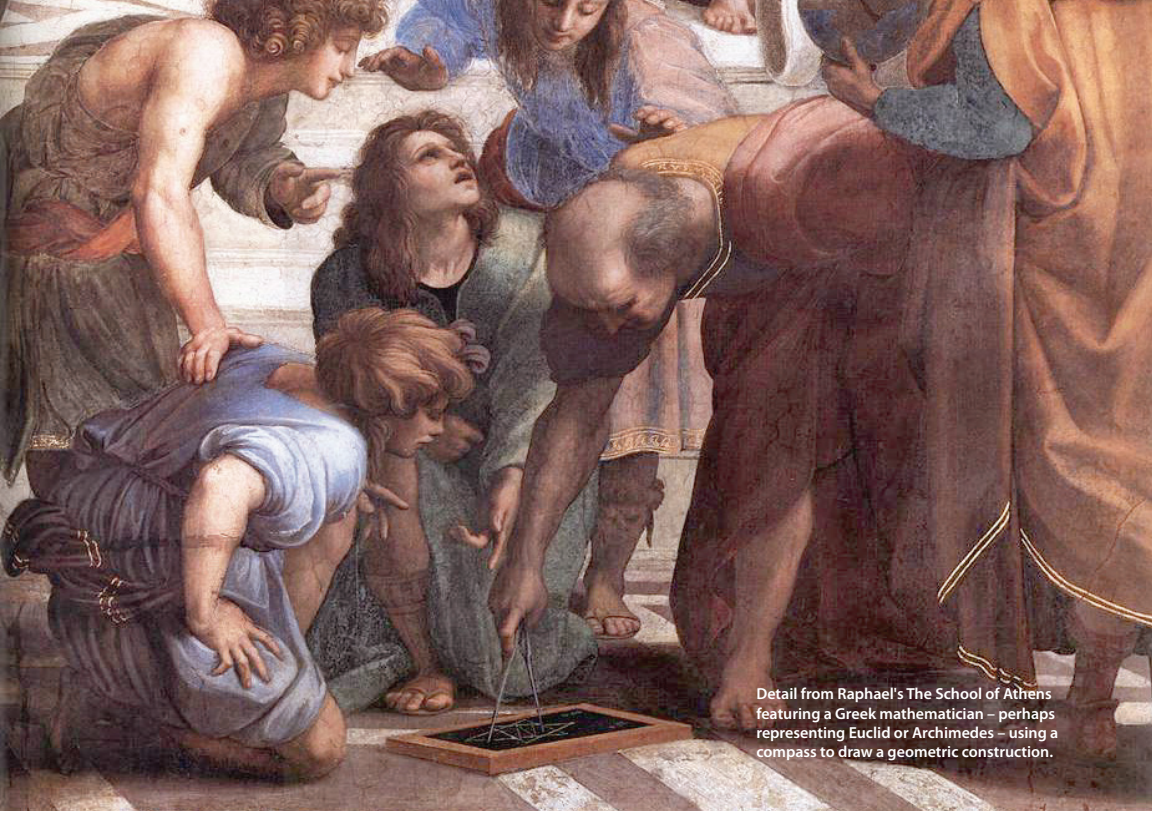
1. The Foundation of Masonry by Euclid in Egypt;
2. Introduction of Masonry in England under King Athelstan
3. The Moral Duties, Fifteen Articles
4. The Moral Duties: Fifteen Points
5. Another Ordinance of the Art of Geometry
6. The Story of the Four Crowned Ones
7. The Tower of Babylon
8. The Seven Liberal Arts
9. An Admonishment about Mass and How to Behave in Church
10. An Instruction on Good Manners

Below is the translation into modern English of the verses which were intended to determine and describe in detail the duties and obligations of Masons in relation to the Masonic craft. For brevity, only the translation of the first 84 lines of the 794 rhymed verses of the Poem are presented herein.

A Poem of Moral Duties

Here begin the constitutions of the art of Geometry according to Euclid.

Anyone who will look
Can find written in old books
This story of great Lords and Ladies.
They had many children,
But had no income to support them,
Whether in town or field or woods.
They took council together
To plan for their children.
How they could best live their lives
Without much discomfort, care and strife.
And mostly for the coming multitude
Of their children, for their success,
They sent to great scholars,
To teach them good works.
They asked them, for our Lord's sake



Detail from Raphael's The School of Athens featuring a Greek mathematician – perhaps representing Euclid or Archimedes – using a compass to draw a geometric construction.

To give their children work,
So that they could earn a living,
Both well and honestly, and with security.
At that time, through Geometry,
This honest Craft of masonry
Was established in this way,
Created by these scholars:
At these lords' request they created Geometry
And gave it the name of masonry;
For the most respected Craftsman of all,
These lords' children came
To learn the Craft of Geometry from him,
Which he did very skillfully.
Because of the fathers' prayers, and the mothers' too,
He set them to learning this honest Craft.
Whoever learned best, and was honest,
And was more skillful than his fellows,
If in that Craft he came upon him,
He would have more honor than the less skillful.
This great scholar's name was Euclyd [Euclid],
His fame spread far and wide,
This great scholar ordered
That whoever was a better worker
Should teach even the slowest learner
To become perfect in that respectable Craft;
So each one should teach the other,
And love one another like sister and brother.
ght it widely,

Throughout the land, everywhere;
It was many years later, I understand,
Before the Craft came into this land.
The Craft came into England, I tell you,
In good King Athelstane's [Athelstan's] time.
He had halls and dwellings built,
And tall churches, greatly esteemed,
To spend his time in, both day and night.
And to worship his God with all his might.
This good Lord greatly loved this Craft,
And intended to strengthen it in every part.
Because he found many faults in the Craft,
He sent throughout the land.
For all the masons of the Craft
To come to him straightaway,
To correct all these faults
By good advice.
He called an assembly then,
Of many lords,
Dukes, earls, and barons too,
Knights, squires, and many more,
And the chief officials of the city,
They were all there, in their stations;
Each one was there
To make regulations for the masons.
They sought, by their understanding,
How to govern them.

Other contents of the Poem include the Fifteen Articles and the Fifteen Points ordered by the great lords and masters during the assembly, as part of the Plural Constitutions; Another Ordinance of the Art of Geometry; as well as the Art of the Four Crowned Ones.

The fifteen articles and points mostly deal with proper conduct at work. Durand Lodge summarized the following 15 Articles and 15 Points:

Summary of the Fifteen Articles

1. The master mason must be worthy of the confidence of the lords; he must pay the fellows a fair wage with the lord's money.
2. Every master mason must attend a general assembly, unless he can give a good excuse.
3. The master mason shall not take on an apprentice for less than seven years and must lodge him during his apprenticeship.
4. The master mason must not take any serfs as apprentice.
5. The master mason shall take on neither bastards nor cripples.
6. The apprentice shall be paid less than the fellows, but his salary shall increase as he progresses.
7. The master mason shall employ neither thieves nor murderers.
8. The master mason may discharge an incompetent worker and replace him with another.
9. The master mason must make sure that the foundation of the building is well-laid.
10. The master mason must never take over, or meddle with, the work of another master mason,or be fined a penalty of ten pounds.
11. A mason shall not work at night, except to study.
12. One shall not disparage the work of one's fellows.
13. The master mason must give his apprentice a complete education.
14. The master mason shall not take on an apprentice unless he has enough work for him.
15. The master mason must not leave his fellows astray, because he must care about their souls.

Summary of the Fifteen Points

1. A man of the craft must love God and the holy church as well as his fellows.
2. Masons must be paid for holidays.
3. The apprentice must keep secret all that his master tells him and all that he hears or sees in chamber.
4. The apprentice shall not be false to his craft, nor to his master or fellows, since the same law as theirs applies to him.
5. Masons must receive their salary from their master humbly.
6. The master must discharge a mason before noon if he has no more work for him.
7. Quarrels between masons must be settled amicably, after the day's work is done or on a holiday.
8. A mason shall not sleep with the wife of a master nor a fellow's wife or concubine.
9. A master can allow a fellow to mediate between himself and other fellows.
10. Fellows must take turns serving at table, buying the food and accounting for what they spent.
11. A mason shall not support anyone who persists in wrongdoing; they shall be called before an assembly and excluded from the craft.
12. A mason must teach another, whose work is imperfect, in a friendly manner.
13. Masters, fellows, lords and local authorities shall agree in assembly to promulgate laws for the craft, and punish those who do not respect them.
14. A mason shall swear never to steal, nor be accomplice to a thief.
15. A mason must swear to be true to his master, his fellows and his king.
16. He who disobeys the laws of the assembly shall be called before it to make amends. If he persists in his fault he shall be excluded from the craft and imprisoned, and his goods confiscated.

The Regius is considered the oldest among the more than one hundred "Old Charges" (Ancient Regulations) that were discovered and found to have been adopted to govern Freemasonry in Britain. Old Charges are regulations, instructions, obligations, rules or historical or legendary stories; most of them were discovered in manuscripts dating back to

medieval era and to the transition time from Operative Masonry to Speculative Masonry.

It appears that Regius was written before the Anglican Church of England was established in 1534, purportedly as a counter argument to a statute of 1425 which outlawed the annual gatherings and congregations of Masons. The manuscript in line 62 of the poem stressed on the social equality of Masons and the apparent claim that the Craft is of noble origin, sanctioned by no less than Athelstan, the Anglo-Saxon King who ruled England from 924 to 939. In the Battle of Brunanburh (937), he valiantly defeated King Olaf Gothfrithson of Dublin and King Constantine II of Scotland, making himself King of the whole Britania.

There are historians who believe that the Regius Poem is the work of several scholars who are priests, monks or religious clerks, and among them was supposedly John Lydgate, a known poet and a Benedictine monk. Halliwell pointed out that the author or one of the writers of the poem was evidently a priest, based on the following words in line 629, "And when the gospel me rede schal" (And when the Gospel is read). It is believed that the manuscript was written during the prevalence of Roman Catholicism in England, as opposed to subsequent Masonic manuscripts that appear to have been written during the Protestant period when it was introduced by King Edward VI (1537-1553) and Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603). Furthermore, Halliwell also contended that in line 143 which reads, "By olde tyme wryten y fynde" (By old writings I find), there is an implied reference to an older manuscript at the time the poem was written.

According to Halliwell, the Regius manuscript was first spotted in 1670 among the collections of English bibliophile John Theyer. Later on, the properties of Theyer were confiscated in favor of the Crown and the manuscript landed in the shelves of the Royal Library of King George II who, in 1757, subsequently donated the Regius document to the British Museum when the British Library was launched. Prior to it being donated to the British Museum, the manuscript was deposited in an Old Dormitory at Westminster after it was saved from the Ashburnham House with only very slight damage when a fire broke in 1731.

There are many more interesting things in the Regius Poem, one of which is its reference to Christ not just once but at least seven times in lines 510, 511, 526, 555, 583, 606, and 789. In line 643, it even made a particular reference to the Lord Jesus. The word "God" was also mentioned more than 15 times in the Regius Poem. This fact is more than enough to counter, as glaringly evidenced by the oldest document that can be traced to Freemasonry, that the view of Masons beings non-believers in God is nothing but a false and misguided belief of those who fail to understand the true faith of Freemasons.

There is also reference to the Four Crowned Martyrs, namely, Severius, Severian, Carpophorus, and Victorian. They were Roman sculptors who refused to create pagan statue in the image of Emperor Diocletian, who then ordered their execution. The poem also mentioned Halloween, a Celtic festival adopted by Anglo-Saxons that is celebrated on All Saints Day (the eve of October 31).

In lines 557 to 563, the seven Liberal Sciences (known as Liberal Arts in the 6th century) were mentioned, namely: Grammar, Dialect, Rhetoric, Music, Astronomy, Arithmetic and Geometry. Notably, the Regius identified Geometry, the one that can separate falsehood from truth, as the foundation of Masonry. These seven sciences are part of the Winding Staircase that reflects the journey of a Freemason.

The Regius Poem admonishes every brother, among others, to avoid corruption, practice humility and observe charity. It also provides moral direction to the Master of the Lodge which guides him on how to manage the organization.

By putting together all the Masonic facts and information contained in the old manuscripts, such as the ones most significantly found in the Regius Poem, we are able to comprehend the "Legend of the Craft." Notably, the signs and symbols as well as all the Masonic rituals, rules and obligations have strong historical roots that have survived throughout centuries attesting to the resilience and fortitude of Freemasonry, the oldest known brotherhood organization in the world that continues to make good men better.

LEGITIMATE MASONRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Bro. Giovanni A. Villegas (202)

REGULAR & RECOGNIZED Craft Masonry in the Philippines is governed solely and exclusively by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP). Such exclusive territorial authority is a characteristic inherited from the North American style of Masonry practiced by the said Grand Lodge – it being spawned by the Grand Lodge of California, USA. In other countries, mostly Europe, such exclusive territorial claim does not apply. France, for instance, has many Grand Lodges operating and occupying a common territory. Singapore, also, has lodges of English, Scottish, and Irish Constitutions co-existing in fraternal harmony.

In the Philippines, though there are indeed other forms of Masonry that exist – such as those of the *Gran Logia Nacional de Filipinas* (GLNF), the *Independent Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands* (IGLPI), and the more recent so-called *Modern Mixed Masons* – they are nonetheless considered *irregular* and are therefore not recognized by the GLP or by the other *regular* Grand Lodges around the world.

There are, however, two notable exceptions to the GLP's exclusive Masonic authority in the Philippines – those of Lodge Perla Del Oriente (LPDO) No. 1034 S.C. of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland (GLoS); and Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington (MWPHGLWA). Both of their respective histories merit mutual recognition and local existence in the country despite the territorial claim of the GLP, to which both lodges maintain friendly relations to this day, including *inter-visitation* rights.[1]

Included in the succeeding pages are separate articles that give further information on these two unique lodges. One narrates the development of the LPDO No. 1034 and mentions its distinguishing characteristics, and the other gives a short yet concise history of the Prince Hall (PHA) lodge in the Philippine – Mabuhay Lodge No. 59. I encourage the brethren of the GLP to read these articles carefully in order to better acquaint themselves with these two local lodges belonging to other jurisdictions.

The Local Masonic Ecosystem

Before the formation of the GLP, then called the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands (GLPI) in 1912, there were already previously-established Masonic lodges of different *obedience* and jurisdictions, operating within the still-developing nation of the Philippines. Back then, the Philippine Islands was still considered *"open territory"* for foreign Grand Lodges. It was not until 1917 when the young GLPI, 5 years after its formation, started absorbing many of the other local lodges under its authority. Some Masonic historians have called this absorption a *"union"* or *"fusion,"* but it was technically more of a transfer of Masonic allegiance of these other lodges from their mother Grand Lodge to the GLPI.

Prior to this so-called *"fusion,"* there were about 29 lodges under the *Gran (or Grande) Oriente Español* thru its Provincial Grand Lodge, 2 lodges under the GLoS, 2 lodges under the *Gran (or Grande) Oriente de España*, 1 lodge under the *Gran Oriente Lusitano Unido*, 3 allegedly from the *Grand Orient of France*, and 11 lodges under the GLP.[2] Some of these lodges collectively gave up their charters and secured new ones from the GLP. Others simply vanished. For a short time thereafter, the

GLP became the sole Masonic jurisdiction in the Philippines, as there were no more Spanish, or any other lodge of another *obedience*, that locally existed, except for LPDO which remained remarkably under the GLoS.

LPDO was founded in 1907, prior to the formation of the GLPI. After the GLPI was formed, its recognition by GLoS was conditional on LPDO and its then sister Lodge Cebu No. 1106 being allowed to retain their allegiance to GLoS until such time as they voluntarily chose to relinquish it in order to join the GLPI. Lodge Cebu did so in 1917, but LPDO chose to remain part of GLoS to this day. It still, however, maintained mutual and friendly relations with the GLP, with some of its members also becoming members of GLP lodges and vice-versa. The GLoS, in turn, as part of their treaty, agreed that it would no longer add or organize another such lodge in the Philippines.[3]

Meanwhile, Mabuhay Military Lodge F&AM was founded on the US Military Base in Clark Field, Angeles City, Pampanga in 1971, during the time of the Vietnam War. After the eruption of nearby Mt. Pinatubo and the withdrawal of the US Base from the Philippines, the lodge temporarily ceased operating. In 1995, it was reopened and reconstituted as Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 of MWPHGLWA. For a time, it existed locally without any fraternal relations with or recognition from the GLP,[4] until September 1997, when the then Grandmaster of the GLP granted fraternal recognition to MWPHGLWA, effectively giving permission for Mabuhay Lodge to remain in operation in the country under the provision that no other such lodge may be added or organized.[5] During the Annual Communication of 1998, a Circular was issued, announcing the recognition of MWPHGLWA.[6] It was generally understood that Mabuhay Lodge was meant for retired American residents of the Philippines and other Filipino-Americans, hence posed no conflict with the GLP's jurisdiction.

The GLP, the GLoS, and MWPHGLWA are part of a large community of sovereign Masonic jurisdictions in the world that regard each other to be *regular* and have therefore granted each other amity and mutual recognition. This means that Masons of lodges belonging to different Grand Lodges that have existing fraternal relations can communicate *masonically* and visit each other's lodge meetings, subject, of course, to the usual protocols of vouching and examination. These Grand jurisdictions are considered the largest Masonic community in the world, sometimes referred to as *mainstream* Masonry. They are distinguished by their common amity with either the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) – the premier Grand Lodge of the world, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland.[7]

Unrecognized Masonry in the Philippines

There are other Masonic presences in the Philippines that are considered *irregular* and therefore unrecognized by *mainstream* Masonry. These primarily include those schismatic groups that have severed their ties with the GLPI, or have been formed without lineage from the same, or have been claiming descent from a Masonic *obedience* incompatible with *mainstream* Masonry. Some of these *irregular* lodges are called *red lodges* (not to be confused with the term *"red lodge"* that North American style Masons use to colloquially refer to their chapter or *Royal Arch Masons*) instead of *blue lodges*, indicative of the color of the aprons used in their Craft degrees. But where do these lodges come from?

In 1920, a few GLPI Masons formerly under the Spanish jurisdiction broke away from the GLPI to form their own unauthorized Grand Lodge. Schismatic organizations were eventually established, consisting mainly of GLPI deserters. They included the *Grand Logia (Soberana in 1925) del Archipelago Filipino*, spuriously formed sometime in 1922 by the new leadership of the *Gran Oriente Español* through a *Gran Logia Regional del Archipelago Filipino*; and the *Gran Logia Nacional de Filipinas* (GLNF), formed in 1924 and later with their own *irregular Supremo Consejo del Grado 33 para Filipinas (Rito Escoses)*. Then there were the *Gran Oriente Filipino*; the *Mártires de Filipinas*; and the

Gran Luz Masoneria Filipina. In 2006, another group broke away from the GLP, calling itself the *Independent Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands* (IGLPI). In many of these cases, they broke away in disrepute and without the consent of their former Grand Lodge. For a comprehensive account of the development of some of these unrecognized organizations side-by-side with the GLPI/GLP, refer to the article of VW Gene Illenberger entitled *"Philippine Masonic History 101: Clearing the Confusion in the Temple,"* coming in a separate Cable Tow special issue.

There are other groups that popped out of nowhere and fancied themselves as Masons, without verifiable lineage whatsoever with *regular* Masonry, and are therefore considered fake and spurious. These include the so-called *Chinese Freemasons* who do not actually practice any form of Masonry, whether *regular* or *irregular*, but existed merely as a social club. There were those that purposely mimicked Masonry, its rituals, and its symbols to purportedly attract membership, but did not claim to be *regular* Masons. They included the *Legionarios del Trabajo* and the *Caballeros de Dimas-alang*.

In all these cases, past GLP leaderships had generally referred to them under one singular term: *"clandestine."* Because the word is ambiguous in the context of Masonry, and had, through the years, become a derogatory term both here and abroad, Masons today should be very careful when using it to refer to unrecognized Masons or lodges. It is possible that some unrecognized jurisdictions may be practicing a *regular* form of Masonry but merely lack official amity, or are pending and awaiting the same. Branding them *"clandestine"* will potentially hinder the establishment of future fraternal relations with them.

The Only Regular Lodges in the Philippines

Regularity of origin and r*egularity of practice* are two important factors in determining whether a lodge or Grand Lodge may be deemed legitimate and authentic. Without *regularity*, anyone can just simply setup his own quasi-Masonic organization and call himself a Mason. When that happens, what distinguishes real Masonry from a bogus one? That is why *regularity* is important. One cannot simply discount it under the argument of *universal brotherhood*, as what many unrecognized lodges do in their defense. That is not how it works. Masons needs a way to distinguish themselves from those simply pretending, in order to assert their legitimacy and protect the integrity of their good name, thus minimizing public confusion on what Masonry is really all about.

Legitimacy can be established when another *regular* Grand Lodge officially recognizes another as such, and that both maintain friendly relations without encroaching on each other's established territories, thus further maintaining mutual recognition. Most forms of *regular* Masonry trace back to a common lineage (*regularity of origin*) – meaning one Grand Lodge being descended from another by means of a charter, warrant, or patent as proof of *regularity*. They also generally adhere to a common set of ideals, tenets, and principles (*regularity of practice*), which is actually one of the prerequisites for establishing recognition.

Here in the Philippines, as far as regular Masonic lodges are concerned, the only ones currently recognized as such by the greater community of Masonic jurisdictions worldwide are Lodge Perla Del Oriente (LPDO) No. 1034 S.C. of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland (GLoS); Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington (MWPHGLWA); and, of course, the lodges of the now Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (GLP). Their Grand Lodges are the only ones who have so far agreed to maintain friendly relations with each other while co-existing in the country. No other regular Grand jurisdiction may infringe upon their shared territory without endangering its own relations with them.

Notes:

1. **Cameron Sloan and Giovanni Villegas, A Guide to the Existing Masonic Orders in the Philippines (work-in-progress paper, The Mabini Society, 2021).**
2. **Michael Goldberg, "Pledge of Service: Clandestine Masonry in the Philippines," The Cable Tow (Vol. 31, No. 2, GLP, August 1955), 1113.**
3. **Sloan and Villegas, A Guide to the Existing Masonic Orders in the Philippines.**
4. **Reynold Fajardo, "Masonic Organizations with which the Grand Lodge has no fraternal relations," The Cable Tow (Vol. 62, No. 8, GLP, July-August 1986), 93.**
5. **Leon Angel Banez Jr., Official Correspondence to William Rheubottom (GLP, September 25, 1997).**
6. **"Circulars 3-18," The Cable Tow (Vol. 75, No. 2, GLP, July-August 1998), 31**
7. **Sloan and Villegas, A Guide to the Existing Masonic Orders in the Philippines.**

Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034 S.C.

By RW Cameron Sloan (LPDO 1034, SC)

On 11 June 1907, Bro. Manuel Camus of Manila Lodge No. 342, GL California, Bro. Francisco Aguado of Lodge St. John No. 618, GL of Scotland, and six members of Dalisay Lodge No. 177, Grande Oriente Español, submitted a petition to form a new Lodge to the District Grand Master of the Scottish Constitution, District Grand Lodge in Hong Kong, for onward transmission to the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh. The Lodge was to be called Lodge Perla de Oriente.

Bro. Camus had been initiated in an English Constitution Lodge in Singapore, and on his return to Manila, joined Manila Lodge No. 342. However, he became aggrieved with some of his brother Masons in the Lodge, as he found no other Filipinos admitted at the time. He demitted and arranged a meeting with several like-minded brothers for the purposes of forming a new Lodge "to correct the erroneous conception of Masonry held by some of his brother Masons in Manila Lodge" and "that would practice universality in all its purity." Bro. Aguado, a ships pilot, had joined Lodge St. John No. 618 during his exile in Hong Kong before returning to Manila as part of Admiral Dewey's fleet, and was the connection among the founders to Scottish Constitution Masonry.

Various authors have written that in the mid 1800's, there was a Scottish Lodge which met in Nagtahan. However there is no record of this earlier Lodge in the roll books of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh. From more recent documentation discovered, the Lodge mentioned was a Scottish Rite Lodge under the Grand Orient of Berlin rather than a Scottish Constitution Lodge. This still needs further verification.

The petition for the new Lodge was duly transmitted by the District Grand Lodge in Hong Kong to the Grand Lodge in Edinburgh who granted a warrant on 7 November 1907. The warrant was sent to the District Grand Master in Hong Kong with the request for him to consecrate the Lodge and install its first Office Bearers. Bros, Camus and Aguado travelled to Hong Kong, and on 23 April 1908 the new Lodge was consecrated in Zetland Hall, Hong Kong with Bro. Camus installed as its first Master. On their return to Manila, the first local meeting of the Lodge was held on 4 May 1908, and Bro. Camus obligated and invested the remainder of the Lodge Office Bearers.

The original intention of the founders was to confine the workings of the Lodge to Spanish. However, it was soon realized that English was quickly supplanting Spanish in the Philippines and, although for a time the ceremonies were conducted in the language of the candidate, the Lodge soon changed to a fully English-speaking Lodge. Recently, copies of the Lodge Ritual dated 1912, in English and in Spanish, have been found. Membership of the Lodge expanded rapidly and by 1916, there were over 200 members of nineteen different nationalities.

With these growing numbers, a Scottish Constitution Royal Arch Chapter was formed in Manila in 1911. In 1912, a second Scottish Lodge, Lodge Cebu No 1106, was chartered in Cebu. The chartering of the Royal Arch Chapter created a problem as, although at the time, the Philippines was considered open territory for Lodges, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States and its Territories had asserted that they had jurisdiction over the Philippines for Royal Arch Masonry.

On 19 December 1912, the three Lodges which had been chartered under the Grand Lodge of California formed the Grand Lodge of the Philippines Islands. At that time, Lodge Perla del Oriente and Lodge Cebu declined to take part in the new Grand Lodge.

Once consecrated, the newly formed Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands applied to other Grand Lodges throughout the world for recognition. In February 1915, the Grand Lodge of Scotland granted recognition to the Grand

Lodge of the Philippine Islands as a Sovereign Body. It however "reserved the rights of the Grand Lodge of Scotland as regards to the Scottish Lodges presently in existence in the Philippines and the rights of those Lodges." In effect, this meant that the two Scottish Lodges should be allowed to continue in existence until they decided otherwise.

Although a Grand Lodge of the Philippines had been formed, there still existed locally the Grand Regional Lodge of the Grande Oriente Español with over 30 Lodges. Negotiations were opened between the two towards a possible merger or "fusion". It was reported that, because the Grand Lodge of Scotland recognised both the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the Grande Oriente Español, Lodge Perla's meetings were attended by members of both the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands and the Grand Regional Lodge, and that some of the discussion on a merger took place between members of those jurisdictions attending the meetings.

When, on 14 February 1917, twenty-seven of the Spanish Lodges decided to affiliate to the then eleven of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands, both Scottish Constitution Lodges were again invited to join the expanded Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. Lodge Cebu No 1106 SC decided to relinquish its Charter to Scotland, and all its members joined a Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands Lodge in Cebu.

Lodge Perla del Oriente, however, declined to join. At that time, World War I was raging in Europe and Scotland was one of the warring nations. Lodge Perla told the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands, "We believe it our Masonic duty to remain true and loyal to the Grand Lodge of Scotland during the present world crisis and to give her our moral and material support in the great Masonic work she is carrying on today for humanity in general."

Once the War had ended, the members of Lodge Perla decided that they should further delay a decision on whether to join the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands pending the resolution of the ongoing dispute between the General Grand Chapter of the USA and the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland over the consecration of Keystone Royal Arch Chapter No 354 in 1912. This had led to a severing of relations between the two. By the time this dispute was resolved in 1924, Lodge Perla members had reached the decision that they were happy to remain as a member Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Initially, the Lodge met in the San Nicolas District of Manila, but later moved its meetings to the Plaridel Masonic Temple of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. When the Japanese entered Manila in January 1942, all Lodge activities were suspended as the Japanese did not allow mass assemblies. The Japanese occupied the Plaridel Masonic Temple and all records, regalia, and paraphernalia of the Lodges meeting there were burned and destroyed.

After the liberation of the Philippines, several Filipino, American, and European members of the Lodge promptly exerted efforts to have the Lodge resume its activities. This was done under a telegram dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland until a duplicate copy of the Charter could come by sea from Edinburgh. Muog Lodge No 89 of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands gave Lodge Perla permission to hold the first meeting in the post-war period at their Masonic Temple in Paranaque. This was held on 15th December 1945, and the Office-bearers for the 1945/46 were duly installed at the meeting.

For various reasons, Lodge Perla could not hold its next meetings at the Muog temple. The Senior Warden of the Lodge, Bro Thomas H. Fen-

stermacher, however kindly offered his home located in Sta Ana, Manila, as a temporary Lodge meeting place. His small sala was converted into a Lodge Hall which was duly consecrated on 10 February 1946 with Bro Benito Maneze, Sr., Immediate Past Master, officiating, assisted by other members of the Lodge.

The Right Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer utilized small wooden boxes piled up on top of each other to serve as pedestals and tables. A small wooden table on which rested the VSL with the Square and Compasses served as the Altar. It was necessary to use carpenter's tools for the Masonic Working Tools and hammers served as gavels. The jewels of the officers, which had luckily been saved by a PM, were strung on cords, and twelve white aprons were donated by the Right Worshipful Master to be used by the officer bearers. Regular meetings were held at the residence of Brother Fenstermacher until October 1946, when the Lodge received an invitation to hold its meetings at the Scottish Rite Temple, 1828 Taft Avenue, Manila, which was then being reconstructed. The first meeting of the Lodge held at the Scottish Rite Temple was on 12th October 1946, and since then the Scottish Rite Temple has become Lodge Perla Del Oriente's permanent home.

In 2009, the Lodge, which had previously reported direct to Grand Lodge in Edinburgh was added into the District Grand Lodge of the Far East which now comprises 12 Lodges – three in Korea, two in Japan, six in Hong Kong and Lodge Perla in Manila.

In a message sent to the Lodge, to be read at the 2016 Installation meeting, MW Voltaire Gazmin, included the following comments:

"The Grand Lodge of the Philippines is fortunate to share your distinct style of Masonry, bereft of any jurisdictional issues. Many of you are members of the GLP and vice versa. We have enriched each other well. Together, we prove that Freemasonry is indeed universal despite certain differences in forms and styles. In my travels to foreign jurisdictions, I have been asked whether it is possible for their Lodges to enjoy the same status as Lodge Perla in the Philippines. You know the answer well. Our distinct relationship was forged more than a century ago. Our historic ties will support the notion that Lodge Perla is not a sister to us, but more of a great aunt. Fortunately, you are not a grumpy old aunt."

Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP, previously Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands) are most welcome to attend our meetings in Lodge Perla, see our distinct style of Masonry, and compare the differences between the constitutions for themselves. We meet at 6pm prompt on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Scottish Rite Temple in Manila. GLP members should be prepared to be tested before admission, unless they can be vouched for by a member of the Lodge. They should also bring their own regalia. Within the Lodge, they should give GLP signs at the appropriate times and not attempt to copy Lodge Perla's signs which have minor differences from those of GLP.

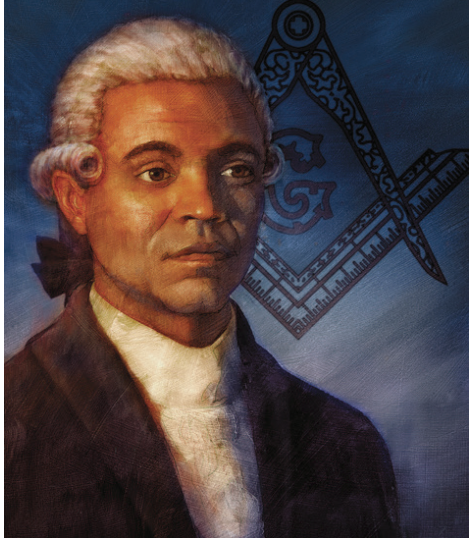
Some of the more noticeable differences our GLP visitors to the Lodge will find would be our Royal Stewart tartan regalia, that we open every meeting in the 1st Degree and that all business, other than elections, is carried out in that degree. Honorifics attach to the office, not to the individual, so that while the Brother seated in the Oriental Chair is addressed as Right Worshipful Master in the Lodge, he is at other times Brother Pravin Sharma, for instance. Likewise, our Grand Master Mason, who visited us in 2018, is addressed Bro Ramsay McGhee, MW Grand Master Mason. Near the end of the meeting, the Master will ask if there is any further business from the floor of the Lodge. That will be an opportunity for visitors to give greetings and make any other comments on the meeting.

Sources:

- **Brief History of the Lodge by Bro Benito Maneze Sr, PM**
- **The Craft in the East by R W Bro Christopher Haffner, PDGM of Hong Kong & the Far East, EC**
- **GLP Proceedings**
- **The Brethren by M W Reynold S Fajardo, PGM of Grand Lodge of the Philippines**
- **Full Masonic Restoration by M W Reynold S Fajardo, PGM of Grand Lodge of the Philippines**

The Prince Hall Masons

By RW Ronald Muse (59, MWPH GLWA)



Brother Prince Hall, the First African American Freemason

Black Freemasonry began when Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men were initiated into Lodge No. 441, Irish Constitution, attached to the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army Garrisoned at Castle William (now Fort Independence) Boston Harbor on March 6, 1775. The Master of the Lodge was Sergeant John Batt. Along with Prince Hall, the other newly made Masons were Cyrus Johnson, Bueston Slinger, Prince Rees, John Canton, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiler, Duff Ruform, Thomas Santerson, Prince Rayden, Cato Spain, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Forten Howard, and Richard Titley.

When the British Army left Boston in 1776, Lodge No. 441 granted Prince Hall and his brethren authority to meet as African Lodge #1 (Under Dispensation), to go in procession on St. John's Day, and as a Lodge to bury their dead; but they could not confer degrees nor perform any other Masonic "work". For nine years these brethren, together with others who had received their degrees elsewhere, assembled and enjoyed their limited privileges as Masons. Thirty-three Masons were listed on the rolls of African Lodge #1 on January 14th, 1779. On March 2, 1784 Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, through a Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge in London (William Moody of Brotherly Love Lodge No. 55) for a warrant or charter.

The Warrant to African Lodge No. 459 of Boston is the most significant and highly prized document known to the Prince Hall Mason Fraternity. Through it, our legitimacy is traced, and on it more than any other factor, our case rests. It was granted on September 29, 1784, delivered in Boston on April 29, 1787 by Captain James Scott, brother-in-law of John Hancock and Master of the Neptune. Under its authority African Lodge No. 459 was organized one week later, May 6, 1787.

Prince Hall was appointed a Provincial Grand Master in 1791 by H.R.H., the Prince of Wales. The question of extending Masonry arose when Absalom Jones of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania appeared in Boston. He was an ordained Episcopal priest and a Mason who was interested in establishing a Masonic lodge in Philadelphia. Under the authority of the charter of African Lodge #459, Prince Hall established African Lodge #459 of Philadelphia on March 22, 1797 and Hiram Lodge #3 in Providence, Rhode Island on June 25, 1797. African Lodge of Boston became the "Mother Lodge" of the Prince Hall Family. It was typical for new lodges to be established in this manner in those days. The African Grand Lodge was not organized until 1808 when representatives of African Lodge #459 of Boston, African Lodge #459 of Philadelphia and Hiram Lodge #3 of Providence met in New York City.

Upon Prince Hall's death on December 4, 1807, Nero Prince became Master. When Nero Prince sailed to Russia in 1808, George Middleton succeeded him. After Middleton, Petrert Lew, Samuel H. Moody and then, John T. Hilton became Grand Master. In 1827, Hilton recommended a Declaration of Independence from the English Grand Lodge.

In 1869 a fire destroyed Massachusetts' Grand Lodge headquarters and several of its priceless records. The charter in its metal tube was in the Grand Lodge chest. The tube saved the charter from the flames, but the intense heat charred the paper. It was at this time that Grand Master S.T. Kendall crawled into the burning building and in peril of his life, saved the charter from complete destruction. Thus, a Grand Master's devotion and heroism further consecrated this parchment to us and added a further detail to its already interesting history. The original Charter No. 459 has long since been made secure between heavy plate glass and is kept in a fire-proof vault in a downtown Boston bank.

Today, the Prince Hall Fraternity is the largest predominantly African-American Masonic body in North America. It has over 4,500 lodges worldwide, forming 45 independent jurisdictions with a membership of over 300,000 Masons.

History Summary of Mabuhay Lodge No. 59

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons of Washington and Jurisdiction

By RW Junior Washington (59, MWPH GLWA)

Prince Hall Masonry is a world-wide organization which accepts Brethren from all ethnic backgrounds, races, and religions. Among our affiliates are the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ontario, Canada; the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Bahamas and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Barbados.

Locally, Mabuhay Military Lodge No. 59 was founded during the Vietnam War at Clark Air Base in 1971 under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Washington Jurisdiction (Prince Hall Affiliated).

During the years, members worked and studied extremely hard for recognition. That zeal was rewarded when Worshipful Master O.V. Wright, received the Charter from the Most Worshipful Grand Master James E. Chase, thus legitimizing the Lodge and empowering it to perform Masonic work.

In June 1991, the Mount Pinatubo eruption brought a screeching halt to the United States military operations and severely impacted the presence of service members and their families in the Philippines. Mabuhay Military Lodge No. 59 endured a temporary closure, and operations at Subic Bay were curtailed though did not suffer nearly the amount of devastation levied on Clark Air Base. Mabuhay members were asked to travel to another Prince Hall Lodge named Light House Lodge located at Subic Naval Base. That proved to be untenable as more members participating at that time realized that more productive, efficient, and effective communication could be and was done here in Angeles City. Then Worshipful Master Junior Washington was given the task of bringing the Prince Hall Masonic Body back to its present location in Angeles City.

After a lot of long distance calling and dialogue with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington (MWPH GLWA), the local brethren were assured that the lodge would be formally reopened. And thus, it not only reopened, but reconstituted as Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 on 5 April 1995. Leaders at that

The Brethren of Mabuhay Lodge No. 59

time were now Special District Deputy Grand Master Junior Washington with Willie Carter as the incoming Worshipful Master, Freddy Banks as the Senior Warden and John Mills as the Junior Warden. During that timeframe, the Most Worshipful Grand Master William C. Rhuebottom was negotiating an agreement with the then Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, the Honorable Leon Angel P. Banez, Jr. for formal recognition between the two Jurisdictions. Those two Grand Masters signed the document authorizing Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 recognition within the Republic of the Philippines effective 25 September 1997.

In June 1997, Grand Master William C. Rhuebottom personally visited the Philippines to see for himself the situation concerning the Prince Hall Masonic brethren still living and practicing Masonry in the Republic of the Philippines.

To this day Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 enjoys a fruitful relationship with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, particularly the Brethren of Masonic District RIII Pampanga. In 2013, a large contingent of Prince Hall Masons travelled to Iloilo City to attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. This delegation was led by then Grand Master Gardner M. Torrance of the MWPH Grand Lodge of Washington, with him were six other Prince Hall Grand Masters from all around the world who were in the Philippines to participate in a Far East District Session hosted by Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 - Home of the Thoroughbreds.

Today the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, is led by the Honorable Lester Dickson, the 48th Grand Master of Masons. Right Worshipful Michael E. Estelle, serves as the District 12 Deputy Grand Master. Incumbent Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 Worshipful Master is Stanley Larkin, Senior Warden is Antonio Ray and Junior Warden is Guy Fisher.

When Clark Air Base was in operation local lodge membership was extremely high due to the pipeline of active duty members. Today, the 54 active members on their rolls consist of military retirees, Filipino Prince Hall Masons returning home after serving and having been raised overseas, as well as several local businessmen.

Brehtren from MWPH GLWA with MW Romeo S. Momo (GLP)

The Brethren of Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 maintain a strong, positive visibility in the local Angeles City and Pampanga communities. They annually donate an abundance of personal time, labor, and goods to local organizations. Just to name several of the organizations local Prince Hall Masons support are the Duyan ni Maria Children's Home (Orphanage); the Bahay Pag-ibig-Home for the Aged (Senior Citizens residence); the Munting Tahanan ng Nazareth - Home for the Handicapped (Orphanage); the Children's Home of the Immaculate Heart of Saint Mary (Orphanage); the AETA Village – Sapang Bato (Philippine indigent mountain citizens), and the Philippine-American Association of Angeles City (Bi-racial citizens).

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons
of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE
1440 SAN MARCELINO ST., MANILA
P.O. BOX 990
TEL. NOS.: 524-32-63 • 523-27-91
FAX NO. (632) 522-22-18

MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR.
Grand Master

MW RAYMUNDO N. BELTRAN, PGL
Grand Secretary

September 25, 1997

MW WILLIAM C. RHEUBOTTOM
M.W. Grand Master
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON
& JURISDICTION
306 - 24th Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98144
U.S.A.

Dear Most Worshipful Brother Rheubottom:

It is with fraternal pride and honor that I report to you that the officers and members of the Board for General Purposes of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines has unanimously agreed to give and extend official and fraternal recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Washington and Jurisdiction with the proviso that no other Lodge, except Mabuhay Lodge which is presently existing today in Angeles City, shall ever be added or organized.

With the above-mentioned recognition, and as a manifestation of the universal and Masonic spirit of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, we welcome with open arms and warm fraternal love brethren from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Washington and Jurisdiction.

Fraternally Yours,

LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR.
Grand Master

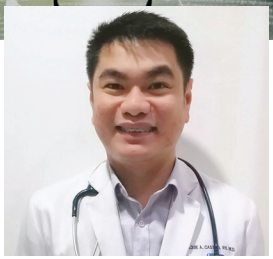
[illegible]

[illegible]

"FREEMASONRY: A Brotherhood for Peace, Unity and Human Progress"
"Together is Better"

doctor in the temple

By Bro. Louie A. Castro, MD



Vacc is IN

In this current time of modernization, the development of health-related innovations has been very much evident alongside the discovery of novel diseases. This only shows how the ever-changing environment affects the living of mankind. Over two years ago, the first case of the previously called nCoV, currently known as the COVID-19 surfaced the globe and has brought immense panic and risk across the world. Complete lockdowns were implemented by majority of the nations as to ensure the deceleration of the spread of the virus. As these countries were executing their safety measures, few private sectors are very much engaged in putting an end to this pandemic.

Not too long ago, the release of the first few COVID-19 vaccines were disclosed to the public. Despite the different opinions of people regarding the use of vaccines, the administration of such is still highly encouraged. As I am writing this article, few hours have already passed since I got my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

At the beginning of this pandemic, sentiments have been going through my head concerning as to how this pandemic would eventually end. Yet, as a frontline health worker, here I am, one of the first to receive the vaccine in our country. I bet one of the most notable vaccine inculcated in the minds of Filipinos is the Dengvaxia vaccine. The scare established a stigma to the community that even reliable and proven vaccines were neglected. Perhaps this is the reason why the number of measles cases in the country spiked due to non-vaccination brought about by the scare. But what do we really know about vaccines? Should we really get the covid vaccine? Let us try to shed some light regarding this matter.

We could infer that a lot of people have been in opposition towards vaccinations for they are not knowledgeable enough regarding its details. A vaccine is a preparation which contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins, or one of its surface proteins. This confers immunity to the body from a specific infectious agent such as SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for Covid-19.

To make it simple, a toxin or a protein or even the organism itself, which is weakened or killed, is introduced into the body. It needs to be weakened or killed so the body can easily eradicate it. The body will eventually combat this and will develop antibodies to fight the organism. By the time in case the real organism enters the body, there is already an immune response. Like an army ready to engage in battle anytime. On the other hand, if there is no vac-

cine introduced in the body, by the time the organism enters the body it will be overwhelmed and likely succumb to the infection as it does not yet have an army to fight the infection.

There exist several types of COVID-19 vaccines, few of which are:

Whole Virus Vaccine

Brand: Sinopharm / Sinovac
Number of doses required: Two shots.
Mechanism: Both use inactivated virus; therefore, they cannot infect our body but can
trigger an immune response.
Other vaccines that use the same type of technology: Hepatitis A, Rabies and Polio

RNA or mRNA Vaccine

Brand: Pfizer-BioNtech / Moderna
Number of doses required: Two shots.
Mechanism: The mRNA vaccines teach cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response inside the body.
Other vaccines that use the same type of technology: NONE

Non-Replicating Viral Vector Vaccine

Brand: Oxford-AstraZeneca / Sputnik V (Gamaleya Research Institute)
Number of doses required: Two shots.
Mechanism: A modified version of the virus, known as 'Viral Vector' is introduced into the body. Once the body is infected, it produces large amount of antigen which in turn illicit an immune response.
Other vaccines that use the same type of technology: rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine against Ebola

Protein Sub-unit Vaccine

Brand: Novavax
Number of doses required: Two shots.
Mechanism: The vaccine contains 'pieces' of the pathogen rather than the whole pathogen to trigger an immune response, thus minimizing risk of effects.
Other vaccines that use the same type of technology: Hepatitis B, Meningococcal Disease, pneumococcal Disease, Shingles

Along the existence of these vaccines, one

would ask, "Which of them is the best?" There is no single best vaccine, but for assured safety and efficacy, always choose a vaccine that is approved by the FDA. All these vaccines are all geared towards protecting us from Covid-19 so whatever vaccine or brand is available, it will surely benefit humanity.

The government has laid down its vaccine priority list. First priority are the frontline health workers. Next are indigent senior citizens. The third priority involves the remaining senior citizens. The fourth in the list are the remaining indigent population. Last are the uniformed personnel. The general population follows afterwards. There are already a couple of vaccines available in the Philippines. These are being rolled out in selected government hospitals and institutions. After which, they will hopefully be available to the public.

As of the moment, only the government can procure the vaccines, private institutions later can negotiate with government to take hold of these vaccines. As time goes by, we are hopeful that normal citizens will be able to purchase these vaccines personally to ensure the safety of the greater population.

Throughout the years, the administration of the different vaccines has helped the world in limiting the spread of communicable and lethal diseases. As we eradicate these illnesses in our communities, it is important that we become well-aware of its utilization and advantages. These are not only for the use of one individual but for the welfare of the people that that individual will come into contact with. May the discovery of this vaccine be a steppingstone towards medical advancement today and for future generations.

Paminggalan ni Kuya Pong

ni MK Arnulfo Macatangay, NMG

Usapang Ensalada

Kumusta po Brethren?

Dahil panahon na ng Kwaresma, marami sa atin ang kailangang mangilin sa pamamagitan ng hindi pagkain ng karne sa araw ng Biyernes. Idagdag pa dyan ang pahirapan sa pagbili ng karneng baboy. Sa pagtawid sa ganitong panahon nababagay ang ENSELADA (SALAD) - uri ng ulam na gawa sa pinaghalo-halong pagkain na may hilaw na sangkap, sinarsahan, at inihahain sa katamtamang kaintan (room temperature). Narito ang dalawang pormula sa pag-gawa ng Enselada. Pansinin na pareho silang pinalalamig sa Ref, ito'y upang manariwa ang mga sangkap at lalong sumarap.

ENSALADANG LATO

Ang LATO ay isang uri ng damong-dagat (seaweed) na karaniwang nabibili sa mga pamilihang malapit sa baybay dagat. Ito'y mabuti sa mga may dyabetis dahil sa epekto nito sa pag-gawa ng insulin. Mayaman din ang Lato sa ilang mineral tulad ng Yodo (Iodine), Magnesiyo (Magnesium), at Bitamina K (Vitamin K). Upang mapakinabangan ng husto ang mga benepisyo nito, maiging kainin ng sariwa. Sa pagbili ng LATO piliin yung makintab para siguradong sariwa.

Mga Sangkap: Para sa sampung katao

- 1/2 Kilo Lato / Sea Grapes or Green Caviar
- 4 pcs Kamatis / Tomato
- 2 pcs Sibuyas Tagalog / Wild Onion
- 4 pcs Itlog na Maalat (Salted Egg)
- Kaunting Luya / Ginger
- Kaunting Siling Labuyo
- Kaunting Asin / Salt
- Kaunting Vetsin
- Kaunting Asukal / Sugar (optional)
- Kaunting Pampaasim - Suka / Vinegar o Calamansi / Philippine Lime

Paraan ng Pag-gawa:

1. Hugasan ang mga gulay at linisin ang lato sa tubig.
2. Balatan ang sibuyas at hiwain ng pino. Hiwain din ng pino ang kamatis.
3. Humiwa ng ilang pirasong luya at sili. Gayatin. Gayatin at timplahin ang paglagay ayon sa gustong anghang.
4. Biyakin ang Itlog na maalat at kutsarahin ang pula. (Huwag isali ang puti para malinamnam.)
5. Ilagay ang mga sangkap sa malaking lalagyan at paghalu-haluin.
6. Lagyan ng Suka o Calamansi at kaunting asin, vetsin, at asukal. (Timplahin ayon sa panlasa.)
7. Palamigin sa loob ng Ref ng 30 minutos. Pagkatapos ay puede nang ihain.

ENSELADANG TALONG AT MANGGA

Napapanahon din ngayon ang Mangga – maging ito ay hinog (ripe), hilaw (un-ripe), o manibalang (almost ripe). Popular din sa mga bayan bayan ang Talong. Madaling makakabili ng dalawang sangkap upang gawing ensalada. Sa pagpili, maigi kung ang talong ay matigas at ang mangga ay manibalang.

Mga Sangkap:

- 10 pcs Talong / Eggplant
- 5 pcs Manggang Kalabaw (manibalang) /

Manila Manggo (almost ripe)
- 5 pcs Kamatis / Tomato
- 5 pcs Sibuyas Tagalog / Wild Onion
- 4 pcs Itlog na Maalat (Salted Egg)
- 3 pcs Kalamansi / Philippine Lemon
- Kaunting Luya / Ginger
- Kaunting Asin / Salt
- Kaunting Pampaasim - Suka / Vinegar o Calamansi / Philippine Lime

Paraan ng Pag-gawa:

1. Hugasang maigi ang mga prutas at gulay
2. Balatan ang Mangga at hiwain ng maliit.
3. Balatan ang sibuyas at hiwain ng pino. Hiwain din ng pino ang kamatis.
4. Humiwa ng ilang pirasong luya at sili. Gayatin at timplahin ang paglagay ayon sa gustong anghang.
5. Biyakin ang Itlog na maalat at kutsarahin ang pula. (Huwag isali ang puti para malinamnam.)
6. Ihawin ang talong hanggang mangitim ang balat. Kapag medyo luto na, tanggalan ng balat at lamasin ng bahagya (yung hindi madudurog).
7. Ilagay ang mga sangkap sa malaking lalagyan at paghalu-haluin.
8. Lagyan ng Suka o Calamansi at kaunting asin, vetsin, at asukal. (Timplahin ayon sa panlasa.)
9. Palamigin sa loob ng Ref ng 30 minutos. Ihain pagkatapos.

PAHABOL:

Suka o Calamansi: Ano ang kaibahan?
Bukod sa pampaasim, ang SUKA ay nagsisilbing preserbatibo kaya tumatagal ang buhay ng pagkain. Ang Kalamasi ay may natural na asim, magandang gamitin ito kung ang nakahain ay kakainin at uubusin agad.

Dagdag Pampalasa:
Ang dalawang enselada ay maaaring lagyan ng Bagoong Isda o Bagoong Alamang,
depende ito sa panlasa ng kakain.

The Juris Dictum

By VW Edgardo M. Villareal II, JGL

Road to AnCom

This coming 22-23 April 2021, the brethren will once again hold their Annual Communication where representatives of subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines are expected to attend and participate in. This year however, the AnCom will be drastically different than the previous. With the current pandemic besetting us, everyone is expected to observe the necessary safety protocols. Thus, while there will still be some meet and greet, everyone foresees that this year's event would be less festive.

But more than the fellowship itself, other important aspects of the event are in store too. For one, the brethren shall determine the incoming Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge. Likewise, during Annual Communication, the brethren from north to south will convene to review the performance of the outgoing Grand Master during his term. As the brethren may know, it is during the AnCom that the awesome powers of the Grand Lodge, namely Legislative, Executive and Judicial, which the Grand Master exercises in between annual communications, are reverted back to the brethren. Hence, as part of the event, the Grand Master shall present to the brethren all his Edicts, actions, and decisions and thereafter, the respective representative of lodges shall deliberate and signify their approval or rejection on such matters, in whole or in part.

Accordingly, the brethren's participation in the AnCom is very vital in charting the path of Philippine Masonry. They should exercise utmost prudence in choosing the next Junior Grand Warden, who will eventually occupy the Grand Oriental Chair in the coming years. They should also be mindful that every edict that they approve will become part of our local regulation; that every opinion of the Committee on Jurisprudence, every decision of the Trial Commission and of the Grievance Committee, as adapted by the Grand Master, becomes part of our Masonic Jurisprudence. Verily, the brethren are expected to be attentive and judicious in every matter to be deliberated upon in the plenary. Moreover, the three lights and the immediate past masters of subordinate lodges should also be aware that they gain their standing to participate in the AnCom, not in their own individual right as regular Masons, but as representatives of their respective lodges. They should therefore voice out the official stand of their own lodge and not just their own personal opinions.

We hope that in the coming Annual Communications, the brethren would be able to contribute to the peace and harmony by preventing confusion, divisiveness and individualism which are repugnant to the growth and stability of the Craft. We should always carry with us the three Principal Tenets of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, as well as the Four Cardinal Virtues: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice, as taught by those who came before us.

May the Great Architect of the Universe guide us all!

GLP Grand Line Officers during the 103rd Annual Communications

From Left to Right:
MW Bro. Juanito G. Espino, Jr., PGM (Grand Treasurer), RW Bro. Rolen C. Paulino (Deputy Grand Master), MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. (Grand Master), RW Bro. Johnny T. Pimentel (Senior Grand Warden), RW Bro. Don T. Ramas-Uypitching (Junior Grand Warden), and MW Bro. Danilo D. Angeles, PGM (Grand Secretary).

THE FUTURE TEMPLE OF MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR. MASONIC LODGE, U.D.

MASONIC DISTRICT R2-CAGAYAN

MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR. MASONIC LODGE, U.D. was instituted on January 14, 2020 by MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. It is named after the first Grand Master from Northeastern Luzon who dropped his working tools on September 4, 2018. The idea of creating a lodge in the late MW Bañez' name was discussed informally in one of the official foreign trips of MW Suan with VW Eduardo V. Interior, a PDDGM of MD R2-Cagayan and the CJGL for Overseas Lodges, along with other Grand Lodge officers. Thereafter, at the instance of VW Interior and VW Domingo J. De Asis, DDGM of MD R2-Cagayan, 29 other brethren joined them in signing a petition to form it. The lodge endeavors to build its temple building very soon. In fact, there was already a cornerstone-laying and consecration of the future temple presided by MW Suan on March 13, 2021 in Annafunan East, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. The lot was donated by VW Interior. (MPNaragJr66)