



THE *Volume 97, No. 4 January-April 2021* CABLE TOW

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



CHARITY & HUMILITY PERSONIFIED



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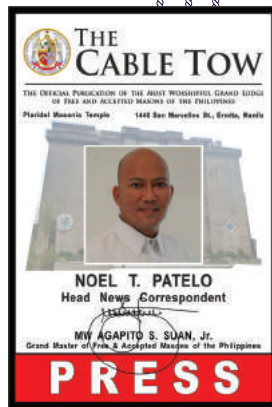
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FROM THE GRAND EAST



MW AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
GRAND MASTER

Dear Brethren:

This is the last edition of the Cable Tow under my term, and I presume this will be circulated long after we have relinquished our former positions to the newly elected Grand Lodge leadership team, led by MW Rolen C. Paulino. So please don't be surprised if you find my name still bearing the Grand Master's title in this issue.

I will also presume that we have successfully executed the 104th ANCOM. The COVID situation makes things so volatile. We were ready to hold the convention in Olongapo City as planned a long time ago, but changing circumstances

forced us to cancel the venue at the last minute. But we have put in place adequate ad hoc procedures to make online convention possible. This is something we have not done before so there will be marked departures from the usual physical ANCOM procedures.

But for good measure, we have decided to postpone the election of the Junior Grand Warden as there are certain issues on-line voting platform which prevent us from fully attesting to a 100% credibility of the system. This will open up a number of proposed adjustments to our rules but please



bear in mind that these are mere interim measures to remedy the disruptions caused by the pandemic and there is no intention at all to replace our long-standing procedures for good. The 104th ANCOM must be held one way or the other, and all delegates to this convention must discharge their last and final duties, in the same dedicated manner that they have shown for the past two consecutive terms.

At this point, the virus continues to disrupt our regular business and if ever things change for the better in the near future, we foresee a pivot to a “new normal” which will usher in a new and permanent set of prescribed conduct and attitude among all people, including certain adjustments Freemasonry has to make to conform to a new regime of safer human interaction.

We have begun by infusing modern digital technology into our systems as featured in our previous Cable Tow edition. And the Cable Tow team has responded superbly amidst our present difficulties. We might as well call them the Virus-Impervious Editorial Staff because when just about everyone has to stop, duck, and cower in fear of COVID19, they bravely labored on, pounded their keyboards, and produced timely, meaty, and highly informative articles about what’s happening in the jurisdiction. They kept everyone abreast of the state of affairs of our Masonry as they happen, by making the Cable Tow available online. And they did

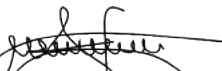
not confine themselves in their traditional publishing role. Thinking outside the box, they collaborated to produce the techie app wonders we now conveniently use such as the TCTreader and Digital Compilations leading to the GLProceedings and the GLadkit. When important GLP events need to be aired, they took charge of streaming them online, enabling the brethren to be virtually present in these affairs. Truly, I cannot ask for a better team.



My last parting instruction to them is to find ways to produce special paper prints of the various volumes released during the term. We need to keep some traditions alive, and I wish to see printed volumes of the COVID19 editions lining our shelves. And I appeal to the brethren for help in producing them by making special voluntary subscriptions at a minimal cost, the details of which will be announced by the Editorial Staff shortly.

Kudos to the finest technological and editorial team led by Grand Scribe VW J. Harold Santiago, whom I had the good fortune and pleasure to have worked with. And farewell my dear brethren, although I return to your ranks once more.

Grand Lodge of the Philippines,
City of Manila
March 30, 2021


AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

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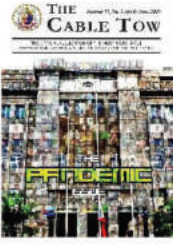
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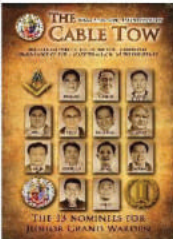
Issue No. 4 is the final Installment of the Cable Tow Vol. 97 under MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. We thank our new Grand Master, MW Rolan C. Paulino for indulging us with this release which is the Swan Song of his predecessor. Far from its morbid mythology, Swan Song in human parlance is attributed to the final composition or performance of an artist or performer before retirement – in this case, the Grand Master's final actions before descending from the Grand Oriental Chair.



It covers some of the events from January to April 2021 as they unfold before the 104th Annual Communication. Like Vol.97, No. 3 – this issue continues to give emphasis on the ongoing Pandemic with two articles providing personal accounts on COVID-19. Reportage in the Pages of Remembrance reflect morbidities higher than ever.



Special Pages are allotted for 12 lodges celebrating their Centennial Anniversaries last January 25, 2021. As practiced in our jurisdiction more than 100 years ago, the date written on lodge charters then was based on the day that the Grand Lodge granted the charters INSTEAD of the day of their Constitution. As a result, January 25 is the date written on the charters of Philippine lodges constituted in 1921. In succeeding years, the practice was dropped in favor of the date when a lodge was duly constituted as practiced today. In fine, Lodge Anniversaries of our Centennial Lodges should not be based on the modern practice for they have reckoned time on a different system a century ago. Interesting facsimile from the Proceedings of the 9th ANCOM have been released for this installment as the publication's centenary gift to Pangasinan 56, Luzon 57, Labong 59, Isabela 60, Mayon 61, Angalo 63, Kanlaon 64, Tamaraw 65, Gonzaga 66, Baguio 67, Magat 68, and Primera Luz 69. The contents of the Centerfold are an added bonus.



Although released after ANCOM 2021, this edition as produced under Team Suan, for consistency, applied the ranks and titles based on Masonic Year 2019 - 2021. Our tour of duty in this publication officially lasted 11 months (June 2020 – April 2021). We need to labor one month more to complete this 6th Issue.



As promised by our Grand Master in Issue 1 – limited copies of Vol.97 will be printed in keeping with tradition. As such, bound compilations of Vols. 96 & 97 will be issued for each lodge, advertiser, contributor, and selected recipients. For a more detailed information on the printing, kindly refer to the Cable Tow ANCOM Report 2020-2021.

As we bid adieu with these 144 pages, I personally thank Associate **Edgar Bentulan**, M-Ed **Albert Dumlaio**, Art D **Gene Illenberger**, Photo-Journo **Charles Agar**, Circ Mngr. **Anton Tan**, and Business Mngr. **Bryan Dy**; our Head News Correspondents – **WB Pong Macatangay**, **Bro. Goloo Menghrajani**, **Bro. Noel Patelo**, **WB Jedz Pintac**, **VW**

Butch Roldan, WB Cary Uy, and WB Raymond Wong. Much appreciated are the articles submitted and advice given by **Bro. Louie Castro** (Medicine), **Bro. JP Narisma** (Technology), and **VR Sam Fernandez** – the most seasoned EIC of the magazine.

Special Mention to 4 of our regular columnists who never failed to deliver: **Bro. Patrick Azanza** (Nilad 12), **VW Edgardo Villareal II** (Kasilawan 77), **Bro. Giovanni Villegas** (Jacobo Zobel 202), and **VW Victorio V. Vizcocho, Jr.** (Pinatubo 52). Kuyang Patrick's first three articles under the segment **Ways to Wisdom** was followed by another triple treat in **Legends of the Craft**. VW Gary Villareal's take on jurisprudence via **The Juris Dictum** is both informative and enlightening. Bro. Joey's **Masonry in the Time of the Corona Virus** is a concise chronicle of the Craft during the pandemic. Allow me now to introduce our successor – VW Vic Vizcocho, the writer behind the **Pusong Mason** articles. In choosing a professional media man, MW Rolen C. Paulino would not have found a better man for the job!



Shoutout to our past Grand Scribes especially my two predecessors under Vol.96 – **VW Jesus Lorenzo "Jess" Mateo** (Nilad 12) and **VW Marlon Castor** (King Solomon 150). Much grateful po for the mentoring, brotherhood, and support mga Kuya.

To the first Grand Master, who entrusted us with our 97 Year Old Publication – my grateful appreciation for the opportunity. Hindi ko po kayo makakalimutan, **MW Agapito "Jun" Suan**.

Finally, Thank You **TCT Readers** for traveling with our Team as we wrote these pages upon the Level of Time. SALUD!!!

April 22, 2021
Mabalacat City, Pampanga

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



Post-Script:

In May 10, one of our Teammates made a sudden and sadder farewell as Bro. Noel Patelo (Talavera 273) succumbed to injuries from a vehicular accident in Cabanatuan City. As a tribute to one of TCT's most productive members, we shall submit a special article on our departed brother to the next Editor-In-Chief in Volume 98.

About the Cover: Art Director Gene Illenberger placed the Swans as attributed to MW Suan in the first TCT Issue of his incumbency back in 2019 (Vol.96, No.1). The swan appears once again as his term comes full circle with this issue (Vol.97, No.4). Two aquatic birds sitting face to face, alludes to the GM's two full years in the Grand Oriental Chair. The aqueous surface represents chaos - boundless and ungovernable like the pandemic, where the Grand Master maneuvered the craft triumphantly. The heart formed, as the swans face each other is emblematic of his love for the Craft and Brethren as MW Suan agreed to stay and continue to serve during these trying times. Incidentally, the swan-shaped "2" is one of the Grand Master's favorite numbers. Charity & Humility, the two virtues espoused under Team Suan is prominently placed together with the Team logos. - **EIC / JHS**





GLAD TIDINGS FROM THE GLP

GLP Concludes Renovations

By VW J. Harold W. Santiago,
Grand Scribe



Plaridel Masonic Temple

On March 5 – the Grand Lodge Premises was blessed by a Catholic Priest as the renovations during the extended term of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. was nearing its completion. Officiating the ceremony was Fr. Roland Jaluag, from Jesus, Lord Divine Mercy Parish in Mapayapa Village I, Pasong Tamo, Quezon City.

“This is the fourth occasion that Fr. Roland have graced the GLP during my term.” A grateful Grand Master said. “The first time was in the Mass celebrated last May 2, 2019, when I reported for office; followed by the 107th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge on December 19, 2019; then during the blessing of the three lodge halls and my Natal Day in November 20 of last year. MW Suan added.

With the surplus cash donations from the initial renovation of Stafford, Palma, and Bonifacio Halls in 2020, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. made the necessary assessments and estimates for the continued renovation of other areas in the



Grand Lodge. Seeing the amount to be adequate for the remaining task at hand, the Grand Master approved the continuation of the GLP renovation in 2021.

Four months later, the Jose Abad Santos Hall,

GLP Admin Offices, Records Section, and the GLP Roof Deck were a sight to behold. Thanks to the craftsmanship of AA Modern Builders – the same contractor who did the GLP Renovations in 2020.

Jose Abad Santos Hall

Renovation of the grandest hall in Plaridel Masonic Temple took place February 15 to April 5. Scope of Work for the project which cost 850,000.00 php, included the installation of a Great Arch in the East, refurbishment of the tessellated pavement, and the replacement of the benches with auditorium chairs. The other Lodge Furnitures were given a renewed finish to complement the Temple's makeover.

Named after the Past Grand Master known for steadfastness in the solemn observance of his duty to God and Country at the price of his life, the Jose Abad Santos Hall is the birthplace of many lodges as most Institution and Constitution Ceremonies were held on its hallowed grounds.

GLP Admin Office and Archives

The workplace for the GLP Admin Staff were also taken care of with a remodeling which started in January 11 until April 14 – a week before the long-awaited Annual Communications. At this time, the Offices of the Chief of Staff and Assistant Grand Secretary were redesigned and all office partitions, as well as tables and chairs replaced with new modular. The interiors and its contents were also included in the replacement list. The Office Upgrade Project cost 1,100,000.00 php.



In the first 4 months of 2021, Admin Operations was transferred at the left wing of the Aguinaldo Hall at the ground floor. The months before ANCOM were the busiest for the GLP Staff as each of the more than 400 subordinate lodges make their last-minute transactions to be granted individual accreditation for their representatives to be eligible to vote and participate in the plenary.

Other Improvements

The remaining budget were spent for the rehabilitation of the GLP Roof Deck which is now shaded jade and ochre.

The new Plaridel Temple was given a fresh coat of white pain as well.

“The GLP Renovations will be enjoyed in full not by me but by our successor, RW Rolen Paulino, the GLP employees, and our Brethren. And it is rightfully so, for that is what we had in mind during our unexpectedly extended term.” Explained MW Jun Suan whose humble request is that all temple improvements made, whether for strength or ornament, be taken care of to last for years to come.





GLAD TIDINGS FROM THE GLP

MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. visits the Brethren in Government Service

By VW Charles G. Agar, PDGL / TCT Photo-journalist

The Philippine Senate

The Grand Master paid a courtesy visit to the Philippine Senate last September 29, 2020, where he was fraternally received by Senate President Vicente "Tito" Castelo Sotto III and Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara.



Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Brother Tito Sotto was raised in Andres Bonifacio Lodge No.199 on June 22, 1990, and on April 13, 2021, was conferred the rank of Honorary Past Junior Grand Warden with the title of Right Worshipful by Virtue of Edict 341 – MW Suan. (All Edicts by the immediate Past Grand Master was approved during the 104th Annual Communications in April 22.)

Brother Sonny was raised at Pangarap Masonic Lodge No.448 on February 19, 2019, where he is currently serving as Senior Warden.

A courtesy call in the diplomatic office was in order for MW Suan on December 05, 2019. Awaiting him was the DFA Secretary himself, Teodoro "Teddy Boy" L. Locsin, Jr. The brother diplomat is a member of Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No.202 where he was awarded Life-Membership by Longevity in 2010. His older sibling, MW Enrique L. Locsin, PGM is the 82nd Grand Master during the time of the Philippine Centennial Celebration in 1998.

MW Suan, was also accommodated by ASec Generoso DG Calonge at the DFA where he was Assistant Secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs. A seasoned career diplomat, Bro. Gen-

erose has been serving the department for more than thirty-five years. on May 29, 2021, ASec Calonge was appointed Commodore of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Auxiliary. Commodore is the Coast Guard or Navy rank equivalent to Brigadier General in the land forces. VW Generoso Calonge is a member of Island-Luz-Minerva Lodge No. 5 and have served as District Grand Lecturer in Masonic District NCR-B in 2011.

Department of Public Works & Highways

On September 30, 2020, the Grand Master and party courteously called on USec Rafael "Pye" C. Yabut at his office at the Department of Public Works & Highways where he was Under Secretary. The brother engineer is a member of Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No.333. Accompanying MW Suan were VW Jaime Y. Pacanan, GLP Building Engineer; Senior & Junior Grand Stewards – VW's Lini Hernando & Diosdado Melegrito, respectively.



Philippine National Police (PNP)

A visit to then Deputy Chief for Administration of the Philippine National Police Guillermo Lorenzo T. Eleazar by the Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines was fraternally arranged by VW Diosdado Melegrito on October 6, 2020. The Brother Police Officer is now serving the country as the 24th Chief of the Philippine National Police since May 8, 2021. He is a member of Labong Lodge No. 59 since 2012.





GLAD TIDINGS FROM THE GLP

IMES inaugurates new Lecture Hall

By Bro. Carlito H. Ocuaman (5)

In line with its mandate of providing continuing masonic education to the Craft, a newly renovated Lecture Hall was inaugurated by the Institute of Masonic Education & Studies (IMES) at the 2nd floor of the Museum Building in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines on April 17, 2021 during the conduct of classes for IMES Class No.167.

The air-conditioned hall now has sound proofing and more adequate lighting. Equip with high quality audio-visual components, both lecturers and audience will benefit from the pull-down projector screen augmented with two white boards for writing and other markings. With 87 theater style seats, arranged in 7 rows elevated from the back seat and descending down the front, the chamber is indeed conducive to learning. Its floor boast of new carpeting. An added exit door gives attendees easier access to the restroom which has been renovated as well. According to IMES President Rudy Ong, the

Institute had a lot of cost-savings in its 2020 – 2021 Annual Budget resulting from the limited travels of the Faculty to conduct Masonic Classes throughout the jurisdiction due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. “We conducted online sessions instead which is way cheaper.” Said VW Rudy. “The savings were then invested in the improvement of IMES Learning Infrastructure.” He added.

The Renovation Project was made possible under the able leadership and support of Grand Master Agapito S. Suan, Jr. and the efforts of the following:

- IMES Officers:**
VW Rudy Lim Ong - President
VW Guillermo B. Lazaro, Jr. - Vice-President for Academics
VR Vicente R. Hao Chin, Jr. - Vice-President for Research

- IMES Lecturers & Staff:**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| VR Samuel P. Fernandez | VW Nestor Y. Tampol |
| VW Ruben G. Azarcon III | VW Edgardo Villareal II |
| VW Edgar P. Borje | WB Rempert C. Quijano |
| VW Luisito F. Cornel, Jr. | Bro. Ericson B. Atanacio |
| VW Caesar M. Ortega | Bro. Enrico P. Gamboa |
| VW Florendo B. Opay | Bro. Novid T. Mohammad Jafari |
| VW Rosauro E. Regala | Bro. Carlito “Lheng” H. Ocuaman |
| VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago | |

Accompanying the Grand Master and the IMES Officers and Lecturers during the inauguration was Senior Grand Lecturer, VW Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV. The new IMES Lecture Hall is situated at the 2nd floor of the Museum Building in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

doctor in the temple

By Bro. Louie A. Castro, MD



MENTAL HEALTH IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

The month of April has just ended marking the first full turn of the world as it is continuously facing the pandemic brought about by the nCoV, now widely known as COVID-19. In the span of this on-going global medical crisis, people are not only faced by issues concerning their health but is also burdened by the possibility of this contagion to take a toll on one's mental well-being. As we are bounded by the four walls of our homes, our way of living has radically changed over time. This sudden reform may influence how we see the world from our own points of view. Uncertainties in our current society may inhibit a sense of isolation that can lead to stress and anxiety, and other related state. The situation serves as a call for us to look after our state of health as well as the various aspects of ourselves. It is only natural that we don't feel at our best during these times and is not something that we should fret about. As a way for us to overcome these sentiments, we should be able to recognize our emotions and effectively adapt to the ever-changing environment in order for us to track down the roots of such worries and / or issues.

The World Health Organization has released a management guide entitled Mental Health Considerations during COVID-19 Outbreak, with the hopes of helping its readers cope with their stressors and further improve their current mental state. Even at present, discussing one's mental health is still considered taboo by many. Those who are experiencing the dilemma of this sort find it extremely difficult to cope as they do not receive much help from the peo-

ple around them. Hence the necessity of such articles and reports tackling matters concerning one's mental health during this time period. Along with the uncertainty of the current global situation, it is very timely that these types of guides have come to surface. Even if the time comes wherein the world has eradicated the pandemic, journals such as this will remain relevant to citizens. As one manages to use this article to its extent, the ripple must not stay stagnant. Handing over knowledge and wisdom regarding matters concerning one's mental health will serve as a huge stepping-stone for possible future instances.

Aside from habitually washing our hands and disinfecting our belongings, one should also be invested in prioritizing his or her mental state. The extensive range concerning self-care is abundant in our daily lives, we only need to recognize and acknowledge our feelings in order to heed its indicators. Self-care may sound like a set of habits, but these are considered to be building foundations of a person's level of functioning.

Here are the simplified mental health considerations during Covid-19 from the WHO:

GENERAL POPULATION

1. COVID-19 has and is likely to affect people from different countries and geographical locations. Don't attach it to any ethnicity or nationality. Be empathetic to those who got affected, those with the disease have not done anything wrong.

2. Don't - refer to people with the disease as "COVID-19 cases", "victims" "COVID-19 families" or the "diseased". They are people who have COVID-19, people who are being treated for COVID-19, or people who are recovering from COVID-19. After their recovery, their life will go on with their loved ones, families, and jobs.

3. Avoid watching, reading, or listening to news that cause you to feel anxious or distressed. Seek information mainly to take practical steps, to help you plan ahead, and protect yourself and loved ones. Seek information updates at specific times during the day (just once or twice). The sudden and near-constant stream of news reports about an outbreak can cause anyone to feel worried. Get the facts. Gather information at regular intervals, from WHO website and local health authorities platforms, in order to help you distinguish facts from rumors.

4. Protect yourself and be supportive to others. Assisting others in their time of need can benefit the person receiving support as well as the helper.

5. Find opportunities to amplify the voices, positive stories, and positive images of local people who have experienced the new coronavirus (COVID-19) and have recovered or who have supported a loved one through recovery and are willing to share their experience.

6. Honor caretakers and healthcare workers supporting people affected with COVID-19 in your community. Acknowledge the role they play to save lives and keep your loved ones safe.

HEALTH CARE WORKERS

7. For health workers, feeling stressed is an experience that you and many of your health worker colleagues are likely going through. In fact, it is quite normal to be feeling this way in the current situation. Stress and the feelings associated with it are by no means a reflection that you cannot do your job or that you are weak. Managing your stress and psychosocial wellbeing during this time is as important as managing your physical health.

8. Take care of your basic needs and employ helpful coping strategies - ensure rest and respite during work or between shifts, eat sufficient and healthy food, engage in physical activities, and stay in contact with family and friends. Avoid using unhelpful coping strategies such as tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs. In the long

term, these can worsen your mental and physical wellbeing. This is a unique and unprecedented scenario for many workers, particularly if they have not been involved in similar responses. Even so, using the strategies that you have used in the past to manage times of stress can benefit you now. The strategies to benefit feelings of stress are the same, even if the scenario is different.

9. Some workers may unfortunately experience avoidance by their family or community due to stigma or fear. This can make an already challenging situation more difficult. Staying connected with your loved ones even through digital methods is one way to maintain contact. Turn to your colleagues, your manager, or other trusted persons for social support - your colleagues may be having similar experiences to you.

10. Use understandable ways to share messages with people with intellectual, cognitive, and psychosocial disabilities. Forms of communication that do not rely solely on written information should be utilized. If you are a team leader or manager in a health facility.

11. Keeping all staff protected from chronic stress and poor mental health during this response means that they will have a better capacity to fulfil their roles.

12. Ensure that quality communication and accurate information updates are provided to all staff. Rotate workers from high-stress to lower-stress functions. Partner inexperienced workers with their more experienced colleagues. The buddy system helps to provide support, monitor stress, and reinforce safety procedures. Ensure that outreach personnel enter the community in pairs. Initiate, encourage, and monitor work breaks. Implement flexible schedules for workers who are directly impacted or have a family member impacted by a stressful event.

13. If you are a team leader or manager in a health facility, facilitate access to, and ensure staff are aware of where they can access mental health and psychosocial support services. Managers and team leads are also facing similar stressors as their staff, and potentially additional pressure in the level of responsibility of their role. It is important that the above provisions and strategies are in place for both workers and managers, and that managers are able to role-model self-care strategies to mitigate stress.

14. Orient responders, including nurses, ambu-

lance drivers, volunteers, case identifiers, teachers, and community leaders and workers in quarantine sites, on how to provide basic emotional and practical support to affected people using psychological first aid.

FOR CARETAKERS OF CHILDREN

15. Help children find positive ways to express disturbing feelings such as fear and sadness. Every child has his / her own way to express emotions. Engaging in a creative activity, such as playing, and drawing can facilitate this process. Children feel relieved if they can express and communicate their disturbing feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

16. Keep children close to their parents and family if considered safe for the child. Avoid separating children and their caregivers as much as possible. If separation is necessary, ensure that appropriate alternative care is available (eg a social worker or equivalent) to check on the child regularly. It is essential that during periods of separation, regular contact with parents and caregivers is maintained - such as a scheduled phone or video calls or other age-appropriate communication at least twice a day. Access to social media may vary depending on the age of the child.

17. Maintain familiar routines in daily life as much as possible, especially if children are confined to home. Provide engaging age-appropriate activities for children. Encourage children to continue to play and socialize with others, even if only within the family when advised to restrict social contact.

18. During times of stress and crisis, it is common for children to seek more attachment and be more demanding on parents. Discuss the COVID-19 with your Children in honest and age-appropriate information. If your children have concerns, addressing those together may ease their anxiety. Children will observe adults' behaviors and emotions for cues on how to man-

age their own emotions during difficult times.

FOR CARETAKERS OF OLDER ADULTS

19. Older adults, especially those in isolation and those with cognitive decline like dementia, may become more anxious, angry, stressed, agitated, and withdrawn during the outbreak or while in quarantine. Provide practical and emotional support through informal networks (families) and health professionals.

20. Share simple facts about what is going on and give clear information about how to reduce risk of infection in words older people (with / without cognitive impairment) can understand. Repeat the information whenever necessary. Instructions need to be communicated in a clear, concise, respectful, and patient way. It may also

be helpful for information to be displayed in writing or pictures. Engage their family and other support networks in providing information and helping them practice prevention measures (e.g., handwashing etc.)

21. Encourage older adults with expertise, experiences, and strengths to volunteer in community efforts to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The well, healthy, and retired population can provide peer support,

neighbor-checking, and childcare for medical personnel restricted in hospitals fighting against COVID-19.

PEOPLE IN ISOLATION

22. Stay connected and maintain your social networks. Even while isolated, try as much as possible to keep your personal daily routines. If health authorities have recommended limiting your physical social contact to contain the outbreak, stay connected via e-mail, social media, video conference and telephone.

23. During times of stress, pay attention to your own needs and feelings. Engage in healthy activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Exercise regularly, keep regular sleep routines and



eat healthy food. Keep things in perspective. Public health agencies and experts in all countries are working on the outbreak to ensure the availability of the best care to those affected. 24. A near-constant stream of news reports about an outbreak can cause anyone to feel anxious or distressed. Seek information updates and practical guidance at specific times during the day from health professionals and WHO website and avoid listening to or following rumors that make you feel uncomfortable.

We should always keep in mind that self-care is not only important but is considered to be a crucial course of action. Mental health may not be as concrete as any physical illness but should be taken just as seriously. The stretch of this on-going quarantine should serve as a helping hand in further understanding ourselves – for us to be an ally of our own selves.



La Madre Logia fights off Stress & Anxiety for Sons By Bro. Michael Jaldon, DMD (12)

On the 2nd Week of May, Nilad 12, the Mother Lodge, extended her maternal hands to the brethren after the Worshipful Master got feedback that at least two (2) from their rolls are slipping into discouragement in life. A state that could spiral down into depression.

“A brother called me up confiding how another member was having morbid thoughts after revealing about his faltering business. This came at a time when I myself just learned of another brother feeling very discouraged and is at the brink of anxiety,” reported WM Rodolfo Azanza, who upon seeing a pattern, realized that the lodge has to act quickly. Posthaste, He called up Bro. Edward Barin, their Senior Warden, to ac-

tivate the Sunshine Committee for a crucial role. Together, they hammered out a plan to conduct a Call&Txt Brigade which they dubbed as “Nilad vs Stress & Anxiety.” BSW Edward was assigned to call up the senior citizens of Nilad 12. On May 14, a full team of was also assembled to assist the Brethren. Among the Nilad Volunteers were:

BSW Edward Q. Barin, MD
Sunshine Committee Head



WB Rodrigo S. Fernandez Jr.
Bro. Michael Jaldon
Bro. Peter Julius Villarta
Bro. Almel Agcolicol
Bro. Bernard Pimentel
Bro. Chester Paderanga
Bro. Joey Doval Santos
Bro. Allan Lim
Bro. Ricky Aranzamendez
Bro. Mike Dizon
Bro. Simon Sim

“Some people are good at hiding emotions. Pero nang tinawagan na ng mga kapatid, sobrang lungkot na pala,” observed the Senior Warden. “The Team is glad we caught it early to give our brothers a boost,” added BSW Edward, who is a doctor. Their Sunshine Brigade intends to clear some fences to reach out to members and let them know that the Lodge has a support group especially in these trying times.

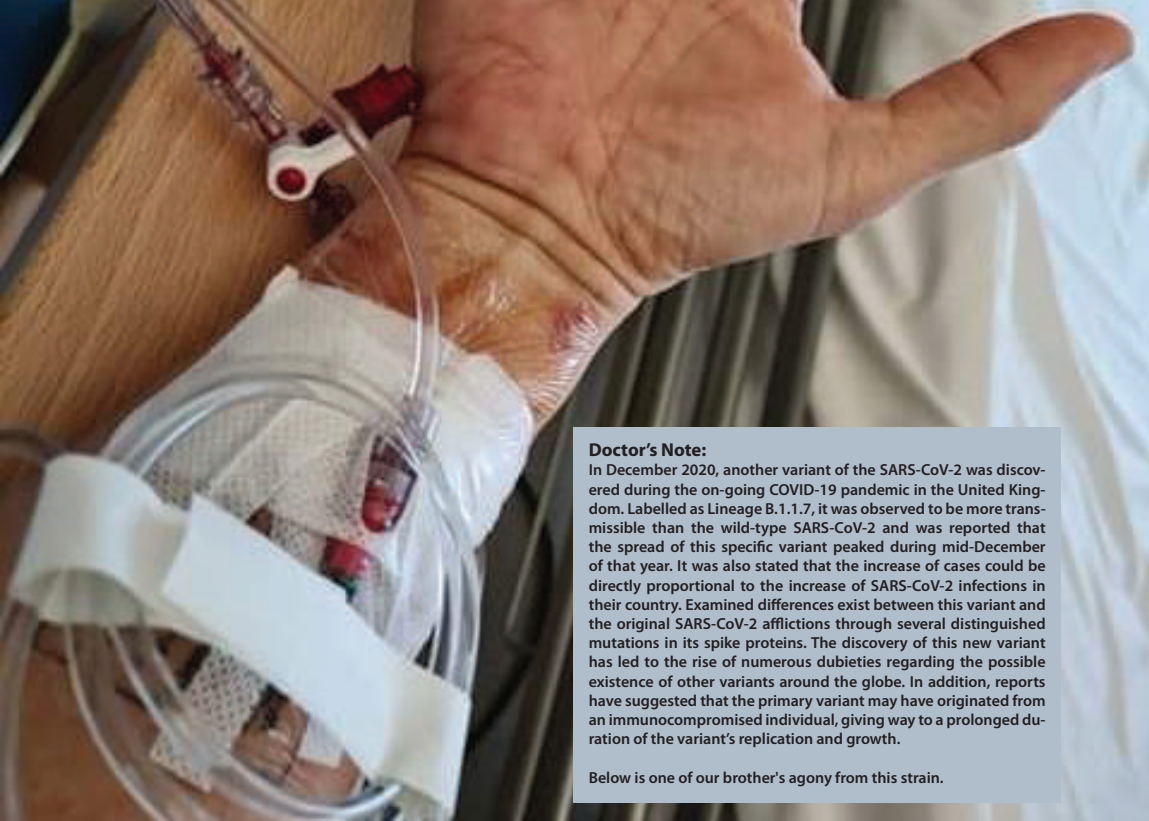
Depression is real, my Brothers. Especially during this time of the Corona Virus pandemic, almost everyone may have lost someone or something which can trigger negative feelings that can slide into more dire situations. Let us watch out for one another.

Editor’s Note:

Latest figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that suicide incidents rose 25.7% in 2020, making it the 27th leading cause of death in 2020, up from 31st in 2019. Some 3,529 cases of intentional self-harm were recorded in 2020, which was higher than the 2,808 deaths recorded in 2019. From 2015 to 2020, the average number of deaths caused by suicide was at 2,630.

Government officials earlier appealed to churches and spiritual leaders in the country to provide counsel and guidance to their followers to ease their anxiety and help save them from “self-destruction” during the pandemic.

<https://www.rappler.com/nation>



Doctor's Note:

In December 2020, another variant of the SARS-CoV-2 was discovered during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom. Labelled as Lineage B.1.1.7, it was observed to be more transmissible than the wild-type SARS-CoV-2 and was reported that the spread of this specific variant peaked during mid-December of that year. It was also stated that the increase of cases could be directly proportional to the increase of SARS-CoV-2 infections in their country. Examined differences exist between this variant and the original SARS-CoV-2 afflictions through several distinguished mutations in its spike proteins. The discovery of this new variant has led to the rise of numerous dubieties regarding the possible existence of other variants around the globe. In addition, reports have suggested that the primary variant may have originated from an immunocompromised individual, giving way to a prolonged duration of the variant's replication and growth.

Below is one of our brother's agony from this strain.

ANG PAKIKIPAGLABAN KO SA COVID-19

By Bro. Raul Polinag (25)

West Sussex, United Kingdom

Ito ang detalyadong kwento ng aking pakikipaglaban sa COVID 19 at kung ano ang epekto nito sa sinomang dapuan ng karamdaman na ito. Layunin ko na ibukas ang isipan ng ating mga kababayan na ang COVID 19 ay isang Virus na hindi dapat balewalain o ipagkibit-balikat lamang. Kailangan ang ibayong pag-iingat at sumunod dapat sa patakaran na pinairal ng pamahalaan.

Hindi ko akalain na ang pagpapalit ng taon ay siya ring umpisa ng pagbabago ng aming buhay bilang isang pamilya. Sa isang iglap ay naiba ang ikot ng aming mundo. Sa hindi in-aasahan at malungkot na pangyayari, lahat kami sa pamilya ay dinapuan ng COVID 19.

Ang akala namin na ang simpleng trangkaso (Flu) pala ay magiging bangungot pagkatapos lumabas sa Rapid Test na ako at

ang dalawa kong anak ay positibo sa COVID 19. Ramdam ko ang unti-unting panghihina. Ang pagtaas-baba ng aking temperatura at kakaiba na ang aking ubo dahil parang abot lang hanggang lalamunan ang pinaghuhugutan nito. Ngimi (Numb) ang aking mukha at buong katawan at para akong nauupos na kandila samantalang ang dalawa kong anak ay mabilis na naka-recover pagkatapos lamang ng isang lingo, dala marahil ng kanilang kabataan at malusog na pangangatawan. Ramdam ko na ito na marahil ang sinasabing COVID.

JANUARY 9, 2021- Ginising ako ng aking anak at sinabing tumawag na siya ng PARAMEDIC para dalhin ako sa ospital dahil nakita nila na hindi na normal ang aking pakiramdam kasabay pa ng patuloy na pag bagsak ng aking OXYGEN SATURATION LEVEL. Unti-unti na akong nawawalan ng oxygen sa katawan na pwedeng humantong sa masmabigat na kumplikasyon.

Mula sa aking higaan ay dahan-dahan akong bumangon kasabay ng pag dating ng dalawang lalakeng Paramedics. Ginawa nila ang ibat-ibat tests at kanilang nabasa ang aking

temperatura na umabot na ng halos 40 degrees at mababang Oxygen Saturation Level na 79. Umabot din ng mga 20 minuto ang pag susuri sa akin bago ako isinakay sa stretcher upang ibinaba sa hagdanan ng gusali. Sa ambulansya na isinagawa ang iba pang pagsusuri.

Habang tulala sa mga pangyayari, ako'y namulat at unti-unting nainisip ang mga pwedeng mangyari. Sa pagsagot sa tanong na "PAANO KUNG MAWALA AKO BIGLA?", aking sinuri ang antas ng aking kahandaan. Hindi alintana ang mga ginagawa ng mga Paramedics dahil ramdam ko na may katagalan pa kaming nakahinto bago ako tuluyang inihatid sa ospital.

PAANO KUNG LUMALA ANG AKING SAKIT? PAANO ANG AKING PAMILYA? KAYA NA KAYA NILA?

Mabuti na lamang at libre ang serbisyo ng pag-papa gamot dito sa UK. Paano kung nasa Pilipinas ako? May sakit ka na, sakit pa sa bulsa. Wala sa isip ko ang aking karamdaman at sasapitin pagdating sa ospital. Edad 26, 23, at 21 taong gulang na ang aking mga anak. Tapos na sila sa pag-aral at may kanya-kanya na ring pinagkikitaan. **KAYA NA NILA MABUHAY!** Sagot ko sa sarili ko. Hindi na sila itataguyod pa ng aking asawa. Pinalaki din naman namin sila na responsible at nagtutulungan.

Tumakbo na ang ambulansya. Naglalakbay na din ang aking isipan tangay ng maraming katanungan: Ano na ang aking gawin? Ano kaya ang dapat at hindi ko dapat isipin para makatulong sa aking pagpapagaling. Kailangang patayin ang emosyon. Kailangan kalimutan ang pag-aalala sa aking pamilya at mga taong malalapit sa akin. Kailangan maging **PRIBADO** ang aking pakikipaglaban sa Covid 19. Lahat ng hindi makakatulong sa aking pagpapagaling ay hindi ko dapat isipin.

Dumating kami sa **EMERGENCY WARD** at ibinaba ako sa ambulansya sakay pa rin sa stretcher. Habang itinutulak papasok ay kita ko ang mga tao sa paligid na naka tingin sa akin. Mayroon ding mga Pinoy na sumesenyas na "**KAYA MO YAN!**" At ipinasok ako sa silid kung saan maraming ikinabit sa aking katawan kasabay ng pagbibigay sa akin ng oxygen. **ITO NA ANG UMPISA NG AKING PAKIKIPAG LABAN.**

Kakaiba ang aking naramdaman. Para bang ako ay nalulunod at naghahanap ng makakapitan. Parang nilagyan ng plastic bag ang ulo ko at naghahanap ng hangin para makahinga. Ito ay araw-araw kong pakiramdam. Kakaiba ito sa pangkaraniwang trangkaso. Wala akong naramdamang magandang pagbabago bagkus parang may karagdagan pang kakaibang masa-mang pakiramdam na mahirap isalarawan. Sakit ng katawan. Sakit ng ulo, sakit ng kasukasan, at sobrang panghihina - ilan lamang iyan sa mga parusa sa aking katawan.

INIWASAN KO MAGSALITA

Dahil sa patuloy na paghihirap sa paghinga, iniwasan ko na rin magsalita. Ang pagsasalita ay magbubunga lamang ng pag-ubong na oras na masimulan ay mahirap nang itigil at nauwi sa kakapusan ng hininga. Tiniis ko ang kati ng lalamunan habang binabalanse ang paghinga sa tulong ng oxygen dahil pakiramdam ko ay wala ng hangin na nanggagaling sa aking baga.

Ang dating normal na pag hinga ay napalitan ng pag hinga ng parang babaeng manganakan. Hindi malayo sa isang taong naghihingalo. Ganun pa man ay buo ang aking loob. Tinanggap ko ang sitwasyon na ang tanging nasa isip ko ay "**PAANO AKO GAGALING.**" Wala ng mababago sa aking kinalalagyan. Hindi pwede umatras. Dapat lahat pasulong. Bawal ang drama. Bawal ang awa sa sarili. Bawal isipin ang pamilya. **PAANO AKO GAGALING?** Ito lang ang tanong. Wala ng iba.

NAUBOS NA ANG AKING LAKAS

Bukod sa kawalan ng hangin ay unti-unti kong nararanasan ang kawalan ng lakas. Kahit ang tumagilid sa kama ay mahirap gawin at kung magawa ko man ay hingal ang mangyayari na parang tumakbo nang walang pahinga.

Sa aking tantya ay mayroon lamang akong 5% lakas na pwede lang gamitin sa pagsasalita ng ilang beses, paglalakad sa banyo ng ilang hakbang pag paling sa higaan, at pagkatapos ay ubos na agad ang bateriya. Kung makikipag suntukan sa pitong taong gulang ay sigurado akong hindi ako mananalò. Ganun ako kahina. Lahat ay tipid ang pag galaw. **OO** at **HINDI** lang ang sagot para madali, at kadalasan ay tango lang. Kailangan tipirin ko ang lakas para kung sakaling ako ay ubuhin ay



may konti enerhiy pa akong mahuhugot. Hindi nawawala ang pag-alon ng aking tyan. Patuloy pa rin ang aking mabilis na paghinga sa laging bukas kong bibig. Ang sakit sa dibdib... Ang hirap sa katawan... Walang katapusan.

OK LANG SABAY NGITI.

Ilang araw na at wala pa ring nakikitang pagbabago sa aking kalagayan. Dinala na ako sa ICU para mas maobserbahan ng maigi at sa tulong ng Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) – isang mala Astronaut na Gear na nakasuot sa aking ulo upang makapaghatid ng mas malakas na oxygen intake para lalo akong makahinga.

Ilang araw din akong namalagi sa ICU habang pabago-bago ang aking kundisyon. May mga araw na inaalang CPAP sa aking ulo at pinapalitan lang ng regular na oxygen. Araw-araw din ang turok at pagkuha ng dugo hang-

gang puro butas na pareho kong braso bukod pa sa turok sa tiyan.

May ilang gabi din ako nakaranas ng HALUCCINATION kung saan nakikita ko ang aking sarili habang nakatingin sa isa ko pang sarili na gumugulong sa bangin. Tatlong gabi na hindi nababago ang aking nakikita. Para akong nag deliryo bagama't hindi naman mataas ang aking temperatura.

Tuloy din ang pagturok sa akin ng mga STEROIDS at ANTIBIOTICS, bukod pa sa pagkuha ng dugo ng mga ilang beses sa isang araw kahit dis-oras ng gabi. Dalawang beses din ako sinalinan ng BLOOD PLASMA na galing sa mga pasyente na nagka COVID na. Puyat, pagod, at sakit ng katawan ang aking inabot sa pagamutan para lamang ako gumaling.

Matapos ng mahigit isang linggo sa ICU ay bumalik na sa stable OXYGEN SATURATION LEVEL ang aking katawan. Sa tuwing babagsak ito ulit ay binabalik ang CPAP pero hindi na kagaya noon na 24 na oras araw-araw. Madalas ay Oxygen Mask na lang ang suot ko hanggang sa tuluyang nakalaya sa pagiging “Astronaut”. Kamalaunan, sinabi sa akin na mabilis na ang aking improvement at pwede nang ilipat sa NON-COVID WARD pagkatapos ng ilan pang mga pagsusuri.

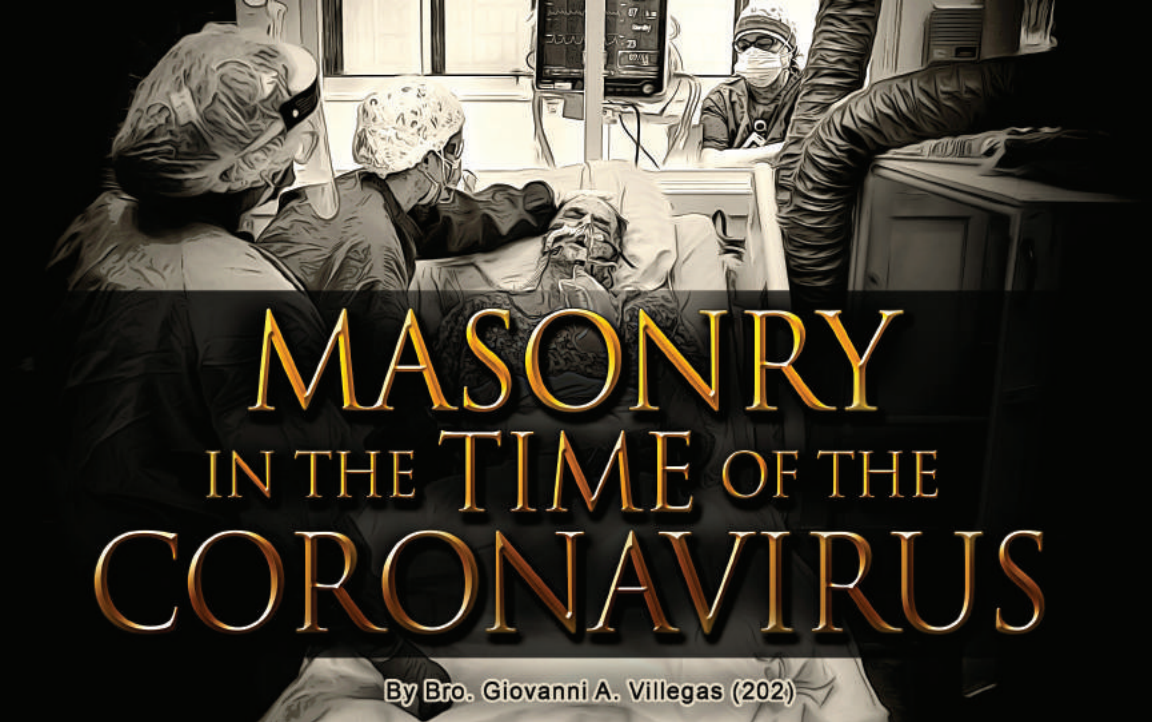
Noong nagkaroon na ako ng sapat na lakas, doon pa lamang ako nagkaroon ng pagkakataong makausap ang aking pamilya sa pamamagitan ng online video. Noon ko lamang nalaman na biktima din pala ng COVID ang aking asawa at ang isa ko pang anak na dumanas din ng matinding paghihirap.

Sa bandang huli, ang lahat ay lumipas at nalampasan din naming lahat ang unos. Unti-unti na kaming naka-recover pero ako na matindi ang naging epekto ng COVID ay patuloy pa rin dumaranas ng kakapusan sa paghinga at maaring bumilang pa ng mahabang panahon bago tuluyang gumaling.

Ang aking taos pusong pasasalamat sa lahat ng mga nagpa abot ng kanilang mga panalangin para sa kagalingan ng aking buong pamilya.

About the writer:

Bro. Raul Polinag is a member of Malinaw Lodge No. 25 (Laguna). He is currently based in the United Kingdom as CSSD Technician at Worthing Hospital. The head of a family of five - all COVID-19 Survivors of the UK Variant. He willingly submitted an account of his experience to the Cable Tow to help build awareness on the seriousness of the COVID-19.



MASONRY IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

By Bro. Giovanni A. Villegas (202)

A YEAR AFTER

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC – a year since the lockdowns and suspensions of Masonic activities worldwide. We have come a long way from quarantine and *social distancing*. We have developed a propensity for reasonable precaution and have likewise found ways for Masonry to still adopt online meetings even as face-to-face gatherings have already been resumed with safety protocols. Here in the Philippines, the scheduled Annual Communication (AnCom) of 2021 was made hybrid, combining both physical and virtual attendance – a necessary adjustment to assure the continuance and delegation of local Masonic leadership, while giving the option for some attendees to participate safely from afar. The country is, no doubt, still in much danger, as the number of reported cases continued to soar, reaching 7,103 new cases in a single day on March 19, 2021. The numbers then climbed even higher, reaching 15,310 new cases on April 2, 2021 – the highest daily tally so far since the beginning of the pandemic. The number of single-day deaths and current active cases also reached new all-time high on April 9, 2021, with death toll at 14,520 or 1.70% fatality rate. In Metro Manila, fatality rate reached 5.35% by mid-April,

28.6% for ages 65 years old and above.

Although the different vaccine brands have already started rolling out during this period, different COVID variants have likewise started to emerge, probably faster than vaccines effective against them. These variants have been observed to be more resilient and more infectious, and therefore more threatening. Hence, the global rollout of vaccines may no longer be a guarantee of victory over the Coronavirus. Added to the fact that the progress rate is still relatively slow, and that fake news have contributed greatly to the public's vaccine hesitancy, forecasts say that we may be looking at 7 years before the end of the pandemic. [1] Let us hope this is wrong.

RESURGENCE

As early as January 5, 2021, new lockdowns were implemented in England, Scotland, and Ireland after a record surge in their number of new cases. Austria likewise extended its own ongoing lockdown. In the US, the rate of fatalities was projected to go as bad as 1 death per 33 seconds. Things turned worse when Trump protesters stormed Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, defying *social distancing* measures. The Grand Masters of North Carolina and Wis-

consin issued their own statements regarding such riots.

Meanwhile, here in the Philippines, a high-profile Mason, VW Danilo Lim, Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority, passed away after testing positive for COVID-19 just a few days before. He was one of the few local public figures to come out clean by declaring, he was positive.

By March 12, 2021, many cities in Metro Manila have already started issuing their own localized lockdowns and curfews as new infections started to rise at an even more alarming rate. Mayors have even tried to impose a unified curfew covering all neighboring cities. On March 22, 2021, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) announced once again the suspension of Masonic activities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces effective March 22 to April 4, 2021. [4] There were then unconfirmed reports that several candidates for the degrees of Masonry, meeting at Capitol Masonic Temple in Quezon City, had been infected with COVID-19, possibly during one of their face-to-face meetings prior to the issued suspension. Then, from March 29 to April 11, 2020, Metro Manila and neighboring provinces were again placed under *Enhanced Community Quarantine* (ECQ) – the same high quarantine level imposed last year at the start of the local lockdown.

About this time, many local hospitals have already exceeded full occupancies, with hallways filled with COVID patients waiting to be accommodated. ICU beds have surpassed critical capacity, such that new patients could no longer be admitted, and with some even reported to have already died outside the facilities while waiting their turn for days. One daughter said they tried every hospital, in what has now been termed “*hospital hopping*,” but all were full and unable to accommodate her ill father. Having no other choice, she opted to wait outside one hospital to the end. In her grief, she said, “*My dad died in the cold.*” [5] Doctors themselves have already lamented that “*we have already lost to COVID-19.*” [4] Compared to last year, this year’s number of cases and severity of said cases are far worse.



For a year now, healthcare workers have constantly been overwhelmed by the unbridled influx of COVID patients, facing such difficult choices as “*who gets the bed?*” or “*who gets the ventilator?*” Every day, they stare at the pitiful suffering and pain of the patients fighting for breath, and watch, almost helplessly, at how life excruciatingly fades away from the unfortunate many. Dr. Jose Emmanuel Martin Palo, director of the Acute and Critical Care Institute of The Medical City (TMC), wrote in his article, “*The Last Line in the Sand*,” the burdens of both patients and healthcare workers. It is recommended reading for those who wish to have a frank conversation on what to expect when fighting COVID-19 at its worst and on choosing how or even when to fight. [6]

On April 3, 2021, we received news that a respected and beloved elderly Mason – VR Samuel Fernandez, past Grand Chaplain of the GLP and past Editor-in-Chief of its official publication, the Cable Tow – tested positive for COVID-19, together with his wife, Sis. Erlinda Fernandez of Kalaw Chapter No. 9, Order of the Eastern Star. They too were said to have found it difficult looking for an available hospital, but, with the help of some friends, they were eventually admitted into one, albeit more

costly. Thankfully, their condition improved, and discharged a few days later. Other brethren who contracted COVID-19, some younger than most, were not as fortunate.

HOW A HEALTHCARE WORKER SO FAR ELUDED INFECTION

Despite the bleak emotional stress to which they have constantly been subjected to, doctors have still shown their unending compassion. They have likewise developed more skills and confidence in handling COVID crisis scenarios. They have gone wiser, stronger, and more capable than ever before.

For a year, Bro. Dr. Michael Francis Perez, a member of Kasilawan Lodge No. 77 and Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034 SC, has been working as a manager and surgeon in a hospital frequently exposed to COVID-19, and has so far managed not to get himself infected. He explained that, compared to any other place, *“The hospital is the safest place to be. It is regularly cleaned, and everyone is wearing masks and protective equipment.”* Other places might be filled with random people, many careless and complacent, and all of whom being potential COVID-19 carriers. The hospital, on the other hand, is the epitome of a controlled environment. Those healthcare workers who still got infected did not contract the disease at work, but rather outside – perhaps at home, at gatherings, in the airport, or while dining with an infected person. That is why Bro. Perez always reminds his people to never break protocol, as accidental contaminations happen when one becomes careless or disregards the rules.

In one online interview, Bro. Perez shared and revealed his other survival secrets. For protection while on duty, he said he uses filtration and air-purifying respirators like *Easyflow*, *Halo*, and *PAPR*. Before he goes to his quarters, he removes all his clothes in the out-room and then takes a shower. He stays in the hospital for a week or so before going home to see his family. He makes sure he has no fever before leaving the hospital and takes another shower when he gets home. He learned through experience that it is mostly through actual physical contact that COVID-19 is transmitted. He therefore advises minimal close contact, keep-

ing a safe distance, wearing facemasks and face shields, and using alcohol to disinfect hands if unable to wash using soap and water. He said that the disease will probably always be here, which is why it is important to develop the correct safety habits of hand washing and *social distancing*. It is also important to keep fit and healthy. Bro Perez himself setup his own gym in his hospital quarters. He also used to go swimming before the pandemic began.

Along with many other healthcare workers, Bro. Perez has already recently been vaccinated. When asked about vaccine hesitancy and anti-vaccine propaganda, he said he respects people’s individual decisions not to get the vaccine, as long as they do not stop or shame others who do decide to get it, for indeed there are legitimate reasons for concern depending on the vaccine brand. When asked for some of the lessons he learned throughout the entire crisis, he said, *“You will know who your real friends are; who helped you fight this disease; who brought you food, not because you had none, but just to let you know that they support you and know the hardships you face.”* The Masons of Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034 SC and Kasilawan Lodge No. 77 were among the first to send donations and moral support to the medical workers in his hospital. Bro. Anthony Chan, he added in particular, who belongs to both lodges as he does, was the first to donate much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the onset of the pandemic.

ON THE MASONIC FRONT

During this period, Masons around the world have remained ever active in assisting their brethren and their communities. Bro. Dr. Douglas Nicol, Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire East under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, has provided comprehensive and reassuring vaccine information in his jurisdiction. [6] Masons of the Province of Glasgow have donated to a Memorial Garden for the victims of COVID-19. [7] They have also opened up some of their lodges for public use and as mass vaccination centres. Lincolnshire Masons and Barry Masonic Hall in South Wales also set up local vaccination centres, while Devonshire Masons sent volunteers to support their National Health Services (NHS). Students at



Sheffield's High Storrs Academy benefited from Masons' laptop donations. [8]

Aside from charity works directly related to the pandemic, many online Masonic meetings and webinars have also continued. Here in the Philippines, VW Teodoro Kalaw IV's monthly Masonic webinars went on, and local York Rite and Scottish Rite bodies have conducted virtual ceremonies for the Feast of Kadosh, the Feast Rose Croix, and Eastertide. The AnCom pushed through as scheduled in hybrid form, though the face-to-face portion of the first day was moved from Olongapo City to the Grand Lodge grounds in Manila, and the election of Junior Grand Warden was deferred to another time yet to be announced. [9]

Not all, however, have embraced virtual meetings well. As early as last year, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, as part of its suspension of Masonic activities in its jurisdiction, has likewise prohibited members of its lodges from participating in any and all sorts of Masonic meetings via electronic means, whether officially or informally, including those of Appendant bodies. As of February 2021, South Carolina Masons are still forbidden to engage in virtual meetings, even if ritual is not involved or no lodge business is conducted. So, when a past Grand Master conducted an informal Zoom meeting for the State's Scottish

Rite members, even as a mere health check to see how everyone was doing, he was consequently expelled by the current Grand Master as a result. Charges were also considered to be brought to around 120 South Carolina Scottish Rite Masons who participated in the Zoom call. [10] Some say that this drastic move was actually politically motivated. Nonetheless, it is a constant reminder that not all Masonic leaderships share the same standpoint when it comes to virtual meetings of Masons.

Other Masonic jurisdictions and bodies, on the other hand, have come up with radical ways on how to make things easier for their members during this time of the pandemic. For instance, the progressive Orders administered from Mark Mason's Hall in the UK just gave their members discounts on their 2021 Annual Dues as part of their financial assistance package. [11] This is certainly something that lodges and other Masonic bodies should consider emulating, especially in the GLP, as the Philippines is one of the worst-hit countries of the pandemic. Offering much needed discounts could help ease the burden of local Masons and their families, who could use the money saved for essentials and other priorities. It is only humane, in fact, and we pray that lodges and Grand Lodges do the right thing.

In other news, fires broke out at three Masonic

lodges in Vancouver and North Vancouver on March 30, 2021. Police have already arrested a suspect for arson later that same day. [12] Said suspect was later found linked to a social media account full of conspiracy content regarding Masons, flat earth, and COVID-19. [13]

On April 7, 2021, Masonic author, Bro. Michael Poll, announced his second dose of COVID vaccine. He reported slight side effects such as chills, body aches, noticeable tiredness, and slight fever, though he quickly felt better the following day. He remarked that it was a small price to pay, considering how many have already died from the disease. He also encouraged others to take the vaccine, [14] which is fine since the vaccines being administered in the US have so far worked well and that adverse reactions have been rare. [15] A couple of months back, *Reuters* already reported that more people have already been vaccinated against COVID-19 than have been infected – a milestone on the road to ending the pandemic. Despite the landmark data, however, it remains unclear how long it will take to vaccinate the entire world. [16] The Philippines, for instance, was one of the last countries to ever start vaccination process. When it did, one of the first few Masons I personally know who had their shot was Bro. Dr. Ryan Oliver Morales Felipe of High Twelve Lodge No. 82. His side effects were mild, almost negligible, including slight pain in the injection area and body malaise, which were quickly resolved the following day.

On April 9, 2021, Prince Philip – Duke of Edinburgh, lifelong companion of Queen Elizabeth II, and a Mason of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) – passed away, though not due to COVID-19. For COVID-related stories in the Masonic community, the *Museum of Freemasonry* website is currently engaged in a collecting initiative for such stories, gathering information about what Masons are doing to help communities cope, including fundraising events, volunteer support for key workers, stay-at-home assistances in communities, and the like. [17] You can contribute to the collection by submitting your own stories.

With it comes to quantitative data on how the pandemic is affecting Masonry, Bro. Robert Lomas cited in his book, *The Masonic Tutor's*

Handbooks: Freemasonry After COVID-19, how a considerable drop in membership resulted during this period, as no new members were initiated, and elderly and ill brethren have passed away. He also mentioned how Masonry can adapt in the future by using hybrid meetings that allow younger members to meet physically in the lodge while temporarily allowing the elderly and more vulnerable ones to participate online from their respective homes. It is certainly an idea worth considering by Grand Lodges.

HOW THE WORLD IS COPING SO FAR

If you still have a job and your company is still operating, be very grateful. Many people have already lost their livelihood and are struggling to survive. Companies, big and small, have already laid-off many employees and have declared bankruptcy. Reputable brands have discontinued production of their goods and have permanently closed many of their shops. The weight of this Coronavirus pandemic created much debt and much loss.

This pandemic has also brought a lot of surprising and unexpected news. There was one where experts said that the Flu almost completely disappeared during the winter, as lesser cases were reported globally, probably because of all the facemasks and *social distancing* going on. [18] Yet, there was also news of Russian scientists alerting the WHO of their detection of the world's first case of transmission to humans of the H5N8 strain of Avian Flu. [19]

In India, things have gone horribly wrong when, on April 25, 2021, it reported 346,786 new cases in a single day and with 2,624 deaths – the world's highest daily toll since the pandemic began. It then continued to worsen, surpassing new record high of 401,993 new single-day cases and 3,689 single-day deaths just a week later. There was no longer any space to cremate all the dead. Mass cremations have already been ongoing as bodies kept piling up – a truly disturbing imagery of public health calamity flooding the news. Some are saying that the staggering local surge was due to lack of *social distancing* and lax safety protocols during recent religious gatherings and political rallies, which were called “*super spreader events*,” while



others are saying it may be attributed to the emergence of a local variant (B.1.617), which is definitely a cause for global concern. In Brazil, another dangerous variant (P.1) is killing more people, including young ones, and is becoming resistant to vaccines. Scientists worry that it is fast mutating into something more deadly and, if spread outside of the country, could be catastrophic for the rest of the world.

Here in the Philippines, COVID variants, including a local strain, are also spreading fast. Local doctors warn that the latest variants may get deadlier due to their sheer stealth, with some even eluding detection by PCR tests. Local contact-tracers are already having a hard time tracking the spread of the disease. On top of these, there emerged a controversial issue regarding the use of the anti-parasitic drug, Ivermectin, in COVID-19 prevention, treatment, and post-exposure prophylaxis. Doctors are still divided on this issue, with some recommending it for its noticeable efficacy and safety, while others advising against it simply because of the lack of sufficient tests and official FDA approval. The local FDA, however, granted some hospitals' request for "compassionate special permit"^[20] to use Ivermectin for COVID-19 despite the WHO's warning that its use could lead to a false sense of confidence. Meanwhile, local studies on using the food

supplement, virgin coconut oil (VCO), as an "adjunctive treatment," are showing promising results in helping COVID-19 patients from developing more severe symptoms. Dr. Tony Leachon, local health reform advocate, said however that vaccination is still the best and powerful protection against severe illness and death from COVID-19, and greatly reduces the risk of infecting others. As more of us get vaccinated, he said, the less spread and the fewer new cases there will be.

As of March 29, 2021, the Philippines already had the highest number of new cases, total cases, and total deaths among the countries in the Western Pacific region, not just in South East Asia. On April 19, 2021, WHO confirmed that COVID-19 infections have been rising at an alarming rate for 8 consecutive weeks, recording as high as 5.2 million that week – the most in a single week since the pandemic began. With regards to the accelerating COVID death rate, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus remarked, "It took 9 months to reach 1 million deaths, 4 months to reach 2 million, and 3 months to reach 3 million."^[21] Indeed, things are not getting any better. By the end of April, the Philippines recorded 1,037,460 cases and 17,234 deaths, while global records reached 151.9+ million cases and 3.1+ million deaths.^[22]



around with. We should avoid generally assuming that anything outdoors is safe or that face-covering is unnecessary in certain places. We should also dispel the myth that being vaccinated means we can already relax, or that we could not infect others or get ourselves infected again. [49] Sure, the vaccine may give us a sense of lessened anxiety, yet it may also give us a false sense of security – making us more daring and foolhardy in going out to travel and attending gatherings; lessening our hand washing and mask-wearing habits, thus potentially passing any virus we may have gotten on any part of our bodies onto others with whom we come in contact. It is not “*COVID-19 anxiety syndrome*” to continue practicing extra precaution, or to wash hands as often as possible, or to avoid travel and public gatherings. Why? Because the pandemic is still ongoing!

LESSONS AND TAKEAWAYS

Israel and New Zealand seem to be winning the fight against the Coronavirus. Likewise in Vietnam, infections remained controlled since the beginning of the pandemic, attributed to the country’s excellent containment strategy, travel ban, and political will to implement them. Because of its remarkable success, Vietnam’s pandemic response leader, who managed to win his country’s fight against the disease, has just been sworn in as its new President.

Supposedly, other countries should have, by this time, already learned how to deal with COVID-19. Unfortunately, many people are still making the same mistakes that led the world to this crisis – perhaps out of ignorance or just plain complacency and indifference. We hope it is the former, because the latter is harder to address as it is a problem on attitude and stubbornness. Ignorance, on the other hand, can easily be solved by proper information. For instance, we should focus on what is safe rather than what is allowed. Just because public restrictions have been eased does not mean we should already start going out to public gatherings. Just because we can already travel out of town or overseas, does not mean we should. We must be wary of trusting people, with whom we come in contact, who claim that they have been careful and thus safe to be

Many people in the US, especially those in the opposite side of the political spectrum, view the further restrictions and the further isolations recommended by their health officials as an affront to their liberties, failing to understand that such were meant as a public safety measure. Decisions, whether right or wrong, have already become so politicized that anything proposed or endorsed by one party is vehemently opposed by the other. Dangerous rhetoric against facemask wearers have also been heard from popular media personalities, calling for people to confront other people whom they see wearing facemasks. Such loss in perspective is probably one of the reasons why the nation has the highest number of COVID cases and highest number of COVID deaths in the world. Thankfully, other countries still have the clarity of mind to favor the health and survival of their population even if such would mean minor and temporary inconveniences such as quarantines, facemasks, and *social distancing*. Though freedom and liberty are important, human lives are far more. It is not a matter of giving up our freedoms because of fear; it is a matter of giving up part of our freedoms for now, to assure that we can safely exercise those freedoms in the future without fear. We must all start realizing that the year 2021 is no longer about defeating COVID-19. *That ship has sailed*. It is now about survival – developing the right habits of avoiding infection. It is important, now more than ever, to remain ever cautious and protected, for



the sake of ourselves and our loved ones. Let us still continue the virtue of social distancing, even isolation whenever necessary. Remember that we isolate ourselves now so that, when we gather again at the end of the pandemic, no one will be missing. Needless to say, we already live in an age where technology enables us to work online, shop online, and see each other online, making isolation more bearable and livable. Of course, things are different for essential workers who actually need to go outside in the performance of their duties – those in the fields of healthcare, utilities, deliveries, agriculture, groceries, and the like – but, at least, it should be safer for them with fewer people outside.

Let us learn from the lessons of those who have already suffered COVID-19: *“Once you get it, you will regret it.”* That should be enough reason for us to stay home, stay safe – at least for our families’ sake. Do not concern yourselves about your Masonic meetings at this time. Masonry can wait. In the meantime, the Coronavirus continues its brutal slaughter.

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Editor's Note:

On March 27, 2021 - the Mabini Society for Nationhood missed one of its Key-Note Speakers in their first Virtual Fellowship. VR Samuel Fernandez was not feeling well as relayed by Ateng Erlinda his spouse. A few days later, after inquiring about their well-being, Mommy Linda informed the Cable Tow Team, "Me and Dad Sam are now confined at St. Luke's Global City due to COVID-19. Please pray for us." We immediately informed the Secretary of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No.42 (VR Sam's Mother Lodge) of the condition of our beloved TCT Adviser and help mobilize fraternal support. We thank the GAOTU for the recovery of one of Philippine Masonry's Lead Couple. VR Fernandez is a Pastor at Bishop Sobrepeña Memorial Church (BSMC). Below is a record of Mommy Linda's Journal about their ordeal.

JOURNAL OF A COVID-19 SURVIVOR

By Sis Erlinda Aседillo Fernandez
Past Matron /Kalaw Chapter 3/ OES

March 22 - 23

- Felt flu-like symptoms, painful muscles for 2days (no fever or coughing).

March 24 - 29

- No appetite, always sleeping, LBM, loss of taste, feeling weak. Steam inhalation (occasionally).

March 30 (Holy Tuesday)

- Rode the Barangay tricycle to the Clinic in Mayon St. for Covid Testing (Antigen).
- All three of us at home were positive. Was advised to return next day for doctor's consultation.

March 31 (Holy Wednesday)

- Dr. Tadie A. Abordo advised Sam & me to be confined in a hospital.
- I have pneumonia already, started coughing, weakening. Sam has not been eating for one week now (throwing up whatever food he was fed), just lying down and getting weaker.
- The difficult process of looking for rooms started, by then I was already exhausted due to my condition. Pahirapan pa ang paghahanap ng hospital with available rooms.
- From Los Angeles, our children Ethel & Remedy were frantically getting in touch with friends in Manila, asking for assistance in getting a Hospital Room for us.
- The waiting and uncertainty were get-



ting to me. Sam at this time was just lying down sleeping, unmindful of what's happening around him.

- By 7:30 pm there was good news. Dr. Hermogenes "Noneng" Monroy, Remedy's friend, was able to get us a room at St. Luke's Global City. His wife Jane, coordinated with me until we were already at the hospital. She even provided the doctor's name at the ER to assist us.
- The next problem was transportation, how to reach St. Luke's BGC. Many assisted us in looking. My sister Ester even got the phone of councilor Joel Villanueva in the off chance, that he might be able to lend us an ambulance. Joy Libios also worked from the BSMC asking their barangay to lend us their ambulance. Later Ester contracted an ambulance for 25,000 php; in desperation, we were willing to take that already but just then our Barangay Chairman Ramon Trinchera was able to get us a taxi. The driver was really helpful.
- We arrived at the ER about 9:00 pm. Since we were pre-booked, there was not much delay, and were readily admitted. And underwent rapid RT-PCR swab test, x-ray, blood extraction, etc.
- We were then informed that the estimated cost per person is from 700k to 1M for 7 days!
- Sam and I stayed overnight at ER until fol-

lowing morning when we were transferred to our rooms. The supposed to be room assigned to us (one room for both of us) was no longer available so we had to take 2 separate rooms.

April 1 (Maundy Thursday)

- We were able to attend BSMC zoom worship service @ 6pm.
- My cough was getting worse, hinihinal na ako. It takes an effort to move, to talk, but I had to go to Sam to see how he was doing.
- My siblings were all supportive all these time. Buying what we needed and sending to the hospital, giving advice, etc.
- Meanwhile, Ethel created an account at gofundme.com to raise funds for our hospital bills.
- Contributions / donations poured in from relatives, brethren, and friends both here and abroad, some I haven't been in touch with for a long time, some I haven't even met but God touched their hearts. By word of mouth, our situation was circulated in Lodges and the Brethren responded positively. I have assigned my sister, Ester, to receive/manage the monies on my behalf since I cannot do it
- Sam had high fever, tremor of right hand, given dextrose, heart monitoring
- Sam feels he's not getting any better. I am trying to conserve energy.

April 2 (Good Friday)

- Sam's blood-sugar is fluctuating, it can shoot up to 257. He doesn't like the taste of hospital food and would just eat fruits. Sam getting better, was able to sit in bed and eat a little.

April 3 (Black Saturday)

- Sam improving no longer in IV but still under supplemental oxygen. Able to eat all by himself.
- I am still coughing (hinihinal). I will be alright if I could just rest a little bit longer.

April 4 (Easter Sunday)

- Attended BSMC zoom Easter Service at 10:00 a.m.

- My cough got better after 5 - 6 days. Sam doesn't want to eat again. Blood Sugar is low at 70

April 5

- After much urging Sam was able to eat, praise the Lord!

April 6

- Sam is better now, began to eat a little. Sugar is 117, oxygen level and heart rate being monitored, with IV again. Happy to be able to talk to Toby (apo) from L.A. Consumed his champorado (for the first time)
- Doctor said my lungs are ok, malinis na daw – just a little coughing. Scheduled for blood tests and x-ray again tomorrow.

April 7

- Visited by Dr. Rudy Pagkatipunan, pulmonologist. Sam proudly showed his x-ray results "Look, malinis na, wala nang sabit".

April 8

- Was advised by Dr. Guansing, one of the doctors, that I may go home today, but Sam still has to wait for the result of his blood tests and x-ray (again today) Sam complained: "They are feasting on me!" First time to experience so many injections in the hospital.
- My release papers were still being processed at finance, finally done at about 5pm. Requested that I be allowed to stay in Sam's room, so that I can release my room, allowed after I signed some forms, since I am a Covid patient and so is my spouse (senior care givers are not usually allowed).
- Sus, ayaw na naman kumain ng pasyente ko, nakakaloka!

April 9

- Sam was given the go signal to go home, although nakakabit pa rin ang supplementary oxygen and IV (inuubos lang hanggang sa makaalis kami).
- Visited by Dr. Paul Estrella (a brother mason with medical practice at St. Luke's BGC).
- Release papers were processed from morning till night; they had to re-compute it to

“severe” classification which would give bigger PhilHealth Discount.

- Brethren helped in locating an ambulance for our home trip (ambulance as required by hospital), later on I informed Bro. Lheng Ocuaman of IMES that we will just use hospital ambulance as there is no way of knowing what time we can go home.
- Now Sam was so impatient to go home, said he had to so he can eat.
- Finally left the hospital around 11:30 via hospital’s ambulance; arrived home 12:00 midnight.

April 10 (Saturday)

- With appetite returning we’re getting stronger. Slept the whole time.

April 11 (Sunday)

- End of our quarantine

“GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS”

All 3 of us at home tested positive, but only 2 needed to be hospitalized; one was asymptomatic and stayed quarantined at home, she also took care of our needs and requirements

We were given two separate rooms instead of one as requested. By God’s Grace, the two rooms assigned to us were adjacent to each other, so it was easier for me to go to Sam’s room (patients were not supposed to go out of their room).

My daughter, Ethel, opened “GoFundMe” to raise funds for our hospitalization; told me to just concentrate on getting well, that life is more precious.

God touched the hearts of so many people that blessings came pouring in from family, relatives, Brother Masons, and OES brethren and sisters, friends, friends of my siblings, the congregation of my brother-in-law in New York, from people we haven’t even met, etc. So many people responded to the call. God bless them all!

Brethren were constantly in touch, reaching out to us, offering their assistance.

I was thankful that I had Covid-19 together with Sam otherwise nobody would have taken care of him; meals were left in his room, but he was unable to feed himself, he was too listless (during the time he was sick), he was given powdered milk at breakfast, but he doesn’t even know how to use the electric kettle to heat water.

It was providential that we had 2 separate

rooms because I was able to rest in my room undisturbed after tending to Sam which was a struggle for me.

We prayed for healing but aside from that, also prayed that the hospital and doctors will not charge us too much. Hospital bill for both of us was a little less than a million. But with the Senior Citizen discount and PhilHealth, the final bill was considerably lower.

Aside from my daughter Ethel and husband Remedy, my main support group are my siblings, and my Pastor, the Rev. Maricel Osias. Thank you so much!

Intense relief when informed that we can go home.

Just this morning, May 1, Sam claimed he is now OK. Only problem is his hoarse voice. Praise God!

NOTES:

It has been three weeks now since we were released from the hospital. Sam lost his voice; it is still hoarse. We can only pray that he will regain it together with his vigor.

Even after our quarantine we remained in our bedroom for about 5 days, the experience was such that we were apprehensive to step out, so traumatic.

Until now, Sam couldn’t recall details of what happened that day (March 31); he was already mindless of what’s happening around him, just lying down and sleeping. He couldn’t recall also how he was able to go up our bedroom when we arrived from the hospital.

Sam’s voice is still hoarse, effect of Covid-19; he is still in the “recuperating” stage, weak but little by little trying to do routine work.

We didn’t know how many were in similar situation as ours because nobody was allowed outside their rooms. I think the whole 10th floor was full. When asked, a nurse said one nurse handles at least 5 patients.

The nurses visit us only when they had to administer medicines; they were just monitoring us through the CCTV. When called, we’re lucky if they come within 30 minutes.

Was not able to monitor the meds given to us: Injections to prevent blood clotting, meds for cough, antibiotics, immune meds, etc.

Our Message to the Brethren: Life is precious. Take care of it.

To God Be the Glory!



PAGE OF REMEMBRANCE



VW / BRIG. GEN. DANILO D. LIM: A TRIBUTE

By VR Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC, HA

Bro. / Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana paid tribute to VW Brig. Gen. Lim thus: “With the passing of General Lim, the country lost an esteemed leader, who valued public service above all else. His vision, which he carried through from his beginnings as a young officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), to his later years as a civilian public servant, was to uphold good governance and lead by example. “As chair of the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) and NTF (National Task Force) against Covid-19, I am grateful for General Lim’s support to our various inter-agency emergency response operations through the years.”

MASONIC AFFILIATION

VW Danilo Lim’s mother lodge is Baguio Masonic Lodge No. 67. He was a dual member of MW Roberto Q. Pagotan Masonic Lodge No. 282 and an honorary member of San Mateo Masonic Lodge No. 319 and Bagumbayan Masonic Lodge No. 4. He was appointed Grand Pursuiv-

ant and member of the Committee on Works and the Committee on Environment and Disaster Preparedness by Grand Master Agapito S. Suan.

In an installation of officers of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, Bro. Lim said:

“As a fraternity, we have but simple goals. In addition to making good men better, we build confidence and leadership. And what better way to build confidence and leadership than to motivate members of our Lodge to aspire to be its future leaders, or even its Lights? / “Our aspiration should be to become officers of our respective Lodges. Our most ardent desire should be to discharge the duties of our respective positions with fervency and zeal; with skill and assiduity; with competence and passion.”

MILITARY LIFE

VW Danny Lim was a member of the Philippine Military Academy Makatarungan Class of 1978. While a plebe at the PMA, VW Lim took the entrance examination at the West Point Academy of the United States Military. After graduation from West Point, he came back to the Philippines and took the Scout Ranger course where he graduated on top of his class.



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

PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE

1440 San Marcelino Street, 1000 Ermita, Manila, Philippines
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Website: www.grandlodge.ph

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

MW Bro. DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines is greatly saddened by the recent passing of our very own worthy brother, VW Danilo D. Lim – Grand Pursuivant and Chairman of the MMDA. VW Danny was an active and devoted Mason, and his demise is indeed a great loss for the Fraternity and for the entire country, both of which he served and loved. May our loss, therefore, be the gain of the Heaven above. Our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family of Bro. Danny Lim. May he now rest in eternal peace.


MW AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

Charity & Humility: Foundations of a True Mason.

VW Danny Lim became involved in the People Power Revolution in 1986.

He took part in a failed coup during the administration of former President Corazon Aquino In 1989. He was jailed for two years until he was released during the term of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

On July 23, 2003, about 300 soldiers formed a new group called “Magdalo.” They took over the Oakwood Premier service apartments in Makati. This was an attempt to oust then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo over allegations of corruption. In November 2007, VW Lim with other military officials and soldiers, walked out of their trial for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and laid siege at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. This resulted again in the incarceration of Bro. Lim.

He was granted temporary freedom by the AFP in May 2010, and later amnesty by the administration of then President Benigno Aquino III.

PUBLIC SERVANT

Under the administration of Pres. Benigno Aquino III, Bro Danny Lim was deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs but resigned in 2013.

President Rodrigo Duterte appointed Bro. Lim as MMDA Chairman in May 2017.

Malacanang has expressed sympathy over the passing away of VW Danilo Lim, who

as Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) “prioritized the welfare of the employees by ensuring they receive accident insurance and other appropriate benefits, and envisioned the MMDA to be one of the most transparent government agencies that the public can trust.” Secretary Harry Roque, Presidential Spokesman intoned: “The Palace expresses its deep condolences to the family, loved ones, and colleagues of MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim xxx. MMDA Chair Lim served the Duterte administration with professionalism, competence, and integrity. He would be dearly missed.”

LEGACY

VW/Brig. Gen. Danilo D. Lim leaves us with the following wisdom:

“Although we are actually speculative Masons, our values and principles should always be operative. Through the beneficial influence of the values and principles of Masonry, we build ourselves into men of the finest character; into men who others will say are men of honor, virtue and charitable feelings – men to whom others might look for example and inspiration; into spiritual temples fit for the GAOTU to dwell in.

“Yes, one of our aspirations is, or should be, to aspire to be models for the rest of the brethren to admire and imitate. Instead of being seen as wayward and naughty Masons, we should present ourselves as good men made increasingly better through the influence of Masonic tenets and precepts.

“Every regular and upright Mason can be an officer of the Lodge – or better yet, one of its Lights, if not its Worshipful Master. I take pride in the fact that we choose our officers not solely on the basis of the depth of their pockets or the influence that they can peddle, but by the depth of their character, integrity and moral rectitude.”

VW Danny Lim lived his conviction, depth of character, integrity, and moral rectitude. A principled man, VW Danilo Lim stood his ground and remained undaunted by circumstances.

Sleep, our beloved Brother, and take thy rest. Lay down thy weary head in the bosom of our Heavenly Father. Good night for now. Till we meet again.





PAGE OF REMEMBRANCE



REMEMBERING MW RUDYARDO V. BUNDA, PGM

By VR Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC, HA

While recuperating from my COVID-19 ordeal, I humbly pay tribute to a beloved Past Grand Master (1982-1983). A titan and stalwart in masonry, whose dedication and devotion to the craft speak volumes. A Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite (1994-1999) and Past Grand Treasurer (1985, 1986, 1988 to 1990, and April 2005 to 2017), MW Bunda was an untiring mason.

Early Exposure to Masonry

MW Bunda reminisced thus: "My first exposure to Freemasonry was through my Lola, who used to take me to Uncle WB Cenon Trias. I knew all the time that my uncle was a mason. But what impressed me most was his living up to the principles of masonry, which, at the time, of course, I had only a vague grasp of. But this I knew; He was a disciplinarian, one who stood pat unto his avowed principles, and one whom people in the community had much respect for. "When I told him in 1965 that I

was already a mason, he looked at me in a quizical look. Then he told me in no uncertain terms, 'It is easy to become a mason, but difficult to be a true one.' "

His masonic life was influenced by father-in-law, Marcelo Alvarez, one of the organizers of Bagong Ilaw No. 97. In his observations "I have never seen a group so closely knitted





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MW Bro. DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

April 7, 2021

MW RUDYARDO V. BUNDA

(PAST GRAND MASTER, 1982)

(PAST GRAND SECRETARY, 1991-1993)

(PAST GRAND TREASURER, 1985-1990/2005-2017)

Today, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines sadly announces the passing of its most senior Past Grand Master, MW Rudyardo V. Bunda.

Perhaps, only a handful of masons can match his long-time, dedicated and legendary service to Philippine Freemasonry which he faithfully served in various capacities until his death. He was an active senior member of the present Board for General Purposes since year 2019 where he generously shared his precious time and wisdom all for the betterment of his beloved Fraternity. He would have overseen the important duties of the PGMs this upcoming 104th ANCOM but begged to be relieved at the last minute on account of his failing health.

We extend to his wife, Sister Celia Bunda, his sons Brothers Ephraim A. Bunda and Reuel A. Bunda and the rest of his bereaved family, relatives, and friends our deepest and sincerest sympathy in this great hour of sorrow, as we pray that our esteemed Past Grand Master, MW Rudyardo V. Bunda now dwell blissfully in the House not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Farewell, Most Worshipful Sir.


AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

Charity & Humility: Foundations of a True Mason.

as that group. When somebody was sick, they went to the house of the brother and literally offered their services. When there was a funeral service, all of the officers and the majority of the members showed up, expressing their concern, condoling with the family and giving the last rites up to the cemetery.”
Masonic Life

In 1965, MW was initiated in Bagong Ilaw No. 97. It was in that Lodge that he was passed and raised in the same year. There he became Worshipful Master for two consecutive years. But unlike other Past Masters, he did not vanish into thin air after his term.

MW Bunda’s involvement in the appendant and allied bodies is as awesome as his involvement in other civic organizations. An IGH of the Scottish Rite Freemasonry, he served as Senior Warden and Master of its Lakandula Lodge of Perfection and Council of Kadosh, respectively. York Rite mason, he was a member of the Commandery Knights Templar, Kalayaan Council No 4, R&SM, and the Cavite Chapter No. 13, RAM. The High Shereef of the Cavite Shrine Oasis and the President of the Philippine Shrine Oasis Association, AA.O.N.M.S., for the year 1982, he was also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and one of the founding fathers and first Royal Patron of Ilang-Ilang Court No. 20, Order of the Amaranth. Also, he was a member of the XIII Martyrs of Cavite Chapter No. 6, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Widows Sons Fraternal Charity Association. As such, he was instrumental in organizing the Emilio Aguinaldo Chapter of International Order of DeMolay and the Magdiwang Lodge No. 238, F&AM.

A Church Man

MW Bunda was an active lay leader of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). When he was Chairman of his church council, he donated a lot and church building in Noveleta, Cavite.

Donation

MW Bunda donated a sizeable land and personally financed the putting up of a masonic building in his hometown. Apparently, whenever



MW is challenged, there is no stopping his ambition to make good his promise of expressing his concern in a most concrete way.

A Lover of Arts

MW Bunda loved to listen to the Scottish Rite Chorale composed of Brothers of Harmony and Ladies of Melody. He invited the whole chorale to his place in Noveleta, Cavite. He also invited the Luzon Bodies drama group to perform “Aguinaldo and the Hongkong Junta,” a dramatization of how our national flag evolved.

Golden Apron

MW Bunda wore his 50 years Golden apron for the first time as he stood with the other Grand representatives to be recognized during the last AnCom in Davao City in 2018.

Like Illustrious Mason Apolinario Mabini, he has not allowed his humble beginnings to be a stumbling block to his reaching the height of success. One thing we are very sure of: where there is challenge, he was made alive.

Now that he has met his Creator, MW Rudyardo Bunda is still very much alive in our hearts.



Kapatiran Chapter (Order of DeMolay) conducts Posthumous Investiture of the LEGION of HONOR

By Bro. Noel T. Patelo (273) / Head News Correspondent

In an unprecedented event in the history of Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 and the Order of DeMolay Kapatiran Chapter, the Legion of Honor - the highest recognition amongst the Brethren of DeMolay, was invested posthumously upon Bro. Marvin Galman Martinez on Saturday 13 March 2021. Held at the Masonic Temple of our beloved Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 the ceremony was fittingly observed on the eve of the first anniversary of his death.

Ateng Nerivi Santos - Martinez, the Honorable Municipal Mayor of Talavera, Nueva Ecija received the award on behalf of her dearly beloved husband, Kuyang Marvin as witnessed by the immediate family and relatives in a very solemn ceremony invested by the members of the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay (SCOD), led by the following Brethren:

- Commander in the East: Leg Joselito Bulawin, Misamis Chapter No. 20
- Commander in the West: Leg Rowan Labro, Douglas MacArthur Chapter No. 12
- Commander in the South: Leg Julius Barles, Jose Abad Santos Chapter No. 1

Grand Marshall, Leg Arthur Allan Ponce, Quizon City Chapter, ISC Kansas City, led the solemnities in the presence of brothers DeMolay and Masons from different Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines. He prepared the conferral ceremony, based on the regular LOH ceremony, specifically for the occasion.

“Kuya Marvin, being an LOH designate of

SCOD, would have been part of a group of designates to be exalted on 8 March 2020, "to the highest honor within the gift of the Order of DeMolay" - the Legion of Honor. But he was already gravely ill at that time and was unable to travel to Manila. A week after, he dropped his working tools forever.” Said VW Ato Ponce. “Incidentally, the Commanders in the East, West, and South are three of his Legionnaire batchmates.” He added.

Bro. Alfred Leonard Domingo, Worshipful Master, also a DeMolay Centennial Grand Knight, gave a heartfelt welcome address to all visiting Brethren and guests, withersoever dispersed. The seven Preceptors were all Senior DeMolays mostly from Kapatiran Chapter. One of the Preceptors was his second son, Sebastian Martinez, a Past Master Councilor of Ambrosio Flores Chapter No. 45. Back in August 2018, in a rare occurrence in the DeMolay fraternity, Kuya Marvin installed his son Sebastian as Master Councilor of the Chapter, the first and only instance in the history of the Chapter.

In a heartwarming response at the Masonic





Editor's Note:
Sixteen days after Bro. Noel Patelo submitted this article, he succumb to injuries from a vehicular accident on May 10, 2021. He was one of the most productive members of the Cable Tow Team.

Temple fellowship area was aptly named MGM HALL, last December 2020 in memory of Kuya Marvin Galman Martinez, a fitting tribute during the Hall's Dedication.

In her talk during the fellowship, Ateng Nerivi thanked the SCOD for completing Kuya Marvin's DeMolay journey as it was his fervent dream to be conferred the red cordon and chivalric medallion of a Legionnaire. And while death prevented him from personally receiving the patent and token, the ceremony has allowed him to receive it in spirit. "Alam ko nakangiti sya ngayon" the emotional widow adds. After expressing her family's appreciation to all brothers and DeMolays especially those who traveled all the way from Metro Manila to honor the memory of her beloved spouse, she allowed her son Basti to deliver the responsorial message on behalf of their family. She was overwhelmed by the occasion.

Bro Marvin Galman Martinez served as Junior and Senior Warden of Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 in 2018 and 2019 respectively. In March of 2019, after the regular stated meeting, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and visited Australia and Japan for medical attention. The Lodge Anniversary in June that year was held in his residence. A month later, during Ateng's Birthday

Celebration everyone was ecstatic of his robust condition and usual jolly demeanor. He continued his lodge attendance in September and by December was elected Worshipful Master. Declining the position, he gave way to Senior Warden - elect Alfred Leonard Domingo. With the Junior Warden now voted to the East; Bro Nerito Santos, Jr. - younger brother of Ateng Mayor Nerivi, was elected Senior Warden from the Floor; while Bro Steve Domingo, younger brother of the Master Elect became the new Junior Warden.



He graced the Installation of Officers in January 2020, staying all night long with brethren and guests numbering more than 500 and even hosted the Lodge Valentine's Affair at the Wave's Bar and Grille by Nery's Resort in February. In March, before Luzon was placed in Enhanced Community Quarantine - Kuyang Marvin stayed at the UST Hospital due to complications of his medical condition until his demise on March 14, 2020. He was 46 Years Old.

Fittingly, Kuyang Marvin's memory as a Master Mason and a DeMolay, will be forever kept "in the repository of the faithful breast" of the members of Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 and the Order of DeMolay. Till we meet again Brother Sir, "to that undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler returns". Rest in Peace.



PAGE OF REMEMBRANCE



WB Greg Macasaet Special Memorial Fund By VW Teodoro Alejandro Kalaw IV, Senior Grand Lecturer

Of all the Grand Lodge initiatives I managed during this extended term, this is the one I feel most blessed to be associated with. In March 22 of last year at the onset of the current public health crisis and pursuant to the instructions of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, we set up a one-time special purpose fund for Brethren directly affected by the crisis and in memory of its first victim among Brethren in the medical community: Anesthesiologist and WB Gregorio Macasaet of Keystone Lodge No. 100.

Above and beyond the call of duty and in the finest traditions of our Craft, WB Greg honored his Hippocratic Oath as a medical doctor and remained on duty attending to the sick until he himself was infected by the Corona virus. GM Circular No. 39 as issued last 12 May 2020 highlights the rationale and objective of the Fund as follows:

Above and beyond the call of duty and in the finest traditions of our Craft, WB Gregorio Macasaet of Keystone Lodge No. 100 honored his Hippocratic Oath as a medical doctor and remained on duty attending to the sick until he himself was infected by the Coronavirus. In honor of WB Macasaet's ultimate sacrifice, the Grand Lodge recognizes the efforts of various Brethren who have pledged and provided financial assistance for either the widows and orphans of Brethren who drop their working tools or Brethren who have immediate families who are adversely affected as a result of being infected by the Corona virus during this crisis.

At the close of the collection period on 15 May 2020, the total collection of the fund amounted to exactly **Three Million Pesos (PHP 3,000,000.00)** pledged and subsequently do-

nated by **over three hundred Brethren and various parties** for the following beneficiaries:

- Brethren who drop their working tools as a result of being infected by the Corona virus during the ECQ period, regardless of location of death; or
- Brethren who have wives or children that have died as a result of being infected by the Corona virus during the ECQ period, regardless of location of death.

All funds collected are to be distributed to the families of all confirmed beneficiaries in accordance with the following classification scheme:

- Class A - Departed Brethren who are medical or allied health personnel that sacrificed their lives responding to this public health crisis: One (100%) full pro-rata share of the fund;
- Class B - Other departed Brethren: Seventy-Five Percent (75%) pro-rata share of the fund;
- Class C - Affected Families of Brethren: Fifty Percent (50%) pro-rata share of the fund (limited to one distribution per nuclear family only).

On 22 October 2020, the first tranche of beneficiaries was selected and confirmed. Their families were provided with an initial distribution of nearly two-thirds (2/3) of the fund collected, or One Million Eight Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PHP 1,849,500.00), as follows:

Class A: PHP 300,000 Each Beneficiary Family

- WB Gregorio Macasaet [Medical Doctor], Keystone Masonic Lodge No. 100
- Bro. David Jonathan Pagaduan [Medical Doctor], Dr. Filemon Aguilar No. 332 (23 April 2020)

Class B:

PHP 111,000 Each Beneficiary Family

- VW Gerardo A. Ibasco, Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 (22 March 2020)
- Bro. Virginio C. De Leon, High Twelve No. 82 (4 April 2020)
- VW Orlando Dela Cruz, Koronadal Masonic Lodge No. 209 (29 April 2020)
- VW Francisco L. Yap, Mayon Lodge No. 61 (28 July 2020)
- Bro. Clifford Jay Calanoga, Union Lodge No. 70 (17 August 2020)
- Bro. Angelito Parrero, Kalantiao Masonic Lodge No. 187 (19 August 2020)
- WB Salvador Dizon, Lincoln Masonic Lodge No. 34 (1 September 2020)
- Bro. Prudencio Galindez, Kapatiran Masonic Lodge No. 228 (7 September 2020)
- VW Conrado L. Nati, Jr., Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 (8 September 2020)
- VW Edwin Amene, Macajalar Lodge No. 184 (1 October 2020)
- Bro. Arthur S. Callanta, MW Roberto Pagotan Lodge No. 282
- WB Leven S. Puno, Hiram Lodge No. 88



Class C:

PHP 72,500 Each Beneficiary Family

- Mrs. Celerina Rabaya, Mother of Bro. Colbert Rabaya, JW Macajalar Lodge No. 184 (7 July 2020)
- Mr. Francis Arcy B. Cruz, son of Bro. Narciso L. Cruz, Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133 (2 August 2020)
- Mrs. Siu Kien Loo, mother of Bro. Henry Loo, Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 (26 September 2020)

A candidate beneficiary for Class A was subsequently found to be ineligible, his death not being related to the CoVid disease. Accordingly, the remaining **One Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PHP 1,150,500.00)**, shall be distributed to the families of the following beneficiaries, as identified, and confirmed by the GLP, beginning 19 April 2021:

Class B:

PHP 95,875 Each Beneficiary Family

- Bro. Fernando B. Hernandez, Pilar Lodge



No. 15 (31 July 2020)

- Bro. Jeffrey B. Ayroso, Magat Lodge No. 68 (28 August 2020)
- WB Amante V. Paa, Muog Lodge No. 89 (4 October 2020)
- VW Edito Vicente C. Balauag, Walana Lodge No. 13 (16 October 2020)
- VW Melchor G. Taob, Maharlika Lodge No. 180 (5 November 2020)
- WB Julio A. Pizarro, Mount Musuan Lodge No. 155 (4 December 2020)
- WB Cornerlio L. De Leon, Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73 (20 December 2020)
- VW Tomas A. Reyes, Isarog Lodge No. 33 (4 January 2021)
- VW Danilo Lim, MW Roberto Pagotan Lodge No. 282 (6 January 2021)
- WB Edgardo M. Martinez, Gregorio O. Calit Masonic Lodge No. 154 (26 January 2021)
- Bro. Jose Dizon Cerrudo, Jr., Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48 (30 March 2021)
- Bro. Hernani T. Barrios, Luzon Masonic Lodge No. 57 (12 April 2021)

Lodge No. 155 (4 December 2020)

- WB Cornerlio L. De Leon, Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73 (20 December 2020)
- VW Tomas A. Reyes, Isarog Lodge No. 33 (4 January 2021)
- VW Danilo Lim, MW Roberto Pagotan Lodge No. 282 (6 January 2021)
- WB Edgardo M. Martinez, Gregorio O. Calit Masonic Lodge No. 154 (26 January 2021)
- Bro. Jose Dizon Cerrudo, Jr., Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48 (30 March 2021)
- Bro. Hernani T. Barrios, Luzon Masonic Lodge No. 57 (12 April 2021)

In honor of WB Greg's ultimate sacrifice, summary of the **total collections** to the Fund amounted to **Three Million Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-One Pesos and Fifty-One Centavos (PHP 3,325, 571.51)**, which resulted in **total distributions of Three Million Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PHP 3,325,500.00)** to 29 beneficiary families. The remaining amount of Seventy-One Pesos and Fifty-One Centavos (PHP 71.51) has been turned over to GLP Treasury in view of its marginal nature.

After the initial distribution list on 22 October 2020, GLP Accounting Department subsequently reported that an additional **Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-One Pesos and Fifty-One Centavos (PHP 325,571.51)** has been collected from additional donations to date. It was therefore decided to provide an additional Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five Pesos (PHP 27,125.00) to each beneficiary family in the second distribution list, or a total of **One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Pesos (PHP 123,000)** Pesos for each of the 12 cases, as follows:

The family of WB Macasaet as represented by his widow, Dr. Evalyn Macaset, were present when WB Macasaet was memorialized and recognized during the GLP Anniversary Commemoration at the Plaridel Masonic Temple last 19 December 2020.

Fund proceeds are in addition to the other charitable and fraternal assistance to be provided by the GLP and the individual lodges of these Brethren as per existing Masonic regulations and traditions.

Class B:

PHP 123,000 Each Beneficiary Family

- Bro. Fernando B. Hernandez, Pilar Lodge No. 15 (31 July 2020)
- Bro. Jeffrey B. Ayroso, Magat Lodge No. 68 (28 August 2020)
- WB Amante V. Paa, Muog Lodge No. 89 (4 October 2020)
- VW Edito Vicente C. Balauag, Walana Lodge No. 13 (16 October 2020)
- VW Melchor G. Taob, Maharlika Lodge No. 180 (5 November 2020)
- WB Julio A. Pizarro, Mount Musuan

All collected proceeds of the fund (less the marginal amount of less than Seventy-Two Pesos and Fifty-One Centavos [PHP 71.51] that has been turned over to GLP Treasury) have and will be distributed only to the families of the above beneficiaries as identified and confirmed by GLP Staff. Collection and disbursement of the Fund shall be audited by the Grand Auditor and reported to the Brethren at this year's Annual Communications.



FORGED IN FIRE

By VW Ali C. Espina, Grand Historian

To be forged is to go under a tremendous amount of heat, hammering, stress, and be shaped into something strong. This is how the lodges celebrating their centennials in 2021 can and should be described.

The lodges were borne at the end of the deadliest pandemic to hit mankind: the 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic. Commonly known as the Spanish Flu, the disease infected more than half of the world's population and claimed at least 50 million lives. In the Philippines, the pandemic registered around 80,000 deaths. And at the backdrop of this pandemic was the first world war. The early twenties were also the time when erstwhile popular Gran Oriente Espanol wanted to reclaim its foothold in the Philippines.

Regardless, these 14 lodges – Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, Isla de Luzon Lodge No. 57,

Marble Lodge No. 58, Labong Lodge No. 59, Isabela Lodge No. 60, Mayon Lodge No. 61, Tupas Lodge No. 62, Angalo Lodge No. 63, Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, Tamaraw Lodge No. 65, Gonzaga Lodge No. 66, Baguio Lodge No. 67, Magat Lodge No. 68, and Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69 – joined the newly formed grand lodge founded by 3 American Lodges: Manila Lodge No. 342 (GLPI No. 1), Cavite Lodge No. 350 (GLPI No. 2), and Corregidor Lodge No. 386 (GLPI No. 3); well establishing the young Grand Lodge of 'The Philippines Islands' masonic influence in the country.

The 9th Annual Communications described the stellar performances of the lodges. It was mentioned that "Although some of the above Lodges were granted dispensation late in the year (1920), an astounding amount of work was done, and there appears to be, in each instance, full justification for a charter." One lodge was even "granted a charter without the formality of working under Dispensation." During the

same occasion, MW Rafael Palma granted these 14 lodges their respective numbers and allowed them to continue to work under dispensation until such time that they were constituted. Also recorded in the same AnCom were the first lodges to be constituted: Labong Lodge No. 59 on 26 Feb 1921 and Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 on 5 May 1921. This is the reason why there were different dates as to the respective anniversaries of the lodges. Some used the date when they were given their respective numbers, as was the practice before. While some used the dates when they were constituted, as what is a common practice nowadays.

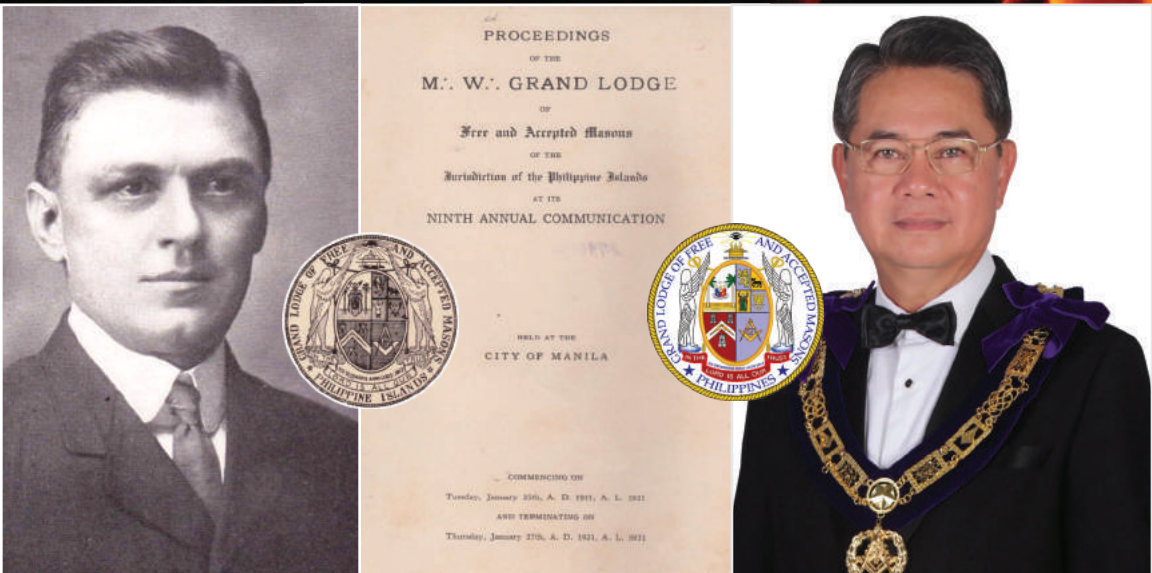
This centennial batch of lodges also have produced brethren who sat the grand oriental chair: MW Antonio Gonzales, Sr. (1932, Luzon 57), MW Joseph Alley (1937, Tupas 62), MW Cenon S. Cervantes (1951, Pangasinan 56), MW Sydney M. Austin (1952, Tupas 62), MW Jolly R. Bugarin (1979, Tamaraw 65), MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. (1997, Gonzaga 66) MW Franklin J. Demonteverde (1999, Kanlaon 64), MW Eugenio S. Labitoria (2002, Magat 68) and MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr. (2013, Mayon 61).

Out of the 14 lodges, 12 remained to this day. Marble Lodge No. 58, founded in Romblon had its members later on scattered all over the country and could not hold a meeting for six months. Some members were also not able to

pay their dues. As a result, in January 1934, it surrendered its charter. The other casualty was Tupas Lodge No. 62. She was founded by members from Maktan Lodge No. 30. With dwindling membership after the second world war, it found its way being merged and survived by its sponsoring lodge in 1948.

Fast forward to 2021. The world is still experiencing the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Philippines, just beginning to vaccinate a portion of the population, stands as the country with the longest community quarantine or lockdown period. With varying degrees of lockdown, the centennial celebration of the lodges also differs. Lodges in the provinces where restrictions are lenient were able to still celebrate with pomp and pageantry, albeit not what we all have been used to because of government safety protocols. Some lodges opted to celebrate in virtual form, considering the safety of their members. This is not without opposition and debate from members who have been accustomed to big and fancy celebrations as a centennial should be if there is no pandemic.

Bookended by seemingly the biggest challenges of the 20th and 21st centuries, the 12 lodges continue to labor. They continue to mold good men to be better. They continue to be models of the craft. They strive to be stronger; as steel that has gone through the hottest flames should. They are the ones forged in fire.





PANGASINAN MASONIC LODGE NO. 56 F. & A. M.
101st PUBLIC INSTALLATION
of ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS
FOR MASONIC YEAR 2020-2021



BRO. CHARLES RYAN V. ROMERO
Senior Warden



BRO. DELVIC L. OREIRO
Worshipful Master



BRO. GILBERT B. BENCITO
Junior Warden



WB ALLAN SULLANO IRAL
Jail Director, CESE
Chief, BJMP
Guest of Honor and Speaker

By VW Jaime L. Nabua, PDDGM and VW Michael Camilo G. Datario, PJGL

The Temple and the Capitol

More than one Hundred years ago, the seed of Freemasonry was planted in the very heart of Pangasinan, here in Lingayen – the capital town and the seat of government and provincial power. In 1918, the edifice housing the Provincial Capitol celebrated its 100th year. It is a symbol of wisdom of functionality, of strength, and of beauty. Unknown to many, the story of the capitol building of Pangasinan is intertwined with the history of this lodge – as the people responsible for its construction are the very same people who founded Pangasinan Masonic Lodge No. 56.

They are Freemasons. As Masons, we are driven by two concerns that are one and the same: the search for more light, and the construction of temple – the physical one, and the imperishable, Spiritual Temple. Thus, while our founding fathers were building the capitol that would become the temple of power and governance in the province, they were building a spiritual temple in the hearts of men alongside it.

Pangasinan’s oldest lodge owes its existence to its fifteen charter members who had the wisdom to search for and spread light in this part of the Grand jurisdiction. They assembled on December 29, 1918 at Lingayen, Pangasinan, at the second floor of the old Methodist Church, which still stands today. Recognizing themselves as a Lodge named Pangasinan Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons, they submitted a Petition for Dispensation, accompanied by the following list of the members and elected officers

to Grand Master Manuel L. Quezon:

Senator Daniel Maramba, the first Master is a native of Sta. Barbara and was then Governor of Pangasinan at the building of the Provincial Capitol.

Senator Sotero Baluyot, a native of Pampanga assigned as district engineer in the provinces of Isabela, Antique, Ilocos Norte, Bulacan, and Pangasinan (1912-1919). He was elected Governor of Pampanga and eventually served as Senator of the Republic. He is a past master of Pampanga Lodge No.48.

Senator Pedro María Sison hails from Urdaneta. He served as Senator of the Philippines (1914- 1916) before being appointed as a Court Judge. Together with MW Rafael Palma, they sponsored the bill on women’s right to vote which was approved by the Senate in 1916. Manuel Quezon was then the Senate President.

Bro. Dr. Raymundo O. Camacho was an Assemblyman of the Third District of Pangasinan (1919-1925). The first Director of the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital in Dagupan, he would later establish the Pangasinan Medical Society.

Bro. Victor Tomelden was the Inspector for Pangasinan in the 1918 Census of the Philippine Islands. He was one of the Provincial Board Members when the Capitol building was erected in 1918. He would also be known as the father of one of the most celebrated women in Pangasinan - GERONIMA TOMELDEN-PECSON, the first Woman Senator of the Philippines.

Chief Justice Manuel Moran, a native of Binalonan, Pangasinan, was a fiscal in the Bureau of Justice in 1918. After serving as a judge and Court of Appeals Justice, he was appointed to the Supreme Court by Manuel Quezon. He served as the Chief Justice of the Republic in 1945. After leaving the judiciary became the first Philippine Ambassador to Spain and the Holy See.

MW Clark James, who was the Provincial Treasurer of Pangasinan from 1918 up to his retirement in 1939. He is known as the last American to serve as Provincial Treasurer in the country. He would eventually serve as the 26th Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

RW Antonio Ramos – elected Junior Grand Warden in 1941 – the last Annual Communication before WWII. He was one of many Masons executed by the

Japanese, including the Chief Justice, MW Jose Abad Santos, Grand Master John Robert McFie, and RW Jose P. Guido, Deputy Grand Master.

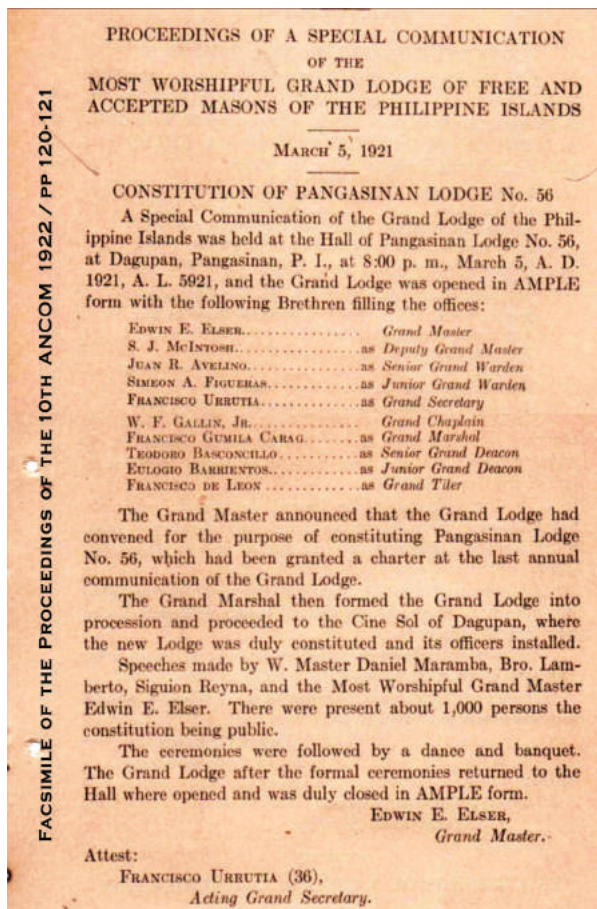
Bro. Lunsford Z. Burgess, a German, and member of Cosmos Lodge No. 8. During the First World War, an order was issued by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, expelling all Masons of German origin from any and all the lodges in its jurisdiction throughout

the world. The order affected the lives of Masons residing in the Philippine Islands, principally the members of Lodge Perla del Oriente No.1034, which is under the said obedience. In a meeting held at the Masonic Temple in Manila was born Cosmos No. 8, a lodge where Germans could transfer membership.

Bro. Bartolome Ramat, who was later appointed Vice-Mayor of Santiago, Isabela on June 15,

1946 by the President & WB Manuel Roxas.

Reverend Teodoro Basconillo, a native of Villasis, Pangasinan, he was an ordained deacon or 'itinerant preacher' in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1904. He translated the Bible to Pangasinan and Ilocano, although copies of his works can no longer be found in the country as all are in the United States. He was the Charter Master of the second oldest Masonic lodge in the Province, Agno Lodge No. 75 in Tayug. Other Charter members were:



- Cirilo Francisco - from Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4
- Francisco De Leon - from Biak-na-bato Lodge No. 7
- Miguel Valenzuela - from Biak-na-bato Lodge No. 7
- Carlin H. McChur - demitted from Manila No. 342

On January 28, 1919 during the 7th Annual Communication, Pangasinan UD was granted a charter and assigned the number 52. But owing to few available members and the small amount of work done, the lodge number was withdrawn in the 8th Annual Communication in 1920 and was reverted back to Under Dispensation. Having failed to constitute, the Lodge was given another year to labor and justify its existence. Finding it difficult to exist in Lingayen, the brethren decided to transfer to the more centralized location of Dagupan where the Lodge finally found a solid foothold.

The Grand Lodge granted the Lodge a new charter on January 21, 1921, in the 9th Annual Communication. As the number 52 had been given to Pinatubo Lodge in Zambales. Pangasinan became the 56th Lodge under the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands.

Conducting meetings from one private house to another, the next task was the acquisition of a permanent abode. In 1930, the brethren pooled their resources to acquire a lot for the lodge. But when the Temple was nearing its completion World War II reached the Philippines on December 8, 1941. Japanese Imperial Forces occupied the Temple on December 26 of that year. Owing to their ignorance in Masonic rites and activities, the Lodge Paraphernalia were left at the mercy of looters and the inclemency of the weather.

In 1945, the liberating forces landed at the nation's shores under the command of Bro. Gen. Douglas McArthur. The Temple was not spared from the ravages of the war. Completely leveled to the ground, it was impossible to hold meetings and resume normal Masonic functions. When peace and tranquility once more pervaded the country, the Brethren resumed their Masonic labors, holding their meetings in private houses once again. The Holy Bible was loaned by WB Gregorio Gaerlan while Lodge jewels were improvised from ammunition shells. Officers of 1941 continued for 1945. In 1948 the Brethren once again pooled their resources to erect the Lodge Temple. Charity once more wrapped the Brethren and donations in cash and construction materials were given. When the United States War Damage Commission released and the amount of Three Thousand



Pesos (P3,000.00) in payment for the damaged temple, the building was completed.

Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 remained active since in supporting the thrust of the GLP as well as activities of different appendant bodies. Taking pride in the elevation of several of its members as Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Philippine Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rites, as well as producing two Grandmasters – MW Clark James in 1939 and MW Cenon Cervantes in 1951. It had its share of glory and honor as well having once been awarded the Grand Master's Cup and the Baradi Cup under the leadership of VW Peregrino Cornel Jr. in 1978

In 1995, during the term of VW Edgar Tacadena as Master, then Senior Warden Ramon Reyna took the challenge of then-Junior Warden Danilo Uy to look for a spacious location to build a temple from their existing home at the PNR Site in the City proper. The three Lights ably supported by VW Peregrino Cornel Jr., WB Guillermo Fernandez, and other Brethren presented a proposal to Bro. Alipio F. Fernandez, Jr. – then the City Mayor of Dagupan. As Mayor, Bro. Fernandez offered the right of usufruct for 50 years, renewable, over the parcel of land presently occupied by the Lodge at Bonuan Tondaligan, which was identified by the Assessor's Office, headed then by Bro. Jose Sanchez. Since a legislative action was needed, the group enjoined Bro. Teodoro Manaois, then-City Vice Mayor, to support this endeavor in the City Council. The usufruct in favor of the Lodge was unanimously ratified by the City Council. It took more than a year to complete the necessary requirements and clearances. MW Percival Adiong presided over the Ground-breaking ceremonies in 1996. WB Ramon Reyna secured the

premises with fences thru the support of Bro. Bonifacio S. Tan. WB Danilo Uy laid the foundation of the building in 1997. Aably assisted by VW Edward Chua Cham and WB Conrado Gaerlan, Sr. then Senior & Junior Wardens respectively together with the Brethren, a two-story edifice was erected. During his incumbency as Master of the Lodge, VW Edward Chua Cham, supported by his own brother, VW George Chua Cham, endeavored to finish the session hall and named in honor of their father, Bro. Domingo Chua Cham. The Pangasinan Sojourners Foundation was organized to assist the Master of the Lodge in sourcing necessary funds to be used for the Lodge improvements.

Subsequent Masters of the Lodge continue improving the Lodge Temple. Under the leadership of WB Conrado Gaerlan Sr., WB Victor Vinluan, WB Gerardo Barrozo, VW Rodolfo Carolino, VW Mario Meneses, WB Manolo Luis Cornel, VW Benjamin Benin, and WB Paquito Navarrete, continue what was started by their elders while remaining active through different projects reflecting the Lodge's duty to the community.

The Lodge Library, the project of VW Camilo Calimlim, was not completed due to his untimely demise. The Masonic Heroes Park was constructed during the term of WB Manolo Luis Cornel. The baluster and ground tiling was done during the term of WB Nelson Fernandez. During the term of WB Johnson L. Fernandez, the Temple had undergone massive improvement - air-conditioning units and ceiling-to-floor curtains were finally installed. The garden was completed during the term of WB Conrado Gaerlan, Jr. The term of VW Michael Camilo Datario in 2011 marked the first time in ages that the Lodge opened the door of its Temple to public when it hosted several of its community and youth projects within its hallowed halls, notably the 1st Pangasinan Debate Seminar for the debate advisers, and high school and college students of the province. The metal signage of the Temple was also installed during WB Datario's term, heralding the distinct position of the Lodge in the province's history.

WB Jovencio N. Daroya, Jr. and WB Lorenzo F. Yuson, IV carried through their respective terms the community and membership development projects of the lodge, activities which will eventually become a tradition and cornerstone of the advocacy of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56. Extensive restoration of the Masonic paraphernalia used in the rituals and improvement of the temple itself were implemented by WB Yuson during his reign. WB Benedick Cuña saw through the completion of the portion of the temple originally earmarked by VW Calimlim as a library into a multi-purpose hall, complete with conference, audio-visual and air-condition system. The socials den erected as a testament to the labors of the brethren and for constantly endeavoring to maintain harmony within the Lodge, as they thereby enjoy better opportunities of fulfilling the duties of reciprocal love and friendship, at the rear lot of the lodge temple was completed during the term of WB Mario Rustan Bañez. The den and the library are complemented by the adjacent refurbished kitchen and massive bookshelves built during the incumbency of WB Johnson Mañez.

To commemorate the centennial of the Lodge, the brethren unveiled the bust of WB Daniel Maramba their first Master. In the renovated park adjacent to the Central School of Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan on October 10, 2019. MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines, together with the Grand Line Officers joined the brethren in the inauguration. The project was planned and executed during the successive terms of Worshipful Masters Rolly Reyes, Adelfo Valle, and Jimmy Padilla, and is now looked-after by WM Delvic Oreiro.

The bust bears the commemorative plaque of the National Historical Commission, citing the role played by WB Maramba in Philippine History, notably as a member of the Katipunan who fought for the liberty of the Filipinos from the Spaniards, then as a Provincial Governor of Pangasinan who took the reins in the construction of the still-standing Provincial Capitol Building in Lingayen, and eventually as a Senator of the Republic.



Lusong Sulong, Sulong Luzon! - Centennial of the 57th Lodge.

By Bro. Je'an-Marie Baptiste S. Bertillo

HISTORY

Around the same time the representatives of the fifty-eight (58) member-powers of the League of Nations were pouring in the City of Lights (La Ville-Lumiere) for what was to be the league's first executive council meeting that finally signaled its coming into existence following the effectivity of the Treaty of Versailles, several masons with minds eagerly collected and set to high purpose, also gathered albeit in a nondescript house along No. 115 Calle Villalobos, Quiapo, Manila, for the sublime prospect of laying the foundation of a new masonic lodge under the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. Shortly thereafter, and capping a series of animated meetings held alternately in the home of the late esteemed Bro. Gonzalo B. Libunao in 1048 Calle Arlegui and in his dental clinic located at 3F Kneedler Building in Calle Carriedo, a petition for dispensation to form ISLA DE LUZON LODGE was signed and submitted on January 19, 1920; initially having the following thirty-one (31) Charter Members – twenty-seven (27) of whom came from Biak Na Bato Lodge, one (1) from Araw Lodge and three (3) others whose lodges from whence they came were not recorded. They were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Arellano, Simplicio C.S. | • Leon, Jose M.E. |
| • Bantigui, Andres M. | • Libunao, Gonzalo B. |
| • Bernal Leon, Julian | • Medina, Wenceslao |
| • Bilian, Luis Lim | • Melo, Eusebio A. |
| • Buenaventura, Ponciano | • Monroy, Dalmacio V. |
| • Chua Heng, Faustio | • Moreno, Florencio |
| • De Vega, Jose A.S. | • Ortiz, Carlos |
| • Doronilia, Vicente | • Paterno, Jose P. |
| • Duque, Paulino | • Ramos, Marcos |
| • Enriquez, Eugenio | • Soto Gutierrez, Lino |
| • Espinosa, Jose P. | • Velasco, Francisco |
| • Estanislao, Jose M. | • Velasco, Juan Chua |
| • Fernandez, Apolonio B. | • Walezkyowki, John |
| • Filoteo, Andres | • Yalong, Emetrio C. |
| • Gumila, Francisco Carag | • Zapata, Caciono G. |
| • Ladislao, Jose | |

Awaiting the Grand Lodge's decision on the application for dispensation, the charter members held Sunday meetings (8:00 AM-12:00 NN) at the Blue Hall (facing Pasig River) of the Masonic Temple in Escolta. On February 13, 1920 at around 12:40 PM, acting on the eager rec-



ommendations of various lodges operating in Manila, MW Rafael Palma granted the Lodge its dispensation and right then and there appointed Bro. Francisco C. Gumila as its Worshipful Master.

Nearly a year later, during the 9th Annual Communication held on January 25, 1921 at 84-96 Escolta, Manila, and on the basis of the much anticipated fiat of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Charters, a charter was finally granted to ISLA DE LUZON LODGE NO. 57 and it was signed by MW Edwin E. Elser & Grand Secretary Newton C. Comfort. And on February 10, 1921 (8:00 PM), MW Edwin E. Elser together with the grand line officers convened at the Scottish Rite Hall, Masonic Temple in Escolta to constitute the Lodge and hold its 1st Public Installation of Officers on which occasion, the following brethren composing the lodge's first set of officers were elected; namely:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Worshipful Master | Francisco C. Gumila |
| • Senior Warden | Gonzalo B. Libunao |
| • Junior Warden | Luis L. Bilian |
| • Treasurer | Francisco Velasco |
| • Secretary | Dalmacio V. Monroy |
| • Chaplain | Vicente Doronilia |
| • Master of Ceremonies | Andres Filoteo |
| • Senior Deacon | Apolonio B. Fernandez |
| • Junior Deacon | Jose M.E. Leon |
| • Senior Steward | Emetrio C. Yalong |
| • Junior Steward | Paulino Duque |
| • Organist | Carlos Ortiz |
| • Tyler | Marcos Ramos |

Widely known as a lodge of noteworthy musicians, ISLA DE LUZON LODGE NO.57 counted among its early members the renowned musicians like the National Artist for Music, Col. Antonino Buenaventura, conductor of the Philippines Constabulary Band which after having played during the Panama Canal Exposition in the USA in 1915 was cited by no less than the king of marches – John Philip Sousa – as one of

finest military bands in the world; the eminent kundiman songs composer Nicanor Abelardo also known for having written the memorable melody of the University of the Philippines' anthem, "U.P. Naming Mahal" as well as the highly-acclaimed "Marcha Triunfal" which he dedicated to ISLA DE LUZON in 1930 along with the equally-prized "Himno Masonico". Other prominent members of the lodge included Paquito Villa, the manager of Francisco "Pancho Villa" Guilledo, a native of Ilog, Negros Occidental, Philippines and the first Asian ever to win the World Flyweight Championship in the U.S. in 1923, and Antonio Gonzalez, who occupied the Grand Oriental Chair in 1932 and the first Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines who, at the age of 37, became the youngest Grand Master in the country – an achievement as yet unsurpassed to this very date.

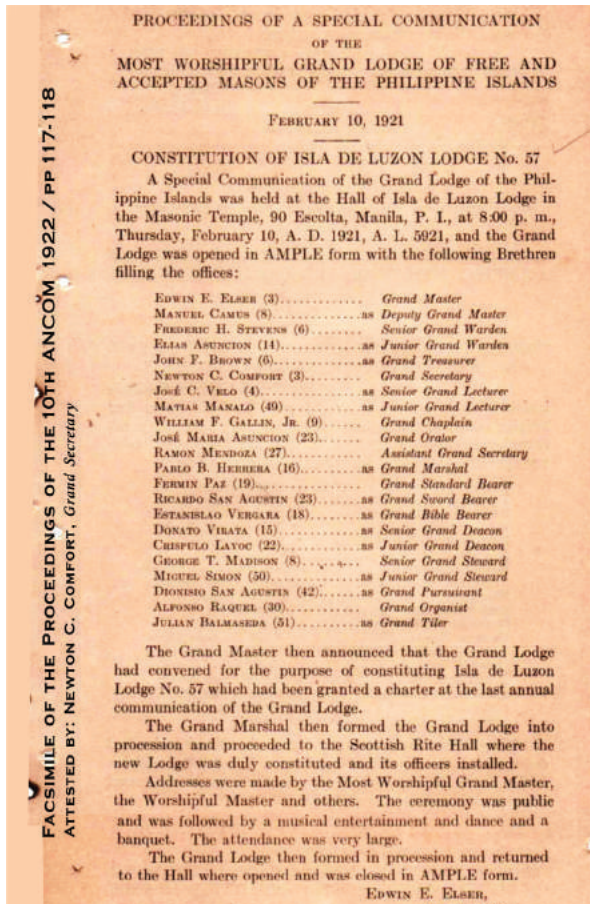
The lodge carried the name ISLA DE LUZON LODGE

NO. 57 only until 1935 as the name COMMONWEALTH LODGE was adopted during the Commonwealth era. Meanwhile, with the entire country falling into enemy hands and, with the ban imposed on the operation of Masonic organizations by the Japanese military administration wary of the Brotherhood as a potential source of opposition, no lodge operation was noted from 1941 until 1944.

Six (6) months after the total devastation of Manila where an estimated 100,000 to 240,000 Filipino civilians lost their lives both deliberately in the hands of the Japanese in the so-called Manila massacre and, from the artillery and aerial bombardment by both the U.S. and Japanese forces, and three (3) days prior to Japan's formal surrender aboard the American Battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan, Bro. Jose M. E. Leon, an active member of Nilad Lodge No. 12 at the

time, summoned all surviving brethren of Commonwealth Lodge at the office of MW M. Goldenberg on August 30, 1945 to reorganize the Lodge. And, during the course of that eventful gathering, a resolution to change the lodge's name from ISLA DE LUZON LODGE NO. 57 to LUZON LODGE NO. 57 was passed. Immediately thereafter, the Lodge resumed its operation holding regular meetings at 138 Calle Gunao, Quiapo, Manila while awaiting completion of the reconstruction of the war-damaged Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Steered by beneficent providence in proper direction, LUZON LODGE No. 57 rose from the ashes to carry the torch for those brethren who have died and to forge its own renaissance with the strongest resolve. As the years went by, while some of the brethren stayed, many in the expediency of occupation and family moved



elsewhere and for a time membership in the Lodge dwindled and its operations appeared to have likewise diminished. And yet, brushed in a radiant shimmer by the edifying character and lofty achievements of its members, the Lodge never failed to attract new worthy aspirants; thus, episodic changing of the guards became a staple that rather than weaken, worked to guarantee its own posterity. Subsequently, from a Lodge of notable musicians, it became a Lodge of highly respected uniformed men, and henceforth a Lodge of noteworthy men of different calling thereby solidifying it into one complete catalytic synergy which the LUZON LODGE NO. 57 in many quarters is renowned today.

Finally, with the lodge's sponsorship, and the subsequent institution of, LUZON CHAPTER – ORDER OF DEMOLAY (now Luzon Chapter No. 79) on November 19, 2011, the brethren have taken a great leap forward by extending their views beyond themselves; embracing the cause of helping shape the younger versions of

themselves into the leaders of tomorrow; and sharing bonds of friendship and the valuable lessons of leadership that will impact the future not only of the Lodge itself, but of FREEMASONRY on the whole.

Sources

- Book of Philippine Lodges
- History of Luzon Lodge No. 57 F&AM (1953) Book c/o VW Robert C. Ocampo, PDGL PAGS Ha
- Luzon Lodge No. 57 History by VW Roberto A. Palmero, PD-DGM PGMar Ha
- Profile of MW Antonio Gonzalez (www.grandlodge.ph)
- The Cable Tow (March 1931 Issue) featuring Lodge History by VW Ramon Mendoza, PAGS
- Various world & national history books





The Tragedies of Labong Lodge

By VW Ali C. Espina, Grand Historian

“A tragedy is a type of drama that focuses on suffering. The main character suffers but, in the end, learns something about himself and his place in the world. A lesson that makes the suffering worth his while.”

The tragedies of Labong Lodge No. 59 are composed of the opportunities and events that for whatever reason, some unintentional, were missed.

Is 2021 Labong's "Second" Centennial Celebration?

The 2021 Centennial Celebration of the Lodge is with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Philippines. Labong joined the federation of Lodges with the then-newly formed Grand Lodge originally established by 3 American Lodges: Manila Lodge No. 342, Cavite Lodge No. 350, and Corregidor Lodge No. 386. The Lodge joined en masse together with other re-organized and new Lodges in 1920 as Lodges Under Dispensation.

The following year, on 25 January 1921, MW Rafael Palma granted these 14 lodges their respective charters and numbers – Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, Isla de Luzon Lodge No. 57, Marble Lodge No. 58, Labong Lodge No. 59, Isabela Lodge No. 60, Mayon Lodge No. 61, Tupas Lodge No. 62, Angalo Lodge No. 63, Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, Tamaraw Lodge No. 65,

Gonzaga Lodge No. 66, Baguio Lodge No. 67, Magat Lodge No. 68, and Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69.

The first founding of Labong Lodge is actually on 8 May 1892 when in a special meeting the Lodge was originally formed. The real Lodge Centennial would have been back in 1992; as with Walana Lodge No. 13 or maybe even Dalisay Lodge No. 14. But past circumstances prevented the celebration of the auspicious event. It might have been the members were preoccupied with other things. The 1990s were the decade the lodge was slowly trying to rebuild itself, and that was more important at the time. Or maybe that 1921 was already accepted to be its founding year. That they were unaware of Labong No. 153 in 1892. And so many other guesses. They were never curious they all looked forward to 2021 as the centennial celebration year.

Is Labong the 2nd Oldest Living Lodge?

So much is known about Nilad Lodge No. 12. Formerly Lodge No. 144 of the obedience of the Gran Oriente Español of Grand Master Miguel Morayta. It is known as “La Madre Logia”, the Mother Lodge, the first all-Filipino Lodge, the Lodge where subsequent native lodges came from. But little is known of its first daughter, Labong; “La Primera Hija”. It was on 6 May 1892 that 4 members of the Triangle Labong received the authorization from Nilad that they can conduct a special meeting on 8 May to formalize Labong as a Masonic Lodge dependent on Nilad and obedient to the Gran Oriente Español. In the meeting, the election of its officers was also

formalized:

Pedro Camús Santa Coloma (Victor Hugo) – Venerable Master and Treasurer
Tomás Tuason (Gunting) – 1st Vigilant and Orator
José Katiniso (Tumana) – 2nd Vigilant and Guard of The Temple
Elias Marich (Tupas) – Secretary

At the same meeting were initiated: Alejo Lázarro (Joló), Pedro Lázarro (Tansa) and Rafael Viario (Josué). The Constitutive Act of Labong was registered in the Secretariat of Nilad on 30 May 1892 but was not admitted in the federation of the GOE until 15 July. It was only then that it was granted the number 153.

The list of Filipino Lodges of the Gran Oriente Español from 1890 to 1899 were: Nilad 144, Balagtas 149, Labong 153, Masala 154, Majestad 155, Dampulan 156, Bathala 157, Walana 158, Taliba 165, Dalisay 177, Lusong 185, Modestia 199, Pilar 203, Luz de Oriente 204, Binhi 216, Minerva 217, Villaruel 223, Parnaw 224, etc. Balagtas who came later than Labong and the rest, for some reason, was granted the number 149. But records show that it was Labong who was first made a Lodge after Nilad.

It was Labong in April 1893, through its Venerable Master, Don Pedro Camus, who defended the authority of Nilad when all other lodges protested. It was she who stayed with her Mother when all other lodges wanted to bolt out of the federation in favor of the Regional

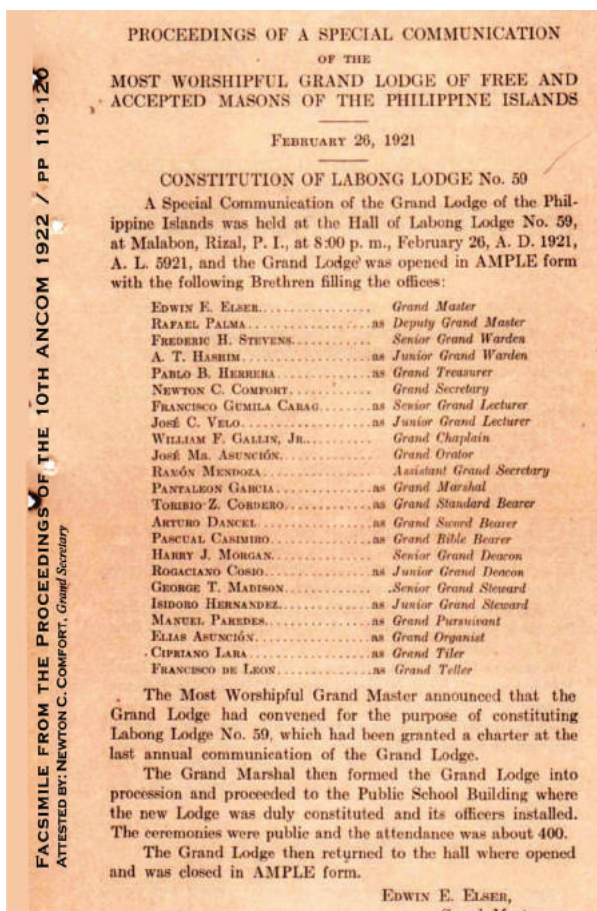
Grand Lodge. And it was also Labong, probably to her surprise, was left when Nilad eventually joined the newly formed grand lodge of the Americans.

In the list of regular masonic lodges published in 1996 by the Gran Logia de España, only 6 lodges established under the GOE until 1896, before the Philippine Revolution, remain in existence to this day: Nilad No. 12, Walana No. 13, Dalisay No. 14, Pilar No. 15, Luzon No. 57, and Labong No. 59.

The only time in recent memory that Labong was acknowledged to be among the roster of lodges predating this Grand Lodge was when we wrote then Grand Master Romeo Momo for Labong to be exempted to use and include the word “Masonic” in its name.

Labong has and had a lot of doers, but very few recorders.

Labong is a Tagalog word meaning “bamboo shoot”. The name of the town where the lodge was originally located, Malabon in then Rizal province, is derived from “malabong” meaning a place where shoots of young bamboo abound. Those tender bamboo shoots were believed to be the original ingredients of the now-famous Pancit Malabon. Malabon was a progressive town. Its riverside location became a popular resort for friars and officials. The waterway also provided the quick transfer of goods



FACSIMILE FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH ANCOM 1922 / PP 119-120
ATTESTED BY: NEWTON C. COMFORT, Grand Secretary

to the Walled City of Intramuros and the Galeon Trade of Manila; it was also the gateway to North Luzon. The waterways of Malabon and Navotas were the first colonial highways of the country. Whoever owned the banks held part of the town's or even the country's economy.

Some of the members of Labong owned the said riverbanks. The house of the 1921 charter master, Dr. Jose Raymundo, still exists. Located in the middle of what is now C. Arellano Street, considered as the oldest house in Malabon, it overlooks the Navotas River. Houses of other members have become heritage houses. Some members were mayors of Malabon and Navotas – Rufino Hernandez, Sinforoso Pascual, Eleuterio de Jesus, and Francisco Barican to name a few. While some have become street names honoring their contributions. Records of their achievements and success were written. But nothing was written within their biographies of their membership to the Lodge.

Labong's records are incomplete. Lodge records from its foundation in 1892 to 1893 are limited, written in Spanish, and have been loosely translated. Almost all of what we know of Labong No. 153 is derived from those documents. We don't even have an image of how Don Pedro Camus looked like. Recent readings indicated that he was an inter-island boat captain. We only have an indication of his likeness through the images of his more prominent son, MW Manuel Camus – Senator, Grand Master, and one of the founders of Manila Lodge No. 342, Lodge Perla del Oriente 1034 S.C., and Cosmos Lodge No. 8. Except for the town mayors, we don't have any of the images of the rest of the brethren previously mentioned.

Our National Hero, Jose Rizal, present in almost all masonic historical writings, touted as the Great Malay, is probably considered the Greatest Filipino Freemason. He is always mentioned when talks of lists of famous or great brothers. Unbeknownst to many, Labong was one of the lodges who helped him when he was already exiled in Dapitan. In its short existence of 6 months, Labong already sent 80 pesos to Rizal.

Lodge records from 1893 to 1919, before it was reorganized, are scattered. We have yet to find any clear written record of how Labong existed during this period. This was not uncommon for the lodges that existed during the Grand Oriente Español. There was mention of how records were burned during raids by the Guardia Civil; and how they were reconstructed from memory. How members suspected to be insurgents were imprisoned. How others joined the armed revolution. There is mention also that before the Philippine Revolution started, the brethren moved its meeting place to No. 14 Staunton Street, in Hong Kong!!! Curiously, right opposite Labong's supposed Hong Kong Office is Dr. Sun Yat Sen's Kuen Hang Club established in 1895.

Lodge records from its reorganization in 1921 to the '70s were also difficult to gather. It is embarrassing to say that we don't even have complete photos of Past Masters. Dr. Jose

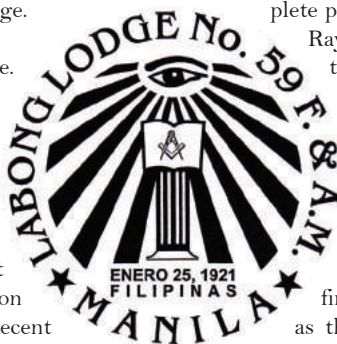
Raymundo's photo, the 1921 charter master, was only acquired last 2019 from the leper colony of Culion where he was medical director.

Sadly, very few are interested in reading about the Lodge history. The interest is confined only to celebrations such as this. Less are those who would like to find out more. Much of how the

members know of the Lodge today can be attributed to only a handful of brethren: VW Ignacio Illenberger, Past Grand Historian, from which previous records were written the 1921 history of the Lodge; this brother who acquired some Spanish documents for the attempt to reconstruct the 1892 history and verify if indeed GOE No. 153 is the same as GLP No. 59; and the Centennial Book Committee composed of WM Stevenson Ang, SW Bowie Kho, VW Alexander Yu, VW Benito Tan and WB Stephen Kung, whose work produced some of the lost photos and information of brethren and past masters.

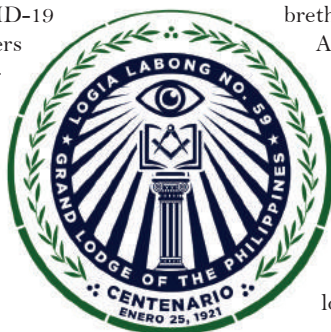
Labong celebrated its Centennial during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A missed-out Centennial in 1992, a worthy



recognition no one knew, records we have yet to find. And now this – the Lodge’s “second chance” of celebrating its Centennial not as what every brethren have hoped for. It has been a difficult task for the Centennial Committee to plan and execute the celebration; especially to the Worshipful Master. Indeed, the burden to mount such an event during this pandemic is extraordinary – in terms of time, patience, arrangements, and differing opinions. Before the pandemic, it was never a question that the celebration will be a memorable one; after all, this only comes every 100 years. Talks of postponement floated however when the Community Quarantines were implemented.

In the meantime, the Lodge did not stop its charity works, when it can, where it can. This brother reported in the Grand Historian report that Labong was in the forefront of helping out frontliners during the first slew of the lockdown. During the start of COVID-19 pandemic, together with members of the Lodge, the WM Stevenson Ang headed Labong in its distribution of face shields, face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), gallons of alcohol, water, and food to frontliners in more than 10 hospitals around Metro Manila.



The Philippines currently holds the longest continuous quarantine or lockdown in the world. This extraordinary experience, because of the sheer length of it, made the extraordinary situation become “ordinary”. It became what they call “The New Normal.” Brethren who maybe have been cooped up, excited to finally go out and once again interact, little by little, dismissed the idea of the postponement of the Centennial Celebration. They mistook familiarity with safety. This, even though several brethren fell victim to COVID-19; within Labong (VW Benito Tan and Sis Dorothy, VW Isagani Cruz, Jr., Bro. Aniano Mitra and his wife, Bro. Nes Sytengco’s father, the whole family of Bro. Gerard Teruel) and without the lodge: WB Greg Macasaet and other brethren in the medical profession. Another reason also is the gradual opening up of the Grand Lodge to allow stated meetings once again. The previ-

ously postponed celebration was once again to be planned. Several meetings happened until finally, news of the second batch of brethren (not from Labong) fell ill of the virus and passed away.

Month in and month out the Year 2020 progressed; with no sight of when the pandemic will end. While the date of the celebration was obviously fixed. And so, instead of the pagentry and festivity of a full-scale celebration, and in consideration of the health and welfare of the members, the Worshipful Master decided to postpone the grand celebration to a later date but still commemorate this important milestone with the help of modern technology.

On 25 January 2021, the brethren proceeded with the celebration through the online meeting platform, Zoom. The chaplain opened with a prayer, the Senior Warden welcomed the brethren, a video of Malabon Mayor Antolin Oreta was shown, several presentations were made, VW Benito Tan and SW Bowie Kho composed the Centennial Hymn, this brother talked about the unfamiliar past and finally, the Master thanked and closed the Zoom celebration. In attendance were the following:

Centennial Officers: WM Stevenson Y. Ang (Worshipful Master), Bro. Bowie C. Kho (Senior Warden), Bro. Jesus S. Fernando, Jr. (Junior Warden), VW Alexander E. Yu (Secretary), VW Winston Chingkiat (Auditor), VW Ramon C. Cristobal (Harmony Officer), WB Stephen Ian M. Kung (Chaplain), Bro. Kenneth T. Ngo (Marshal), Bro. Gioan Fernand A. Legaspi (Custodian of Works), VW Ignacio V. Illenberger (Historian), Bro. Jeffrey G. Baluyot (Junior Steward), and Bro. Samson Bernales (Almoner)

Past Masters: VW Antonio Joson (PGDL, PM 1980 & 81), VW Celestino L. Ko (PDGL, PM 1992 & 2001), VW Rudy L. Ong (PJGL, PD-DGM, PM 1995), VW Benito K. Tan (PJGD, PM 1996), VW Ignacio V. Illenberger (Past Grand Historian, PM 2000), VW Nelson T. Yau (PAGT, PDDGM, PM 2003), VW Winston



Chingkiat (PDDGM, PM 2004) VW Ramon C. Cristobal (PDGL, PM 2008 & 09), VW Jaime Palmares (PDGL, PM 2010), VW Alexander E. Yu (PDGL, PM 2012) VW Ali C. Espina (Grand Historian, PM 2015), WB Stephen Ian M. Kung (PM 2016), VW Hilario Orallo (DGL, PM 2017), and WB Roland John F. Samonte (PM 2018)

Members: Brothers Zosimo Uy (53 years), Angel Antonio Salanga, Enrique Calazan, Jewel Nicanor, Jimmy Lim, Christopher John Roque, Marvin Corpuz, Kirk Ong (EAM), and WB Aldo Esmeña (Honorary).

Petitioners: Mr's. Rodvick Abarca, Gem Dimaculangan, Iric Arribas, Andre R. de Jesus, and Jun Aquino.

To cover for the "actual" celebration, the Centennial Committee seeded a short article about the Lodge together with some photos of the officers, members, and past masters who have served the Grand Lodge in some capacity. The article and photos came out in Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Times, and Business World, and other secondary websites and blogs.

Still searching for that which was lost.

The first lodge seal of Labong is an image of a woman dressed in a long dress stretching her hands upwards to a glowing triangular symbol of the all-seeing eye. The Spanish description of the seal translates to "a priestess making an offering to the Diety." It seems to suggest that, from the beginning, the brethren of Labong should always turn for providence and never forget That a Father's care is always over them & that Thine All-Seeing Eye is ever upon them. We look towards the future and ask for providence from the Great Architect of The Universe; like what the image of the priestess looks like in our old logo. We commend to Thy special care and guidance our officers, especially our Worshipful Master, into whose hands we continually repose the government of our Lodge; and that grave additional responsibility during this pandemic of looking after our lives, our welfare as well as those of our families.

It is also hoped that in the near future, the history of the second oldest living lodge in the jurisdiction will be complete.

MABUHAY!!!

Isabela Masonic Lodge no. 60 Commemorates
its Centennial Anniversary



“ Clear Vision of Masonic Harmony ”

THE ISABELA CRAFTSMEN

Compiled by VW Arsenio V. Maramag, PDGL
and VW Philip John Buscaino, PDDGM

Formative Years: 1918 - 1921

ISABELA LODGE was organized by a group of enterprising Master Masons residing in Ilagan, Isabela and traveling Craftsmen engaged in tobacco trading and merchandising business in the province of Isabela. The decision to form a Lodge in Isabela was necessity. Mabini No. 39, our Mother Lodge, was the only Masonic Lodge North of Manila in 1918 and is located in the Northern most tip of Luzon in the port municipality of Aparri, Cagayan - more than two hundred kilometers north of Ilagan and was at that time accessible only by water transportation, by commercial freight barque, and for class fares by a motor launch locally named Bapor Magapit plying along the Rio Grande de Cagayan.

Realizing the difficulties of attending meetings in the said Lodge, Isabela Masons proposed the organization of a Lodge in Ilagan. The proposal gained momentum and the final organizational meeting held in the mansion of Bro. Francisco Medina at San Luis St., District of Sta. Barbara on May 30, 1919 marked the signing of the Petition for a dispensation. Fortunately, Immediate Past Grand Master and Senate President Manuel Quezon was scheduled to make an official visit to the province of Isabela on June 9. The Brethren thought it wise to await his arrival and personally present the said petition for his endorsement. On his arrival, Masons in the Valley assembled in the capital town to welcome the Past Grand Master who was received as guest

of Don Lope Nieto, a prominent business executive and brother of Col. Manuel Nieto, Aide-de-Camp, and bosom friend of MW Manuel L. Quezon. After the usual brotherly amenities, the petition was handed over the Bro. Quezon who volunteered to hand-carry the petition to the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands in Calle Escolta, Manila. On June 24 Grand Master Milton Springer granted the dispensation to the petitioners. At the plenary meeting of the Committee on Charters on June 30, 1920, Bro. George T. Madison, its Chairman, recommended in his report that Isabela Lodge, UD be granted a Charter.

Charter Members: The following luminaries were the founding fathers of Isabela Lodge No. 60, F & A.M.: Bros. Manuel Alindayu, Alfonso Azurin, Fortunato M. Bulan, Ildefonso Y. Boonan, Alfonso Cagurangan, Francisco Gumila Carag, Cirilo M. Cariño, Aguedo Crisologo, Moises Ll. Cruz, Juan Ll. Evangelista, Ventrura Guzman, Vincente Kanoy, Fritz A. Kretzchmar, Gabriel G. Maramag, Luis M. Maramag, Francisco Medina, Juan Orellana, Pascual G. Paguirigan, Pantaleon Piedad, Fidel C. Querubin, Benito L. Sales, Felix Salinero, and Ramon Valdes.

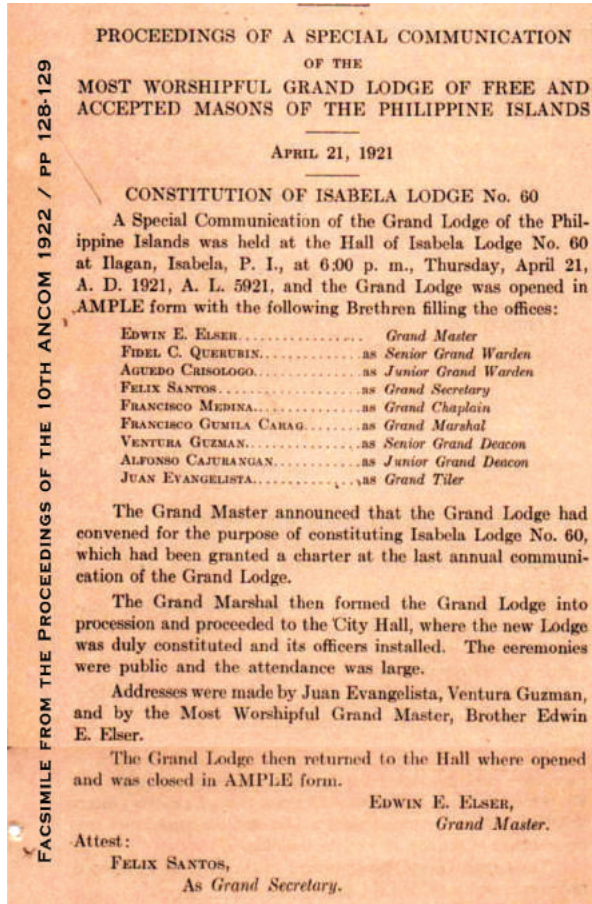
The First Lodge Officers - Installed by MW Edwin E. Elser, Grand Master, in conformity with the Special Communication held in Ilagan, Isabela were:

WB Fritz A. Kretzchmar	-	Worshipful Master
Bro. Juan Ll. Evangelista	-	Senior Warden
Bro. Fortunato M. Bulan	-	Junior Warden
Bro. Manuel Alindayu	-	Treasurer
Bro. Gabriel G. Maramag	-	Secretary
Bro. Felix Santos	-	Chaplain
Bro. Francisco Medina	-	Marshal
Bro. Ventura Guzman	-	Senior Deacon
Bro. Alfonso Cagurangan	-	Junior Deacon

Toward the end of the 1920's good men of exalted rank and outstanding leadership on the community swelled the membership roster of our young Lodge.

THE FOUNDING OF ISABELA MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

Meetings and other Masonic activities were held in the residence of my late father, bro. Gabriel G. Maramag (1868 - 1926) situated along Washington Street (now Fernando M. Maramag St.) in Centro, Ilagan, Isabela up to his demise on June 11, 1926. Then incumbent Worshipful Master, Luis M. Maramag transferred the meeting place to a rented residential house owned by one, Aquilino Manaligod along Aguinardo Street fronting the United Methodist Church of Ilagan.



concurrent position of President and Chairman of the Board; and other elected officers of the Lodge as Members of the Board of Director. In keeping with the Association By-Laws, WB Vicente Kanoy, upon his Election to the Oriental Chair, assumed the concurrent position of President negotiated the acquisition of the present lot conveniently situated in the heart of the town bounded by Rizal St. on the East and Pilapil Street on the West. At that time, the

Association was not yet registered with the Securities & Exchange Commission but functioned effectively as a private internal organization of some members of Isabela No. 60. The cost of the lot consumed a big portion of the amount realized from the fundraising campaign and the cash position of the Association could not finance the Temple construction. WB Kanoy called the Directors to a meeting and proposed that one-half of the lot purchased by the Association bounded on the West by Pilapil Street be offered for a sale and the

proceeds to augment the fund for the construction of the Temple. The proposal was approved by the Board of Directors and the sale was consumed. From it was constructed the Lodge Temple.

Masonic Labors Suspended By Force Majeure : Its Restitution

On December 8, 1941 World War II spread out



in the Far East as Japanese war planes bombarded the town of Ilagan with incendiary bombs that razed several buildings, including the Masonic Temple that fateful day. WB Alejo Masigan, ordered the suspension of all Masonic Labors instructing the Brethren to await a time with patience until the sound of the Gravel in the East. The hibernation lasted 4 years until the surrender of the Japanese forces in the Philippines in 1945 and WB Enrique Tabalon brought home a certified true copy of the Charter from the Grand Lodge with instructions from the acting Grand Master and Grand Secretary that Isabela Lodge No. 60 has been reactivated.

In 1947 and 1948 with WB Tomas de Guzman as a Worshipful Master and concurrent President of the Temple Builders Association, the plan to construct a Temple was laid squarely on his shoulders. The proceeds of the war damage claim were not sufficient thus a fund-raising campaign was launched to yield enough to cover the cost of constructing a new Temple including painting, furniture, and Masonic paraphernalia. A district Engineer, Worshipful Brother

de Guzman, personally supervised its construction. The finished Temple was inaugurated On February 14 in conjunction with the installation of Officers for the Masonic Year 1948.]

In 1950 the Temple Builders Association (TBA) was renamed Isabela Masonic Temple Association. It was approved as a Corporation on March 23, 1957. The Association has a capital stock of P35,000.00 consisting of 700 shares at a par value of P50.00 per share. Its corporate life is fifty years (until March 23, 2017). Sale of share of capital stock were brisk and membership in the Association increased. Once again, misfortune struck as the temple was gutted when fire broke out the business district of Ilagan on May 16, 1957.

The Brethren again pooled their resources to rebuild the Temple with the Structural design made by WB Alfredo R. Pulido, a Civil Engineer of vast experience. The building occupied the whole length and breadth of the lot and had spacious assembly hall. It had a furnished 6-bed dormitory for transient Brethren, a preparation room, comfort room and IMTA office. The

ground floor had five doors for rent to business establishments. The new Temple was blessed on the Stated Meeting of April 1958.

The construction of concrete Masonic Temple After fifteen years the building showed signs of deterioration caused by the elements. The roof has leaks and the walls and ceiling attacked by termites. In the Stockholders Meeting in July 1972 a group recommended its demolition before any untoward incident could happen. In February 1973, the new Board of Directors approved the blueprint for a two-story reinforced concrete building with plan and specifications laid out by Bro. Alberto E. Simon, Jr. (1941-1989), a prominent Architect. Bro. Vincent Pua Uy, a successful businessman, offered to construct the building under certain conditions. The old building was demolished and the cornerstone for the new building laid with Masonic Ceremonies on September 21, 1973. The concrete edifice, designed to last for generations, was completed and occupied by the Isabela Masonic Temple Association, Inc. on February 8, 1975.

Dedication of the new Masonic Center was held in conjunction with the 8th Regional Convention of Masonic Districts in the Cagayan Valley on March 14, 1975. It was officiated by Past Grand Master Macario M. Ofilada on behalf of MW John O. Wallace.

Built in the heart of Ilagan business district, the Isabela Masonic Center is a reflection of Love, Glory, and Faith of the Brethren of Isabela Lodge No. 60, F. & A.M.; a Symbol of Mutual Confidence and Compassion.

Today Isabela Lodge No. 60 has grown not only in membership but from it was carved five (5) Masonic Lodges, namely: Cagayan Valley No.133 (Santiago City, Isabela); Maharlika No.180 (Cauayan, Isabela); Mallig Plains No.191 (Roxas, Isabela); Tumauni No.251 (Tumauni, Isabela); and Pinacanauan No.318 (Ilagan, Isabela). It may be mentioned in passing that Isabela No. 60 is the Grand-mother Lodge of Rufino S. Roque No.289 (Cordon, Isabela) and San Mateo No.319 (San Mateo, Isabela).

Appendant organizations established by Isabela Lodge No. 60 includes Isabela Bodies, A.A.S.R; Queen Isabella Court No. 14, Order of the Amaranth; De Leon Chapter, Order of DeMolay for Boys; and Bethel No. 26, International Order of Job's Daughters.

From 1975 to 2021, lodge-membership continues to grow with each brethren striving to live by the masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth as the lodge labored to make a difference by generously participating in meaningful social contributions. With charity and humility at its forefront the 100-year-old lodge was able to conduct various well-intentioned engagements such as medical and dental missions, legal assistance missions, donation drives, well-being activities, tree-planting, gift-giving, bloodletting on top of their masonic labors. This has even been more plausible as one of its members - VW Glenn Mathew G. Baggao, PDDGM, the medical center Chief of Cagayan Valley Medical Center, is always willing to lend its medical team and several resources.

Isabela Masonic Lodge no. 60 takes pride as it celebrates the gift of sacrifices of its forefathers. This momentous milestone will always bring joy and fulfillment to the members rooting from perpetuation of masonic ideals. MABUHAY!!!





Compiled by WM Manuel D. Pineda

The synergy of the Lodge continuously increased the numbers and strength within and outside its jurisdiction. Its magnificent and collective efforts produced Masons worthy of comparison to the charter group 100 years earlier. With unity and harmony as cornerstone, the lodge nurtured a brotherhood that bridged the path from the old to the new. The involvement of families of Masons in the community activities of the Fraternity, service to the poor and needy, and the raising of younger, worthy members helped the lodge succeed in Making Good Men Better.

A Century Ago

On July 12, 1920, Grand Master Rafael Palma issued the dispensation that gave life to this Bicol lodge with the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands granting its charter on January 25 the following year.

The initial set of officers of Mayon Lodge No. 61 includes Charter Master William Clarence Ogan, Provincial Treasurer of Albay. He was assisted by Senior Warden - Lot Dean Lockwood, and Junior Warden - Julio Manalang. Among the lodge's illustrious charter members were: Rev. Roy H. Brown, future President of Siliman University; Arlington C. Betts, the first Civil Governor of Albay; William H. Pickell, Division Superintendent of Schools; Feliciano Imperial; businessman Lazaro Tani, Presbyterian master builder Kenneth MacDonal - and war-time general Benito Trinidad who became a Judge of the Court of First Instance for Legazpi. Together with the brethren from the Isarog

Lodge No. 33 led by WB Mariano de la Rosa, WB Julian Ocampo, WB Mariano Abella and WB Jose Garchitorea, all prominent citizens of Camarines Sur. The first petitioners were Juan Esteves, PNB Manager, educator Antonio Buenaventura, and lawyer Manuel M. Calleja.

On the eve of its constitution, MW Edwin Elser and other Mason dignitaries took the Bicol Express and the following day constituted lodge and installed the charter officers in a private ceremony attended only by Master Masons of Albay.

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

In 1924, WM Lot Dean Lockwood replaced WB William C. Ogan who retired and moved to Bohol to start his own bus company. From 1924 up to 1942, a mixture of twelve (12) enigmatic Filipino and American Masters of the Lodges continued to shed light to the brethren; WB Benito Trinidad (1927), WB Feliciano Imperial became mayor of Legazpi City (WM 1928) and first petitioner WB Manuel M. Calleja (WM 1930-1933) became Governor of Albay from 1931 to 1940. On January 27, 1936, Justice Leonard Goddard of the Philippines Supreme Court became a Master Mason in this lodge.

The 2nd World War - Peace and harmony ended for the local masons with the surprise landing of the Japanese Imperial Navy in Legazpi and Sorsogon. In Legazpi, the Camara building was desecrated, Naga's Isarog 33 was razed to the ground. The first Mason casualty was WB Lazaro Tani, killed on April 18, 1942 in Sorsogon by the advancing Japanese Army. Dr. Mcanis

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

JUNE 2, 1921

CONSTITUTION OF MAYON LODGE No. 61

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Mayon Lodge No. 61, at Albay, Albay, P. I., at 8:00 p. m., June 2, A. D. 1921, A. L. 5921, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

EDWIN E. ELSER.....	<i>Grand Master</i>
MARIANO L. DE LA ROSA.....	as <i>Senior Grand Warden</i>
FERNANDO ALVAREZ.....	as <i>Junior Grand Warden</i>
EMITERIO ABELLA.....	as <i>Grand Secretary</i>
FRANCISCO A. DELGADO.....	<i>Junior Grand Lecturer</i>
FRANK SILVANATO.....	as <i>Grand Chaplain</i>
ZEFERINO ARROYO.....	as <i>Grand Orator</i>
MARIANO DILIACO.....	as <i>Grand Marshal</i>
JULIAN OCAMPO.....	as <i>Senior Grand Deacon</i>
LEE UY HONG.....	as <i>Junior Grand Deacon</i>
FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG.....	as <i>Grand Tiler</i>

The Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Mayon Lodge No. 61 which had been granted a charter at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Marshal then formed the Grand Lodge into procession and proceeded to the Hall of Mayon Lodge where the New Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. The ceremonies were not public only Master Masons being present.

Addresses were made by Worshipful Brother W. C. Ogan, Brother L. D. Lockwood, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Edwin E. Elser.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the Hall where opened and was closed in AMPLE form.

EDWIN E. ELSER,
Grand Master.

Attest:

EMITERIO ABELLA,
As Grand Secretary.

and his Presbyterian medical staff (Milwaukee & Ago Hospital) were rounded up and sent to Manila. WB Kenneth MacDonald and WB Stephen L. Smith were captured and interned at the Santo Tomas University for the duration of the war.

WM Agapito L. Lorete was then a senior cashier at the Bureau of Customs in Tabaco, Albay. Gazing out to the island of San Miguel one day, he saw numerous boats bearing Japanese flags. He locked up the office and vault full of money and fled his family to the hinterlands – in the boundary of Sorsogon and Daraga. The lodge master named his sons Amerigo and Vicente – taken together they allude to an American Victory accompanying Brother Douglas MacArthur's promise of return. Maintaining contact with the brethren through clandestine meetings, his term of four years under in a global crisis made him the longest serving Master of the Mayon 61.

LIBERATION & FREEDOM

General MacArthur's return to the Philippines led to the country's liberation. WB Lorete returned the money from the vault to the Philippine Government and for his honesty was appointed Board of Tax Appeals of Legazpi City by President Elpidio Quirino.

WB Stephen L. Smith worked with his son Donald Smith in writing their experiences at the Los Banos Internment Camp. The father and son story became a best seller entitled "We Survived War's Crucible: A True Story of Imprisonment and Rescue in World War II Philippines (SBN-13: 978-1434329677 and ISBN-10: 1434329674).

Also released from Santo Tomas was WB William Clarence Ogan, who after hugging his liberators was chased by the airport MPs in the next minute after jumping off from a plane bound for the U.S. He lost 35 kilos in weight due to lack of food at the camps was sent back in Bohol to be nursed back to good health by seven of his native wives (separately). The Charter Master dropped his working tools on Feb. 1, 1963 at 85 years of age. Buried at the American Memorial Cemetery his tombstone says it all. "Here He lies Where He wants to Be."

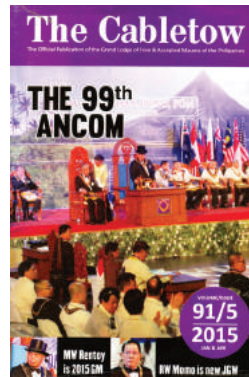
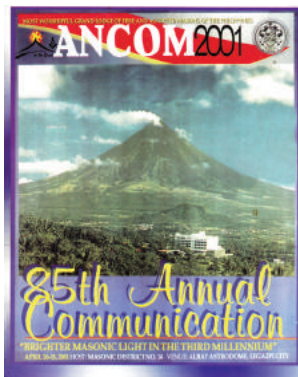
When acting Grand Master Michael Goldenberg hosted the 1946 Annual Communications in Manila. Both ANCOM delegates WB Agapito L. Lorete and WM-elect Leon B. Tiansay, were shocked by the number of Masons missing from the ranks. Over a thousand Brethren were unaccounted for. The Japanese persecution of Masons in the Philippines had indeed taken its toll.

EXPANDING THE TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, & TRUTH

Masons assumed the Master's role outside their lodge. A decade after he revived the lodge in 1946, WB Leon Tiansay found himself Master again, this time, of Julian Ocampo Memorial Lodge No. 146 in Camarines Sur, acceding to perpetuate the memory of a brother whose organizational influence fifty years earlier are still felt all over the Bicol Region. Today, their patience has paid off as the JOML No.146 is thriving with dedicated and active members striving to make a difference, not only in their district of Rinconada but all over Camarines Sur and beyond. WB Cesar Padre (1999) helped charter Ma-Bu-Ti Lodge No.329 in Masbate - the second island Lodge in the Bicolandia.

THE LONG JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF A HOME

For 30 years the lodge had no temple, meeting from one building to another. VW Ellizer R. Seville, Jr. donated his parcel of land in Daraga, Albay and in 1957, WM Domingo Ragoc supported by master builders Galang, Ago, and MacDonald, and backed by brethren contributions to the temple fund was able to construct an edifice. At the turn of the 2nd Millenium - Mayon No.61 under WM Caesar Lopez banded with neighboring Lodges of Bulusan No.33 and Ma-Bu-Ti No.339 in hosting the 2001 Annual Communications (ANCOM). With District Deputy Grand Master William Cu as ANCOM Chairman, the Albay Astro-dome accommodated over 2,000 Masons who witnessed the turn-over of the Grand Oriental Chair from MW Oscar Bunyi to MW John Ochoa. Four years later with profits from ANCOM 2001 The VW Ellizer R. Seville Masonic



Center was opened in in Daraga, Albay.

LIGHTING THE PATH FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW

The celebrated ascension of one of its members, MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr. to the Grand Oriental Chair (MY 2013 – 2014) brought pride and joy to his Mother Lodge.

In 2014, Masonic District RV-B, with Mayon No.61 as lead lodge won the bid to host ANCOM 2015. Set to be held in Legazpi City, recently hailed as one of the “Most Livable City in the Philippines”.

VW Noel E. Rosal – the City Mayor strived to make the event fruitful and meaningful. Even raising an 18-Meter High Obelisk at the Embarcadero de Legazpi Coastal Boulevard.

The lodge won recognition when WB Jerome C. Lee was awarded Outstanding Worshipful Master at the Tagaytay ANCOM in 2016. Other members were also bestowed District Level Recognitions as well as Outstanding Masons in various fields of endeavor by the Grand Lodge. In 2019, VW George Naag set into motion the Centennial Celebration Committee headed by Past Masters of the lodge. High-profile projects that celebrate and highlight the impact of Bicolano Freemasonry in the socio-economic and cultural heritage of the city were planned unfortunately, some were placed on hold due to the current health crisis.

The disrupted year 2020 brought about by the Corona Virus was a challenge to all. The Three

Lights - WM Manuel Pineda, SW Robert Magayanes, and JW Omar Escandor faced many risks to rally the brethren to remain healthy, safe, and united, ever reminding that together the Brethren shall overcome

On June 2, Mayon Lodge No.61 will celebrate the Centenary of Masonry in the City of Legazpi in the Province of Albay. Historically, the Lodge has been marking some of their milestone years under disrupted situations. Their 25th Silver Anniversary fell just after the end of WWII in 1946, while the 50th Golden Anniversary in 1971 was held a year before the declaration of Martial Law. They were more fortunate in 1996 as they celebrated their 75th Diamond Anniversary in more comfortable conditions. On their 100th Year this 2021 – the whole world is fighting against the COVID-19 Pandemic. A resolution of Thanks and Gratitude signed by Vice Gov. Grex Lagman was presented to Mayon Lodge No. 61 by the Provincial Government of Albay for a Century of Dedicated Service to the Province.



ANGALO 63

Compiled by WB Jonathan E. Flor-
entino & Bro Leonardo VC Dagdag

IN THE BEGINNING

Eight (8) years after the founding of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippine Islands, the idea and aspiration to create a 'Vigan Lodge' dawned upon the Ilocano Masons. In March 1920, master masons from various lodges who frequented Vigan for their work assignments, brainstormed and conceptualized against all odds considering the status of Vigan as a bastion of the Catholic faith in the North being the seat of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia.

An organizational meeting of sixteen (16) pioneer members was held at the Treasurer's Office of the Provincial Capitol of Ilocos Sur followed on August 14. They immediately resolved to work out the establishment of a local lodge seeing the need for a fraternal assembly of visiting brethren. Mabini Lodge No. 39 in Aparri, Cagayan, agreed to sponsor the petition. The lodge was to be named ANGALO, derived from a mythical giant believed to have roamed the Ylocos Province as local folklore said. An original Constitution and By-laws was crafted and adopted.

On October 10, after compliance with all the requirements, a DISPENSATION was granted by MW Rafael Palma, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines bringing the lodge into existence, pending approval of its Charter. This date has thus been acknowledged as the official founding date of Angalo Lodge.

Six days later, the first Stated Meeting of the Lodge Under Dispensation (UD) was presided by JUAN AVELINO, its First Master at the Vigan town hall (presidencia). The initial induction of the premier officers was officiated by Grand Master Palma accompanied by other Grand Lodge Officers. Sixty three (63) Master Masons attended the ceremony.

On April 2, 1921, the Charter was granted by the GLP during its Annual Communication,



FACSIMILE FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH ANCOM 1922 / PP 124-125
 ATTESTED BY: NEWTON C. COMFORT, Grand Secretary

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
 OF THE
 MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
 ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

APRIL 2, 1921

CONSTITUTION OF "ANGALO" LODGE No. 63

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of "ANGALO" Lodge No. 63, at Vigan, Ilocos Sur, P. I., at 5:30 p. m., April 2, A. D. 1921, A. L. 5921, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| EDWIN E. ELSER (3)..... | <i>Grand Master</i> |
| QUINTIN PAREDES (16)..... | <i>Deputy Grand Master</i> |
| RAMÓN MENDOZA (27).....as | <i>Senior Grand Warden</i> |
| CLARK JAMES (56).....as | <i>Junior Grand Warden</i> |
| FRANCISCO URRUTIA (36).....as | <i>Grand Treasurer</i> |
| NEWTON C. COMFORT (3)..... | <i>Grand Secretary</i> |
| TEODORO M. KALAW (12).....as | <i>Senior Grand Lecturer</i> |
| FERNANDO GONZALES SIOCO (4).....as | <i>Junior Grand Lecturer</i> |
| WILLIAM F. GALLIN, JR. (9)..... | <i>Grand Chaplain</i> |
| JOSÉ MA. ASUNCIÓN (23)..... | <i>Grand Orator</i> |
| FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG (57).....as | <i>Grand Marshal</i> |
| MIGUEL AVELINO (35).....as | <i>Grand Standard Bearer</i> |
| LEOPOLDO RESURRECCIÓN (39).....as | <i>Grand Sword Bearer</i> |
| ANGEL LAZARO (59).....as | <i>Grand Bible Bearer</i> |
| DALMACIO MONROY (57).....as | <i>Senior Grand Deacon</i> |
| GONZALO B. LIBUNAO (57).....as | <i>Junior Grand Deacon</i> |
| CEFERINO HILARIO (48).....as | <i>Senior Grand Steward</i> |
| DANIEL MARAMBA (56).....as | <i>Junior Grand Steward</i> |
| ADRIANO N. RIOS (58).....as | <i>Grand Pursuivant</i> |
| JOSÉ PADILLA (11).....as | <i>Grand Organist</i> |
| RAMÓN RAMOS (46).....as | <i>Grand Tiler</i> |

The Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting "ANGALO" Lodge No. 63, which had been granted a charter at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Marshal then formed the Grand Lodge into procession and proceeded to the Municipal Building of Vigan, where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed.

Addresses by Bros. E. E. Elser, Teodoro M. Kalaw, Pedro Ma. Sison, Newton C. Comfort, José Ma. Asunción, and the Worshipful Master.

The Grand Lodge then formed in procession and returned to the Hall where opened and was closed in AMPLE form.

EDWIN E. ELSER,
Grand Master.

approving and marking the conception of Angalo Lodge No. 63 with sixty five (65) Master Masons as charter members.

The Lodge's Charter Officers were publicly installed into office at the Vigan Municipal hall on October 17 (3rd Saturday) by MW GM Edwin E. Elser, with Juan Avelino Charter Master; Florencio Inocentes and Juan Soriano, as Senior and Junior Wardens respectively.

From November 17, 1956 to February 3, 1961 - the Lodge was renamed Vigan Lodge No. 63 pursuant to Lodge Resolution No. 14/56 that was approved by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines on December 8, 1956. Four years later, an amendment in the lodge by-laws was made on February 24, 1962 reverting the Lodge Name back to its original name. It was approved by the GLP on April 21, 1962.

ANGALO MASONIC TEMPLE

For fifty two (52) years, the Lodge have no temple of its own. Until in 1972, the Brethren was able to lease a portion of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) located at Rizal Street, where a semi-permanent structure was made to serve as their temple.

Later a 528 sq.m. lot was donated by the family of the late VW Noel S. Encarnacion located at Bayubay Sur, San Vicente, Ilocos Sur. Construction works began thereafter. Sometime in 1996 the Angalo Masonic Temple was occupied by the Brethren. Built in accordance with Edict



123, the temple was dedicated by MW Franklin J. Monteverde, on the occasion of the 13th Annual Tri-District Convention for Masonic Districts No. 37, 41 & 47 (now R1-CAR-C) hosted by Angalo Lodge No.63.

100th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Lodge continues to thrive through the able-leadership of its Worshipful Masters and dedicated membership. On October 10, 2020, the Lodge celebrated her 100th Founding Anniversary. It was truly a historical event. The Angalo Brethren elected none other than her most active and dedicated son, VW SAMUEL C. PARILLA, as Centennial Master.

Although a grand celebration was originally planned in commemoration of the august event, a simple and memorable one pushed through instead, as the Grand Lodge allowed strict health protocols for masonic lodges to reopen due to the Covid 2019 pandemic.

Highlights of the celebration included: the Installation of the new set of Officers for MY 2020-2021 (pursuant to Cir. No. 52 MW Suan); a Congratulatory Message delivered online by MW Agapito S. Suan, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines; and the Dedication and Unveiling of the Centennial Historical Marker and Wall of Past Masters, as monuments not only for the 100 years of harmonious existence of the Lodge, but also as a tribute to the Past Masters of yesteryears for their stewardship thus making Angalo 63 what it is today. But the greatest monument lie to all her sons whither-so-ever dispersed being living testaments of the morals and virtues taught within the body of a just and legally constituted lodge called Angalo Masonic Lodge No. 63, the mother of all lodges in Ilocos and Abra, THE PRIDE OF ILOCANDIA, where brotherly love, relief, and truth reign supreme. MABUHAY ANG ANGALO.. MABUHAY ANG MASONARYA.

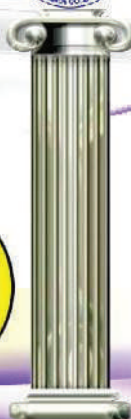




KANLAON LODGE NO. 64, F.&A.M.

Under the Jurisdiction of

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



100 Years of Making Good Men Better In Negros Island

A Centennial Charter Day Celebration

March 19, 1921 - March 19, 2021

Guest of Honor And Speaker:

RW DON T. RAMAS-UYPITCHING
Junior Grand Warden



From the Book "History of Kanlaon Lodge No.64" By WB Jose Estacion / WB Alipio Ykalina II

The 64th Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines mark one hundred years of brotherhood, truth, and service last October 22, 2020. From three founding brethren from Iloilo-Acacia Lodge No. 11 who have lived in the province of Negros Occidental, its number have currently grown into 61 Negrenses continuously involved in masonic labors across the Visayan Island. Inflamed with passion to enrich their province with Masonic Light, they have named their lodge Kanla-on, after the sturdy, active volcano in their midst.

In September 1920, WB Eriberto Gonzales, Bro. Manuel Fernandez Yanson, and Bro. Manuel Garcia, all members of Iloilo Lodge No. 11 led a meeting with other Masons to establish a lodge in the Negros Island. The dispensation was granted in October 22 of the same year, and on December 11 five prospects were elected to receive Masonic Degrees. Future Worshipful Master Ildefenso Cosocolluela was the first member raised.

On January 20, 1921, WB Judge Manuel Camus, then Lodge Inspector, presented to the office

of the Grand Secretary the documents related to the founding of this lodge. A charter was granted five days later during the 9th Annual Communications.

WB Franciso Gumilag, as Master of Ceremonies, constituted the Lodge and installed its first set of officers. Prominent Masons from Manila, the Visayan Islands, Mindanao, and other regions flocked to witness the solemnities. It was the first time that the people of the Negros saw Masons in their regalla, an impression far from the negative picture that some thought it to be. Installed as the first lodge officers during its constitution were: WB Eriberto Gonzales, Charter Master; Bro. Manuel Fernandez Yanson, Senior Warden; and Bro. Manuel Garcia, Junior Warden. The trio laid the foundations which has now lasted for a century.

During the Installation of the first son of Kanlaon 64 - WB Ildefenso Cosocolluela in 1925, two distinguished guests graced the occasion, MW Manuel L. Quezon and Bro. Manuel A. Roxas, the two Masons will in later years become President of the Philippines.

Just like the highest peak and downward slopes of Mt. Kanla-on, the Lodge had experienced its fair share of elevated success and descending episodes. The Great Pacific War forced the



PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

MARCH 19, 1921

CONSTITUTION OF KANLAON LODGE No. 64

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, at Bacolod, Negros Occidental, P. I., at 6:00 p. m., March 19, A. D. 1921, A. L. 5921, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

EDWIN E. ELSER.....	<i>Grand Master</i>
FRANCISCO GAUDIER.....	<i>as Senior Grand Warden</i>
FELIPE GOMEZ.....	<i>as Junior Grand Warden</i>
S. L. BAUTISTA.....	<i>as Grand Treasurer</i>
V. SAN AGUSTIN.....	<i>as Grand Secretary</i>
JOSÉ L. CORTEZA.....	<i>as Senior Grand Lecturer</i>
V. R. MERCADO.....	<i>as Grand Chaplain</i>
JOSÉ GOMEZ.....	<i>as Grand Orator</i>
FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG.....	<i>as Grand Marshal</i>
MANUEL C. TORRES.....	<i>as Senior Grand Deacon</i>
E. GASTON.....	<i>as Junior Grand Deacon</i>
J. SAMSON.....	<i>as Senior Grand Steward</i>
J. LITONGJUA.....	<i>as Junior Grand Steward</i>
ADRIANO N. RIOS.....	<i>as Grand Organist</i>
GERONIMO PAREDES.....	<i>as Grand Tiler</i>

The Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, which had been granted a charter at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Marshal then formed the Grand Lodge into procession and proceeded to the Hall of Kanlaon Lodge where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed.

Addresses were made by Brothers Delfin Mahinay and Eriberto Gonzales and by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Edwin E. Elser, after which the Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE form; and was followed by a banquet which was attended by about 40 Master Masons.

EDWIN E. ELSER,
Grand Master.

Attest:

V. SAN AGUSTIN,
As Grand Secretary.



lodge to close in 1941 leaving the members to face the difficulties. When peace was restored in 1945, the brethren reactivated the lodge, thanks to the help of brother masons from the 40th Division. Another unfortunate time was the fire that razed the Temple in 1955. Undaunted, the members reconstructed a new Temple, which was christened as the Freemasons Hall the following year.

CENTENNIAL LABORS

During her Centennial Year in 2020 – the Lodge embarked in various community projects outside the lodge.

- Blood-letting Activities
 - January 19 / St. Scholastica Academy
 - November 28 / Brgy. Montevista Gym, Bacolod City
- Frontliner Assistance
 - March 23 & 31 / Bacolod City Check-points
- Community Outreach
 - April 12 & 18 / Brgy. Estefania, Bacolod City
 - May 9 / Sacadas (Karga Tupas) of Purok Dakudaw at Brgy. Vista Alegre, Bacolod City
- Operation Tuli
 - June 11 / Brgy. Montevista Gym, Bacolod City
- Masonic Funeral Rites
 - October 25 for VW Pong C. Tan
 - December 18 for Bro. Henry C. Uy

Centennial Message

My greeting to each and every one for sharing

this momentous occasion with us as we embark upon the Celebration of our Centennial. The officers and members of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, F.&A.M. are all very fortunate to have the opportunity to celebrate the centennial anniversary of our beloved lodge considering that this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. We thank our Almighty Father for allowing us in this situation. Our centennial celebration offers the opportunity, not only to commemorate a century of success, but also to reflect on the challenges ahead of us especially in these difficult and uncertain time of the Pandemic. As we remember our memorable past and celebrate our achievements, we must also look firmly toward the future and rededicate ourselves to continue on improving. It should be borne in mind that the purpose of Masonry is self-improvement, not in the material sense but rather the intellectual, moral, and philosophical improvement of oneself. Not only do we want to be better men in general, but we want to be better husbands and fathers and employees and citizens. We, as Masons strive to be better people, and it's a way of life for us. Fitly, if you want to be a better person, you associate with better people, and you all work collectively to the better good. There is no denying that the road ahead will still be challenging but it will also be rewarding as always. Over the course of a century, Masonry has offered many things to our society. Accordingly, as part of our centennial celebration, Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, throughout the year, has arranged a series of events and activities that will highlight the contribution of Freemasonry in the entire province of Negros. Let us embrace this centennial year by instilling onto our heart and mind our responsibilities for the next generation. Let us continue to build a strong and resilient future. May we grow in discernment and reflection of being always aware of the contributions that we can give for Masonry in the many years to come.

Jubert LV. Carbajosa
Centennial Master





MW RAFAEL PALMA

Instituted 12 Lodges in 1920 except Pangasinan which was granted dispensation by his predecessor MW Milton Springer a few days before the 7th ANCOM.

Constituted 4 Lodges in 1920 namely:
 Makawiwili Lodge No.55 -- April 8
 Pinatubo Lodge No.52 -- May 15
 Filipinas Lodge No.54 -- June 26
 Cabanatuan Lodge No.53 - October 9

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHARTERS

Brother George T. Madison read the following report for the Committee on Charters:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippine Islands.

Your Committee on Charters has had under consideration the request for Charters of the following thirteen Lodges:

<i>Names</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Disp. Granted</i>
PANGASINAN, U. D.	Dagupan, Pangasinan.....	January 21, 1920
ISLA DE LUZON, U. D.	Manila.....	February 13, 1920
MARBLE, U. D.	Romblon, Romblon.....	May 20, 1920
LABONG, U. D.	Malabon, Rizal.....	June 12, 1920
ISABELA, U. D.	Ilagan, Isabela.....	June 30, 1920
MAYON, U. D.	Albay, Albay.....	July 12, 1920
TUPAS, U. D.	Cebu, Cebu.....	September 15, 1920
ANGALO, U. D.	Vigan, Ilocos Sur.....	October 1, 1920
KANLAON, U. D.	Bacolod, Occ. Negros.....	October 22, 1920
TAMARAW, U. D.	Calapan, Mindoro.....	October 28, 1920
GONZAGA, U. D.	Tuguegarao, Cagayan.....	November 26, 1920
BAGUIO, U. D.	Baguio.....	December 24, 1920
MAGAT, U. D.	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	December 29, 1920

Although some of the above Lodges were granted Dispensations late in the year, an astounding amount of work was done, and there appears to be, in each instance, full justification for a charter.

A number of Brethren, formerly of Magdalo Lodge No. 31, at Kawit, Cavite, have dimitted from said Lodge with the intention of forming a new Lodge, same to bear the name of Lodge "Primera Luz Filipina," at Binakayan, Cavite. These Brethren dimitted too late to secure a Dispensation from the Grand Master, but in view of their known high Masonic character, it is earnestly requested that they be granted a charter without the formality of working under Dispensation. The proposed new Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. Felix Cajulis, is a Past Master of Magdalo Lodge No. 31, and the other officers and Members are well known to the Fraternity.

MW EDWIN E. ELSER



The 8th Grand Master constituted 14 Lodges in 1921. Of these, 2 Lodges were lost with the passage of time. Marble Lodge No. 58 in Romblon, with its members scattered in different parts of the archipelago forced its last Worshipful Master to surrender its charter in 1934; while Tupas Lodge No.62 merged with its sponsoring lodge, Mactan No.30 upon its reactivation in 1948.

We find all petitions of the Lodges under Dispensation to be in due form, and recommend that charters be issued these Lodges with the following names and numbers:—

PANGASINAN No. 56
ISLA DE LUZON No. 57
MARBLE No. 58
LABONG No. 59
ISABELA No. 60
MAYON No. 61
TUPAS No. 62
ANGALO No. 63
KANLAON No. 64
TAMARAW No. 65
GONZAGA No. 66
BAGUIO No. 67
MAGAT No. 68
PRIMERA LUZ FILIPINA No. 69

We further recommend that all these Lodges be authorized to continue under dispensation until such time as they can be duly constituted.

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE THOMAS MADISON,
ANTONIO DE LAS ALAS,
ENRIQUE V. FILAMOR,
Committee on Charters.

Motion was made by Brother Silvestre Orda, seconded by Brother George R. Harvey, "That the report of the Committee on Charters be adopted, the recommendations approved, the charters granted and the dispensations extended as recommended by the Committee. Motion carried with continued applause.



"A Century of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth"

TAMARAW MASONIC LODGE NO. 65

– A BRIEF HISTORY

Compiled by Bro. Billy Joseph M. Masangkay (Lodge Secretary)

Tamaraw Masonic Lodge No. 65 F. & A. M. is located at the City of Calapan in the province of Oriental Mindoro. Its members meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at 2:30 pm in Tamaraw Masonic Temple at Roxas Drive, Calero, Calapan City.

The Lodge is named after the Tamaraw or Timarua (*Bubalus Mindorensis*) - a small, very

wild buffalo found exclusively in the jungles of Mindoro Island.

The Lodge was founded by thirteen prominent residents of Mindoro namely:

- WB Juan Morente, Jr., PM - the first Filipino Civil Governor of Mindoro)
- Bro. Juan L. Luna - a Representative to the Philippine Assembly
- Bro. Lucas Babiera - the 2nd Filipino Provincial Commander
- WB Justo Ramos, PM - the 3rd Filipino Superintendent of Schools

Other members were:

- WB Vicente Adeva, PM
- WB Leoncio Casañas, PM
- WB Luciano Gansico, PM



FACSIMILE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH ANCOM 1922 / PP 129-130
 ATTESTED BY: NEWTON C. COMFORT, Grand Secretary

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

MAY 13, 1921

CONSTITUTION OF TAMARAW LODGE No. 65

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Tamaraw Lodge No. 65 at Calapan, Mindoro, P. I., at 8:00 p. m., May 13, A. D. 1921, A. L. 5921, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| EDWIN E. ELSER..... | <i>Grand Master</i> |
| JUAN MUÑOZ.....as | <i>Deputy Grand Master</i> |
| JOSÉ M. RAYMUNDO.....as | <i>Senior Grand Warden</i> |
| SISENANDO FERRIOLS.....as | <i>Junior Grand Warden</i> |
| REYNALDO LARDIZABAL.....as | <i>Grand Treasurer</i> |
| NEWTON C. COMFORT..... | <i>Grand Secretary</i> |
| FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG.....as | <i>Senior Grand Lecturer</i> |
| GUILLERMO FRANCISCO.....as | <i>Junior Grand Lecturer</i> |
| DOROTEO TRINIDAD.....as | <i>Grand Chaplain</i> |
| MAXIMO SARMIENTO.....as | <i>Grand Orator</i> |
| RAMÓN MENDOZA..... | <i>Assistant Grand Secretary</i> |
| ZACARIAS CANINT.....as | <i>Grand Marshal</i> |
| BENJAMIN RUIZ.....as | <i>Grand Standard Bearer</i> |
| GREGORIO AGONCILLO.....as | <i>Grand Sword Bearer</i> |
| APOLONIO ABAD.....as | <i>Grand Bible Bearer</i> |
| DANIEL BLAY.....as | <i>Senior Grand Deacon</i> |
| SEVERO C. CRUZ.....as | <i>Junior Grand Deacon</i> |
| VICENTE CATAPANG.....as | <i>Senior Grand Steward</i> |
| SEVERINO LAURENA.....as | <i>Junior Grand Steward</i> |
| PASTOR MERCADO.....as | <i>Grand Pursuivant</i> |
| JOSÉ OLIVA.....as | <i>Grand Organist</i> |
| SOLOMON RUSSELL.....as | <i>Grand Tiler</i> |

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Tamaraw Lodge No. 65, which had been granted a charter at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Marshal then formed the Grand Lodge into procession and proceeded to the Hall of Tamaraw Lodge No. 65, where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. The ceremonies were public and the attendance was far in excess of the capacity of the building.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the Hall where opened and was closed in AMPLE form.

EDWIN E. ELSER,
Grand Master.



- WB Antonio L. Luna, PM
- WB Felix Martinez, PM
- Bro. Agustin Garong
- Bro. Gabriel Ladra
- Bro. Valerio Leynes
- Bro. Teofilo Mendoza

Bound by a common dream, thirteen members of the Craft – emanating from various lodges in Batangas and Manila, endeavored to spread the light of Freemasonry in the island of Mindoro. With sheer guts and unwavering Masonic spirit, the Brethren laboured together and made that dream a reality. Grand Master Rafael Palma issued the dispensation on October 28, 1920 and by January 25, 1921 Tamaraw Lodge, UD was granted its charter after complying with requirements.

The Charter Officers were publicly installed during its Constitution . It was attended by 400

people which was far in excess of the capacity of the building.

Within a year after it was constituted, Tamaraw Lodge No. 65 conferred the degrees of Masonry on 22 new adepts which included Cipriano Liboro, the 2nd Civil Governor of Mindoro.

GLP's 65th lodge is the proud mother of two daughter lodges, Mindoro No. 157 located at San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; and Halcon No.249 located at Roxas, Oriental Mindoro.

It is also proud to have produced a Grand Master in the person of MW Jolly R. Bugarin, former Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, who sat in the Grand Oriental Chair in 1979.

Reference:

<https://grandlodge.ph/lodges/tamaraw>





GONZAGA MASONIC LODGE # 66 CENTENNIAL

January 25, 2021

OUR TRIBUTE TO THE PAST, OUR LEGACY TO THE FUTURE

Compiled by VW Edilberto Frangente, PDDGM & Bro. Mario P. Narag, Jr.

Our lodge celebrates this masonic year its centenary, having been chartered on January 25, 1921. It was named after Bro. Atty. Gracio P. Gonzaga, one of the organizers of Masonry in Northern Luzon, who served as Secretary of Finance in President Emilio Aguinaldo's cabinet, and later as Provincial Governor of Cagayan. Brother Gonzaga was actually the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, having been appointed by Aguinaldo, a brother Mason, during the revolutionary period.

In January 1920, twelve Master Masons, all residents of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, led by Governor Fermin Macanaya, Provincial Treas-

urer Ceferino R. Dino, and Dr. Jose F. Quinto, Sr. requested the Grand Lodge of Philippine Islands for a dispensation to open a lodge in Cagayan to be named Gonzaga Lodge. The petition was hand-delivered by Bro. Francisco Gumila Carag to Manila and on November 26, Grand Master Rafael Palma issued the dispensation. At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge on January 25, 1921, it was granted a charter as the 66th Lodge under the jurisdiction. Incidentally, Bro. Carag was then the designated Master of the Luzon lodge UD which also got its charter on the same day.

During the lodge's Constitution, the following Officers were Installed: Gov. Macanaya ,Charter Master; Dr. Jose F. Quinto, Sr. ,Senior Warden; Ceferino R. Dino, Junior Warden; and Jose Liquigan, Secretary.



FAÇSIMILE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOTH ANCOM 1922 / PP 127-128
ATTESTED BY: LUIS MARAMAG, as Grand Secretary

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

APRIL 13, 1921

CONSTITUTION OF GONZAGA LODGE No. 66

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Gonzaga Lodge No. 66 at Tuguegarao, Cagayan, P. I., at 5:00 p. m., Saturday, April 23, A. D. 1921, A. L. 5921, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

EDWIN E. ELSER.....	<i>Grand Master</i>
FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG.....as	<i>Deputy Grand Master</i>
JUAN ORELLANA.....as	<i>Senior Grand Warden</i>
FORTUNATO BULAN.....as	<i>Junior Grand Warden</i>
JOSÉ VELASQUEZ.....as	<i>Grand Treasurer</i>
LUIS MARAMAG.....as	<i>Grand Secretary</i>
SALVADOR TORRA.....as	<i>Senior Grand Lecturer</i>
MARIANO TAGUINOD.....as	<i>Junior Grand Lecturer</i>
NEMESIO FURAGGANAN.....as	<i>Grand Chaplain</i>
MIGUEL G. CONCEPCIÓN.....as	<i>Grand Orator</i>
HILARIO LOGAN.....as	<i>Grand Marshal</i>
JOSÉ LASAM.....as	<i>Grand Standard Bearer</i>
FELIX SANTOS.....as	<i>Grand Sword Bearer</i>
WILBUR GREENLAND.....as	<i>Grand Bible Bearer</i>
VENTURA GUZMAN.....as	<i>Senior Grand Deacon</i>
ANGEL PADILLA.....as	<i>Junior Grand Deacon</i>
LUCAS GONZALO.....as	<i>Senior Grand Steward</i>
FERNANDO P. LOPEZ.....as	<i>Junior Grand Steward</i>
JAYME GUZMAN GENOVEZA.....as	<i>Grand Pursuivant</i>
MAMERTO CRUZ.....as	<i>Grand Organist</i>
HENRY BECKER.....as	<i>Grand Tiler</i>

The Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Gonzaga Lodge No. 66, which had been granted a charter at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Marshal then formed the Grand Lodge into procession and proceeded to the Central School Building where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. The ceremonies were public and the attendance was large.

Addresses were made by Bros. José F. Quinto, Ceferino Diño, Miguel G. Concepción, Fermin Macanaya, and the Most-Worshipful Grand Master, Edwin E. Elser.

The Grand Lodge then formed into procession and marched to the Hall where opened and was closed in AMPLE form after prayer by the Grand Chaplain.

EDWIN E. ELSER,
Grand Master.

From the time of its constitution up to the outbreak of the Second World War, Gonzaga Lodge registered a steady growth. Well-known personalities in the community, such as Representatives Marcelo Adduru and Sabas Casibang swelled its ranks. It also spread the teachings and tenets of the Craft to other towns of Cagayan.

During World War II, the Lodge was inactive for four years. Among the casualties of that war was WB Victoriano Luna, the first Medical Chief of the Army who died in Mariveles, Bataan. V. Luna Memorial Hospital was named in his honor.

After the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese occupation forces, seventeen surviving members reconstituted the lodge on October 26, 1946, namely: Juan B. Pagulayan, Lorenzo de Leon, Roque Taguba, Juan N. Diego, Hilario de Yro, Estanislao B. Pagulayan, Guadalupe Bayuga, Marcelo Paguyu, Agustin Balisi, Simeon Sorita, Pedro M. Gammad, Perfecto P. Lingan, Sr., David Romero, Pedro Turingan, Bernardino Pagalilauan, Bonifacio Mequi and Buenaventura Marcelo.

Beginning with practically nothing, the lodge held its meetings in a rented house with no equipment and paraphernalia. Within six years membership increased to 43 active members. As the lodge was gradually rehabilitated, the brethren turned their attention to the construction of a Temple on their more than 1,000 sq. m. property, acquired before the war. Proceeds from the war damage claims and contributions from well-to-do members, the plan for the building was laid out. Construction started during the term of WB Perfecto B. Lingan under the supervision of Bro. Engineer Jose M. Torres. The Temple was completed on December 31, 1951.

Due for renovation thirty years later, the late VW Gualberto C. Agatep loaned the lodge his retirement benefits, interest free to finance the project which included the construction of commercial stalls at the ground floor. Grand

Master Pedro W. Guerzon rededicated the Temple on September 22, 1985. From the rentals generated by the commercial stalls, the Lodge gradually repaid VW Agatep. In 2002, Gonzaga 66 sponsored the creation of Gualberto C. Agatep Masonic Lodge No. 341 (Gat-taran, Cagayan) in his honor. ML66 also takes pride in its first daughter lodge Itawes No. 215 (Solana, Cagayan) chartered in 1977.

Between 2004 and 2005 during the terms of Worshipful Masters Ildefonso R Quilang III and Rustico Turingan, respectively, the wooden Lodge Temple was demolished to make way for the concrete structure that is the current home of Gonzaga 66. In 2006, VW Benjamin M. Lasam was the first WM installed in the new temple.

Today, the Gonzaga Lodge 66 continues its labors, as well as its socio-civic projects for

the benefit of the community, taking every opportunity to propagate the precepts of Masonry.

The lodge has been continuously producing respected leaders and members within Masonry, in the government, in business and in the community. In 1997, one of its members, a past master and an Illustrious being a past

Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33rd degree, was elevated to the Grand Oriental Chair in the person of MW Dr. Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. Other lodge members served as Grand Lodge officers in various capacities, here and overseas. Such leadership has even been extended to appendant bodies. VW Renato S. Gongora, a past master, and sister Perlita Gongora, were elevated as Grand Royal Patron and Grand Royal Matron, respectively, of the Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth. VW Edilberto R. Fragante and VW Fortunato B. Tumalian, Jr. became Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals, 33rd degree the highest Degree of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. The lodge also prides itself of an exemplar in the person of VW Renato B. Aquino, PDDGM, the “walking monitor” and Hiram Awardee in 2009.

In 2010 during the incumbency of VW Neil



S. Guimayen, the lodge approved a ten-year development plan for the construction of a new temple. Bro Architect Bienvenido T. Canlas was commissioned to prepare and present a building plan. A bank account was opened as a Temple Builders Fund. A year later WB Mariano P. Pagaddu acquired a lot in Capatan, Tuguegarao City through bank assisted funding. Succeeding Worshipful Masters initiated various ways in raising funds for the project. WB Reynorio M. Jumauan after securing approval of the reclassification of the lot from the city council initiated the ground-breaking on December 5, 2017. WB Efipanio Pagalilauan led the brethren in the cornerstone laying on May 12, 2018 officiated by MW Romeo S Momo. Construction of the temple has officially started. WB Ricardo Quilang (MY 2019) continue the quest. Depleting resources and even the COVID-19 Pandemic did not stop WB Renato M. Taborada with the temple's construction, believing that the GAOTU led the lodge to a generous benefactor in the person of RW Don Teng Ramas Uypitching. The lodge likewise owe much from WB Jaime Crisostomo of San Miguel De Mayu-

mo Masonic Lodge No.412 and Mr. Ricardo Alba, President of UNAHCO to name a few, for their valuable assistance.

The pandemic did not deter the scheduled centennial celebration of the lodge last January 25, 2021. As Tuguegarao City then was on lockdown, Grand Master Agapito S. Suan, Jr. still send his message via a video recording, the gist of which being:

“One hundred years is indeed a long time that few lodges in the country have ever reached such a prestigious stage. Your lodge and your members truly deserve the highest commendation for your enduring commitment to making good men better in the province of Cagayan. Now that your Centennial Masonic Temple is nearing its completion, I am confident that the next 100 years will become more fruitful than ever before.”

Should God will it Gonzaga Masonic Lodge No.66 shall be able to recognize those who have brought prestige and honor to the lodge during the upcoming dedication of the new temple this year.





**Compiled by WM Henry L. Padilla
Centennial Master**

Lodge History Summary

The lodge was named after the City where it is established which in turn, got its name from the native word "bagiw," meaning "moss," a green plant. Baguio (bagyo) is also the native word for typhoon or hurricane.

Masons were prominent among the builders of Baguio City and were wont to meet at various times for fellowship. Sometime in 1920, several American and Filipino Masons mostly military officers – U.S. Army and the Philippine Constabulary stationed at Camp John Hay and Camp Henry T. Allen, together with some officials of the city government, decided to organize into a "Square and Compass Club."

In the same year, they agreed to transform the Club into a lodge and accordingly sent a petition to the Grand Lodge. The requested dispensation was issued on December 20, 1920 and on January 25, 1921, the lodge was granted a charter.

When the 67th Lodge was constituted the following officers were installed:

- Bro. Samuel McIntosh – Charter Master
- Bro. C. Bowers – Senior Warden
- Bro. Saturnino David – Junior Warden

- Bros. Mauricio J. Oteyza & Arthur E. McCann, as Deacons.

Initial meetings of the lodge were held in various places such as the Senior Mess hall at Teachers Camp; PMA Hall at Camp Allen; Baden Powell Hall; Executive Bldg., Government Center (where the Baguio Convention Center is now located; District Bldg. at Engineers' Hill (the site of the existing office of the DPWH-CAR Regional Director), and Whilmarsh Bldg. along Harrison Road (now Rosebow / Tlonsan) and some other places.

When WB Juan Medina was Master in 1935, the Lodge purchased a two-story building from Fiscal Zandueta located at Abanao Street (formerly the Fil Oil Gas Station) which was converted into a lodge hall. In 1937, with WB Juan Resurreccion as Master and WB John Woodson was Secretary, the Lodge decided to have its own lot. The Zandueta building was sold for P20,000, paving the way for the purchase of a lot on Legarda Street near the Baguio Central School. As a strategy to augment the funds for the construction of a new Lodge Temple, the Legarda lot was mortgage to a local realtor for P18,000.00 payable at P100.00/month and an added P50.00 assessment from each brother.

Soon came the outbreak of World War II and the coming of the Japanese forces dispersed the brethren. All Masonic activities from 1942 to 1944 ceased. According to the 2nd Volume of The Brethren by MW Fajardo (page 238) – "From the concentration camps also came re-

ports of at least two meetings held under the very noses of the Japanese. The first was in Baguio Concentration Camp, with the immediate Past Master of Baguio Lodge No. 67, WB Carl Eischback, acting as Master.”

The said event held at Camp Holmes (now Camp Bado Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet) is one of the most notable masonic activities in the Philippine jurisdiction during the Japanese Occupation.

As an upshot of the war, the Lodge Temple was burned in the liberation carpet bombing of March 15 - 17, 1945. After being in darkness for over three years, efforts headed by MW Dr. E. Stafford (GLPI's first Grand Master) were wielded to reorganize Baguio Lodge immediately after the liberation. On October 20, 1945 in a meeting presided by Past Master Juan Resurreccion, an election was conducted with the following members elected: Primo San Pedro, WM; Jose Mandoriao, SW; Juan F. Zarate,

JW; WB Juan Resurreccion, Trea; and WB John Woodson, Sec. Other Officers were Bernardino C. Catbagan, Chap; Demetrio Corpus, Mar; Rufino P. Rogel, SD; Laureano Santiago, JD; Ambrosio Garcia, Sr Stw; Chan Kim, Jr. Stw; and Tranquilino Abubo, Tyler.

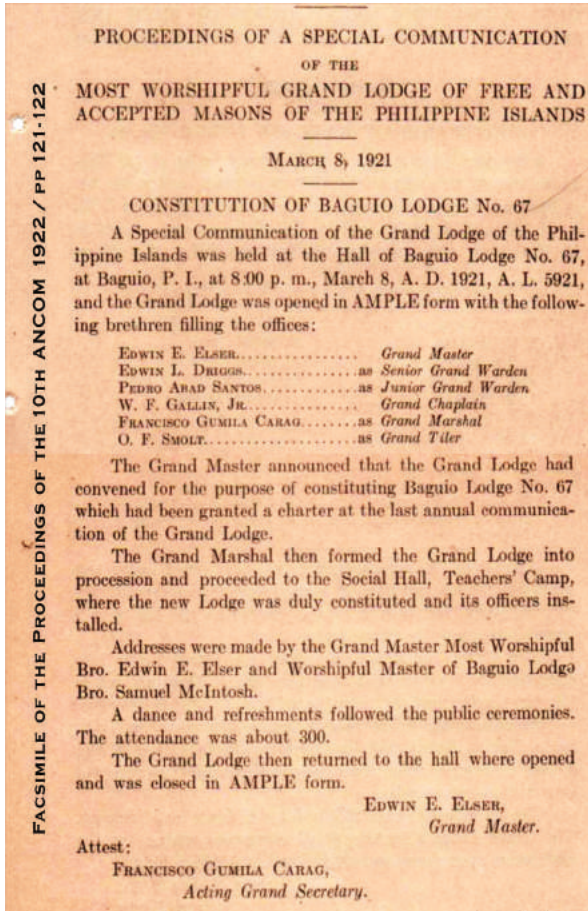
Being destitute at the time entirely, the members sought donations from sister Lodges,

throughout the jurisdiction for material and financial assistance. Finally, encouraging news was received that “Yampa Lodge No. 88” at Plate 1960, Craig, Colorado, U.S.A. volunteered to donate the wooden level, plumb, square, and aprons. In 1946 Corinthian Lodge No. 199 of Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A. donated the handcrafted stainless steel jewels. Muñoz Lodge in Nueva Ecija, through Bro. Rufino Angeles and another member donated the gavels and ballot box.

The first lodge meeting after World War II was held in the former photo studio of Bro. Rufino Rogel. The first installation was in his house, then under construction on Laubach Road at Happy Glen. Other meetings were held in the City Lunch Hotel (now Sunshine Supermart along Abanao St.) of Bro. C. Kim; Fire Station at City Camp; in one of the buildings at Teacher's Camp; the Bua School; a classroom of the New Baguio Central School (now Quezon Elementary School along

Upper Session Road); also, in a room in the Lam Ping Building; Library of Baguio Colleges, Lopez Building, Session Road. Meetings were also held in the YWCA building and in the basement of the United Church of Christ along Chanum Street. Finally, the Lodge settled in Snyder Hall at John Hay Air Base.

Meanwhile, as the new temple was being





planned, Lodge Secretary Laurence L. Wilson in 1952 made an application for a lot on Legarda Street (now Yandoc St.) facing the Baguio City Hall which was eventually approved in 1957 through the painstaking effort of WB Pacifico Marin. By 1958, during the term of WB Anastacio Querimit an attractive temple costing P50,000.00 was constructed. The successful enterprise made possible thru the collective effort of the brethren. The social hall was named after Bro. John W. Haussermann, the most generous benefactor who contributed a hefty 10,000.00 pesos. He was also instrumental in the donation of one of the Belgian bells of the Baguio Cathedral in 1932.

On December 11, 1971, the lodge's 50th Year, a three-in-one affair was held. The District Convention of Masonic District No. 5 was hosted in the morning, followed by the public installation of officers in the afternoon with WB Abelardo Resurreccion as Worshipful Master. Presiding as Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies were MW Damaso C. Tria and VW Hermogenes P. Oliveros, SGL, respectively. In the evening, the Lodge celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a dinner at the Baguio Country Club. Another milestone for Baguio Lodge was the hosting of the 73rd Annual Communication on April 27-29, 1989. MW Juan C. Nabong was installed Grand Master and took his vow to serve the brethren "The Brotherly Way."

From 1958 to 1989 the Masonic Temple stood proudly in the midst of the City until the July 16, 1990 killer earthquake struck which severely damaged the edifice rendering it uninhabit-

able. Once again, the collective effort of the brethren was tested and fund raising campaigns were made, closing ranks and pooling resources. Aside from the insurance fund received, the brethren were assessed P500.00 each, together with various donations in cash and in kind and technical support that came from Lodge members, and brethren from other Lodges. The bulk of the funds which were solicited and used for the repair of the building came from Bro. Van D. Luspo, who was the Junior Warden in 1991 and eventually became the Worshipful Master in 1993. Unforgettable assistance was also received from Bro. Engr. Samuel Bernal and WB Carlos Valencerina of Bontoc Lodge No.140 who provided the technical and structural services. While the Lodge Temple was under major repair, Bro. Ambrosio Divina, of Laoag Lodge No.71 and Director of NBI at that time offered the facilities of the National Bureau of Investigation for the monthly stated meetings and degree conferrals. When the repair of the Temple was completed, the first stated meeting was held on August 6, 1991. WB Fernando A. Albino PM, the incumbent Worshipful Master expressed his thanks and gratitude to all the brethren who made possible the gargantuan task of repairing the heavily damaged Temple. In 1993, during the term of WB Van Cornelius D. Luspo, he shouldered the cost of the construction of the Secretary's Office and that of the Job's Daughters Office aside from his donating a complete set of Masonic Paraphernalia, i.e., aprons, jewels, and working tools all made in the U.S.A. It was also during his term that the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc., Baguio Regional Center were established.



The center's first officers were VW Rodolfo Juvenal, DDGM & Regional Representative, Dr. and Bro. James C. Paggao as the Medical Officer, Dr. and Bro. Antonio T. Tactay, Asst. Medical Officer, Dr. & Bro. Robert G. Capuyan, Anesthesiologist, and Bro. Fernando M. Lacsamana as Administrative Officer.

The total cost of rehabilitating the temple stood at over P1 Million. Master Masons from other Lodges who figured prominently in the rehabilitation of the temple were conferred 'Honorary membership' to the Lodge. They are Virgilio Cadawan, Ambrosio Divina, Mariano Roxas, Ramon Labo III, Flor Tejada, Clement Trinidad, Carlos Valencerina and Charles Valencerina. In 1998, the Baguio Masonic Temple during the term of WB Nicanor Julius A. Abad was renamed Baguio Masonic Center.

On August 11, 2001, Grand Master Napoleon Soriano constituted the La Trinidad Lodge No. 344 a bonafide offspring of Baguio Lodge No. 67. Masonic years 2001 and 2019, Baguio No.

67 established Twinning Agreements with Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147 under GLP and Sun Lodge No. 6 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of China (Taiwan). The Lodge is the proud sponsor of Baguio Chapter of the Order of DeMolay International No. 9 and Bethel No. 25, International Order of Jobs' Daughters, Baguio Chapter.

A product of the unity in purpose of its members and of Freemasonry in general, Baguio Masonic Lodge No. 67 withstood natural and man-made calamities. Its Temples having been built and rebuilt time and again has become a monument of its Masonic struggle. The current Temple is the epitome of the love, unity, and perseverance of the members for the last 100 years. Compiled by Centennial Master Henry L. Padilla (67) from the book, Philippine Lodges, A Compilation of the history of the different Philippine Masonic Lodges, by MW Reynaldo S. Fajardo; Cable Tow (1923-2010); Write up by VW Fernando A. Albino (67), PD-DGM and Lecture delivered by VW Fernando M. Lacsamana (67), PDGL.



“Continuously Building Character and Making Good Men Better”

MAGAT MASONIC LODGE NO. 68 By Magat Lodge Centennial Research Committee

The Lodge was named after the Magat River which meanders through Bayombong town in Nueva Vizcaya then flows onto the mighty Cagayan River, the longest river in the Philippines. Sometime in 1918, two prominent individuals - Lope K. Santos (Governor of Rizal, Governor of Nueva Vizcaya, Senator, Tagalog novelist, and the recognized Father of Filipino Grammar) and Tomas Maddela (Governor of Nueva Vizcaya) set about to organize a Masonic Lodge in the said province.

On 29 December 1920, then Grandmaster Rafael Palma issued a dispensation for the said Lodge in Bayombong and in the following month, on 26 January 1921, after it was verified that the lodge had complied with all the requirements, was granted it charter by the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippine Islands. Constituted three months later, the following officers of Magat Lodge No. 68 were duly installed: Lope K. Santos, Charter Master; Domingo Maddela, Senior Warden; and Francisco H. Danao, Junior Warden. The 28 early members were:

Kiriko Abordo
Pedro Afalla
Pastor G. Aluning
L.W. Bartlett
Juan Cabal
Alfonso Castañeda
Benito Ciscar
Ernesto Cuisia
Frank H. Danao
Daniel Galeon
Bruno Garingan
R.E. De Guzman
Toribio Joson
Hipolito Lazam

Vicente Lumicao
Domingo Maddela
J.R. Maddela
T.P. Maddela
Vicente B. Oledan
Evaristo Panganiban
Bernardo dela Pella
Julian Pinaroc
Alberto Ramos
Claro Samonte
Lope K. Santos
Pedro R. Santos
Sisenando Silvestre
Emilio Tolentino

From then on, Magat Lodge No. 68 registered steady growth in membership. From a roster of 14 members in 1920, the list grew to 28 members when it was chartered in 1922. More joined as years passed by.

The Lodge and its Temples

When Bro. Alfonso Castañeda became Worshipful Master in 1924, the members decided to build a temple of their own. A suitable site for a Masonic Temple was purchased and in 1931, during the term of Worshipful Master Sisenando Silvestre, the building of the Masonic Temple was ultimately realized. Between 1950 – 1951, during the incumbency of WM Sotero Torralba, a new Lodge Temple was erected along Jose Abad Santos St. in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. In 2004, the Scottish Rites Masonic Temple was erected on a lot donated by spouses MW Eugenio Labitoria, PGM and Grand Royal Matron Juliet Falguera Labitoria along the Bayombong

National Highway. This larger edifice served as a venue for the conduct of regular stated meetings and important events of Magat Lodge No. 68, whose membership continue to grow. Other Temple users including Cagayan Valley Bodies (Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite), Guillermo E. Bongolan Masonic Lodge No. 330, and other appendant bodies of the Grand Lodge instituted in the municipality of Bayombong such as the Sierra Madre Court No. 43 (order of the Amaranth), Villaverde Chapter (order of the Jacques DeMolay), and Bethel No. 9 (Order of the Job's Daughter).

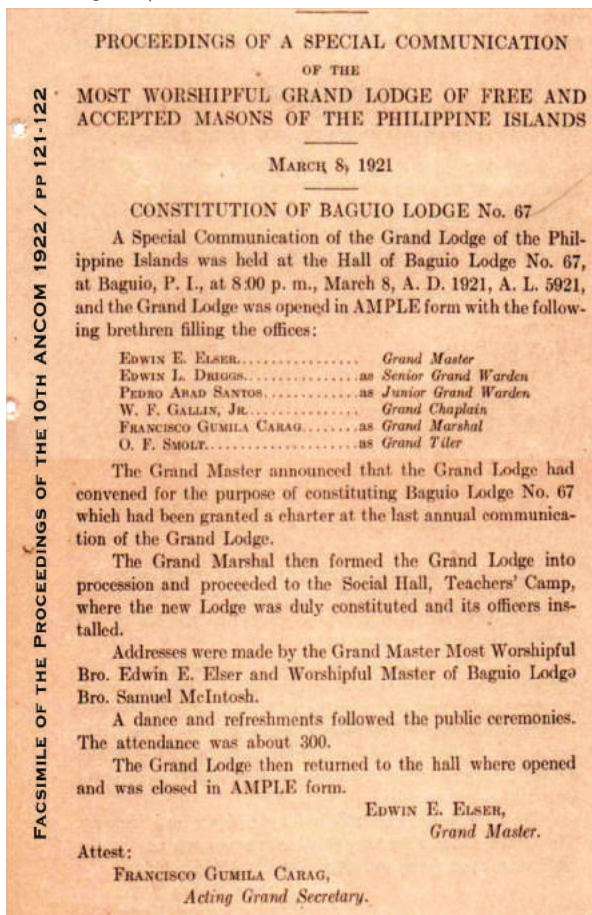
Many brethren of yore and now have given honor to the esteemed name of Magat Lodge No. 68 by achieving greater heights in their own fields of endeavor. Notable among them were:

- Bro. Demetrio Quirino, Sr. - Governor of Nueva Vizcaya and delegate to the 1935 Constitutional Convention.
- Bro. Cicero Calderon - who earned his Baccalaureate Degree from the Vanderbilt University as a Methodist Church scholar and later Masters of Law and Doctor of Juridical Science degrees from the law school of Yale University. He became the second Filipino president of Silliman University in Dumaguete City. A Delegate for the Constitutional Convention in 1971, serving as Chairman of the Committee on

Labor; regional adviser on Labor Relations for Asia and the South Pacific in 1973 until his retirement in 1982.

- Brigadier General Aberto Ramos was a PC Provincial Commander of Nueva Vizcaya and later became Chief of the Philippine Constabulary.

Other members of Magat Lodge No. 68 became prominent in the public and private sectors as follows, to name a few:



A. National Government Agencies, Institutes, and Universities

- Eugenio S. Labitoria - Associate Justice, Court of Appeals
- Edilberto P. Carabacan - CAR Regional Director, DPWH
- Tomas Reginaldo - RO2 Regional Director, DPWH
- Purissimo L. Tiam - Director, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority
- Dioniso Gat. Ducusin - President,

Nueva Vizcaya State University (1993-1999). - President, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State Univ (1999-2001)

B. Congressman

- Evaristo Panganiban (1919 - 1922)
- Domingo Maddela (1931 - 1934)
- Guillermo Bongolan (1938 - 1941)

C. Governor

- Lope K Santos (Apr 1918 – Sept 1920)
- Domingo Maddela (Oct 1920 – June 1925)
- Alfonso Castañeda (June 1925 – June 1928)
- Demetrio Quirino, Sr. (Jan 1940 – 1945)

D. Deputy Governor

- Jose T. Lasam

E. Provincial Board Member (Lone District)

- Kiriko Abordo
- Guillermo Bongolan
- Cicero Ciscar Bautista (Appointed: 1986-1988; Elected in 1988 – 1992)
- Victor B. Gines, Jr. (Ex-Officio)

F. Municipal Mayors

- Benito Ciscar (Charter Member) - Mayor, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya
- Daniel Galleon (Charter Member) - Mayor, Dupax, Nueva Vizcaya (1912-1913)
- Kiriko Abordo (Charter Member) - Mayor, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya
- Benjamin Cuaresma - Mayor, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya

G. Private Sector

- Roy D. Bennett - Vice-President, Philippine Education Company
- Junifen F. Gauuan - President, Aldersgate College; OIC-President, Philippine Wesleyan University; President, Philippine Christian University

There are also prominent members of Magat Lodge Number 68 who displayed exemplary in their works and gained trust and they are:

- MW Eugenio S. Labitoria, PGM - who became Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines (2002), Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the 33rd and last degree A. & A.S.R. and Past Grand Royal Patron of the Order of the Amaranth.
- Illustrious Edilberto P. Carabacan, an honorary member of Magat Lodge, also became the Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish rite, Past Grand Royal Patron of the Order of the Amaranth.
- Francisco Galam, a Past Grand Royal Patron of the Order of the Amaranth, and

- Gideon Andres also a Past Grand Royal Patron of the Order of the Amaranth.

The Lodge has made numerous contributions to society thru various worthy social and civic causes. The brethren enjoy and keep in their hearts the sense of self-fulfillment as they have a glimpse of the happy smiles gleaned from the delighted and contented appearances of thankful recipients of the usual Masonic generosity they continuously extend.

As the mother of all lodges in Nueva Vizcaya (NV), Magat Masonic Lodge No. 68 have extended its roots by chartering the following Masonic Lodges: Nueva Vizcaya No.144 (Solano, NV – 1955); Cordillera No.178 (Bagabag, NV); Villaverde No.206 (Villaverde, NV); Ifugao No.218 (Lamut Ifugao); Ari-Tau No.279 (Aritao, NV); Mt. Palali No.420 (Quezon, NV); Salinas No.176 (Bambang, NV – 1965); Saranay No.193 (Diffun, Quirino - 1970, and Guillermo E. Bongolan No.330 (Bayombong, NV – 1999).

The 68th Lodge in the jurisdiction, shall not indeed conclude its 100 years of existence with a culminating activity; but instead, will strive furthermore, burning with zeal to instill a sense of Love and loyalty of God and Country and to impart with greater fervor the noble Masonic principle to continuously "Build Character and Make Good Men Better".





Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Lodge No. 69 A Brief History

Updated by WI Jun Wilvir P. Capili, IPM

On November 8, 1919, members of Magdalo Lodge No.31 decided to form a lodge in Binakayan, Cavite where most of them hailed from. The first organizational meeting was held on November 22 in the house of Mr. Rufino Geluz. The brethren decided to name their lodge Primera Luz Filipina, as a homage to the first masonic lodge established by Jose Malmcampo y Monge under the Gran Oriente Lusitano in 1856. The name literally translates to “First Light of the Philippines”.

However, it was only in January 1921 that 21 brethren of Magdalo Lodge No. 31, led by Felix Cajulis, Benedicto Ilano, Vicente Marquez, Daniel Sambong, and Esteban Rodriguez, Sr, demitted from their lodge with intention of forming the lodge in Binakayan, Cavite. Despite having a few days left prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge and unable to secure a Dispensation, the Committee on Charters earnestly requested the Grand Lodge to grant them a charter because of the known high masonic character of its petitioners notwithstanding having not yet formally worked under dispensation. Its charter was granted on January 25, 1921 during the 9th Annual Com-

munications, together with thirteen other lodges. WB Felix Cajulis, himself a Past Master of Magdalo 31, was elected as Charter Master.

Thus, Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Lodge No. 69 became one of only a few lodges under Philippine jurisdiction to be granted a charter without first securing and working under dispensation. It also has the distinction of being the first lodge to be established in a barrio.

The first meetings of the lodge were held in the residence of Bro. Rufino Geluz. It was in January 1923 that the lodge formally transferred to its new Temple in Binakayan. The completion of the Temple building was born out of the brethren’s commitment and was literally a labor of their love, under the supervision of Brother Architect Lope Sayo.

Closed during the Second World War, PLP No.69 was reactivated by Bros. Bonifacio Gutierrez, Agustin Villanueva, Buenaventura S. Realica, Florentino S. Bautista and Francisco C. Ferree shortly after peace was restored. On July 21, 1946, it had the honor of hosting the first post war annual convention of Cavite Masons that was attended by more than 200 brethren.

The lodge is proud of the quality of its roster of members. Among those who have graced its rolls are: District Deputy Grand Masters Edgardo C. Perez, David C. Marquez, Angel O. Dario, Nelin S. Pineda, Rogelio T. Manuto,

FACSIMILE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10TH ANCOM 1922 / PP 118-119
 ATTESTED BY: NEWTON C. COMFORT, *Grand Secretary*

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

FEBRUARY 19, 1921

CONSTITUTION OF PRIMERA LUZ FILIPINA LODGE
No. 69 AT BINAKAYAN, KAWIT, CAVITE, P. I.

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Masonic Hall of Primera Luz Filipina Lodge, at Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite, P. I., at 8:40 p. m., Saturday, February 19, 1921, A. L. 5921, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following offices:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| EDWIN E. ELSER (3)..... | <i>Grand Master</i> |
| FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG (57).....as | <i>Deputy Grand Master</i> |
| HEINRICH A. MILLER (41).....as | <i>Senior Grand Warden</i> |
| MIGUEL SIMON (50).....as | <i>Junior Grand Warden</i> |
| EDWARD E. CALVIN (41).....as | <i>Grand Treasurer</i> |
| NEWTON C. COMFORT (3)..... | <i>Grand Secretary</i> |
| RAMON MENDOZA (27)..... | <i>Assistant Grand Secretary</i> |
| PANTALEON GARCIA (15).....as | <i>Senior Grand Lecturer</i> |
| WILLIAM F. GALLIN, JR. (9)..... | <i>Grand Chaplain</i> |
| JOSÉ MARIA ASUNCIÓN (23)..... | <i>Grand Orator</i> |
| CHRISTIAN W. ROSENSTOCK (4).... | <i>Grand Marshal</i> |
| MANUEL PAREDES (15).....as | <i>Grand Standard Bearer</i> |
| JULIAN C. BALMASEDA (51).....as | <i>Grand Sword Bearer</i> |
| HARRY J. MORGAN (9)..... | <i>Senior Grand Deacon</i> |
| AZIZ HASHIM (6).....as | <i>Junior Grand Deacon</i> |
| DONATO VIRATA (31).....as | <i>Senior Grand Steward</i> |
| JOSÉ A. REYES (17).....as | <i>Junior Grand Steward</i> |
| CANDIDO SAYOC (15).....as | <i>Grand Tiler</i> |

The Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69 which had been granted a charter at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Marshal then formed the Grand Lodge into procession and proceeded to the Cine. where the New Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. The ceremonies were public and the attendance was about 1,300.

Addresses were made by Brothers Emilio P. Virata in English, Pantaleon Garcia in Tagalog and the Worshipful Master Felix Cajulis in Spanish.

Brother Christian W. Rosenstock was installed as Grand Marshal and Harry J. Morgan was installed as Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the hall where opened and was closed in AMPLE form.

EDWIN E. ELSER,
Grand Master.



PO A92 · ©Kuyang Pao

Roseller Malabanan, Dominador Eugenio and Raul E. Canon, Jr.

There are also members who held or have elective and appointive positions in the government: Former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Clemente P. Mariano; Provincial Governors Juanito R. Remulla and Dominador Camerino; Congressman Jose T. Cajuns; Con-Con Delegate, Alberto M. Jamir; Former Presidential Adviser Rear Admiral Danilo M. Cortez; Philippine Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Loumer P. Bernabe; Philippine Air Force Inspector General Stephen P. Parreno; former DILG Undersecretary Peter Irving C. Corvera; Assistant Ombudsman Caesar D. Asuncion; Former DoTr Assistant Secretary and currently National Food Authority Deputy Administrator Raul E. Canon, Jr.

The Lodge is also proud of being one of the few lodges in the jurisdiction that had appendant organizations under its sponsorship which

currently includes the Tierra Luz Court No. 33 of the Order of the Amaranth.

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic on its centennial year, the lodge led by its officers – Centennial Master John Paolo M. Mellona, Senior Warden Bro. Stephen P. Parreno, Junior Warden Bro. Christian Q. Valenzuela, Treasurer VW Joseph A. Canon, Secretary WB Jun Wilvir P. Capili and Auditor VW Ricardo C. Vasquez – remains committed to its ideals in brotherly love that it extends to the community through various activities that include the provision of scholarships to deserving college and high school students, support to the Binakayan Elementary School and Florante Ilano Elementary School Brigada Eskwela, distribution of food packs at the height of the restrictions during the pandemic quarantine, and the annual gift giving to the Aeta community in Capas, Tarlac.

THE JURIS DICTUM

By VW Edgardo M. Villareal II, JGL

Lodge Anniversary

Last year, a lot of subordinate lodges have celebrated their respective centennial anniversary. Many more lodges, especially those with earlier charter number will follow suit this year and the next.

In not a single instance that a query about Lodge Anniversary was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The good thing though is that it has been consistent in rendering its opinion notwithstanding the change in its composition every year. The question asked was: When exactly is the date of a lodge anniversary? Is it the date it was granted a dispensation to form a lodge or the date its charter was finally issued?

In resolving the matter, several provisions under Art. I, Part II (Ordinances) of the Masonic Law book are worth revisiting:

Sec. 1 provides *"A Lodge can be formed only by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master and perpetuated by a charter from the Grand Lodge"*;

Sec. 3 provides, *"A dispensation shall be valid only up to the end of the month preceding the Annual Communication and the lodge under dispensation shall, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Communication, return the dispensation to the Grand Secretary, transmitting at the same time its By-Laws, books or records and Annual Report with payment of dues and fees up to that date"*;

Sec. 5 on the other hand provides, *"Upon return of the dispensation of a new lodge, a charter may be granted by the Grand Lodge if an examination of its work and proceedings shall prove satisfactory and upon proof that it is free from indebtedness and that it has complied with all other requirements. Such lodge shall then be constituted within sixty (60) days thereafter."*

From the foregoing, it is clear that the author-

ity of a dispensation issued by the Grand Master is only temporary and automatically expires at the end of the month preceding the Annual Communication. For such lodge under dispensation to continue functioning as a lodge, it shall need a charter to be issued by the Grand Lodge in order for it to be a "just and legally constituted lodge". The lecture of the First Degree teaches us that a "Lodge" is an assemblage of Masons, duly congregated, having the Holy Bible, square, and compasses, and a charter, or warrant of constitution, empowering them to work." (underscoring supplied)

Moreover, as pointed out by Albert G. Mackey, in his *"Principles of Masonic Law: A treatise on the Constitutional Laws, Usages and Landmarks of Freemasonry"*, *"a lodge under dispensation is simply the creature of the Grand Master. To him it is indebted for its existence, and on his will depends the duration of that existence. He may at any time revoke the dispensation, and the dissolution of the lodge would be the instant result. Hence, a lodge working under a dispensation can scarcely, with strict technical propriety, be called a lodge; it is, more properly speaking, a congregation of Masons, acting as the proxy of the Grand Master."*

It is clear therefore that a lodge is officially recognized as a regular lodge, once it has been issued a charter. Hence, its official anniversary should be its charter date. Of course, nothing can prevent a subordinate lodge to also commemorate the date of its being granted a dispensation, as it may please.

My warmest felicitation to all the lodges celebrating their centennial year!





**GM JUN SUAN &
RW ROLEN PAULINO
visit the newly renovated
Capitol Masonic Temple
POST HEART'S DAY
By VW Jonathan Amoroso, PDGL**

February 17 - three days after Valentine's Day, Most Worshipful Agapito S. Suan, Jr., Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Rolen Paulino, and the Grand Lodge entourage consisting of Senior Grand Lecturer VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, Chief of Staff and Illustrious Potentate VW Dennis Cunanan, Senior Grand Steward VW Lini Hernando, Junior Grand Steward VW Diosdado Melegrito, visited the Capitol Masonic Temple (CMT) at No.35 Matalino Street, Central Diliman, QC.

The CMT is being used for Masonic purposes by member Lodges of Masonic Districts NCR-E and NCR-F. It stands on a parcel of land, which is wholly owned by Capitol masonic Corporation (CMC), a juridical person partly owned

by the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc (MCCCI).

Newly renovated through the initiative and leadership of District Deputy Grand Master VW Gerald Alan A. Quebral of Masonic District NCR-F, who gave the grand line a personal tour of the premises. "There are about 35 projects or items of repair and construction that were done so far. The improvements include the installation of water pump and overhead tank system, repainting of key areas in the place. Among the notable works is the construction of the big outdoor kitchen with sufficient kitchen equipment and utensils." The DDGM said. "We also rehabilitated the dirty kitchen area, making it a better place for fellowship due to the ventilation. The whole of the Corcuera Hall was repainted, refurbishing its furniture and fixtures. Improvements were also made in the preparation room. We also had the ground floor and its mezzanine including the facade and side-wall of this building repainted." He continued. The visiting brethren also saw the driveway and the parking lot illuminated by solar-powered lighting.

He went on to say, "We had the drainage system thoroughly cleaned to solve the baha problem. The building's air-conditioning units were serviced as well. Repairs in the whole roofing system addressed the rain leak problems. Sound

proofing devices further improved the airconditioned fellowship room.”

Moving on with the tour, VW Quebral continued. “The entrances were reconstructed to accommodate PWDs. We cemented this driveway and placed here a mural painting. We believe that this driveway is also a very good fellowship area because of the open air.”

As observed, dilapidated monobloc chairs were replaced with new sets of lifetime chairs as various indoor and outdoor potted plants were brought in to beautify the premises. Close Circuit Television (CCTV) was recently installed all over the premises and new office was even constructed for the incoming Building Administrator.

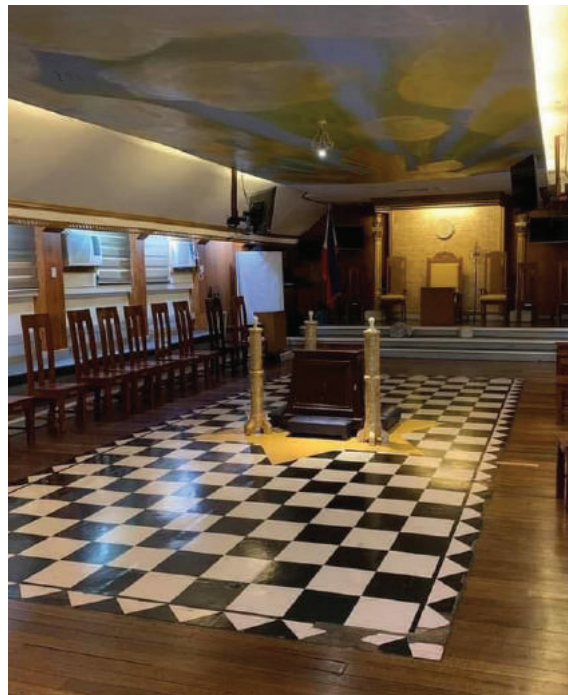
As stated in Circular 19 of MW Suan, the CMC represented by its President Lucas T. Ty and the GLP represented by MW Romeo S. Momo, executed a Deed of Usufruct on April 22, 2019 granting the latter the full right to the use and enjoyment of the property in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in the said document. VW Gerald Alan Quebral has been appointed Building Administrator of CMT with VW Beda A. Epres, DDGM (NCR-E) as Co-Building Administrator, directing both District Deputies to the Grand Master to reorganize the operative and administrative matters of the Capitol Masonic Temple.

Following his appointment as DDGM in 2019, VW Alan Quebral launched various fund raising projects which were originally intended for the construction of an additional lodge hall in CMT- the Filipiniana Hall. This project, in fact, already began and no less than MW Jun Suan attended the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony which took place on August 31, 2019. The construction of the said Hall did not materialize when the intended project did not get the nod of the Capitol Masonic Corporation - the owner of the CMT lot, which suggested that the proposed hall be built on another site within the CMT. VW Alan Quebral explained that, “The reason why we have planned to build a bigger lodge hall is because of the small size of the Corcuera Hall. If we accede to their suggestion to build the new lodge hall on top of the fellowship area, clearly it will not address the

problem of size.” At present, CMT houses Masonic District NCR-F with 9 lodges and 1 lodge under dispensation, and Masonic District NCR-E with 10 lodges and 1 U.D. And so, with these developments, MW Jun Suan shelved the entire project altogether.

As MW Jun Suan and RW Rolan Paulino inspected the newly renovated areas in the CMT after their arrival, they joined the Brethren and the Atengs in outdoor fellowship. RW Rolan Paulino even went to each table of the brethren saying that one’s position in the Grand Lodge is not really a block to maintain the closeness in the brotherhood, rather, it should be a bridge to hold them together. Renovation started in June 2020 and was finished 8 months later just in time for the Grand Master’s Inspection in February 2021. The Project cost more than 1.5 Million Pesos.

In his speech, VW Alan Quebral expressed his thanks to the lodges and brethren who supported the project and professed that the success of the undertaking was a product of the collective efforts of those generous and selfless men who dedicated their time and resources just to make CMT reflect the honor and dignity of Freemasonry which have long been basically and his-





torically equated with its name. He conveyed his appreciation to the following: DDGM of MD NCR-E VW Beda Epres, Bro SW Michael Feliciano, VW Ronald Fabian, VW Michael Benipayo, VW Juel Roldan, WB Willy Manahan, WI Neal Panaligan WM Jun Mago, WB Russel Valdez, WB Marvin Urmenita, WM Rhoan Purugganan, WM Boy Lopez, VW Sammy Trabajo, Bro JW Jerwin Bejec, Bro Arman Navales, Bro Richard Loo, Bro Jun Caloagan, and mural artists Ms. Tricia & Ms. Charlotte.

The next part of the program was for the brethren to offer a bouquet of flowers to their partners. It was a day where literally, love was in the air and equally significant, it was a testament that even if a door is sometimes closed to stall a worthy plan, unwavering souls would find new windows so that despite the odds, they could continue to offer their labors and services for the benefit of the many.

Just a few minutes earlier, and looking at the brighter, cleaner, homier, and “more decent” Capitol Masonic Temple, a brother joked, “Mahihiya ka na mag-mura dito.” Another brother replied to him in jest, “Hindi na talaga pagmumura ang dapat gawin dito sa CMT, pag-

mamahala na lang.” And these words were right. Brotherly love should prevail in any Masonic Temple as well as in every place where there are masons.

Circular 19-A of MW Suan states the New Rules and Regulations for the newly renovated Masonic Center. Among them are the mandates of the Co-Building Administrators, New Rental Rates / Fees, Policies against Smoking, Littering, and Vandalism including Sanctions and Penalties. The said rules have been in effect since January 1, 2020.





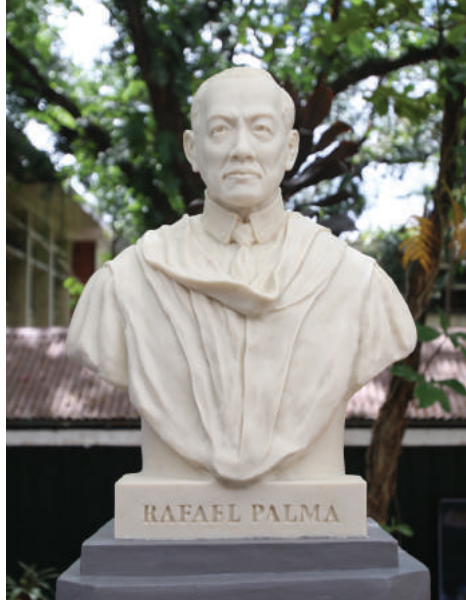
Looking back on a Masonic Landmark at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC

By Bro. Rusnel Dela Cruz, (147)

Rafael Palma y Velasquez
24 October 1874 - 24 May 1939

“Tough Rizalist” – Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines – Masonic Year 1920. A famous Filipino educator, philosopher, politician and Rizalian, he became the Fourth President and Second Filipino President of the University of the Philippines.

Most Worshipful Rafael Palma wrote several articles that delighted and inspired Masons. On January 30, 1931, as a Grand Orator, he said, in part the following: “The philosophy of Masonry has not lost faith in the goodness of human



nature and considers liberty as an inestimable boon and every man’s birthright. It consequently endeavors to inculcate the doctrine that man must be educated to be free and to seek to know himself and develop his innate faculties and inclinations. This education involves the free exercise of reason, not only to think and reason for himself, untrammelled by readymade dogma or opinions consecrated by tradition or usage; but to follow a rule of conduct which he considers the most in accordance with prudence and wisdom, through it be in conflict with that which is generally accepted and approved. Reason is the noblest gift to man. It is the right way, the duty of each and every one of us to make our contri-





bution be it ever so small, to the progress of the world, and it is not by waiving the free use of reason that we can add our grain of sand to that building, but by contributing a new thought, a new idea, a new mode of procedure or new rule of conduct. He who contents himself with taking all he needs from the accumulated wisdom of the ages without giving anything in return is a spendthrift, not a collaborator.”

About 2 years ago - on February 21, 2019, MW Rafael Palma’s bust sculpture donated thru the Grand Lodge of the Philippines was unveiled at the Palma Hall of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City as part of the university-wide celebration of the anniversary of the transfer of the Oblation from its Manila campus to Diliman. In attendance at the simple ceremony are members of the UP Diliman academe represented by no less than the UP President, Atty. Danilo Concepcion, PhD, UP Diliman Chancellor Michael Tan, PhD, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy Dean Ma. Bernadette Abrera, PhD; and brethren from the GLP led by MW Reynato S. Puno PGM. Also present was MW Palma’s grandchildren Bros. Jayson Legaspi of Macario Ramos Lodge 355, Jonathan, and Janice Salazar, as well as some brothers from Rafael Palma Lodge 147 led by WB Jonathan Montanez and WB Abelardo Mendoza, IPM and a group of masons led by VW Augusto Alvarez, PDGL, interim president of Iskong Mason – an organization of Freemasons with affiliation with the University of the Philippines. Unfortunately, MW Romeo S. Momo, then Grandmaster of Masons was out of the country and the event having been scheduled at 10:00 am on a workday,

most officers of the Grand Lodge asked to be excused and sent their regrets. The bust sculpture of the Past Grand Master was sculpted by Professors Emmanuel Sicat and Paul Quiano of the UP College of Fine Arts. It is situated at the newly restored Palma Hill – where students can study, congregate, and appreciate nature. The pedestal and overall construction of the concrete landmark was made by Iskoyang WB Bagz delos Santos of Capitol Masonic Lodge 174 while the commemorative marker plates were donated by Iskoyang VW Harold Santiago of Pampanga Masonic Lodge 48.

Recalling his keynote speech during the event, MW Reynato S. Puno mentioned a masonic trivia, that there are four (4) other major buildings in UP Diliman situated around the academic oval which are named after notable Masons, namely: 1) College of Law Building (Malcolm Hall); named after Bro Justice George Arthur Malcolm. 2) College of Business Administration Building (Virata Hall); named after Bro Cesar A. Virata. 3) College of Music Building (Abelardo Hall); named after Bro. Nicanor Abelardo; and 4) The UP Administration Building (Quezon Hall); named after MW Manuel L. Quezon, PGM

The Palma Bust Project was made possible through the benevolent hearts of the brethren of Rafael Palma Lodge 147 and the Iskong Mason. The Rafael Palma sculpture becomes a historic landmark for Masons - it being the first and (so far) only masonically-inspired contribution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines to the country’s premiere educational institution – the University of the Philippines.

In April 2020 due to the Corona Virus pandemic, Palma Hall served as a quarantine area with classrooms and lobbies converted into isolation rooms for suspected and probable COVID-19 cases. We visited UP last February 2021 in an attempt to take pictures of the Palma Bust 2 years since its unveiling, but the UP Administration, being cautious of the present situation, forbid activities around the academic oval, more so allow entry inside the Hall. The challenge now is for the brethren to visit this landmark and discover the subtle masonic signs and symbols incorporated with the marker.

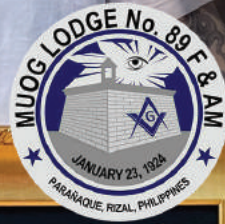
I see..."said the vampire thoughtfully, and slowly he walked across the room towards the window. For a long time, he stood there against the dim light from Divisadero Street and the passing beams of traffic. The boy could see the furnishings of the room more clearly now...

Oops, wrong article... The above is the opening paragraph for Anne Rice's INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE. It is in NO WAY connected with TCT subject assigned to us by our EIC. But we did have a cool chat with a brother for this edition of the Cable Tow. Let us call it

INTERVIEW WITH AN ARTIST

By WB Raymond Wong, IPM (323)

TCT Head News Correspondent



TCT-HNC: Kindly introduce yourself to the Brethren Brother Sir...

Brother Artist: I am Kuyang John Paul R. Vallega. Raised in Muog Lodge No. 89 on August 16, 2014. The Brethren call me Bro JP. I am a fulltime artist. Engaged in Painting and Tattooing.

TCT-HNC: How does your chosen craft blend with Masonry?

Brother Artist Our work as a “traveling” tattoo artist - going to different countries to work, has allowed us to attend meetings and join various masonic activities in those countries that we go to. This for me, is one of the most exciting part of being a Mason. My journeys not only introduce me to Brothers of different nationalities but made me witness degree works and rituals from different jurisdictions as well.

TCT-HNC: Wow that is indeed remarkable. What are some of these lodges and jurisdictions?

Brother Artist: We have gained admission to 2 Australian Lodges – Lodge Lake MacQuarie No. 243 and Lodge Morisset No. 441. Both are under the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & the Australian Capital Territory. I was also able to attend the “Flight of the Winding Stairs” of Lodge Lake Macquarie No. 243 & Elysian Lodge 418. One of our paintings were presented in Lodge Singapore No. 7178 (UGLE) during their Past Master’s Night and EAM Conferral. The Lodge although based in Singapore is under the United Grand Lodge of England. It was Bro. Li Zhiyu (aka Kuyang Pres in Muog Lodge No. 89 GLP & Horsburgh Lodge No. 7533 UGLE) who made it happen. I was an attendee of the 61st ANCOM of the Grand Lodge of Japan back in 2018. We were also present at the Installation of Officers of Kintai Lodge No. 16 and the Stated Meetings of Sagamihara Lodge No 13 and Yokosuka Lodge No. 20 in Tokyo. Our GLP Brethren in Rising Sun Lodge No. 151 (GLP) also gave us a warm welcome.

TCT-HNC: Were you always a full-time Artist from the beginning?

Brother Artist: Back in 2003 I was a Bank Employee of JPMorgan Chase Bank at BGC in Taguig assigned in Fraud Prevention. Between 2003 to 2005, I applied as a tattoo artist in several shops in Metro Manila - scouring NCR from Alabang to Quezon City. I got rejected multiple times. May mga instances pa na may kasamang lait. It was an eye-opener. I had no one to motivate myself but me. Finally, after months of searching, I found a start-up tattoo studio in shopping Mall in Monumento, Caloocan who was willing to take me in. It was my first time to work in a “tattoo shop setting”. I worked there during Weekends while keeping my regular job on weekdays. It was not easy going to Monumento from my Las Pinas residence. I took 4 kinds of public transport - tri-cycle, jeepney, LRT, and UV Express. I can still remember the feeling, ang dami kong bitbit na gamit pero ang saya-saya ko noon kahit malayo ang biyahe. (laughs)

TCT-HNC: So, it was more about the experience pala. What happened to your day job?

Brother Artist: Soon I did multiple jobs. Working at the bank during the day, while moonlighting as an artist sa gabi. I worked in several tattoo shops in Metro Manila, doing painting/portrait works on the side. My Weeknights and Weekends were all spent on Art. When I became busier in doing tattoos and paintings than my day job, I decided

to quit the bank and go full-time as an artist.

TCT-HNC: Grabe ang tiyaga mo Kuya at ang lakas ng loob mo!

Brother Artist: I eventually learn to be honest with myself. Gusto ko lang po talaga maging tattoo artist. I didn’t mind the effort involved. Noong nag-uumpisa ako ang liit lang talaga ng kita pero sobrang saya ko kapag nakakapag-tattoo ako. Looking back to 2005 it was one of the best decisions that I have made in my life. I am thankful to experience those “eye-openers” and rejections, it was indeed a preparation for good things to come. The rear-view mirror is always clearer than the wind shield. Fast forward to 2018, we got my first break from a tattoo shop in Japan and the rest followed...

TCT-HNC: How did some of your paintings end up at GLP?

Brother Artist After being raised in August 2014, VW Brian Co (who was WM of Muog 89 at that time) casually asked “Bro, kaya mo mag-paint para sa Grand Lodge?” Not knowing the exact details yet, I said yes in a heartbeat. After a few minutes, when the thought of doing a painting for GLP started to sink in, I told myself “\$#!T bakit ako nag Oo?” There was personal doubt of me being worthy for the job. We have seen the paintings hanged in GLP and they are all works of art. When the Worshipful Master gave the details for the painting project. May duda pa rin sa sarili ko “kaya ko ba talaga?” I have already decided to make an excuse and back out, but WM Brian spoke first “Bro, kaya mo iyan, also sagot ng Lodge lahat ng materials...” It was as if he read my mind.

Leaning on the wisdom of the WM and the confidence given by our Muog Brethren, the project pushed through. The Art Works was a team project, everyone had a role to play from procurement of materials to presentation and their eventual installation. By December 2014, the three paintings were presented to the Grand Lodge. I am forever grateful.

TCT-HNC: What was the Inspiration behind the paintings?

Brother Artist: I was elated when told that one of the paintings must showcase our National Heroes who are Freemasons as Rizal is a personal favorite. What gave me the courage to proceed with the undertaking my family especially my children and the brethren of Muog 89 then led by WM Brian without whom, the painting project would not have been possible.

TCT-HNC: How did you end up with the portrait of Bro Doc Pagaduan?

Brother Artist: During one of the Masonic Activities at Dr. Filemon C. Aguilar (Las Pinas) Lodge No. 332, I met with WM Gio Acenas who talked about his plan of having a memorial portrait dedicated to Kuyang Dr. DJ - I acceded immediately. After everything that Kuyang Dr. DJ has done for me and for everyone whom he has helped, it was the least that I could do.

TCT-HNC: What’s the story between you and Bro DJ?

Brother Artist: I met Kuyang Dr DJ when I was “in the dark” and “destitute”. In the dark because, I was lost and hopeless. Destitute, because I was helpless. Walang wala po talaga ako ng mga panahon na iyon. January 2018, I was admitted in UPHR Hospital due to a medical condition and underwent surgeries. I was taken care of by Kuyang Dr. DJ Pagaduan who was my anesthesiologist and VW Elmer Pablo - the Head



Nurse in the Operating Room. They both did a great job.

At the operating room, I fondly remember Kuyang Dr. DJ saying “Bro, patutulugin na kita... pero wag ka magalala, magigising ka pa. Ako bahala.” Those assuring words “Ako bahala...” had a different impact in me since those where the words I often hear during my degree works. But kidding aside, napapaluha po ako sa takot ng mga panahon na iyon. And at that time, those words seem to be my best assurance. And it was.

Kuyang Dr. DJ, despite his busy schedule, would often check my condition and being my anaesthesiologist, he would make sure to ease my pain. In a true heroic form, Kuyang Dr. DJ said “bro wala kang babayaran sa TF ko, importante ngayon magpagaling ka muna.” Naluha talaga ako noon. Kaya ganoon nalang natin na mahal si Kuyang Dr. DJ. I am sure napakaraming tao ang nagmamahal sa kanya.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank every Kuyang who in one way or another helped me at that time, especially to my Mother Lodge (Muog 89) and my family. After 1 month and 3 days, I was discharged on February 23, 2018. It was my birthday.

TCT-HNC: Can you tell us now about being a Tattoo Artist.

Brother Artist It all started back in high school around 1995 doing henna tattoo then shifting to home-made tattoo machines, and eventually to the professional tattoo machines that I am using now. I have experienced different styles of tattooing, the most memorable is getting a tattoo from Apo Wang Od in Kalinga, Mt. Province. Yes po, I have been to Apo Wang Od’s village several times, a few instance with some brethren. One was during a Back-to-School Program led by VW EJ Angeles of Rising Sun Lodge 151 with the participation of several lodges from Japan, Philippines, and Italy.

We are also doing exhibits in Dutdutan since 2011. I partnered with Bro Jeromy Hunt (Nemo) a MM and a fellow tattoo artist from the U.S. last Dutdutan 2018. Then in April of 2018, I got an offer to work as a tattoo artist in Japan, next was in Australia, then Vanuatu, and a short stint in Singapore. Nagsunod-sunod na po ang work sa ibang bansa.

Looking back at the opportunities - Thank you po Great Architect.

TCT-HNC: What are some of the jargon in the world of Tattooing.

Brother Artist: Matigas, Matalas, Malambot, Patay, Buhay... all these words pertain to color and rendering. So, when someone comments on your artwork like: “Bro, ang lambot

ng gawa mo...” It is actually a compliment meaning everything blended well...

TCT-HNC: Bro as an Artist, ano ang similarities and differences ng Tattooing and Painting?

Brother Artist: Similarities of Painting and Tattooing, for me, is very minimal - Color principles/theory lang. Aside from that painting and tattooing are a totally different ball games. Sa tattoo, when mixing light colors, you need to take account of the color of the blood (red) unlike when doing painting where you take colors as it is. The canvass in painting is flat while in tattooing the skin has bumps and curves. The brush is nice and soft, while the needles are sharp. Malaking bagay ang painting as a foundation in tattooing. Most of the tattoo artist that I admire from Europe are all painters as well.

TCT-HNC: Alin ang mas matimbang sa puso mo?

Brother Artist: Naku napakahirap po sagutin iyan since both tattooing and painting complement each other - but speaking from the heart it is from being a tattoo artist gave me more happy memories.

TCT-HNC: What is the feeling before and after making an artwork – may kaibahan ba?

Brother Artist: Back then, I always pressured myself to do the type of “art” my clients like whether tattoo or painting, sunod lang ako. May satisfaction naman kapag nakita natin na na-meet ko yung expectations nila. Now, I realized, that art is indeed a form of self-expression. Kaya in the works that I do now, both in painting or tattoo, it is more of a “collaboration” between me and my client. Mas satisfying siya knowing that I had an input.

TCT-HNC: Now for plug-ins, Do you accept Art Projects? How can the Brethren contact you?

Brother Artist: Yes, Brother Sir. I accept tattoo & art projects (paintings, wall art, etc.). Interested parties can send me messages on the ff pages:

- Facebook.com/JPVtattoo
- Instagram.com/jpvartattoo
- youtube.com/JPVtattoo



TRIVIUM, QUADRIVIUM, AND THE SUMMIT OF THE WINDING STAIRCASE By Bro. Patrick Azanza (12)

Our journey as a mason is no more than a quest for Truth and Knowledge. We are all basically driven by our love for wisdom; the Philo of Sofia from which the term Philosophy has originated. As travelers in search for the Light, it was our desire and thirst for new learning that led us to knock upon the doors of Freemasonry.

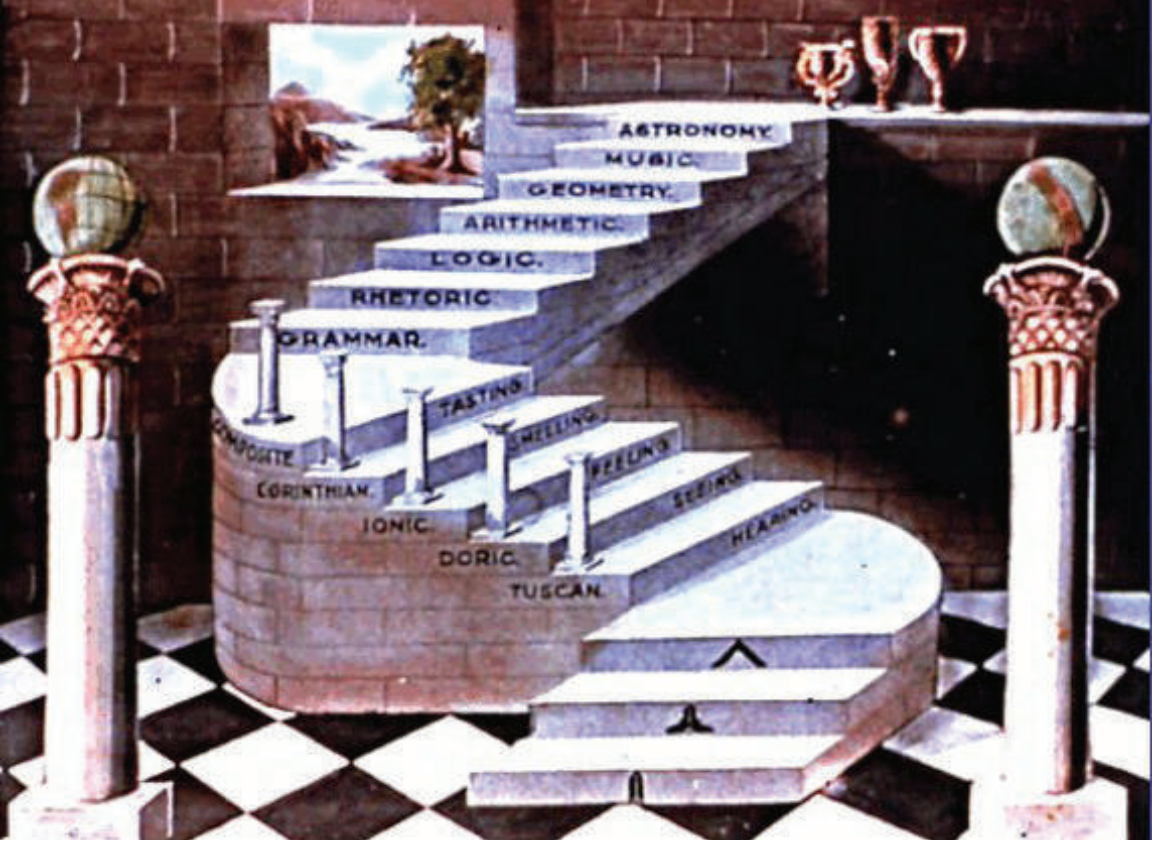
As we entered the Temple when we were made an Apprentice, we were like a masonic child being purified in preparation for a much bigger transformation. For outside the Temple are worldly thoughts while inside are the most ideal, sacred, and divine. As we moved to acquire the next higher degree of the Fellow Craft, having cleansed our hearts, and prepared our minds for illumination, like the vibrant youth that it symbolizes, we first enjoyed a masonic taste of intellectual excitement. Moving into the Sanctuary, our childhood ends and our glorious trek to manhood begins. It is at this point when we are greeted by an enchanting symbol which is the winding staircase reminiscent of the one mentioned in the Book of Kings (1 Kings 6:8), inviting us to ascend and make the first contemplative step towards Enlightenment, as if fortifying our birth as a true mason by being born into the world of masonic light. We find relief that as compared to a straight ladder which is steep and difficult to climb, the winding staircase is easier to glide and traverse.

We are expected to navigate through the steps of the winding stairs, the end of which we cannot see and can only anticipate, the total number of which is 15 which is odd; an important symbolism since the Great Pythagoras considered the odd numbers more perfect than the even counterpart. After entering the porch and passing through the pillars of strength and establishment, as we are done with the years of irrational behavioral as a child, we now commence the stage of our manly life, and face the challenges of self-improvement until we reach the pinnacle where the treasures of Knowledge await us.

We are told that the fifteen steps are grouped into three with 3, 5, and 7 steps, respectively. The first three steps are symbolic of the three officers of the lodge: the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, who are all expected to assist every aspiring mason in his courageous ascent to the summit of Knowledge and Enlightenment. But also the 3 steps represent the Deity, or the powerful triangle, which is the most ancient symbol.

The next five steps represent the five orders of architecture which comprise the classical set of rules or principles for designing buildings that give the aspirant mason ideas and choices as to how to build his spiritual and intellectual temple. The first three, the beautiful and desirable symbols from the Greeks, are the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. Added by the legacy of the Romans with their design of plain Tuscan and the ornamental Composite. These five steps also represent the five senses of the human nature: hearing, seeing, touching/feeling, smelling, and tasting.

Final to the ascent in the Middle Chamber which we hope will lead us to the summit



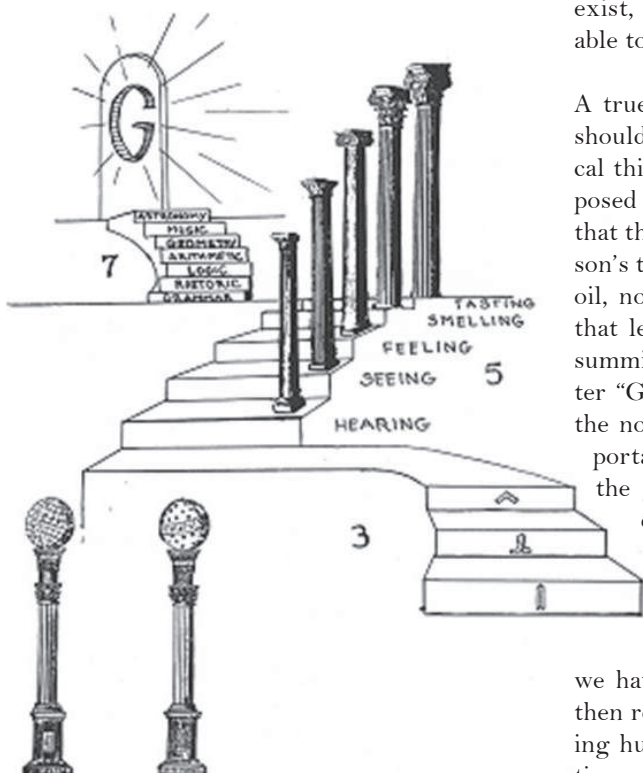
of Wisdom and the treasures of Knowledge, are the seven steps which represent the Seven Liberal Arts: the first three are known as Trivium: Grammar, Rhetoric and Logic; and the last four are called Quadrivium: Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy. We expect that our understanding of these seven arts and sciences, once fully utilized, shall illuminate our minds, and bring us to the innermost chamber or the most desired Sanctum Sanctorum, the one place where we finally expect to see the Light.

Proverbs 9:1 says, “Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.” In the same manner, these Seven Arts framed by the geniuses of Pythagoras, Plato, and St. Augustine, play very important roles in the growth of a mason’s intellect. A fellow Craft must approach these final steps of the Seven Arts using jewels of attentive ear, instructive

tongue, and faithful breast.

Grammar involves words and their meanings. It allows a mason to develop a lexicon that would enable him to effectively communicate with others. Rhetoric is the systematized study of speaking or writing to persuade others. It helps influence other people and convince them to support one’s ideas and take action when necessary. Logic allows every mason to arrive at a conclusion based on inferences and deductions from carefully gathered facts and information. It is very crucial in our search for Truth.

Arithmetic involves numbers and measurements. It allows us to count and figure out the dimensions and quantities that are important in reckoning with our daily activities in life, as well as in building or forming structures through standard mathematical equations. Geometry is the



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/F5Qn1N7EgXqjXBc9>

foundation of architecture. It deals with the properties of space, distance, shape, size, figures, and positions. It is very important to speculative masons. The basic tools of geometry which operative masons use are the plumb, square, and level. They are used in speculative masonry to teach truthfulness, rectitude of conduct, and the right behavior. Music is the artistic organization of sounds to convey a message. It allows man to enjoy the harmonious tone and melody as well as enables him to set the emotional mood of his environment. Astronomy is the study of the sun, moon, stars, planets comets, galaxies, and celestial bodies. It provides the mason with a perspective of himself in relation to the vast cosmic reality created by a Supreme Being in which he is but a speck or a small dot, so insignificant

as compared to the many other forms that exist, yet so important that he should be able to find the reason for his existence.

A true understanding of the Seven Arts should allow freemasons to develop critical thinking. After all, these arts are supposed to allow us to gain enlightenment that the true wages of the speculative mason's toil and labor are neither corn, wine, oil, nor money but universal knowledge, that leads us to the Truth. There at the summit of the winding staircase is a letter "G", a symbol of Geometry which is the noblest of all sciences; but most importantly, that "G" also represents God, the greatest source of knowledge and enlightenment.

Thus, as we move further and achieve the degree of the master mason, a stage where hopefully we have gained intellectual maturity, we then realize that the perfection of our being human can only be achieved through time and patience. We learn that Truth is Divine. And that it is symbolized by the Word which can only be obtained through a substitute, one that only our deepest understanding of the will and commandments of the Great Architect of the Universe (GAOTU) can reveal to us. The symbols and allegory, the philosophical learning we had throughout our masonic journey symbolized by the winding staircase, the myth, and the mystic ties - all these have their own value as they are finally pieced together to present a beautiful meaning and understanding of what life is all about. Our quest for Truth leads us to the ultimate summit which is the realization that we can only take possession and gain our true wages when our temporal bodies give way and when our spirit take that final step towards the Celestial Lodge where the GAOTU awaits to grant our greatest reward through Eternity.

Lodge Secretarial

by VV Anthony Tan, PDGL



Series 06 of 06

An Organization for Lodge Secretaries

The Guild of Lodge Secretaries (GLS) was created to enable and assist its members to be better in the performance of their duties and responsibilities through the efficient dissemination of information.

On the 15th of September in the Year of our Lord 2018 @9:00 in the morning, the following brethren met agreeably at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, Grand Lodge of the Philippines to formalize the organization of the Guild of Lodge Secretaries:

Interim President	VV Gil Bangquirig Mendoza, PDGL (29)
Interim Vice-President	VV Samson Go Ching, PDGL (152)
Interim Secretary	VV Anthony Tan, PDGL (96)
Interim Treasurer	WB Johnson Ho Yu, PM (93)
Interim Auditor	Bro. Jose Jekeri P. Taningco (418)

The Interim Officers made a courtesy call of to the Grand Secretary, MW Danilo Angeles, PGM on February 14, 2019. The 1st GLS Annual General Membership Meeting was held on April 26, 2019 at Cagayan De Oro City, hosted by GLS 2DBUT1 Chapter c/o VV Eli A. Olifernes of Maguindanao Lodge No. 40. The next GLS Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting set in Olongapo City in 2020 did not push through due to the cancellation of the 104th Annual Communication resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to prevailing health concerns, this year's GLS AGM has also been cancelled.

Currently, the Guild Lodge Secretaries interact

online through its Facebook Group of the same name and is 550 members strong. Its Facebook Messenger has around 600 members from its 3 messenger chat groups combined. It also has a Viber group with 260 members as well as Telegram App with 170 members.

These online social media platforms created for the benefit of Lodge Secretaries across our Jurisdiction has proven to be essential in disseminating Grand Lodge Communications and in addressing inquiries among its members.

Although not a mandatory group for Lodge Officers, the GLS has steadily grown as more Lodge Secretaries became more aware of the existence of the Guild. It continues to "tyled," screened, and exclusively for those coming well recommended.

It is registered in the Securities & Exchange Commission as a non-stock, non-profit organization. and recently accredited by MW Agapito S. Suan Jr. as a recognized Masonic Organization.

In the three years of its existence, the Guild witnessed the many challenges and difficulties that a Lodge Secretary faces, especially those newly elected to the office. Without proper guidance, rookie Secretaries might not be able to perform their duties and responsibilities well enough to the best of their abilities.

To help the Lodge Secretaries further, a special Masonic App was developed by Brother Secretary John Paul Narisma of Shangri-la Masonic





Lodge No. 196 called Lodge Secretary_E-Tools. The Electronic-Tools App is the Guild's first technical project. It is a compendium of Lodge Tools, Templates, Books, References, and other useful guidelines for the perusal of our Lodge Secretaries. It was launched by our Grand Master during the final "Third Wednesday in the West" Webinar Series of our Senior Grand Lecturer, VW Teodoro Kalaw IV last April 14, 2021.

Excerpt from the Speech of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.

"Tonight, I am proud to announce another addition to our technological advancements. If you would remember, for the past several months, we have introduced the Cable Tow Reader mobile app, also called TCT Reader, enabling us to view past and present editions of our publication. The current Cable Tow issue itself – now available for viewing – is itself a testament of the Grand Lodge's commitment to advance our organization into adapting to today's technologies. This current webinar series is in fact one of those technological adoptions.

If you would remember also, we have installed our own ATM machine in the Grand Lodge building, and many of its halls are now refurbished and improved, including the Jose Abad Santos Hall itself, which is now more grand and more high-tech than it ever was. We have utilized GCash system for many of our transactions, making life easier for lodges. We have assigned all lodges their own respective and standard email addresses for better and more efficient communication.

Now, our most recent addition to our technological advancement is the release of what we call the Lodge Secretary E-Tools – an all-in-one mobile app to help lodge secretaries in their work. It will be equipped with a database for Masonic Roll Book; a repository of current and past Grand Lodge communications; templates for lodge meetings, such as agenda, minutes, forms, letters, dispensations, resolutions, etc. This E-tools is set to be sent via the GLP Assigned Email Address before ANCOM 2021 and was made possible by the Guild of Lodge Secretaries. It is the brainchild of VW Anthony Tan of Isagani Masonic Lodge No. 96, assisted by

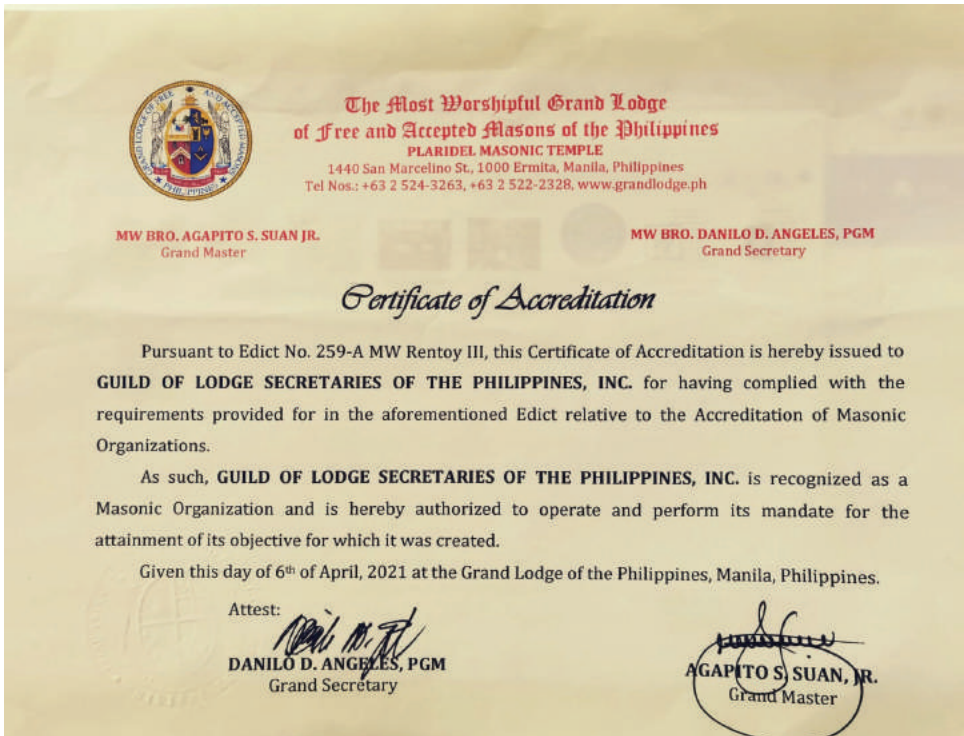
Bro. John Paul Narisma of Shangri-La Lodge No. 196 – the same developer of other Grand Lodge apps like the TCT Reader, the GLProceedings, and the Ancom Digital Kit (GladKit). Thank you, Bro. Narisma, VW Tan, and the Guild of Lodge Secretaries for your contribution to Masonry. It is hoped that this new addition to our growing list of technological advancements will benefit our Grand jurisdiction for many years to come.

That having said, I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve you as Grand Master for two consecutive years, making all these advancements possible. But let us not forget that technology is here to help us make life easier for all of us – especially during this time of the pandemic. It is not meant to replace our age-old customs that have stood the tests of time in allowing us to make good men better. Despite these advancements, Freemasonry still retains much of what is good about the past – those on ethics, those on morality, on those on charity. These are the unchanging pillars by which our institution has survived this much, this long.”

It is projected that this App, considered the latest addition to the technological advancement of the Grand Lodge, would act as an all-in-one mobile application to help Lodge Secretaries in their work. It is also hoped that it will greatly benefit our Grand jurisdiction for many years to come.

I’m fraternally inviting all Incumbent and Past Lodge Secretaries to join the Guild of Lodge Secretaries. Please message me through my Facebook Messenger or Viber/Telegram at 0917-7712966.

This Article Concludes our Tour of Duty for Vol. 97. My Utmost Gratitude to our Grand Scribe for the 97th tome of the Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted masons of the Philippines - VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago for giving me the opportunity to write Lodge Secretarial 101 Series. I am humbled to be included in your Editorial Team as Circulation Manager. It is truly an honor and pleasure on my part to be of service to the Grand Lodge and to the Brethren.





LOOKING AT LUZON

R-III Bulacan Masons plant Environmental Legacy for GLP

By VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago,
Grand Scribe

In support of the Philippine Government's National Greening Program, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines entered into an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), and Briquettor Association of the Phils. – a non-government organization (NGO) for a coordinated and effective tree-planting activity of denuded forestlands.

In a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed on October 29, 2019 between the three parties, DENR entrusted GLP with 106 hectares of the IPO Dam Forest Reserve at Brgy. San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan under its protection and maintenance to be assisted by the Briquettor Association. It will be the site of future masonic tree-planting projects for years to come.

Project inception started from a caucus meeting by the District Officers of the Masonic District R-III Bulacan back in May 2019, as they plan out their district activities for Masonic Year 2019 – 2020 under the term of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. The suggestion came from VW Isagani M. Navalta, one of the District Grand Lecturers and a lead forester in Ipo Watershed, Brgy. San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan. On May 27, VW Elmer Vitug, District Deputy Grand Master led other Bulacan District Officers in a courtesy visit to the Grand Master to present the idea which captured the interest of MW Suan as the project can be national in scope.

On July 27, 2019 – the Masonic District of Bulacan conducted a Tree-Planting Activity in the proposed site. The Grand Master came, together with some 300 brethren and family members from different lodges in the Masonic Districts of Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Nue-



va Ecija, Bataan, and the National Capital Region. Around 500 seedlings of cacao, coffee, and narra were planted at the different sites of the designated area in IPO Dam. The idea sparked other tree planting initiatives in other Masonic Districts particularly in the area of Rizal.

Masonic District RIII Bulacan have undergone changes since with the issuance of Edict No. 327 on December 6, 2019 – Creating new Masonic Districts. The decree divided Bulacan into two districts namely Bulacan East and Bulacan West. Per Circular No. 21 issued 10 days later, VW Navalta was deputized to represent the Grand Master for the former with VW Vitug retaining leadership of the latter.

The MoA has long been circulated by the GLP under Circular 31 of MW Suan on February 21, 2020. Then came the Corona Virus Pandemic which led to the suspension of Masonic Activities and the extension of the term of MW Suan and his Grand Lodge appointees.

On January 30, 2021 – a masonic marker was unveiled at IPO Dam, in Norzagaray, Bulacan in commemoration of the Memorandum of Agreement. Leading the occasion was Grand Master Agapito S. Suan, Jr. who was assisted by his Bulacan Deputies – VW Elmer Vitug (Bulacan West) and VW Isagani Navalta (Bulacan

East). Also present were the Grand Master's retinue composed of VW Lini Hernando, Senior Grand Steward; VW Diosdado Melegrito, Junior Grand Steward; VR Joel Porlares, Grand Chaplain; and the Worshipful Masters of the different Bulacan Lodges; and other Brethren. The marker was installed in a masonic structure designed by Bro. Homer Cruz of Manuel Roxas 152)

"The massive area can be used by different Masonic Organizations for their Tree-Planting Activities for several years" Pitched VW Vitug. "Instead of sporadic tree-planting in scattered areas, the Brethren can concentrate their efforts in a specific area that can lead to significant results." He added. As a bonus, shallow waters abound where eco-tourists can wash off their weariness after planting for Mother Nature. Refreshments can be brought along and enjoyed in the shades of trees.

According to VW Navalta, the area is ideal for the planting of coffee, madre cacao, and narra trees – all of which can be provided by the DENR. The Briquettor Association will assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the area through the help of the local communities. It will be the responsibility of the masons of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, to conduct continuous Tree-Planting activities as well as

the distribution food and charity provisions for the locals as an incentive to their participation in the long-term project.

Incidentally, Angat Lodge, UD is the nearest lodge in the area. Instituted on November 27, 2020 – it is hoped that the said lodge shall be the overseer of GLP's Environmental Legacy on this part of the Archipelago.

After the activity, the Grand Master and Brethren proceeded to Guiguinto, Bulacan where another Masonic Marker was unveiled, this time by Bulacan Lodge No. 400 led by their Worshipful Master Brigham Paul del Socorro. Located on a forked road in Brgy. Malis, the landmark symbolizes the presence of Freemasonry in the town of Guiguinto following the constitution of Bulacan Lodge as the 400th subordinate of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines on June 2, 2012.

Next in the itinerary was a visit at the Rider's Farm in San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan owned by Brother Deng Francisco of San Jose del Monte 357. For lunch and fellowship, the party then proceeded to Rosbellos Restobar in Brgy. Tigbe, Norzagaray. As a safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and proper health protocols were observed throughout these events.





LOOKING AT LUZON

AGRIBIZ MASONS: Working to ensure food production - from farm to fork

By VW Mano Villarica, DVM (374)

Merriam Webster defines Agribusiness as an industry engaged in the production operation of a farm, the manufacture and distribution of farm equipment and supplies, and the processing, storage, and distribution of farm commodities.

More than a decade ago – back in 2011, the late MW Oscar Bunyi, PGM called on several brethren from various industries in the agribusiness world to meet and form a group with simple objectives:

- Strengthening nationwide ties even among competitors,
- Reach out the Brethren & DeMolays in finding jobs as well as meet key brethren customers,
- and Assist distressed brethren and their families as needed.

It was not very difficult to have brethren sign up to become members, as there were so many in the animal health and nutrition industry - livestock & poultry farm owners & contract growers, proprietors and sales personnel of veterinary companies, veterinary consultants, and nutritionists. Over time, many others in the agribusiness industry and allied industries became members - importers of live animals, horticulture farmers, government, agricultural financing, and a few politicians working on agricultural committees or farmers themselves.

The task to lead and draw a plan for the group fell upon the first set of officers with MW OB at the helm, assisted by Bros Mano Villarica, Manny Dayacap, Anwar Cheng, Tito Corona-



tion and Jay Reyes. Around 50 members formed part of the initial membership. They coming from all over the country.

AGRIBIZ TRAVELLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.", shortened Agribiz Masons, was immediately registered with the SEC. A visit to the Office of the Grand Master was arranged by MW OB. Meetings with golf games and festive fellowships were held in various parts of the country, hosted by Agribiz Masons - Bulacan, Lipa, General Santos City, Davao, Tarlac, Cagayan de Oro.

During meetings, everyone shared highlights on the industry, ideas and forms of assistance were shared. There were issues on farm gate prices, ingredients and other inputs, government regulations, importations of meat or other products, international and local conventions, schedules of product launchings, sharing of products leaflets, competitive information, financing requirements for new farms, movement of personnel; there were just too many things that gave everyone something to pick up to assist him in any way.

Over the first few years, the membership had tripled in number, and regional fellowships became a normal activity. Meetings in the NCR were held quarterly and culminated with a Christmas Party, with Vis-Min brethren attending as many companies had December meetings in NCR. On several occasions, foreign guests of members were invited to the meetings, and shared a lot of useful information. The long term plan of having a Scholarship Program for the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) was implemented on the 3rd year of existence. In 2014, Agribiz Mason was able to sponsor 2 students on their 3rd & 4th year in the DVM course, both finishing with excellent credentials. Agribiz Mason was recognized by

the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs of the UPLB.

The scholarship program covered all expenses - tuition, books, housing, allowances, and other essentials to the course. Agribiz Mason raised the needed money with its annual golf tournaments, with sponsorships from its members as well as from solicitations.

The next 2 years were challenging for Agribiz Mason. Too many issues in the industry occupied everyone's minds, but it was business growths and expansions of farms that kept many members in their areas. The horrendous traffic situation did not help either, with members avoiding NCR; and we were entering towards the coming national elections in 2016. Meetings were held to a minimum and members got back to fellowships in their areas. And, during these times, there were just too many local and international conventions that everyone had to spend for and attend.

In one of the important meetings in 2017 at an International Convention held here, VW Chester Tan was elected to lead Agribiz Mason in the coming years. Bro Chester is a hog raiser, with farms in North Luzon and in Mindanao. And, more importantly, Bro Chester had a very good relationship among the younger generations of Agribiz Masons, in almost all sectors.

Immediately upon assuming the leadership role, VW Chester Tan distributed wheelchairs to various areas of the country where Agribiz Masons care for persons with disabilities, especially children. Bro Chester had a clear statement to the group: let us continue to strengthen our relationships even as competitors, share information we find suitable in our Viber thread, have fellowships when we can schedule such, continue to assist any Agribiz Mason in distress. And although there are no more golf tournaments or regional travels at this time, Bro Chester has a tougher time devoting much of his time in representing Agribiz Mason in various hog associations where he is Chairman, meeting with government offices to discuss policies and matters affecting the industry and supporting various cause oriented groups to benefit consumers.

The year 2019 started what would be the toughest challenge for the animal health & nutrition sector, when the African Swine Fever (ASF) started to manifest in certain areas. The "perfect storm" in 2020 had the current COVID-19 Pandemic, while ASF was ravaging many parts of the Philippines.

And during these most difficult times, Bro Chester has kept in touch with the Agribiz Mason, soliciting their support to assist the hog raising industry fight ASF. The entire Agribiz Mason, up to now, has kept up the support, as our hog industry occupies a very significant share in all our businesses. Bro Chester, for his part, has stepped up on his advocacy, presenting to and debating with the government, especially the Department of Agriculture, in the current issues affecting our agribusiness industry - COVID-19, ASF, and the importation of frozen meat. In all these, the Agribiz Mason will be there to keep the support.

Agribiz Mason will continue to be a driving force in the development of the agribusiness industry. The current officers of AGRIBIZ Travelers Association Inc. are the following:

- President - VW Chester Warren Yeo Tan
- Vice President-Internal - VW Gerard Ceballos
- Vice President-External - VW Giovanni Tan
- Secretary - VW Elmer Vitug
- Treasurer - WB Jun Abena, DVM
- Asst. Treasurer - Bro. Jayson Esguerra
- Auditors - VW Mano Villarica, DVM
- VW Eulalio "Ayong" Lorenzo, DVM
- Sgt. at Arms - Bro. Nico Mariano
- PRO/Admin Moderator - VW Anthony Tan
- Adviser - MW Juanito G. Espino Jr., PGM
- Legal Officer - VW Atty. Kenneth Yambao
- Rep. Gov't Affairs - VW Usec Ariel Cayanran

AGRIBIZ Masons observe their Group Motto to the letter: **FELLOWSHIP - BUSINESS - SERVICE. THE BONDS OF BUSINESS SHALL BE STRONGEST AMONG BRETHREN.**





LOOKING AT LUZON

Cable Tows Extended to Catanduanons, Brethren of CIML 291 Much Grateful By Bro. Angel Albert F. Lamban (291)

The Island Province of Province of Catanduanes also known as the Land of the Howling Winds faced off with five (5) typhoons, Quinta, Rolly, Siony, Tonyo, and Ulysses from October to November 2020, resulting to severe devastation of the Happy Island.

A concerned past Grand Master, MW Santiago T. Gabionza - a dual member of CIML 291 and a native of Bato, Catanduanes, together with VW Michael G. Co - Deputy District Grand Master of MD RV(A) reached out to Past Master Nestor M. Curativo of Catanduanes Island Masonic Lodge No. 291 to know their condition. MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. having been informed of their plight immediately provided 20,000 php cash assistance to each of the 18 Lodge Brethren (360,000 php) stricken by the calamities.

Thanks to VW Diosdado Melegrito and VW Ariel T. Cayanan, Catanduanes Governor - VW Joseph C. Cua, received 100 sacks of rice and thousands of face shields for his Island constituents. VW Rudy Ong, also a native of Bato, Catanduanes sought support from Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 to extend their cable tow to their Catanduanes Brethren. In response, the Dagupan-based lodge sent out a check amounting to Php 90,000 in February 2021.

The Grand Master intensified his efforts in asking for aid & assistance from different lodges. Bro. Billy Villamor, a native of Panganiban, Catanduanes, and a member of Pinagsabitan Lodge No. 28 asked the following Lodges: Alaminos Lodge No. 428, Malinaw Lodge No. 25, Unity

Lodge No. 285, Sierra Madre Lodge No. 181, and Cabuyao City Lodge No. 442, and Order of the Eastern Star. They provided a generator for each brother of CIML 291 and a water purifier. Several Lodges and Organizations responded as well. Sogod Bay 337, Dr. Jose P. Laurel 325, Cupang 295, Isarog 33, Julian Ocampo 146, Mayon 61, Bulusan 38, Ma-Bu-Ti 329, Tabak 436, Masaraga Lodge UD, Traveller's Tambayan International, NASWI _BAYOTS, Sorogon Bodies and Central Bicol Bodies provided relief goods, construction materials for housing, medicines, used clothes, blankets, mosquito nets. Through the leadership of WM Aristotle V. Ramos, the brethren of CIML 291 distributed this relief items to their fellow Catanduanons. Truly, the help provided respite and gave hope to the people of Catanduanes as they begin the long and arduous task of rebuilding their homes.

"In these challenging times, the strong gesture of support and commiseration to the brethren of CIML 291 and the Catanduanons will always be remembered." A grateful WM Ramos said. "Such masonic wages received from our brothers are much appreciated. Truly, the Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are evidently alive as seen in the hands of the brethren that are ready to help their fellow brothers in distress...." He added.

Indeed, we the brethren of Catanduanes Island Masonic Lodge No.291 express our heartfelt gratitude to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, MW Jun Suan, and all brethren whithersoever dispersed.





LOOKING AT LUZON

NO Brakes !

By VW Virgilio S. Coronado, Jr.,
PDDGM (249)

This story happened 10 years ago. Grateful as I am to the assistance given me by our Brethren a Decade ago, I am now grateful to the Cable Tow Team for allowing me to share my experience in their pages. May this Truth inspire more Brotherly Love and Relief whithersoever dispersed. I had been in touch with Bro. Jefferson Uy for some time through the Masons yahoo group, SunBro and lately though Facebook, but we have never actually met. As I frequently pass Gumaca during my (almost) monthly visits to Naga City, he suggested that we meet in one of my trips. Since Gumaca is actually the halfway point between Manila and Naga, it was not difficult developing the habit of making Lita's Restaurant our regular stop. The resto offers inexpensive but sumptuous seafood that can give their Manila counterparts a run for their money. But that is another story.

On April 2, 2011, while on my way to Naga, I got in touch with Bro Jefferson. We met at the town proper before proceeding to their Lodge - Balintawak No. 28. There he gave me a tour of the Masonic Temple. As it was a first Saturday, and their Stated Meeting about to start in an hour, our meeting was brief. It always feels good to meet Brethren whithersoever dispersed. I then proceeded to Naga City for a surprise visit to my mom who celebrated her 76th birthday on this day. Nobody ever thought that three days later, the Brethren from the sad Lodge will unselfishly respond to a distress call from a brother.

April 5, 2011 was an unforgettable day in my life. I was now on my way back to Manila. Leaving Naga at around 3:00 in the afternoon, I clocked my travel to avoid the inbound traffic of out-of-town-weekenders along the South Luzon Expressway.

Upon reaching the town of Del Gallego along the Andaya Highway in Camarines Sur, I noticed a slight thud on the front wheel



of my Innova, causing it to swerve a bit. It prompted me to stop by the road shoulder to check the tires. Finding them to be okay I continued with my trip hoping everything will be okay, at least until the next gas service station in Tagkawayan, Quezon. Seeing a tricycle turning to the highway a few meters ahead, I stepped on the brakes to slow down, only to realize that, whoa! I had no more brakes!

Though a bit worried, I remained cool and alert not wanting to cause panic to my two passengers. Maintaining a comfortable speed and applying engine brakes whenever I needed to slow down on road curves or when there were slow vehicles in front of me. Things went on rather smoothly and I felt some relief after finally crossing the boundary of Camarines Sur and Quezon. Around 6:00 pm I stopped at the first respectable-looking shop offering roadside mechanical services. My suspicions were confirmed when the mechanic showed me the busted brake pads, a part of which chipped off causing the thud on the front wheels earlier. The diagnostics having been done, the next problem facing us then was where to get the needed parts as there were no available parts in the area.

Instinctively, I called up Bro. Jefferson Uy who is based in Gumaca, Quezon, and inquired whether we had any brother within the

RetroPop



area. After listening to my problem, he immediately mobilized some brethren to search for the part, literally begging a shop owner to open his store just to provide the brake pads. It was a good thing that the shop owner was a neighbor of a Brother Mason. Kuyang Jefferson and his group composed of Bros. Kin Sherwin Agawin, Antonio Gallegos, and Jorell Tan wasted no time and made the 80-kilometer trip to Tagkawayan just to bring the needed parts. For my peace of mind, the brethren assured me that they were on their way and will be arriving in an hour or so.

The group arrived in Tagkawayan at around 9:30 pm bringing four different types of brake pads for Toyota cars! The mechanic immediately installed the appropriate type on my vehicle's front wheels and had me test-drive the car. All along, the responding Brethren never left us. They even offered some cash just in case we might need it. Having checked that I still had enough budget for the repair and for the rest of my trip, I humbly declined but nevertheless thanked the Brethren for their kind offer. It was only after the car repair was completely done that they started their way back to Gumaca.

As we resumed our trip, I texted Bro. Jefferson: "I can't fully express my deepest gratitude for the fraternal relief you have extended to us, Brethren. Maraming Salamat mga Kuyang. Mabuhay ang Masonrya!" To which he replied: "No prob Kuyang. Just abiding by our OB. Dito lang kami sa unahan ninyo, mabagal

lang ang takbo para nakaalalay pa rin."

We arrived in Manila at around 6:00 in the morning, tired but safe. Thanks to the Brethren of Balintawak Lodge No. 28 for extending their cable tow to a brother in distress. Their unselfish and unconditional response all the more strengthened my faith in Freemasonry as a Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God.

Fast forward to November 12, 2015 - Our band, the RETROPOP Band was contracted to provide entertainment at the Convention of the Southern Tagalog Association of Water Districts at the Manila Diamond Hotel Ballroom. During our break in between sets, WB Jefferson Uy approached me. Apparently, he was a Board Member of the Quezon Water District. That was just our third meeting. We exchanged fraternal pleasantries and recalled the circumstances of our previous meetings. Indeed, what a joy and pleasure it is to meet with Brother Masons, withersoever dispersed.

About the Author:

VW Virgilio "Junjie" Coronado, Jr. was raised in Halcon Lodge No. 249. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District R-IV Mindoro (formerly MD No. 52 in 2002). He worked as a rural banker for 30 years and is a BSP-accredited lecturer on Corporate Governance. He has now returned to his first love - singing, as lead vocalist of the In-Transit Band (2004-2009) and the RetroPop Band which he formed in 2009. The RetroPop Band specializes in retro and ballroom music and has been doing the rounds providing entertainment in various Casino Filipino branches until 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic struck.



Pamagpuge king Bandera

A Kapampangan Version of the Pagpupugay sa Watawat

By Koyang Dandin Gatus (48)

On PATRIOTISM

Master Masons, pay tribute to the Philippine flag every 28th of May and 12th of June at some historical places all over the country. It is a great day to show our love for our country and reminisce the heroism of our brothers as we pay our respects to our National Flag. During the celebration, a brother would proudly deliver the Salute to the Flag (Pagpupugay sa Watawat) with utmost sincerity and passion that entails the meaning and importance of our beloved flag, as it showcases the details on how it was crafted. We learned that it is the symbol of our national freedom, the landmark of our national patrimony and the living icon of our birthright. The three stars represent the three major island groups of our country. The sun is an emblem of eternal life of the nation and a symbol of the perpetual light that guards the destiny of our race. Its eight rays represent the first eight constituent provinces. The white triangle tells our Masonic Trinity of Faith, Hope and Charity. The blue field denotes our patriotism, and the red stripe proclaims our indomitable energy with which we draw from our tropical skies. As a whole, the sun, the triangle and the three stars that make our flag are Masonic symbols that is the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God and as our forefathers have dreamt of, may it float forever over the land of happy people.

On TRANSLATION

One fine day VW Ernesto Dumas, PDDGM of Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48, an advocate and avid listener of Kapampangan Poetry (PU-

LOSA), thought of having a Kapampangan version of the Salute to the Flag (Pagpupugay sa Watawat). Intending its use during the celebration of our National Flag Day, he sought the help of a kapampangan poet in the person of Poet Laureate Romeo S. Rodriguez of Del Carmen, San Fernando, Pampanga. Being proficient in the native tongue of Pampanga, the latter accepted the request and translated the Pagpupugay sa Watawat to Kapampangan with the title "Pamagpuge king Bandera". He translated the piece at his residence at Comembo, Makati City. With his mastery of the dialect, he finished the whole translation in just one day - October 18, 2014 and immediately sent it through e-mail to VW Dumas. It is now in the archive of the Tourism Office of San Fernando, Pampanga under the stewardship of Ms. Ching Pangilinan who is also a Kapampangan Poetry advocate.

REQUEST for APPROVAL

Presently, the brethren of PML 48 spearheaded by our Worshipful Master Nelson Nucup aims to seek the Grand Lodge's Approval in declaring the said Kapampangan version as one of its official translation. Intended to be used in any occasion in Pampanga requiring a performance in giving our beloved flag the respect it deserves.

INSPIRATION

Now that our Kapampangan version of the Salute to the Flag has been released, we hope this will inspire our brethren all over the country to make the same translation of this piece in their native dialect:

PAMAGPUGE KING BANDERA

(Yampang miya para king Aldo ning Bandera)
Ing bandera a miladlad king kekong arapan ya ing bandera ning kekatamung bansa, ing bansang Pilipinas. Kakatawan ya iti king metung a balayang misasanmetung a king balang kalamnan, atin yang angkup a tabas ning kabuuan; metung a pang-heograpikung sakup da ring labuad a alang kabawasan: Metung a Republika, demokratiku, timarwa at magsarili.

Iti yang sagisag ning pambansang katimawan, a mialalarawan king egana-eganang makayamyuyut

at dadakilan king bie ning Pilipinu. Inalkus ning matipung gamat ning panaun, dininan nang bie ning metung a malugud king katimawan ding memalen at teiran ning mapagpalang dirwa king lukuhan ding bansa.

Meging parati yang palatandanan iti ning kekatamung menan at mabibie sagisag ning kekatamung karapatan iniang mibait tamu. Ing kaladwa niti mabie ya anggang king sepung ning panaun at ding kayang mataluktuk a kapagnasan mapupus lamu ustung ding bansa at ding lahi malumparwi nong ganap.

Ing aldo mangabaldugan yang alang anggang bie ning kekatamung bansa at sagisag ning parating sala a mamatnube king kapalaran ning kekatamung lahi.

Ding walung aslag kakatarwan la karing mumunang lalawigang miyabe-yabe. Tutulduan ding athung batwin ding athung mangaragul a lugal - Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao - a inampang na kekatamu ning Kalikasan agpang king pilubluban ning Mayupayang Ginu.

Ing maputing trayanggulu mangabaldugan ya king kekatamung mapayapa at malambis a kapagnasan makanyan mu rin ning katapatan at kawagasan ning kekatamung kararaptanan, ding athung tuntunan ning Masonerya, lugud-kapatad, pamanyaup at katutwan, at ding banal a panuntunan ning pamanalig, pag-asa at lugud.

Ing asul a kalawakan magpakilala ya king kekatamung lugud king Indung Balayan, at ing mataluktuk a panuntunan at kapagnasan.

At ing malapad a lalang malutu papasyag na ing kekatamung alang patnang kagirwan a magpanatili kekatamu king metung a dake king kalawakan ning banwa.

King Kabilugan. Ing triyanggulu, ing aldo at ding athung batwin a bubuu king kekatamung bandera malino lang sasagisag king pamikakapatad ding tau king lalam ning pamaging Ibpang ning Dios.

Kalupa ning tagimpan ding kekatamung ninunu, sana misambulat ya iti king babo ning gabun ding maligayang memalen king kabang panaun.

Oyta, ing kekatamung bandera, waraswaras, metung a sagisag ning pambihirang lagu at kabaldugan makabalen; ing parating ulirang-panyulu ring

kekatamung memalen king metung a mapayapa, magsarili at timarwang pamibiebie.

Magpuge kayu kaya, pauli ning ya ing kabuang ganap ning kaligayan ding kekatamung ninunu king panaun ding milabas a siglu

Uman ye iti, pauli ning ya ing bandera ring mangatapang a anak ning kekatamung Raha Soliman at Maria Clara.

Damdang ye king kekayung salu, pauli ning ya ing banal a bandera ning kaluguran tamung Pilipinas.

Ingatan ye iti karing kekong puso, pauli ning ya ing palatandanan ding kekatamung kapatad a migburwis bie para king kapakanan ning kekatamung balayan.

Pakamalan ye iti, pauli ning ya ing alang kasing alagang ala-ala ning kekatamung balayan a manatili kapilan man king egananganang maging kabilyan tamu king bie.

Lubusan yang igalang iti, pauli ning ya ing mabibie kataurwan ning dirwa ning labwad tamung beitan.

Itangi ye iti, pauli ning ya ing banal a tibabal a penakap da king maraya at mengabitawak a kataurwan ding kekatamung karwal a mengayangu bie.

Lingapan at idaun ya iti king Migpala, pauli ning ya ing bunga ring pamagpakasakit ding kekatamung bayaning mengayangu na bie.

At magtirwala king Mayupayang Dios at king makataung katarungan ban iti manatili yang kekayu, karing kekong anak, at maging anak da pa ring kekong anak;

Papanatilyan yang ligtas king lialig at lalung migit yang mipala, ban ding mengayalang kalma king kapakanan niti, sana e la mengayangu bie a alang kabaldugan.

Salin king Kapampangan nang
ROMEO S. RODRIGUEZ

225 Acacia St., Comembo, Syudad Makati / Oktubri 18, 2014 / Ibat king orihinal a Tagalog PAGPUPUGAY SA WATAWAT





Masonic Memoirs

by VR Samuel Fernandez, PGC, #A

PRESIDENT MANUEL ACUÑA ROXAS: FREEDOM FIGHTER

Three years after MW Manuel Luis Quezon became the first Filipino Grand Master of Masons, Bro. Manuel Acuña Roxas was one of the first initiates of the Makawiwili Lodge #55.

“Makawiwili” is a mountain in the province of Capiz where the Indios (natives) hid when irate members of the Religious Orders went after them. Makawiwili is an Ilonggo word which means peaceful and attractive place. The mountain was a peaceful respite from religious scorn and scoffing.

The Lodge was organized by Past Master and Governor of Capiz, WB Jose Altavas from Sinukuan Lodge No. 16, with the assistance of Robert Clauson of Corregidor Lodge No. 3, Amando Avanceña of Sinukuan and other brethren.

On April 9, 1920, Mason dignitaries led by Grand Master Rafael Palma and accompanied by Antonio de las Alas, Teofisto Guingona, Daniel Maramba, Lope K. Santos, Enrique Filimer, Conrado Benitez and others, constituted Makawiwili Lodge and installed its officers at the “palatial residence” of former Gov. Jose Altavas.

Four months later, on August 14, 1920, the then Governor of Capiz, Manuel A. Roxas, was one of the initiates. On Sept 23, 1921,

Roxas was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and by 1927, he served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. (Reynaldo S. Fajardo and Geminiano V. Galarosa Jr., Philippine Lodges, pp. 108-109)

On November 13, 1923, WB Roxas received his thirty-second degree from Rizal Consistory of the Scottish Rite Masonry. (William R. Denslow and Harry Truman, 10,000 Famous Freemasons from A-Z, p.77)

BIRTH

Bro. Roxas was born in the old town of Capiz (now Roxas City), on January 1, 1892. He was a posthumus child. His father, Gerardo Roxas Sr., died from bullet wounds from Spanish guardia civil eight months before Manuel was born. Bro. Roxas is a descendant of Antonio Roxas y Ureta, brother of Domingo Roxas y Ureta, progenitor of the famous Roxas-Ayala clan. He and his older brother, Mamerto, were brought up by their mother, Rosario and their mother’s father, Don Eleuterio Acuña.

Education

Bro. Roxas had his schooling in a parochial school conducted by Rafael Lozada. Restless and restive, he was adventurous and daring. At eleven years old, young Roxas boarded a Manila-bound vessel with eleven pesos in his pocket. Don Eleuterio found out the secret intention of Roxas and thus the trip was aborted. The doting grandfather did not scold his grandson after finding out that he wanted to further his studies in Manila. At twelve, Roxas enrolled at Joseph’s Academy

in Hongkong. After a year, Roxas returned to Capiz. He could not stand the loneliness in a foreign country. Back in Capiz, Roxas finished elementary school and later went to Manila and enrolled at the Manila (Araullo) High School. He graduated in 1909 with highest honor.

The following year (1910), Roxas entered the private law school which Attorney George A. Malcolm established at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The Law School became a College of Law at the University of the Philippines with Malcom as dean. George A. Malcolm, lawyer, judge and author, began as a clerk in the Philippine service in 1906; became justice of the Supreme Court from 1917-36; and was staff of the U.S. Commissioner of the Philippines, 1932-1942. He was founder of the Acacia fraternity and first Rotarian president. He received his degrees in Concord Lodge No. 30, Concord, Michigan (10,000 Famous Freemasons, pp. 125-126)

Law Practitioner

Smart and scholarly, Manuel A. Roxas was elected president of his class. He graduated valedictorian. He took the bar after graduation and passed with the highest rating. Chief Justice Arellano took notice of Roxas' academic performance and made him a private and law clerk.

After a year of service under the eminent and distinguished jurist, Roxas decided to resign and joined a Brother Mason's law firm, Don Juan Sumulong. Senator Juan Sumulong was a charter member of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4.

Political Career

Roxas quit law practice and entered politics. He was appointed municipal councilor to continue the unexpired term of the elected Councilor who died. In 1916, at the age of 26, Manuel was elected Governor of his province. In 1922, Manuel Roxas was elected to Congress and was elected Speaker of the Philippine Assembly.

In 1923, Manuel Roxas undertook his first Philippine Independence Mission. He headed the third mission with Past Grand Master Manuel Luis Quezon of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16. In 1929, Manuel Roxas was appointed Chairman of the Special Mission sent to the U.S. by the Eighth Philippine Legislature. In December 1931, the Philippine Independence mission headed by Senate Pro Tempore Osmeña and Speaker Roxas left for the United States. The OsRox Mission was awarded in 1933 by the enactment of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting law, granting the Philippines independence after a ten-year transition. President of the Senate Manuel Quezon rejected the law and managed to work for the enactment of the Tydings-McDuffie Law which is but another version of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law.

Senate President Quezon was an astute politician. He commended Roxas thus: "If any member of the mission was most useful in the campaign in America, that member was Speaker Roxas. The resulting Pro and Ante struggle so vivid in the political memory of the nation. True, Roxas lost the Speakership, but he fell into the arms of the people." In 1934, as a member of the Constitutional Convention, Manuel Roxas was chosen one of the seven in the committee on style which drafted the final form. As Vice Chairman of the Sponsorship Committee, Roxas wielded a lot of influence and weight in the preparation of the fundamental law of the land. In 1938 up to August 1941, he held the position of Secretary of Finance. He resigned his position to run for the Senate in the election of November 11, 1941. Roxas was elected one of the 24 senators but was unable to be sworn into office. On December 10, 1941, the Japanese forces landed in Aparri and Vigan.

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

On December 24, 1941, President Quezon with his family and war cabinet moved to Corregidor. Senator-elect Roxas went to active duty as Lieutenant-Colonel and was assigned to General MacArthur's staff. Roxas was liaison officer between the Commonwealth Government and the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) headquarters of

Gen. MacArthur. When Quezon left Corregidor for Antique, Lt. Col. Roxas stayed to cheer up the Filipino troops in Bataan. On March 22, 1942, Roxas left Corregidor by plane for Mindanao and had a meeting with Quezon in Dansalan, Mindanao. On Aug. 9, 1942, Gen. Roxas prepared to flee to the mountains in order to engage in guerilla warfare. In accordance with the order of Gen. Wainwright, he surrendered to the Japanese. Wainwright later became a Mason in the U.S. Member of Union Lodge No 7, he received the Scottish Rite degrees at Salina, Kansas. He was a Shriner of Iris Temple, Salina.

Bro / President Quezon, hearing that Bro. Roxas was in the hands of the Japanese Imperial Forces, wrote a letter to Bro. Gen. MacArthur which read in part:

"The news that Roxas fell into the hands of the Japanese has broken me almost completely, for I suspect that after his insistent refusal to be President of the Philippines, the Japanese might murder him x.x.x But oh, how proud

I am of him! I almost envy him for he had occasion to do just what I wanted to do myself – to tell the Japanese that we want nothing from them.

"If Roxas had been murdered, he is the greatest loss that the Filipino people have suffered in this war. He can't be replaced and I know how long (before) the race will produce another Manuel Roxas." (Presidents All, p.32)

The military authorities sought Roxas' col-

laboration in the puppet government (Philippine Executive Commission). Roxas refused and said:

"I am an officer in uniform and as long as the war continues in the present stage I cannot serve the Japanese, directly or indirectly, without being false to my oath as a soldier."

General Yoshihide Hayashi, Director of the Japanese Military Administrator, ordered Roxas' execution. A valiant and courageous Christian Japanese Officer, Colonel Nobuhido Jimbo, Japanese Chief of Staff of the Mindanao Command, risked his life by ignoring Hayashi's execution order. He came to Manila to appeal to General Homma, Commander in Chief of the Japanese Imperial Forces and General Takazi Wachi, right hand of Homma, to rescind the order. Col. Jimbo saved Roxas from execution. He returned to Mindanao to fetch Roxas. On November 22, 1942, Roxas was

accompanied by Col. Jimbo from Mindanao and was brought to his family in Taft Avenue.

Bro. Roxas was pressured and constrained to join the Preparatory Commission for Philippine Independence by Bro./Dr. Jose P. Laurel. He drafted the Constitution of the Second Philippine Republic.

As Chairman of Bagasan Bayan (Biba), Roxas had contacts with the guerilla leaders. In Feb-



ruary 1944, Roxas' life was in a precarious and perilous situation. The dreaded Kempei (Japanese Military Police) got hold of a document exposing his involvement in the underground movement. Col. Nagahama, Kempie head, called on President Laurel and showed him the incriminating evidence, saying: *"It would give me the greatest pleasure to personally chop off Roxas' head."*

Bro. Laurel responded thus: "If you seize Roxas now, there would be a revolution in the Philippines. You might as well kill me first, because if you take Roxas, it will be impossible for me to maintain any semblance of order in our country." On December 22, 1944, American forces aided by Filipino guerrilla were gaining ground in Luzon. Japanese military authorities evacuated to Baguio President Laurel and family, Jose Yulo, Manuel Roxas and other dignitaries. On April 13, 1945, Roxas escaped from the Japanese high command and made a dash for freedom. Reaching the town of Rizal, La Union, Roxas surrendered to the American liberators. He was immediately flown to Manila where he was welcomed by Bro./Gen. MacArthur and Judge Mamerto, his brother. Roxas was never tried as a collaborator, though he served officially in the Japanese-sponsored administration. Gen. MacArthur's mysterious and enigmatic mediation cleared Roxas from collaboration issue.

Post War Politics

Legislators in 1941 elected Roxas as Senate President. In 1945, when the Congress of the Philippines convened, he exercised his power as Senate President. Before the Philippine national elections of 1946, Senate President Roxas and colleagues left the Nationalista Party and formed the Liberal Party. Roxas became the candidate for President and Elpidio Quirino for Vice-President. The Nationalista Party fielded Sergio Osmeña for President and Senator Eulogio Rodriguez as Vice President. Gen. MacArthur strongly, steadfastly, and staunchly supported Roxas. On April 23, 1946, Manuel A. Roxas won 54 percent of the vote. The newly founded Liberal Party won a majority in the legislature. Manuel A. Roxas, champion of freedom once

said: "The best politics in this country or in any other time, is to serve your people well, to do justice to everyone and to give your share of endeavor to make your nation not only stable and strong but a prosperous nation filled with people who are happy living in their homes and tilling their own lands."

On May 28, 1946, Roxas was inaugurated as the last President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. In his inaugural speech he said in part: "I have faith in the wisdom of our people. I have trust in the goodness of God. Let us together maintain our faith in each other, in liberty and in the ways of democracy, and give strength to one another as we advance in our search for the ever green pastures of peace and well-being for all. With the help of God, let us build in this our land a monument to freedom and to justice, a beacon to all mankind."

Third Republic First President

On July 4, 1946, President Roxas took another oath as first President of the Third Republic. July 4, 1946 was Freemasons' celebration of freedom and liberty. Freemasons among the 3000 invited prominent guests of Bro. / President Roxas were:

Honorable Paul V. McNutt, Martinsville Lodge No. 74, Martinsville, Indiana, U.S., 32° AASR (NJ), member of Murat Shrine Temple of Indianapolis, last United States High Commissioner and first American Ambassador of the Philippines. He lowered the American flag to the accompaniment of the "Star and Spangled Banner."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Manila Lodge No. 1, (now Manila-Mt Lebanon #1), 33° Scottish Rite Mason.

Millard E. Tydings, Susquehanna Lodge No. 130 of Havre de Grace.

C. Jasper Bell, Temple Lodge No. 299, Kansas City, Missouri, author of the Philippine Trade Act of 1946.

Francis Burton Harrison, Manila Lodge No. 1, Beloved Governor General by Mason Fili-

pinos and Americans.

Former Chief Justice Moran, Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, Scottish Rite Mason, Philippine Bodies, installed Bro. Manuel A. Roxas, Past Master of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55.

WB/President Manuel A. Roxas hoisted the Philippine flag to the accompaniment of the Philippine National Anthem. The Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, MW Harry S. Truman, signed the recognition of Philippine Independence. Masons championed freedom and liberty starting from the Philippine reformation, revolution, up to the American occupation. Masons espoused freedom. Its enemy is political and religious intolerance and bigotry. Masons are believers in God. WB/President Roxas wrote:

“God will forget our country if we forget those who died that we may live.

“As we go forward in our full faith to work out the destiny of our land and of our people, we must cling fast to one another, and to our friends across the seas; we must maintain in both our hearts and minds a gentleness of understanding as well as firmness of purpose. Sweat and sacrifice will be needed, but then will fall on barren ground unless we move in the path of God with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right.

“Among the people, there must be no recrimination or malignancies. Errors of mind rather than of heart must be forgiven. The great test of war and sacrifice through which we have passed with such hardships will have failed in one of its few benefits if it has not taught us that only in unity can there be achieved national salvation.” (Presidents All, Virginia E. Silvestre, Ed.D; Pedro A. Gagelonia, Ph.D.)

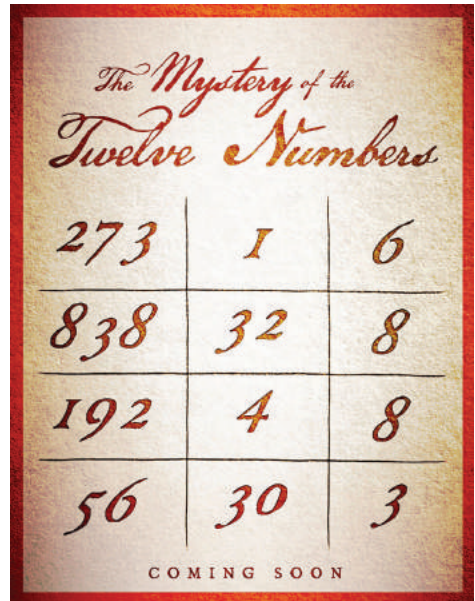
WB / President Manuel Acuña Roxas’ term of office was fraught and full of the challenging task of recovering and reconstructing the dismal and depressing economic and political situation brought about by disaster and devastation of war. He did not finish his full four-year term. On the morning of April 15, 1948, after delivering a speech before the United States Thirteenth Air Force at Clark-

field, Pampanga he complained of dizziness and was brought to the residence of Major General E.L. Eubank. He dropped his working tools later that night of heart attack. The stress and strain of the burden of responsibility took a toll on his health. His term as president is thus the third shortest - lasting one year, ten months, and 18 days. He was the last Mason elected to the Philippine Presidency.

Bro. Manuel Acuña Roxas, champion of freedom is gone but not his advocacy which he valiantly espoused. Freedom in our country is no longer a fiction or fable. It is a fact fostered by our Fraternity. Where there is freedom, there is liberty and latitude, self-determination, and sovereignty.

Fraternal Legacy

On June 22, 1959, Grand Master Macario M. Ofilada, assisted by RW Juan S. Alano, RW William H. Quasha and other officials of the Grand Lodge, opened a Special Communication at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in San Marcelino Street and constituted Manuel Roxas Lodge No. 152. Congressman Gerardo Roxas, son of Worshipful Brother Manuel A. Roxas, was the installation guest speaker.





VISAYAN VISTAS

Obelisk Marker in Honor of World War II Martyr & Masonic Icon – Past Grand Master Jose Abad Santos, Inaugurated in the Heritage City of Carcar

By WB Jeff Edward Pintac, PM / Head News Correspondent

Carcar – Barili Highway, Cebu

Leon Kilat Masonic Lodge (LKML) No. 437 performed a dedication ceremony of the Obelisk Marker in honor of former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and an iconic member of the Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines - MW Jose Abad Santos, PGM last February 17, 2021.

The obelisk marker was completed three months after its groundbreaking ceremony

last November 14 through the guidance of DPWH Undersecretary Rafael C. Yabut, who is a member of Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No.333.

Leading the solemnities was Worshipful Master David Alexander T. Patriana of LKML 437 in coordination with the DPWH 2nd District, headed by District Engineer and Masonic member Engr. Leslie Anthony Molina and Carcar City - LGU represented by City Administrator Roger Montesclaros and the City Council, together with dignitaries from other Masonic Lodges and Government Offices.

According to City Admin Montesclaros, the obelisk marker uplifts the area, Sitio Tanawan in Brgy. Guadalupe as it has been infamous as a “notorious”



site where persons have been slain and all the negative connotation it carries. The obelisk marker will also serve as an education center to remind the people of its historic relevance as it is the site where Jose Abad Santos was captured by the Japanese on April 11, 1942, together with his son José Jr. (nicknamed Pepito), Col. Benito Valeriano, and two enlisted men. They were taken to Basak Elementary School and later to Cebu Capitol Building. Eventually, Jose Abad Santos and his son will be brought by the invaders to Mindanao.

Montesclaros also shared that City Mayor Mercedita Apura commends Leon Kilat Masonic Lodge No.437 for the initiative as it will greatly boost the economy for the nearby residents and serve as a tourist spot, being located in a very scenic location, overlooking the City's mountain ranges, and immediately within the boundary of the 56-hectare National Park of Carcar City.

Since its opening the obelisk marker has been visited by local tourists, passers-by, and onlookers, appreciating the picturesque beauty it offers, far from its old and isolated condition. More importantly, the location commemorates the nobility of a Filipino hero. In his lifetime, Jose Abad Santos exemplified the qualities of a true Civil Servant having served as a Secretary of Justice and appointed as the 5th magistrate or Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. During the 2nd World War, he became the acting President of the Commonwealth and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Refusing to cooperate with the Japanese, Jose Abad Santos was executed on May 1, 1942 by orders from the Japanese High Command. He shall be forever known as one of the Philippine Government Officials who did not collaborate with the enemy.





VISAYAN VISTAS

ORMOC 234 acquires its own Property on its 40th Year

By WB Lloyd U. Tellidua (IPM) / Lodge Secretary (243)

THE LODGE

Formally conceived by thirty (30) Master Masons who petitioned the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to organize a lodge in Ormoc City, they were given a dispensation by then MW Desiderio F. Dalisay Sr., on 9 February 1979. That same year, on 27 April, the GLP, after satisfying itself that the lodge had complied with all requirements, granted its charter, and became the 234th subordinate. On August 17, a Special Communication was opened in Ormoc City for the purpose of constituting Ormoc Lodge No. 234 and install its officers. MW Jolly R. Bugarin signed the Charter.

The lodge currently has thirty seven (37) members in good standing and one (1) honorary member. It is a part of the Masonic District RVIII – Leyte.

Politics, Economy, and Demography of the City

Ormoc City is the 4th District of Leyte with 110 Barangays. Incumbent City Mayor is Richard I. Gomez, while Mrs. Lucy Marie M. Torres – Gomez is the district representative. It is a first class independent component city in the

Eastern Visayas region. According to the 2015 census, it has a population of 215,031 inhabitants, making it the second most – populous city in the province after the provincial capital of Tacloban. Having a land area of 613.60 square kilometers or 236.91 square miles - Ormoc constitutes 9.72% of Leyte’s total area. The most common local produce are Pineapple, Sugar-cane, Rice, Coconuts, and aqua products. The City has the third largest geothermal power generation with 1500 megawatts output run by the ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, formerly the “Philippine National Oil Company” (PNOC).

LODGE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Prior to the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda, the Lodge hold their meetings at Tongos Hotel. While Leyte recovers from the 2013 catastrophe, the Brethren of Ormoc 234 assemble at Badminton City in Ormoc City owned by Bro. Manuel Chua where the lodge was given a brotherly discount of 50% in rent.

The Lodge meets every 3rd Friday of the month at 5:00 pm. On top of the usual Regular Stated Meetings (RSM) and degree works, extra-ordinary events are recorded from time to time. Below is a Calendar leading to our Lodge’s Special Milestone:

April 2019

In an RSM during my incumbency as WM, our then Senior Warden David “Dave” P. Martinez, Jr. submitted a motion in response to a long-overdue need, that of having our own Temple. He offered himself to create and organize a

corporation solely for the purpose of Temple – Building. It was seconded and then approved.

03 June 2019

ORMOC MASONIC LODGE No. 234, TEMPLE – BUILDING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED was born and chaired by Bro Dave. It was duly registered and approved by Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), followed by the approvals of BIR, Office of the City Mayor, and complied the rest of requirements.

10 August 2019

Launching of our Temple-Building Association. Monetary donations have started to flow as fund raising had started to flourish. Two Teams were created, a Solicitations Team led by Bro. Christian Roy Dadios, and another for Raffle Tickets under the care of Bro. Dave Martinez. While scouting for a parcel of land within the city, we found many opportunities but could not afford the price. Our search for a suitable property continued.

December 2019

Lodge Election for Masonic Year 2020 – 2021. Brother SW Dave Martinez had garnered 100% of the voting brothers present, to become the next WM.

As we continued searching for a cheap parcel of land, the FLUKE came. A brother, who kept on riding with us in search of a parcel of land whispered to us that he has a land somewhere in Brgy. Valencia - 12 kilometers from the City. He showed us his property, 10,000 square meters to be exact and in a very low tone of voice said: "I will donate this land to our lodge." We were all stunned and later ecstatic. Me, the incoming WM, and our Brother JW, jumped and yelled like a CUB SCOUTS..... YEHEEEEEY!

14 March 2020

During the Public Installation of WM David P. Martinez, Jr., our benevolent benefactor was introduced - VW RAFAEL NOVAL LUCERO, PDDGM. The soft spoken medical doctor was recognized together with his family. The WM



invited him to the East for a speech. He then made the following announcement that the 1 Hectare Property will be divided into the following shares:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1,000 sq mts | Lodge Temple |
| 2,000 sq mts | Masonic cemetery |
| 1,000 sq mts | Firing range |
| 2,000 sq mts | Home for the Aged / Orphanage / Charitable works |
| 1,000 sq mts | Recreational facility |
| 3,000 sq mts | Business Establishments |

16 March 16, 2020

Two (2) days later, the Government declared the on-set of the Corona Virus Pandemic and our LGU had set restrictions. Ormoc Lodge 243 started the distribution of basic commodities to front-liners in all checkpoints and to some indigents. During the middle of Community Quarantine until November 2020, Basic Commodities were again distributed to Barangays that the lodge considered as most indigent.

26 July 26, 2020

The "Deed of Absolute Donation" was signed by concerned parties in my residence as all pertinent documents were presented to the proces-

PRIZES

- GRAND PRIZE: 2021 TOYOTA FORTUNER 2.4L 4X2 G AT
- 2ND PRIZE: 2 UNITS ATV LINHAI M150 4X2
- 3RD PRIZE: 2 UNITS RUSI FLASH 150
- CONSOLATION PRIZE: - 5 UNITS OF LAPTOP LENOVO V130 15.6"
- 5 UNITS OF MOUNTAIN BIKE SAVA M7 ANTI-THEFT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- DATE OF DRAW : APRIL 29, 2022 DURING THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES.
- ALL PRIZES ARE SUBJECT TO 20% TAX, FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE WINNERS.
- PRIZES WILL BE SHIPPED TO THE WINNERS, FREIGHT COST WILL BE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE ORGANIZER.



for facilitating the transfer.

20 August 2020

The land area was cleaned-up and the cadastral survey started.

05 September 2020

The Lodge constructed a temporary facility (temfacil) where the brethren can meet, cook, and have fellowship. When Temple Donors would like to visit the property for a view, they can be entertained at the temfacil.

October 2020

We were instructed by our then DDGM, VW Trumata to submit reports of lodge's activities and achievements.

12 December 2020

The corner-stone laying ceremony was administered by VW Jose Lito P. Trumata at 10am, being notified and instructed by our then MWGM Agapito S. Suan, Jr. as he and his party could not come due to travel restrictions. The event was both emotional and successful.

18 December 2020

During the RSM, the Worshipful Master announced his intention to travel all-over-the country to sell the tickets primarily to brother Masons whithersoever dispersed.

February 2021

The construction of our TEMPLE had started. Its continuity will depend on the incoming funds.

01 March 2021

WM David P. Martinez, Jr. went to Manila for a two (2) month journey to sell the raffle tickets, staying at Red Doors inside the GLP Compound. He was able to attend several stated meetings in Cavite and NCR Districts. Unfortunately, the issuance of Circ. 60 - Mandatory Suspension of Stated Meeting and other Masonic Activities for NCR, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, & Laguna from 22 March to 04 April 2021 due the surge in Covid-19 cases in the said area cut short his mission and was forced to return to Leyte.

20 April 2021

We have received a copy of the finalists for MOST OUTSTANDING LODGES and WORSHIPFUL MASTERS and have found our lodge's name ORMOC MASONIC LODGE NO. 234 and WM David P. Martinez, Jr., as recipients! On behalf of our Worshipful Master, we enjoin the brethren to help our lodge achieve its goals by purchasing our Raffle Tickets which can be bought at 1,000 php each. Our 10 plus 1 promo gives Lodges 11 tickets at the price of 10,000 php. The Lodge Name shall be inscribed in a Donors Wall as well as in our Lodge Archives. For further inquiries, contact us at: 0917 144 1967 or send an email to glp234@grandlodge.ph or dave1717martinez@gmail.com

Paminggalan ni Kuya Pong

ni MK Arnulfo Macatangay, NMG

Ang MUG – ipon ng aking Koleksyon

Hail Brethren! Para sa ating huling pasada sa Vol.97 ng Cable Tow, sasagutin natin ang isa sa mga katanungan ng ilang kapatid – Paa-no ba natin naipon ang ating Masonic Mug Collection?

Ang mug (taro, saro, o lumbo sa Filipino) ay isang tasa na karaniwang ginagamit sa pag-barik ng maiinit na inumin tulad ng kape, tsaa, o tsokolate. Ito ay may hawakan at kayang sidlan ng masmaraming lunaw (liquid) mula isang-katlo (1/3) hanggang isang ikaapat (1/4) na litro. Maaaring gawa ito sa metal, buto ng hayop, kahoy, paso, at ceramic. Naging popular ang mug bilang mga pami-gay na paalala (giveaway souvenirs) lalo na ang mga sublimated ceramics na tinatakan ng iba't-ibang limbag o prints.

Ang unang malakihang pagtitipon ng mga mason na aking nadaluhan ay ang Pagtatala-

ga (Installation) ng Marangal na Guro Melito S. Villar ng Dapitan Lodge No.21 noong ika-16 ng Pebrero 2009. Dahil hayag (public) ang galian (ceremonies) na ginawa, tayo'y naging saksi sa isang gawaing pang mason kahit na petitioner pa lamang. Tumatak sa aking isipan ang mga kaganapan at lubos na ikinatwa ang pagtanggap ng souvenir mug mula sa Marangal na Kapatid. Ito ang kausa-unahang mug na ipinagkatiwala sa atin.

Tayo po ay naiangat bilang Gurong Mason sa Lohiya ng Dapitan 21 noong ika-20 ng Hulyo



Nagdala ng MUG si Kuyang
Jofran "JOJO" De Onon NG
Silanganan Lodge No.19





sa taon ding iyun – maraming salamat na muli sa WB Mel. Magmula noon, sa tuling may okasyon gaya ng Installation of Officers, dinadayo natin ito at unti-unting nadagdagan ang ating mugs dahil ito ang kadalasang ipinamimigay na souvenir. May mga pagkakataon na nagkakasabay-sabay ang mga pagtitipon ng ilang lohiya kaya hindi natin madaluhan lahat. Kapag nabalitaan ko na MUG ang souvenir doon ay ginagawan natin ng paraan na makaa-mot ng isa. Minsan pa’y pinipilit natin na makahabol sa ilang pagpupulong kahit gabi na upang may maabutang mugs.

Nang nasa 20 piraso na ang ating naipon, isinabit sila sa aming tindahan at habang pinagmamadsan ang mga larawan ng mga Marangal na Guro at logo ng kanikanilang lohiya sa imprenta, bigla tayong napa-sisip “Kay sarap siguro ng ini-install o itinatalaga...” At tayo’y nangarap na sana maging Worshipful Master din balang araw. Syempre pa, MUG ang ating ip-amimigay sa mga bisita.

Isang araw, naisipan kong kuhanan ng litrato ang koleksyon na ating ipinaskil (post) sa Facebook. Nagulat na lamang ako sa mga komento ng brethren na pawang natuwa at nagpahayag na gusto din daw nilang mai-display sa aking tindahan ang kani-kanilang mga mugs. May mga kusang nagpadala, ang iba’y galing pa sa ibang bansa! Marami din tayong naipon na Masonic Pins. Sa isang pagkakataon nag-alok ang isa rin kapatid na kolektor, si Kuyang Bobot Elenzano ng N.S. Amoranto Lodge No.358 na makipagpalitan – ang aking mga pins para sa kanyang mga mugs.

Narito ang ilang sa mga mugs na naipagkaloob sa atin sa nakalipas na 12 taon. Sila’y pinangkat natin sa Tatlong Kaurian:

1 - GLP Lodge Collection

– karamihan sa mga mug na galing sa mga lohiyang ito ay ipinagkaloob ng iba’t-ibang Marangal na Guro kaya’t may pagkakataon na may iba’t-ibang uri ng mug sa isang lohiya lamang. Ang pinakamarami ay nagmula sa Biak-na-Bato 7, Dapitan 21, Capitol 174, Mandaluyong 277, Norberto Amoranto 358, Pinaglabanan 374, at La Guardia 378.

St. John’s Corregidor 3

- Biak-na-Bato 7
- Cosmos 8
- Nilad 12
- Dalisay 14
- Pilar 15
- Sinukuan 16
- Araw 18
- Silanganan 19
- Dapitan 21
- Jose Rizal 22
- Zapote 29
- Emilio Aguinaldo 31
- Malolos 46
- Pampanga 48
- Pangasinan 56
- Luzon 57
- Isabela 60
- Tamaraw 65
- Baguio 67
- Kasilawan 77
- Taga-Ilog 79
- Hiram 88
- Muog 89
- Mencius 93
- Mt. Huraw 98
- Victory 116
- Marikina 119
- Quezon City 122
- King Solomon 150
- Rafael Palma 147
- Gen. Llanera 168
- Manuel A. Roxas 152
- Juan Sumulong 169
- Micronesia 173
- Capitol City 174
- Siete Martires 177
- Laong Laan 185
- Saigon 188
- Andres Bonifacio 199
- Daet 247
- La Naval 269
- Mandaluyong City 277
- Marcelo H. Del Pilar 272
- Cupang 295
- Factoria 311
- Bongabong 324
- Kakarong 327
- Apolinario B. Yap 328
- Las Pinas 332
- Macario Ramos 355
- San Jose Del Monte 357
- Norberto Amoranto 358
- Bernardo Carpio 359
- Saint John the Baptist 362
- Intramuros 363
- Pinaglabanan 374
- La Guardia 378
- Frank Reed Horton 379
- Batasan 381
- Sultan Haroun Al-Kashid 416
- M. Lucman 406
- Muntinlupa 414
- Silang 416
- Solidarity 421
- Unang Sigaw 430

2 – Districts, Appendant Bodies, & Clubs Collection

- 2.1 DISTRICT Mugs
 - Masonic District NCR-C
 - Masonic District NCR-D
 - Masonic District NCR-G
 - Masonic District NCR-E
 - Masonic District RIII-G
 - NCR Multi-District Convention
- 2.2 APPENDANT Mugs
 - Pillars of the East Conclave 372
 - Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters
 - Q.C BODIES / AASR
 - Order of DeMolay
 - Grand & Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent

- 2.3 SHRINERS Mugs
 - Amanian Shrine Club
 - Kasiyahan Shrine Club
 - Mabuhay Shriners
 - Maginoo Shrine Club
 - Maharlika Shrine Club
 - Metro Manila SHRINERS
 - Mina de Oro Shrine Club
 - Pinagsabitan Shrine Club
 - Primera Shriners
 - POTENTANTE Mug

- 2.4 SOJOURNERS Mugs
 - BLUE RABBIT
 - BIRTH - TRAVELLERS HAVEN
 - FREEMASON CLOTHING PHILS
 - KAMANAVA TRAVELLERS CLUB INC.
 - MANILAS FINEST S&C Club
 - PNP BEST
 - PNP CIOG
 - Pusong Mason
 - Q.C Trowel
 - QCPD Mason Mug
 - TRAVELLERS STATION
 - TROWEL

- 2.5 Other Mugs
 - CONSTRUCTION WORKERS SOLIDARITY
 - DAR / ARIEL CAYANAN
 - FIRST DIRECTOR’S CUP
 - KAMPILAN
 - LIGHT UP ROTARY
 - PROJECT GREEN LIGHT

- 3 – Foreign Lodges & Jurisdiction Collection
 - Grand Lodge of PANAMA A.F. & A.M.
 - GARDENA-MONETA II
 - LODGE OF THE STAR OF AUSTRALIA No.200
 - UNITED GRAND LODGE OF NSW & ACT
 - TORONTO DON VALLEY





Taong 2017, natupad ang ating sinaunang pangarap – ang mamigay ng MUG sa mga dumalo sa aking Pagtatalaga bilang Marangal na Guro ng Dapitan Lodge No. 21.

Magpahangang ngayon – labindalawag taon simula nang mangolekta, tuloy pa din ang ating pinagkakaabalahan na nasa halos 400 na piraso na. Lubos itong nakalilibang sa-pagkat bawat mug ay may kani-kaniyang kwento. Atin pong inaanyayahan ang iba pang kapatid na nais magbahagi ng kanilang mga mugs sa inyong abang lingkod. Ito ay ating isasabit sa tindahan natin sa may Commonwealth Ave., ang Nanay Pilar's Pancit Malabon. Sa mga interesado, maaari po kayong makipag-ugnayan sa – 09177956734 / 09463743770. Maigi din kung kayo ay da-dayo sa may Holy Spirit Drive Don Antonio Heights, Diliman, Quezon City. Naway maging insperasyon din po sa lahat ang ating munting hilig. Maging ano man ang souvenir na inyong iniipon basta ba hindi nakakapaminsala sa iba – ituloy nyo lang mga Kuyang!



Salamat sa TS Shirt Kuyang Narciso "BOY" Nieto (Factoria 311)



PUSONG MASON

“HYBRID” ANCOM 2021

By VW Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.

It was only a matter of days, and the fruit of months, nay, years of preparations would have seen its execution, flawless, precise and so smooth it could have set the bar for future Annual Communications.

Nature would not have it, however, as the Covid-19 Pandemic, already over a year since it started to wreak havoc on people's lives worldwide, took an upward turn in major parts of the country.

“Kung kailan handang-handa na tayo, saka pa tumaas ang protocol classification” VW Lyle Aquino, District Deputy Grandmaster of host Masonic District R-III Zambales told The Cable Tow, “and as Masons, we are supposed to be shining examples of what is good and right, thus, we comply to what is required for everyone's sake.”

The unprecedented spike of up to some 15,000 daily Covid-19 infections has prompted the government to place Metro-Manila and other provinces and cities in the country under the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) status as part of efforts to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

Noting the implications of the prevailing protocol on the AnCom, itself, Most Worshipful Agapito S. Suan, Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines, issued

Edict 340-A, further amending the modified procedures for AnCom 2021, the 104th Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP).

“While the City of Olongapo is already under the low-risk protocol classification of MGCQ, safety precautions dictate that entry of visitors from areas still considered high risk such as the NCR Plus areas, be discouraged at this time,” Most Worshipful Suan said in his Edict.

“It turned out that last year's AnCom postponement was not enough as we still very much have the Covid-19 virus around,”

VW Aquino said, “but we are no longer willing to have another year of delay because we are not inclined to let the Pandemic rule over us,” the DDGM added, “life and service goes on.”

“Originally, we were expecting no less than 10,000 visitors, including Masons, their families and guests from all over the country and the world, with hotel accommodations already booked, most of which have already been paid for,” VW Aquino said, “however, we had to cancel and work out the refunds.”

“This time, we only had around 600 reservations scattered all over the capacity-reduced Olongapo and the Subic Bay Freeport hotels,” VW Aquino explained, “and yet we had to finally cancel everything.”

Incoming Grand Master Rolan C. Paulino said the brethren's safety is paramount.

“I am willing to do away with the pomp and celebrations,” RW Paulino said, “ang mahalaga, walang malalagay sa panganib at walang mapapahamak na buhay. Basta tayo, magta-trabaho para sa kapatiran at mamamayan.”

MW Suan's Edict, in consultations with the Past Grand Masters, incumbent officers and other stakeholders, has shortened the AnCom into a couple of days, April 22-23, with the opening and election of officers, except that of the Junior Grand Warden, to be held at the Grand Lodge of the Philippine's Headquarters in Manila, and the installation of elected and appointed officers at Lincoln Masonic Temple in Olongapo City a day later, both with limited physical attendance, most other participants joining via online links.

“The deferral of the election of a Junior Grand Warden (is) in order to come up with a highly credible and acceptable system on full electronic or remote voting,” MW Suan explained, “within 60 days... the Grand Master shall call a Special Communication for the conduct of election of the Junior Grand Warden, laying down the conditions and other particulars thereof through a covering Edict. We call it 'hybrid' AnCom kasi combination ng physical at virtual attendance,” RW Paulino said, “and with the spirit of Pusong Mason that we have, we will make it work.” (VVV)



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

PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE

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

MW Bro. DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

EDICT NO. 340-A

FURTHER AMENDING THE MODIFIED PROCEDURES FOR ANCOM 2021

WHEREAS, due to the extension of the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) in the National Capital Region, and the neighboring Provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite until April 30, 2021, delegates from these regions now find it difficult to travel to the proposed ANCOM site in Olongapo City on April 22 & 23, 2021;

WHEREAS, while the City of Olongapo is already under the low-risk protocol classification of MGCQ, safety precautions dictate that entry of visitors from areas still considered high risk such as the NCR Plus areas, be discouraged at this time;

WHEREAS, certain adjustments must be made to the modified ANCOM Procedures under Edict No. 340 to accommodate changing situations, including the deferral of the election of Junior Grand Warden in order to come up with a highly credible and acceptable system on full electronic or remote voting, or clustered physical voting through the Multi-District set-up, as the case may be;

WHEREAS, the deferred voting being merely an extension of the 104th ANCOM, it is necessary to redefine the qualified voting delegates for the deferred election of the Junior Grand Warden, in order not to disenfranchise those who have already duly complied with the registration requirements and have fully paid their fees for the 104th ANCOM, not to mention having already participated in the election of all other elective officials of the Grand Lodge in the same 104th ANCOM;

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 – Section 1 of Edict 340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The Grand Lodge shall open the 2021 Annual Communication physically at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, City of Manila by following

an abbreviated procedure and dispensing with the usual procession and reception of dignitaries and other ceremonials. Thereafter, the proceedings shall be linked virtually and the ANCOM shall proceed to discharge its plenary business, including the election of elective officers of the Grand Lodge except the Junior Grand Warden, all in one day or on Thursday, April 22, 2021. It shall be guided by the Modified ANCOM Program hereto attached as Annex A (*MODIFIED PROGRAM*). The installation of elected and appointed officers shall be held virtually the following day or on Friday, April 23, 2021, after which the Grand Lodge shall close the Annual Communication.”

SECTION 2. Online Attendance – Only key Grand Lodge Officers shall be allowed inside the GLP ANCOM site. All other Qualified Voters and Registered Delegates shall now be required to be present virtually or be registered remotely and participate online.

SECTION 3. Deferral of Election of Junior Grand Warden - In accordance with the recommendation of the ELECOM Chairman, the election of the Junior Grand Warden originally scheduled on April 22, 2021 is hereby deferred pending approval of the electronic voting system or modified physical election procedure thru Multi District Clustering, as the Grand Master may decide. Within sixty (60) days counted from the installation of the officers of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall call a Special Communication for the conduct of election of the Junior Grand Warden, laying down the conditions and other particulars thereof through a covering Edict.

SECTION 4. Qualified Voters for the Position of Junior Grand Warden - They comprise of the voting representatives of accredited Subordinate Lodges (*incumbent Worshipful Master, Wardens and the Immediate Past Master*); the Past Grand Masters (PGMs); and the elective and appointive Grand Lodge Officers (GLOs) except Grand Lodge Inspectors. For the purpose of the deferred voting, the Appointive Grand Lodge Officers shall refer to all such officers incumbent as of the date of the issuance of this Edict and already duly registered and/or paid as voting delegates for the 104th ANCOM, and have participated in the election of other elective Grand Lodge Officers during the 104th ANCOM. The newly installed Appointive Grand Lodge Officers in the 104th ANCOM shall vote in the next regular ANCOM election for JGW.

SECTION 5. Applicability Clause. – Except as otherwise amended by this Edict, all other applicable provisions of Edict No. 340, Edict No. 268-F (MW Momo), all other relevant Grand Lodge edicts and regulations in the conduct of ANCOM shall remain effective.

This Edict shall take effect immediately upon publication in the official Grand Lodge Website.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 19th day of April 2021.

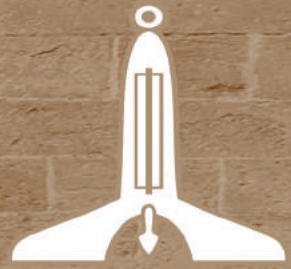
Attest:


DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary


AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

ON THE LEVEL

By VW Edgar S. Bentulan, DGL



GM SUAN GAVELS HIS CLOSING WORDS, A MASON COMPLEAT

It may sound cliched, but great leaders of history are each finely defined in their character on how they respond to the conflicts of the situation on hand -- the war they are situated in -- through how they inspire courage in their people to believe in their own greatness and overcome in triumph. There has been a war of pandemic ongoing in mortal dimension with so much ruthlessness of enemies unseen confronting the whole of humankind everywhere. Headstrong, this man had, nonetheless, preferred to remain in our country's epicenter to face the crisis head-on, and right there, steered the Grand Lodge of the Philippines onward.

In some peculiar way this man was placed by accident in the middle of it, challenged to serve, rising above the deadly virus disease with quality of style and technology, somewhat just that, in hybrid of virtual-cyber contacting and fleshly, face-to-face transaction, with no fire powers, no armaments, and under no material recompense, except the mystic wage of moral satisfaction to perform a duty to his Brethren. This one is beyond the call of duties. With brotherly love, relief, and truth as though the driving forces of his own 'Invictus' the English poet emblazoned in his heart, it can be said this leader succeeded to finish the job, unconquered and unbowed.

He came in, in ascent to the Grand Oriental Chair two years ago, easily getting his

bearings on his new role. His initial ingenious leadership iconized by his almost name-



sake of this powerful temperate, migratory bird, he gloriously soared up the sky with its fellows in flock of "V" formation, to metaphorize in purport not to build castles in the air, but to project his administration's faithful offerings of what VW Teodoro A. Kalaw IV, SGL terms: "classic lessons on charity, humility and shared value."

This propitious "V" formation, explains our SGL, keenly abhors, and taboos self-centeredness and arrogance, such that those who are not humble enough to stay in their places during the flight, will be separated and left behind. Very rightly so, he went on with his dangerous journey through the maelstrom, so to speak, not separated, but in wieldy unison with his flock of Brethren.

He themed his flight at first with no idea of the precarious state the country would be in, with "Charity and Humility: Foundations of a True Mason." The bird's significance for self-transformation and the human soul which is the "higher self" in every person, he assumed to fly in allegory like them swans, collectively, to steer his flock of Brethren. The visions of Plato, Aristotle, and later Shakespeare in their respective works and time about character performer exiting a scene after wondrous feats, from where the metaphor 'swan song' itself originated, may have to add this as an enrichment to the significance of the phrase.

He is himself a warm personification of the virtues he has avowed to profess from his bosom. Brethren in Metro Manila who worked with him closely at 1440 San Marcelino grand premises during this extremely defining moment, shared their awing impressions of him.

"I can personally attest to his embodiment of both Charity and Humility which he espouses in his two years stay at the GLP," TCT EiC JH Santiago, no less, confided. "He lives frugally, enjoying simple meals with other GLP officers and staff." He personally attends GLP affairs in his office from Monday to Sunday, except when there are more pressing engagements outside the Plaridel Temple compound. EiC Santiago went on to divulge, his significant sacrifice in his extended term is indulging "to meet everyone" who comes to see him, "even petitioners."

"MW Jun is hardworking, exceedingly kind and accommodating, and also sensitive to the needs of the brethren," his buddy and closed executive aide VW Diosdado "Dado" R. Melegrito, Junior Grand Steward, had these to describe of him. Workaholic and time-conscious, he practices corporate-style of management. He is impatient for results and detests sloppy outputs and delays in works. He is terribly on-the-dot when it comes to appointment. (Yes, I, too, personally had my discomfiting ordeal on this.)

In his hands-on ways, GM Suan has been able to realize wonders for the Grand Lodge in several tangible beautification and physical upgrading and improvements of the halls and its premises. We now have a very conducive educational hall for IMES, and a multi-purpose building is undergoing construction as additional rooms for office and space for lodge meetings. What more, VW Melegrito proudly announced, you should try checking in when in Manila: the conversion of the old dormitory to a flashy hotel for traveling brethren and even friends of Masons!

In this very disturbing time, the practice of charity and humility here can be fit-

tingly ratified in their exactitude of essence and meanings in our Craft. From the Grand Lodge of Illinois, one RW Michael H. Shirley opined, "Humility is the act of taking oneself out of the center of the universe and recognizing that others are as deserving of God's love as we are, which is to say, not all."

Not all can be deserving of God's love, RW Shirley could be in his modest contemplation. Broadly, charity means love and kindness. It is God-inspired, God-driven love. Shouldn't we speculative Masons, in the spirituality of our sense of these virtues, profess that we all do equally deserve His love? And, that we should never stop believing this?

In our basic, core humility, we are all on the level, before God. Only He should be in the center of the universe. In the "sentient force" of charity to love others and recognizing others' rights to the GAoTU's infinite capacity to love, sinners or saints, we practice both charity and humility. Just as we give help to one in need, thinking of nothing in return, a brother Mason or not. There has been, since this purity of intentions in our heart, where we were first prepared to become Masons.

In his characteristic devotion for self-introspection, this GM surely found a space to solace on the critical role he was in. Probably, this has been the most defining moment -- a poignant catharsis in our Masonic life -- that we bow down to recall our Obligations as Masons in total submission of humility before the greater altar of His creation. With pure love from our hearts to our fraternal brothers and our neighbors in the greater society, we embrace them in service of their needs they deserve.

Here, Bro. Albert Pike was even wont to be more instructional: "A Freemason should be a man of honor and of conscience, preferring his duty to everything beside, even to his life; independent in his opinions, and of good morals, submissive to the laws, devoted to humanity, to his country, to his family; kind and indulgent to his brethren,

friend of all virtuous men, and ready to assist his fellows by all means in his power."

All these, he can be. MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN JR., the first Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines to have served two Masonic years after World War II, passed the litmus test of this critical time with flying colors. Up from dire strait in youthful past to finish school and do more than good in business, catapulting in Masonic career through hard work and perseverance under the direction of the Supreme Grand Master, is done with distinct finesse as Grand Master.

He will now be back home to his loved ones for the first time after more than a year since the pandemic set in, in the brink of his original term. His homecoming is deservedly exalted with exceptional, great stories to tell, for sure, unbelieving himself how he did it: accomplishing a job in zero pain and strain of loss beyond the length but within the strength of his cable tow, a Masonic feat complete. A shining pride of Macajalar Lodge No. 184 and Cagayan de Oro!

AnCom '20 – '21 had to undergo two recon-figurations because of the surge of covid contagion. Under gloomy clouds of uncertainty and solicitude, nevertheless, activities of the Blue Lodges are gradually coming back to normal all over the grand jurisdiction, except for health protocol of social distancing and use of the face mask.

We are not, as we said, without the puissance to transcend limits.

But the closing sound of the gavel in the East, etched in memory not soon to be forgotten, may only symbolically signal the end of the labors of this outgoing Grand Master jolted by an unprecedented catastrophe in history too odd and, rather, in a manner of expression -- somewhat tectonic in impact to hurdle -- to beckon another year of hardships of a new occupant in the grand chair . . . Under threat of, perhaps, God forbids, even worse for Freemasonry in human lethality.

Congratulations and good luck to you, Most Worshipful Rolen C. Paulino sir!

Editor's Note:

The following is the transcript of the first speech of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. as a Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

Thank you very much, MW Reynato Puno, PGM, for that mesmerizing and touching tribute of my services for our beloved Grand Lodge. I am truly humbled and honoured for being bestowed this beautiful ring and jewel.

And also to my youngest daughter, Mary, my beautiful and caring angel, for bravely coming and joining me here so she can pin this marvellous and symbolic PGM jewel. While I'm away from home, she was sent by her mom to guard me, to protect me from temptations - from eating so much of the savoury food offered by our brethren.

Charity & Humility: Foundations of a True Mason

MW Rolen C. Paulino, GM; RW Johnny T. Pimentel, DGM; RW Don Teng Ramas-Uypitching, SGW; MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr., PGM, Grand Treasurer, MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, Grand Secretary, MW Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PGM, Installing Officer; MW Santiago Gabionza, PGM, Grand Master of Ceremonies; MW Abraham Tolentino, PGM; MW Reynato Puno, PGM, the president of the BGP during my term; MW PGMs, VW Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, Brethren, Sisters, and Guests, Good Afternoon.

Ang sarap ng feeling! This indeed is one of the most emotional moments of my entire life. It is a mix of both honor and humility; of both gratitude and relief; of both happiness for the appreciation you have all showed me and, at the same time, sadness, for the realization that all of your support during my term as grand master -- all of your kindness, your cheers, and all of your visits to my office -- are now but a fond and soon-to-be distant memory.

To MW Rolen C. Paulino, our charming and down-to-earth Grand Master, I congratulate you on your ascension to the Grand Oriental Chair. I am confident that you will live up to your rank and position, and serve this grand jurisdiction in the same dedicated manner that you have shown as a very capable

and well-loved public servant of the city of Olongapo. Thank you for finally relieving me of my post. At least pagkatapos ng term mo, dalawa na tayong tatawagin na PPGM - Pandemic Past Grand Master.

My congratulations as well, to the other installed Grand Officers. I hope you will all carry on what we have started, and serve our Grand jurisdiction with dedication to the fraternity and honor to yourselves. Let me also express my everlasting gratitude to the following brethren whom I consider as the pillars of our team while serving in the GLP. In my daily office work and functions, I was ably assisted by my set of Grand Lodge officers. You are too many to mention one by one but know that I truly appreciate your help. For brevity, let me just cite my core group:

Composed of VW Oliver Yabut, AGS, VW Teodoro Kalaw UV, SGL, VW Dennis Cunanan, COS, VW Diosdado Melegrito, JGS, MW Jun Espino, GT, sina VW Lini Hernando, VW Junjun Gevero, VW Charles Agar, Ronnie Del Beirut, VW Jimmy Pacanan – for they were very instrumental to me and to the Grand Lodge during those two years in office.

Also, MW Franklin Demonteverde, MW Boy Ania, John Narisma, VW Harold Santiago, Joey Villegas, Joey Pangilinan, the IT team, VW Rudy Ong, VW Allan Quebral, and most especially to the Board for General purposes headed by PGM, MW Reynato Puno, and the members, MW Boy Gabionza, MW Peter Lim Lo Suy, MW Jun Ebdane, MW Danny Angeles, MW Pablo Ko Jr, and the late MW Bunda – for their guidance and advise. I can't imagine myself making it through 2 masonic terms without their unselfish advice and support. Napakalaking bagay talaga ang tulong ng Board for General Purposes.

And to the Grand Line officers, District Officers, and members of subordinate lodges, THANK YOU for the appreciation you have all shown me, for supporting my actions, but most importantly THANK YOU for keeping the fire of Freemasonry burning bright in your respective jurisdictions! It has been a

thrilling and incredible roller coaster ride, not just for me but for all of us. It has been a journey of both slumber and reawakening of our beloved institution; of both labor and precaution in helping our brethren and our communities; of both discovery and rediscovery of how we conduct ourselves in this post-pandemic world and under the new normal.

It has been a journey of both sickness and healing, and the realization that, whatever happens – whatever obstacles, tragedies, or calamities, challenges that misfortune attempts to heap upon us – we are still here. Masonry has survived. We will survive. The responsibilities over a great disaster that our nation in general and our fraternity in particular have faced, fell on my lap at a time when a lot of things are unknown. And for the many calamities that occurred during my time – the Taal volcanic eruption, earthquake in Mindanao, typhoons, floods, and now this COVID-19 pandemic, I hope I will never be known or remembered as the Grand Master of disasters. I just did the best I could during my watch. I saw things that needed to be changed and tried to change them; I saw things that can still be improved and tried to improve them; I saw sagging structures and tried to beautify and strengthen them; I saw infractions by the brethren and tried to correct them; and I saw the Craft about to go dark but tried to keep its flames burning. I just hope that in hindsight, I was right most of the time. And I just wish that in all these, I shall simply be noted as the Grand Master who came through in the midst of great difficulties ever faced by the fraternity in modern times – all because of your support.

Last year, everything was already set for a long vacation with my family months before the scheduled AnCom, until the inevitable happened and we had to maintain the status quo in the grand lodge.

Despite the limitations and restrictions faced by your Grand Lodge, we tried our best to serve the Craft as best we could, the best way possible. During those times, I firmly resolved to never let the fraternity be overcome by the terrible storm of the pandemic,



but to navigate through these dangerous waters, so to speak. There is no map or compass for this.

Eto palang si COVID-19 hindi kumikilalang Grand Master, because on December 29, 2020, I tested positive for the virus and it did not spare my daughter, Mary. We were the only two left here in Manila and we have been stranded now for 13 long months already.

Perhaps this time, I can now travel and go back home. I missed my ever supportive most wonderful wife and family, and I long to spend time playing with my grandchildren. Sana tanggapin pa ako ni Ateng. Eh baka, pagpasok ko pa lang sa bahay, salubungin nya akong tanong na “oops Agapito, whence came you? Give me the pass.” But I’m already prepared of the reply, which is COVID-19.

Tonight, I am overwhelmed with a great feeling of gratitude and humility. You honor me by bestowing upon me this Past Grand Master’s jewel and ring. Ang ganda – mabigat, pure gold siguro ito. Sometimes I wonder whether I truly deserve such an honor. Sometimes I doubt myself, whether I truly made the right decisions or not during those very difficult moments in office, and if such decisions have somehow diminished my worthiness as a mason and as a Grand Master. But those feelings are now greatly diminished by your appreciation of me tonight. For that, I am truly grateful and relieved. I am proud and at the same time humbled to say that indeed, the man who came from humble beginnings has ascended to our highest calling. In receiving this Past Grand Master’s jewel and ring, there is also a feeling of relief and fulfilment – that my labors as the custodian of our great fraternity for two straight years are finally over, and that I could now move on and focus my efforts to other things that require my attention – perhaps things I may have neglected or disregarded because of my busy Masonic schedules.

Finally, my beloved brethren, I return once more back to your fold as your plain and simple brother Mason, carrying the humble title of Past Grand Master, but still one among you. Please know that I am still always available and at your service.

Mami-miss ko kayong lahat. I will miss those constant jolly fellowships amongst brethren – those moments of laughter, com-

mittee meetings, the tensions, the sports activities in the GLP (pingpong), Masonic adventures throughout the country and abroad, and the warm hospitality of the brethren.

Thank you for this once in a lifetime experience. I am truly honored and gratified, and I will forever cherish those wonderful and unforgettable moments, safely deposited in my heart as long as I live.

And for the last and final time, from the bottom of my heart, I wish to part by saying that: charity, humility, and gratitude are the virtues and foundations by which great men are made.

Good evening, and Mabuhay ang Grand Lodge of the Philippines!



MINDANAO MEET

A day to Keep & Reminisce: Corner-stone Laying and Temple Dedication in the Davao Region

By VW Joel Andante Capalit, DDGM

“As for this temple you are building, if you walk in My statutes, carry out My ordinances, and keep all My commandments by walking in them, I will fulfill through you the promise I made to your father David.” - 1 Kings 6:12

9 APRIL 2021 (9:00 AM) – Nabunturan, Davao de Oro

There is no place like home. This is always the catchphrase of any individual, organization or family who yearns and values the comforts and security of a home. A home within a house they can call their own — for the brethren of Davao de Oro Masonic Lodge No. 443, building such an edifice is not just a dream, it is a fundamental aim.

The “golden lodge” started its journey when it was instituted in 2018. Several months later, on



15 May 2019, MW Agapito S. Suan Jr. constituted it as a regular lodge in Nabunturan, the capital of Davao de Oro province and became the sixth lodge of MD RXI - Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, and Davao de Oro, and the first for Davao de Oro. For Charter and incumbent Worshipful Master, VW Joselito B. Caballero, PGA, and the brethren of Lodge No. 443, building the first and monumental Masonic edifice in the province was “topmost of the agenda.”

The fast-burgeoning lodge needs to build its own Masonic temple for several reasons: The lodge regularly congregates and conducts special meetings at Tagum Masonic Temple, a landmark edifice in Tagum City, Davao del Norte jointly constructed and shared by Shangri-La Masonic Lodge No. 196 and Tagum Masonic Lodge No. 204. Being a new lodge named after Davao de Oro province, petitioners from the province and nearby towns prefer to seek membership in the new lodge. More so, the brethren have already acquired a 1,000-square meter lot at New Sibonga, Nabunturan and architectural plans for the temple are already laid down as well. Not to mention the pledges of some generous brethren to help fund the project, it is just a matter of time that the laying of the foundations of its own temple will finally take place. After all, amongst the brethren in the District, Davao de Oro Masonic Lodge No. 443 has earned the

moniker “District Lodge.”

Meanwhile, a deadly pandemic continues to stalk humankind all over the world. In June last year, unfazed by the situation, Davao de Oro brethren, dared to open the lot site and began its clearing to pave the way for a new building structure. But it was not until their Regular Stated Meeting on 20 February 2021 that the brethren of 443 finally calendared the laying of the cornerstone of the proposed Masonic temple. Originally scheduled on March 26, fast resurging cases of COVID-19 especially in the National Capital Region and nearby areas put everything on hold. At the Grand Lodge, very wary of the persisting health crisis, MW Agapito Suan Jr. decided to assign his representative for the special event in his stead. And as the health hazard further escalated in the country, the Grand Master authorized yours truly being his District Deputy, to be his alter ego in presiding over the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony of Davao de Oro temple.

Thus, at 9:00 in the morning of 9 April - barely two years after its constitution, braving the current pandemic but utterly observing proper health protocol, and unperturbed by the muddy ground because of the heavy downpours the day before and the intense scorching heat of the sun after, the Brethren of Davao de Oro 443, together with other lodges and guests, assembled to witness the masonic ceremony in accordance with the customs and usages of the



Ancient Craft.

On behalf of MW Suan, this DDGM delivered his message highlighting the significance of the Masonic Hall for the province of Davao de Oro, not only as a beautiful landmark of the progressing capital town, but as the seat of good men seeking to become better by imbibing the principal tenets of the Fraternity — Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

After the foundation stone laying ceremony, Charter Master Joselito Caballero quipped with high optimism, that at last, the building of their temple can now commence. A house they can call their own, Davao de Oro Masonic Temple. Amazing as it may be the brethren of 443 excitedly crossed their fingers to complete the epic edifice before this year ends.

A sumptuous lunch followed after the ceremony, but for this DDGM and his entourage a quick munching of the delectable variety of food prepared for the occasion and warm fellowship

were enough relief. We bid goodbye and head swiftly straight for yet another event some 100 kilometers away — the dedication of Davao Oriental Masonic Hall.

9 APRIL 2021 (1:00 PM) – Mati, Davao Oriental

A one-and-a-half-hour travel from the cornerstone laying, in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental was awaiting dedication - the Davao Oriental Masonic Hall. Joined by the brethren of Mati Aurora Masonic Lodge No. 190 and Don Salvador P. Lopez Masonic Lodge No. 276, led by WM Butch Kevin Rapiz and WM Wilfredo Metucua, respectively. They were at their best preparing for the sacred ceremony which was to commence at 1 pm on that same day.

The construction of this new temple was conceived to replace the old building which was erected from wooden materials in the mid-80's. Brethren of the two lodges consolidated their resources with the support from some benevo-



lent brothers, to put up the new building. MW Juanito G. Espino himself, then Grand Master, went to Mati in 2013 to help lay its foundation stone. It was in 2014 when construction of the temple was started and was almost finished by 2018. In October 2016, however, at the time when this author was Master of Don Salvador P. Lopez Lodge 276, the two lodges of Davao Oriental (Nos. 190 & 276) relocated to the new yet unfinished house as their old home was already in a progressive state of disrepair.

The dedication and consecration of the Davao Oriental hall was supposed to transpire during the hosting of the 64th Mindanao Convention in Mati in February 2020, the first in Davao Oriental, which was praised by many as the grandest MinCon ever held. Circumstances however, prevented it and eventually COVID-19 set in further postponing the activity.

As the impact of the pandemic was perceived to be dwindling by the end of 2020 and travel restrictions were beginning to loosen up, scheduling of Davao de Oro temple cornerstone laying was seen for its final setting, the District decided also to hold the dedication and consecration of the Davao Oriental hall at the same time with GM Suan to lead the ceremony for both activities in accordance with ancient Masonic traditions. But as COVID-19 cases rapidly resurged to alarming levels, the possibility of the Grand Master being present during the occasion became remote.

At the appointed time, the dedication and consecration of Davao Oriental Masonic Hall had to proceed. In the message of MW Suan read by this DDGM, he congratulated the brethren for “endeavoring to erect such Masonic landmark in the beautiful City of Mati” and inspired the brothers “to live as bearers of light that exudes the tenets of Freemasonry, especially Charity for all mankind.”

CONCLUSION

For this author, representing MW Agapito S. Suan Jr., Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines, as presiding officer of the twin hallowed ceremonies namely the cornerstone-laying for Davao de Oro Masonic Temple and the dedication of Davao Oriental Masonic Hall, is indeed a great honor and humbling experience. Though the day may be long and activities both cumbersome and exhaustive, the joy and sense of fulfillment of performing these roles is a once-in-a-lifetime journey. Being at the helm of both solemn masonic ceremonies is equally overwhelming and unforgettable. In fine, for the brethren of Masonic District RXI - Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, and Davao de Oro - the 9th of April Anno Lucis 6021, Anno Domini 2021 is indeed a day to keep and reminisce.

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My Journey with the Grand Master - A Testimonial

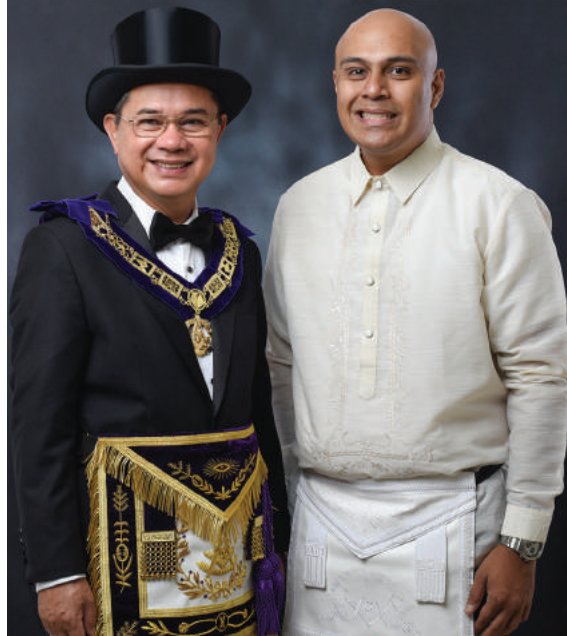
By Bro. Assandas "GOLOO" F. Menghrajani Jr., Aide-de-Camp to MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., PGM

We are rarely given the opportunity to be of service to a high ranking officer of an organization, in the case of our Craft, our Grand Master. It was on that morning of February 25, 2017, when I was at home relaxing with my family (it was a holiday), when I received a call from what appeared to be an unknown number. At first I thought it was some call center agent on telemarketing duty, but upon realizing that the number was a personalized cellphone number, I decided to take the call.

The person on the other side goes, "Si Brod Goloo ni?" (Is this Brod Goloo). So I answer him "Yes po, kinsa ni palihug?" (Yes, who is this please?). He answers, "Si Brod Jun ni, Brod Jun Suan ni." (It's Brod Jun, Brod Jun Suan here.). I tell him "Uy Brod, unsay ato?" (Uy Brod, how can I assist?). I then realized it was Right Worshipful Jun Suan whom I was talking to, the Junior Grand Warden that time, I then said "Ay Right Worshipful Sir sorry po."

He then asked me if I was busy and if it was okay that he invited me on Monday, February 27, 2017 for a coffee in his resort. So I said okay to the meeting and upon hanging up, Ateng Christine my wife, asked me why is it that I sounded panicking when I answered the phone. I told her it was RW Suan the Junior Grand Warden and he wants to talk to me – now what could have I done that the Junior Grand Warden wants to talk to me?

So Monday came and I went to RW Suan's resort here in Cagayan de Oro City at 9:00 in the morning. I was really nervous as I did not know what awaits me and why he has asked to see me. Upon seeing him at the restaurant area of his resort, he asked for me to sit as he explained the reason of the appointment. He was looking



for someone, specifically a Brother who could possibly assist him in his duties, a Brother who has knowledge about our by-laws and who is a "techie." I then asked him - why me? He said that I was strongly recommended and properly vouched for. I then accepted this calling to be of service to the then, Junior Grand Warden and now our Immediate Past Grand Master.

The next morning, I get a call at 5:45 am. Seeing it was RW Suan who was calling, I thought it was an emergency as it was really early (I usually wake up around 7:00 am). He asks me if he woke me up, and of course what do you expect me to answer, I said "No RW Sir, I was awake already."

So he then gave me some instructions on what to do. You know Brethren, our dear MW Bro. Jun never gave me deadlines, he never pressured me, whenever he gave me a task to do, he just let's me do it and that on my own, I knew the next time he calls me there should be a positive feedback on the task assigned to me, or I would update him from time to time on my progress so he would also have peace of mind.

Then came AnCom 2017 in Tagaytay City, it was a very busy schedule for him and me as well as I had to be by his side to assist him if he ever needed anything.

Moving forward, we had to travel to Davao as he had to attend a meeting with the other officers of the Mindanao Nobles Foundation. During the 6-hour drive from Cagayan de Oro to Davao City, I got to know MW Jun, his likes and dislikes, what time he wakes up, medicines he take, etc., and in return I got to tell him my love story!

In the middle of our trip to Davao, he asked to stop at a gas station and guess what, he bought ice cream for the both of us! Doon ko nakita ang simpleng pagkatao ni Grand Master, drumstick po ang binili ni MW Jun at sabi pa niya if kulang pa bili pa daw kami ulit. Sabi ko diabetic po ako Sir, pero kumain pa rin kami.

GM Suan would always prefer to eat in local restaurants or eatery. He was not picky, that's how simple he is. Whenever we travelled, we would share rooms and because he was an early riser and I was still adjusting to that, I had to set my phone alarm to vibrate only and always put the phone under my pillow so I would wake up ahead of him, a secret I never told MW Jun and now he's going to know!

I also recall when we travelled to GenSan to attend the Agila Shriners Hot Sands Ceremonials there as he was the Chief Rabban that time, that on our way back to Cagayan de Oro, we passed by another route which we had to cross to unknown territory, he asked to stop at a small eatery somewhere in Cabacan, I told him if he was sure as it was unknown territory to us and not to mention we were riding a not so common vehicle. He told me not to worry about it, I then saw again the simplicity and humility of MW Jun.

In December of 2017, MW Jun was elected as Illustrious Potentate of the Agila Shriners, and I was his Temple recorder. 2018 was a very busy year for both of us as he MW Jun had to travel almost all over the Philippines as he got countless invitations as Senior Grand Warden and then Deputy Grand Master respectively, and also as Potentate of Agila Shriners.

In his trips here in Mindanao, he would ask me to get his vehicle from his house and drive to meet him in Davao, Gensan, Zamboanga, Ozamis, or any place he will fly into to attend

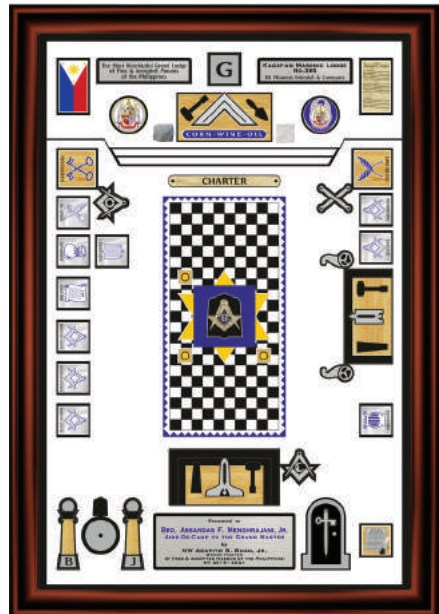
Masonic functions. He was shy and was not used to getting a grand welcome at any place he was invited to attend a Masonic event MW Jun always wanted a low profile life.

I have been to a lot of trips with MW Jun here in Mindanao, some in Luzon and abroad, I could go on and on with all the fond memories I have during the time I was assigned to him. MW Jun never changed as he was and is still the down-to-earth Brother that I met 4 years ago. He has shown not only me, but the Brethren as well what Charity and Humility really means.

To you My Dear Worthy Brother, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan Jr. Sir, thank you for taking the advise of VW Bro. Francis S. Celis and the late VW Bro. Edwin P. Amene as they strongly recommended and properly vouched for me to be your Aide-de-Camp. Thank you for trusting me, for the wisdom you have shared to me, and most of all, for the opportunity to be of service to you Most Worshipful Brother Sir!

I wish you all the best and always at your service MW Sir!

Bro. Assandas "GOLOO" F. Menghrajani Jr.
 Aide-de-Camp of MW Agapito S. Suan Jr., PGM 2019-2021
 Kagay-an Masonic Lodge No. 385
 Masonic District RX-B Misamis Oriental & Camiguin





The Immediate Past Grand Master Comes Home

By VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago,
Grand Scribe

22 April - Thursday

The Brethren members of the Team Suan Viber Community were greeted by the following message from the Grand Master:

Good morning my dear brethren. Today is my last day serving our Grand Lodge from the Grand East. For two years, you have assisted me, supported me, and stayed by my side through thick and thin. You never abandoned me, nor doubted me, nor left my side in some of the most difficult decisions we ever had to make. Because of you, those months of isolation resulting from the pandemic eventually became some of the most fruitful and successful ones our Grand jurisdiction ever had, accomplishing things we never would have, if not for your loyalty, dedication, and faith in your humble Grand Master. I will never forget the trust and confidence you have given me throughout those times. In fact, I will forever be grateful to the Great Architect of the Universe for lending you to me as my ever supportive friend and brother. Thank you, my dear brethren, for all that you have accorded me during my terms of office

as Grand Master. You made all the difference in ensuring not just the survival of Freemasonry in our country during these difficult times, but more importantly, in solidifying its foundations for a stronger and brighter tomorrow. God bless you, my brethren, and thank you again for all your support.

At 9:00 AM, the 104th Annual Communication that was cancelled a year ago finally push through in "Hybrid" format. Election of the new Grand Line Officers commenced at 2:00 pm with RW Rolen C. Paulino, RW Johnny T. Pimentel, and RW Don Teng Ramas - Uypitching elected as Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Senior Grand Warden respectively. Re-elected as Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were MW Juanito G. Espino, PGM and MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM. As agreed during the Plenary, election for the new Junior Grand Warden was deferred until the next 60 days subject to the COVID-19 Conditions by that time. All of MW Suan's Edicts, including Edict 340-A has been approved. With Government Health Protocol still enforced, a few Brethren remained for the Grand Master's Night and the GLP Awards 2021.

23 April - Friday

As MW Suan while on his way to Subic for the Installation of the next Grand Master, he made



a stopover at Clark, Pampanga and together with his retinue had lunch at The Red Crab Restaurant near the CDC Parade Grounds. I took the opportunity to have our photo taken together, our last picture with him as Grand Master and me as his Editor-In-Chief.

30 April - Friday

The Immediate Past Grand Master attended a fraternal luncheon hosted by VW Mariano C. Bassig, Immediate Past District Deputy Grand Master (NCR-G Makati) on his farm in General Trias, Cavite. Accompanied by former Aide-de-Camp VW Ronnie Del Birut, and Past Grand Stewards – VW Diosdado Melegrito & VW Lini Fernando.

May 02 - Sunday

VW Dado Melegrito endorsed the Immediate Past Grand Master and his daughter to the Brethren working at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Incidentally several brothers from Nilad 12 work in the airport, thus Junior Warden Anthony Cruz and requested Petitioner Capt. Ranier Vincent Dy and Engr. Jaybee Pasayan, EAM to assist MW Suan and daughter Mary Clarisse, from their departure from Manila to Laguindingan, Cagayan de Oro via Philippine Airlines Flight No. PR2521 from 0750H to 0925H.

Security Group provided added security. Upon arrival, both father and daughter were assisted by Capt. Dy and Engr. Pasayan and accompanied by the PNP AVSEGROUP was led to a Special Check-In counter, given exclusive Business Seats, before being escorted to the Pre-departure Area of NAIA Terminal 2. Upon parking of the A320 Aircraft to its bay assignment around 0615H they were boarded first by Capt. Dy with the assistance of PAL Ground Crew. It was a smooth flight, with the plane departing and arriving on schedule. MW Suan and Mary Clarisse arrived in CDO on 9:20 am on the same day. He was welcomed at the Laguindingan Airport by the Brethren of his Mother Lodge Macajalar No. 184 led by the incumbent Worshipful Master Nelson Uy and VW Alphon R. Lagamon, PDDGM. From the airport, the convoy proceeded to Ultra Winds Mountain Resort owned by the Past Grand Master himself. After the warm homecoming father and daughter underwent self-quarantine on their Mountain Resort for a week before finally coming home to Ateng Girlie. The immediate Past Grand master has been away from home for a year and two months. During his extended term, MW Jun became a Grandfather as two babies were born to two of his children.

Enjoy your well-deserved break with the Family MW Sir. SALUD!!!

On the day of the flight, Bro. PBGEN Florencio T. Ortilla PNP (12) - Head of the PNP Aviation





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THE FUTURE TEMPLE OF MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR. MASONIC LODGE NO. 458 MASONIC DISTRICT R2-CAGAYAN

Named after the first Grand Master from Northeastern Luzon who dropped his working tools on September 5, 2018. MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ MASONIC LODGE No. 458 was granted its Charter during the 104th Annual Communications on April 22, 2021 upon the recommendation of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. who issued its dispensation last January 14, 2020.

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 a Junior Grand Lecturer for Overseas Lodges, along with other Grand Lodge officers. Thereafter, at the instance of VW Interior and VW Domingo J. De Asis, District Deputy Grand Master of MD R2-Cagayan, 29 other brethren joined in signing a petition to its formation.

Grand Master Suan presided over the cornerstone-laying for its future temple on March 13, 2021 on a

lot donated by VW Interior in Annafunan East, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. Its construction shall forthwith begin as soon as all the necessary building permits for the temple are secured and is expected to be finished in 6 months. On May 10, 2021 - the Lodge was Constituted by MW Rolan C. Paulino Installation of the first set of Lodge Officers to follow.

Incidentally, MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ MASONIC LODGE No. 458 prides itself for having produced two Outstanding Masons from its roster: VW Jefferson P. Soriano, the City Mayor of Tuguegarao, Outstanding Master Mason for Local Governance and VW Interior, its First Master, as most outstanding Junior Grand Lecturer. Like his predecessor VW De Asis, newly - installed DDGM of R2-Cagayan DDGM, VW Miller C. Tanguilan, is also a Charter Member of the lodge. (Bro. Mario P. Narag, Jr., Charter Member)

