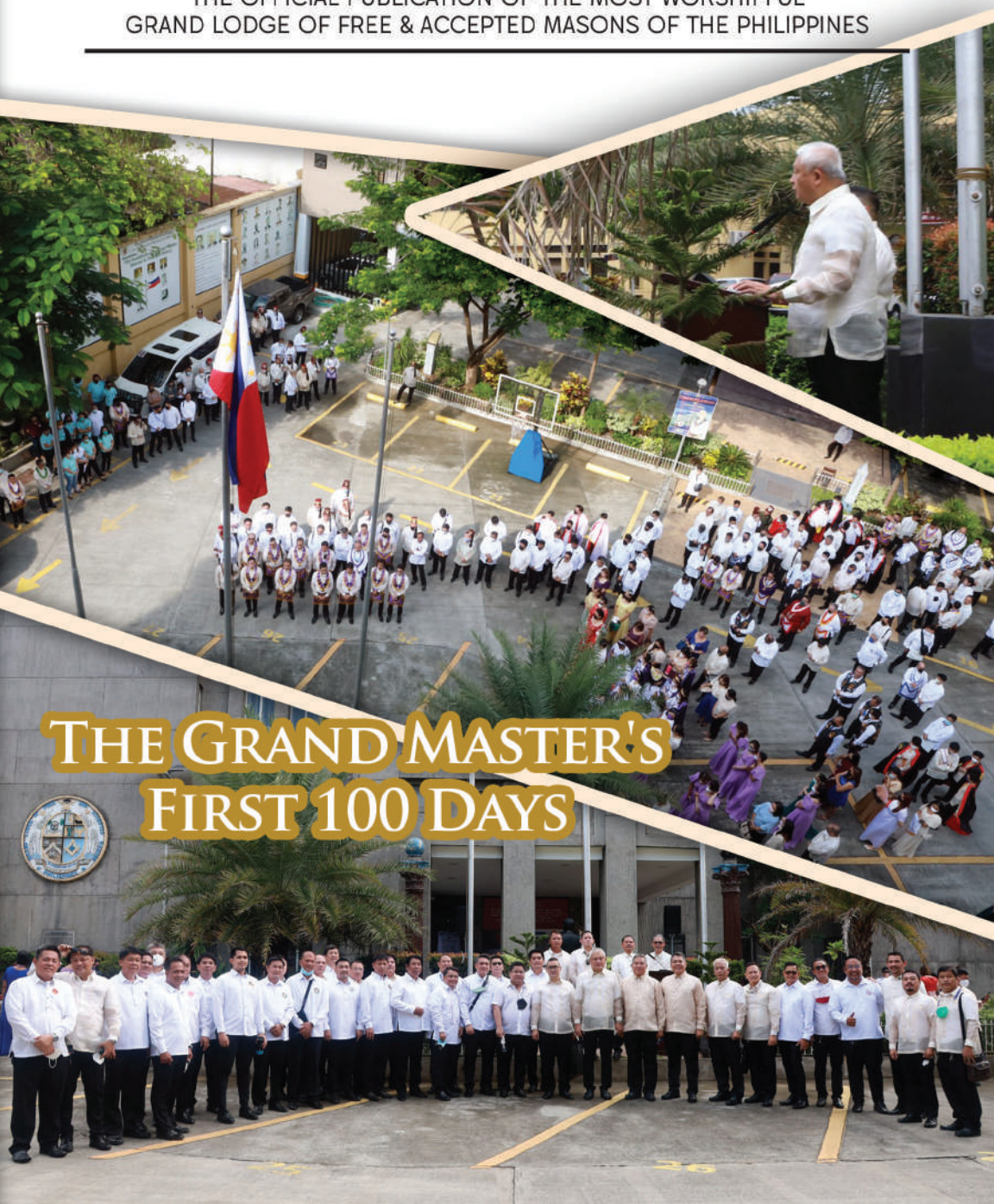
Volume 99, No. 2 - May-June-July 2022

# THE CABLE TOW

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



## THE GRAND MASTER'S FIRST 100 DAYS

# The Cable Tow

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**The Cable Tow Team acknowledges the assistance and cooperation of all the District Deputy Grand Masters of the Masonic Districts in Luzon from CAR, Regions I, II, III, IV, and V.**

### ADVERTISERS

**GLOBE Telecom (page 20)**
**YARDA Corp (page 85)**
**MASON LOYALTY CARD by ARZO (page 54)**
**Masonic District R-III Bulacan**
**Bulacan West (page 32)**
**(page 33) Bulacan West**
**Porac Masonic Lodge No. 411 (page 56)**
**Masonic District R-III Bataan (page 74)**

# From the Grand East



## MW Johnny T. Pimentel
104th Grand Master

My Dear Brethren:

This issue of the Cable Tow marks my first 100 days in the Grand East. Thus far, I have gone through a very and hectic schedules administering the affairs of the Grand Lodge and attending to important functions of our lodges and districts across the country. But thanks to my able-bodied staff and core group, we seem to have managed well.

I make it a point to attend important activities of lodges and meet brethren in their respective localities. This enables me to feel the actual situation in the ground, assess their current issues and offer fast resolutions to pressing problems. Over all, the spirit of brotherhood in our jurisdiction is well and good. I have seen the proud moments of brethren as I lead them in dedicating new lodge temples that they have built with their own sweat and labors. And so far I have presided over the dedication of seven completed temples and the cornerstone laying of ten new ones which will be completed this term. These are pleasing developments – to have new masonic temples erected in our communities attests to the dedication of the brethren to perpetuate the missions of Freemasonry for all time.

With the constitution of nine (9) new lodges, our active regular lodges now reach 431 and still counting. Five (5) more Lodges U.D. await to be instituted while six (6) more are pending approval. This means that we are still growing and this means more work in terms of administration and keeping our systems and processes attuned to present realities. Toward this end, we are aiming for a full digitization of our processes and this will help greatly in faster response time. You will note that so far this term, we have circularized 1,053 new petitioners. There are disturbing reports that some petitioners and applicants to masonic clubs are being subjected to practices contrary to our established regulations and these I cannot let go unpunished. Our masonic laws must be upheld at all times and you will hear the results of our oversight efforts in due time.

Brethren, please remember that it is the fervency of our commitment to masonic tenets and ideals as handed down to us by generations after generations of masons that keep us well-respected and standing out from the rest of the usual fraternities and socio-civic groups all around us. There are many who wish to imitate us, there are fake masonic groups running around, and we do not lack in detractors who attack us in every opportunity. Do not mind them, do not be baited into stooping down to their level by engaging with them over useless arguments.

Our time-tested traditions and ideals, the historical accounts of our influence and significance, as well as the good reputation that we are perennially accorded with, are enough to silence all. There is no need to defend ourselves. Just be secured in the thought that there is only one regular masonic fraternity in this country and it is the one represented by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

Let us all be good and true as masons and all good things will follow.

Grand Lodge of the Philippines
City of Manila
August12, 2022

**JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL**
Grand Master

# In this Issue
## Vol.99, No.2
## The Grand Master's First 100 Days


| | |
|---|---|
| The Cable Tow Team & Contributors | 2 |
| From the Grand East | 3 |
| In this Issue | 4 |
| Editor's Page | 6 |
| About the Cover | 7 |
| The Grand Master's First 100 Days | 8 |
| Circ 4 - MW Pimentel<br>Granting General Dispensation for the holding of Degree Works during Regular Stated Meetings until the Declaration of a Covid-Free Regime | 12 |
| 9 new Lodges under GLP Roster | 13 |
| MASONIC EDUCATION - June 2022<br>What is Heroism, Patriotism, and Nationalism? | 18 |
| IMES resumes face-to-face Classes | 23 |
| IMES Classes Kick-off in Nueva Vizcaya | 24 |
| ROUGH & RUGGED ROAD<br>Peaceable Yet Rebellious? | 26 |
| LODGES of LUZON - Unang Bahagi | 28 |
| MASONIC MEMOIRS<br>Francis Burton Harrison | 34 |
| Your GLI: Friend or Foe? | 36 |
| ON THE LEVEL<br>Of My Own Free Will & Accord | 38 |
| The TAO of SOCIAL CONNECTIONS | 42 |
| PAMINGGALAN NI KUYA PONG<br>Mga Putaheng Pambayani | 44 |
| ON HEROES CLAD IN LAMBSKIN APRONS:<br>Masons Commemorate the 124th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence | 46 |
| MW Johnny Ty Pimentel's June 2022 Message | 49 |




**ON CENTER SPREAD** 50 - 51
GM Circular 5 in Pictures

**GM sojourns with Isabela Brethren** 52

**Laguna Masons Honor Bro. Jose Rizal** 53

**Porac 411 - a Masonic Lodge in Western Pampanga** 55

**LODGES of LUZON - Pangalawang Bahagi** 58

**Earthquake ravages Abra Masonic Temple** 66

**TIDINGS:**

Bagumbayan 4 - Duty is with Us, Always 68

Mt. Matutum 156 Adopts Reforestation Area 69

Bulacan 400 is a Decade Old this 2022 70

MWLAB 458 & Tugegarao 408 Build Team for Harmony 71

R-II Nueva Vizcaya North & Ifugao assist flood victims 71

Masons organize Blood-Letting for Phil Coast Guard 72

Bulacan & NCR-D Masons unite for IPO Dam 73

**GLP Centennial Chronicles 2022 - Part 1** 75

Union 70 and its Unfathomable 100 years 76

Laoag 71 - Celebrating Freemasonry's Centenary in Ilocos Norte 78

Makiling 72 - a Century of Travel in Laguna 80

The First 100 Years of Nueva Ecija 73 82

**A GOLDEN MOMENT**

Shangri-La 196 Reaches Out @ 50 86

**FURTHERMORE:**

The Order of the Secret Monitor 88

**DOCTOR in the TEMPLE**

Monkey Pox - a new health threat! 96

**Grand Master's Independence Day Message** 99

# Editor's Page



The "First Hundred Days" usually alludes to the beginning of a leader's term in office and TCT Issue No. 2 of Vol. 99 features MW Johnny Ty Pimentel's itinerary from Day 1 in April 29 to his 100th Day in August 6, 2022.

With the Grand Master at the steering wheel - Team JTP is off to a great start, accelerating from 0 to 100 in astonishing record time! Travelling with his retinue throughout the country from NCR to Luzon in a week, then through Visayas and his Mindanao Homeland next, and back again at GLP come Monday Morning for Flag-Raising Ceremonies to deliver inspiring speeches for the Brethren that is truly more walk than talk.

This Installment also showcase interesting activities that some of our Masonic Lodges and Districts have done in the same time frame.

On the 110th Year of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, the Cable Tow Magazine, as announced in the Maiden Issue shall feature the five (5) concurrent areas of our Masonic Jurisdiction: NCR, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and Overseas; focusing on a specific territory in each installment of our official publication. Spread out in these pages are the two related articles on the Lodges of Luzon.

Complementing the Hundred Days Theme are the articles on the Hundred-Year-Old Lodges of 2022. There were nine (9) of them chartered in 1922, eight have survived and four of them are featured in this edition under the GLP Centennial Chronicles. Incidentally, nine (9) new lodges were also constituted this year. We hope and pray that as they are perpetuated, may they reach their centenary as well.

And so The Cable Tow Team is back, an assembly of reliable and trust-worthy Brethren from different lodges throughout the jurisdiction. Ever ready to cover the activities of our Most Worshipful Institution as well as inspiring stories from the Brethren.

The next 100 days of our jurisdiction are now in the works for the 3rd Issue. In the meantime, Enjoy these Pages, SALUD!

Pasig City, 30 November 2022

VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago, GSc
Editor-In-Chief / TCT Vol. 99

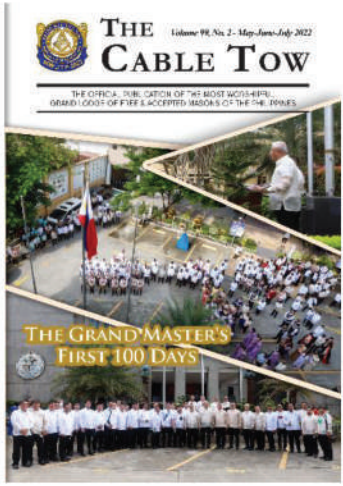
# About the Cover

The 2nd Issue's front cover is a spread that extends to the back cover. Both pages feature a collage of photographs from the four (4) Flag-Raising Ceremonies presided by MW Johnny Ty Pimentel in the months of May, June, July, and August. The Activity has become an integral ritual for Team JTP as the Grand Master makes use of the time to rally the Brethren anew for the Month's Activities and Festivities.

The portfolio also highlights the Philippine flag being the object of attention and direction of every Filipino Mason, as it waves ever so gallantly in front of the Plaridel Masonic Temple bestowing upon each other the honor due their respective representations. It is a constant reminder to all Masons of the importance of Nationhood in Philippine Masonry, as the country was founded upon the ideals of great men and heroes who belonged to the Masonic Fraternity.

After the solemnities, Brethren in attendance as well as the GLP Staff are treated to a bountiful breakfast before ONE and ALL proceed to their respective duties and assignments.

Thus, encoded in the covers is an unwritten tradition that Harmonizes the GLP Institution with our National Symbol while enriching the Fraternity of Masons. - GAV202



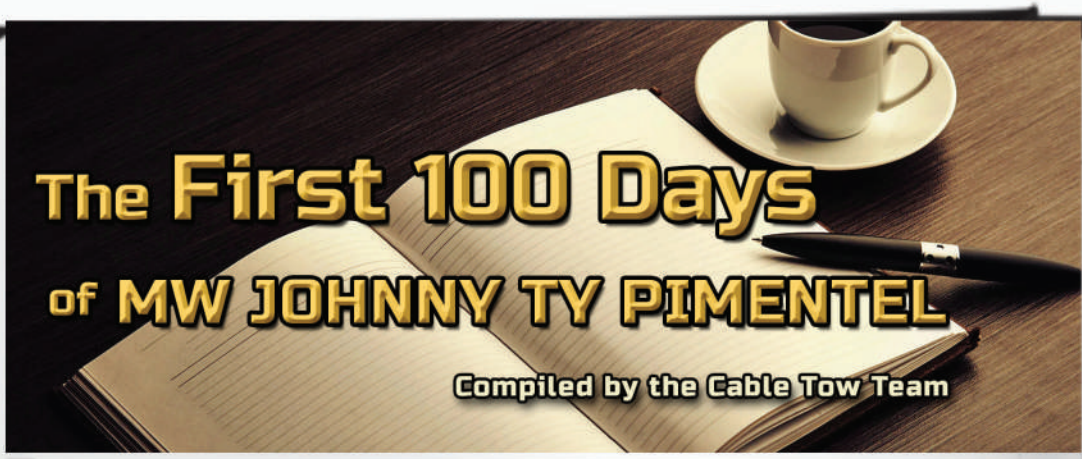






**THE CABLE TOW** is a quarterly publication of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. Main Office: Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila, D 2801, Philippines. Members of Blue Lodges in this grand jurisdiction are regular subscribers thereto. Brethren in other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

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*From April 29 up to the present, MW Pimentel presided over the multi-faceted functions of a Grand Master. Overseeing the Grand Lodge of the Philippines both as a Masonic Order and a Corporate Body. To appraise the Brethren of our Grand Master's Activities, the Cable Tow Team is following the news beat of MW JTP and his Team. The 2nd Issue of TCT Vol.99 presents a summary of the First 100 Days of Masonic Year 2022 - 2023.*

*Working under the theme* ***HARMONY for ONE and ALL: The Foundation of Genuine Masonic Fraternity****, the activities are classified under three (3) Strategic Pillars of Institutional Harmony, National Harmony, and Fraternal Harmony as embodied in the theme Logo.*

## APRIL 2022

**April 28 - Thursday**
MW Johnny Ty Pimentel installed as the 104th Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine Jurisdiction during the 105th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

**April 29 - Friday - First Day as Grand Master**

## MAY 2022

**May 02 - Monday**
Issued Circular No. 1 – MW Pimentel
Subject: **Elected & Appointed Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines**

**May 10 - Tuesday**
Issued Circular No. 2 – MW Pimentel
Subject: **Matters Approved during the 105th ANCOM**

**May 11 - Wednesday**
Issued Circular No. 3 – MW Pimentel
Subject: **Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Members of Standing & Special GLP Committees**

**May 12 - Thursday**
Issued Circular No. 4 – MW Pimentel
Subject: **Granting General Dispensation for the Degree Works during holding Regular Stated Meetings until the Declaration of Covid Free Regime**

**May 16 - Monday**
Led the First Flag Raising Ceremony for Masonic Year 2022 - 2023 at the GLP Compound.
Event Host - the eight (8) Masonic Districts of National Capital Region (NCR).

**May 18 - Wednesday**
**Constituted four (4) Masonic Lodges in One Day**
at the Jose Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila

## MAY 2022

**1:00 PM - Jaen Triangle Masonic Lodge No. 476**
Jaen, Nueva Ecija / Masonic District R III Nueva Ecija

**2:00 PM - Mamamayang Pilipino Masonic Lodge No. 475,**
Makati City / Masonic District NCR

**3:00 PM - Omar Manabilang Masonic Lodge No. 471**
Amai Manabilang, Lanao Del Sur / Masonic District R-X & BARMM

**4:00 PM - Tani U. Telow Masonic Lodge No. 473**
Dangcagan, Bukidnon / Masonic District R-X & BARMM

**May 20 - Friday**
**Job's Daughter International 24th Annual Grand Session**
One Central Hotel, Cebu City
Pillar Thrust: INSTITUTIONAL HARMONY

**May 21 - Saturday**
Constituted - Chocolate Hills Masonic Lodge No. 477
Ubay, Bohol - Masonic District R VII - Cebu, Bohol, & Siquijor
10:00 AM at Boromeo Temple, Cebu Masonic Lodge No.128

**May 28 - Saturday**
**Constituted two Masonic Lodges in One Day**

Enrique M. Cojuangco Masonic Lodge No. 472,
Paniqui, Tarlac / Masonic District RIII Tarlac
10:00 AM at Enrique M. Cojuangco Temple, Brgy. Samput, Tarlac

Aslagan Masonic Lodge No. 470
Apalit, Pampanga / Masonic District RIII Pampanga
3:00 PM at PML48 Centennial Temple , Capitol Blvd., City of San Fernando, Pampanga

**May 30 - Monday**
Attended the simultaneous District Turnover Ceremonies of
Masonic Districts R-IV Cavite Central, Cavite East, and Cavite West
Pillar Thrust: FRATERNAL HARMONY

## JUNE 2022

**June 05 - Sunday**
Issued Circular No. 5 – MW Pimentel
Subject: 124th Independence Day Celebration (2022)

**June 09 - Thursday**
**Created two Lodges in One Day at**
Agusan Valley Masonic Temple, Brgy. Doongan, Butuan City

9:00 AM Institution of Mahogany Masonic Lodge U.D.
Butuan City, Agusan Del Sur / Masonic District R XIII Agusan & Surigao

2:00 PM Constitution of Agusan Marsh Masonic Lodge No. 474
Talacogon, Agusan del Sur / Masonic District R XIII Agusan & Surigao

**June 10 - Friday**
Constituted Mt. Kitanglad Masonic Lodge No. 456
Talakag, Bukidnon . Masonic District R-X Bulidnon NORTH
1:00 PM at Macajalar Temple, JV Seriña St., Carmen, in Cagayan de Oro City

**June 11 - Saturday**
Presided over the Dedication Ceremonies of Katarungan Masonic Temple
Katarungan Masonic Lodge No.450 / Masonic District NCR - C
10:00 AM at Penthouse ARZO Bldg, 1086 Rodriguez St., Bangkal, Makati

**June 12 - Sunday**
8:00 AM - Joined the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other
Government Agencies at Luneta Park for the solemn observance of the
Nation's 124th Independence Day.
Pillar Thrust: NATIONAL HARMONY

## JUNE 2022

**June 13 - Monday**
Led the Flag Raising Ceremony for the month at the GLP Compound.
Event Host - Masonic District RIV Rizal, the Mabuhay Shriners and Agila Shriners

Instituted Caloocan City Masonic Lodge U.D.
Caloocan City, Metro Manila / Masonic District NCR - E
2:00 PM - GLP Stafford Hall

**June 14 - Tuesday**
Led the Cornerstone-Laying Ceremonies for Carmona Sorteo Masonic Lodge No. 451
Masonic District R-IV Cavite EAST
10:00 AM / Hope Street, Cityland, Brgy. Mabuhay, Carmona, Cavite

**June 16 - Thursday**
Led the Cornerstone-Laying Ceremonies for Ang Bagong Bayan Masonic Lodge No. 463
2:00 PM / Llanera, Nueva Ecija
Masonic District R-III Nueva Ecija EAST & Aurora

**June 18 - Saturday**
Led the Lodge Dedication Ceremony of Pinacanauan Masonic Temple and unveiled the
Masonic Monument of Pinacanauan Masonic Lodge No.318 during their Silver Jubilee Celebration
2:00 PM at Upi, Gamu, Isabela / MD R-II Isabela NORTH

**June 19 - Sunday**
Led the Wreath-Laying Ceremony for the 161st Birth Anniversary of Bro Dr. Jose P. Rizal
7:00 AM at Rizal Park of Cauayan City, Isabela
Masonic District R-II Isabela SOUTH & Quirino

**June 25 - Saturday**
Led the Cornerstone-Laying Ceremonies for Pilar Masonic Lodge No. 15
1:00 PM at Brgy. Palico IV, Imus City, Cavite
Masonic District R-IV Cavite EAST

## JULY 2022

**July 02 - Saturday**
Attended as Guest of Honor & Speaker during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of
Shangri-La Masonic Lodge No.196 / MD R-XI Davao Del Norte, Davao Oriental, & Davao de Oro
3:00 PM / DavNor Gym, Capitol Road, Tagum City, Davao Del Norte

**July 04 - Monday**
Led the Flag Raising Ceremony for the month at the GLP Compound.
Event Host - Masonic District NCR-G

Instituted Lakan Masonic Lodge U.D.
Quezon City, Metro Manila / Masonic District NCR - G
10:00 AM at GLP - Palma Hall

**July 05 - Tuesday**
Instituted Mabitag Masonic Lodge U.D.
Mabitac, Laguna / Masonic District R-IV Laguna East
9:00 AM at GLP - Palma Hall

Instituted Federico P. Ambatali Masonic Lodge U.D.
Ilagan, Isabela / Masonic District R-II Isabela NORTH
3:00 PM at GLP - Stafford Hall

Strengthened bonds between our Most Worshipful Institution and the Philippine Government
thru the **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding** between Armed Forces of the Philippines
and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Mason of the Philippines.
Pillar Thrust: National Harmony
6:00 PM at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

## JULY 2022

**July 14 - Thursday**
Issued the first Edict for Masonic Year 2022 - 2023
Edict No. 346 – MW Pimentel
Subject: Uniform Order of Business for District and Multi-District Conventions & for other Matters

**July 15 - Friday**
Led the Cornerstone Laying for VW Andoni T. Dumlao Masonic Lodge No. 424
Surigao Del Norte / Masonic District R-XIII Agusan & Surigao
1:00 PM at Surigao City

**July 25 - Friday**
Attended as Guest of Honor & Speaker during the Induction of Officers for 2022 – 2023 of
Bureau of Internal Revenue Travelers' Haven Inc. (BIRTH)
7:00 PM at Celebrity Sports Plaza Quezon City
Pillar Thrust: Fraternal Harmony

## August 2022

**August 1 – Monday**
Led the Flag Raising Ceremony for the Month at the GLP Compound.
Event Hosted by Masonic District NCR – B

**August 4 – Thursday**
Issued Edict No. 268 - G – MW Pimentel
Subject: Amending Item 7, Item 21 and Item 33 of Edict No. 268-F (MW Momo)
by Including the Immediate Past Masters as Voting Delegates during
District and Multi-District Conventions

**August 5 – Friday**
Led the Lodge Dedication Ceremony of Porac Masonic Lodge No.411
Masonic District R-III Pampanga
2:00 PM at EDSAN Farm, Brgy. Manibaug, Porac, Pampanga

**August 6 - Saturday - 100th Day as Grand Master**

In his First 100 Days in Office, MW Johnny Ty Pimentel have visited the major areas in our grand jurisdiction - Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and the NCR to constitute nine (9) new Masonic Lodges. At the same time instituting five Lodges under dispensation, dedicated three Masonic Temples, and led the corner-stone laying ceremony for four Lodges. He also issued five (5) Circulars and two (2) Edicts.

A warm-up to more events, activities, and communications which The Cable Tow Team will present in the succeeding Installments of Volume 99.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
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MW JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL
Grand Master

MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

**CIRCULAR NO. 4 – MW PIMENTEL**

**TO : ALL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES IN THIS JURISDICTION**

**SUBJECT : GRANTING GENERAL DISPENSATION FOR THE HOLDING OF DEGREE WORKS DURING REGULAR STATED MEETINGS UNTIL THE DECLARATION OF COVID-FREE REGIME**

Edict 328 (MW Suan) mandated that all degree conferrals shall be held in a Special Meeting only in order to ensure strict monitoring of the works by Lodge and District Officials, and thereby ensure compliance with the mandate of Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018.

It is noted, however, that the government has not yet fully lifted all health protocols to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the country is still placed under certain alert levels which may change from time to time. Hence, in order to minimize exposure to health risk, it is ideal that special meetings of lodges be likewise avoided as long as possible. For this reason, all lodges are henceforth allowed to hold degree conferrals during their respective stated meetings until such time that the government declares the country to be COVID-free.

Dispensations should however be applied for to apprise the Grand Lodge and District Officers of the holding of degree works and act accordingly.

All other provisions of Edict No. 328 shall likewise be observed.

This Circular shall be effective upon posting in the official Grand Lodge website or upon receipt by electronic transmission to the official lodge address and shall be read in open Lodge during its stated meeting next following its receipt and duly recorded in the minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the City of Manila this 12th day of May 2022.

Attest:

**DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM**
Grand Secretary

**JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL**
Grand Master




## 9 New Masonic Lodges Constituted at GLP

**by WB Raymond L. Wong, PM (323) / TCT Managing Editor**

Less than 45 days since the ascension of the Grand Master to the Oriental Chair, nine (9) new Masonic Lodges have been added in the GLP Roster. Eight of them – numbered 470 to 477 were granted their Charters during the recently concluded 105th Annual Communications. An interesting case was that of Mt. Kitanglad No. 456, a lodge based in Bukidnon who was granted its charter a year earlier during the 104th AnCom but was not constituted due to the limitations brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic which continued throughout 2021 until the early part of 2022.

On the 18th of May (third Wednesday) – MW Pimentel constituted four lodges at the Jose Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple starting at 1:00 PM with Jaen Triangle Masonic Lodge No. 476. Its officers and members coming from Masonic District R-III Nueva Ecija SOUTH.

Next in the queue was Mamamayang Pilipino Masonic Lodge No. 475. Administered under Masonic District NCR – G (covering the NCR Cities of Makati, Las Piñas, and Parañaque), the Lodge was known for initiating World Boxing Champion – Manny Pacquiao as an Entered Apprentice Mason back in 2021.

At 3:00 in the afternoon, Omar Manabilang Masonic Lodge No. 471 was chartered, with its officers and members flying all the way from Lanao Del Dur and other parts of Mindanao. It is the Benjamin of Masonic District R-X BARMM and Lanao Provinces.

Last but still on the Level with the other Lodges was Tani U. Telow Masonic Lodge No. 473 who received the Ceremony of Constitution at 4:00 PM in the same solemnities of the other three that fateful day. Based in Mindanao, it is the 4th subordinate lodge to be placed under Masonic District R X Bukidnon SOUTH.

***Continue on page 17...***



**Mt. Kitanglay : : 456**
MD R X Bukidnon NORTH
Constituted: 10 June 2022
WB Amado Z. Noble, Jr.
(Charter Master)
Sponsoring : : Tangkulan 287



**ASLAGAN : : 470**
MD RIII Pampanga
Constituted: 28 May 2022
VW Joey Y. Pangilinan, GH
(Charter Master)
Sponsoring : : Pampanga 48



**OMAR MANABILANG : : 471**
MD RX BARMM & Lanao Provinces
Constituted: 18 May 2022
VW Ferdinand R. Roque, Jr., PDDGM
(Charter Master)
Sponsoring : : Rajah Indarapatra 387



**Enrique M. Cojuangco : : 472**
MD RIII Tarlac
Constituted: 28 May 2022
VW Romeo B. Yaranon, DDGM
(Charter Master)
Sponsoring : : Victory 116



**TANI U. TELOW : : 473**
MD RX Bukidnon SOUTH
Constituted: 18 May 2022
WM Rennie S. Bon
(Charter Master)
Sponsoring : : Zosimo Montemayor 212



**AGUSAN MARSH : : 474**
MD RXIII Agusan & Surigao
Constituted: 9 June 2022
VW Lyndon J. Romero, PDDGM
(Charter Master)
Sponsoring : : Timberland 219



**MAMAMAYANG PILIPINO : : 475**
**MD NCR - G**
**Constituted: 18 May 2022**
**VW Rufino G. Arias, Jr., PAGT**
**(Charter Master)**
**Sponsoring : : Hadji Butu Rasul 393**



**JAEN TRIANGLE : : 476**
**MD RIII Nueva Ecija SOUTH**
**Constituted: 18 May 2022**
**VW Albert S. Jalova, PDGL**
**(Charter Master)**
**Sponsoring : : ARL 290 & Factoria 311**



**Chocolate Hills : : 477**
**MD RVII Cebu, Bohol, & Siquijor**
**Constituted: 21 May 2022**
**VW Hipolito Ucang, PDGL**
**(Charter Master)**
**Sponsoring : : Dagohoy 84 & Siquijor 418**

*... Continued from page 13*

On May 21, fourth Saturday – the Grand Master and his entourage flew to Cebu City to constitute Chocolate Hills Masonic Lodge No. 477 inside the Masonic Temple of Cebu 128 at 10:00 in the morning. Soon to be located in the Municipality of Ubay in Bohol, the Lodge will be a part of Masonic District R-VII Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor (CBS).

Team JTP with MW Pimentel in the lead, headed to Central Luzon a week after – May 28, to constitute two more in the neighboring provinces of Tarlac and Pampanga:

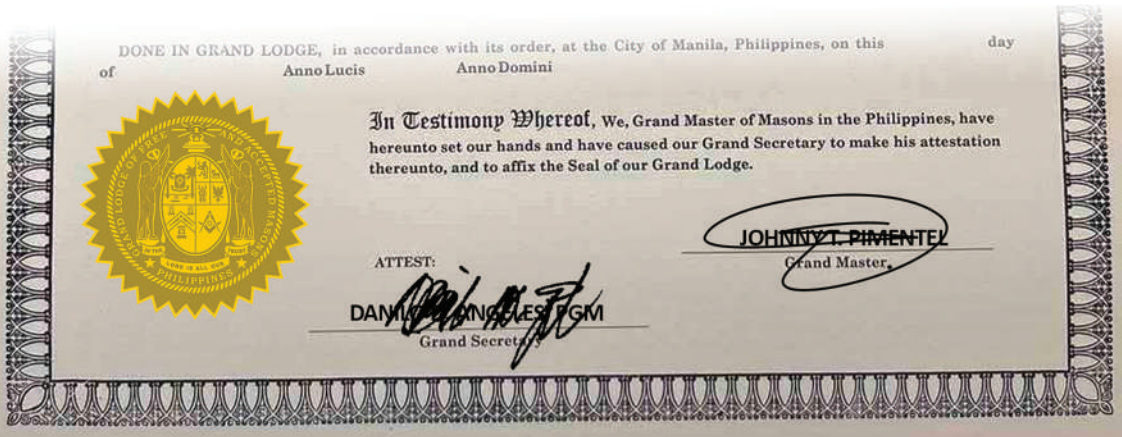
The solemnities for Enrique M. Cojuangco Masonic Lodge No. 472, was held at 10:00 AM in Brgy. Samput, Paniqui, Tarlac. Aslagan Masonic Lodge No. 470 followed at 3:00 PM in the Centennial Temple of Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48 at Capitol Blvd, in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The two newly constituted lodges were clustered in the Masonic Districts of R-III Tarlac and R-III Pampanga, respectively.

In June, the Grand Master and party flew to Mindanao for the Constitution of the two subordinate lodges remaining in the list:

Agusan Marsh Masonic Lodge No. 474, was constituted in June 9 (2nd Thursday) 2:00pm at Agusan Valley Masonic Temple (Agusan Valley 160), Brgy. Doongan, Butuan City. With address at Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, it became the youngest member of Masonic District R-XIII Agusan & Surigao.

Finally, more than 13 months since its Charter was granted, Mt. Kitanglad Masonic Lodge No. 456 was constituted in June 10 (2nd Friday) 1:00 PM at Macajalar Temple (Macajalar 184) in JV Seriña St., Carmen, in Cagayan de Oro City. The Lodge is placed under the care of Masonic District R-X Bukidnon NORTH.

**"The constitution of these nine Worshipful Lodges is a clear indication of masonic growth in 4 of the 5 main regions of our jurisdiction". Says MW Johnny Ty Pimentel. "With one Lodge for NCR – Mamamayang Pilipino 470; three from Luzon - Jaen Triangle 476, Aslagan 470, and Enrique M. Cojuangco 472; another in the Visayas - Chocolate Hills 477; and four more in Mindanao - Mt. Kitanglad 456, Omar Manabilang 471, Tani U. Telow 473, and Agusan Marsh 474; we can proudly claim that Philippine Masonry is thriving well – almost a century and a decade, since the founding of our Most Worshipful Institution." Added the Grand Master.**


DONE IN GRAND LODGE, in accordance with its order, at the City of Manila, Philippines, on this day of Anno Lucis Anno Domini

In Testimony Whereof, We, Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines, have hereunto set our hands and have caused our Grand Secretary to make his attestation thereunto, and to affix the Seal of our Grand Lodge.

JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL
Grand Master

ATTEST:

DANILO [illegible] GONZALES PGM
Grand Secretary

# Masonic Education

VW Dennis L. Cunanan
Senior Grand Lecturer

## WHAT is HEROISM, PATRIOTISM, and NATIONALISM?



Our Grand Master's theme Harmony for One and All – the Foundation of a Genuine Masonic Fraternity is supported by three (3) Pillars, namely: Institutional Harmony, National Harmony, and Fraternal Harmony.

For the second month of Masonic Year 2022 – 2023, our Masonic Education Lecture is being delivered in celebration of the 124th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence and is venerated in the Pillar of National Harmony.

In order to differentiate these three important words, the Corps of Grand Lecturers consulted both dictionaries of Oxford and Merriam-Webster, and other references:

HEROISM is a virtue associated with very great courage; it is the conduct exhibited in fulfilling a high purpose or attaining a noble end. People and even animals exhibiting such qualities can be considered a Hero.

PATRIOTISM is the devotion to and vigorous support for one's country including the willingness to defend it. Persons imbued by such devotion and support can be called Patriots.

NATIONALISM is the desire by a group of people who share the same race, culture, language, etc. to form an independent country; it can also be a set of beliefs and symbols expressing identification with a given national community. People inspired with such desire, belief, or symbol can be considered Nationalists.

Notice that among the three - HEROISM is less encompassing, for it can begin from just one act of bravery resulting into a greater end. Heroic Virtue can be so simple that even animals – like dogs saving the lives of their masters or other humans, can be considered Heroes.

PATRIOTISM is a more noble form of Heroism. It demands not just action in order to be practiced. More than acts of bravery, it requires devotion and is directed to a bigger stage that is one's country. Most of the veterans of the Philippine Revolution and the 2nd World War belong to this category.

NATIONALISM is the most complicated of the three. It is the result of conscious efforts and continuing vigilance resulting into the birth and growth of a Nation. It embodies the belief of a group of people, so strong that it can endure long after a country is conquered or a people subdued. It can cling on even if a nation is reduced to an idea, a symbol, a memory or a feeling. Nationalists can make their nations great. Bonifacio, Rizal, and Mabini are Nationalists.

Nationalism however has an unfavorable side - its more potent form can lead to the belief that one's country is better than any other; extreme nationalists may identify their nation as superior and will support its interests, even to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations.

While Nations are born and prosper with the right amount of Nationalists, most wars erupt because of extreme Nationalism, they are fought by Patriots, while lives are saved by Heroic Actions.

Our country, even prior to its inception have its fair share of Heroes, Patriots, and Nationalists.

According to the website of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA), no law, executive order or proclamation has been enacted or issued officially proclaiming any Filipino historical figure as a national hero. However, because of their significant roles in the process of nation building and contributions to history, there were laws enacted and proclamations issued honoring these heroes.

Even Jose Rizal, considered as the greatest among the Filipino heroes, was not explicitly proclaimed as a national hero. The position he now holds in Philippine history is a tribute to the continued veneration or acclamation of the people in recognition of his contribution to the significant social transformations that took place in our country.

Aside from Rizal, the only other hero given an implied recognition as a national hero is Andres Bonifacio whose day of birth on November 30 has been made a national holiday.

Despite the lack of any official declaration explicitly proclaiming them as national heroes, they remain admired and revered for their roles in Philippine history. Heroes, according to historians, should not be legislated. Their appreciation should be better left to academics. Acclamation for heroes, they felt, would be recognition enough.

On March 28, 1993 , President Fidel V. Ramos issued Executive Order No.75 "Creating the National Heroes Committee Under the Office of the President". The principal duty of the said Committee is to study, evaluate and recommend Filipino national personages or heroes in due recognition of their sterling character and remarkable achievements for the country. In that same year, the Technical Committee of the National Heroes Committee adopted the following Criteria for National Heroes:

> 1. Heroes are those who have a concept of nation and thereafter aspire and struggle for the nation's freedom. Our own struggle for freedom was begun by Bonifacio and finished by Aguinaldo, the latter formally declaring the revolution's success. In reality, however, a revolution has no end. Revolutions are only the beginning. One cannot aspire to be free only to sink back into bondage.
>
> 2. Heroes are those who define and contribute to a system or life of freedom and order for a nation. Freedom without order will only lead to anarchy. Therefore, heroes are those who make the nation's constitution and laws, such as Mabini and Recto. To the latter, constitutions are only the beginning, for it is the people living under the constitution that truly constitute a nation.
>
> 3. Heroes are those who contribute to the quality of life and destiny of a nation. (As defined by Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz)

Three more criteria were added in 1995:

> 4. A hero is part of the people's expression. But the process of a people's internalization of a hero's life and works takes time, with the youth forming a part of the internalization.
>
> 5. A hero thinks of the future, especially the future generations.
>
> 6. The choice of a hero involves not only the recounting of an episode or events in history, but of the entire process that made this particular person a hero. (As defined by Dr. Alfredo Lagmay).

On November 15, 1995 , the Technical Committee after deliberation and careful study based on Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz' and Dr. Alfredo Lagmay's criteria selected the following nine Filipino historical figures to be recommended as National Heroes, they are: Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Muhammad Dipatuan Kudarat, Juan Luna, Melchora Aquino, and Gabriela Silang.

Since the submission of the report / recommendations by the National Heroes Committee to then Secretary Ricardo T. Gloria of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports on November 22,1995 , no action has been taken. Probably because this might trigger a flood of requests for proclamations. Another possibility is that the proclamations can trigger bitter debates involving historical controversies about the heroes.

It is interesting to note that 6 of the 9 recommended are Masons:

1. Jose Rizal was initiated in Acacia Lodge No.9 under Gran Oriente de España in Madrid. He was raised in Logia Solidaridad No.53 under Gran Oriente Español, also in Madrid, Spain. He was later conferred the title of Honorary Past Master by Logia Nilad No.144 of Gran Oriente Español, now under GLP as Nilad Lodge No.12.

2. Andres Bonifacio was an Aprendiz Mason (Entered Apprentice) of Logia Taliba No. 165.

3. Emilio Aguinaldo was a Mason from Logia Pilar No. 203 (1914-1915) who later founded Logia Magdalo No. 371. Both lodges are now under the jurisdiction of the GLP as Pilar Lodge No.15 and Emilio Aguinaldo Lodge No.31, respectively.

4. Apolinario Mabini was raised to the Sublime Degree at Logia Balagtas No. 149

In 1911, Logia Taliba 165, Logia Balagtas 149, and Logia Lusong 185 – all under the obedience of Gran Oriente Espanol merged into one lodge, Logia Solidaridad No. 323. It was the same name which the members of the Propaganda Movement in Spain gave to the lodge that they founded in Barcelona and re-established in Madrid. The said lodge later joined the GLP in 1917 and became Solidaridad Lodge No. 23

5. Marcelo H. del Pilar served as Venerable Master of Logia Solidaridad No.53 and is revered as the Father of Philippine Masonry

6. Juan Luna was made a Mason in Paris, France under the auspices of Logia Solidaridad 53.

Our Masonic Law Book (page 319 of the 2019 Edition) discusses Masonic Commemorations, among them are:

June 12 – Declaration of Philippine Independence

June 19 – Birth Anniversary of Bro. Jose Rizal

Last Monday of August (August 29, 2022) – National Heroes Day

Nov 30 – Birth Anniversary of Andres Bonifacio

Dec 30 – Death of Jose Rizal

In addition to the above, Lodges are also encouraged to observe the birth anniversaries of prominent Masonic personalities born in their respective towns or provinces by holding a memorable public activity or program that will propagate the vision and virtues of our beloved Brethren, namely:

MW Jose Abad Santos – born February 19, 1886 in San Fernando, Pampanga

Bro Gregorio Aglipay – born May 5, 1860 in Batac, Ilocos Norte

WB Emilio Aguinaldo – born March 22, 1869 in Kawit, Cavite

WB Marcelo H. Del Pilar – born August 30, 1850 in Bulacan, Bulacan

Bro Ladislao Diwa – born June 27, 1863 in San Roque, Cavite

WB Dionisio Gutierrez – born October 9, 1891 in Batangas, Batangas

WB Jose P. Laurel – born March 9, 1891 in Tanauan, Batangas

WB Graciano Lopez-Jaena – born December 18, 1856 in Jaro, Iloilo

Bro Antonio Luna – born October 29, 1866 in Binondo, Manila

Bro Apolinario Mabini – born July 23, 1864 in Tanauan, Batangas

MW Manuel L. Quezon – born August 19, 1878 in Baler, Aurora

WB Manuel A. Roxas – born January 1, 1892 in Capiz, Capiz

Bro Paulino Santos – born June 22, 1890 in Camiling, Tarlac

Furthermore, our Masonic Law Book is advising all lodges named after Masonic Personalities to observe the birth anniversaries of their benefactors with an appropriate program even during their Stated Meetings.

It must be remembered however, that NOT all in the Pantheon of Filipino Heroes are Masons: Known Patriots like Emilio Jacinto and Gregorio del Pilar have NO RECORD of being Masons and should not be included as one.

BUT WHAT OF THE PRESENT?

Several Masons have distinguished themselves with their acts of Bravery, devotion to duty, selfless advocacies, and the sincere desire to uplift their Country and Countrymen. Some, having been known for their advocacy, philanthropy, and other outstanding deeds and characteristics have been honored by the Brethren by establishing or renaming lodges after them. Many Brother Patriots, Heroes, and Nationalists exist among our Uniformed Personnel.

For standing up to ideals and principles like Human Rights for example, we have:

Bro. Salvador P. Lopez of Bagumbayan Lodge No.4

Bro. Senator Jose Diokno of Nilad Lodge No.12

Bro. Luis Martin "Chito" Gascon of Hiram Lodge No. 88

In contemporary times, especially during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic, several Filipino Masons have stood up as Frontliners and through various acts of self-sacrifice and can be considered as modern day heroes, among them were:

WB Romeo Gregorio "Greg" N. Macasaet III, M.D., of Keystone Lodge No. 100

For his selfless acts in the line of duty during the early stages of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Brother Doctor became one of the first casualties in the country. His life and death were punctuated by heroic deeds.

Bro. David Jonathan Pagaduan, MD of Dr. Filemon C. Aguilar (Las Piñas) Lodge No. 332

On April 2020, as the Covid-19 Pandemic raged on and the Nation is in Extended Community Quarantine, our Brother was on his way home after attending to his regular duties at the Perpetual Help Hospital in Las Pinas, when he saw a pregnant woman on the street experiencing severe abdominal pain. Disregarding his own personal safety just to remain true to his sworn obligation as a Medical Practitioner and to help, aid, and assist a person in distress, Bro. David Jonathan Pagaduan, MD, (DFCA No.332) stopped to help the woman in distress. His unwavering compassion and commitment to his profession led to his contracting the highly contagious Corona Virus and resulted to his untimely death.

VW Adriatico "Akok Tan" Tee of Biak-na-Bato Lodge No. 007

The selfless acts and sacrifices of Kuyang Akok have provided blood to those who need them, thus helping to extend their lives . An advocacy he started in their lodge in 2016 in cooperation with VW James Ngan who at present continues the same advocacy for the benefit of the Brethren and the Society.

LECTURER INSIGHTS / GUIDE QUESTION FOR LECTURERS

Note: DGL's answers to these questions shall be among their contributions to the Lecture:

1. Who are the known Masonic Personalities (both living and dead) in your Masonic District or Province that can be considered as Heroes, Patriots, or Nationalists?

2. How can Lodges in your Masonic District or Province honor them?

CONCLUSION

A non-Mason once asked the Brethren – three loaded questions:

Why is it that many (if not ALL) of our Heroes are Masons?

Were they made masons because they are Heroes?

Or did they become Heroes because they were masons?

Historically, Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Marcelo H. del Pilar, the Luna Brothers, Graciano Lopez-Jaena, Jose Abad Santos, Manuel L. Quezon, Jose P. Laurel, Manuel A. Roxas, Salvador P. Lopez, Jose Diokno, Chito Gascon, WB Greg Macasaet, Bro. Pagaduan, Kuyang Akok Tan, and many more were Masons first long before being distinguished for their acts of bravery, devotion to duty, selfless advocacy, and the sincere desire to uplift their Country and Countrymen. The lives that they have lived provide a clear answer to that third question. Our Fraternity have instilled in each Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason the Cardinal Virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice; added Faith, Hope and Charity; PLUS the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; and tempered each MASON with our Obligations, Working Tools and Degree Lectures, and Ancient Masonic Charges. The names mentioned in this lecture are exemplars of what Masons can be if they remain to be good men and true. Brethren there is a Hero, a Patriot, and a Nationalist in each of us…

# Globe Business rolls out GPlan Biz to help MSMEs push boundaries of business growth




While micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) are the most vulnerable to unpredictable economic conditions, their size allows them to roll with the punches and be quick to adapt to new environments.

But in a rapidly changing economic landscape where customer needs are evolving and e-commerce is trying to keep up, MSMEs need more than basic connectivity to catch up and aggressively participate in the push for growth.

To give Filipino entrepreneurs more ways to enhance their business operations, Globe Business expanded its portfolio of postpaid mobile plans designed to support their dynamic needs.

**Usher digital transformation along with seamless communication**

GPlan Biz is the latest option for MSMEs that are looking for technology that can help achieve breakthroughs for their businesses. These are made-for business postpaid plans that offer more than just on-the-go communication and connectivity, with additional features that address the growing needs of business owners—from robust unlimited 5G, impressive device deals and GCash. All plans also come with unlimited calls and text to all networks and landline as well as otherperks that allow businesses to operate more efficiently.

Selecting their plans with GCash allows business owners to do a range of transactions with ease from wherever they are: paying bills or utilities, buying tools or gadgets or even sending payments to suppliers and employees. Plus they still have the option to avail of the value-packed SIM-only plans or with the latest device with GPlan Biz.

Subscribers can also choose from a wide array of inclusions whether to secure their and employees' health with free access to teleconsultations with KonsultaMD, a 24/7 unlimited telehealth membership service, or to boost productivity with free 1GB for Facebook, Gmail or Viber.

"As a reliable digital solutions partner of Filipino entrepreneurs, Globe Business continues to create ways to enhance their mobility experience to help them push the boundaries of their businesses' growth," said KD Dizon, Globe Business MSME Group Head. "With GPlan Biz, business owners have enough room for creativity and innovation to maximize the benefits of a digital economy."

*Learn more about GPlan Biz and how it will help your business grow and achieve digital transformation.*

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# IMES resumes Face-to-Face Classes

**By VW Jeffrey Alba, PDDGM, IMES President**

After a long string of online classes conducted via Zoom Platform from 2020 unto 2021 during the height of lockdown caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Institute of Masonic Education & Studies have resumed its traditional face-to-face lecture format for Masonic Year 2022 – 2023.

Retaining the 3-day Basic Diploma Course that has been adopted by the IMES Faculty since 2019, the condensed schedule spans from Friday to Sunday, including the Graduation and the fellowship on the last day proved convenient both to our Brother Instructors and Students.

First to be granted their schedule was Masonic District R-II Nueva Ecija South under the leadership of their District Deputy, VW Dan August S. Oro. Held from May 20 to 22 at Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, the pilot class (No. 2022-179) for this Masonic Year had 137 enrollees of which 133 graduated.

The next two (2) class schedules were also granted to the Southern and Northern Masonic Districts of R-II Nueva Vizcaya held in June 17 to 19 (No. 2022-180) and July 1 to 3 (No. 2022-181), respectively. 79 graduated from the 82 enrollees of Class 2022-180 organized by VW Oro; while 100 graduates are credited to the third IMES Class, this time under NV North DDGM – VW Jeremiah Rossete, which had 132 registrants.

Priority was given to our Vizcaya Brethren to cater to the immediate needs of some 200 Master Masons belonging to Nueva Vizcaya Lodge No. 144 whose charter has been arrested last March 31, 2022 by then Grand Master MW Rolen C. Paulino. Among the requirements stipulated in the resolution of Case No.2021-RCP-005 is for their members to attend and earn their IMES Diplomas before GLP issue their Certificates of Good Standing which will allow them to affiliate with other lodges in the jurisdiction.

Two more IMES Classes were conducted in July: Class No. 2022-182 held in July 15 to 17, sponsored by Masonic District R-XI Davao Del Norte & Oriental under VW Arnold Lao, DDGM produced 79 Graduates out of 88 enrollees; while R-III Tarlac's Class No. 2022-183 (dated July 29 to 31) c/o VW Romeo Yarananon, DDGM generated 63 graduates from 71 participants.

Topping off the First 100 Days of this Masonic Year is Class No. 2022-184, sponsored by Calasiao Masonic Lodge No.449 (WM Teofilo Rolluda) and R-I Pangasinan (VW Darius Garcia) from August 5 to 7. It had 64 graduates from its 69 registered participants.

From May 20 to August 7, 2022 – IMES have finished 6 classes for the Basic Diploma Course – producing a total of 518 Graduates out of 556 enrollees. 132 of them from Nueva Vizcaya Lodge No. 144. The Institute is currently conducting classes throughout the jurisdiction. Other Masonic Districts as well as Sojourner Clubs can request for their IMES class schedules by writing a Letter of Intent addressed to the Institute and sent by email to: IMESGLP2020@GMAIL.COM or contact Bro. Lheng Ocuaman at 09255396758

IMPORTANT NOTE:

**Pursuant to Article XX, Section 5 – G of the 2019 Masonic Lawbook, the minimum number of enrollees in any given class should be not less than thirty-five (35).**



IMES Instructor VW Lusito Cornel, PDGL conducts lessons in Rituals & Ceremony for Pagkakaisa Class (Batch No. 2022-179) on their last day.

# IMES Classes kick-off in Nueva Vizcaya

**Bro. Edgar A. Cook (410) /**
**TCT Head News Correspondent**

The two Masonic Districts of R-II Nueva Vizcaya comprised of the Southern and Northern Lodges in the province as well as Ifugao made up the first three classes on Basic Diploma Course conducted by the Institute of Masonic Education & Studies that kick-start the Masonic Year 2022 – 2023.

The first 2 batches registered as IMES Class No. 2022-179 and 2022-180 were organized by R-II Nueva Vizcaya SOUTH under VW Dan August S. Oro, DDGM.

Batch No. 2022-179, calling themselves "Pagkakaisa Class" with 137 enrollees elected Bro. Richard Olavidez - Junior Warden of Ari-Tau Masonic Lodge No.279 as President. They received their instructions at Haidan Building in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya from May 20 to 22 with 133 attendees graduating.

"Makisig Class" with Batch No. 2022-180 had their sessions at Nueva Vizcaya State University in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya last June 17 – 19, with 79 of the 82 registrants receiving their IMES diplomas on the last day. The batch chose the Worshipful Master of Guillermo E. Bongolan Masonic Lodge No. 330 - WM Zaldy Magno as Class President.

"We are optimistic that these three-day courses have refreshed and enhanced the knowledge of both old and new Master Masons in our province." Said a smiling VW Oro – whose Southern District earned a total of 212 graduates from the first two IMES sessions.

The Third and last Batch, No. 2022-182, this time organized thru the labors of R-II Nueva Vizcaya NORTH & Ifugao, and its District Deputy VW Jeremiah Rossete held their IMES classes from July 1 to 3, at the 3rd Floor of Malabing Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative Bldg. at Brgy. Bagahabag, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. The class of 133 attendees voted for Bro. Joel Mabiasan of Mt. Palali Lodge 420 as their class president.

"The conduct of the Basic IMES Course was very timely, especially for the 100 Graduates of "Malabing Class", as their knowledge on the various principles, laws, doctrines, and jurisprudence of the craft were broadened." Quoted the DDGM, who further added that it enlightened the brethren on the loss of the oldest Masonic Lodge in their District.

Another aim of all three IMES classes was to cater to the immediate needs of the brethren from Nueva Vizcaya Lodge No. 144 following MW Rolen Paulino's arrest of their Charter last 31 March 2022, as their members must earn IMES Diplomas prior to the Grand Lodge's issuance of their individual Certificates of Good Standing which is a requirement for affiliation to other lodges in the jurisdiction. At least 130 Master Masons from the 144th Lodge graduated between May 22 to July 3.

To ensure the safety of all participants in the duration of these IMES classes, safety and health protocols as per the Inter Agency Task Force of Nueva Vizcaya for the prevention of Covid-19 were strictly observed by each sponsoring district, paying extra attention to the regular sanitation of the classrooms during the three-day class sessions of each batch. Antigen Testing on all participants including the IMES Faculty and Staff was also conducted during the first day of each Class.

Accompanying IMES President – VW Jeffrey Alba in all three IMES Classes in the 2 Masonic Districts of Nueva Vizcaya were Bro. Carlito "Leng" Ocuaman and the following IMES Instructors: VW J. Harold Santiago, GSc (Masonic History); VW Paul V. Santos-Estrella, PDDGM (Masonic Philosophy & Symbolism); VW Edgardo M. Villareal II, PJGL (Lodge Governance & Jurisprudence); VW Robert Asuncion, PSGL (Masonic Decorum & Protocol); and VW Luisito Cornel, Jr., PDGL together with his understudy Bro. Francis Manuel (Masonic Rituals & Ceremonies). Together, the Team travelled more than 280 kms from Manila to Nueva Vizcaya on three separate occasions in May, June, and July 2022 producing 312 graduates from out of 352 participants.

With three IMES classes concluded in Masonic District Region II – Nueva Vizcaya, both VW Dan August Oro and VW Jeremias Rossete, the Grand Master's District Deputies for the Southern and Northern Lodges in their province as well as in Ifugao, are confident that more brethren in their respective districts are now better equipped to continue their journey as Master Masons.





# ROUGH & RUGGED ROAD

VW Victor A. Yu, PSGL (95)

## PEACEABLE YET REBELLIOUS?

In one of his speeches, Brother Emilio Aguinaldo remarked that: *The successful Revolution of 1896 was masonically inspired, masonically led and masonically executed … the first Philippine Republic … was an achievement we owe, largely, to masonry and the freemasons.*

Similarly, *Brother Simón Bolívar*, liberated from Spanish rule the territories that are now the nations of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and Bolivia. Brother Mustafa Kemal Atatürk also fought his government and became the founding father of the modern, democratic and secular Republic of Turkey.

Freemasons (*George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, Ethan Allen, John Jay, Sam Adams, John Paul Jones and Paul Revere*) likewise discharged vital roles in their war for independence and the birth of the United States of America.

There seems to be a great contradiction where we are taught to be "peaceable citizens" and submit to the laws of our respective countries; but Freemasons have figured prominently in rebellions worldwide. In resolving such incongruity, let us revisit our ancient charges and regulations; our Charges as Entered Apprentice Masons required of us that:

> *As a citizen, you are enjoined to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties, by never proposing or countenancing any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society: by paying due obedience to the laws under whose protection you live; and by never losing sight of the allegiance due to your country.*

In our Lodges' **Installation Ritual**, the Master also assents to the following:

> *II. You agree to be a peaceable citizen and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.*
> *III. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decision of the Supreme Legislature.*
> *IX. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate social virtues and propagate the knowledge of the Art (betterment of self).*

From the above charges, we can infer that a Freemason should never be part of any movement to subvert government when peace and good order exists in his society. Furthermore, it is irrefutable that Operative Masons thrived throughout the ages of peace and Speculative Masons also prospered in times of national unity and accord. Conversely, when a regime had proven itself unworthy to govern and grave unrest prevail in society, Masons are no longer obligated to remain as docile citizens.

As operative Masons used the plumb to try perpendiculars, the square to test angles and the level to prove horizontals; a Mason who chooses to rebel is obligated to honestly try the plumb line of his motives to determine: (1) if his ultimate goal is to promote the general good of society and not his personal agenda; (2) if his means to such goal has been tested by the square of social virtues; and (3) if he has been consistently propagating the knowledge of our Art to others knowing that death will be the mighty leveler of all human greatness that reduces to the same state.

In the **Regulations of 1722** it is

written that:

> II. *Of the Civil Magistrate, Supreme and Subordinate*
> *A Mason is to be a peaceful subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies, against the peace and welfare of the nation,… for Masonry hath been always injured by war; bloodshed and confusion, … craftsmen … flourished in times of peace. So that if a Brother should be a rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanced in his rebellion,… though the loyal brotherhood must and ought to disown the rebellion, and give no umbrage or ground of political jealousy to the government for the time being, they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible.*

Nonetheless, as the symbolism of the Mosaic Pavement in our lodge halls teaches us that human life is checkered with good and evil, there are also no absolute truths in matters pertaining to politics. Hence since antiquity, Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges are prohibited from participating in any revolts as an institution or organization. Abiding with this principle, our Masonic national heroes purposely organized non-Masonic associations such as the La Liga Filipina and Solidaridad to campaign for political reforms and eventually established the Katipunan to fight for Philippine independence.

Every Mason is also entitled to his own political beliefs and convictions. His grievances are respected by his brethren and their fraternal ties remain undiminished. In history, brethren had fought for opposing sides in vicious battlefronts: but it is not uncommon that during the aftermath, the prevailing brother would extend fraternal relief to the vanquished one. Same should prevail in our present battlefields of opinions and political stances as citizens of nations.

By our obligations, we are to ever extend to others the fullest lengths of our Masonic cable tow of respect, tolerance and understanding. In doing so, Freemasonry would *unite men of every country, sect or opinion and cause true friendships to exist even among those who might have otherwise remained at a perpetual distance.*

To better enable us to realize **National Harmony**, we can also elicit insights from the symbolical wages we received as Fellow Craft Masons. We observe that such wages are the results of both the blessings of good weather granted by the Supreme Ruler and the diligence of man.

Whilst corn represents nourishment and plenty, it also requires us to avail of opportunities to provide sustenance for our respective families as well as for the people whose livelihoods depend upon us. Though *wine* symbolizes refreshment and vitality, it likewise reminds us to develop true friendships with people who we may encounter in life. Lastly, as oil denotes joy and happiness, it equally impresses upon us to constantly seek harmony in our relationships with the Great Architect of the Universe as well as with our fellowmen.

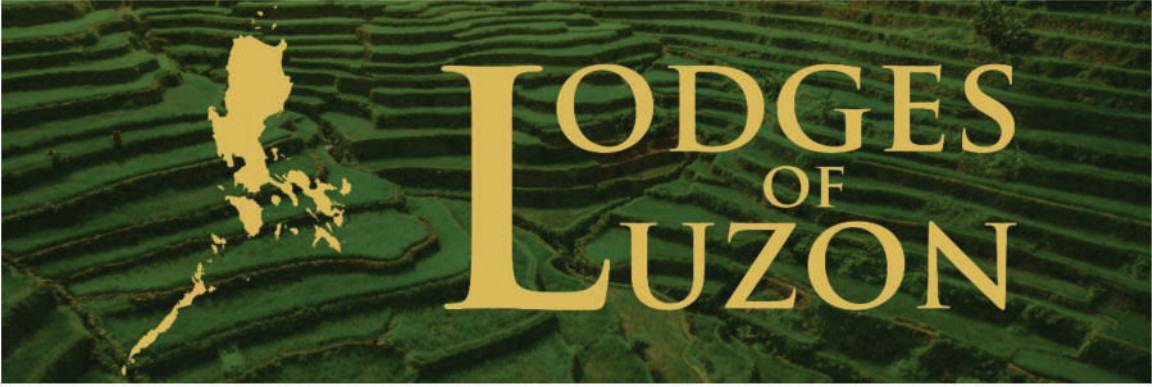
Hence, if every Mason in our grand jurisdiction takes due notice of those emblematic wages in his everyday life and governs himself accordingly, **National Harmony** will indeed be advanced substantially in our country.

In the fulfillment of our duties to further **National Harmony**, we are also aided by the principal jewels of a Fellow Craft Mason. The *attentive ear* teaches us to be receptive to differing ideas and perspectives. The *instructive tongue* inspires us to readily share our skills and wisdom in resolving conflicts. Finally, the *faithful breast* ensures that our thoughts, words and acts are better circumscribed by the cardinal virtues of *Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice* (Fairness).

As time, patience and perseverance accomplishes all things, let us be humbled too by the impossibility of a utopian harmony. While there will always be some quarrels and resentments that will remain unresolved, let us also be consoled by the allegory in our search for the *Lost Word* as **Master Masons.**

The accomplishment of the substitute for the perfect **National Harmony** shall suffice for so long as Masons earnestly labor for conciliation without any ill motive. Only in such spirit, can we affirm our assertions that - **Harmony for One and All is the Foundation of Genuine Masonic Fraternity.**

Together, Brethren.




## The Cable Tow Walkabout Series – Part 2 of 6

**By: VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago, GSc**

# *Unang Bahagi*

***Editor's Note:***
*As mentioned in the previous Issue of the Cable Tow – Vol. 99 , our official publication will feature the five (5) concurrent areas of our Masonic Jurisdiction – NCR, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and Overseas during the 110th Year of the Grand Lodge. Focusing on a specific territory in each Issue of our magazine.*

For the Second Installment in this Series, we bring our readers through the largest and most populous island in the Philippines. Located in the northern portion of the archipelago, it is the nation's economic and political center as it is home to the capital city - Manila, as well as the most populous Metropolis, Quezon City. With more than 62 million inhabitants per 2020 Census, Luzon contains 57% of the country's total population. By world standard, the island is the fourth most populous and the 15th largest by land area - **109,965 square kms.**

The Luzon Island group has eight (8) regions: Region I - Ilocos Region; Region II - Cagayan Valley; Region III - Central Luzon; Region IV-A CALABARZON; MIMAROPA Region; Region V - Bicol Region; Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); and the National Capital Region (NCR). Included under Luzon are the outlying islands of Catanduanes, Marinduque, Mindoro, Masbate, Romblon, and Palawan.

***CAVEAT: As a Masonic Cluster, the National Capital Region will be discussed separately in succeeding TCT Issues. Likewise, Palawan and its 2 lodges – being administered under Masonic District NCR-A shall also be excluded for now.***

For this Walkabout Article, the Masonic Lodges and Districts are organized into three (3) major groupings as they are assembled in the **Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, and Southern Luzon Multi-District Conventions.**

According to the latest GLP Statistics, the Luzon is the home to some **12,544 Master Masons** of which, **10,390 are Active Members** and **2,154 Life Members by Longevity**. These Brethren are affiliated with **211 Masonic Lodges** in the mainland and clustered into **30 Masonic Districts.**

**There are 28 Lodges in Luzon with membership reaching more than 100:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lincoln : : No. 34 | 319 | Memorial : : No. 90 | 114 |
| Mt. Mainam : : No. 49 | 192 | Malinaw : : No. 25 | 113 |
| Bagong Buhay : : No.17 | 178 | Magdiwang : : No. 238 | 109 |
| Cavite : : No. 2 | 158 | Pintong Bato : : No.51 | 108 |
| Bagong Ilaw : : No. 97 | 151 | Apolinario Mabini 235 | 108 |
| Mt. Palali : : No. 420 | 138 | Emilio Aguinaldo : : 31 | 107 |
| Salinas : : No. 163 | 134 | Pangasinan : : No. 56 | 107 |
| Pilar : : No. 15 | 130 | Cagayan Valley : : 133 | 107 |
| Narra : : No. 171 | 130 | Maharlika : : No. 180 | 107 |
| Villaverde : : No. 206 | 128 | Union : : No. 70 | 104 |
| Eulogio R. Dizon : : 321 | 127 | Gen. Llanera : : 168 | 101 |
| Primera Luz Filipinas 69 | 125 | La Naval : : No. 269 | 101 |
| Nueva Ecija : : No. 73 | 124 | Magtagumpay : : 410 | 101 |
| Magat : : No. 68 | 119 | | |
| Rio Chico : : No. 182 | 118 | | |

**11 Luzon Lodges have the most Life-Members by Longevity:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lincoln : : No. 34 | 195 | Magdiwang : : No. 238 | 45 |
| Mt. Mainam : : No. 49 | 66 | Cagayan Valley : : 133 | 43 |
| Bagong Buhay : : No. 17 | 50 | Isabela : : No. 60 | 41 |
| Narra : : No. 171 | 47 | Primera Luz Filipinas 69 | 40 |
| Memorial : : No. 90 | 46 | Malinaw : : No. 25 | 40 |
| Cabanatuan : : No. 53 | 45 | | |

It is interesting to note that Lincoln Lodge No. 34 have more Life Members by Longevity (195) than regular members (124).

**The twenty-one (21) oldest Lodges in Luzon, <u>based on their GLP Charters</u> are:**

| Lodge Name & No. | Charter Year | Charter Master | Province |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Cavite :: No. 2 | 1912 | WB Frand DeHaven Jones | Cavite |
| 2. Pilar :: No. 15 | 1917 | WB Manuel Paredes | Cavite |
| 3. Bagong Buhay :: No. 17 | 1917 | | Cavite |
| 4. Rizal :: No. 20 | 1917 | Antonio E Argosino | Quezon |
| 5. Malinaw :: No. 25 | 1917 | WB Feliciano F. Exconde | Laguna |
| 6. Pinagsabitan :: No. 26 | 1917 | WB Roberto Moreno | Laguna |
| 7. Balintawak :: No. 28 | 1917 | Antonio E Argosino | Quezon |
| 8. Emilio Aguinaldo :: No. 31 | 1917 | WB Felix Cajulis | Cavite |
| 9. Isarog :: No. 33 | 1917 | WB Fernandez Alvarez | Camarines Sur |
| 10. Lincoln :: No. 34 | 1917 | WB Domingo Garcia | Zambales |
| 11. Batangas :: No. 35 | 1917 | WB Miguel F. Avelino | Batangas |
| 12. Kalilayan :: No. 37 | 1917 | WB Juvencio C. Trinidad | Quezon |
| 13. Bulusan :: No. 38 | 1917 | WB Aurelio Diokno | Sorsogon |
| 14. Mabini :: No. 39 | 1917 | WB Nemesio Furagganan | Cagayan |
| 15. Tayabas :: No. 43 | 1918 | WB Primitivo San Agustin | Quezon |
| 16. Malolos :: No. 46 | 1919 | WB Nicolas Buendia | Bulacan |
| 17. Pampanga :: No. 48 | 1919 | WB Pedro Abad Santos | Pampanga |
| 18. Mt. Mainam :: No. 49 | 1919 | WB Matias Manalo | Cavite |
| 19. Pintong Bato :: No. 51 | 1919 | WB Julian C. Balmaceda | Cavite |
| 20. Pinatubo :: No. 52 | 1920 | WB Benedicto T. Esguerra | Zambales |
| 21. Cabanatuan :: No. 53 | 1920 | WB J. Vicente Salazar, Sr. | Nueva Ecija |




**On the opposite end, Luzon's Benjamin Lodges for 2022 are:**

**Jaen Triangle No. 476** R-III Nueva Ecija – SOUTH,

**Aslagan No. 470** R-III Pampanga,

and

**Enrique M. Cojuangco No. 472 /** R-III Tarlac

Excluding those at the National Capital Region, the Island System of Luzon hass a total of thirty-eight (38) provinces with an aggregate of 58 cities & 696 municipalities. The total number of barangays in the island group is 18,808.

Edict No. 228 issued by MW Romeo Yu near the end of his term in 2006, offered the first naming system of the Masonic Districts that follow the Administrative Regional Numbers of their actual location. Districts belonging in the same Region were differentiated with an assigned letter. Thus **Masonic Districts of Luzon** were initially arranged as:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CAR - A | Bondoc, Kalinga, Mt Province | R – III – D | Nueva Ecija (South) |
| RI - A | Pangasinan | R – III – E | Bulacan |
| Rl & CAR-B | Benguet & La Union | R – III – F | Nueva Ecjia (North) |
| Rl & CAR-C | Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra | R – III – G | Tarlac |
| R – II – A | Nueva Vizcaya (South) | R – IV – A | Cavite |
| R – II – B | Isabela (North) | R – IV – B | Laguna |
| R – II – C | Cagayan Valley | R – IV – C | Quezon |
| R – II – D | Isabela (South) & Quirino | R – IV – D | Batangas |
| R – II – E | Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao | R – IV – E | Mindoro |
| R – III – A | Pampanga | R – V – A | Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, & Catanduanes |
| R – III – B | Bataan | R – IV – B | Albay & Sorsogon |
| R – III – C | Zambales | | |

A decade later, MW Gazmin released Edict No. 287 in 2016, renaming Masonic Districts into their actual political names and boundaries, even when districts shall have become bigger and broken down into smaller ones. This system removed the alphabet differentiation introduced in the Edict of MW Yu and is what is in use by GLP today. Thus, Circular No.1 of MW Johnny Ty Pimentel listed the **Masonic Districts of Luzon** as follows:




| | |
|---|---|
| C A R | Mt. Province, Kalinga, & Apayao |
| R - I | Pangasinan |
| R - I & CAR | Benguet and La Union |
| R - I & CAR | Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, & Abra |
| R - II | Cagayan |
| R - II | Isabela (North) |
| R - II | Isabela (South) & Quirino |
| R - II | Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao |
| R - II | Nueva Vizcaya (South) |




| | |
|---|---|
| R - III | Bataan |
| R - III | Bulacan East |
| R - III | Bulacan West |
| R - III | Nueva Ecija East & Aurora |
| R - III | Nueva Ecija North |
| R - III | Nueva Ecija South |
| R - III | Nueva Ecija West |
| R - III | Pampanga |
| R - III | Tarlac |
| R - III | Zambales |




| | |
|---|---|
| R - IV | Batangas |
| R - IV | Cavite Central |
| R - IV | Cavite East |
| R - IV | Cavite West |
| R - IV | Laguna East |
| R - IV | Laguna West |
| R - IV | Mindoro |
| R - IV | Quezon & Marinduque |
| R - IV | Rizal |
| R - V | Albay, Masbate, & Sorsogon |
| R - V | Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, & Catanduanes |

These thirty (30) Masonic Districts gather annually in three separate assemblies known as the **Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, and Southern Luzon Multi-District Conventions** to help settle important matters in their respective regions; forward lodge & district Resolutions that may be relevant to the whole jurisdiction; and nominate candidates to be elected for the position of Junior Grand Warden in each Annual Communication (AnCom) of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

**... End of First Part**

**REFERENCES:**

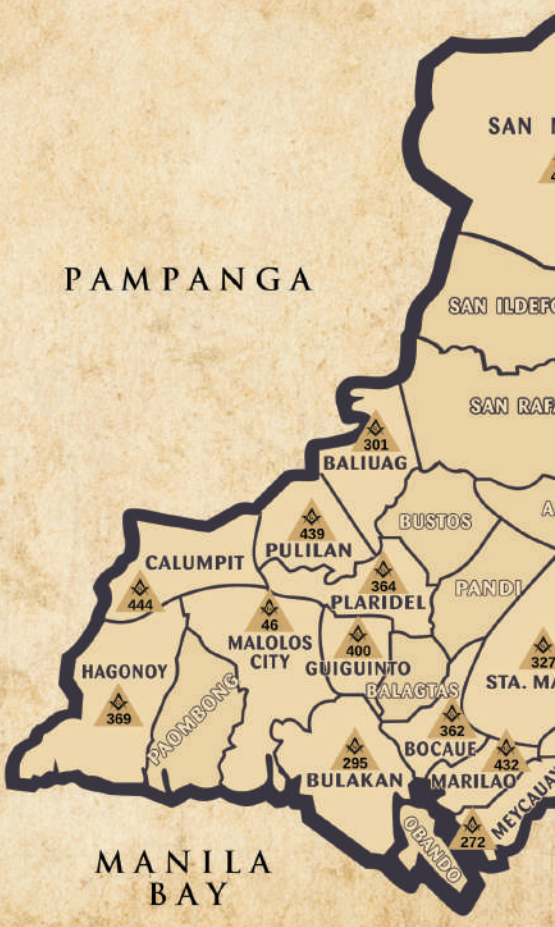
Masonic Statistics c/o the GLP Database
Edict 228 – MW Yu (2006) / Edict 287 – MW Gazmin (2016) / Circ. 1 – MW Pimentel (2022)
www.freeworldmaps.net
https://www.philatlas.com
https://www.dti.gov.ph/regions
https://grandlodge.ph/

# Masonic District RIII Bulacan West

## VW ERICSON M. PAN, DDGM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MALOLOS MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 1919 | 46 | |
| MARCELO H. DEL PILAR MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 1985 | 272 | |
| CUPANG MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 1992 | 295 | |
| ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 2007 | 362 | |
| HAGONOY MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 2008 | 369 | |
| BULACAN MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 2012 | 400 | |
| PRIMERA REPUBLICA MASONIC LODGE NO. CHARTERED 2019 | 444 | |

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# PFUL GRAND LODGE
# EPTED MASONS
# HILIPPINES

# MASONIC DISTRICT RIII BULACAN EAST

## VW RAMON C. MAÑALAC, DDGM




ACAN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BALIUAG MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 1993 | 301 |
| KAKARONG MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 1999 | 327 |
| SAN JOSE DEL MONTE MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 2004 | 357 |
| QUINGUA MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 2007 | 364 |
| SAN MIGUEL DE MAYUMO MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 2013 | 412 |
| WB MANUEL IBASCO MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 2018 | 432 |
| PULO NG IILAN MASONIC LODGE NO. | CHARTERED 2018 | 439 |




Francis Burton Harrison (December 18, 1873 – November 21, 1957), is an American by birth but a Filipino by choice and preference. Pro-Filipino in sentiment, Bro. Harrison was a popular figure to Filipino Brethren, but was the object of criticism of conservative Americans who viewed his liberal governance as not supportive of U.S. interest.

Noted historian Ambeth Ocampo in his column, "Opinion" in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Feb. 17, 2021), writes: "It's a pity that Harrison is best remembered today for a busy Manila street rather than the role he played in shaping Philippine history for better and for worse. During his term, Harrison started the irreversible trend in the Filipinization of the bureaucracy. Of course, Harrison was not liked by Americans in the Philippines who had to give up their positions to qualified Filipinos. Considered a good friend of Filipinos, Harrison is the only American governor-general awarded Philippine citizenship. Following his last wishes, Harrison was buried in the Manila North Cemetery."

Bro. Harrison was Governor-General of the Philippines from October 6, 1913 to March 5, 1921. He served as special adviser to Presidents Manuel L. Quezon, Sergio Osmena Sr., Manuel A. Roxas and Elpidio R. Quirino.

## PERSONAL DATA

Bro. Francis was born in New York City to Burton Harrison, a lawyer, and Constance Cary Harrison, novelist and social arbiter. Bro. Francis graduated from Yale University and was a member of a secret society, Skull and Bones. He finished law at the New York Law School and became an instructor in the evening division of his alma mater from 1897-1899. He left his teaching job to serve in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War as an assistant adjutant general with the rank of Captain.

## U.S. CONGRESS

Bro. Harrison was elected to the 58th United States Congress and served from March 4, 1903 – March 3, 1905. In 1904, Bro. Harrison ran for Lieutenant Governor of New York but was unsuccessful in his bid. Fortunately, Bro. Harrison was elected to the 60th, 61st, 62nd and 63rd United States Congresses and served from March 4, 1907 to September 3, 1913.

## GOVERNOR-GENERAL

On October 2, 1913, Bro. Harrison arrived in Manila and became Governor-General, succeeding W. Cameron Forbes. He was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson and was hailed by Filipino political leaders as a wise move. He worked for the Filipinization of the national government. In one of Bro. Harrison's speeches in 1913, he said: "We regard ourselves as trustees acting not for the advantage of the United States, but for the benefit of the people of the Philippine Islands.

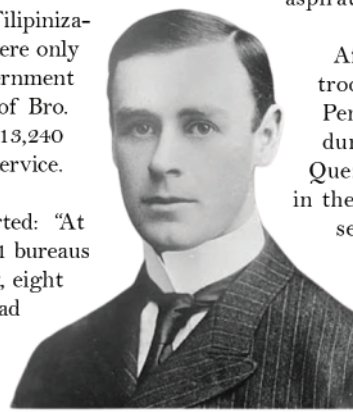
"Every step we take will be taken with a view to the ultimate independence of the Islands and as a preparation for that independence.

"The Administration will take one step at once and will give to the native citizens of the Islands a majority in the appointive Commission, and thus in the Upper as well as in the Lower House of the Legislature a majority represen-

tation will be secured for them."

President Wilson appointed five Filipinos to the Philippine Commission, namely: Rafael Palma, Jaime C. de Veyra, Victorino Mapa, Vicente Ilustre, and Vicente Singson Encarnacion. Of the nine members of the Commission, 5 were Filipinos and 4 were Americans. Incidentally, MW Rafael Palma was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands in 1920.

In Filipinizing the government service, Bro. Harrison encouraged the Americans to retire under the Osmena Retirement Act of 1916; and by appointing Filipinos to vacant offices. American job-seekers resented and disliked Bro. Harrison's Filipinization policy. In 1913, there were only 6,303 Filipinos in the government service. By 1921, at the end of Bro. Harrison's term, there were 13,240 Filipinos in the government service.



In 1914, Bro. Harrison reported: "At the present writing, of the 31 bureaus or offices of the government, eight have a Filipino as head, instead of four, the highest number heretofore occupying such positions. It is now the announced policy, moreover, to appoint Filipinos to office, whenever vacancies exist, in the position of assistant chiefs of bureaus to which Americans are the chiefs. This had been done since the undersigned became Governor General, in the bureaus of health, internal revenue, agriculture and prisons.

"In the same period, moreover, Filipinos have been given a majority on the municipal board of the City of Manila, and Filipinos have been appointed to the offices of city attorney and prosecuting attorney of the City of Manila, to the latter for the first time; of the courts of first instance, representation on the city council of the City of Baguio, and an increased number of administrative offices in the special government provinces, as well as many promotions to the clerical grades."

Bro. Harrison lived in Scotland after his term as Governor-General but was recalled to the Philippines in 1934 by MW Manuel L. Quezon. President Manuel L. Quezon asked Bro. Harrison to be his principal adviser in November 1935.

## FILIPINIZATION OF BRO. HARRISON

Bro. Harrison expressed his interest in acquiring Filipino citizenship but he did not fulfill the required years of residency under the Naturalization Law. The National Assembly passed Commonwealth Act No. 79 making Bro. Harrison a naturalized Filipino citizen on October 26, 1936 "for his very deep interest in the welfare of the Filipino people and profound sympathy for their aspirations for independence."

After Filipino and American troops surrendered the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island during World War II, President Quezon and family went into exile in the United States. Bro. Harrison served the government-in-exile up to the end of World War II.

Bro. Harrison served as Commissioner of Claim in the civil service of the United States Army in Manila from November 1946 to February 1947.

## MASONRY

Member of Manila Lodge No. 1, Bro. Harrison took his Scottish Rite degrees in the Philippine Bodies, A.&A.S.R. where most of the members were Filipinos.

In the Philippine Bodies, he was Commander, Malcampo Council Knight of Kadosh in 1916, 1917 and 1918; and Master of Rizal Consistory in 1920. An active member of Freemasonry, Bro. Harrison invited Brethren to Malacanang Palace to fellowship with them. PGM Reynold Fajardo, Masonic historian, writes: "Harrison opened the gates of Malacanang to his Masonic brothers. Malacanang, where Spanish Governor-Generals once plotted moves against Masonry, was converted into a Masonic meeting place. On November 14, 1917, Harrison hosted

**Cont... on page 41**



# YOUR GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR, FRIEND OR FOE?

By VW Joselito Manuel, JGL (46)

Let's face it. How well do you know your Grand Lodge Inspector?

I was raised during the time when Worshipful Inspectors were treated as wall flowers in the East. I have seen countless GLI installations and have listened sleepily as the DDGM spoke volumes during the GLI installation ceremony. Some murmuring 'Mariteses' in the background, some heads bent on their phones, newly raised brothers seeing it for the first time listening intently and trying to make heads and tails of what is happening; while VWs in the East and on the floor trying hard to remember a rehearsed line. Still some are oblivious or not caring what is happening. We had freshly raised Benjamins who would ask: "What is a GLI, Kuyang? Woe the framers of Orientations and The Candidate…oh sorry, GLIs are not mentioned in those. Hmmm.

Oh yes, mea culpa. I too was guilty of that ignorance.

Traditionally, GLIs are picked from the immediate Past Masters of a Lodge. Still warm from their stint in the East, they are the Tigers of the district. With rituals and ceremonies fresh from memory and administrative process well within their grasp. They are paraded during the Regular Stated Meetings in May or June - right after the AnCom were the new "Very Worshipfuls" have been installed; Certificates of Appointment, recently signed by the GM, in their raised hands.

These Guardians of Masonic Rituals and Lodge Governance are neither Very Worshipful Sirs or Worshipful Brothers – they are more properly addressed as Worshipful Inspectors (WI). Once Installed, seldom are they received with the DDGM and Party during Lodge Meetings – even before the gavel is sounded, they are to be found sitting at the right side of the Worshipful Master in the East, observing if rituals are followed and rules are obeyed. That is the ideal scenario…

We either see the GLIs become tigers in the East or we never see them after being installed - I have seen both. There were GLIs whom we never saw. We witnessed some who sent Brothers out of the lodge for wearing Colehaan shoes with gray or white soles or wearing colored shirts underneath their barongs. Others who guard the door of the preparation room and cry out when "mosquitoes" start to fly. In certain occasions, GLIs boldly went down from the East and stopped the 2nd section fearing… I just don't know if for the lodge, for the candidate, or for the imagined indictment if ever the gavel of justice echoes its "bang" in the bulwarks of masonic justice for failing to do their duties.

"We commend to Thy special care and guidance Worshipful Inspector, lately appointed into whose hand we are about to repose the assistance and guidance to this Lodge. Endue him with a just

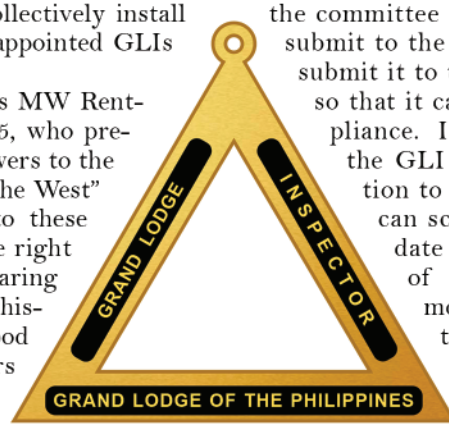
appreciation of the responsibilities he is about to assume. May he ever be mindful that the Father's care is always over him and that Thine all seeing eye is ever upon him." goes the prayer.

So who exactly is this GLI, wearing purple and white apron and jewel sitting int the East with an equilateral triangle on his chest? Remember the lesson of the equalateral triangle? By precept and example he wears that jewel to promote the Tenets of Freemasonry. No biases. And Rather equal.

Edict 148 of MW Mateo is very instructive on this. "Whereas, the role of a Grand Lodge Inspector is not given due recognition, and if any, very little appreciation is accorded him.". He is very much right.

Edict 274-A supplemented this with the option to collectively install the entire roster of appointed GLIs in a District turnover.

However, it is MW Rentoy, with his Edict 275, who prescribed additional powers to the these "Guardians of the West" gate, giving 'teeth' to these Brother sitting on the right side of the WM wearing purple and white, whispering to him good counsel. Wall flowers no more.




Edict 275 was also incorporated in the recent 2019 iteration of our beloved guide, the Masonic Law Book.

If you happen to look up from your Facebook or Viber during the installation ceremony, the powers and duties of the GLIs are read. Article 34 of Part 1, sections 2 and 3. While some of these could be familiar, being in the MLB for quite some time, the additional powers given them by the approved edict of MW Rentoy (275) reiterated the importance of the GLI besides whispering forgotten lines by the WM sitting in the East.

Your Worshipful Grand Lodge Inspector is your friend and ally.

Besides the usual cautioning Kuyangs about mosquito bites in the preparation room and 2nd sections, he is much more. So much more.

Little practiced or seen powers of the GLI is the oversight on Investigation Reports and Balloting. Article 34, section 2, letter f.

"f. To examine, verify, and/or review the report of the committee on investigation which have been duly accepted by the master…for the purpose of ascertaining whether the report and the committee have substantially complied with the requirements and guidelines provided for in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines."

In essence, after the WM received the investigation report, he has to submit the same to the GLI. I repeat. There is a form for this that the committee has to accomplish and submit to the WM who in turn will submit it to the GLI for inspection so that it can determine the compliance. If all is complied with, the GLI will issue a certification to that effect so the WM can schedule the said candidate for balloting. The aim of our MW JTP is harmony, and I can attest to the fact that some, if not most of the disharmony happening in the blue lodges stemmed out from this forgotten or least practiced process. Comply and there will be harmony.

Again, your GLI is your friend. He can help you prepare your Annual Report so you can vote during the Ancom. He can whisper good counsel during stated meetings if whether or not correct processes are being followed. He can certify your favorite candidate for balloting, even provide a checklist to the DDGM after each Regular Stated Meetings so VW District Deputy can commend you for it. He can certify your election results in December so that those elected can go

**Continue on page 40...**

# ON THE LEVEL

VW Edgar S. Bentulan, PDGL



## OF MY OWN FREE WILL AND ACCORD

"Is this of your own free will and accord?"

What was it to you when you were asked this in your first admission to the Lodge (EAM)?

A question requiring peremptory and straight answer. Of course, your instructor assigned by the Worshipful Master taught you to say yes to this. In the preparation room, you were prefaced by the Senior Deacon who propounded on you a similar line of questioning. But, did you take it as a mere pass/fail examination to enter that door of closed sanctuary? Seriously, did you not think of it as a test of your real motive or intention before you could be accepted in the fraternity?

Later, as we advanced in our journey of Masonic enlightenment, we would understand the whole ritual to be only a drama in allegory and symbolism, but that had to be studied, imbibed and internalized to be clearly and deeply understood. Otherwise, you'd end up like that one in one lodge I know, who did not bother anymore to attend the lodge activities after he was raised. He was forcedly induced by his brother-in-law, who was his police senior officer, to join the Craft.

Incidentally, beyond the drama of rituals, was it in you the notion that you were joining a group of solemn men dwelling in philosophy, albeit later for you to realize -- no, not at first -- when you petitioned for membership?

Did you ever feel that very moment a tinge of hesitation or reluctance because of the misconceived elitist nature of Masonry but from which you also entertained the urge to be identified with? Or, was it sheer curiosity and the desire to know more that drove you, as most declare in their application for membership?

Weren't you then aware of the right incentive (wage) of being Mason which was knowledge, outside it, strictly, could be mercenary?

We said here "strictly," in deference to the tacitly tolerated, certain selfish motive. "Those who suggest that no selfish motive is ever present in the mind of the prospective Mason speak conscious humbug," said an article "Jobs for the Brethren?" in Google.

So, is it deceiving to exult of having no personal motive -- aside from the conventionally accepted moral in joining Masonry to acquire knowledge in the Craft, and of the wish to be of service to mankind -- to look forward and expect Masonry as a sort of insurance policy for family members? From this Google article, it is.

Knowledge about the Craft, and we mean Masonic knowledge, for personal moral enlightenment and enrichment, is obviously the valid motive that should move one to become Mason. Not any unworthy agendum about what it is not, or any other ill-motive against the fraternity. By Masonic standard, this materially self-serving motive, like the chicly purpose of

gaining social prestige, and the vested interest to solely gain favor for oneself, influence or personal advantage or aggrandizement from the fraternity, is mercenary.

By definition of the Webster Dictionary, mercenary is synonymous to "venal," "greedy" and "avaricious." The purpose in the ambit of this definition should have no place in Masonry.

But how many do we know are there in our lodges that exactly fit this nasty description? As taught us, Freemasonry advocates moral and spiritual self-improvement and service and charity to others. It is for those desiring to be better in character, to be better men tomorrow than they are today. I guess, it's here where the two sponsors of the petitioner play a critical role. Our law book (Edict No. 60 as amended) stipulates this. In the absence of a polygraph or its equivalent to do scientific test on the applicant's true intent, the two sponsors should be held accountable for their candidate's advancement in the Craft.

Honestly, it would be plain intellectual hypocrisy on my part to vaunt of having petitioned in my lodge because of the desire to have more esoteric knowledge about what philosophy beyond is from, say, Plato, or Pythagoras or Kierkegaard, that the fraternity could be dwelling on. Or, if it was indeed. If this was indeed ensconced in my mind, it was in the allurement of being a part of a worthy, uncanny closely-knit congregation indulged in some higher meditation yet so full of brotherly affection and fun, that was dictating in me. For this higher cause, for some twenty years of anxious indecision, this brother deferred thrice submitting the petition discreetly made available to him by friends in three of his earliest consecutive provincial assignments in government.

"That bond of brotherhood, so enigmatic," I recall saying in my earliest piece about brethren in Jolo Bud Dahu Lodge No. 102 titled "Masons and Masonry in Mindanao" (The Cable Tow, Vol. 96, May-June 2019). "To be one," I said in that article, "the haunt of awe so overwhelming took me 20 years to become." It was the very high reverential awe for Masonry as I saw in Masons from childhood in Jolo, that psychologically stuck me to be less adequate and, yes, fear joining the fraternity for years. But the tempting wish to be among members of the unique group and the anticipated wholesome relish of being in fellowships with such happy and closed fellows, was always there.

This prevailed more pronouncedly when I came to Bukidnon for my post in the office I worked, where I was welcomed very warmly by people I hadn't seen from Adam. And, for all I knew, sooner, they were mostly members of local Masonic lodges. Such bunch of boisterous, friendly guys! After two decades, I strongly felt then the volition to get hold of a petition form. For once the desire to be affiliated with a fraternity gave me so much adequate, special feeling of certainty, of honor and confidence. For the first time in my life, finally, did I feel so sure and prepared for both the expected and unexpected in . . . well, it was a frat initiation, you know.

This was the emotion rather oozing in me when I waited for what was to come beyond the preparation room of my mother lodge, Don Camilo Osias Lodge No. 253. So that when the Senior Deacon confronted me with this inquest prior to gaining admission to the Lodge and the subsequent questioning that followed from the worshipful master and the wardens in the ensuing perambulation, these all just came to me naturally and unperturbingly. This was my very first time to join a fraternity -- and to be initiated!

Was it painful? Yes, it was cathartic. This has become indelible in me.

A simple illustration of what it means to be "on your own free will and accord." I used to offer this experience in some of my lectures as DGL. Circumventing the rather unctuous piousness of what the phrase

## OF MY OWN FREE WILL AND ACCORD

being "unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives" connoted, I assuaged that, finally I in person asked for a petition form on my own volition, with no one telling me to. Of course, I was impressed by the amiable and happy behavior of several friends I met in the past who were Masons, didn't I say this? This maybe something personal, but this should not be mercenary. There is nothing venal in establishing an association or affiliation with friends who are good and with whom we can get along, especially if they espouse the same virtues and principles we avow.

Masonry is philosophy, I realize this now. But who would have petitioned-in if the announced legitimate privileges of Masonry is speculative and transcendental search for moral truth, charity and love for wisdom and existence, like what the standard motive of gaining knowledge in Masonry purports to say? Of course, this would attract Great Books club academicians and may not necessitate the asking of initiates for their "free will." But will it serve the purpose of purging or insulating lodges from Masonic vagrancies? Of course, assurance of the good conduct of a petitioner is extremely worthy of the cold scrutiny in the west gate.

It may sound disparaging to a petitioner that the question suggests to bear some weight of portentous warning of something potentially unpleasant. But, for this writer now, it does not, actually. The ritual is an attempt of deeper probe of the petitioner's genuine sincerity in his purpose of making himself better through the assured privilege of an inner transformation that he can deservedly obtain in an organization -- only through Masonry -- which is sacred and insular only in its sublime membership, that cannot and should not be exposed, illegally.

## YOUR GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR...

*Continued from page 37*

and subsequently installed as the new set of officers for the ensuing year. Read Part 1 article 34, Edict 148, Edict 274-A, and most of all Edict 275. You will warm up to your GLI. Believe me. He is a GAOTU sent help.

But then again, he is your foe!

Look at some recent cases decided by previous Grand Masters. GLIs are either commended, suspended, or expelled first for not being able to handle disharmony or worse, being the cause of one. It is their duty to see to it that the lodge, its officers and members are toeing the line. Do not follow correct processes. Don't spray "mosquito repellants" in the preparation room and you will see just how a TIGER he becomes. Believe me, during my GLI tenure, I had to whisper to a WM, "you have the GAVEL and the HAT", don't be afraid to quell the disharmony. There were also times that I had to give cold water to a WM to cool him up when a heated debate is ongoing with the elders. If the 2nd section goes AWRY, violating some edicts, horseplay and mosquitoes abound, he will come down from the East and bite your head off. Believe me, with Edict 275, your head will roll.

In closing, your GLI will either be your friend and foe. The guideline is our 2019 MLB with Edict 275 incorporated therein. We must and should afford our GLIs the most deserved respect for after all, they were appointed in that position not for the acclaim or glory it entails, but the wisdom our GM sees in them. He believes that the Worshipful Inspector installed in your lodge can help stimulate the full potential of a better lodge, better officers, better members, better masons, and better men. We build good men better after all. Know your GLI, pilyoship with him, ask him, viber him, text him, call him. He is your ally. He is not there to police you, but to help you. Did I mention that he can also whisper to you forgotten lines when you are in the East and sign the minutes?

... Continued fr page 35

the celebration of the 17th anniversary of the founding of Manila Lodge, his mother lodge, at Malacanang. On the 21st of the same month he asked the officers of Philippine Bodies to attend a meeting at the palace, 'for the purpose of making such arrangements as may be necessary to formally open the Philippines Bodies, A&ASR, under charter.' On January 23, 1918, he tendered an evening reception at Malacanang to all the Masons who were attending the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. In the 1920 Communication he delivered the welcome address and once again invited all the Masons for lunch at the Palace."

## DEATH

Bro. Francis Burton Harrison crossed the Great Divide on November 21, 1957 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Raritan Township near Flemington, New Jersey. He willed that he be buried in the Philippines, his home country. Bro. Harrison was interred at the Manila North Cemetery in La Loma, Manila, making the Philippines his final resting place.



## EPILOGUE

During the American occupation, there were eight (8) Mason American Governors-General, namely: Arthur MacArthur (1900-1901), William H. Taft (1901), Newton W. Gilbert (1912-1913), Francis Burton Harrison (1913-1921), Leonard Wood (1921-1927), Eugene Gilmore (1929-1930), George C. Butte (Nov. 1931-Feb 2, 1932), and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (1932-1933).

Most Worshipful Reynold Fajardo describes Bro. Harrison, thus: "In 1913, Francis Burton Harrison, a 40-year old congressman tall, trim and handsome, with grayish hair and clipped moustache, was appointed governor-general of the Philippines. Harrison publicly acknowledged that he owed his appointment to Quezon. Like Taft and Forbes before him, he adopted the Philippines; unlike them, he was adopted by the Filipinos and became their favorite American. With good reason. Harrison was a believer in the capacity of Filipinos to govern, and promptly transformed the Philippines from one run by Americans with the help of Filipinos to one run by Filipinos with the help of Americans. He was determined to turn over responsibilities to the Filipinos to the extent of replacing Americans with Filipinos in government. The first Americans to fall victims of his purge were the Executive Secretary and his assistant, the Director of Lands and his assistant, the Director of Customs, the Director of Printing and his assistant, the Director of Navigation, the Consulting Architect, the Chief of Police, the Assistant Collector of Internal Revenue and the Prosecuting Attorney in Manila."

Bro. Harrison is the only Governor General who vetoed four (4) bills during his 8-year stint. Bro. Harrison is the only Governor General who welcomed Mason brethren to Malacanang Palace. Bro. Francis Burton Harrison is the only Governor General who willed that he be buried in the land he has adopted, the "Pearl of the Orient Seas."

## LEGACY

Starting in Baclaran, Paranaque, Pasay City, ending in Pablo Ocampo St. in the City of Manila, the long stretch of street is named F.B. Harrison. Harrison Road in Baguio City is named after Bro. Francis B. Harrison.

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## THE SCWC COMMUNITY KONEK

What makes Freemasonry more valuable than the typical association goes far beyond the contributions of our masonic brothers that have made a significant impact on our nation's history. Because of our brotherly love and our mandate to provide relief to our fellowman, we have improved and enriched the personal lives of the people around us through our fraternal social network and the resources that go along with it.

**A key masonic organization in this networking/referral service is the Square & Compass We Connect (SCWC).**

Armed with their wealth of contacts and communications technology, the SCWC has aided a lot of masons and friends of masons address some of their emergencies and pressing problems by introducing them to people and institutions that are in the best position to help them. These introductions have not only provided comfort and relief to SCWC beneficiaries, but have established lifetime friendships and bonds with many of whom would have "remained at a perpetual distance" had it not been for the networking efforts of SCWC.

As a response to the need of many Filipinos that were going through financial challenges because of the pandemic, the SCWC launched the Community Konek which is a business referral advocacy partly inspired by the Community Pantry.

Whereas the Community Pantry focused on the give and take of food, medicines and other physical resources, the Community Konek on the other hand focused on the give and take of referrals that could aid one's business or money-making efforts.

The online venue where the "koneks" are made is a Youtube channel where you can discover:

a. Guests with business opportunities
b. Guests that have been matched according to their business needs/assets/skills
c. Masonic anecdotes and principles related to networking
d. Other practical tips on how to network
e. Other relevant advocacies related to health, education, etc.

The Facebook page of the Community Konek on the other hand features announcements of free business seminars, negosyo tips and other opportunities that can help our beneficiaries with some of their livelihood concerns.

**HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:**

For masons and friends of masons that would like support the Community Konek, here are a few action steps that you can take:

a. ORGANIZE YOUR BUSINESS DATABASE-The lifeblood of a good referral network lies in a well-

maintained database. Therefore, each business contact must be properly profiled so that when someone reaches out to you for business assistance, you can easily identify the right person in your network who can aid and assist. You can create your database in MS Excel or an online directory, your smartphone, a rolodex, a contact book or any suitable electronic or hardcopy medium that you are comfortable with.

b. PROFILE THE GUESTS IN THE SCWC COMMUNITY KONEK SHOW-All of our guests that have shared business opportunities in the Community Konek Show have also provided their contact information so that our viewers that would like to get in touch with them may do so. Some of them are owners of franchise chains that are looking for franchisees, some are wholesalers/distributors that are looking for resellers, and some are even business owners that are willing to give commissions for agents that are willing to invest "laway" and internet access to sell their goods/services.

c. BE A GUEST IN THE KONEK SHOW-Do you have a business opportunity that you can share or a relevant advocacy that you would like to promote? We would love to have you as a guest in our show!

d. ASSIST US IN OUR BUSINESS MATCHING
You can help us identify and connect:

1. Suppliers with Resellers and Store Owners (Physical/Online)

2. Investors with businesses that are in need of investments

3. Business consultants/Service providers with clients

4. OFWs, Retirees, housewives, students, PWDs, etc. that would like to explore business opportunities

5. Other Ways

e. DEVELOP YOUR NETWORKING SKILLS - As masons, we are privileged to be familiar with networking principles embedded in our teachings about "reciprocal love and friendship". Let us augment these tenets but learning tips on how to network online, qualifying the contacts that we intend to match, protocols for follow up and follow through, and other common courtesies in making connections and introductions.

f. CONNECT WITH US AND STAY CONNECTED- Masonry teaches us that "dependence is one of the strongest bonds of society"; this is especially true when it comes to providing referrals since no single database can address each and every need. Just like the Internet, our strength lies in our interconnectivity. The more inclusive and extensive our pool of database collaborators is, the more people we can help during the pandemic crisis and beyond.

As our country continues to go through the current economic crisis, there is an ever-growing need for our brethren to provide referrals and other forms of support to Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMES) which comprise almost 99.58% of the businesses in the Philippines which provides 64.67% of our jobs. By collaborating with the SCWC Community Konek, in our own small way we can help the Philippines look forward to a bright and prosperous post-pandemic future.



# Saminggalan ni Kuya Pong

LM Arnulfo Macatangay, NPNT

## MGA PUTAHENG PAMBAYANI

Habang binabasa ang panayam (lecture) na araling pangmasoneriya noong Hunyo patungkol sa Kabayanihan (Heroism), Pagiging Makabayan (Patriotism), at Pagkamakabansa (Nationalism), napapaisip ako: **Anu-ano kaya ang mga Paboritong Putahe ng ating mga Kuyang na Bayani?**

Matapos ang simpleng pananaliksik, ito ang ating natuklasan: *LITSONG MANOK SA SAHA NG SAGING pala ang paborito ni Andres Bonifacio (Logia Taliba No.165). Si Jose Rizal (Logia Solidaridad No.53) ay mahilig sa TINOLA. Kadalasang hiling ni Presidente Emilio Aguinaldo (Logia Pilar No. 203) ang NILAGANG MANOK NA PUTI NA MAY ASPARAGUS. Habang si Marcelo H. Del Pilar (Logia Solidaridad No.53) ay POCHERO ang tipo. Para naman kay Apolinario Mabini (Logia Balagtas No.149), ang simpleng hain ng BULANGLANG NA GULAY ay ayos na.*

### LITSONG MANOK SA SAHA NG SAGING PARA SA SUPREMO

Payak lamang ang paboritong lutuin ni Gat Andres Bonifacio na batang Tondo. Manok Tagalog, ilang pampalasa, kawayang patpat, at kaunting uling – nagkatalo na! Pero ang kaibahahan ay ang pag-gamit ng SAHA NG SAGING (Banana Trunk) na ipinambabalot sa kabuuan ng manok, matapos itong timplahan at ituhog sa kawayan. Sinasabing may dagdag na bango ang dulot ng pagkakulob ng karne sa loob ng saha, at may dagdag lasa din ang pagkasunog ng balat ng puno ng saging sa balat ng manok.

Idagdag pa dito ang kasamang sawsawan na gawa sa ginisang atay ng manok, asukal na pula, suka, cerveza (beer), at iba pang mga pampalasa. Kung aalalahanin – atay din ang pangunahing rekado sa sarsa ng litsong baboy.

Aking napagtanto, dahil puede itong iluto sa labas ng kusina, malamang sa malimit din itong iluto ng mga Katipunero sa kanilang mga paglalakbay sa paligid ng Kamaynilaan at karatig lalawigan.

### ANG TINOLANG MANOK NI JOSE RIZAL

Kung babalikan ang Noli Me Tangere ay maraming pagkain ang nakasaad sa ilang kabanata nito. Pero unang nabanggit ang TINOLA na ipinahanda ni Kapitan Tiago sa isang piging (party) para sa bida na si Crisostomo Ibarra. Isa sa ikinasama ng loob ng kontrabidang si Padre Damaso ang paghain sa kanya ng leeg at pakpak ng manok habang ang mga hita, balunbalunan, at pecho (chicken breast) ay napunta sa ibang mga bisita.

> *"Isang malaking lalagyang umaaso ang ipinasok. Matapos bumulong ang Dominiko ng Benedicite na halos walang nakasagot, sinimulang ipamahagi ang nilalaman. Ngunit bunga marahil ng pagkalingat o ng ibang dahilan, napunta kay Padre Damaso ang pinggang sagana sa upo at sabaw at may nakalutang na isang hubad na leeg at isang makunat na pakpak ng inahin, samantalang mga hita't pitso ang kinakain ng iba, lalo na ni Ibarra na pinalad mapuntahan ng mga lamang-loob. Nakitang lahat iyon ng Pransiskano, dinurog ang mga piraso ng upo, hinigop ang kaunting sabaw, maingay na binitawan ang kutsara, at padabog na itinulak ang pinggan. "*

Ayon sa mananalaysay na si Ambeth Ocampo, napaghahalata ang matinding pangungulila ng ating bayani sa kanyang bayan lalo na kung pagbabasihan ang pagsasalarawan ng mga putaheng nabanggit sa kanyang mga nobela – ang Noli Me Tangere at El Filibusterismo. Ang kapansin-pansin lamang

sa TINOLA sa Noli ay ang ilang sa mga rekado (ingredients) na kakaiba sa ating nakasanayan, tulad ng UPO at KALABASA kapalit ng PAPAYA o SAYOTE. Ito marahil ay tradisyon sa kanilang lugar sa Laguna. Nakipag-ugnayan ang ating Hepe sa mga taga-Laguna at ayon kay VW Celso Hilbero ng Dr. JP Rizal (Calamba) Lodge No. 270, sagana sa upo at kalabasa ang lalawigan ng Laguna lalo na noong mga panahong iyun. Sa katunayan, pangkaraniwan na daw sa mga bakuran sa Calamba noon, ang maglagay ng balag na pinapagapangan sa upo at kalabasa.

## EMILIO AGUINALDO AT ANG NILAGANG MANOK NA PUTI NA MAY ASPARAGUS

Para sa El Presidente, ang lasa ng nilagang manok na puti na sinahugan ng paborito niyang gulay na esparago ang swak sa kanyang panlasa.

Katulad ng ibang nilaga, inihahalo ang mga rekado gaya ng saging na saba, patatas, petsay, at sabaw ng manok sa lutuang palayok na pinakukuluan ng dahan dahan at nilagyan ng asin at paminta bilang pampalasa. Ang kakaiba sa ulam ng ating Pangulong Kabitenyo ay ang karneng ginamit - manok na puti na hindi maligat at masmadaling palambutin. Ang Asparagus naman ay talaga raw hilig ni Aguinaldo kung kaya't karamihan sa kanyang mga paluto ay may halo nito upang magbigay ng kakaibang linamnam. Ang sabaw na may esparago ay pumuputi sanhi ng katas ng nasabing gulay.

Ang asparagus o esparago ay malayong pinsan ng sibuyas. Sinasabi na noong unang dumating ang mga Kastila sa ating bansa nang ika-labing anim na siglo (1500s), ito'y inihahain lamang sa Europa para sa mga maharlika (nobility). Makalipas ang 200 taon saka lang ito lumabas sa merkado para matikman ng pangkaraniwang mamamayan, subalit sadyang may kamahalan ang halaga. Sa kasalukuyan, ang isang tali ng Asparagus (250g) ay umaabot ng mahigit 200 piso!

## POCHERO PARA KAY M.H. DEL PILAR

Ito ang paborito ng Ama ng Masoneriya na kilala rin sa alyas na Plaridel. Ayon sa mga mananalaysay, palabiro daw at madaldal ang Bulakenyong si Del Pilar, subalit pagdating sa hapag-kainan ay natatahimik ito habang nilalasap ang linamnam ng kinakain.

Ayon kay Atty. Benita Marasigan-Santos (Apo ni Gat Marcelo), ang kalutong ito ang karaniwang inihahain tuwing Linggo at maligayang pinagsasaluhan ng buong pamilya, kaulam ng enseladang talong.

Sa aking pagkaalam, ang puchero ay nagmula sa mga Kastila at ang orihinal na bersyon nito ay ang Cocido ng Espanya. Nagkaroon na lamang ng mga kaibahan sa timpla pagdating sa mga lugar na pinagdalhan dito ng mga Kastila ayon na rin sa mga ipinampalit na rekado na madadatnan nila. Sa Pilipinas halimbawa, ang karne ng baka ay inilaga sa saging na saba at nilalahukan ng patatas o kamote, chorizos de Bilbao, pechay (bok choy), dahon ng sibuyas (leeks), garbanzo beans (chickpeas), at repolyo (cabbage).

Sa panahon ngayon, hinahaluan ito ng tomato sauce bilang pampalambot, pampapula, at pampasarap. Dahil wala pang Del Monte Tomato Sauce noon – malamang sa ang ginagamit nila ay kamatis na hinog, na giniling at iginisa ng maigi na mahina lamang ang apoy.

Sa kasalukuyan, makikita pa rin ang puchero o putsero sa ilang mga carinderia. At patuloy pa rin ang pagkakaroon ng iba't ibang bersyon nito. May ipinapalit ang baboy o manok sa karne ng baka; mayroong walang saging para walang tamis; may naglalgay ng atsuete na pang pakulay sa sabaw habang ang iba naman ay sa natural na kulay lamang.

## BULANGLANG NA GULAY – ANG HAIN PARA KAY APOLINARIO MABINI

Paborito ng aking ka-Batanguenyong si Apolinario Mabini ang natural na katas o sabaw ng mga pinaghalu-halong gulay na talaga namang masustansya. Ang timplang Batangas ay binubuo ng mga sari-saring gulay tulad ng dahon ng malunggay, kangkong (spinach), talong (eggplant), okra, patola, papaya, at kalabasa na nilahukan pa ng kamatis, sibuyas, luya, bawang, sili, at asin bilang pampalasa. May mga nag-hahalo din ng puso ng saging o kaya ay dahon ng alugbati

Sa panahon na uso pa ang pagtatanim ng mga sari-saring gulay sa bakuran, ang Bulanglang ay maituturing na payak na lutuin na pinang uulam sa mainit na kanin na kadalasan ay ...

***Sundan sa pahina 57***




# ON HEROES CLAD IN LAMBSKIN APRONS

**By: Bro. Ivan Jethro Balagtas / TCT Head News Correspondents**

Among the many irrefutable accomplishments of Masonry in the Philippines is the Nation's very Independence. A number of the brave men that yearned, aspired, and mobilized for freedom were men in lambskin aprons. WB Emilio Aguinaldo in his speech as Guest of Honor & Speaker during the 39th Annual Communications in 1955 professed that the Philippine Revolution was "Masonically-inspired, Masonically-led, and Masonically-executed", crediting both Masonry and the Masons the first Philippine Republic. The dignity and splendor that KALAYAAN brings to our country draw a parallel with the pride and glory that same freedom brings to our fraternity.

**MANILA**

The celebration of this year's Proclamation of Philippine Independence traditionally hosted by officials of the Philippine Government in Luneta on June 12 was restricted to invited guests only, in keeping with the still prevailing government health protocols on COVID-19. Thus a select contingent of Grand Line Officers accompanied MW Johnny Ty Pimentel to represent the Masonic Fraternity. Together with the Brethren from AFP and other Government Offices, they joined the celebration of the country's 124th Anniversary of Independence.

Earlier in June 2, the Grand Master Issued Circular 5 – as a reminder to the Brethren of the important event. Masonic Districts in various localities who traditionally join the Independence Day celebration in their respective areas of jurisdiction were enjoined to do so, subject to limitations imposed in their respective local governments.

That Sunday Morning, all throughout the Philippine Archipelago, the 124th anniversary of this glorious occasion was solemnly observed. The *Katagalugan Region*, which cradled the first eight provinces took up arms for autonomy, held memorializing events in honor of the flag.

**NUEVA ECIJA**

The old municipal hall in Gapan, Nueva Ecija hosted a solemnizing event led by Congressman-elect Bro. Emerson Pascual and VW Leonald Tinio, DDGM of Masonic District Nueva Ecija-South. The antiquated building enhanced the historic flair of the occasion. Historical records claim that the said landmark is one of the first in the province, and in the region. The Filipino version of the salute to the Philippine flag recalls its roots in Nueva Ecija, as MW Danilo Angeles, PGM of Cabanatuan Lodge 53 translated the original version to mother tongue.

In other Luzon provinces such as Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, and Bicol Region, concordant salutations were also dedicated to the Philippine flag.

**BULACAN**
In historic Bulacan – festivities were held at Barasoain Church, in the City of Malolos where the Philippine Flag was raised by provincial leader Gov. Daniel Fernando. The Masonic Delegation was led by VW Ramon Mañalac and VW Erickson Pan - District Deputy Grand Masters of RIII Bulacan EAST & WEST respectively together with VW Joselito Manuel, Junior Grand Lecturer; other District Officers; and the Brethren of Malolos 46 – headed by WM Benjamin Cajucom. They were assisted by PNP Provincial Commander Bro. Col. Charlie Cabradilla. Other attendees include members of Scottish Rite Bulacan Bodies, Rainbow for Girls, Jobs Daughters, and the Order of DeMolay. In Philippine History, the City was home of the Malolos Congress and was the seat of the Aguinaldo Government in 1898.

**PAMPANGA**
VW Nicanor S. Targa, DDGM of RIII Pampanga together with DGLs VW Francis Dimaliwat and VW Redentor Gatus, the officers and members of Jose Abad Santos 333 and Magalang 391 as well as DeMolays from Virgilio Bunao Chapter joined the celebration and wreath laying ceremony at the Old Municipal Hall of Mabalacat City.

**CAVITE**
The three (3) Masonic Districts of RIV Cavite Central, East, & West commemorated the event in the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite – residence of President Emilio Aguinaldo and site of the Declaration itself. In the historic location, RW Raul S. Canon - the Junior Grand Warden, joined the Cavite DDGMs - VW George Fojas (Central), VW Denedicto F. Paña, Jr, (East), and VW Charles D. Capagcuan (West).

**LAGUNA**
Both Masonic Districts of RIV Laguna East and West led by their respective District Deputies, VW Jesus Miguel Bunyi and VW Winston Uy participated in the solemnities held at the Provincial Capitol in Sta. Cruz. Representatives from all ten (10) Laguna Lodges were present. The contingent witnessed the Wreath-laying and 21-Gun Salute. Laguna Governor Ramil L. Fernandez and Vice-Governor Karen C. Agapay were in attendance.

## Commemorating Philippine Independence the Oragon Way

**By VW Eric P. Roldan, PDDGM / TCT Head News Correspondent**

In the Bicol Region, Masonic Lodges of Region V joined the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the whole Nation in the June 12 Festivities with the two (2) District Deputy Grand Masters leading their respective Masonic Districts - VW Mark H. Chua for Lodges in RV - Albay, Sorsogon, & Masbate and VW Erwin I. Verzosa for Lodges of RV Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, & Catanduanes.

The Brethren of Isarog 33, Naga City 257, and Camarines Sur 382 together with DDGM Erwin Verzosa and DGL Emmanuel Cacho attended the commemoration at Plaza Quince Martires, Naga City; while members of Julian Ocampo 146 observed the same solemnities Nabua, Camarines Sur.

Among the honorable Brethren in the Local Government, two public officials led their respective provinces to celebrate Independence Day - Catanduanes Governor VW Joseph C. Cua and VW Noel Rosal, newly elected Albay Governor.

Tabak 436 and Mayon 61 joined Masaraga 462 at Legazpi City. Bro Cong. Fernando Cabredo participated in the commemoration at Ligao City. Members of Mabuti 329 participated at Masbate City.

To the Brethren of Bulusan Lodge No. 38, June 12 this year was marked by the phreatic eruption of Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon where the public was reminded of the Alert Level 1 status of the stratovolcano. Despite the situation, officers and members of the said lodge released white doves to uplift the spirit that Freedom Day.

No amount of disaster can withhold our Bicolandia Brethren from commemorating the Philippine Independence Day.

# R7 - CBS JOINS 124TH INDEPENDENCE DAY RITES

**By: Bro Ranulfo San Juan IV / TCT Head News Correspondent**

Master Masons from Masonic District R7 (Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor) led by District Deputy Grand Master Kevin Co joined the local government during the June 12 celebration.

VW Kevin Co together with dozens of Master Masons from Maktan 30, Cebu 128, Mt. Moriah 252, Datu Lapu-lapu 347, Talisay Sugbo 422, and Leon Kilat 437 attended the Independence Day flag-raising and wreath laying ceremonies at the Cebu City Hall grounds. Members of the Order of DeMolay and Job's Daughters were also present.

In Tagbilaran City, Bohol, WM Sam Dacullo led some thirty Master Masons from Dagohoy 84 and Chocolate Hills 477 at the Independence Day rites. Also in attendance were members of the Order of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Eastern Star.

In Masonic District R-XVIII Negros Island Region, Masons from Crescent 419 and Siquijor 418 joined RW Don Ramas Uypitching at the Independence Day celebrations in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.

"The participation of MDR7 in the Independence Day festivities aims to rekindle the spirit of nationalism and selflessness among the Brethren." Said DDGM Kevin Co. "Because of their critical role in the country's history, brother Masons sit in the pantheon of great heroes of the country. This is something to be proud of and to be emulated." He added.

Independence Day ("Araw ng Kasarinlan" or "Araw ng Kalayaan") is an annual national holiday in the Philippines that is observed on June 12 to commemorate the declaration of Philippine Independence from Spain in 1898.

# JUNE 13 FLAG RAISING AT GLP

As announced in Circular 5 - the Grand Lodge of the Philippines marked the important affair through a substitute celebration during the Flag Raising Ceremony the next day - Monday at 7:30 a.m. at the GLP grounds. Invited were the Brethren in general including members of the Appendant and Allied Bodies to participate in the flag raising and floral offering for our national heroes. The affair was hosted by Masonic District RIV Rizal, the Mabuhay Shriners and Agila Shriners who treated everyone present with a simple breakfast afterwards.

The Independence Day celebration reminds all Filipino Masons of the value of liberty, and the price it continually demands. The 12th of **June is a bittersweet day that tells us that triumph comes without toil and milestones come without sacrifice. Furthermore, the day serves as a hallmark that Masons today, and Masons yet to be made, should look up to.** There are moments in history when nobler deeds are to be done, and it is every Mason's indispensable duty to act upon within the length of his cable tow.

**Editor's Note:**

*MW Johnny Ty Pimentel issued two relevant speeches for Independence Day 2022 – the first, posted at the GLP Website in June 12 can be found at page 99 of this Issue. Equally important is his June 13 message delivered during the Flag-Raising Ceremony which is in conjunction with the Senior Grand Lecturer's Masonic Education for the Month of June appertaining to the virtues of Heroism, Patriotism, and Nationalism. To inspire the Brethren to be in Harmony with all these three virtues, its transcript is featured at page 49 of this issue*

**Independence Day Photos can be found at the Center Spread on pages 50 and 51**

# THE GRAND MASTER'S JUNE 2022 MESSAGE

Most Worshipful Sirs, Very Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, Honored members of the Allied Masonic Organizations, Brethren and Friends - A pleasant morning to all of you.

Allow me to officially extend to you the greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines: "Happy Independence Day!"

Today we all feel a sense of pride. We all feel heroic; we all feel patriotic; and we all feel nationalistic. It is only fitting that our Masonic Education topic for this month of June centers on Heroism, Patriotism, and Nationalism. Our Fraternity was never short of heroes, patriots, and nationalists – brave men and Masons all – past and present – who fought, lived, and even died for country, for humanity, and for fraternity.

It is to them that we offer today's Independence Day celebration. It is for them that we raise our flag in their honor. They have graced us with their presence, and honored us with their achievements. Many of them may no longer be with us today. Some, fortunately, still walk among us – continuously doing about their heroic deeds. They are our front-liners; they are our government leaders; they are our soldiers and protectors of our freedom and very way of live. Many of them are our brethren, and seldom do we express our gratitude towards them. Today, I charge you all to go forth and convey your appreciation of their efforts. Tell them they are respected, tell them they are valued, and they them that they are your heroes. They need to hear it. They need to know it. When our National Heroes fought for our independence 124 years ago – many of whom were Masons, and many of whom died without being appreciated – they did so out of their own volition without regard towards their own safety and well-being. They did so for us, and they never had the chance to hear how thankful we are. Let us not let this happen to our heroes of today. Let us appreciate them, care for them, send them our love and support.

Only by showing them our gratitude could we repay them for the sacrifices they are doing for us and our nation.

We are approaching the end of the pandemic. Many have fallen while ill, and have perished in the service of their fellowmen – brothers like Dr. Greg Macasaet of Keystone Lodge No. 100, who never left his post in the fight against COVID-19. But we have those who lived on as well and continue to serve in the frontlines – thus contributing to the curing of our nation.

Of course, let us also never forget the reason why we are still here – the reason why we gather and celebrate this joyous occasion. Let us not forget our National Heroes themselves, whose images and works now adorn our beloved Grand Lodge. It is to them we owe our very freedom and sovereignty. Let us do justice to their efforts and memories by living up to our Masonic theme this year: "Harmony for One and All: The Foundation of Genuine Masonic Fraternity." Through Harmony, through Unity, we will be able to escape from the bondages of this day and age, such as COVID isolation, political division, and disharmony within our fraternity. Let this Independence Day be a reminder that we too can liberate ourselves from our own individual demons that oppress us, guided by our Masonic theme on Liberty, and by our government's them on Unity.

It is time for us to unite, make peace, work together, and live in harmony. I believe that this is the way of life imagined for us by our national heroes years ago and by the current heroes of today. Let us honor them by living their dream, by living their hope.

Good morning and Happy Independence Day to all of us.

JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL
GRAND MASTER, 2022-2023
GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES












124TH INDEP
CELEBR
JUNE




























ENDENCE DAY
RATIONS
E 2022
GRAND MASTER'S SEAL
MW JTP 2022























# *Grand Master sojourns with Isabela Brethren*

**By: VW Jose Eugenio Illenberger, PDGL / TCT Art Director**



MW Johnny Ty Pimentel and his retinue of Grand Lodge Officers travelled north to Region 2 last June 18 and 19 to visit the Brethren in the two Masonic Districts in the province of Isabela.



## June 18 - MD R-II Isabela NORTH

First Stop was in Upi, Gamu, Isabela where from 2:00 PM onwards, the Grand Master celebrated with the Brethren of Pinacanauan Masonic Lodge No. 318 on their 25th Charter Anniversary during their Regular Stated Meeting by Officiating the Dedication of their Masonic Temple. Assisting him were VR Pablo Yves Dumlao, Grand Chaplain & GLP Chief of Staff; VW Emmanuel Diesta, Building/Office Manager & Protocol Officer; VW Val Santos, Senior Grand Steward, and VW Philip John S. Buscaino, JGL; as well as the officers and members of Pinacanauan 318 led by Silver Jubilee Master Emerson Q. Velarde and his Senior & Junior Wardens – Bros. Jeffrey Cabasal and Jose Crisanto Pagaddu, respectively. MW Pimentel also assisted the Brethren in unveiling a twenty-five (25) feet tall Masonic Monument at the south west corner of the property to mark the 25th year of the Lodge's existence.

Constituted as a regular lodge in 14 June 1997, by then Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Pinacanauan 318 is currently one of the eight lodges managed under R-II Isabela NORTH. It is named after one of the three great rivers of Cagayan Valley – Cagayan, Magat, and Pinacanauan.

## June 19 - MD R-II Isabela SOUTH & Quirino

At 7:00 AM - MW JTP and Party met with the Brethren of neighboring Isabela South & Quirino led by VW Joseph Allan Baron, District Deputy Grand Master to commemorate the 161st Birth Anniversary of Bro Jose Rizal. Joining them were members of the Order of the Amaranth, Job's Daughters , and the local DeMolay Chapter. Together, they offered a floral wreath at the statue of National Hero and Master Mason at the at Rizal Park in Cauayan City, Isabela.

A sumptuous breakfast fellowship followed at Otep's Restaurant were the brethren in attendance received Team JTP Pins from the Grand Master himself.



Members of Maharlika Lodge No. 180 – the district's second lodge took the opportunity to openly discussed with MW Pimentel their initiative to form a new lodge in the City which was acknowledged by the Grand Master.



# LAGUNA MASONS HONOR BROTHER JOSE RIZAL

It was an activity-filled Sunday for the Brethren of MD R-IV Laguna West with three interlinked activities in celebration of our National Hero's 161st birthday last June 19, reported VW Winston P. Uy, DDGM of R-IV Laguna West.

Masons started the solemnities at 9:00 AM in the Calamba Masonic Temple of Dr. Jose P. Rizal (Calamba) Lodge No. 270, led by WM Joel Valencia followed by a fellowship breakfast.

By 1:00 PM, more than 100 Masons from Laguna, Cavite, NCR, Quezon, and other Districts, with representations from the Rizal League of Lodges (RizaLL) assembled at the ancestral home of Bro. Jose P. Rizal in Calamba for the Commemoration Program.



Following the Invocation, Flag Ceremony, and Pagpupugay sa Watawat was the book launching of the contemporary edition of Rizal's Masonic Work entitled FREEMASONRY: Science, Virtue, & Labor. Written originally in Spanish, it was edited and translated by VW Armando G. Cazzola, PDDGM.

After a brief history lesson from Rizal Lodges League (RizaLL) President, VW Celso Hilbero; VW Winston P. Uy delivered the message of the Host District followed by his introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker, MW Johnny Ty Pimentel. As the Grand Master at this time was in a two-day Event in Masonic District R-II. Isabela (North), VW Joven Calabia, Junior Grand Lecturer for Southern Luzon, Rizal, & Laguna, read the Message on behalf of MW Pimentel.

The Brethren offered a Masonic Floral Wreath at the Rizal Shrine with R-IV Laguna West in the lead, followed by representatives from R-IV Laguna East, other District Representatives, Appendant Bodies, individual Lodges, and the Rizal League of Lodges.

Concluding the Program was a book signing with the editor and translator - VW Dr. Armando G. Cazzola. Brother Dr. Emmanuel F. Calairo (Dasmarinas Lodge 346) who is also a Member of the Board of Commissioners of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, wrote the imprimatur of the book and assisted VW Cazzola in the book signing.

A local Social Media Network also conducted an interview with some of the District Officers to facilitate public understanding and appreciation of the Freemasonry in general and the Masonic Life of our brother Jose P. Rizal, in particular.

At 5:00 PM, the party proceeded to San Pedro Masonic Temple Silcas Subdivision, Binan, Laguna to celebrate the 31st Charter Anniversary of San Pedro Masonic Lodge No.292.

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1032 Belen Street,
Paco, Manila

Rooftop Lounge
Arzo Hotel Makati Premier
2410 Hen. Belarmino Street,
Bangkal, Makati City




# A Masonic Lodge in Western Pampanga

By: VW Raymond Paul Ocampo, DGL (411)

Lodge No. 411 is named after the Kapampangan town where it is located. The word "purac" was in turn derived after the abundant Purac Trees encountered by the first settlers and is believed to be among the earliest towns established in Pampanga – Lubao (1572), Candaba (1575), Mexico (1581), and Porac (1594).

The Town's founding date - 31 October 1594, was based upon the acceptance by Fray Mateo Peralta in the Friar's Intermediate Chapter - recorded by Fray Gaspar de San Agustin, by saying Porac has its First Minister and Friar, Fray Mateo de Mendoza. Then Provincial Surveyor Don Ramon N. Orozco in 1879 called the river in this place "Poraq River" in his sketch of the nearby town of Floridablanca. "Purac or Poraq" later became what is now known as Porac on 16 September 1867.

In 2010, VW Rodolfo L. Ocampo – a Past Master of Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No. 333 dreamt of establishing a Masonic Lodge in the western part of Pampanga (2nd District) specifically in his hometown. At that time, Masonic District of R-III Pampanga have just grown into 5 lodges with the constitution of Magalang Lodge No. 391 and Tiburcio Hilario Memorial Lodge No. 394 in the same year.

It took two years for the Past District Lecturer to gather the required number of charter members with the issuance of Edict 186-A by MW Avelino Razon in 23 March 2011 – *Strengthening the Cornerstone in the Formation of New Lodges in our Grand Jurisdiction and providing Guidelines for Future Lodges to be Granted Dispensations.* The said Edict required the signature of at least twenty-four (24) Master Masons who are active and in good standing and should have been Master Masons in good standing continuously for at least five (5) years.

Finally, Porac Lodge was instituted on 24 October 2012 by then Grand Master Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., with VW Ocampo (333) as First Master; VW Eladio dela Cruz (228) & VW Lorenzo B. Detran, Jr. (48) as First Senior and Junior Wardens respectively. Joining them in the list of signatories were 24 other Master Masons.

Among the first candidates were Bro. Raymond Paul G. Ocampo and Bro. Federico M. Cunanan, who side by side became the Lodge Exemplars. The Dispensation was returned soon after their raising in March 16, 2013 to the Grand Lodge for evaluation by the Committee on Administration of Lodges, Returns, and Charters. Of the 14 reports submitted by Lodges under dispensation that Masonic Year (2012 – 2013), Porac UD was among the 11 to be granted a charter at the 97th Annual Communications in Iloilo City.

Porac was constituted as the 411th Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines on 18 June 2013 by MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr. at the Jose Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple.

VW Rodolfo Ocampo was elected its Charter Master, together with VW Eladio S. Dela Cruz as Charter Senior Warden, VW Lorenzo B. Detran Jr., as Junior Warden, VW Gregorio M

# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines

## Masonic District RIII Pampanga

# PORAC Masonic Lodge No. 411

## ROLL OF MEMBERS

| REGULAR MEMBERS | CHARTER / DUAL MEMBERS |
|---|---|
| WB Raymond Paul G. Ocampo | Bro. Lawrence B. Ben |
| Bro. Federico M. Cunanan | VW Noel R. Cartagena, PDGL |
| Bro. Aldrin C. Bungque | Bro. Angelito A. Cortez † |
| Bro. Oscar V. Orosco | VW Dennis L. Cunanan, SGL |
| WB. Melvin P. Francisco | Bro. Lyndon A. Cunanan |
| Bro. Jerry Joseph D. Dela Cruz | WB Joselito L. Cura, PGLI |
| Bro. Michael A. Cuenco | VW Eladio S. Dela Cruz, PDDGM |
| Bro. Gerald G. Gonzales | VW Lorenzo B. Detran Jr., PJGL |
| Bro. Ronaldo L. Martin | WB Allan Q. Dizon, GLI |
| Bro. Marc S. Cruz | VW Ernesto S. Dumas, PDDGM |
| Bro. Oliver James L. Masbang | WB Redentor S. Gatus, PM |
| Bro. Marcial T. Caniones | Bro. Danilo B. Guevarra |
| Bro. Francis G. Dimalanta | VW Antonio J. Guzman, PDGL † |
| Bro. Ramon H. Dulnuan | VW Niccolo Vittorio A. Go, PDGL |
| Bro. Adrian Wayne M. Ysip | VW Rogelio P. Ilagan, PDGL |
| Bro. Leo Mac C. Tuliao | WB Eric V Jimenez, PGLI |
| Bro. Carlo Gino F. Ocampo | VW Ronnie M. Manuel, PDGL |
| Bro. Franz Dominic S. Arceo | VW Ariel D. Merdegia, PDGL |
| | VW Nelson E. Nucup, PDGL |
| Bro. FCM Aldrin Jon Dale D. Tinio | VW Rodolfo L. Ocampo, PDDGM |
| Bro. FCM Aris Eleazr S. Canlapan | VW Robert A. Payawal, PDGL |
| Bro. EAM Tristan D. Manuel | Bro. Rogelio G. Santos |
| Bro. EAM Roger Joseph L. Riveral | VW Wilson A. Santos VI, PDGL |
| | Bro. Renato L. Saura |
| HONORARY MEMBER | VW Gregorio M. Sison Jr., PJGL |
| | VW Nicanor S. Targa, PDGL |
| VW Noli Joseph P. Quioc, DGL | Bro. Ramon M. Victoriano † |

## ROLL OF PAST MASTERS

| Masonic Year | |
|---|---|
| 2013 Charter | VW Rodolfo L. Ocampo, PDDGM |
| 2014 | VW Gregorio M. Sison Jr., PJGL |
| 2015 | WB Joselito L. Cura, PGLI |
| 2016 | VW Rogelio P. Ilagan, PDGL |
| 2017 | WB Eric V. Jimenez, PGLI |
| 2018 | WB Raymond Paul G. Ocampo, GLI |
| 2019 | WB Allan Q. Dizon, GLI |
| 2020 & 2021 | WB Melvin P. Francisco |

## ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR MASONIC YEAR 2022-2023

| | |
|---|---|
| Worshipful Master | Bro. Marc S. Cruz |
| Senior Warden | Bro. Oliver James L. Masbang |
| Junior Warden | Bro. Gerald G. Gonzales |
| Treasurer | WB Allan Q. Dizon, PM |
| Secretary | VW Raymond Paul G. Ocampo, DGL |
| Auditor | WB Melvin P. Francisco, PM |
| Harmony Officer | VW Nicanor S. Targa, PDGL |
| Chaplain | Bro. Franz Dominic S. Arceo |
| Marshall | Bro. Adrian Wayne M. Ysip |
| Senior Deacon | Bro. Francis G. Dimalanta |
| Junior Deacon | Bro. Jerry Joseph D. Dela Cruz |
| Senior Steward | VW Ernesto S. Dumas, PDDGM |
| Junior Steward | WB Joselito L. Cura, PM |
| Historian | Bro. Marcial T. Caniones |
| Organist | Bro. Carlo Gino F. Ocampo |
| Custodian | Bro. Aldrin C. Bungque |
| Almoner | Bro. Ramon H. Dulnuan |
| Lecturer | Bro. Leo Mac C. Tuliao |
| Proficiency Master | VW Rogelio P. Ilagan, PDGL |
| Tyler | VW Rodolfo L. Ocampo, PDDGM |



Sison Jr., as Treasurer, WB Eric V. Jimenez as Secretary, VW Redentor S. Gatus as Auditor.

Less than 3 years later, MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, officiated the cornerstone laying ceremony of Porac 411 on 8 February 2016 during the incumbency of WB Lito C. Cura in a 1,000 square meter lot donated by the Ocampo Family at Edsan Farm, Manibaug Paralaya, Porac, Pampanga.



In 2022, Grand Master Johnny Ty Pimentel led the Dedication of its Masonic Temple last 5 August – another lodge project accomplished under the able leadership of Worshipful Master Marc S. Cruz.

Today, Porac Masonic Lodge No. 411 meets regularly every first Friday of the Month from 4:00 PM onwards. It has raised 18 Regular Members on top of the 27 brethren who nurtured its growth into what it is today.

## PAMINGGALAN NI KUYA PONG

itinuloy mula sa pahina 45

sinasabayan ng pritong isda, sinaing na tulingan (braised bullet tuna), o kahit bagoong Balayan. Sa ngayon, bihira na lamang maihain ang putaheng ito lalo na sa Kamaynilaan dahil sa dami ng rekado at nagtataasang presyo ng mga gulay.

May mga kahawig na luto ito sa iba't-ibang rehiyon sa bansa tulad ng Dinendeng ng mga Ilokano; Laswa sa Iloilo, at Law-oy (o Law-uy) sa gawing Visayas at Mindanao.

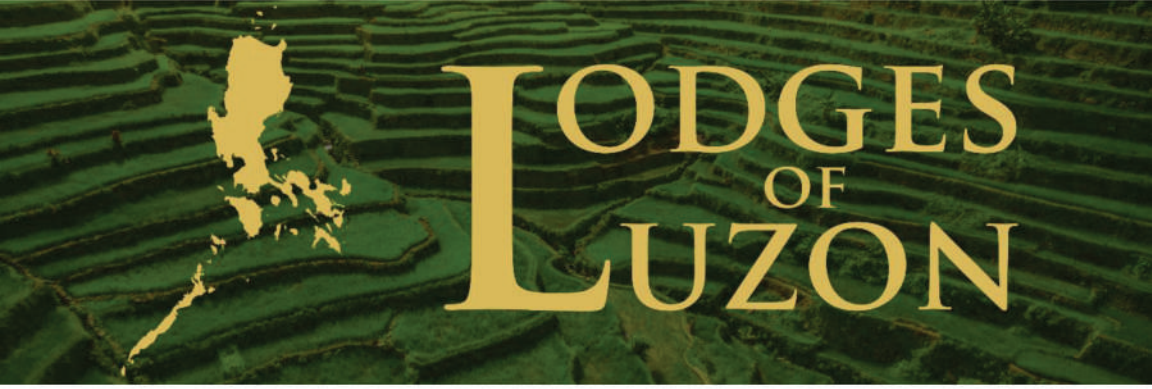


Makikitang tatlo sa ating mga Bayani ay mahihilig sa manok pero iba-iba ang pagkaluto: nilitson para kay Bonifacio, tinola kay Rizal, at nilaga kay Aguinaldo - subalit may kani-kaniyang pilipit o "twist". Dala ito ng lalawigan na kanilang pinanggalingan, gayon din sa antas ng kanilang pamumuhay. May pagka-"cowboy" o "boyscout" ang timpla ni Bonifacio samantalang "sosyalin" ang kay Aguinaldo. Ang mga Del Pilar ay may Linguhang salu-salo sa kanilang bahay sa Bulacan, samatalang si Mabini, dahil payak ang pinanggalingan ay payak din ang kagustuhan. Kung pagbabasihan ang Noli na isinulat ni Rizal sa taong 1887 habang nasa Europa, halatang nangungulila ang ating kapatid sa lutong bahay ng kanyang Inang Bayan.

Malaki ang epekto ng ORAS sa paraan ng pagluluto noon kumpara ngayon. Mas matagal painitin ang buong katawan ng palayok, pero mas-kumakatas ang mga karne dahil konsentrado sa buong lalagyan ang init nito. Mas matagal din magpalambot ng karne dahil wala pang pressure cooker noon.

Tanong ng ating Hepe, "VW Pong, bukod sa asin at paminta, ano pa ang pampalasang ginagamit noong araw nang wala pang Knorr Cubes, Magi Magic Sarap, at Vetsin?" Ang ating sagot: Ang natatandaan ko noon Kuyang sa pagluluto ng aking mga lolo at lola, para sumarap ang pagkain ay mahina lamang dapat ang apoy. Hayaan itong kumulo ng mabagal hanggang sa lumambot. Sa ganitong paraan napapalabas ang natural na lasa at linamnam ng mga niluluto. Kagaya sa turo sa atin sa Masoneriya – TIME, PATIENCE, and PERSEVERANCE shall accomplish all things!

**At dahil natakam ang mga nasa tanggapan ng The Cable Tow sa paghahanda para sa artikulong ito, sa aming Christmas Party ay nagrequest ang mga Kuyang na maghanda kami ng Litsong Manok sa Saha ng Saging. Abangan ang video sa FB ng TCT.**




By: VW Joseph Harold W. Santiago, GSc

## *Ikalawang Bahagi*

### LODGES & DISTRICTS - NORTH OF LUZON (CAR, Regions 1 & 2)

Masonic Districts and their subordinate Lodges in Region 1, Region 2, and the Cordillera Administrative Region comprise the northern part of Luzon.

**Cordillera Administrative Region** - officially designated as CAR by virtue of Executive Order No.220 (1987) is composed of the six (6) provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province, as well as the highly urbanized Baguio City as its regional center. Its Land Area is approximately 19,422 square kms.

**Region 1 – Ilocos Region** is located in the northwestern region portion of Luzon. Its area of **13,000 square kms** is bounded by the Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan Valley to the east, Central Luzon to the south and by the South China Sea to the west. Four provinces make up the region: Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

Masonic development based on the growth of the ***24 Masonic Lodges*** in these two regions resulted in the intermingling of some of the provinces in both regions when clustered into the ***four (4) Masonic Districts***: **CAR - Mt. Province, Kalinga, & Apayao; R-1 & CAR - Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, & Abra; R-I & CAR - Benguet & La Union;** and **R-I Pangasinan**.

Currently there are **1,382 Master Masons** that are affiliated with the Lodges in these two Regions. 1,108 of them are Active Members while 274 are Life-Members by Longevity.

**MD CAR - Mt. Province, Kalinga, & Apayao** has five (5) Masonic Lodges:

Bontoc :: No. 140
Rio Chico :: No. 182
Mampiya-an :: No. 284
Bessang Pass :: No. 314
Apayao :: No. 396

There are four (4) Masonic Lodges in **R-I & CAR - Benguet & La Union**. The District is a unique mixture of two provinces from two distinct regions and currently has the youngest lodge in the northern regions, Francisco Isabelo Ortega 452.

Baguio :: No. 67
La - Trinidad :: No. 344
Union :: No. 70
Siete Martires :: No. 177
Diego :: No. 417
Francisco Isabelo Ortega 452

The venerable Masonic District of **R-1 & CAR - Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, & Abra**, has a composition of 4 "matured" Lodges from three Ilocano Provinces:

Laoag :: No. 71
Abra :: No. 86
Angalo :: No. 63
Lam-Ang :: No. 164

With nine (9) lodges in its cluster, **MD R-I Pangasinan** is the biggest and most prolific of the Masonic Districts in the northwest portion of Luzon. Pangasinan 56 - the oldest lodge in both CAR and Region 1 can be found here.

Pangasinan :: No. 56
Agno :: No. 75
Alfonso Lee Sin :: No. 158
Moises J. De Guzman :: 161
Hundred Island :: No. 201

Edilberto A. Tamongdong :: 217
Urdaneta :: No. 302
Jose H. Yuchongtian :: No. 354
Calasiao :: No. 449

**Region 2 – Cagayan Valley Region** is strategically located on the northeastern territory of the Luzon mainland and is the second largest region in the Philippines (total land area: 26,388 square kms). It is bounded to the north by the Luzon Strait, the Sierra Madre in the east, by the Caraballo Mountains to the south, and to the west by the Cordillera mountain range. The region is crisscrossed by the longest and largest river network - the Cagayan River aka Rio Grande de Cagayan, which is approximately 505 kilometers long. The valley provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, the mountain provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya, and the island province of Batanes comprise Region 2.

Compared to its northwestern counterpart, there are more Master Masons, Lodges, and Districts in Cagayan Valley. The Region is home to ***2,146 Master Masons affiliated in 33 subordinate Lodges that are clustered in 5 Masonic Districts.*** When broken down between active members and LMLs – membership figures run up to 1,781 and 365, respectively.

Their five Masonic Districts are as follows: **R-II Cagayan; R-II Isabela (North); R-II Isabela (South) & Quirino; R-II Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao; and R-II Nueva Vizcaya (South).** Currently, there are no Masonic Lodges in Batanes.

**MD R-II Cagayan** has seven Masonic Lodges, including the oldest in the region – Mabini 39:

Mabini :: No. 39
Gonzaga :: No. 66
Itawes :: No. 215
Sanchez Mira :: No. 233

Gualberto C. Agatep Sr. : : 341
Tuguegarao :: No. 408
Leon Angel Bañez Jr. :: 458

With 15 Lodges, the province of Isabela has the most number in Region 2 and for administrative purposes was divided into two Masonic Districts:

**MD R-II Isabela (North)** – gathered the 8 blue lodges from the northern part of the province:

Isabela :: No. 60
Mallig Plains :: No. 191
Tumauini :: No. 251
San Mariano :: No. 307

Pinacanauan :: No. 318
Cassili Creek :: No. 340
Aurora :: No. 405
Deodoro C. Go :: No. 445

While eight (8) lodges from the opposite end, including three lodges from the province of Quirino were clustered in **MD R-II Isabela (South) & Quirino**:

Cagayan Valley :: No. 133
Maharlika :: No. 180
Rufino S. Roque : : No. 289
Ganano :: No. 313

San Mateo :: No. 319
Timpuyog :: No. 343
Santiago City :: No. 457

Saranay :: No. 193 (Cabarroguis, Quirino)
Diffun :: No. 317 (Diffun, Quirino)
Pinappagan :: No. 353 (Maddela, Quirino)

The 7 lodges in the mountainous province of Nueva Vizcaya are also divided into 2 Masonic Districts:

Three of these northern lodges including the lone lodge from Ifugao Province are administered under **MD R-II Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao**. The district just recently lost its oldest lodge – Nueva Vizcaya No. 144, after its charter was arrested last March 31, 2022.

Cordillera :: No. 178
Villaverde :: No. 206
Mt. Palali :: No. 420
Ifugao :: No. 218 (Lamut, Ifugao)

**MD R-II Nueva Vizcaya (South)** and its 4 lodges are organized in the southern part of the province.

Magat :: No. 68
Salinas :: No. 163
Ari-Tau :: No. 279
Guillermo E. Bongolan :: 330

Together, these **nine (9) Masonic Districts**, composed of the **57 subordinate lodges**, in the CAR, as well as Regions 1 and 2 gather annually for the **Northern Luzon Multi-District Convention.** For 2022, the host district is R-I Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, & Abra. Scheduled in November 12 - 2nd Saturday @ 8am onwards with Venue at Centennial Arena, Laoag City.

## LODGES & DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL LUZON (Region 3)

Sprawled in the center of the mainland with a land area of 21,470 square kms, Central Luzon is the largest plain in the country. The "Rice Granary of the Philippines" is composed of seven provinces — Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales. Some **85 blue Lodges** are established in all these provinces, and administered thru **10 Masonic Districts**. The region is populated by **4,751 Master Masons**, of which 3,947 are Active Members and 804 as Life Members by Longevity.

**Aurora has 2 Lodges, Manuel Quezon 262 & Kasiguruhan 423 currently w/ Nueva Ecija EAST.**

**MD R-III Bataan** with its five lodges, is the smallest Masonic District in the Region:

Bataan :: No. 104
Luis J. Reyes :: No. 224
Meridian :: No. 268
Dambana ng Kagitingan :: 377
Di-Nalupig :: No. 438

Bulacan have grown masonically into 14 lodges after for more than 2 decades. Despite the solidarity of the Bulakenyo Brethren, their lodges have to be divided administratively into East & West.

**Masonic District R-III Bulacan EAST** have seven lodges:

Baliuag :: No. 301
Kakarong :: No. 327
San Jose Del Monte :: No. 357
Quingua :: No. 364
San Miguel De Mayumo :: 412
Manuel Ibasco :: No. 432
Pulo ng Iilan :: No. 439

**Masonic District R-III Bulacan WEST** manages the other seven:

Malolos :: No. 46
Marcelo H. Del Pilar :: No. 272
Cupang :: No. 295
St. John the Baptist :: No. 362
Hagonoy :: No. 369
Bulacan :: No. 400
Primera Republica :: No. 444

Nueva Ecija is the province with the most-number of Masonic Lodges and Districts not just in the region or in the whole of Luzon, but in the entire Philippine Jurisdiction being home to 31 Lodges and 2,034 Master Masons. These lodges are administered thru four Masonic Districts: R-III Nueva Ecija EAST & Aurora; R-III Nueva Ecija NORTH ; R-III Nueva Ecija SOUTH; and R-III Nueva Ecija WEST

6 lodges East of N.E. and two from Aurora are under **MD R-III Nueva Ecija EAST & Aurora:**

Pantabangan Bonari :: 203
Talavera :: No. 273
Palayan City :: No. 331
Manuel L. Quezon :: 262 (Baler, Aurora)
Kasiguruhan :: No. 423 (Kasiguruhan, Aurora)
Model :: No. 373
Alluim Cepa :: No. 453
Ang Bagong Bayan 463

**MD R-III Nueva Ecija NORTH** has eight lodges organized in the northern portion:

Memorial :: No. 90
Narra :: No. 171
Molave :: No. 261
San Jose City :: No. 309
Gov Eduardo L. Joson :: 326
Golden Beehive :: No. 388
Kadanglaan :: No. 392
Gen Miguel Malvar :: No. 427

Nine Lodges are to be found in **MD R-III Nueva Ecija SOUTH**, including the oldest (Cabanatuan 53) and the youngest (Jane Triangle 476) in the province.

Cabanatuan :: No. 53
Gen. Llanera Memorial :: 168
Kapatiran :: No. 228
Kapitan Pepe :: No. 293
Santa Rosa :: No. 297
Mario S. Garcia :: No. 306
Factoria :: No. 311
San Leonardo :: No. 386
Jaen Triangle :: No. 476

**MD R-III Nueva Ecija WEST** have gathered the remaining eight lodges:

Nueva Ecija :: No. 73
Gen. Manuel Tinio :: No. 167
Apolinario Mabini :: No. 235
Zaragosa : : No. 263
Eulogio R. Dizon Mem. 264
Antonio R. Lamson :: 290
Eulogio R. Dizon :: No. 321
Aliaga :: No. 404

**Masonic District R-III Pampanga,** currently has eight subordinate lodges in the province:

Pampanga :: No. 48
Leonard Wood :: No. 105
Jose Abad Santos :: No. 333
Magalang : : No. 391
Tiburcio :: No. 394
Porac :: No. 411
Pres. Diosdado Macapagal :: No. 469
Aslagan :: No. 470

**Masonic District R-III Tarlac** with 12 blue lodges, is on a growth spurt with 5 lodges constituted into its roster in the last 9 years alone (402, 413, 446, 459, and 472).

Isagani :: No. 96
Victory :: No. 116
Arcadio Evangelista :: 254
Pura : : No. 312
Apolinario B. Yap :: No. 328
Cosmo P. Antonio :: No. 339
Tarlac Kaunlaran :: 360
Ang Rehenerasyon :: 402
La Paz Masonic :: No. 413
Moncada :: No. 446
Green City :: No. 459
Enrique M. Cojuangco :: 472

*The province has lost at least 3 lodges in the last 97 years: La Regeneracion Lodge No. 36, surrendered its charter in 1925, while the charters of both Capas Lodge No. 356 and Anchor Lodge No. 159 have been arrested in 2006 and 2021 respectively.*

**Masonic District R-III Zambales** and its cluster of 13 lodges are dwelling together in unity:

Lincoln :: No. 34
Pinatubo :: No. 52
Zambales :: No. 103
Unity : : No. 285
Teodoro R. Yangco :: 351
Subic Bay :: No. 361
Mt. Redondo :: No. 372
Sagrada Familia :: No. 375
San Marcelino :: No. 380
San Felipe :: No. 384
Mt. Tapulao :: No. 389
Justice Alejo :: No. 395
Primo Maniquis :: No. 440

Lincoln Lodge No. 34 is the eldest of the 85 Lodges in Central Luzon. Malolos Lodge No. 46 and Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48 came next, with both their charters issued in 1919. Cabanatuan Lodge No.53 is the 4th among seniors. Conversely, three of the nine newly constituted lodges in 2022 are also from Central Luzon - Jaen Triangle 476, Aslagan 470, and Enrique M. Cojuangco 472.

All the **eighty-five (85) Masonic Lodges** in the **ten (10) Central Luzon Districts**, come together, once a year for the **Central Luzon Multi-District Convention.** The 2022 hosts are the two Bulacan Districts of East & West. Scheduled on November 19, 3rd Saturday @ 8am onwards at Victory Coliseum, New San Rafael Municipal Compound, San Rafael, Bulacan

## LODGES & DISTRICTS SOUTH OF LUZON
## (Region 4 CALABARZON & MIMAROPA and Region 5 Bicol Region)

In the mainland's southern region can be found the **eleven (11) Masonic Districts** and **seventy-two (72) subordinate Lodges** of Region 4-A (CALABARZON), Region 4-B (MIMAROPA), and Region 5 – Bicol Region. The territory has **4,265 Master Masons** divided into 3,554 Active Members and 711 Life-Members by Longevity.

Nine of these Districts and 59 of the Lodges can be found in Regions 4-A and 4-B which was created in 2002 via Executive Order No. 103 which reorganized the Southern Tagalog region into the two administrative regions of CALABARZON and MIMAROPA, respectively.

**Region 4-A** covers the first 5 provinces south of the National Capital Region namely, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon hence the acronym **CALABARZON**. It has land area of 16,229 square kms. **MIMAROPA** appertains to the 4 outlying islands south of Luzon – Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan which makes up **Region 4-B.**

The 9 Masonic Districts within Regions 4-A & 4-B are: R-IV Batangas, R-IV Cavite CENTRAL, R-IV Cavite EAST, R-IV Cavite WEST, R-IV Laguna EAST, R-IV Laguna WEST, R-IV Mindoro, R-IV Quezon & Marinduque, and R-IV Rizal.

The Island Province of Romblon has lost its lodge, since Gov. Manuel Alvero, the last Worshipful Master of Marble No. 58 surrendered its Charter to the Grand Lodge back in 1934.

As mentioned in the *Lodges of Luzon Article (Unang Bahagi)*, Palawan and its 2 lodges – Palawan Lodge No. 99 and South Palawan Masonic Lodge No. 464 are currently administered under **Masonic District NCR-A,** and shall thus be included in succeeding articles of these Walkabout Series.

**Masonic District R-IV Batangas** has seven (7) lodges:

Batangas :: No. 35
Sixto Lopez (Batulao) :: 129
Mabini Kalaw :: No. 195
Dr. Jose P. Laurel :: No. 325
Nasugbo :: No. 407
San Jose :: No. 429
Lumang Bayan :: 433

The naval province of Cavite is considered as the birth place of Philippine Masonry being the site of the first masonic lodge in the country - Primera Luz Filipina. The lodge was established 166 years ago by Spanish Navy Captain Jose Malcampo y Monge (1856) under the auspices of the Gran Oriente Lusitano in 1856. Its name is Spanish for "First Light of the Philippines".

Cavite is also home to Cavite Lodge No. 2 – one of the three founding Lodges who became the nucleus the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands in 1912 (now GLP). Founded in 1902 by American Naval Brethren, the Lodge was initially numbered 350 under the registry of the Grand Lodge of California. Excluding, NCR - Cavite : : 2 is the oldest lodge in the whole of Luzon.

The province has the most-number of Master Masons (2,136) and subordinate Lodges (23) in Southern Luzon which are administered thru the Masonic Districts of R-IV Cavite CENTRAL, R-IV Cavite EAST, and R-IV Cavite WEST.

**MD R-IV Cavite CENTRAL** has seven lodges

Cavite : : No. 2
Bagong Buhay : : No. 17
Bagong Ilaw : : No. 97
Magdiwang : : No. 238
La Naval : : No. 269
Saint Agustine : : No. 300
Trece Martires City : : 350

The eight lodges of **MD R-IV Cavite EAST** are

Pilar : : No. 15
Emilio Aguinaldo : : No. 31
Pintong Bato : : No. 51
Primera Luz Filipinas : : 69
Dasmariñas : : No. 346
Molino : : No. 352
Pangarap : : No. 448
Carmona Sorteo : : 451

**MD R-IV Cavite WEST** – also manages eight lodges.

Mt. Mainam : : No. 49
Indang : : No. 115
Tagaytay : : No. 165
Mendez-Nuñez : : 316
Magtagumpay : : No. 410
Silang : : No. 416
Perdona y Ablaza : : 441
Cavite La Progresus : : 467

Laguna Province with 10 Masonic Lodges is divided into two Masonic Districts:
**MD R-IV Laguna EAST** with five Lodges

Malinaw : : No. 25
Pinagsabitan : : No. 26
Makiling : : No. 72
Sierra Madre : : 181
Alaminos : : No. 428

The other 5 lodges are administered under **MD R-IV Laguna WEST**

Dr Jose P. Rizal (Calamba) 270
San Pedro : : No. 292
Perpetual : : No. 426
Cabuyao City : : No. 442
Bantayang Bato : : 447

**MD R-IV Mindoro** administers the 5 Masonic Lodges in the 2 provinces in the Island of Mindoro - Mindoro Oriental and Occidental Mindoro

Tamaraw : : No. 65
Mindoro : : No. 157
Halcon : : No. 249
Bongabong : : No. 324
Generoso Madrigal : : 368

**MD R-IV Quezon & Marinduque** manages six Lodges in Quezon Province as well as the lone lodge in the island of Marinduque (Moriones 399). At least 5 of the venerable lodges in Quezon have survived in the last 100 years. Two were lost, Banahaw Lodge No. 24 was not revived after it closed down during the 2nd World War, while the charter of Filipinas Lodge No. 54 was arrested in 1934. The constitution of Filipinas Bondoc Peninsula Masonic Lodge No. 465 last year as the youngest lodge in Quezon is truly a breath of fresh air in an equally matured district.

Rizal : : No. 20
Balintawak : : 28
Kalilayan : : No. 37
Tayabas : : No. 43
Plaridel : : No. 74
Filipinas Bondoc Peninsula : :465
Moriones : : No. 399

Compared to other Masonic Districts, **MD R-IV Rizal** is young having been organized only in 2016 via Edict 286 – MW Rentoy. As all its 6 lodges are less than 20 years old, the district has yet to produce life-members by longevity.

Ang Tipolo : : No. 334
Bernardo Carpio : : 359
Montalban : : No. 376
WB Gil Fernando : : 454
Pintong Silangan : : 435
Morong : : No. 455

**Region 5 – Bicol Region**

At the southeastern end of Luzon is Bicolandia. Its total land area of 17,362 square kms is composed of six provinces, four of which are in the Bicol Peninsula, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Sorsogon. Offshore are the island provinces of Catanduanes and Masbate. Being the last region of Luzon, Bicol is the gateway of the mainland to the Visayas and Mindanao as well as the international seas thru the Pacific. About 648 Master Masons are affiliated in the 13 lodges in the region and are organized into two Masonic Districts of R-V Albay, Masbate, & Sorsogon and R-V Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, & Catanduanes.

7 lodges are under **R-V Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, & Catanduanes**

Isarog :: No. 33
Camarines Norte :: 107
Julian Ocampo :: No.146
Daet : : No. 247
Naga City :: No. 257
Catanduanes Island 291
Camarines Sur :: No. 382

While **MD R-V Albay, Masbate, & Sorsogon** has 5 Lodges

Bulusan :: No. 38
Mayon :: No. 61
Ma-Bu-Ti :: No. 329
Tabak :: No. 436
Masaraga :: No. 462

The eleven (11) Masonic Districts of Region IV CALABARZON & MIMAROPA, together with Region V of Bicolandia gather once a year for the **SOUTH LUZON MULTI DISTRICT CONVENTION.** The event host this year is R-VI Laguna EAST. Scheduled on November 30 at the Cultural Center Auditorium, Provincial Capitol Grounds, in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Of the 38 Provinces in Luzon – only two have no masonic lodges – the island provinces of Batanes in the north and Romblon in the south. The former – about 209 sq kilometer with a population of 18,831; while the latter has 308,985 people inhabiting an area of 201 sq kilometer (per 2020 Cencus). As previously mentioned, there was once a lodge in Romblon - Marble Lodge No. 58 which was constituted in 1921. Unfortunately, the lodge was not able to sustain itself and so its surviving members surrendered the charter to the Grand Lodge 13 years later (1934).

Of the 213 Lodges in the Provinces of Luzon, the 2 Lodges in Palawan are currently administered by the Masonic District of NCR - A.

## Number of Lodges in Luzon per Province

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Abra | 1 | 14. Cavite | 23 | 27. Occidental Mindoro | 2 |
| 2. Albay | 3 | 15. Ifugao | 1 | 28. Oriental Mindoro | 3 |
| 3. Apayao | 1 | 16. Ilocos Norte | 1 | 29. Palawan | 2 |
| 4. Aurora | 2 | 17. Ilocos Sur | 2 | 30. Pampanga | 8 |
| 5. Bataan | 5 | 18. Isabela | 15 | 31. Pangasinan | 9 |
| 6. Batanes | 0 | 19. Kalinga | 2 | 32. Quezon | 5 |
| 7. Batangas | 7 | 20. Laguna | 10 | 33. Quirino | 3 |
| 8. Benguet | 2 | 21. La Union | 4 | 34. Rizal | 6 |
| 9. Bulacan | 14 | 22. Marinduque | 1 | 35. Romblon | 0 |
| 10. Cagayan | 7 | 23. Masbate | 1 | 36. Sorsogon | 1 |
| 11. Camarines Norte | 2 | 24. Mountain Province | 2 | 37. Tarlac | 12 |
| 12. Camarines Sur | 4 | 25. Nueva Ecija | 31 | 38. Zambales | 13 |
| 13. Catanduanes | 1 | 26. Nueva Vizcaya | 7 | | |

**Total No. of Luzon Lodges = 213**




**REFERENCES:** Masonic Statistics c/o the GLP Database / Edict 286 – MW Rentoy (2016) https://www.dti.gov.ph, https://grandlodge.ph, https://www.philatlas.com

# Massive Earthquake ravages Abra Masonic Temple

## By: VW Alberto Dumlao, DGL (46)

**TCT Mulit-Media Editor**

A very powerful, 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit the mountainous province of Abra in the early morning of July 27, 2022, triggering landslides and the collapse of numerous structures. Among the buildings damaged or destroyed was the new façade and multi-purpose hall of the temple of Abra Masonic Lodge No. 86, located at Brgy. Palao, Bangued, Abra.

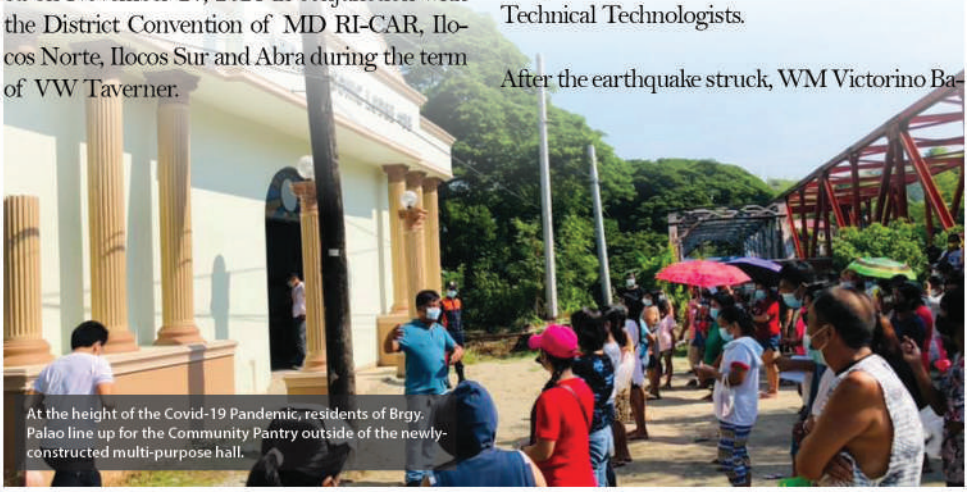
The façade and multi-purpose hall, named after VW Medel C. Taverner, a past DDGM, and a distinguished member of Abra Lodge, was constructed from 2018 to 2021. It was dedicated on November 27, 2021 in conjunction with the District Convention of MD RI-CAR, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Abra during the term of VW Taverner.

VW Taverner's family owns the lot upon the existing temple and the new mulit-purpose hall were erected, and most of the funds used came by way of donation from the Taverner family coffers. Lodge funds were also used to augment funding for the construction.

Even before it was dedicated, the newly-constructed hall was already being used as a venue for Abra Lodge's community activities. On May 22, 2021, the Lodge held a Community Pantry project for the residents of Brgy. Palao, giving away fresh produce and groceries through the generosity of Brethren and other members of the local community. This was done in coordination with the officers from the Bureau of Fire Protection, the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines - Army.

On July 9, 2021, the Lodge conducted a Blood Donation Project, in partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross, Abra Provincial Hospital and the Abra Association of Medical Technical Technologists.

After the earthquake struck, WM Victorino Ba-



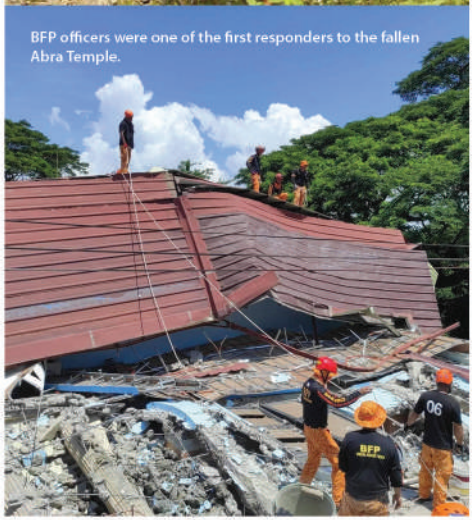
At the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, residents of Brgy. Palao line up for the Community Pantry outside of the newly-constructed multi-purpose hall.

rona, Jr., immediately did damage assessment. What used to be an attractive façade and hall was reduced to rubble - a scene of broken concrete, dilapidated metal and twisted steel bars.

After clearing the site of debris, the arduous task of renovation began. Financial assistance was solicited from the brethren, local and foreign, and from associates and friends of Masons. Rehabilitation work is still on-going and additional financial aid is most welcome. This may be coursed through PNB Savings Account No. 222710023676 in the name of Abra Lodge No. 86.



Even the statue of Dr. Jose Rizal, unveiled only a month prior, was not spared by the strong earthquake.



BFP officers were one of the first responders to the fallen Abra Temple.

## CENTENNIAL IN 2023

Abra Lodge No. 86 will be celebrating its Centennial in 2023. It was instituted on January 3, 1923 by MW Quintin Paredes, and was granted a charter during the 1923 Annual Communication on January 24, 1923. On April 27 of the same year, Abra Lodge No. 86 was constituted by MW Frederic Stevens, assisted by past Grand Masters MW Manuel L. Quezon and MW Quintin Paredes, and Deputy Grand Master RW Francisco Delgado among others. Julio Borbon, the first elected governor of Abra province was installed as Charter Worshipful Master.

The Lodge had a good start, with prominent citizens of the province lining up to join. However, like the rest of the lodges in our jusrisdiction, Abra Lodge No. 86 had to close during the Second World War, but was able to reopen after peace was restored in the country.

From then on, the Lodge has gathered a modest yet devoted membership. In the ninety nine years since its formation, Abra Lodge No. 86 has established itself as a formidable presence in the city of Bangued in particular and in the province of Abra in general. Whatever the challenge, be it war or natural disasters, Abra Lodge No. 86 has endured through the fortitude of its members, and will continue to thrive in its next century of existence.

**CALL FOR DONATIONS**

**PNB**

**Savings Account No. 222710023676**
**ABRA LODGE NO. 86**




# Bagumbayan No. 4, Duty is with Us, Always

## By VW Eulogio Sabban, DGL (4)

The theme of Worshipful Master Joshua Bagotsay of Bagumbayan 4 is "Duty Is With Us, Always" emphasizing that while we have Masonic duties to our brothers, we also have duties to the community and our fellow men. Hence, the brethren embarked on a series of charity works and sunshine visits.

On May 05, the lodge together with NCR-B brethren, went to the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital to hand over 20 wheelchairs as part of the Chair of Hope project which was initiated during the incumbency of PDDGM Vicente Llave, Jr., under the project chairmanship of Past Master Jeor Mamaril. The District and Bagumbayan 4 have already donated over 100 wheelchairs to various hospitals and individuals. On this occasion, VW Llave and WB Mamaril and brethren from the district represented by WM Pete Menda (Walana 13); Bro Dr. Joel Baron and VW Jimmy Ngan (Biak Na Bato 7) brought the wheelchairs to their receipients, assisted by petitioner-candidates Ian Camona, Ruel Hernandez and Stedniel King Lao. The activity was done in coordination with the hospital's Dr. Jose Britannico S. Pajalte Jr. and Ms. Evelyn Muniz RSW, MMPA Chief of the Social Work Department. What followed was the lodge's out-of-town activities which included a sunshine visit to VW Edwin G. Cruz, Sr., PDGL in Cabanatuan City on May 20. Kuyang Edwin is a retired DPWH District Engineer and is an active member who still attends lodge meetings by travelling all the way from Nueva Ecija to the GLP in Manila.

On the 3rd of July, the lodge assisted in the Feeding Program and Community Outreach Activity of retired CIDG personnel, VW Dominador Eleazar in Montalban, Rizal whose feeding programs for the neighborhood kids has been going on for years. With a working budget of 2,500 pesos per week, Bagumbayan 4 sponsored a whole month's expense for the feeding program (10,000 php) in support of their lodgemate's advocacy. The Brethren even brought loot bags for the kids which took until midnight to prepare the night before. In sincere appreciation, VW Eleazar treated the brethren to a sumptuous meal afterwards.

Some Bagumbayan 4 brethren also made a sunshine visit to the Master Examiner himself WB Marcelino Cruz (79), famously known as Ka Celing, on his 83rd Natal Day last July 17. The visit to the Lodge's Honorary Member was led by IPM Jeor Mamaril together with Bros. PJ Molina, Ruel Hernandez, Val Cartagenas, and Petitioners Jojo Cruz, Justin Solomon, Robert Buenaobra, Cae Figueroa, and Luigi Domingo - on behalf of the Master of the Lodge. They were greeted by WB Cruz's wife Mrs. Ceferina Cruz, son Nick Cruz, and other relatives. The seasoned mason shared memorable stories that he experienced as a young and active Mason years ago. "Never stop learning and never waste time." Ka Celing reminded his visitors. Adding "Mag-aral kayo nang mabuti at huwag humintong matuto". Before departing from his Meycauayan City Residence in Bulacan, the brethren handed a sack of rice for the family and some "pakimkim" for the Lodge Elder's basic needs and medicines.




# MASONS PARTNER WITH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY

**By: VW Joel Capalit, PDDGM / TCT Head News Correspondent**

On June11, 2022, Mt. Matutum Lodge No. 156 under entered into a Five – Year Partnership Agreement with the City Environment & Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of General Santos City and a third-party Caretaker for Adopt-A-Reforestation Area through Agroforestry Program.

Enclosed in the five-page contract signed by Worshipful Master Paulino B. Asirit, Jr. and Environmental Planner Allan D. Marcilla, MSDS - City ENR Officer, and the third party represented by Mr. Rogelio Paglinawan, Sr. are six (6) Articles appertaining to Partnership Objective, Terms, Location & Duration, Benefits, Engagement by the Caretaker of its members in the project implementation, and Termination.




The three parties agreed to collaborate with their mutual objective of conserving, protecting, preserving, and enhancing the quality of the environment and natural resources of the City by working together to plan, develop, maintain, and manage an adopted project area.

Among the role of the Free & Accepted Masons of Mt. Matutum 156 are: Buying seedlings from the nursery of CENRO farmer-beneficiaries; conduct tree planting activities in the adopted area; provide financial assistance to the community partner/beneficiary with an initial of six thousand pesos (Php 6,000.00) per hectare for land preparation, weeding, digging, hauling of seedlings, and for care and maintenance in the amount of three thousand per month (Php 3,000.00) for the management of the adopted area.

Should the lodge opt to extend the duration of the partnership after 5 years, it may choose to continue in the same location or may adopt a new location as endorsed by the CENRO. However, the area can only be adopted by other groups/organizations or companies if they waive their rights to renew the agreement through writing or through formal notification.

Incidentally, the lodge is named after Mt. Matutum, a dormant volcano 2293 meters above sea level, located not far from the seat of the lodge. At the top of the volcano is a 120-m deep and 320-m wide crater, breached by three gorges and covered with dense growth. A fitting Environmental Symbol in the Masonic District Region XII - SOCSKSARGEN.



# GLP's 400th Masonic Lodge is a Decade Old in 2022

**By: VW Marco Manuel Q. Lagdameo, Bros. Mark Anthony Nadurata, & Mark V. Aniag**

## OPERATION TULI

WM Conrado Pascual, SW Danilo Arcega, and JW Benjamin Dela Cruz spearheaded two circumcision projects in the province of Bulacan – one in Real de Cacarong in Pandi and another in Malis, Guiguinto. O. T. - Real de Cacarong was conducted in May 22 in their elementary school facility in coordination with Brgy Capt. Bro. Alejandro Angeles (400); while O. T. - Malis was executed in the barangay's covered court in June 5 under the supervision of Brgy Capt Cesar Mendoza. To prevent complications and help facilitate healing, free medicines were prescribed and given to the patients after the operation. The parents and guardians were likewise given instructions on the proper dosage of the medication, and were taught post-circumcision care. This lodge project especially-intended for pre-teen boys who missed their passage to manhood due to the recent pandemic was made possible through the joint efforts Bulacan 400, the local government units in Pandi & Guiguinto, and the volunteer doctors and nurses from Romel Cruz Hospital headed by VW Dr. Romel B. Cruz (400).

## BULACAN 400 FAMILY DAY

On May 29, the Lodge members held their annual Family Day. Joined by their wives and children, the brethren congregated in the rest house of Bro. Emmanuel Sebastian in Niugan, Angat, Bulacan. Among the highlight of the event was the call for each brother to introduce their Atengs, daughters, sons, and even in-laws who came with them. The goal was to bring a brother's family closer into the bigger fold that is the Masonic Family.

## 10th Anniversary

On June 21, Bulacan 400 celebrated its 10th Anniversary with learning, fellowship, and entertainment. Aside the regular members, the event was graced by Past Grand Masters MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr.; MW Pacific B. Aniag; and District Officers - VW Ericson M. Pan, DDGM; VW Joel Manuel, Junior Grand Lecturer for Central Luzon R III-E Bulacan; and District Grand Lecturers - VW Rainier Salonga; VW Vicente Calimon, Jr.; VW Ryan B. Cardinal; VW Alberto C. Dumlao; and VW Luis Pineda, Jr.

The lodge presented its Hiram Award to VW Romel B. Cruz for his selfless acts of attending to all brother Masons and their families in addition to the residents of the Province of Bulacan during the pandemic.

Representing the Guest of Honor, VW Teodoro Kalaw IV also spoke of historical significance of the name of Bulacan Lodge and said that it was created as a Model Lodge by its forefathers, MW Pacifico Aniag, PGM and VW Faustino Garcia. Although relatively young, the celebration underscored the importance and integral nature of Bulacan Masonic Lodge No. 400 within and among the Masonic ecosystem – helping to usher in more rightful Masons into the Fraternity.

# MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. No. 458 & Tuguegarao No. 408 Build Team for Harmony

**By Bro. Mario P. Narag (66)**



On May 21 and 22, the brethren of MW LAB 458 and Tuguegarao 408, headed by our respective Worshipful Masters, VW Grandee P. Dumlao, DDGM and VW Eduardo V. Interior, JGL and VW Federico B. Ordinario, Jr. the District Deputy Grand Master, held a 2-day Team-Building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora. In line with the GLP theme: "HARMONY FOR ONE AND ALL: THE FOUNDATION OF GENUINE MASONIC FRATERNITY", The Team invited VW Rey Samonte, PDDGM of Masonic District RIII Nueva Ecija SOUTH as lecturer WHOE spoke on the value of harmony, leadership, collaboration, respect, and communication, especially for the masonic fraternity. The lecture was indeed both auspicious and attuned to the times as genuine harmony is much needed in the craft as the very core of its foundation. The members present were divided into several teams and asked by the facilitator, Bro. Andrew De Austria, to participate in the team-building exercises, the highlight of which was the cooking contest wherein each team was mandated to cook several viands and vegetables – which were later on enthusiastically consumed by the brethren in the "boodle" fight. The two lodges bask on the success of the event which has happened for the first time in our District. Harmony has indeed been strengthened among us. Both Lodges are grateful to the Grand Master MW Johnny T. Pimentel for leading the GLP in its quest for HARMONY.

# RII- Nueva Vizcaya North & Ifugao Masons provide assistance to flashflood and mudflow victims in Banaue, Ifugao

Last July 17, the Officers and Members of Masonic District RII-Nueva Vizcaya North & Ifugao headed by VW Jeremias C. Rosete, DDGM, handed over Financial Assistance amounting to Fifty-One Thousand Pesos (51,000.00) to the Municipal Government Unit of Banaue, Ifugao thru Hon. Mayor Joel B. Bungallon, purposely for the flashflood and mud flow victims that happened in the said Municipality ten days earlier (July 7) which was caused by heavy rains. A total of 500 families or 1,500 persons are affected in six (6) Barangays of Poblacion, Taman, Bocos, Poitan, Amganad, and Viewpoint. Accompanying the District Deputy Grand Master are nineteen (19) Brethren from the four (4) Masonic Lodges, namely Cordillera 178, Villaverde 206, Ifugao 218, and Mt. Palali 420. According to VW Rosete, the initiative is in line with the Masonic Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.






# Masons Organize Blood-Letting for premier Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary

By: VW Cary Duval P. Uy, PDGL / TCT Head News Correspondent

**22 June 22 – Grand Lodge of the Philippines**

In celebration of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary District of NCR – Central Luzon, Masons from various lodges conducted a Blood-letting Drive at the Plaridel Masonic Temple on the 4th Wednesday of the Month from 7:00 AM to 12:00 NN.

Organized by the Serving Heart Group with Chairwoman Jackie Santos, thru their Hospital Partner - The Medical City, a total of 185 bags were successfully collected from 233 participants to benefit the patients of The Medical City, the brethren and friends in need.

"We are grateful to our Brethren and sisters from the 102nd, 105th, 110th, 115th, and 125th NCR Squadrons." Said VW Jimmy Ngan (Biak na Bato 007). His fellow organizer Bro Kirk Ong (Labong 59) also made mention of the following brethren who were able to coordinate with the respective Squadrons: VW Joy Puno, Bros Carlito Celestial (16), Jorge Ponce (16), Carlito Celestial, and Nelson Uy (14) of the 110th; Bro. Gilbert Go for the 115th; and for the 125th - Bro Edgar & Sister Ma Christina Torres (292).



The PCGA is composed of twelve (12) Auxiliary Districts parallel to the Coast Guard Districts spread throughout Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The Coast Guard Auxiliary District National Capital Region-Central Luzon (CGADNCR-CL) is the premier Auxiliary District of the PCGA comprised of twenty (20) active squadrons. It exercises supervisory control over all its respective Auxiliary Squadron and Division units established in Manila, Pasig, Cavite, Laguna de Bay, Subic and Bataan.

CGADNCR-CL assists the Philippine Coast Guard particularly subordinate units of the Coast Guard District NCR-CL in the promotion of safety of life and property at sea, protection of the marine environment, maritime search and rescue and such other humanitarian activities as may be directed by the Commandant, PCG.

# Tidings

## Masons Unite for IPO Dam

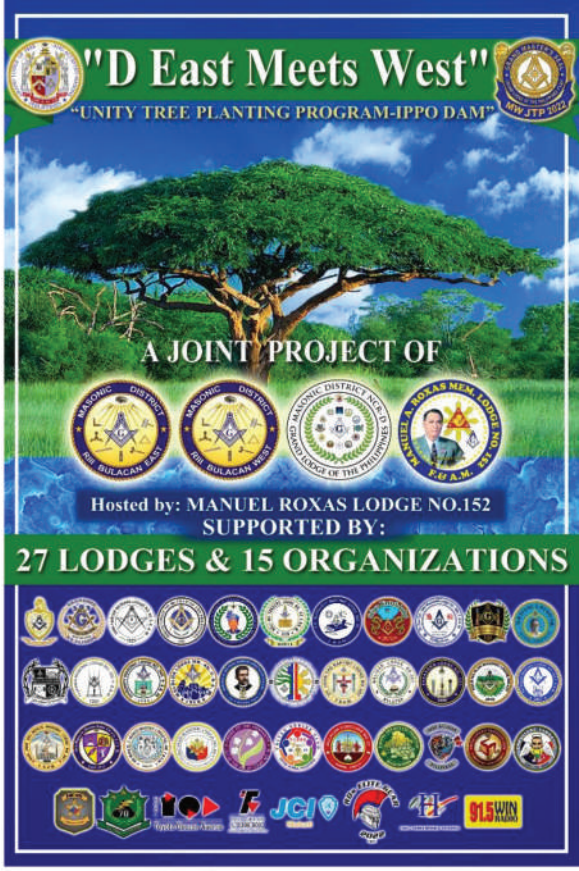
On the 2nd day of July, Bulacan Brethren from the East and West of the province led by their respective District Deputies, VW Ramon Mañalac and VW Ericson Pan embark on a unity project with their NCR-D counterpart under VW Luisito Muñoz, DDGM.

Dubbed D' East Meets West Tree Planting Program – the activity hosted by Manuel A. Roxas Lodge No. 152 (NCR-D) led by WM Miguel Chen was coordinated with Ipo Watershed lead Forester - VW Isagani Navalta (327)

The initiative was also supported by several groups, namely: Pagong Ako Kuyang Pilipinas, Inc. (PAKPI); Square & Compass We-Connect (SCWC); Three-Legged Travelers Club (TLTC); Travelers Tambayan; Sons of Luzon Motorcycle Club, and the 70th Infantry Battalion AFP headed by Bro. Capt. Rommel Jordan (136).

1,000 narra and coffee seedlings were planted in two (2) areas of upper and lower Ipo Dam at Brgy. San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan, by 581 Brethren Volunteers who were assisted by 70 personnel from the Bantay Gubat Team. For everyone's security, a full assembly of PNP Officers, Traffic Management Group, and Security Personnel were deployed on different areas from Sta. Maria, Bulacan to Brgy. San Mateo in Norzagaray. Internal Ipo Dam Police were also stationed within the watershed perimeters.

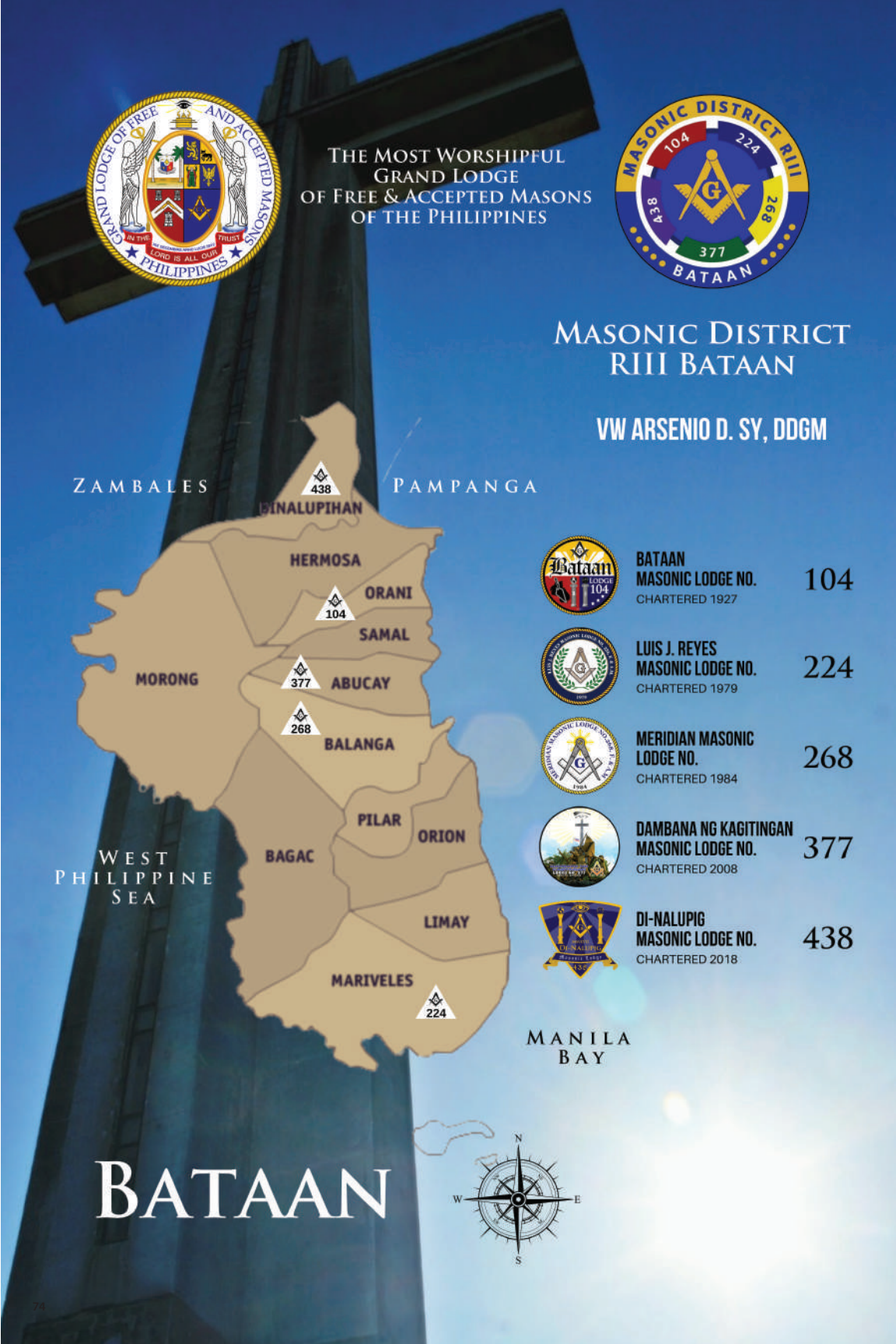





"The project aims to bring environmental consciousness to our Masonic Brothers while strengthening the bond between the brethren of NCR-D and Bulacan R-III." Said Bro. Homer Cruz - Junior Warden of Manuel Roxas 152 and main coordinator of the project. An environmental advocate, Bro Homer designed the Masonic themed structure where a Marker was earlier unveiled by Bulacan Brethren in 2021 as witnessed by then Grand Master, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.

Ipo Watershed is a critical part of the Umiray-Angat-Ipo watershed system that supplies 98% of Metro Manila's water. The forest cover of the watershed provides many ecosystem services. Unfortunately, only less than 40% of forest cover remains.

**- VW Cary Duval P. Uy, PDGL**
**TCT Head News Correspondent**


THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE
OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE PHILIPPINES
MASONIC DISTRICT RIII
104
224
438
268
377
BATAAN
MASONIC DISTRICT
RIII BATAAN
VW ARSENIO D. SY, DDGM
ZAMBALES
PAMPANGA
438
DINALUPIHAN
HERMOSA
ORANI
104
SAMAL
MORONG
377
ABUCAY
268
BALANGA
PILAR
ORION
BAGAC
WEST
PHILIPPINE
SEA
LIMAY
MARIVELES
224
MANILA
BAY
BATAAN
MASONIC LODGE NO. 104
CHARTERED 1927
LUIS J. REYES
MASONIC LODGE NO. 224
CHARTERED 1979
MERIDIAN MASONIC
LODGE NO. 268
CHARTERED 1984
DAMBANA NG KAGITINGAN
MASONIC LODGE NO. 377
CHARTERED 2008
DI-NALUPIG
MASONIC LODGE NO. 438
CHARTERED 2018
BATAAN
N
W
E
S

# GLP CENTENNIAL CHRONICLES

as collected by The Cable Tow Team

**Editor's Note:**

Page 13 of this Cable Tow issue mentioned 9 Masonic Lodges given new Charters in 2022. Incidentally a Century ago, nine Lodges were also granted their Charters back in January 25, 1922. During the second day of the 10th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands, the following Lodges under dispensation where perpetuated: **Union No. 70, Laoag No. 71, Makiling No. 72, Nueva Ecija No. 73, Plaridel No. 74, Agno No. 75, Hamtik No. 76, Kasilawan No. 77,** and **Acacia No. 78.**

Except for Acacia 78 which consolidated with its sponsoring lodge, Iloilo : : 11 into Iloilo – Acacia Lodge No.11 in 1945, the other eight Masonic Lodges have survived and are celebrating their 100th Charter Anniversary in 2022.

With spatial limitations in our page count, this Chronicle on the Centenary of eight (8) Masonic Lodges will be published in two installments. This 2nd Issue of Vol.99 of the Cable Tow will feature the first four (4) in the registry:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Union Lodge No. 70** | – San Fernando City, La Union | 1 April |
| **Laoag Lodge No. 71** | – Laoag, Ilocos Norte | 3 April |
| **Makiling Lodge No. 72** | – Los Baños, Laguna | 13 May |
| **Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73** | – Quezon, Nueva Ecija | 4 March |

According to our Grand Lodge Records, these four Masonic Lodges were constituted by MW Quintin Paredes in 1922 as attested by Bro. Ramon Mendoza – his Asst. Grand Secretary.

Ample pages will also be provided in the next TCT issue for the other four Centennial Lodges - Plaridel No. 74, Agno No. 75, Hamtik No. 76, and Kasilawan No. 77.




**MW Quintin Paredes**
**Grand Master**
**1922 - 1923**





# Union 70 and its Unfathomable 100 years of Existence

*"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

This was the euphoric feeling that the brethren of Union Lodge No. 70 were experiencing as we commemorated our Centennial Anniversary last January 22, 2022. On behalf of our Lodge, allow me to share how we celebrated our milestone event in a retrospective look at how their Lodge evolved.

The idea to establish a lodge was conceived in November 1920, when Basilio Santiago of Cabanatuan Lodge No. 53 was assigned here in San Fernando, La Union as provincial treasurer. Upon his arrival, he at once started to seek out for Masons in town and subsequently managed to find only four, which was not enough to form a lodge. They initially organized the La Union Square Club and word about the craft slowly spread and increased their number to twelve. The group then decided to form Union Lodge, electing Basilio Santiago as Worshipful Master; and Brothers Tomas Lasmarias (Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4) and Casiano Aguino (Angalo Lodge No. 63) as Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively.

On March 31, 1921, Grand Master Edwin Elser issued a dispensation for the new lodge and the following year, January 25, the Lodge was given its charter as the 70th Lodge in the jurisdiction. 1st of April 1922 at High Twelve, MW Quintin Paredes constituted Union Lodge and installed its Officers at Cine Union in San Fernando, La Union.

For many years, Union Lodge had no temple of its own. It first met in the Philippine Constabulary Headquarters and then moved to the residence of Mr. Lorenzo Galvez and then to Mr. Saturnino Mallare's, and later to other locations. It was in 1923, during the term of WM Bonifacio Tadiar when the lodge acquired a lot. Sixteen years later - on May 6, 1940, the cornerstone was laid and the temple was used for the first time. Unfortunately, it did not survive the ravages of World War II.

After the war, the surviving members reopened the lodge on August 25, 1945 at the Bacnotan Town Hall. By 1948, the brethren have rebuilt their temple from lumber materials during the term of WB Doroteo A. Parong as Worshipful Master. By 1971, the building was already in a rundown condition and it was torn down to make way for the construction of a concrete edifice.

After almost thirty years, the Union Lodge temple was completed and dedicated by MW Franklin Demonteverde on November 19, 1999. The Temple was later renovated and expanded

into its two story structure as it stands today.

Through the years, we saw the evolution of other lodges in our District. The brethren of Union Lodge played a major role in the revival of Siete Martires Masonic Lodge No. 177 and participated in the chartering of the Masonic Lodges of Diego Silang No. 417 and Francisco Isabelo Ortega No. 452. This was because a lot of our members, took by heart, the bringing of these efforts to fruition.To cement a legacy of 100 years of its existence, our Centennial Committee chaired by WM Robert S. Pua Phee, started the erection of an obelisk at San Fernando City, La Union, where it will serve as a monument that will raise the public's awareness that Union Lodge No. 70, as well as Freemasonry in general, has been extending its cable tow to the Brethren and the community since time immemorial. The groundbreaking ceremony was led by our incumbent Grand Master, MW Ruben C. Paulino on July 8, 2021.The Lodge installed the elected and appointed officers last January 8, 2022, ahead of the Centennial Anniversary on January 25 to maximize the tenure of the Centennial Officers and to pave the way for other planned projects for the interests of Freemasonry and the society as well. On the Centenary of Union Lodge No. 70, Centennial Master Robert Pua Phee has enjoined all Union 70 Brethren to set aside personal differences and with the proper

**Continue on page 84**

April 1, 1922

## CONSTITUTION OF UNION LODGE No. 70, F. & A. M., AT SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION, P. I.

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Union Lodge No. 70, at San Fernando, La Union, P. I., at 6:00 p. m., April 1st., A. D. 1922, A. L. 5922, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form, with the following Brethren filling the offices:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Quintín Paredes | | *Grand Master* |
| Clark James | as | *Deputy Grand Master* |
| Francisco Gaudier | as | *Senior Grand Warden* |
| Leonardo J. Oteyza | as | *Junior Grand Warden* |
| Daniel Maramba | as | *Grand Treasurer* |
| Juan R. Avelino | as | *Grand Secretary* |
| Román Cancino | as | *Senior Grand Lecturer* |
| Manuel G. Olympia | as | *Junior Grand Lecturer* |
| Teodoro Basconcillo | as | *Grand Chaplain* |
| Pedro Ma. Sison | as | *Grand Orator* |
| Ramón Mendoza | | *Assistant Grand Secretary* |
| Zoilo Tolentino | as | *Grand Marshal* |
| Ciriaco P. Garcia | as | *Grand Standard Bearer* |
| Nicolás Encarnación | as | *Grand Sword Bearer* |
| Honorio R. Cuevas | as | *Grand Bible Bearer* |
| Emiterio de los Santos | as | *Senior Grand Deacon* |
| Juan Bonoan | as | *Junior Grand Deacon* |
| Gregorio P. Domagas | as | *Senior Grand Steward* |
| Germiniano Villamarin | as | *Junior Grand Steward* |
| José A. Perez | as | *Grand Pursuivant* |
| Balbino Mendoza | as | *Grand Organist* |
| Ramón Peralta | as | *Grand Tiler* |

The M. W. Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Union Lodge No. 70, 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 all proceeded to the Cine Union where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. The ceremonies were public, and the attendance was about 800 persons.

Addresses were made by Brothers Pedro Maria Sison, of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, in Spanish; Basilio S. Santiago, Worshipful Master of the new Lodge, in English, and the M. W. Grand Master, in Spanish and Ilocano.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the hall where it had been opened, and was duly closed in AMPLE form.

Quintin Paredes,
*Grand Master.*

Attest:

Ramón Mendoza,
*Assistant Grand Secretary.*

**Facsimile from the Proceedings of the 11th Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands (1922) pp 128-129**




# Laoag 71: Celebrating Freemasonry's Centenary in Ilocos Norte

After three years of preparation and a deferring edict from MW Rolen Paulino, erstwhile Grand Master, postponing the holding of celebration from its supposed date in Jan. 25 this year, the brethren of Laoag Masonic Lodge No. 71, observed in plain euphoria their 100th year anniversary last April 21, 2022 with a series of meaningful events and activities. Worth noting and for the record, the preparation and planning for this historic celebration was initiated by WB Edgar Jose M. Martinez during his term in MY March 2, 2019 to March 7, 2020, and pursued in his term by WB Einstein A. Cua, recent past master. Their long serious preparation started with the various physical renovation and repainting works for the refreshed condition of the Lodge's temple prior to the centennial.

But it was Bro. Joenberg T. Cua, who assumed as Worshipful Master of Laoag 71 on February 19 this year, who "set the Craft at work" for final execution of the centennial plan in closed tandem, of course, with the immediate past master, which array of activities was jump-started in outset by the Lodge's commemoration of the grant of Dispensation by the Worshipful Grand Lodge and its Inception falling on the period April 2-21. This was followed by the installation of its Hall of Past Masters and other eventful engagements extending up to April 25, 2022.

That April 21, Past Masters were appropriately recognized and appreciated with 'Life Members by Longevity' awarded to them by the Lodge. This was complemented with the distribution of tokens to all Past Masters in recognition of their "indefatigable efforts and contributions" and awarding of 25-Year Aprons to deserving members of the Lodge.

Community-wide charity works also specially marked the event with Covid relief distribution of sacks of rice, face shields, alcohol, medical and health safety equipment, and a blood-letting in the week-long celebration.

That April 21 the program was started in the morning with a wreath-laying at the Ilocos Norte Provincial Capitol ground, followed by the lodge blessing and rededication performed by GLP representatives sent by MW Rolen C. Paulino. Then a short press conference next happened to enlighten the public about Freemasonry and Masons.

This was felicitously amped up that evening of April 21 by a dinner banquet at the 'Malacañang of the North' in Paoay, Ilocos Norte honored by

Gov. Matthew Marcos Manotoc, Mayor Michael Keon and then candidate, now Congressman Sandro Marcos, leading the VIPs in attendance.

This historic occasion was auspiciously graced by officers from the Grand Lodge representing MW Rolen C. Paulino led by his SGL VW John V. Aquino, who gave a message in the former's behalf. Info graphic video presentation was offered during this banquet to feature the history of Laoag Lodge No. 71 and Freemasonry, viewed through a large LED video screen.

The centennial ardor did not just fizzle out to end the celebration that April evening, though. WM Joenberg Cua also led under the 'Run A Wheel' project of Laoag Lodge 71, the distribution of more than 50 wheel chairs to some less fortunate persons in the province in coordination with the Nobility of Maharlika Shriners Club and Uno High School Alumni Association, Inc. In more exciting zest, a centennial 'Shoot' was also organized for the members to enjoy, ensuing a 100 steel challenge shoot fest in partnership with the Marcos Combat Shooters. In the same week event, was a forging of negotiation to build a Masonic obelisk at the garden of the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena, and a gift of centennial music album to the brethren was created, downloadable in the GLP website. Another significance to the Lodge, it was in this centennial year that its long

**Continue on page 84**

April 3, 1922

## CONSTITUTION OF LAOAG LODGE No. 71, AT LAOAG, ILOCOS NORTE, P. I.

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Laoag Lodge No. 71, at Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte, P. I., at 6:30 p. m., Monday, April 3, A. D. 1922, A. L. 5922, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Quintin Paredes | | *Grand Master* |
| Albert George Saunders | as | *Deputy Grand Master* |
| Francisco Gaudier | as | *Senior Grand Warden* |
| Ramón Romero | as | *Junior Grand Warden* |
| Gregorio Matti | as | *Grand Treasurer* |
| Román Tuason | as | *Grand Secretary* |
| Urbano Bañez | as | *Senior Grand Lecturer* |
| Lestord Arnold | as | *Junior Grand Lecturer* |
| Leoncio Cinco | as | *Grand Chaplain* |
| José A. Perez | as | *Grand Orator* |
| Ramón Mendoza | | *Assistant Grand Secretary* |
| Fred C. Castro | as | *Grand Marshal* |
| Leonardo J. Oteyza | as | *Grand Standard Bearer* |
| Honorio R. Cuevas | as | *Grand Sword Bearer* |
| Teodoro Basconcillo | as | *Grand Bible Bearer* |
| Justo P. Ybut | as | *Senior Grand Deacon* |
| Francisco Z. Reyes | as | *Junior Grand Deacon* |
| Ramón Peralta | as | *Senior Grand Steward* |
| James A. King | as | *Junior Grand Steward* |
| Balbino Mendoza | as | *Grand Pursuivant* |
| Fermin Binavince | as | *Grand Organist* |
| Arturo Nitoreda | as | *Grand Tiler* |

The M. W. Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Laoag Lodge No. 71, 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 all marched to the Grand Auditorium, about a kilometer distant, which had been expressly prepared for the occasion, and there the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed.

Following the ceremonies, Bro. Zoilo Tolentino, Wor. Master of the new Lodge, delivered an eloquent and very instructive address in English. Bro. Cayetano Ligot spoke in Ilocano, and Bro. Dr. C. L. Picket in English. The Orator of the Lodge, Bro. Buenaventura Ocampo, and the Most Wor. Grand Master each made addresses in Spanish.

After these ceremonies, which were public, a grand banquet was held, followed by a dance. There were present at the constitution and reception about 2,000 persons. Two bands of music added much spirit to the ceremonies.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the Hall where it had been opened, and was duly closed in AMPLE form.

Quintin Paredes,
*Grand Master.*

Attest:
Ramón Mendoza,
*Assistant Grand Secretary.*

**Facsimile from the Proceedings of the 11th Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands (1922) pp 129-130**



# Makiling 72 - a Century of Travel in Laguna

We are all undoubtedly acquainted with the story of how a Mason travels from West to East through rough and rugged roads. This travel primarily symbolizes the transformation of one's character throughout his life – coming and starting from nothing until he arrives at the East where the celestial lodge rests. As Freemasons, we can recount various stories of this Masonic travel – whether it be our own or another brother's. This time, we recount the history of Makiling Masonic Lodge No. 72, and the many rugged ways it has traveled through for the last 100 years.

MAKILING MASONIC LODGE NO. 72
1922-2022

We begin on the 6th of April 1921, when the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines issued the dispensation that founded Makiling Lodge in the municipality of Calamba, Laguna. The following year, the Lodge received its charter, signed by MW Quintin Paredes, Grand Master, and RW Newton C. Comfort, the Grand Secretary. On 13 May 1922, it was constituted as the 72nd Lodge with Bro. Juan Munoz as Worshipful Master, Bro. Candido Capadocia, as Senior Warden and Bro. Florencio Corteciano as Junior Warden.

Makiling No. 72 would meet its first rough when World War II broke out in 1942. Tragedy befell the Lodge as many members perished in the war and most of their paraphernalia and equipment destroyed. This resulted in the remaining survivors and their families fleeing to other provinces as the Lodge was plunged into darkness for 20 years.

It was Most Worshipful Vicente Orosa who broke the lodge's long dark spell, when upon visiting the Laguna Lodges of Malinaw No. 25 in San Pablo City and Pinagsabitan No. 26 of Sta. Cruz in 1959 expressed his will to revive Makiling No. 72. The spadework of this great undertaking fell on the shoulders of Bro. Nicanor Teodoro, who enlisted the support of the 12 surviving lodge members as well as encouraging the participation of the active members from the other lodges.

Through the untiring efforts of a few brethren and with the encouragement of the Grand Lodge Officers, Makiling Lodge No. 72 was reconstituted on February 18, 1959. Masonic activities continued 10 days later (February 28) in a Chinese School in Calamba with the Installation of the first postwar officers selected from the 12 original members.

In 1962 under the leadership of WM Teodoro C. Delizo, the , the lodge was moved from Calamba to the nearby premises of the University of Philippines Los Banos, at the foot of Mt. Makiling - its namesake. Hoping to draw membership from the faculties of the Colleges

of Agriculture and Forestry, the Lodge found its temporary home in Los Banos at the second floor of Hongkong Restaurant in Grove, UPLB, Laguna. By the end of the year Makiling Lodge No. 72 became a home to 24 more members, increasing its membership to 36 Masons.

After three years, the lodge now under the leadership of WM Aquilino L. Carino, moved to Grinhar High School in Los Baños. The building housed the lodge for 11 11 years (1965-1976) until it was due for demolition. Transferring from a hilltop Makiling 72 moved towards the plains in the Student Christian Center of the Church Among the Palms, under the term of WM Tito J. Rimando in 1977.The fifth transfer was facilitated by WM Andrew O. Nocon to the old Bowling Lanes of the Nocon family at the Demarces Subdivision in Batong Malake. Where the lodge stayed for more than 15 years (1979 – 1995). By that time, the Lodge was able to buy a lot at the El Danda Compound. In 1995 WM Gregorio J. Tabuena moved the lodge activities to the garage of WB Benito L. Lit and Sister Elvira Lit, where the Maria Makiling Chapter No. 23, Order of the Eastern Star, had been holding its stated meetings since 1994. The Lodge would stay here for a couple of years until the much awaited temple building saw its completion. During this time, the plan to construct a new building begun to be worked out. In

**Continue on page 84**

MAY 13, 1922

CONSTITUTION OF MAKILING LODGE No. 72, AT CALAMBA, LAGUNA, P. I.

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Makiling Lodge No. 72, at Calamba, Laguna, P. I., at 5:30 p. m., Saturday, May 13, A. D. 1922, A. L. 5922, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form, with the following Brethren filling the offices:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QUINTÍN PAREDES | | *Grand Master* |
| FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG | as | *Deputy Grand Master* |
| ESTANISLAO M. JOSÉ | as | *Senior Grand Warden* |
| SANTOS CARMELO | as | *Junior Grand Warden* |
| JOSÉ VELEZ MARTINEZ | as | *Grand Treasurer* |
| IÑIGO ED. REGALADO | as | *Grand Secretary* |
| JOSÉ AMON | as | *Senior Grand Lecturer* |
| PANTALEÓN GARCÍA | as | *Junior Grand Lecturer* |
| CHARLES S. BANKS | | *Grand Chaplain* |
| ROBERTO MORENO | | *Grand Orator* |
| RAMÓN MENDOZA | | *Assistant Grand Secretary* |
| BENITO ZOBOLI | as | *Grand Marshal* |
| JOSÉ M. RAYMUNDO | | *Grand Standard Bearer* |
| SISENANDO FERRIOLS | as | *Grand Sword Bearer* |
| JOSÉ LUCIDO | as | *Grand Bible Bearer* |
| MARCIANO P. GATMAITAN | as | *Senior Grand Deacon* |
| VICENTE RIVERA SAYO | as | *Junior Grand Deacon* |
| MIGUEL BONIFACIO | as | *Senior Grand Steward* |
| PASCUAL CASIMIRO | as | *Junior Grand Steward* |
| JOSÉ TOPACIO | as | *Grand Pursuivant* |
| ZÓSIMO F. DIMAANO | as | *Grand Organist* |
| MARCELINO REYES | as | *Grand Tiler* |

The M. W. Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Makiling Lodge No. 72, 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 all proceeded to the RIZAL MEMORIAL SCHOOL Building, where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed.

After these solemn ceremonies, Bro. Juan Muñoz, Worshipful Master of the new Lodge, delivered a brilliant address in Spanish. Bro. Roberto Moreno also spoke in Spanish. Bro. Charles S. Banks spoke in English and recalled a certain literary contest wherein Bro. José Rizal took part and won a gold and silver pen, which was exhibited by the speaker. Bro. Pascual Casimiro and Bro. Iñigo Ed. Regalado spoke in Tagalog, Bro. José P. Laurel in English, and the M. W. Grand Master in Spanish.

There was a banquet, followed by a dance, attended by more than 1,000 persons, some 400 of whom were Masons.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the Hall where it had been opened, and was duly closed in AMPLE form.

QUINTIN PAREDES,
*Grand Master.*

Attest:
RAMÓN MENDOZA,
*Assistant Grand Secretary.*

**Facsimile from the Proceedings of the 11th Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands (1922) pp 133-134**



# The First 100 Years of Nueva Ecija 73

While the sun was at meridian height on May 21, 2022, the officers of Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73 were occupied with last-hour preparations for their centennial anniversary. The ceremony highlights the first hundred years of the commemorated through a m erected near the lodge. Its unveiling was attended by the brethren of the lodge, dignitaries of Masonic District RIII Nueva Ecija South, and Immediate Past Grand Master, MW Rolen C. Paulino.

Bearing the namesake of the province where it stands, Nueva Ecija No. 73 is a pertinent contributor to masonic reach in the area. To date, the Nueva Ecija Province is home to the most Masons in the entire jurisdiction, there now being four Masonic Districts in the area. Nueva Ecija - the lodge raised prominent Novo Ecijano Masons including former provincial governors, Bro. Eduardo Joson and Bro. Felino Villasan.

Constituted on March 4, 1922 as the 73rd lodge by MW Quintin Paredes, a majority of its Charter Members came from Noli Me Tangere No. 42.

The lodge played a major role in the persistence of Masonry in the Second World War. It is regarded in the records of history that Novo Ecijano brethren have supported the just cause of the guerilla movement and coura- y held meetings towards the of the war. To cope with a declining membership, the lodge was transferred to the nearby town of Guimba. When the war subsided, the lodge returned to its permanent stead in Quezon, Nueva Ecija and the brethren residing in Guimba, later founded Gen. Manuel Tinio Masonic Lodge No. 167 in 1963.

On top of the lodge's storied history, Nueva Ecija 73 in recent years is experiencing a period of harmony and prosperity and its future is noteworthy.

Its Centennial Worshipful Master, Bro Roger Mendoza is a testament that a brother's masonic journey is nothing less than destiny. WM Mendoza modestly claims that his ascension to the ori-

ental chair is purely out of luck. But luck happens when preparation meets opportunity. Raised in Golden Beehive Masonic Lodge No. 388 in 2015, he was granted plural membership in Nueva Ecija 73 in 2018. Despite being one of only six plural members, the brethren elected him Junior Warden. Serendipitously, the masonic term extension in 2020 - 2021 afforded WM Mendoza's tenure to coincide with the lodge's 100th charter anniversary in 2022, the first plural member to be at the helm of Lodge Leadership. "This centennial masonic term is filled, not with extravagant celebrations but with acts of charity extended to the nearby communities in the Municipality of Quezon". Explained the Centennial Master. The lodge has donated to several schools in their adopt-a-school programs and multiple philanthropic plans has been laid out until the end of the year.

Nueva Ecija Masonic Lodge No. 73 stands proudly through the merits of masonic unity - a brand of harmony that will usher in new winds in the lodge's next 100 years.

**By: Bro Ivan Jethro Balagtas / TCT Head News Correspondent**

MARCH 4, 1922

## CONSTITUTION OF NUEVA ECIJA LODGE No. 73, AT QUEZON, NUEVA ECIJA, P. I.

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held at the Hall of Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73, at Quezon, Nueva Ecija, P. I., at 8:00 p. m., March 8, A. D. 1922, A. L. 5922, and the Grand Lodge was opened in AMPLE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QUINTÍN PAREDES | | *Grand Master* |
| FRANCISCO GUMILA CARAG | as | *Deputy Grand Master* |
| SIMPLICIO OCAMPO | as | *Senior Grand Warden* |
| DIONISIO SAN AGUSTIN | as | *Junior Grand Warden* |
| JOSÉ V. BUENAVENTURA | as | *Grand Treasurer* |
| RAMÓN MENDOZA | | *Assistant Grand Secretary* |
| RAMÓN PERALTA | as | *Grand Chaplain* |
| QUINTIN LLORENTE | as | *Grand Orator* |
| CORNELIO PASCUAL | as | *Grand Marshal* |
| DIEGO TOLENTINO | as | *Grand Standard Bearer* |
| TIENG SING | as | *Grand Sword Bearer* |
| MACARIO S. CASTRO | as | *Grand Bible Bearer* |
| FERNANDO BUSUEGO | as | *Senior Grand Deacon* |
| BONIFACIO GUZMAN | as | *Junior Grand Deacon* |
| DOROTEO JOSON | as | *Senior Grand Steward* |
| MIGUEL JADIER | as | *Junior Grand Steward* |
| JOSÉ DE CASTRO | as | *Grand Pursuivant* |
| FILEMÓN JOSÉ | as | *Grand Tiler* |

The M. W. Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73, 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 all proceeded to the Public School Building, where the new Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed. The ceremonies were public, and the attendance was about 1,000.

Addresses were made by Wor. Bro. Simplicio Ocampo, of Cabanatuan Lodge No. 53; Wor. Bro. Dionisio San Agustin, of Noli-Me-Tangere Lodge No. 42; the Master of the Lodge, and the M. W. Grand Master. The addresses were made in Spanish and in Ilocano.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the hall where it had been opened, and was duly closed in AMPLE form.

QUINTIN PAREDES,
*Grand Master.*

Attest:

RAMÓN MENDOZA,
*Assistant Grand Secretary.*

**Facsimile from the Proceedings of the 11th Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands (1922) pp 124-125**

## GLP Centennial Chronicles (continuing page)

### Union 70 - continued fr page 77
### By: Bro Hector Halabaso (70)

use of our working tools 'spread the cement of brotherly love and affection'. "Every Mason in our Lodge has a shared responsibility in ensuring that Union Lodge No. 70 will endure towards another Century" – added the Worshipful Master.

### Laoag 71 - continued fr page 79
### By: VW Allen Aguilar (71)

dream to host a multi-district convention was realized on (INDICATE DATE OF CONVENTION), after it won the bidding for its hosting during the 8th Multi-District Convention earlier held in Pangasinan. More glimmer of significance, a contemplation was made in the centennial observance for an 'Adopt a Mountain' project -- in grateful respect to Mother Earth and as a declaration to lead the generations ahead in the fight against global warming.To preserve the history of the Lodge and its manifold worthy feats, the Coffee Table Book already a making in progress, was formally confirmed to be continued, chronicling the important events, activities and projects accomplished in prelude and during the centennial's celebration. One last piece of the puzzle will be the hosting of the 8th North Luzon Multi-District in November 11 & 12 of its Centennial Year. With the cooperation and team work of all the brethren, the Laoag Masonic Lodge No. 71 aims to bring about a Mini-ANCOM event to be graced by MW Grandmaster Johnny T. Pimentel. Expecting more than 700 delegates, the event will be held at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena, where a true display of Masonic Harmony can be achieved. The 71st Lodge under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines have made its mark in the Province of Ilocos Norte for being the oldest local and living fraternal organization. Its centenary celebrated a long arduous past by giving honor to its forefathers who have crafted their dreams into reality. With the values inculcated to its members as better men, programs were enacted to benefit the community in general and plans are still in place to continue the legacy from century-past and centuries to come. Long live Laoag Masonic Lodge No 71! Long live Philippine Freemasonry! By: VW Allen D. Aguilar, PDDGM / Centennial Celebration Video may be found here: https://www.facebook.com/LaoagLodge71/videos/955999721761002

### Makiling 72 - continued fr page 81
### By: VW Oliver Ocampo (72)

1997, Makiling 72 under the leadership of WM Florante "Bong" C. Faustino, finally anchored its roots in its acquired property. The allegorical 40 year-travel in the Valley of Mt. Makiling came to a close with jubilation and self-fulfillment to the members of its Masonic family. Masonic Year 2021 – 2022 marked the centennial anniversary of Makiling Lodge No. 72 under the harmonious leadership WM Arnel M. Bautista, SW Joel M. Lapis, and JW Jose Gabriel Almazan. The centennial celebration actually began last May 15, 2021 when amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the collective effort and generosity of the brethren allowed the Lodge to conduct its charity drive for the less fortunate residents in the temple's vicinity. During this event, the members were able to distribute relief packages to some 150 indigent families in the neighborhood. Capping off the year-long centennial celebration of the Lodge was the inauguration of its newly renovated temple last May 13, 2022.

## BRANCHES:

ANTIPOLO
ISABELA
CALBAYOG
TUGUEGARAO
GUIMBA
CAVITE
LUCENA
NAGA
LIPA
PARANAQUE
























Yarda Corporation was formed in November 2019. The idea was conceptualized thru the usual nightly family chit chats over a glass of whisky and wine. After doing some thorough market research and going over the logistics, the idea that is "Yarda" finally came into fruition.

The company's business plan blueprint was spearheaded by Charlz Adano, one of the main founding members. Yarda officially started it's operation on March 1, 2020. Shortly thereafter, the global pandemic happened.

Despite some setbacks and challenges from lockdown restrictions and financial market limitations, the business flourished.

Team Yarda successfully managed to turn the crisis into an opportunity. To date, Yarda has 7 branches nationwide with our Headquarters (Main office/Warehouse) located in City of Antipolo Rizal.

Leaping to greater heights, Yarda is eyeing to open 10 more branches by first half of 2023. In just over two years after it's conception, Yarda has accomplished a lot by following it's mantra – **"Start Small, but GO BIG!"**.

**YARDA CORPORATION**
**38 Provincial Rd, Dela Paz, Antipolo, 1870 Rizal**
**0917.88.(YARDA) 92732**
**sales@yardacorp.com**
**https://www.yarda.com.ph/**

**YARDA** **YARDA**




# Shangri-la 196 Reaching Out at 50

**By: WB Mark John B. Prudencio, PM (196)**

In alignment with the lodge's Golden Year theme: "Striving for Nobler Deeds, Higher Thoughts, Purer Actions and Greater Achievements for a Better Society" - Shangri-la Masonic Lodge No. 196 implemented four major charitable projects in 2022: A Library for the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) – Mindanao; Donation of Artificial Coral Reefs; Dugong Bayani, Buhay Para sa Bayan – Blood-letting Drive; and the provision of useful materials for the "Tagumpay Sagop Bata".

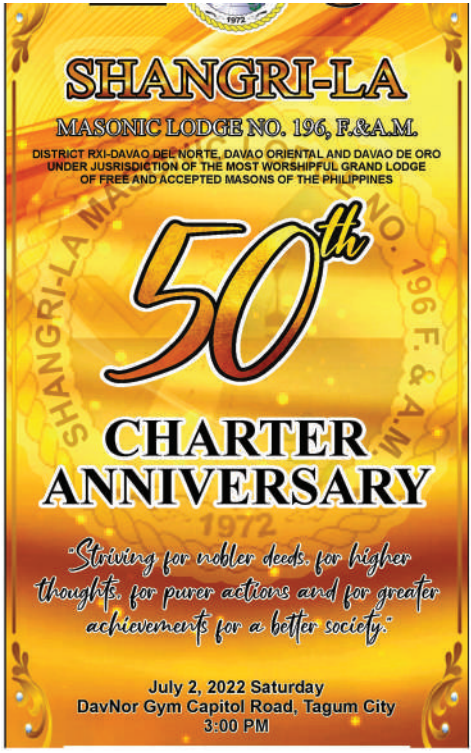


**1. The Construction of Library for the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) – Mindanao** was undertaken for the benefit of female persons deprived of liberty (PDL). The project started in the previous Masonic Year with then outgoing DDGM Edgar De Guzman donating 100,000 php to WB Albert Veloso (IPM) for the project last January. In April 1 – WM Ramil Y. Tiu, Tagum was joined by members of Emerald Court No. 37, Order of the Amaranth representatives, and officers of the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) - Mindanao during the groundbreaking ceremony for the said Building Project inside minimum security area of CIW Mindanao located at Sto. To-



mas, Davao del Norte.

**2. Donation of Artificial Coral Reefs** In February 26, Freemason's from Masonic District RXI-Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte & Davao de Oro through the initiative of Past District Deputy Grand Master Edgar C. De Guzman in collaboration with its Lead Lodge: Shangri-La Masonic Lodge No. 196 under the masonic term of Past Master WB Albert Y. Veloso (2021) & Worshipful Master Ramil Y. Tiu (2022), has donated an amount of 50, 000,00 Php worth of materials to the Local Government Unit of Tagum City for their Ridge to Reef Program for the 50th Golden Year Anniversary of the said lodge. The donated materials, helped fabricate 80 units of artificial reef balls that will help rehabilitate 100 square meters of denuded natural coral reefs and sustain Tagum City's Ma-




rine Protected Area coral reef rehabilitation project located in Brgy. Ligboganon.

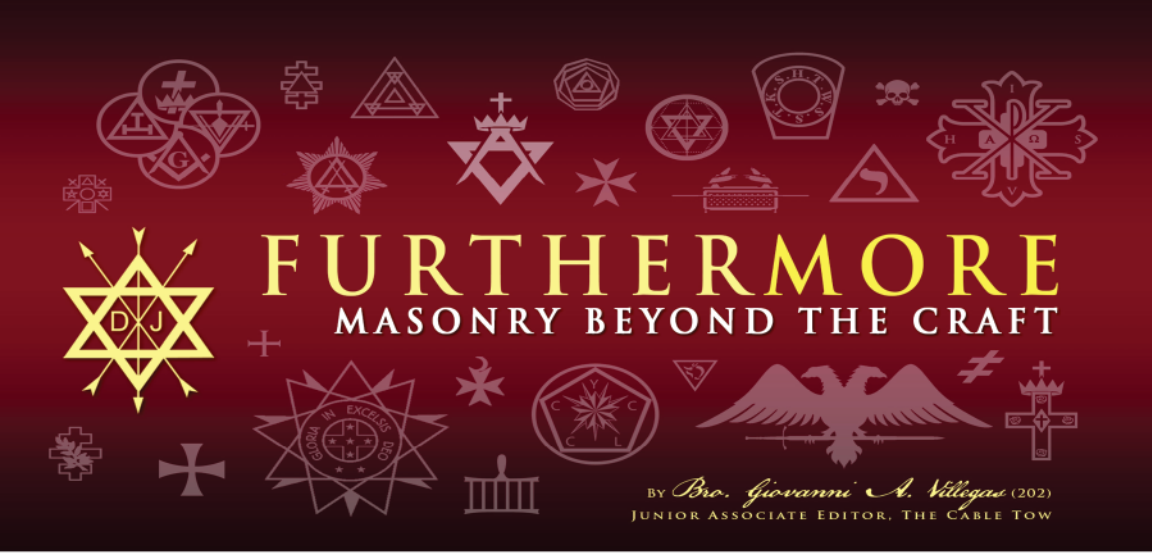
**3. "Dugong Bayani, Buhay Para sa Bayan"** an annual bloodletting activity started in 2018 as a brainchild of Bro. John Paul Narisma, the lodge secretary is a lodge initiative made in collaboration with the armed forces based in the region and aims to provide additional supply of blood especially during the 1st quarter of the year, when the demand in blood in local hospitals are statistically high.

**4. "Tagumpay Sagop Bata"**, an agency established by the City Government of Tagum to rescue abandoned minors and provide them with care received books, toys, toiletries, slide and even a swing set from members of Shangri-la 196 in May 21.

The 50th Charter Anniversary was celebrated in July 2 with a motorcade followed by the Lodges a Stated Meeting under dispensation. The grand celebration commenced in the afternoon until midnight. MW Rizal Aportadera, PGM, and representatives from the other lodges and districts in Mindanao also participated including MW Johnny T. Pimentel – Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the Philippines who said: "I could see that this is one of the most active lodges in our Masonic District. And I hope and I pray that you will continue with your successes in your Masonic activities. You have become one of the most cohesive lodges in our region…"

After 50 years of existence, Shangri-la 196 have produced master masons yearning to learn and become better. The lodge labored hard to hone its craftsmen's skills as they build their individual temples while in the body. But while its members profess that they should have the confidence to lead, they also ensure that their feet are on the ground and remaining steadfast in their Masonic resolve to treat one another with respect and humility and sincerely express brotherly love. "Shangri-la is defined by the Merriam Webster Dictionary as "a remote beautiful imaginary place where life approaches perfection". It is originally derived from the novel Lost Horizon (1933) by James Hilton, which basically means the concept of a place which resembles heaven. Said Golden Jubilee Master Ramil Tiu "With the lodge's undertakings anchored mainly on charity, we endeavor to bring a little of this idea in the form of some relief to the underprivileged that we try to serve". Putting it simply, "Shangri-la means a peaceful sanctuary." The WM added.






# ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

THE ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR (OSM), also called the *Brotherhood of David and Jonathan*, is undoubtedly the fastest growing Masonic Order in the country, having, at the time of writing of this article, 16 local conclaves under the *Grand Conclave of the OSM of Southeast Asia (OSM SEA)*, *1 unattached conclave directly under the Grand Conclave of the OSM in the British Isles and its Districts Overseas* (British OSM), and 9 Councils that work the OSM degrees under the *Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the Philippines* (AMD Philippines) – all recognized by the *Grand Lodge of the Philippines* (GLP) as having the freedom and authority to operate within this Grand jurisdiction and to confer their degrees upon local Master Masons.

The OSM currently confers three degrees – (1) the *Secret Monitor*, (2) *Prince*, and (3) *Supreme Ruler* – the last being a Chair degree upon its incoming presiding officer of the same name. Membership is open to Master Masons in good standing and should be nominated and balloted favorably in an official conclave meeting prior to *induction* (initiation). Its ceremonies revolve around the story of David and Jonathan – the Hebrew Princes in the Old Testament – and of the strong fraternal bond and mutual protection that exist between them. The OSM, therefore, is a society framed upon the principles of self-sacrifice, mutual trust, and watchful brotherly care over each member and their respective families. Its members pledge themselves to caution each other in times of danger, to offer solace in times of sorrow, and to give skillful and effective friendly advice in every circumstance of life.

## THREE OSM JURISDICTIONS

As mentioned above, there are presently three different streams of the OSM in the Philippines. The first formed was under the Grand Conclave of the OSM of the British Isles, whose conclave was consecrated in 2007. The second stream came with the introduction of US-

based councils of the AMD beginning 2010. (The AMD will be discussed more thoroughly in the next issue.) The third emerged in 2017 when three local conclaves, supposedly under the British OSM, were absorbed by what would become the Grand Conclave OSM SEA.

Note that each OSM stream belongs to a different Masonic system. The British OSM and OSM SEA, for instance, were supposedly meant for Masons practicing the British systems of Freemasonry. The OSM under the AMD, on the other hand, caters to those that follow the North American system, also known as the York Rite, which happens to be the type of Freemasonry that gave birth to the GLP itself.

Despite the differences, these three OSM streams actually trace their lineage to the same source. Let us retrace the history and evolution of the OSM, and try to understand why there are currently three different streams that found their way into Philippine shores.

## A COMPLEX HISTORY

The origin and development of the OSM can be quite complex to the average Mason who is not inclined in the study of history. For one, its beginnings are still unclear. Another, it involved intercontinental events that shaped its development in different places.

Various literatures suggest a Dutch origin for what was then the *Order of Jonathan and David* in America. It was said that Dutch settlers of Jewish descent in Newport, Rhode Island brought the Order to the New World in 1658. Said settlers were predominantly Lutherans who left the Netherlands to avoid possible religious intolerance, following a dynastic



The First and Second Degree Jewels of the OSM



The First OSM Conclave in the Philippines - Pearl of the Orient Conclave No. 496, under the Grand Conclave OSM in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas

marriage of Roman Catholic leaders from Austria and then Spain. There was even a French invasion by Louis XIV years later. Such events led to the formation of underground secret societies aimed at freeing their country. One such society was said to have been formed with symbols, signs, and modes of recognition taken from David and Jonathan in the Old Testament. Such was probably how the Order developed and travelled to the New World.

Unfortunately, these speculative stories are highly doubtful. For one, the Newport, Rhode Island establishment, according to the Jewish Encyclopedia, was 1780, more than a century after 1658. Neville Barker Cryer, in his book *"Delving Further Beyond the Craft,"* provides other compelling evidences of the possible roots of the Order, such as the *Order of Jonathan and David* and Jesus Christ, whose statutes can be found in the *Grand East of the Netherlands;* a possible form of the degree practiced in Scotland in the 1770s; a Catholic-chartered chapter in 1788; the appendant degrees of an *Early Grand Encampment* in Ireland from at least 1765; and the *Order of Brotherly Love of the Early Grand Rite of Scotland.*

What is certain, however, is that the OSM, as the Order we now know today, definitely had its roots in America. As early as 1831, a degree of *Secret Monitor or Trading Degree*, appeared in Avery Allyn's *"A Ritual of Freemasonry,"* republished 1853. There are indications that its ritual was probably a combination of the *Order of Jonathan and David and Jesus Christ* from the Dutch side and the *Order of Brotherly Love* from the Scottish and French sides, bearing similarities to both. The *Secret Monitor* was conferred individually as a side degree and without any central or jurisdictional control. This meant that any brother of the degree had the right to confer it on another Master Mason, usually by taking him aside to a corner of the lodge room, hence the term *"side degree,"* or to any private room to have him take the oath upon a Holy Bible and likewise have the story of the degree and its secret work related to him. The degree itself was useful to tradesmen in Masonry who bound themselves to extend preferential

treatment to fellow brothers of the degree, especially in terms of business and employment. It was probably this commercial characteristic that the name *Secret Monitor or Trading Degree* was used instead of *Order of Jonathan and David*.

On August 9, 1879 in England, a *Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees* (AMD England) was set up to take under its direction the various Masonic Orders that had no central authority. Not long after, on January 14, 1892, a separate *Sovereign College of the Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees for the Western Hemisphere* was established in Richmond, Virginia, and became the progenitor of the AMD in America (AMD USA). It was there that the degree of *Secret Monitor* became part of the control of the American AMD, along with the several other Masonic side degrees worked in the region. In 1933, AMD USA became a merger of the elder *Sovereign College of the Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees* and a new *Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees* of the United States of America that was formed in 1932.

Going back to around 1875, prior to the establishment of the AMD USA, the degree of the *Secret Monitor* was brought to England by a brother of the degree, Issachar Zacaharie, upon returning from America after its Civil War. While in London, he met with other Masons who had become Secret Monitors during their Masonic progress in other countries. He then invited them to form a local conclave of the *Secret Monitor*. On June 17, 1887, a Grand Council OSM was formed and the ritual was extended to two additional degrees, one of which pertained to the Chair of the Supreme Ruler. This new three-degree OSM system soon gained popularity, with news reaching as far back to the US where American brethren from Rocklands, Maine, who were already members of the single degree American *Secret Monitor* of the AMD, petitioned to the British Grand Council OSM to establish under its jurisdiction a separate OSM conclave in their city. Such move may have slighted the Grand Council AMD USA which controlled the *Secret Monitor* in the jurisdiction, for it soon empowered the elder Grand Council AMD of England and Wales (AMD England) to confer their original single *Secret Monitor* degree. Thus, for a period of 37 years, the degree of *Secret Monitor* was concurrently being conferred in England by two conflicting Orders – the Grand Council AMD and the Grand Council OSM. (The latter would become known as the *Order of the Secret Monitor, or the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in England and Wales and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas, then as the Order of the Secret Monitor, or the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas* after Scotland was included in the late 1980s.)

The conflict over the *Secret Monitor* was eventually resolved when, in 1931, C.W. Napier-Clavering, Grand Master of the Grand Council AMD England was also elected Grand Supreme Ruler of the British Grand Council OSM. He implemented an agreement transferring all rights on the *Secret Monitor* to the Grand Council OSM of the British Isles (called Grand Conclave by 1987), removing it from the roster of the English AMD, but retaining the rights of those already conferred as *Secret Monitors* under the AMD.

Meanwhile, in the USA, the Secret Monitor was still part of the AMD as

a single degree. In the year 2000, the Grand Council AMD USA decided to likewise adopt the three degree system of the British OSM while still retaining the option to work their single degree of the Secret Monitor. This led to the signing of an *Articles of Agreement* between the Grand Council AMD USA and the British Grand Conclave OSM in 2008, recognizing each other and permitting inter-visitation of their respective members between each subordinate body. This meant that AMD members who have taken part in the exemplification of the OSM degrees in their councils may visit conclaves of the British OSM, while members of a British OSM conclave may visit American AMD councils when they work the Secret Monitor degrees or open a Secret Monitor conclave meeting.

## OSM IN THE PHILIPPINES

The OSM was first brought to the Philippines when an *unattached* conclave directly under the *Grand Conclave of the OSM in the British Isles and its Districts Overseas* was established in Manila on January 20, 2007. Several local Master Masons under the GLP, who had previously petitioned for the OSM, were *inducted* into the Order. The consecration was carried out by an OSM team from London, and assisted by OSM brethren from Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

On February 12, 2010, an AMD council under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council AMD USA was set up in the Philippines as well. Some of the degrees under its control included the original single degree of the Secret Monitor along with the three degree system of the OSM. Thus, a second type of OSM, that from AMD USA, was brought to the Philippines. This one, however, fell under the care and umbrella of the office of the *Grand York Rite Bodies of the Philippines*, as the fundamental requirement for AMD membership was the *Royal Arch Mason* degree.

In the years that followed, both bodies of the OSM and the AMD grew in membership in the Philippines, as more conclaves and councils were later formed locally under the jurisdiction of their respective Grand bodies abroad. Both Orders coexisted harmoniously in the country and in mutual amity because of the *Articles of Agreement* that was signed between the British Grand Conclave OSM and the Grand Council AMD USA. There were even rare instances of inter-visitation between the OSM and the AMD in the Philippines, and of Master Masons holding membership in both Orders.




**The three Grand bodies that work the OSM in the Philippines: (1) the Grand Conclave OSM in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; (2) The Grand Conclave OSM of South East Asia; and (3) the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the Philippines**

In 2017, three local OSM conclaves under the *District Grand Conclave of South East Asia* (a district of British OSM) officially joined the jurisdiction of the newly formed *Grand Conclave*



2015: The conferral of the degrees of the Secret Monitor under Filipinas Council No. 490, which was then under the Grand Council of the AMD USA. In attendance were dignitaries from the jurisdiction of the Grand Conclave British Isles and District Overseas.

*of the OSM of Southeast Asia*, based in Malaysia. It was inaugurated on February 11, 2017 and included the other Malaysian OSM conclaves previously under the *District Grand Conclave of South East Asia*. The one OSM conclave in the Philippines that did not join the new Grand Conclave remained unattached and reported directly to the British Grand Conclave OSM.

Then, on February 9, 2022, during the *Masonic Week* event held at Arlington, Virginia, the Grand Council AMD USA granted its councils in the Philippines their own sovereign jurisdiction by instituting the *Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the Philippines* (AMD Philippines). This newly formed AMD Grand Council, based exclusively and geographically in the Philippines, was officially constituted by its mother Grand Council on February 19, 2022.

And so it became that the OSM now exists in the Philippines under three separate jurisdictions – all now basically working the same set of rituals. Friendly relations have remained among the three Orders and official amity is already being developed among them in order to harmoniously coexist and work the OSM degrees upon each of their respective members in the Philippine territory.

## DIFFERENCES IN PRACTICE

There are a few fundamental differences on how the OSM is practiced between the AMD councils and the conclaves under British and SEA Grand Conclaves. For one, membership in an OSM conclave requires only that candidates should be Master Masons. Although the same is true in the AMD as far as the OSM degrees are concerned, membership in the AMD itself is predicated by the *Royal Arch degree* and a membership in a *Royal Arch Chapter*. Thus, by extension, Secret Monitors of the AMD should be *Royal Arch Masons*, either of the local chapters of the York Rite or of some other recognized *Royal Arch chapters*.



2018-2019: One of the local conclaves under the Grand Conclave OSM of South East Asia - the Pillars of the West Conclave No. 10

Another fundamental difference involves the nature of how AMD members receive their degrees. When a candidate is received (initiated) into an AMD council, he already, *ipso facto*, holds all the other AMD degrees, including the first two of the OSM, without necessarily witnessing the rituals of the said degrees exemplified. Said degrees are sometimes *communicated* only, as was traditional in early Masonic rites. In contrast, OSM conclaves work and confer their degrees to their candidates in full ceremonial form. This raises a unique issue in the Philippine setting where AMD councils and OSM conclaves exist side by side and would naturally conduct frequent inter-visitation. An AMD member not fully versed with the work may find it hard to visit an OSM conclave when challenged on the modes of recognition of the Order. The problem is solved by the local AMD itself by insisting that their members be physically conferred the AMD degrees within their own councils, through exemplification and actual degree work, before being issued certificates of completion per degree. Such also solves the dilemma within AMD councils that their elected presiding officer, the Sovereign Master, likewise becomes a titular Supreme Ruler of the OSM. It is only fitting that if one becomes a Supreme Ruler under the AMD, which actually entails the third degree of the OSM, he should at least be familiar with the work of the first two OSM degrees.

The structure of AMD councils is likewise different from OSM conclaves. As OSM conclaves are dedicated purely to the degrees of their Order, AMD councils, on the other hand, have different degrees with corresponding bodies. When AMD councils work the OSM degrees, for instance, they

do so under a conclave moored and appurtenant to their AMD council. That means that their council meeting would first have to be *opened* for business, before *opening* an OSM conclave for degree work. Such conclaves would then assume the name and number of their AMD council but would possess no power of a stand-alone body.

Another noticeable difference is that local OSM members seem very active in expanding their membership and number of conclaves, as opposed to AMD members who seem content with their limited number. The reason has to do with the nature of both. An OSM conclave, like any other body of Freemasonry, concerns itself with various organizational matters, including membership growth. AMD councils, on the other hand, have been specifically designed, at the outset, to be small. Each council is limited only to 27 members and that membership is strictly by invitation. The invitational aspect was deemed necessary in order to maintain a convivial atmosphere of fellowship, as AMD councils also function as research groups where papers on Masonic topics are presented for discussion, usually within a table lodge style setup. A small group would therefore encourage active participation from each member.

## WHAT IS THE OSM?

It is imperative that we now identify what exactly is the OSM in terms of Masonic categorization. As a progressive Order beyond Craft Masonry, whose lessons expound on one of its basic tenets; whose membership comprise exclusively of Master Masons; and whose rituals extend from the allegories of Masonic tradition and legendry, then without a doubt, the OSM can be considered an appendant or concordant body of Freemasonry. Like the York Rite and the Scottish Rite, the OSM is an extension of Craft teachings, even though it has no connection to *pure ancient Masonry*.

Ironically, here in the Philippines, the OSM had been categorized as a Masonic club like the *Shriners*. Since the GLP's categorization method is still vague at present, where the characteristics of Masonic associations – whether appendant body, allied organization, or Masonic social club – are still not clearly defined, it would appear that the OSM conclaves have been inaccurately classified, probably due to certain GLP Edicts that required the OSM to register for immediate accreditation with the GLP as an allied organization or Masonic club. That was during the time when there was a proliferation of other Masonic clubs that went unchecked and engaged in activities not condoned by the GLP. It therefore becomes necessary in the future to make the necessary corrections in reclassifying the OSM as a rightful regular Masonic body or appendant Order.

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# doctor in the temple

By Bro. Louie A. Castro, MD



## MONKEY POX – a new health threat

The existence of the COVID-19 pandemic is nowhere near hidden from the knowledge of the masses however, we cannot deny the fact that the concept of pandemics is still indistinctively vague through the understanding of many people. To define the word pandemic, the World Health Organization described pandemics as the occurrence which involves the spread of a new disease worldwide affecting different regions of the globe. Apart from this phenomenon, one must also be able to comprehend the concept of epidemics. When the spread of new diseases remains limited to one city, region, or country, this occurrence is considered as an epidemic. If an infection becomes widespread in several countries at the same time, it may turn into a pandemic. Relatively, both of these phenomena are linked to each other in several aspects and perspectives.

*Why must one be aware of such terms and occurrences?* Recently, more than 120 confirmed or suspected cases of monkeypox, a rare viral disease seldom detected outside Africa, have been reported in at least 11 non-African countries in the past week. Several scientists showed great concern with regards to the virus's proliferation in different populations around the world, in places where it does not normally present — ***could this happening post a threat to the world as a possible pandemic?*** Anne Rimoin, an epidemiologist at the University of California, left a remark saying, *"It's eye-opening to see this kind of spread,".* The said epidemiologist has studied the monkeypox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for more than a decade.

Monkeypox is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus. It was first detected by researchers in laboratory monkeys in the year 1958. It is considered as a viral zoonotic disease which implies that it can spread from animals to humans and may also propagate between people. A few thousand cases occur in Africa each year, mostly in the western and central sections of the continent where tropical rainforests are mainly found, inhabited by animals that may be carriers of the virus. However, instances outside of Africa were previously limited to a handful related with travel to Africa or the importation of infected animals. The number of cases confirmed outside of Africa in the last week alone has already eclipsed the entire number detected outside of the continent since 1970, when the virus was first discovered to cause sickness in people. Scientists are on high alert because of the rapid spread.

Similar to previous endemics and/ or pandemics, the monkeypox presents its own sets of symptoms which typically includes fever, intense headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, swollen lymph nodes and a skin rash that normally appears one to three days after the fever. The rash usually appears on the face, palms of the hands, and soles of the feet,

characterized to be flat or slightly elevated, filled with clear or yellowish fluid. An infected person can have anywhere from a few to several thousand lesions. The aforementioned symptoms usually last 2 to 4 weeks and resolve on their own without therapy.



As we take a deeper understanding of the disease, symptoms of monkeypox subside on their own within a few weeks of infection however, there are instances wherein such can lead to medical complications and even death. Monkeypox can cause significant symptoms and death especially in newborns, children, and those with underlying immune weaknesses. When individuals come into personal touch with an infected animal, the contraction of the disease is highly susceptible. Avoiding unprotected contact with wild animals, especially those that are sick or dead, can lower the risk of contracting monkeypox. In endemic countries where animals are considered to be carriers of the disease, animal meat or parts should be fully cooked before eaten. In human-to-human transmission, on the other hand, monkeypox may become infectious through close physical contact with someone who is infected by the disease. Pregnant women may also pass the virus to the fetus from the placenta or from an infected parent to a kid during or after delivery by skin-to-skin contact.

The importance of vaccines is still evident in this circumstance. Although no recent vaccination reports are made to specifically address the monkeypox, several vaccines available for prevention of smallpox that also provide some protection against the disease. A more recent vaccine MVA-BN, also known as Imvamune, Imvanex, or Jynneos) designed for smallpox was authorized to be released in the year 2019 for use in preventing monkeypox but is not yet widely available however, WHO is collaborating with the company to increase public access.

It is significant that we become knowledgeable with regards to the different disease outbreaks, its severity, and modes of transmissions in order for us to become more aware of how we must combat such circumstances. Unlike SARS-CoV-2, which spreads through tiny air-borne droplets called aerosols, monkeypox is thought to spread from close contact with bodily fluids, such as saliva from coughing therefore, the disease is not typically considered to be very contagious because it requires close physical contact with someone who is infectious to spread between people. The cases that are currently reported concerning the monkeypox are not typical for outbreaks because there is no reported travel from endemic countries or to animals exported from endemic countries yet, however, raising awareness about this new situation will help stop further transmission. On the basis of the data, Andrea McCollum, an epidemiologist who heads the poxvirus team at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, thinks that the current outbreaks probably won't necessitate containment strategies beyond ring vaccination.

World Health Organization

# MONKEYPOX: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## There is currently an outbreak of monkeypox in some countries that do not normally have cases:

- Most people recover fully without treatment, but in some cases, people can get seriously ill
- It is called 'monkeypox' because it was first found in monkeys
- While the risk to the general public is low, WHO is responding to this outbreak as a high priority
- What we know about the outbreak is changing fast – we are learning more every day

## Symptoms of monkeypox include:

- Rash with blisters on face, hands, feet, body, eyes, mouth or genitals
- Fever
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Headaches
- Muscle and back aches
- Low energy



## You can catch monkeypox through close contact with someone who has symptoms including:

- Skin-to-skin contact
- Face-to-face contact
- Mouth-to-skin contact
- Touching infected bedding, towels, clothing or objects



## Protect yourself from monkeypox by avoiding close contact with someone who has symptoms:

- Avoid skin-to-skin, face-to-face and mouth-to-skin contact, including sexual contact
- Clean hands, objects, surfaces, bedding, towels and clothes regularly
- Wear a mask if you can't avoid close contact and when handling bedding, towels and clothes
- Ask people if they have symptoms before you have close contact
- Using condoms may not prevent monkeypox spreading during sexual contact, but can prevent other sexually transmitted infections

## If you think you have monkeypox:

- Get advice from a health worker
- Isolate at home if possible
- Protect others by avoiding close contact with them
- Wear a mask and avoid touching if you need to have close contact

**Stigmatising people because of a disease is NEVER ok.**

Anyone can get or pass on monkeypox

# THE GRAND MASTER'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

It is with immense joy and nationalistic pride for me as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines to greet everyone in the Masonic Family a Happy Philippine Independence Day.

Today, we celebrate our nation's 124th Anniversary of Independence. It has, through the years, been a national holiday – celebrating Liberty, Unity, and new-found Freedom which heralds the promise of a new beginning – a fresh start towards a brighter tomorrow. What better and more fitting occasion to herald the coming new era of hope than today's celebration of Independence Day.

We are fast approaching the end of pandemic; we are given new hope of a better tomorrow by our newly elected government leaders; and our very own Masonic Fraternity begins with the theme: "Harmony for One and All: The Foundation of Genuine Masonic Fraternity."

Indeed, today's Independence Day celebration is filled with renewed hope and great expectations. It is now up to us to put into action the lessons of Independence – those of Harmony, those of Accountability, and those of Unity.

Therefore, in commemoration of our people's declaration of their "inherent and inalienable right to freedom and independence ," we likewise declare today our independence from home restrictions brought about by the pandemic; independence from the political divides that plagued our past government administrations; and independence from the disharmony that loomed to destroy our brotherhood.

Join me now as we together claim our independence and manifest all the good that freedom has to offer – for ourselves, for our country, and for our beloved Fraternity.

Happy Independence Day, my brethren and friends.

JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL
Grand Master

June 12, 2022








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