

The Cabletow

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THE RAISING

VOLUME/ISSUE

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JULY & AUGUST



The First One Hundred Days of the
Term of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III



Mindanao
Caravan

The Cable Tow

IN THIS ISSUE..

I. From The Grand East

Let us Hasten Our Pace
By MW Tomas G. Rentoy III

II. Grand Historian's Report

The First 100 Days of the
Term of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III
By VW Caesar M. Ortega, GH
VW Guillermo B. Lazaro

III. Masonic Education

Edict 279 – The Masonic Internal
Affairs Office (MIAO)
Edict 280 – Masonic Tribunals
By VW Caesar M. Ortega

Primer on Edicts 275, 276 & 277
By VW J. Ernest Ermin Louie R. Miguel, SGL

Circular 21

IV. Special Feature

Let's Meet the Grand Lodge Officers
By VW Jose Avelino I. Magbanua

Know Your Grand Lodge Staff

V. Homage to Masonic Heroes

Salute to our Freemason Brothers,
National Heroes All!
By VW Flor R. Nicolas, PSGL

Brother Apolinario "Katabay" Mabini
By VW Flor R. Nicolas, PSGL

VI. Open Lodge

Why Change the Constitution
By MW Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno (ret.), PGM

Manifesto

By La Solidaridad II

VII. Feature Articles

Mindanao Grand Caravan
By VW Hector A. Emberga, SGD

Pilar Assembly No. 1
By Karol Joseffe Borja

Two Speeches of MW Rentoy

VIII. Recent Events

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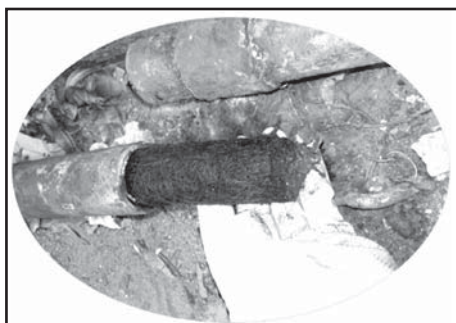
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LET US HASTEN OUR PACE



One hundred days and counting. Our Grand Historian, the VW Caesar M. Ortega, confidently states in his account (featured in this issue) that we are ahead of schedule in the implementation of our reform program. Many of the brethren I meet in my

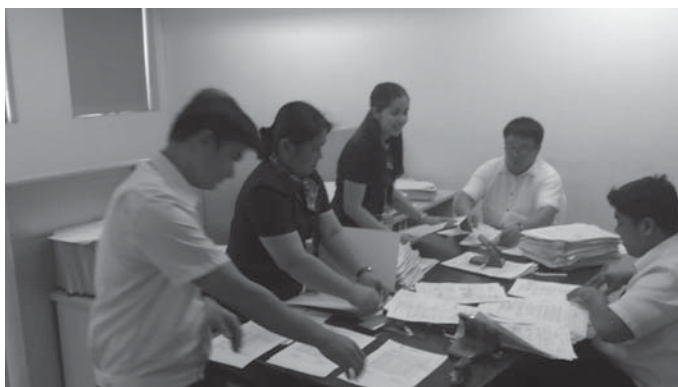


The root of a Balet tree somehow wormed its way into the main water pipe blocking the flow of water into the Grand Lodge premises.

visits to the blue lodges concur with this rather rosy assessment. Even our building administrator, the VW Guillermo B. Lazaro, assures us that the tree of neglect that has taken root

in the water system of our grand lodge building has been yanked out and clean water (reflective of effective and efficient building administration) is smoothly flowing again within the premises.

Our Office Manager, the VW Jose Avelino I. Magbanua, is equally confident that the much sought-after ISO accreditation will be awarded to the Grand Lodge within this masonic year.



GLP staff sorting out the mountain of documents that had accumulated over the years in a bid to obtain ISO certification.



My beloved brethren, we cannot rest now lest history overtake us. A hundred days of reform cannot cure decades-old maladies afflicting our Craft. That we may be ahead of schedule in carrying out the reforms we seek to institute does not guarantee that these reforms have taken root.

The west gate is not yet fully secure from recalcitrant within our ranks and the unworthy still trying to worm their way in. One of the most painful acts a Grand Master is compelled to perform is that of casting a brother out of his lodge. Ordering the suspension of another is not less painful either. But the Craft cannot afford masons who work with crooked tools. And so, on few occasions, the Grand Oriental Chair had to swing down the gavel resolutely. Yet as hard as the gavel falls, so are our arms spread as wide in welcoming back lost brethren who have repentantly pleaded to return.

The MIAO, it being an untested innovation, appears to be gingerly feeling its way like a toddler. Indeed, it is most challenging to play the role of policeman and prosecutor at the same time. I should know. But with our cooperation, understanding and encouragement, the brethren appointed to the MIAO will be reminded that our reform program hinges on them.

The lamps in our lodges shine brighter now. The mandatory seminar workshops on the reform-relevant edicts and circulars ensured that all the



Brightening up the Lamp. The SGL acknowledging a question from the floor during one of the seminar-workshops on the Three Guards to Reform.

brethren journey on with clear and firm steps. With this in mind, our Senior Grand Lecturer, the VW J Ermin Ernest Louie R. Miguel has come up with a comprehensive Primer in question and answer format to make easy reading for the brethren all the edicts and issuances relevant to our reform program. But we have yet to fine-tune the IT aspect of our IMES, Cabletow and related masonic education activities.

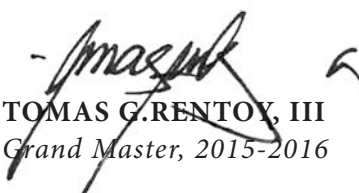
In some forlorn villages in our archipelago, our masonic lamp shines with hope for indigent children reading and learning in the few libraries our brethren built. A minute drop in an ocean of need besetting our public education system, these “libraries in a box” are a generous gesture those children will remember all their lives. Their grateful smiles are priceless.

Closer to home, I noted with much admiration some publications of the lodges, districts and multi-districts. The erudition and journalistic talents of the brethren are evident in these publications. So, to encourage our journalist brothers, we are asking the editors-in-chief of these publications to provide soft and hard copies of each issue they print so that exemplary articles therein may be reprinted in the Cabletow.

The selection process for the next Junior Grand Warden is well underway. We have taken great pains to preempt electioneering and other shenanigans endemic in past elections. Let us stay vigilant until the last ballot is counted.

My beloved brethren, in the past three years leading up to my assumption to the Grand Oriental Chair, you pleaded in so many words and ways for these reforms to be carried out. Your orders are being complied with. Our reforms are well underway. Let us hasten our pace.

Fraternally yours,


TOMAS G. RENTOY, III
Grand Master, 2015-2016



PGM Pacifico Ania stresses a point on this year's program of reforms during seminar-workshop held at the Wesleyan University.

The First **100** days of the Term of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III

(25 April - 03 August 2015)

By VW Caesar M. Ortega

The Reform Agenda

During the Grand Installation Ceremonies last 25 April 2015 in Legazpi City, MW Tomas G. Rentoy III laid down, in no uncertain terms, the following reform agenda crafted in response to the clamor of the brethren:

(1) Guard the West Gate (both from without and from within) – by preserving and maintaining the quality of petitioners and candidates, and by weeding-out unworthy members of the Craft;

(2) Guard the Lamp - by upgrading the Continuing Masonic Education; and

(3) Guard the Ballot – by instituting and institutionalizing Genuine Electoral Reforms

He then announced the central theme of his term, to wit:

“A Revitalized, Relevant, and Revered Philippine Freemasonry: Our Commitment, Our Covenant.”

It was made clear that the reforms he had in mind were all geared towards the attainment of the vision he shared with the brethren for Philippine Freemasonry, which was concisely and accurately encapsulated in his chosen theme.

Edicts and Circulars

The implementation of our reform agenda started on Day 1 of MW Rentoy's term. At the time of the Grand Installation, no less than ten (10) edicts and two (2) circulars were signed. Shortly thereafter, other edicts and circulars were issued to supplement and complement the earlier issuances. To date, the following have been issued and read in open lodge:



(1) Edict No. 175-C: Appointment of the Grand Master's duly authorized representative or a Grand Master's Deputy. This aims to avoid the absurd and embarrassing situation wherein an elected officer of the Grand Lodge is "outranked" by a Past Master, Incumbent Master or Warden of a Subordinate Lodge.

(2) Edict No. 187-B: Requiring all Subordinate Lodges having their own temples to identify and designate an appropriate area for fellowship; reclassifying Aguinaldo Hall of the Grand Lodge as Non-Masonic Premises and designating the same as fellowship area. This was intended to eliminate or lessen the security risks, which the brethren are exposed to while on fellowship and to alleviate the financial burden and address the impracticability associated with transferring from one place to another. Moreover, the edict will regulate the conduct of fellowships to protect the dignity and good reputation of the Craft.

(3) Edict No. 268-A: Amending Edict No. 268 (MW Espino), Edict No. 268-B (MW Purisima) and the provisions governing the nomination process for the position of Junior Grand Warden. This is designed to eradicate or, at the very least, to discourage and deter all forms of electioneering during the nomination process for Junior Grand Warden, up to the day of the elections.

(4) Edict No. 272: Rationalizing the number of Junior Grand Lecturers (JGLs) and District Grand Lecturers (DGLs). This is to address the disproportionate ratio of JGLs and DGLs to the number of lodges, taking into consideration their relative distances, per Masonic District. It will also maximize the time, effort and efficiency of the district officers.

(5) Edict No. 273: Regulating the production, sale, purchase and use of promotional Masonic items; and imposing penalties for violations thereof. The edict seeks to address, prevent and penalize the continuing violations of our Monitor and Masonic Obligations as regards the reproduction of monitorial words, phrases and characters and to maintain the dignity and sanctity of our Masonic rituals and obligations.

(6) Edict No. 274: Providing for a uniform procedure in the District Turnover Ceremonies. The purpose of the edict is to standardize and simplify the district turnover ceremonies; to minimize the expenses incurred; as well as to maintain the solemnity of such rituals.

(7) Edict No. 275: Further strengthening the Guard of the West Gate by prescribing additional powers and duties to the Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLIs) and providing penalties for violations thereof. The aim is to



upgrade and preserve the quality of our petitioners and candidates by giving more teeth to the GLIs to ensure that the Investigating Committees will perform their duties with fidelity and propriety.

(8) Edict No. 276: Requiring members in good standing to have attended an aggregate of six stated meetings in the year immediately preceding the balloting of petitioners for degrees or for affiliation and lodge election of officers as a pre-requisite to participation in such exercises. The edict seeks to preserve the sanctity of the ballot and maintain harmony within the lodge by preventing brethren, who would suddenly appear after a long inactivity and neglect of their Masonic duties, from casting their votes or ballots and/or committing acts of electioneering.

(9) Edict No. 277: Prescribing additional requirements and instituting new measures in the process of accepting candidates for the degrees of Masonry and providing penalties for violation thereof. This aims to upgrade and maintain the quality of our petitioners and candidates by holding their proposers, endorsers, intenders and mentors liable for their orientation, education and well-being. It also seeks to deter, prevent and penalize all forms of hazing by pinpointing liability to ensure swift sanctions in case of violations.

(10) Edict No. 279: Creating the Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO), defining its powers and functions and appropriating funds therefor. A revolutionary concept in masonry, the creation of the MIAO aims to provide reliefs and remedies against erring and unworthy Master Masons especially in situations wherein the usual Masonic procedures are unavailable to the aggrieved parties. It also intends to institutionalize the official investigative and prosecutorial arm of the Grand Lodge against erring and unworthy members of the Craft, in order to preserve the dignity and protect the reputation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.



(11) Edict No. 280: Creating District and Grand Tribunals, Defining their respective jurisdictions and providing for the applicable rules of procedure to be observed. It is intended to address the problem of undue delays in the disposition of cases by the Trial Commissions; to curtail the insidious effects of lodge politics in deciding cases involving lodge members; to professionalize the Masonic judicial system; and to abbreviate the trial proceedings without sacrificing the requirements of due process.

(12) Edict No. 281: Introduction of the Grand Master as Guest Speaker. The purpose is to shorten and simplify the introduction of the Grand Master during Masonic functions, as he needs no lengthy introductions when speaking before the brethren, thereby enabling the program or activity to proceed without further delays.

(13) Edict No. 282: Amending Edicts 187-B, 268-B, 273, 275, 276, and 277 (MW Rentoy), insofar as their penal provisions are concerned. This edict ensures that, in the determination and imposition of penalties, the severity of the offense is given due consideration and weight and not merely the number of offenses that may have been committed by the respondent.

(14) Edict No 233-P: Restoring certain brethren to membership in the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. This is a clear demonstration that we are always ready to welcome back to our fold our misguided brethren who have subsequently declared and pledged their support and allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

A perfunctory reading of the foregoing issuances would clearly show that all are attuned to the chosen theme

for this Masonic year. Evidently, our Grand Master wishes to demonstrate unequivocally that we, as an organization, are trying our best to accomplish as much as we can, within the limited time allotted to us.

Strong Political Will and Deep Resolve

Only two (2) months into his term, the Grand Master was afforded the opportunity to make manifest his will and resolve to cleanse our own ranks. This was aptly demonstrated in compelling fashion in the case involving a Past Master and the officers of Baliwag Lodge No. 301. The argument of the principal respondent in that case reveals a deep-seated malady and a distorted picture of our beloved Craft. It underscores the need for drastic and forceful reforms – the kind of reforms that we want to see at this time.

In his defense, the principal respondent in that case argued: *“I and my brethren xxx are for the elimination of hazing and ritual malpractices of our Craft. But 25 years of malpractice, which has deeply and strongly taken root,*



cannot be eliminated in just 25 days. Worse, I am a product of this generation. The effect is subliminal than emotional, rising up in the most unexpected moment.” A clear case of using past wrongdoings to justify a present wrongdoing.

The consequent decision to expel the principal respondent and suspend the rest was a clear declaration of the Grand Master’s unyielding position on these matters: In order for us to carry out and follow through on the much-needed reforms, we must be ready, able and willing to slay the dragon of immoral teachings and malpractices as soon as it rears its ugly head, no matter how old or formidable that dragon is!

The Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO)

Shortly after its creation, several cases found their way to the MIAO. Considering that most of the cases are still pending final resolution, the names of respondents will not be mentioned here. *See Figure 1.*

Administrative Issuances

To enable the Grand Master and his Grand Line and District Officers, as well as the Corporate Appointees to perform their assigned tasks more effectively and efficiently, the following circulars have been issued. *See Figure 2.*

Administrative Accomplishments

In less than two (2) months, the following lodges have been constituted. *See Figure 3.*

Similarly, within the same period, the Grand Master has officially held court and dialogued with the following lodges/districts and Masonic Allied Organizations. *See Figure 4.*

Figure 1. Cases before the MIAO

DATE RECEIVED GLP / MIA	NATURE OF CASE	STATUS / REMARKS
n/a (motu proprio)	Violation of Edict 277	Reprimanded
11 Jul 2015 / 22 Jul 2015	Unmasonic Conduct	For resolution as of 28 Sep 2015
03 Jul 2012 / 16 Jul 2015	Unmasonic Conduct	Show Cause Order; For of Answer NLT 29 Sept 2015 (extended deadline)
23 Jun 2015 / 03 Jul 2015	Unmasonic Conduct	Answer received; awaiting Reply from Complainant
n/a (motu proprio)	Unmasonic Conduct (EDSA Heist)	No Answer despite due notice. For resolution as of 28 Sept 2015.
n/a (motu proprio)	Unmasonic Conduct (EDSA Heist)	Answer received. For resolution as of 28 Sept 2015

n/a (motu proprio)	Unmasonic Conduct (Gun-slap-ping)	No Answer despite due notice. For resolution as of 28 Sept 2015.
n/a (motu proprio)	Unmasonic Conduct (Manila Rubout)	No Answer despite due notice. For resolution as of 28 Sept 2015.
19 June 2015 / 24 July 2015	Unmasonic Conduct	Pending.
18 Jun 2015 / 24 July 2015	Unmasonic Conduct	With Answer & Counter-Charge. Pending.
29 July 2015 / 12 Aug 2015	Unmasonic Conduct	With Answer & Counter-Charge. Pending.
28 July 2015 / 12 Aug 2015	Unmasonic Conduct (non-payment of debt)	Remanded to Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147.

Figure 2. Administrative Issuances

GM RENTOY'S CIRCULAR / DATE	SHORT TITLE
No. 1	List of Officers of the GLP for MY 2015-2016.
No. 2	Matters Approved during the ANCOM 2015.
No. 3	Appointment of Chairmen and members of Standing Committees.
No. 3-A	Composition of the Masonic Temple of Harmony.
No. 3-B	Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Members of Special Committees of the Grand Lodge.
No. 3-C	Committee on Foreign Relations and Correspondence.
No. 4	Schedule and Venue of Clustered Mandatory Seminar/Workshop for better understanding and due implementation of the recently approved Edicts and Reform Agenda of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III.
No. 4-A	Change of Schedule for the Seminar/Workshop on the Edicts and Reform Agenda of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III as per Circular No. 4 (Rentoy) to be participated in by Lodges from NCR, MIMAROPA, CALABARZON and Southern Luzon.
No. 5	Mindanao Caravan.
No. 6	Invitation to Bid for Restaurant at the Grand Lodge Compound.
No. 7	Invitation to Bid for Various Projects.
No. 8	Library-in-a-Box Project
No. 9	Celebration of Independence Day.
No. 10	Grand Master's Seal.
No. 11	(not yet issued)

No. 12 (28 May 2015)	Celebration of Shriners International Awareness Week.
No. 13 (02 June 2015)	Guidelines on the Celebration of Independence Day as per Circular No. 9 (MW Rentoy).
No. 14 (03 June 2015)	List of Appointments in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines
No. 15 (15 June 2015)	Extension of Seminar-Workshop on the Issued Edicts of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III.
No. 16 (16 June 2015)	Enjoining All Lodges Under the Jurisdiction of the MWGLFAAM of The Phil. to Assist in the Treatment of Indigent, Physically-Challenged Children
No. 17 (17 June 2015)	Council of Past District Deputy Grand Masters and Past Masters.
No. 18	Order of Expulsion, Suspension, and Reprimand of Brethren for Violation of Edict No. 131 (MW Choa) and Edict 131-A (MW Galvez)

Figure 3. Newly Constituted Lodges

NAME OF LODGE	DATE OF CONSTITUTION
1) Kasiguruhan Lodge No. 423	May 15, 2015
2) Fairway Lodge No. 415	May 22, 2015
3) Muntinlupa Lodge No. 414	May 25, 2015
4) Silang Lodge No. 416	June 1, 2015
5) Talisay Sugbo Lodge No. 422	June 8, 2015
6) Solidarity Lodge No. 421	June 12, 2015
7) Diego Silang Lodge No. 417	June 16, 2015
8) Mt. Palali Lodge No. 420	June 17, 2015
9) Crescent Lodge No. 419	June 19, 2015
10) Siquijor Lodge No. 418	June 20, 2015

Figure 4. Visits and Dialogue

NAME OF LODGE/ORGANIZATION	DATE OF COURTESY CALL
Courtesy Call, Capitol City Lodge No. 174	April 27, 2015
Courtesy Call, Luzon Lodge No. 57	April 29, 2015
Square & Compass We Connect (SCWC)	April 29, 2015
Visit to MW Avelino Razon, PGM with Cosmos Lodge No. 8.	April 29, 2015
Courtesy Call, VW Melvin Mallo, DDGM NCR-A	April 30, 2015
Courtesy Call, Macario Ramos Lodge No. 355	April 30, 2015

Courtesy Call, Masonic Coordinating Council	May 11, 2015
2:30 - Rainbow for Girls 3:00 - DeMolay 3:30 - Job's Daughter 4:00 - Scottish Rite 4:30 - Mabuhay Shriners 5:00 - Royal Order of Scotland 5:30 - Eastern Star	May 11, 2015
Dinner Century Sea Foods with The Masonic Coordinating Council	May 11, 2015
Courtesy Call Dumlao Lodge U.D.	June 5, 2015
Courtesy Call, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of China; Welcome Dinner Grand Master, Grand Lodge of China, Century Seafood Restaurant June 9, 2015	June 9, 2015
Courtesy Call – Grand Court of the Amaranth	June 12, 2015
Courtesy Call Silanganan Lodge No. 19 June 15, 2015	June 15, 2015
Meeting with the GLP Committees @ 3pm	June 22, 2015
Fellowship with the GM	June 26, 2015
Corporate Board Meeting – GLP	July 31, 2015
PGMs & Elected GL Officers Meeting/Presenta- tion of Draft Joint Statement of the GLC and the GLP.	July 31, 2015

Mandatory Seminar Workshops

In order to disseminate and explain the new edicts and circulars, seminar-workshops were held throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. The commitment of the participants to the reform agenda was quite impressive. At the end of each session, they signed a pledge of commitment manifesting their support and adherence to the Grand Master's reforms. The seminar-workshops were held at the following venues:

Aguinaldo Hall, GLP	May 7, 2015
Cabanatuan City	May 9, 2015
Aguinaldo Hall, GLP	May 16, 2015
General Santos City	May 18, 2015
Cagayan De Oro City	May 20, 2015
Zamboanga City	May 23, 2015
Bacolod City	May 30, 2015
Aguinaldo Hall, GLP	June 27, 2015

Local and Overseas Sojourns

To bring the Grand Lodge closer to our brethren in the distant Masonic Districts, the Grand Master embarked on a “Mindanao Caravan” on May 17 to 24, 2015 and “Visayas Caravan” on July 20 to 26, 2015.

The outpouring of support was heart-warming, to say the least. In all of the places visited by the Grand Master, brotherly love and affection were in evident display at all times.

Moreover, to strengthen fraternal ties with other jurisdictions, the Grand Master paid a cour-

tesy call on Most Worshipful William J. Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in the state of New York on July 1, 2015. On the same day he attended the joint special communications of Park Lodge No. 516 and Gramercy Lodge No. 537. The following day in New Jersey on the occasion of Visitation of Most Worshipful Anthony W. Montouri, Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Plaridel Lodge No. 320 hosted an open reception for Most Worshipful Tomas Rentoy III. On July 5, 2015, he attended the 141st Imperial Session of Shriners International in Texas. Two days later he paid a courtesy call on Most Worshipful Russel E. Charvonnica, Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of California.

Other Administrative Activities/Engagements.

ACTIVITY / VENUE	DATE
Visit to MW Avelino I. Razon, PGM, together with brethren of Cosmos Lodge No. 8	April 29, 2015
39 th Annual Session, Amaranth, Gen. Santos City	May 3, 2015
Turnover Ceremony, MD R IV-A, Cavite	May 8, 2015
Turnover Ceremony, MD R III-D, Tarlac	May 9, 2015
Guest of Honor & Speaker, Job's Daughters International, Forest View, Subic Bay Freeport	May 10, 2015
Shriners Ceremonial, Baler, Aurora	May 14 – 15, 2015
Maginoo Shrine Club, Anniversary, QC Sports Club	June 4, 2015
Stated Meeting, Pilar Lodge No. 15, Bacoar Cavite	June 5, 2015
Stated Meeting, Cosmos Lodge No. 8, SRT	June 5, 2015
Guest of Honor & Speaker, 17th Grand Session, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Cagayan de Oro City	June 6, 2015
6th Charter Anniversary, Dr. Sun Yat Sen Lodge No. 398	June 10, 2015
Independence Day Celebrations; Wreath-Laying, at the Luneta Park & GLP	June 12, 2015
Birth Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, Calamba, Laguna	June 19, 2015
Meeting with GLP Committees	June 22, 2015
Meeting with Grand Lodge Officers	
Guest of Honor & Speaker, BIRTH, Inc., Celebrity Sports Club, QC	June 25, 2015
Fellowship with the Grand Master	June 26, 2015
Guest of Honor, Royal Order of Scotland, Heritage Hotel, Pasay City	June 27, 2015

Institution of Gen. Vicente P. Lim U.D.	July 27, 2015
Visitation to the Grand Lodge of California	June 29 – July 12, 2015
Stated Meeting, Makahambus Lodge No. 315, Cagayan de Oro City	July 18, 2015
Corporate Board Meeting - GLP	July 31, 2015 (3pm)
PGMs & Grand Lights Meeting – GLP	July 31, 2015 (6pm)

Summary of the Building Administrator's Report

Building Administration

When the newly appointed Building Administrator (VW Guillermo B. Lazaro, Jr.) assumed office, he was presented with the contract covering the janitorial services. He soon realized that the three (3) janitresses employed under an out-sourcing agreement were unconscionably underpaid, as their agency refused to pay them minimum wage. The Grand Master then authorized the replacement of the agency with a new one which agreed to pay at least minimum wage. This new arrangement took effect last 26 May 2015. The three (3) janitresses were then absorbed by the new agency being operated by a brother, who agreed to advance the expenses for the medical examination of the janitorial staff in order to comply with the requirements of the Department of Labor (DOLE). The work assignments of the janitorial staff were then synchronized with those of the regular staff in charge of maintenance and cleanliness of the GLP premises.

Security Personnel and Facilities

Initial assessment revealed that GLP's security guards were also underpaid. Thus, in consultation with the owners of the agency, this issue was quickly resolved in favor of the guards.

To provide the guards with a more conducive working environment, reconstruction of the old guard-houses is now part of the overall plan for infrastructure rehabilitation of the GLP premises.

Electricals

A comprehensive electrical/energy audit was conducted. It was found out that a number of the air-conditioning units have been tripping quite regularly. When the rains came, water leaked through the walls causing the circuit breakers to get wet and short-circuit. One circuit box had to be condemned and replaced with a new one. The other circuit boxes had to be rehabili-

tated and restored. A maintenance group was enlisted to regularly service and look into the GLP's aircon requirements and concerns. To accomplish these, five (5) new condensers were purchased to rehabilitate the five aircon units instead of buying new and more expensive ones.

Infrastructure

Several infrastructural challenges greeted the new Building Administrator. The roofs were leaking and the ceiling at the East side of the Jose Abad Santos Hall had collapsed due to accumulated seepage. The inside gutters were damaged by the elements. There were visible signs of severe "anay" infestation.

To address these concerns, the roof, ceiling and gutters were repaired. A subterranean treat of the "anay" infestation was undertaken, not only for the main building but for the hostel and museum as well. The Abad Santos Hall is now being repaired and refurbished. The walls in the ground floor have been repainted. The portraits of our Past Grand Masters have been cleaned.

Water System

The water (storage) tank has been cleaned, although it still needs a new stainless steel cover. This is still being addressed and still has to be resolved due to budgetary constraints. An alkaline water generating system has been installed to ensure that everyone, including our rank-and-file personnel have access to clean, potable and healthy drinking water.

Major repairs on the water pipes have been completed. Repairs on the flooring and walls of the comfort rooms are now close to completion.

Lighting

Initial assessment showed that GLP's electrical consumption ranges between P130,000.00 to almost P200,000.00 per month. Thus, the need to find ways to

bring down GLP's electrical consumption. An interesting suggestion is to shift to LED lighting. Also, close monitoring of aircon usage is in order.

Insurance.

No coverage at all. The present administration is now in the process of looking for the best offer or proposal.

Offices.

At present, it is only the Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO) which has no assigned office yet. The corporate appointees are making full use of the Centennial Room in the meantime.

Restaurant/Dining Area.

In compliance with Edict No. 187-B (MW Rentoy) - identifying and designating fellowship areas - the operation of the "Solidaridad Restobar" was bidden out. The winning bidder was required to put up a security bond of P300,000.00 pesos. At present, the "Solidaridad" is fully operational.

Minor Works.

Several picture frames of Past Grand Masters have been replaced; additional trash cans have been purchased and deployed; cleanliness at the Juan Luna grounds is being maintained; and the Grand Lodge Seal and the Square & Compasses on the façade of the Plaridel Masonic Temple have been cleaned and repainted.

ISO Certification

The process of obtaining an ISO Certification is on-going. It is expected to be completed before the term of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III ends. ISO stands for: International Organization for Standardization. Once the processes and services of the GLP are certified, it will mean that it has been independently audited to ensure that its processes, services, and operations are fit for their purposes/s and that its customers/members can be sure of dependable, reliable and up-to-par operations and delivery of core services.

Resolution of the GGOKCS Issue with the Grand Lodge of California.

For the last six (6) years, 2009 to 2014, the ticklish issue between the Grand Lodge of California (GLC) and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP), regarding the Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent (GGOKCS) or "Snakes" remained unresolved. This issue was like a ticking time bomb, which could have serious repercussions on the amity relations between the two Grand Lodges.

Finally, within the first 100 days of the term of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, that issue was positively addressed. At present, that ticking time bomb has effectively been diffused with the submission of a draft Joint Statement by the two Grand Lodges (actually, a re-drafting and re-wording of an original draft prepared way back in 2013), and the drafting of Edict 259-A. Both drafts of the Joint Statement* and Edict 259-A have been forwarded to the GLC for comments. The reaction of the GLC has been positive and quite reassuring. Except for "minor matters" the GLC has practically accepted the drafts submitted by the GLP.

Thus, it will be safe to say that the "Snakes" issue and the "crisis of confidence" between the GLP and GLC have been satisfactorily resolved without causing undue prejudice to the GLP's sovereignty or undue bias against any of the existing Masonic Allied Organizations in our Grand Jurisdiction.

Overall Assessment

From an impartial observer's point of view, the accomplishments of the present administration within the first 100 days of its term, vis-à-vis the Grand Master's reform agenda and his theme for this Masonic Year can be justifiably described as "Ahead of Schedule".

The seeds of genuine and sweeping reforms have been planted. They continue to germinate and grow, slowly but surely. It matters not if we do not see them blossom and bear fruit during this term. What matters is that they have been planted; that they are being nurtured; and that they will be maintained and strengthened during the most precarious stages of their growth.

All of the above accomplishments could not have been achieved without the inspired labors of the brethren and the blessings and inspiration of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Many more projects and activities are in the horizon. Several of them formidable and with seemingly insurmountable obstacles strewn along the way. MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, however, remains unfazed. After all, with the undying loyalty and support of the brethren, and the omnipresent guidance and inspiration from the Great Architect of the Universe, we can be sure that Philippine Freemasonry is facing the right direction. Thus, to borrow the words of Joseph Goldstein (The Experience of Insight) or the words of Buddha (as others may prefer):

“Some progress quickly with a lot of pain and others progress quickly with a lot of pleasure. It very much depends on our past accumulations of karma, how developed our spiritual faculties of mind already are. But if we’re facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking. If it takes a year, or sixty years, or five lifetimes, as long as we’re heading towards light, that’s all that matters.”

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and inspire us always in all our undertakings!

* At present, the Joint Statement has been signed by both parties and Edict 259-A (MW Rentoy) has also been issued by the GLP. A seminar is to be conducted on 02 October 2015, at the Aguinaldo Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple for the purpose of enlightening the various Allied Masonic Organizations (thru their Presidents and Secretaries or Authorized Representatives) on the historical background and rationale of the Joint Statement and Edict 259-A (MW Rentoy).

MASONIC EDUCATION

EDICT NO. 279 (MW Rentoy)

Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO)

By VW Caesar M. Ortega, GH

- Addressing the procedural weaknesses in the administration of Masonic Justice.
- Powers and functions of the MIAO.
- The MIAO Organization; role of GLIs.

On the occasion of the 96th ANCOM at Naga City in 2012, where MW Tomas G. Rentoy III was elected to the position of Junior Grand Warden, he had the opportunity to present his three reform agenda, i.e., (1) Guarding the West Gate (from without and from within: by improving the quality of our petitioners and candidates; and by weeding out unworthy brethren); (2) Guarding the Lamp (professionalization and rolling out of IMES to regional centers, making it free and accessible; and conducting both financial and performance audits, on a regular basis); and (3) Guarding the Ballot (Electoral Reforms).

This edict focuses on the first reform agendum, i.e., Guarding the West Gate (from within). It complements the Edict on Masonic Tribunals. Both, together with existing edicts, rules and regulations, are expected to provide the necessary legal and Masonic bases in effectively weeding out erring brethren who bring dishonor and disrepute to the craft and cause disharmony

among the brethren.

A careful reading of the existing rules on Charges, Trials and Procedures under Article XVIII, Part II (Ordinances) of the Masonic Law Book (MLB) will show that it is not easy to file charges against erring brethren especially against Masters, Past Masters and incumbent or past officers of the Grand Lodge. Likewise, aggrieved spouses, children, parents and relatives of Master Masons have no direct recourse against erring brethren, thereby depriving them of the opportunity to seek redress of their grievances. Clearly, our existing rules have unduly discouraged truly aggrieved parties from filing and pursuing legitimate complaints against erring brethren, thereby resulting in, either the non-filing, or the undeserved dismissal, of such cases. Consequently, even serious Masonic offenses go unpunished, to the damage and prejudice of aggrieved brethren, Masonic families and, ultimately, the Craft.

Unworthy brethren continue to commit serious offenses with impunity due to these weaknesses in our

Masonic rules of procedure governing the filing of complaints or preferment of charges against members of the Craft. Indeed, we have reached a point where radical and far-reaching reforms have become absolutely necessary. Through the creation of the MIAO, it is expected that the perceived flaws and weaknesses in our system will be rectified for the sake of our ancient and honorable institution. The salient points of this Edict are:

1. Functions of the MIAO:

- a. Receive complaints against Master Masons for violation of the Constitution, Edicts, Laws and Regulations and other issuances of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines;
- b. Investigate complaints and gather evidence in support of the investigation and compel attendance of brethren (as parties or witnesses) and submission of documents through the issuance of subpoena;
- c. Recommend the suspension of a brother who defies the subpoena/s issued by the MIAO;
- d. Conduct summary hearings on members facing the charges;
- e. Create and deputize investigating and/or fact-finding teams as may be necessary to accomplish its objectives;
- f. File appropriate charges before the appropriate Masonic tribunal against Master Masons as evidence warrants and assist in the prosecution of the case;
- g. Submit periodic reports to the Grand Master on the progress of these investigations and recommend measures for the improvement of its operations.
- h. Ascertain faithful compliance by subordinate lodges with the requisite lodge furniture, implements, regalia and other lodge accoutrements;
- i. Ensure proper observance of dress code during and stated and special meetings, proper demeanor and decorum of brethren thereat and other Masonic functions; and
- j. Perform such other related functions as directed by the Grand Master;

2. The MIAO may entertain oral or written charges against Master Masons and may act on the same notwithstanding

the anonymity of the complainant. Likewise, it may, *motu proprio*, conduct investigations and, if warranted, file and prosecute cases of the following nature:

- a. Incidents where the controversy involving a Master Mason has been publicized in the quad-media (television, print, radio and social networks);
- b. Wanton and patent violation of the Constitution, Edicts, Laws and Regulations and Masonic monitorial obligations;
- c. Such other incidents analogous to the foregoing; and
- d. All other cases or incidents not falling under any of the above classifications may be filed through the MIAO or directly with the District/Grand Tribunal having jurisdiction, at the option of the complainant.

3. The MIAO, through the Inspector General, shall have the power and authority to preventively suspend from office any respondent under investigation, who is an incumbent Lodge Officer, incumbent Grand Lodge Officer, any corporate appointee and Grand Lodge employee (subject to existing laws), for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days. After the lapse of said period, the preventive suspension shall be automatically lifted whether or not the MIAO has concluded its investigation.

4. Organization/Composition of the MIAO. – It shall be headed by an Inspector General who shall be assisted by one (1) Overall Deputy Inspector General, and five (5) Deputy Inspectors General, one each for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, Overseas and the National Capital Region (NCR). In addition to their existing powers, functions and duties, all Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLI) shall also be under the functional control and jurisdiction of the Inspector General insofar as it relates to the MIAO's powers and functions. Thus, the GLIs shall act as the MIAO's official representatives in the Subordinate Lodges.

5. The Inspector General must be member in good standing of the Philippine Bar, without any derogatory records. He shall be appointed by the Grand Master to serve at his pleasure or until his successor is appointed by the next Grand Master, and duly qualified. To ensure continuity of operation and facilitate transition, the Overall Deputy Inspector General, who shall have the same qualifications as the Inspector General, shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The five (5) Deputy Inspectors General shall, preferably, be members in good standing of the Philippine Bar, without any derogatory record, shall be ap-

pointed by the Grand Master to serve at his pleasure or until their successor are appointed and qualified by the next Grand Master.

6. Brethren in good standing and with no derogatory records may become part of the MIAO organization, anonymously or otherwise, in order to ensure the security of its volunteers against any form of retaliation or harassment from respondent masons.

7. Recommendations coming from the GLIs for the filing of unmasonic charges shall be subject to review and approval of the Inspector General, whose decisions shall not be appealable. However, the Grand Master, in the exercise of his residual powers and sound discretion, may review, revise, reverse, modify or affirm the decisions or resolutions of the Inspector General, *motu proprio* or upon petition of any aggrieved party.

8. Complaints against the Overall Deputy Inspector General, Deputy Inspectors General and Grand Lodge Inspectors, in the exercise of MIAO functions, or any of its personnel, shall be brought to the Inspector General's Office. A complaint against the Inspector General shall be brought to the Grand Master.

In any organization, the success of any reform measure would largely depend on the cooperation of its members. Their refusal or inability to subject themselves to self-regulation will render nugatory any attempt at reforms.

Giving our all-out support to the MIAO would, certainly, be a step in the right direction if we want to succeed in this great and important undertaking of cleansing our own ranks. This, in turn, would be a remarkable milestone in the process of accomplishing the first reform agenda of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, i.e., "Guarding the West Gate"!

Brethren, let us regard these reform measures not as undue restrictions, but rather, as golden opportunities to bring back the luster and glory of our revered Fraternity. Let it not be said that we did nothing when presented with the rare chance of being a part of a major effort to achieve much desired reforms in our ancient and honorable institution.

Filibusterers speak when they ought to be quiet; and remain quiet when they ought to speak.

But we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to speak when we ought to speak; and act when we ought to act. The time to act has come!

EDICT NO. 280 (MW Rentoy) Masonic Tribunals (MTs)

- The necessity of creating Masonic Tribunals.
- Jurisdiction; Summary Procedure.

This edict is geared towards the first reform agenda, i.e., Guarding the West Gate, not from without, but from within. It is hoped that this Edict and Edict No. 279 (MW Rentoy), creating the Masonic Internal Affairs Office (MIAO), together with existing Masonic laws, rules and regulations, would facilitate and effectively implement the weeding-out of erring brethren who bring dishonor and disrepute to the Craft and cause disharmony among the brethren.

Salient points of Edict No. 280 (MW Rentoy), creating the Masonic Tribunals:
District Tribunals. - The District Tribunal (DT) either

replaces or complements the Trial Commission, depending on whether a particular case is taken cognizance of by a Subordinate Lodge and whether the applicable reglementary periods are strictly observed by the Lodge or Trial Commission. The DT was created as a viable substitute for the Trial Commission, which is lodge-based and susceptible to lodge politics, patronage and undue pressure.

Every DT shall be composed of three (3) District Magistrates (DM) who shall be members of the Craft, with recognized probity and independence, well-acquainted with the Masonic Law Book, Edicts, Circulars and other rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of the Philip-

piners, and must be Master Masons in good standing for a consecutive period of at least five (5) years prior to their appointment as DMs. Each DT shall be headed by a Presiding Magistrate who shall be a member in good standing of the Philippine Bar.

The Grand Master shall appoint the DMs and Presiding Magistrate in each District. The appointment shall state whether a particular District Magistrate is being appointed as a member or as the Presiding Magistrate of a particular DT.

The DMs and Presiding DMs shall have a term of three (3) years. Provided, that of those first appointed, one DM shall have a term of three (3) years, the second shall have a term of two (2) years and the third shall have a term of one (1) year. Thereafter, all appointments or reappointments shall be for a term of three (3) years. The Grand Master shall have the sole prerogative of determining who among the three (including the Presiding DM) shall have the initial 1-year, 2-year and 3-year terms.

Jurisdiction of District Tribunals. - The DT shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over cases wherein the following conditions concur:

- (a) NONE of the parties involved holds the rank of District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) or Past DDGM or higher; and
- (b) Either or both of the complainant or respondent, or any of the complainants or respondents is a regular or plural member of any of the subordinate lodges belonging to the Masonic District where the DT is assigned.

As regards venue, a particular case shall be heard and decided by the DT exercising jurisdiction over the place where the offense was committed.

The decision of the DT shall be appealable to the Grand Tribunal (GT), by way of Notice of Appeal duly filed with the DT which rendered the decision, within five (5) calendar days from receipt of such decision. No motion for reconsideration or application for similar reliefs shall be entertained. If one is filed, the same shall be treated as an appeal.

Jurisdiction of Subordinate Lodges. - Notwithstanding the provisions on the jurisdiction and authority of the DTs, a Subordinate Lodge, through its Worshipful Master or Secretary, in the exercise of its inherent right to

discipline its own members, may opt to acquire jurisdiction over a case involving its regular members by officially informing the DT where the case is pending, of its decision to take cognizance of the case. However, a Lodge shall have no right to assume jurisdiction over cases involving its regular member who holds the rank of Worshipful Master or Past Master or when there are other parties who are regular members of other lodges. This is so because the right to discipline Masters and Past Masters belongs to the Grand Lodge; and members of other lodges are not subject to the inherent right of a lodge to discipline its own members.

In cases where a Lodge opts to take cognizance of a case, the existing provisions governing the creation and functions of the Trial Commission shall apply. However, the proceedings before the Trial Commission shall be strictly time-bound, such that, the non-observance of the applicable reglementary periods shall, ipso facto, terminate the authority and jurisdiction of the Lodge/Trial Commission to handle the case on the ground of undue delay. Thus, although a lodge, through the Trial Commission, is allowed to exercise jurisdiction over a case involving its own members, it cannot sit on the case indefinitely or unduly delay the disposition thereof. Any undue delay shall strip the lodge or Trial Commission of its authority to continue hearing the case.

Grand Tribunal. - The Grand Tribunal (GT) shall be composed of twelve (12) Master Masons and shall be called Grand Magistrates. The GT shall sit in, at least, four (4) Divisions, with three (3) members per Division. One Division shall each be stationed in the following locations: Luzon (Luzon Division), Visayas (Visayas Division), Mindanao (Mindanao Division), and NCR (NCR Division). The GT shall sit in divisions and shall not sit en banc, except for ceremonial purposes only, as determined by the Grand Master. A vote of at least two (2) Magistrates shall constitute the judgment of the Tribunal.

The Grand Magistrates shall have the following qualifications: (a) At least 2 of the Grand Magistrates shall be members of the Philippine Bar in good standing, (b) A member of the Craft with recognized probity and independence, well-acquainted with the Masonic Law Book, Edicts, Circulars and other rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and (c) A Master Mason in good standing for a period of at least seven (7) years immediately preceding his appointment, as certified to by the Office of the Grand Secretary. The Presiding Grand Magistrate must also be a member of the Philippine Bar in good standing.

The Grand Magistrates shall have a term of three (3) years. The first appointees in each Division shall have a staggered term of 3 years, 2 years, and 1 year, similar to District Magistrates.

Jurisdiction of the Grand Tribunal. – The Divisions of the Grand Tribunal shall exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over cases wherein any of the parties involved is a DDGM or PDDGM, or higher. Each of its Divisions shall have appellate jurisdiction over cases decided by the District Tribunals belonging to their respective territorial jurisdictions (i.e., Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, or NCR). The NCR Division shall have Special Exclusive Original Jurisdiction over cases involving Grand Lodge employees who are non-masons, whether as complainants or respondents, without prejudice to existing laws. It shall also take cognizance of cases filed by overseas lodges under the jurisdiction of the GLP.

Decisions of the Grand Tribunal shall be subject to automatic review by the Grand Master. No motion for reconsideration or application for similar relief shall be entertained.

This edict shall govern all cases involving Masonic disputes under Article XVIII (on Charges, Trials and Procedures) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, EXCEPT (a) and (b) thereof, pertaining to charges preferred against the Grand Master and Incumbent or Past Elective Grand Lodge Officers other than the Grand Master.

Summary Proceedings. – Proceedings before the DTs and GTs shall be SUMMARY in nature. After the filing of the complaint and Answer, the parties shall be required to submit Position Papers, attaching thereto all supporting documents and affidavits of witnesses. The tribunal shall have 15 days to render its decision, unless it decides to conduct clarificatory hearings, in which case, it shall do so within a period of 15 days only. Thereafter, it shall render its decision within 15 days from the termination of the clarificatory hearings.

Reversal of decisions by the Grand Master. – A decision of the GT imposing a penalty may be reversed by the Grand Master, either on the merits or by the exercise of executive clemency. If the reversal is based on the merits of the case, the respondent shall be restored to all his rights and privileges prior to the imposition of the penalty. In other words, it would be as if no case was filed against him. However, if the reversal is due to executive clemency alone, the re-

spondent shall re-acquire his rights and privileges but the same shall take effect prospectively. Thus, if the penalty imposed is expulsion and the same is reversed by the Grand Master by reason of executive clemency alone, the respondent shall be considered unaffiliated on the ground that the lodge that expelled him (due to valid grounds) should not be compelled to take him back.

All the edicts regarding the mandatory referral to the Temple of Harmony shall be strictly observed. Thus, if the parties to a case have not yet undergone the mandatory alternative dispute resolution or conciliation, the tribunal concerned shall refer the case to the appropriate Temple of Harmony for appropriate action, pursuant to Edict Nos. 82 (MW Puno), 82-A (MW Galvez), 82-B (MW Pagotan), 82-C (MW Aniag) and 82-D (MW Razon). The Temple of Harmony concerned shall then be asked to submit its report or certification within thirty (30) days from the time the parties are notified of the referral.

In the event the referral to the Temple of Harmony has become impossible or impractical, as determined by the tribunal concerned, the latter shall conduct the mandatory dispute resolution by itself. The decisions of the tribunals shall not be executory pending appeal, except where the penalty imposed is merely Reprimand in Open Lodge, in which case, the losing party shall have NO RIGHT TO APPEAL, as such decision is deemed final and immediately executory.

All offenses cognizable by the Masonic Tribunals shall prescribe in four (4) years from the time of their commission. However, in cases where the offense was belatedly discovered by the aggrieved party, the 4-year period shall be counted from the time of discovery thereof.

All cases that are pending at the time of effectivity of this edict shall continue to be governed by the old rules. However, the Trial Commissions must terminate all pending cases within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this edict, which is understood to be the date when this edict is read in open lodge. Thus, the effectivity may vary from lodge to lodge, depending on the date of the Stated Meeting when this edict is read, or should have been read, in open lodge.

In the event a Trial Commission fails to terminate its pending cases within the allotted time, the cases shall be turned over to the appropriate tribunal, without prejudice to any disciplinary action that may be imposed by the Grand Master.

Through this edict and other related reform measures, it is expected that the undue delays and weaknesses in the administration of Masonic justice would be sufficiently addressed. It is hoped that the brethren will give their all-out support to these reforms for the sake of our beloved Craft. To be sure, not all of the brethren would sing praises to this edict, as the aforesaid undue delays and weaknesses will benefit some of us, especially those who are facing valid charges. However, if the vast majority of worthy brethren do not find the will and moral courage to start cleansing our own ranks RIGHT NOW, we may never find another opportunity to do so. The greatest obstacle to reforms is apathy and callousness.

To paraphrase a well-known quotation: *"All that is needed for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing."*

Primer on Edict 275

FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE GUARD OF THE WEST GATE BY PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES TO THE GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Q: What is the objective of the edict?

A: The edict has two-fold purposes:

- a) To serve as an additional measure in guarding the West Gate. As indicated in the whereas clause of the edict, the Committee on Investigation plays an essential role as actual guardians of the portals of freemasonry. As the actual guardians (watchdogs) of our portals (West Gate), those selected by the Master must constantly guard against a tendency toward carelessness.
- b) To serve as a check and balance on the Committee on Investigation in the preparation of their report. That is, to see to it that the Committee on Investigation is doing its job well in coming up with a fair and thorough investigation of the petitioner/candidate;

Q: What are the matters that must be contained in the report of the Committee on Investigation?

A: The report must contain details on the qualifications

as provided for under Art. VI, Part of the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. A petitioner for the degrees of masonry must be:

- a) A man;
- b) At least twenty one (21) years old at the time of signing the petition (Sec. 1);
- c) Freeborn (Sec. 1);
- d) A believer of God and of future existence (Sec. 1);
- e) Of good moral character (Sec. 1);
- f) Literate and physically able to conform substantially to what the several degrees require of him (Sec. 1);
- g) Has made adequate provision for himself and for his family in case of death (Sec. 1);
- h) A resident within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge for at least twelve (12) months immediately before petitioning and within the jurisdiction of the lodge for at least six (6) months (Sec. 2);

Provided, that no lodge shall accept a petition of:

- a) a person whose petition has been rejected by another lodge (Sec. 4);
- b) a person who within the preceding twelve (12) months has been rejected by the lodge except by dispensation of the Grand Master. The request for dispensation must be unanimously approved by the lodge at a meeting of which the members shall have due notice (Sec. 5);
- c) a person rejected by a lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction (Sec. 6);

Further, Edict 60, as amended, provides the Investigating Committee some questions to guide them in the conduct of their investigations:

A. To the proposers:

- a) How long have you known the candidate?
- b) Do you meet him often?
 - 1) In your home?
 - 2) In his home?
 - 3) At his work?
 - 4) Socially?
- c) Would you be prepared to welcome him into your family as an intimate friend?
- d) What reasons have you for thinking Freemasonry will interest him?
- e) Have you always found him upright and Honorable?
- f) Do you consider him in every respect a suitable and desirable person for admission to the Craft?
- g) Have you informed him that membership of

the Craft and of a particular lodge means personal effort on his part in the service of the Lodge and of the Community?

- h) Have you informed him of his financial obligations to the Craft and its benevolent funds?
- i) Are his usual companions decent people?
- j) Has he ever to your knowledge, been convicted of a crime or offense?
- k) Has he lived or have been employed in the jurisdiction of the Lodge throughout the past three (3) years?
- l) Is he likely to be a permanent resident in the district?
- m) Would his home or business circumstances make it difficult for him to attend regularly at Lodge meetings?

B. To the Candidate:

- a) Have you discussed your seeking membership in Freemasonry with your wife and family? How do they react? (If unfavorable, report to Master)
- b) Are you prepared to live an upright life, to be a good man and strictly to obey the moral law?
- c) Have you been pressed to join the Craft?
- d) What are your reasons for seeking to become a Freemason?
- e) Are you aware that Masonic Lodges are not benefit societies?
- f) Are you also aware that they are not merely Clubs, but that they give men an opportunity of giving personal service to help those among whom they live?
- g) Are you prepared to devote annually a part of your income to our various charities?
- h) Do you undertake to attend your Lodge regularly and fulfill your obligations to it, financial and personal?

On the other hand, some discussions found in Masonic Demeanor and Proper Decorum in Lodge Meetings is enlightening:

1. When visiting the candidate at his home, the Committee should first determine his family's attitude towards his desire to join the Masonic Order. If there is serious opposition to his joining, which cannot be overcome by the Committee and there is very likelihood that his membership in the Fraternity would cause internal family strife, the petition should be rejected.
2. Ascertain whether the petitioner's home surroundings are much as to permit him financially to continue his membership without depriving his family of the

essentials of life.

While a man's financial circumstances or his educational background ought not bar him from participating in Masonic privileges or render him unwelcome in the Craft, his standard of living may be so different from those of the other members as to make him uncomfortable in their presence. On the other hand, it must be remembered that Masonry makes no distinction between the rich and the poor that men are judged strictly by their moral and spiritual worth. Moreover, the Fraternity does not insure its members against vicissitudes of old age, nor does it promise sick or death benefits or any kind. This should be impressed upon the petitioner, together with the fact that Masonry confines the matter of individual relief only to those cases, where in spite of all the efforts of a brother or his family to maintain their economic status, financial relief becomes a necessity.

1. The Committee should determine how long the petitioner has been acquainted with his proposer. If the acquaintanceship has been but a brief one, it is all the more reason why the Committee should make a thorough search of the petitioner's background. Reference should be carefully checked, as well as business affiliations. This, of course, should be handled in a discreet manner, especially if questions are directed to non-Masons who may not be favorably disposed toward the institution. In such cases, much harm may be done the petitioner if it becomes known to these people that he intends to join the Masonic Order.
2. Ascertain the petitioner's motive for wanting to become a Mason and what is his concept of the fraternity. Of course, one who is new to the Order may not be expected to offer a concise opinion, but he should have at least some ideas of the type of organization he is expecting to join. It is the Committee's duty to make clear to him that Masonry is not a social club but an institution engaged in the moral and spiritual building of character, based on Brotherly Love, good fellowship and friendliness.
3. Is the Petitioner charitable by nature? Does he contribute to needy causes as his finances permit? Also, is he charitable in thought and actions toward his fellowmen? Is he bigoted or prejudiced? All these questions discreetly put will help to bring out the natural character of the man.
4. Is he prompt in meeting his financial obligations and honorable in his business dealings with others? Can he afford to become a Mason? The answers to the first two questions can be obtained by investigating his references, both business and personal. As to

whether he can afford to become a Mason, this can be determined by the Committee by pointing out that no man should join the Masonic Order if he must deprive his family of the necessities of life. Naturally, no Lodge wishes to cause hardship for others nor handicap itself by adding to its roll men who are apt to become financial liabilities.

5. Does the petitioner realize that membership in a Lodge calls for the payment of annual dues and that these are to be met promptly? Along with these questions, the Committee might also ascertain what if any, provisions he has made for his family, money-wise should he die or become disabled.
6. Does his occupation permit him to attend meetings regularly? Is he the type of person who will educate himself by a more extensive study of Masonry besides that required in the standard work? Does he give the impression that he will live Masonry and bring into practice during his daily life the principles and tenets of the Order? The answers to such questions are bound to help the Committee to discover whether or not the applicant will strengthen the Fraternity.
7. Does the petitioner believe in a Supreme Being? Does he attend a church? A belief in the existence of Deity is one of the Landmarks of the Order and is an essential qualification of every candidate. While Masonry does not require a man to adhere to any particular creed or religion he must believe in God and in the immortality of the soul. In recent years, the rise of Communism with its pagan and materialistic philosophy, its denial of the Creator and its repudiation of human rights, has made it doubly necessary for Masons to guard against it among the membership and those who seek admission.
8. Is his desire to become a Mason a voluntary action or due to improper solicitation of some friend? Although, it is wholly proper to point out the advantages of Masonry in response to an inquiry, any action taken by the person who evinces interest in the Order should be in obedience to his own wish and actuated by worthy motives.

The following pointers were taken from the Officer's Manual of the Grand Lodge, F & A.M. of the State of Ohio (as quoted in the Masonic Demeanor):

1. Don't overlook any references – the last one may be the one needed.
2. Masonry owes an applicant nothing. If there is a

doubt, Masonry and the Lodge should be given the benefit of it.

- Find out whether the petitioner will strengthen the Fraternity. It is not enough that "he is as good as some other" Masons. It is often better to lose one candidate than to gain one who adds nothing.
- Ask yourself if the applicant would be accepted as an intimate in the home of your members.
- Make final decision objectively - based upon facts, don't let sentiments and emotion unduly influence it.
- Freemasonry's main function is to make good men better – it is not obligated to save sinners.
- Investigations should be so conducted that even if rejected, the applicant gains a higher respect for the Fraternity.

In addition, the report should indicate compliance with the required clearances and other documentary requirements as provided for under Edict 277 (Rentoy).

Q: Who has the power to examine the report of the Committee on Investigation?

A: The power to examine the report is primarily vested in the Master of the Lodge. However, in instances that the Master has already approved and accepted the report of the Committee on Investigation, the Grand Lodge Inspector shall have the power to examine and scrutinize said report for the sole purpose of determining whether or not the same has substantially complied with the requirements of the Constitution and other relevant Edicts such as Edicts 60 (Tria) and Edict 277 (Rentoy), among others.

Q: Is the Grand Lodge Inspector entitled to know the identities of the members of the Committee on Investigation?

A: No. As provided for in Section 1 thereof, the respective identities of the Committee on Investigation shall remain confidential even to the Grand Lodge Inspector.

Q: Can the Master of the Lodge return the said report to the Investigating Committee even without first furnishing a copy of the report to the Grand Lodge Inspector as required?

A: Yes, by express provision of the Edict, as provided for in the last sentence of Section 1. That is an instance when the Master of the Lodge rejects the investigation report and is returning the same to the member/s for the purpose of enhancement and/or improvement.

Q: Is there a redundancy on GLI's power to review the report considering that the Master of the Lodge likewise possesses such power?

A: There is no redundancy. As previously explained, the power of the Grand Lodge Inspector to review the report of the Committee on Investigation is without prejudice to the power of the Master to reject and return the report to the committee where it originated for enhancement/

improvement. Only in an instance where the Master has accepted the report, that the power of the Grand Lodges Inspector to review the report begins.

Q: Distinguish the power of review as exercised by the Master from the power of review as exercised by the Grand Lodge Inspector?

A: The following are the distinctions (*see fig. 1*)

Figure 1

Attribute	Master of the Lodge	Grand Lodge Inspector
Who submits the report?	Committee on Investigation	Master of the Lodge
When to exercise power of review?	Upon submission by the Committee on Investigation	Upon submission by the Master of the Lodge
Knowledge of the identity of the Committee on Investigation.	Has knowledge. In fact, the Master appoints them ad hoc	Has no knowledge of the identity of the Committee on Investigation
Duty in case of acceptance of the report.	Furnish copy to the GLI for review/ evaluation, without disclosing the identities of the members	Submit an attestation /certification of "substantial compliance" to the Master
Duty in case of denial/rejection	In case of denial by the GLI, Master has to return the report to the committee concerned for re-examination/ re-investigation	Qualify. - In case the Master rejects the report submitted by the committee – no duty and/or discretion; - In case the Master rejects his comment / recommendation or attestation/certification, may report the matter to the DDGM, MIAO, or exert other legal measures

Q: What is the content of the attestation/certification in case the GLI approves the report?

A: As provided for under 2nd paragraph, Section 2 thereof, the GLI has to attest or certify that "he has reviewed the report and the same has substantially complied with the requirements of the Constitution and relevant Edicts and rules relating to the investigation of a Petitioner/ Candidate".

Q: Is there a prescribed period within which the Grand Lodge Inspector may review the report?

A: As provided for under Section 3, the review, assessment and/or evaluation shall be made within the seven (7) days from the date of the receipt of the report. Hence, within the said period, the GLI has to communicate and submit his denial/rejection of the report or the attestation/ certification as the case may be.

Q: Can the Master of the Lodge or the lodge itself authorize the balloting of a petitioner/candidate without the requisite attestation/ certification from the Grand Lodge Inspector?

A: The General Rule is No, by express provision under 2nd paragraph, Section 2, which states that "Provided, that no

petitioner/candidate shall be balloted unless the Grand Lodge Inspector has made an attestation/ certification...”

However, in a situation where the GLI fails to submit the report within the prescribed period, and the Investigating Committee report is favorable, the Master of the Lodge may ask for the approval (dispensation) from the District Deputy Grand Master to proceed with the balloting. This is without prejudice to the liability of the GLI for his neglect as provided for under Sec. 6 (d) of the Edict;

Q: What happens when the GLI fails to communicate his review to the Master within the prescribed period?

A: The following are the effects:

- a) The GLI shall be administratively liable as provided for under Sec. 6 (d);
- b) In case of a favorable report of the Investigating Committee, the Master may ask for the approval (dispensation) to the DDGM to proceed with the balloting

Q: In case the GLI rejects/denies the report within the prescribed period, what shall be done?

A: Section 5 provides for the procedure in case of denial of the report by the GLI, as follows:

- a) In the event that the report has failed to substantially comply with the Constitution and relevant Edicts on the petition, he shall make an appropriate notation and/or comment thereon indicating the deficiency/ deficiencies and shall return the same to the Master of the Lodge;
- b) The Master of the Lodge, upon receipt of the report with a notation/ recommendation of the Grand Lodge Inspector that the same is not compliant, shall return the same to the Committee on Investigation and shall advise them to enhance their investigation and/or report within a prescribed period as may be determined by the Master of the Lodge;

Q: Does Edict 275 limit the powers of the Master and the Investigating Committee (IC), through the GLI?

A: No. The GLI does not limit or encroach upon the powers of the Master or the IC. The GLI, as the representative of the Grand Master, only seeks to ensure that the WM and the IC perform their duties in accordance with existing edicts, rules and regulations. The edict does not impose additional duties on the WM or the IC. It merely seeks to ensure that they perform their EXISTING duties and

functions properly and in accordance with existing rules, by way of specific procedures.

Q: What are considered prohibited acts under this Edict?

A: Sec. 6 provides for the following prohibited acts, to wit:

- a) Failure or refusal of the Grand Lodge Inspector to perform his additional duty under this Edict;
- b) Abuse of power on the part of the Grand Lodge Inspector in disapproving, rejecting or denying the investigation report without proper basis;
- c) Neglect, recklessness or want of care on the part of the Grand Lodge Inspector in approving, attesting or certifying that the Investigation Report has substantially complied with the requirements of the Constitution and other relevant Edicts;
- d) Failure on the part of the Grand Lodge Inspector to submit his denial/ rejection or attestation/ certification within the prescribed period; Provided, that in such case of delay on the part of GLI and with a favorable report of the Investigation Committee on the petition, the Master may ask the approval (dispensation) of the District Deputy Grand Master to proceed with the balloting notwithstanding the lack of the requisite attestation/certification.
- e) Failure or refusal on the part of the Worshipful Master to constitute the Committee on Investigation;
- f) Failure or refusal on the part of the Worshipful Master to furnish the Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI) with the Investigation Report or disregarding the findings of the Grand Lodge Inspector without sufficient basis;
- g) Violation of the confidentiality rule on the identities of the members of the Committee on Investigation;
- h) Refusal on the part of any member of the Investigation Committee to conduct a re-examination and/or re-investigation of the petitioner/ candidate despite being ordered to do so by the Worshipful Master.
- i) Violation of the confidentiality of the Investigation Report by any member of the Craft.

Q: What is the repercussion for violation of this edict?

A: Any violation of this edict shall, after due notice and proper proceedings be punishable with a penalty ranging from Reprimand in Open Lodge, Suspension or Expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense and the attendance of modifying circumstances, if any.

Q: What is the impact of this Edict to Edict 277, which provides for “Four (4) Meeting Rule on the petitioner?”

A: It is submitted that insofar as the Investigating Committee Members, they are deemed exempted from the coverage of Edict 277 on the “Four Meeting Rule”, provided that they are in the actual performance of their duty as Investigation Committee Member.

Edict 277, despite having a higher Edict number, has not repealed relevant provisions of Edict 275 based on the following reasons:

1. Implied repeal is disfavor;
2. Both Edict was signed and issued on the same date (25 April 2015);
3. Edict 277 was even mentioned in Edict 275. Thus, the Grand Master has taken into account the provisions of the subject edicts.

Q: When did Edict No. 275 take effect?

A: Immediately after it is read in open Lodge following its receipt .

Primer on Edict 276

REQUIRING MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING
TO HAVE ATTENDED AN AGGREGATE OF SIX
STATED MEETINGS IN THE YEAR IMMEDIATELY
PRECEDING THE BALLOTING OF PETITIONERS
FOR DEGREES OR AFFILIATION AND LODGE
ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO BE ABLE TO
PARTICIPATE IN SAID EXERCISE

Q: What is Edict 276?

A: This Edict requires members in good standing to have attended an aggregate number of six (6) stated meetings within the 12 month period prior to any balloting for degrees or affiliation or election of Lodge officers to be able to exercise his right to vote

Q: What is the rationale of this Edict?

A: To curb the wanton and capricious casting of the black cubes during balloting by some members who come from long inactivity and absences in the Lodge and to avoid electioneering and “hakot” during annual elections.

Q: What are some advantages of Edict 276?

A: They are the following:

1. Increased attendance in Lodges
2. Well-informed membership
3. Increased opportunities of members to get to know each other more
4. Masters will get more feedback from its members
5. More members will share in Lodge responsibilities

Q: What Is the Coverage of Edict 276?

A: Edict 276 covers only the following:

1. Balloting for Petition for Degrees;
2. Balloting for Affiliation and Dual/Plural membership; and
3. Election of Officers (Regular or Special)

Q: What are the qualifications needed in order to vote in these 3 elections?

A: A member must possess all of the following:

1. He must be a member in good standing
2. He must have attended an aggregate attendance of at least six (6) meetings of the Lodge prior to the balloting or election
3. He must have passed the 3rd Degree proficiency

Q: Who is a member in good standing?

A: Edict 276 did not amend the original definition of a member in good standing. A member in good standing is one who is:

1. not suspended for non-payment of dues;
2. not suspended for failure to attend at least 3 meetings of his Lodge;
3. not suspended for other masonic offenses; and
4. Also a member of good standing in all Lodges of which he is a plural member.

Q: What is this “six (6) aggregate stated meeting rule”?

A: The aggregate six (6) stated meeting rule simply means that a member must have attended his lodge’s stated meetings AT LEAST six (6) times within the 12 month period PRIOR to the balloting or election whether it is consecutive or cumulative.

FACTS: Brother Ronald was raised last month. There is a balloting during his Lodge’s stated meeting next week.

Q1. Is he exempted from the “six (6) aggregate meeting” rule of Edict 276?

A: Yes. The aggregate six (6) meeting rule shall not apply to a newly-raised Master Mason within 6 months after his

raising. Edict 276 will apply to him only on the 7th month after his raising.

Q2. Can Brother Ronald vote next week?

A: Yes, the six-stated meeting rule will not yet apply to him. If however, the 3-month period for him to take the proficiency examination has already lapsed, then he can no longer vote without having made the third degree proficiency examination.

FACTS: Brother Juan, a proficient and member in good standing of his Lodge, has accumulated a total of six meetings in his mother Lodge from June 2014 – May 2015.

Q1: Can he vote in the balloting in his mother Lodge on June 2015?

A: Yes He can vote because he has complied with the six (6) aggregate meeting rule within the 12-month period prior to balloting.

Q2. He has notified his Master that he cannot attend the June 2015 stated meeting, is he qualified to vote in the July 2015 stated meeting in case there is a balloting?

A: It depends. If on July 2015, he still has a total attendance of 6 meetings in his mother Lodge, he can vote. But if by July 2015, his total attendance is now less than 6 meetings, then he cannot vote.

Q: What should Brother Juan do if he wants to vote during the election of officers in December 2015?

A: He should endeavor to accumulate or attend stated meetings between June to November 2015 so that when December comes he has already attended a total of 6 meetings.

FACTS: Brother John Doe is a plural member of Lodge 456. He has attended a total of 6 meetings in his mother Lodge 123 but has only a total of 5 in his dual Lodge where he is to attend its stated meeting. A balloting is one of the agenda in his dual Lodge.

Q1: Can Brother John Doe vote during the balloting of Lodge 456?

A: No. He cannot vote during the balloting of Lodge 456. Bro. John Doe can only vote in the Lodge where he has completed the 6 aggregate meetings.

Q2: Can he claim to be entitled to vote in Lodge 456 be-

cause he has complied with the 6 aggregate meeting rule in his mother Lodge 123?

A: His compliance to the six (6) aggregate meeting rule is EXCLUSIVE to his mother Lodge only and thus cannot be applied in his plural Lodge. He must comply with six (6) aggregate meetings in his plural Lodge before he can be allowed to vote there.

Q: Is attendance during special meetings, caucuses, fellowships, district meetings, lodge orientations, family outings, lodge anniversaries, Past Masters' Night, district / multi-district conventions and lodges of instruction included in the "six (6) aggregate meeting rule"?

A: No. The express mention of one thing (stated meeting) is to the exclusion of the others. Since these activities are not expressly mentioned in Edict 276 then it means they are not included.

Q: Are members who are not qualified to vote eligible to be voted during regular or special elections of the Lodge?

A: A member who is not qualified to vote cannot be voted upon to any elective office in the Lodge.

Q: Do you apply the 6 stated meeting rule when voting on other issues other than balloting for degrees or affiliation and election? (eg: voting on the petition for restoration of a suspended member)

A: Edict 276 covers only:

1. Balloting of petitions for degrees;
2. Affiliations; dual/plural memberships; and
3. Election of officers (Regular or Special)

Q: After the petition of X was read in open Lodge, the Worshipful Master constituted the Investigating Committee. He sought the advice of the Grand Lodge Inspector as to the qualification of the members of said committee in relation to Edict 276. Specifically, is there a requirement for the members of the Investigating Committee to have attended at least six stated meetings prior to their appointment?

A: Yes, the prospective members of the Investigating Committee must have attended at least six stated meetings prior to their appointment. The investigation commences the balloting process such that the effect of an unfavourable report by any of its members shall result in the rejection of the petitioner. Section 12, Article VI, Part II, Ordinances

provides that “if the report of the committee or any member thereof be unfavourable, no balloting shall be had. Instead, the Master upon the reception of such report, shall declare the petitioner rejected.” Being an integral part of the balloting process, as you cannot proceed with the actual balloting without the favourable report of the Investigating Committee, the members of the committee who are empowered to cause the rejection of the petition by their unfavourable report, must have attended at least six stated meetings for them to be qualified to be a member thereof.

If the appointment of the investigators were to be open to all members notwithstanding their attendance, we will in effect allow them to do indirectly what they are prohibited to do directly. The rationale of the six-stated meeting rule is found in the fourth whereas clause of Edict 276, thus:

“WHEREAS, the sanctity of time-honored Masonic exercise of casting the ballot upon a candidate’s petition to receive the degrees of masonry or affiliation, had time and again been violated by a brother who, coming from long inactivity and having neglected his obligation to religiously attend the stated meetings of his lodge, have the temerity and propensity to suddenly attend lodge stated meetings, wherein a balloting of a particular candidate or affiliation is scheduled. Thereafter, wantonly and capriciously casting the black cube during the balloting on account of his petty spites, thus deliberately causing disharmony inside subordinate lodges;

Q: Will the six-stated meeting rule apply likewise to the objections contemplated in Sections 23 and 24, Article VI, Part II, Ordinances?

A: Yes, for the same reasons as stated above.

Q: When petitioner Juan was balloted, his petition was rejected. He requested for the reconsideration of his petition. Should the Master decide to abbreviate the mandatory 12-month waiting period, a dispensation from the GM, through the DDGM is required. The request for dispensation, however, has to be approved UNANIMOUSLY by the lodge members, by way of a Lodge Resolution. In deciding whether or not to approve the request for dispensation, will the 6 aggregate meeting rule be applied?

A: Yes, because this procedure is part of the balloting process. The same reasons as stated above.

Q: Bro. A, an old member of the Lodge, has no record of proficiency in the third degree. During the balloting, he insisted that he has already made the proficiency

and that the absence of proof of his proficiency must not work to his disadvantage. Is Bro. A’s contention correct?

A: It depends. If Bro. A is a Past Master of the Lodge, he is PRESUMED to have passed the third degree examination and thus, a brother contesting his proficiency must prove otherwise. No such presumption is created, however, to non-past masters and as such, he must prove his proficiency by some other means in the absence of official records of his proficiency.

Q: During the balloting of XYZ Lodge, the Master of the Lodge proceeded with the balloting without ascertaining from the Lodge Secretary as to who are the qualified voters. After the balloting, and regardless of the result (petitioner elected or rejected), Bro. A questioned the same contending that there were unqualified members who were able to cast their ballot. He moved that the balloting conducted be declared void. Is the motion in order?

A: Bro. A’s motion is in order. The balloting conducted should be declared void as there were unqualified members who were allowed to vote. The edict requires that the Lodge Secretary, prior to the balloting, must issue a Certification as to the qualified voters and only those who are qualified may cast the ballot.

Q: Will the answer above apply in the annual election of Lodge officers?

A: Yes.

Q: XYZ Lodge was constituted on June 2015 at the time when Edict 276 is already effective. Will the six-aggregate meeting rule apply to its members considering that the Lodge has not yet existed for at least 1 year?

A: No. For newly constituted Lodges which have not yet existed for 1 year, the six-aggregate stated meeting rule will not yet apply. It will apply only after the lapse of 1 year from the date of their constitution. Thus: the six-aggregate stated meeting rule will apply only in June 2016.

Q: Bro. A went inside the Lodge during the opening but left right before the conduct of business and closing of the Lodge. He signed his name in the Tyler’s Book before he left. Will you consider him to have attended the stated meeting?

A: No, Bro. A cannot be considered to have attended the stated meeting for purposes of crediting it to the six-stated meeting rule. Lodge meeting is composed of three parts:

opening of the lodge, business, and closing of the Lodge. Absence in any of these principal parts will not mean attendance in a stated meeting for purposes of complying with the six-stated meeting rule. The same goes true if Bro. A only attended the business and left or attended the closing of the Lodge only.

Q: Supposing Bro. A arrived after the opening of the Lodge but was able to attend the conduct of business all the way up to the closing of the Lodge? Can Bro. A be considered to have attended the stated meeting?

A: Yes. There was substantial compliance. The Edict is not unreasonable.

Q: What are the Duties of the Worshipful Master?

A: They are the following:

1. To ensure that only those brethren present and qualified to ballot upon a petition for degree/affiliation or vote in an election can cast their votes
2. To cause a roll call of all Lodge members present before the Lodge may proceed with the conduct of election or balloting
3. To receive from the Secretary an attested/certified list of all qualified Brethren to cast their ballots or vote in an election and direct the brethren present who are not qualified to vote to be seated temporarily at the north side of the Lodge while a balloting or election is underway.

Q: What are the duties of the Lodge Secretary?

A: They are the following:

1. To provide a certified listing of all members present in the meeting who are qualified to cast their ballot or votes
2. To keep and maintain a copy of said certified list of qualified Brethren to cast their ballots or votes which forms part of the records of the Lodge
3. To provide the Worshipful Master a copy of the certified list of qualified Brethren and to personally advise him of the presence of a member/s who are not qualified to vote in the said meeting
4. To update monthly the certified list of qualified Brethren

Q: What are the duties of the Grand Lodge Inspector?

A: They are the following:

1. To be present during balloting or election of officers in the Lodge to which he is assigned
2. To ascertain that the Worshipful Master and Sec-

retary have complied properly with their functions under Edict 276 prior to the holding of a balloting or election

Q: What will be the penalty for violating this Edict?

A: Depending on the severity of the offense and the existence of modifying circumstances, a brother may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled.

Q: What is the effect of Edict 276 to Edict 81-Puno and Edict 81-A Beltran?

A: None. These Edicts are not inconsistent with Edict 276 as the latter deals with suspension for failure to attend stated meetings of a Lodge while the former only provides additional qualifications for exercising the member's right to vote.

Q: Are members of the Lodge who are OFWs, assigned to the Provinces, senior members who can no longer attend meetings or living overseas exempt from Edict 276?

A: Edict 276 does not distinguish nor does it provide for exemptions. Masters are not given discretion to determine whether absences under Edict 276 are justifiable or not unlike in Edicts 81 and 81-A.

Q: When is the effectivity of Edict 276?

A: Immediately after it is read in an open Lodge following its receipt.

Primer on Edict 277

PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND INSTITUTING NEW MEASURES IN THE PROCESS OF ACCEPTING CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Q: What are the bases of Edict 277?

A: The following rules and Edicts are the bases of Edict 277:

1. Sections 1 to 8, Article VI, Part II, MLB enumerating the qualifications of petitioners/candidates for the degrees of Masonry
2. Edict 60 (Tria) enumerating the procedures in the investigation and examination of every candidate in-

- cluding that of the Proposer
3. Edict 131 (Choa) which prescribes the proper handling of candidates during degree conferrals with corresponding penalties
 4. Edict 131-A (Galvez) strengthening Edict 131 by requiring Lodge and District officers to have full control over degree conferrals and holding them liable for any violations thereof
 5. Edict 245 (Lo Suy) which consolidated and harmonized all Edicts pertaining to the proper handling of candidates during degree conferrals by specifying disciplinary sanctions imposable and prescribing procedure to be followed in case of violation
 6. R.A. 8049 An Act Regulating Hazing And Other Forms Of Initiation Rites In Fraternities, Sororities And Other Organizations And Providing Penalties Therefor

Q: What is the objective of Edict 277?

A: To guard the west gate and the fraternity against insidious and destructive forces and influences coming from WITHOUT.

Q: What is the coverage of the provisions of Edict 277?

A: These are better divided into the following:

- Of Candidates
- Of Members
- Of Lodge Officers
- Of District officers
- Of Mentors and Instructors
- Of Candidates

Q: Under Edict 277, the attendance, interaction, interface and meeting of candidates shall be limited to four (4) occasions only. What are these four (4) occasions?

A: They are as follows:

1. First – when the Petitioner submits the complete documentary requirements and undergoes initial orientation and presentation to the Lodge
2. Second – 1st Degree Conferral or Initiation
3. Third – 2nd Degree Conferral or Passing
4. Fourth – 3rd Degree Conferral or Raising

Q: What are the exceptions to the “four (4) meeting rule”?

A: They are limited to the following:

1. When candidate fails to pass the necessary proficiency for a particular degree and dispensation is granted by

- the DDGM for the holding of an additional meeting;
2. Meetings with his mentor or Intender WITH PRIOR APPROVAL of the Worshipful Master; and
3. Meetings with any member of the Investigating Committee (IC), but only in connection with, and in the performance of, their duties as members of the IC.
4. When an Entered Apprentice Mason or a Fellowcraft Mason attends a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons or a Lodge of Fellowcraft Masons, respectively. A Fellowcraft Mason may be allowed to enter a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons.

Q: What are the new rules regarding the four (4) meeting rule?

A: They are the following:

First Meeting – Secretary shall notify Lodge members who want to meet and interview the candidate at the STATED MEETING. It is on this meeting that the petitioner is supposed to submit documentary requirements, oriented and presented to the Lodge/Members.

Second Meeting – Orientation based on the Tried and Proven lecture at least two (2) hours prior to the conferral of First degree and within LODGE PREMISES only. Initiation follows.

Third Meeting – Orientation based on Tried and Proven Lectures and examination must be given at least two (2) hours before the conferral of the Second Degree and within LODGE PREMISES only. Passing follows.

Fourth Meeting – orientation based on the Tried and Proven Lectures and examination must be given at least two (2) hours before the Third Degree conferral and within LODGE PREMISES only. Raising follows.

Q: Who are considered Petitioners or candidates?

A: They are the following:

1. One who has signified his intention to join;
2. One who has manifested his intention to join;
3. One who has filed his Petition for degrees; and
4. Any male individual, over 21 years of age, who has attended any lodge gathering or project within or outside the Lodge on at least on two (2) occasions are presumed petitioners

Q: What are the Prohibited Practices of Candidates?

A: The following are considered prohibited practices by

Candidates:

- a) To attend or be present in stated meetings, Lodge caucuses, Masonic fellowships, banquets, parties and other similar events
- b) To attend or be present during Masonic district and multi-district conventions
- c) To attend or be present at Masonic annual communications
- d) To attend or be present during any Annual conventions, meetings, events, parties, fellowships, banquets and other similar events of Masonic Appendant Organizations (Eastern Star, Amaranth, Job's Daughters, Rainbow, DeMolays, Shriners, Scottish and York Rites)
- e) To attend or be present during any meeting, fellowship, parties, banquets, events of any group or organization of Masonic character, origin or affiliations (Square and Compass Clubs, trowel clubs, Turtles, Snakes, DeMolay Alumni, etc.)
- f) To attend or be present during other events hosted by individual Masons
- g) To offer to furnish or pay for food, snacks, alcoholic beverages and transportation and other miscellaneous expenses during – (1) meeting with his mentor/intender, and (2) the entire period that he is still receiving the degrees of Masonry

Q: What are the Documentary Requirements which should be submitted together with the Petition for Degrees (Sec. 13)?

A: They are the following:

I. Common Requirements

- a) NSO issued Birth Certificate b) Police Clearance (town/city where the candidate is a resident) c) NBI Clearance d) Court Clearances (MTC, RTC, Sandiganbayan) e) Income Tax Return for past 3 years f) Written consent for random drug testing g) Medical Certificate attesting to the candidate's general state of health
- h) Homeowner's Association Clearance –whenever possible
- i) Others, as may be required by the Lodge or the Worshipful Master

II. Special Additional Requirements

For Government Officials (elected or appointed) and Employees

- a) Ombudsman Clearance
- b) Civil Service Commission Clearance
- c) DILG Clearance (for elected officials)

Members of the Armed Forces

- a) Judge Advocate General Office's Clearance
- b) Commission on Human Rights Clearance

Members of the Philippine National Police

- a) a) National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) clearance
- b) Internal Affairs Service (IAS) clearance
- c) Commission on Human Rights Clearance
- d) People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB)

Members of Philippine Coast Guard

- a) Dept. of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Clearance
- b) Commission on Human Rights Clearance

Members of the Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)

- a) Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) clearance
- b) Commission on Human Rights Clearance

III. Others

Endorsement of the nearest Lodge if the candidate/petitioner is applying for membership in a Lodge other than that situated in his stated place of residence.

Of Members

Q: What is the Duty of a Master Mason under Edict 277?

A: It shall be the duty of every Master Mason to ensure that candidates/ petitioners possess all the qualification (internal or external) and none of the disqualifications.

Q: What are the Prohibited Practices by Master Masons?

A: The following acts shall be considered prohibited practices by Master Masons;

- a) Wounding, assaulting, beating, manhandling or maltreatment of a petitioner or candidate
- b) Giving unauthorized instructions to the candidate to elicit humor or boisterous behavior at the expense of the person of the petitioner/ candidate during conferrals and other masonic rituals
- c) Any act or omission constituting a violation of R.A. 8049 (Anti-Hazing Law)

d) Requiring candidates to attend or be present in stated meetings, Lodge caucuses, Masonic fellowships, banquets, parties and other similar events such as:

1. Masonic District and Multi-District Conventions
2. Annual communications
3. Annual conventions, meetings, events, parties, fellowships, banquets and other similar events of Masonic Appendant Organizations (Eastern Star, Amaranth, Job's Daughters, Rainbow, DeMolays, Shriners, Scottish and York Rites)
4. Any group or Organization of Masonic character, origin or affiliations (Square and Compass Clubs, Turtles, Snakes, DeMolay Alumni, etc.)
5. Other events hosted by individual Masons

e) To interact, contact, meet and/or interface with candidate/petitioner more than four (4) times before he becomes a member

f) To interact, contact, meet and/or interface with a candidate/ petitioner of another Lodge within or without the jurisdiction of the GLP more than four (4) times before he becomes a member

g) To require the candidate to furnish or pay for food, snacks, alcoholic beverages and transportation and other miscellaneous expenses during – (1) meetings with his mentor/intender, and (2) the entire period that he is still receiving the degrees of Masonry

Of Lodge Officers
Of Mentors/Instructors/Intenders

Q: What are the rules governing Mentors and/or Instructors

A: They are the following:

- a) Should be officially appointed by the Master for the sole purpose of teaching, guiding and preparing the candidate to take and pass the proficiency examinations and impart the necessary Masonic education.
- b) Only one mentor/instructor per candidate and should be held on a one-on-one basis
- c) Every meeting or encounter with the candidate by the Mentor/ Instructor must have prior approval by the WM.
- d) Any violation committed by the Mentor/Instructor shall hold him liable for disciplinary action under Section 17 of this Edict without prejudice to filing of other charges, if warranted, before any appropriate judicial, quasi-judicial or other agencies by proper parties concerned.

Of Endorsers/Vouchers

Q: What is the duty of an Endorser or one who vouches a candidate?

A: They have the duty and responsibility to see that the qualifications of a candidate shall continue even after the candidate has become a member of his Lodge.

Q: What are the Liabilities of an Endorser or a Master Mason who vouches for a candidate?

A: They are the following: (Code word: A-S-W)

a) Refusal, failure or neglect to exercise EXTRA-ORDINARY diligence in ASCERTAINING the qualifications and disqualifications of the petitioner/candidate prior to the filing of his petition for degrees and during the time that he is in the process of receiving the degrees of Masonry PROVIDED the candidate is actually found to lack any of the qualification or is actually found to possess one of the disqualifications for becoming a Master Mason

b) Refusal, failure or neglect to exercise EXTRA-ORDINARY diligence in SUPERVISING, GUIDING and ADVISING the petitioner/ candidate while he is receiving the degrees of Masonry PROVIDED that the candidate concerned is actually found or discovered to have committed any fraudulent, dishonest, corrupt or morally reprehensible act or omission before or during the time he is receiving the degrees of Masonry.

c) Refusal, failure or neglect to exercise EXTRA-ORDINARY diligence in WHISPERING good counsel to a brother whom he endorsed or vouched for PROVIDED that the Brother previously endorsed or vouched for has been actually found guilty by competent authority of unmasonic conduct or any offense punishable under the masonic Penal Code and existing Masonic laws, rules and regulations; convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any offense involving moral turpitude or committed any dishonest, fraudulent, corrupt or any morally reprehensible act or omission after he was raised to the sublime degree of Masonry.

Q: Does the foregoing admit of exceptions?

A: Yes. The endorsing Master Mason shall not be liable for any of the enumerated acts or omissions if he can show by CLEAR AND CONVINCING evidence that:

- a) He exercised utmost care and extra-ordinary diligence in ascertaining the qualifications or disqualifica-

tions of the petitioner/candidate prior to the filing of the petition for degrees and during the time that the candidate is in the process of receiving the degrees of Masonry

b) He actively, openly and persistently supervised, guided and advised the candidate while the latter was receiving the degrees of masonry

c) He actually and persistently whispered good counsel to the erring brother for the purpose of bringing about a reform

Q: Candidate A filed his petition for degrees on April 1, 2015 and has not yet been balloted until now, is his petition covered under Edict 277?

A: Yes. Under Section 15, Edict 277 shall be applicable to all petitioners/ candidates who have not yet been balloted at the time of its effectivity (reading in open lodge after its receipt). The four (4) meeting rule will immediately apply to him.

Q: Is he required to submit the additional documents enumerated in Edict 277?

A: Yes. The cut-off period is the FAVORABLE balloting. Even if the petition was filed BEFORE the effectivity of Edict 277, the petitioner shall be fully covered by it if he has not yet been FAVORABLY balloted at the time of its effectivity.

Q: Candidate B was already conferred the First degree of Masonry on April 11, 2015. Is he covered by the four (4) meeting rule?

A: Yes he is covered by this Edict at whatever stage he may be after April 25, 2015.

Q: Candidate B was conferred the First Degree of Masonry on April 11, 2015. On April 21, 2015, his Lodge is set to confer the First Degree upon the other candidates. Can B attend the First Degree conferral without violating the Four-Meeting Rule?

A: Yes, B can attend the First Degree conferral as it is his privilege to do so. He cannot however attend further activities of the Lodge (fellowship, etc.) after the conferral. This is an exception to the Four Meeting Rule. This exception will likewise apply to Fellowcrafts.

Q: Candidate B has already been favorably balloted BEFORE the effectivity of Edict 277, but has not yet been

initiated, even after its effectivity. Will Edict 277 apply to him?

A: Yes, but in varying degrees. The 4-meeting rule will immediately apply, but the new documentary requirements will not. Thus, he will no longer be required to submit the additional documents under Edict 277.

Q: Candidate C has already been raised during the effectivity of Edict 277. All that remains to be done is for him to take the 3rd Degree Proficiency Examination. Will the restrictions under Edict 277 still apply?

A: No more since he is no longer a petitioner or candidate but a Master Mason.

Q: What is the effect of Edicts, circulars, rules of the MLB which are inconsistent with Edict 277?

A: All Edicts, circulars, regulations and provisions in the Masonic Law Book that are inconsistent with the provisions of Edict 277 are hereby repealed or amended.

Q: What will be the penalty for violating this Edict?

A: Any violation of this edict shall, after due notice and proper proceedings, be punishable with a penalty ranging from Reprimand in Open Lodge, Suspension or Expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense and the attendance of modifying circumstances, if any.

Q: Should the documentary requirements in Edict 277 apply to overseas lodges?

A: (Answer found opposite the requirement)
COMMON REQUIREMENTS:

- NSO issued Birth Certificate YES
- Police Clearance (town/city where the candidate is a resident) ITS EQUIVALENT
- NBI Clearance ITS EQUIVALENT
- Court Clearances (MTC, RTC, Sandiganbayan) ITS EQUIVALENT
- Income Tax Return for past 3 years YES IF FILIPINO CITIZEN; ITS EQUIVALENT IF NOT A FILIPINO CITIZEN
- Written consent for random drug testing YES
- Medical Certificate attesting to the candidate's general state of health

ITS EQUIVALENT

- Homeowner's Association Clearance –whenever possible ITS EQUIVALENT
- Others, as may be required by the Lodge or the Wor-

shipful Master

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

For Government Officials (elected or appointed) and Employees

- Ombudsman Clearance
- Civil Service Commission Clearance
- DILG Clearance (for elected officials)

For Members of the Armed Forces

- Judge Advocate General Office's Clearance
- Commission on Human Rights Clearance

For Members of the Philippine National Police

- National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) clearance
- Internal Affairs Service (IAS) clearance
- Commission on Human Rights Clearance
- People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB)

For Members of Philippine Coast Guard

- Dept. of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Clearance
- Commission on Human Rights Clearance

For Members of the Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)

- Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) clearance
- Commission on Human Rights Clearance

Q: What will be the effect or consequences if a Lodge has no members who passed the proficiency examination for the third degree of Masonry?

A: This is a ground for the arrest of the Lodge and the consequent revocation of its Charter by the Grand Lodge. The members who are not proficient in third degree of Masonry CANNOT cast their votes in the balloting of petitioners and CANNOT vote or be voted upon in the election of Lodge officers.

Q: When is the effectivity of Edict 277?

A: Immediately after it is read in an open Lodge following its receipt.

Q: What are the duties of the Lodge Officers under Edict 277?

A: To see to it that they have full control over the degree conferrals. The refusal, failure or neglect in exercising such duty renders them liable for violation of Edict 131 (Choa)

Q: What are the duties of the Worshipful Master?

A: They are the following:

- a) As the supreme authority of the Lodge, he should faithfully discharge his duties and responsibilities as mandated under Edict 245 (Lo Soy). The refusal, failure or neglect to discharge such duties and responsibilities makes him liable for violations hereof
- b) The Worshipful Master, together with the District Officers shall be primarily responsible for the STRICT implementation and enforcement of this Edict without prejudice to the filing of appropriate charges against those who violate this Edict

Q: What are the responsibilities of District Officers (DDGM, DGL and GLI)?

A: They are the following:

- a) To see to it that this Edict and other Edicts on the proper handling of candidates/petitioners as mandated under Edict 131-A (Galvez) are faithfully complied. Refusal, failure or neglect to perform this duty is a violation of this Edict
- b) District Officers shall be primarily responsible for the STRICT implementation and enforcement of this Edict without prejudice to the filing of appropriate charges against those who violate this Edict

Q: What are the prohibited acts relative to the Worshipful Master and Investigating Committee?

A: Refusal, failure or neglect in strict compliance of the requirements of investigation and examination mandated under Edict 60 (Tria) and other Edicts such as, but not limited to:

1. Edict No. 275 –Rentoy (Additional Powers of the Grand Lodge Inspector) and
2. Edict 276 –Rentoy (Additional requirements for members in good standing to be able to cast their votes during balloting and election of officers)

The foregoing primers on Edicts 275, 276 & 277 were lifted from the book "Primers on the Edicts" authored by VW Jay Ermin Enest Louie R. Miguel, SGL.



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

PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE

1440 San Marcelino Street, 1000 Ermita, Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos.: +63 2 524-3263, +63 2 522-2232, Fax: +63 2 522-2218, www.grandlodgephils.org.ph

MW TOMAS G. RENTOY III
GRAND MASTER

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY

CIRCULAR NO. 21 – MW RENTOY III

**TO : ALL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, ELECTED & APPOINTED, ALL DDGMs, DGLs,
WORSHIPFUL MASTERS AND WARDENS AND MEMBERS OF SUBORDINATE
LODGES IN THIS GRAND JURISDICTION**

SUBJECT : COMMEMORATING OUR NATIONAL HEROES DAY

In line with the commemoration of our national heroes on 30 August 2015, the brethren are enjoined to put up streamers on all Masonic Temples located in the country with the pictures and names of the national heroes, particularly the brother masons, as a gesture of our recognition and appreciation for their heroic deeds and contributions to Philippine Independence.

The size of the streamer is 120 cm x 464 cm and the design of which is hereto attached for reference. Said streamer shall be displayed for two (2) weeks starting a week before Aug 30, 2015.

The DDGMs shall ensure that this Circular is implemented in their areas of jurisdiction.

This Circular is to be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and that action duly recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine this 18th day of August 2015.


TOMAS G. RENTOY III
Grand Master

Attest:


DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

TGR/DDA/ABM/vangie



**"A REVITALIZED, RELEVANT AND REVERED PHILIPPINE FREEMASONRY:
OUR COMMITMENT, OUR COVENANT"**

SPECIAL FEATURE

Let's Meet the GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

FOR MASONIC YEAR 2015-2016



ELECTED GRAND LINE OFFICERS

MW Tomas G. Rentoy, III
Grand Master

RW Voltaire t Gazmin
Deputy Grand Master

RW Abraham N. Tolentino
Senior Grand Warden

RW Romeo S. Momo
Junior Grand Warden

MW Ruyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH
Grand Treasurer

MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM
Grand Secretary

APPOINTED GRAND LINE OFFICERS

VW Albert K. Tan
Asst. Grand Treasurer

VW Alexander B. Madamba, Jr.
Asst. Grand Secretary

VW Raul E. Canon
Grand Auditor

VW Romeo S. Musngi
Grand Chaplain

VW Fidel G. Posadas

Grand Orator

VW Mario N. Rariza, Jr.
Grand Marshal

VW Caesar M. Ortega
Grand Historian

VW Hector A. Emberga
Grand Senior Deacon

VW Richmond Davin G. Lim
Grand Junior Deacon

VW Elmer D. Garcia
Grand Standard Bearer

VW Ramon C. Clavecillas
Grand Sword Bearer

VW Pedrito P. Abergas
Grand Bible Bearer

VW J. Ermin E.L.R. Miguel
Senior Grand Lecturer

JUNIOR GRAND LECTURERS

VW Jesus L. Regala
NCR A & G

VW Edgar P. Borje
NCR B, C & D

VW Rodil L. Millado
NCR E & F

VW Mario A. Ancheta
Northern Luzon East

VW Dominador R. Delizo

Northern Luzon West

VW Virgilio N. Catbagan, Jr.

Central Luzon

VW Teodoro D. Saclolo

Central Luzon

VW Dick C. Guzman

Central Luzon

VW John C. Buendia

Southern Luzon (Bicol)

VW Armando G. Cazzola

Southern Luzon (Cavite & Laguna)

VW Victorino S. Panganiban, Jr.

Southern Luzon (Quezon, Batangas, & Mindoro)

VW Wilson C. Locsin

Western Visayas

VW Gilfredo M. Geolingo, Jr.

Western Visayas

VW Mervyn N. Anover

Central & Eastern Visayas

VW Nabil A. Tan

Western Mindanao

VW Abraham C. Rojas

Southern Mindanao

VW Napoleon A. Sison

Overseas

VW Eugene A.F. Arciaga

Senior Grand Steward

VW Noel A. Rosal

Junior Grand Steward

VW Ferdinand R.P. Bartolome

Grand Pursuivant

VW Francis E. Blanco

Grand Organist

VW Freddie Gregorio I. Velasco

Grand Tyler

BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH

Chairman

MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, GMH

Vice Chairman

MW Agustin V. Mateo, PGM

Member

MW Oscar V. Bunyi, PGM

Member

MW Pacifico B. Aniag, PGM

Member

MW Avelino I. Razon, PGM

Member

MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., PGM

Member

RW Voltaire T. Gazmin, DGM

Secretary

MASONIC INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

VW Edgar P. Borje

Inspector General

VW Caesar M. Ortega

Deputy Inspector General

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERALS

VW Jose B. Abejo

NCR

VW Jose Joey Q. Soriano

Luzon

VW Edward Y. Chua

Visayas

VW Gadwin E. Handumon

Mindanao

VW Gregory B. Blas

Overseas

CORPORATE APPOINTMENTS

VW Nicanor S. Salvador

Chief of Staff

VW Henry S. Capela

Executive Assistant to the Grand Master

VW Felix D. Mendoza

Protocol Officer

VW Rufino G. Arias, Jr.

Assistant Protocol Officer

VW Guillermo B. Lazaro, Jr.

Building Administrator

VW Jose Avelino I. Magbanua

Office Manager

VW Alexander I. Go

Web Master

VW Angelo V. Verdadero

Aide de Camp

Bro. Victor Ben Isidore D. Aclan

Aide de Camp

Bro. Russel Vincent D. Rentoy

Aide de Camp

Bro. Edwin P. Calayag

Photographer

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
NCR-A	Metro Manila	VW Melvin P. Mallo
NCR-B	Metro Manila	VW Edito Vicente C. Balauag
NCR-C	Metro Manila	VW Paul V. Santos Estrella
NCR-D	Metro Manila	VW Fahad Al-Rashid S. Lucman
NCR-E	Metro Manila	VW Reynaldo A. Garcia
NCR-F	Metro Manila	VW Michael Victor C. Tezon
NCR-G	Metro Manila	VW Bernardo F. Bondoc
CAR-A	Bontoc, Kalinga, Mt. Province	VW Pepito B. Villafuerte
RI-A	Pangasinan	VW Michael M. Valenzuela
RI & CAR-B	Baguio, La Union	VW Romulo B. Montoya
RI & CAR-C	Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte Abra	VW Orlando C. Mangapit
R II-A	Nueva Vizcaya (South)	VW Victor B. Gines, Jr.
R II-B	Isabela (North)	VW Alexander P. Santos
R II-C	Cagayan	VW Feliciano A. Caranguian
R II-D	Isabela (South) Quirino	VW Melchor G. Taob
R II-E	Nueva Vizcaya (North) Ifugao	VW Ceferino L. Leal, Jr.
R III-A	Pampanga	VW Rodolfo L. Ocampo
R III-B	Bataan	VW Jaime DL. Rodrigo
R III-C	Zambales	VW Leo A. Abella
R III-D	Nueva Ecija (South)	VW Jose Ravinar J. Austria
R III-E	Bulacan	VW Gerardo A. Ibasco
R III-F	Nueva Ecija (North)	VW Crispino B. Parinas
R III-G	Tarlac	VW Reynaldo D. David
R IV-A1	Cavite	VW Hilary Aris J. Talens
R IV-A2	Cavite	VW Irene G. Lumubos, Jr.
R IV-B	Laguna	VW Gregorio Jorge A. Tabuena
R IV-C	Quezon	VW Nestor S. Rivera
R IV-D	Batangas	VW Manuel O. Ampeloquio
R IV-E	Mindoro	VW Francisco G. Jopillo, Jr.
R V-A	Camarines Sur/Norte Catanduanes	VW Francisco E. Milla, Jr.
R V-B	Albay, Sorsogon	VW Magtanggol B. Hatol
R VI-A	Panay, Iloilo, Aklan	VW John B. Franco
R-VI-B	Neg. Oriental, Neg. Occ.	VW Miko D. Lirazan
R VII-A	Cebu-Bohol	VW Teopisto V. Cabagnet, Jr.
R VIII-A	Samar	VW Juan Bautista A. Beato, Jr.
R VIII-B	Leyte	VW Victor M. Atillo
R IX-A	Zamboanga del Sur	VW Aurelio M. Mendoza, II
R IX-B & X	Misamis Occidental Zamboanga del Norte	VW George E. Dolotallas
R IX-C	Zamboanga, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi	VW Ramon C. Ledesma
R X-A	Cagayan de Oro	VW Ramil P. Acol
R X-B	Misamis Oriental, Camiguin	VW Erwin Pio B. Bollozos
R X-C	Misamis Occidental	VW Jose Lemuel M. Tortola
R X-D	ARMM-Lanao	VW Ian C. Uy

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
R X-E	Bukidnon (North)	VW Godwin R. Valdez
R X-F	Bukidnon (South)	VW Herminigildo R. Engbino
R XI-A	Davao City, Davao Del Sur	VW Michael Archangel B. Bron
R XI-B	Davao Prov., Davao Or.	VW Rolando Y. Tejada
R XII-A	Cotabato City, N. Cotabato	VW Leopoldo P. Lugtu
R XII-B	SOCSARGEN	VW Donard B. Pamplona
R XIII-A	Agusan, Surigao	VW Lyndon J. Romero
OVERSEAS-A	Guam	VW Roger R. Rebanal
OVERSEAS-B	Camp Zama, Japan	VW Hiroshi Yagi
OVERSEAS-C	Okinawa, Japan	VW David L. Ingram, Jr.
OVERSEAS-D	Korea	VW Herminigildo R. Flancia
OVERSEAS-E	Northern Marianas Island	VW Romeo D. Malasarte

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
NCR-A	Metro Manila	VW Nathaniel J. Diesta VW Eliseo B. Fajardo Jr. VW Michael Mark M. Lim VW Vladimir F. Pelaez VW Marco Apollo C. Tecson
NCR-B	Metro Manila	VW Omar B. Francisco VW Diosdado R. Melegrito VW Jaime A. Pacanan VW Miguel A. Tolentino
NCR-C	Metro Manila	VW Jovencio P. Ablen, Jr. VW Artemio M. Abu VW Marcus Antonius T. Andaya VW Elias M. Tapang, Jr. VW Melito M. Villar, Jr.
NCR-D	Metro Manila	VW Emeritus P. Aviles VW Arnel Inocencio D. Cantos VW Regino S. Catiis VW Mark Legrande DM Martin VW Edwin M. Diocos VW Gilson W. Yu

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
NCR-E	Metro Manila	VW Rucil D. Contrivida VW Arnulfo F. Go VW Procopio G. Lipana VW Oreste M. Navarro, Jr. VW Eugene R. Tolentino VW Federic G. Sagario
NCR-F	Metro Manila	VW McKentyre V. Cabrera VW Rafael Ma. C. Guerra III VW Cornelio F. Samaniego III VW Harry V. Sucayre
NCR-G	Metro Manila	VW Mariano C. Bassig VW Gabriel DC Comia, Jr. VW Virgilio V. Cruz VW Omar U. Obias VW James A. Olayvar VW Heriberto D. Tiu VW Ramon C. Cabal
CAR-A	Kalinga, Apayao, Mt. Province	VW Novo Brent T. Abad VW Juanito N. Cabato
R1-A	Pangasinan	VW Neil B. Andaya VW Eduardo A. Dopale VW Romeo G. Lim VW Fernando C. Santos
RI- & CAR-B	Baguio, La Union	VW Ronald L. Alwit VW Fernando M. Lacsamana
R I-&CAR-C	Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Abra	VW Amador B. Quiocho VW Perfecto A. Sison
R II-A	Nueva Vizcaya (South)	VW Joselito A. Gonzales VW John G. Guyguyon
R II-B	Isabela (North)	VW Glenn Mathew G. Baggao VW Edward D. Juan VW William F. Mapatac
R II-C	Cagayan Valley	VW Demetrio B. Corsino VW Edwin C. Guillermo VW Eduardo V. Interior VW Antonio T. Lim

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
R II-D	Isabela (South)	VW Aurelio T. Badajos VW Raymond D. Carreon VW Emelito M. Marquez VW Flor B. Perez
R II-E	Nueva Vizcaya (North)	VW Ricardo G. Uy VW Eusebio C. Idefonso
R III-A	Pampanga	VW Rafael B. Malamug, Jr. VW Felixberto T. Paras VW Wilson A. Santos, VI
R III-B	Bataan	VW Romeo S. Abella VW Gregorio M. Sison, Jr.
R III-C	Zambales	VW John DV. Aquino VW Jerry D. Azurin VW Magiting A. Cruz VW Don Romeo M. Garcia VW Procopio A. Paynita VW Lyndon DL. Rosete
R III-D	Nueva Ecija (South), Aurora	VW Alberto C. Diaz VW Isaias A. Noveras, Jr. VW Romeo Eusebio E. Faronilo VW Carlito M. Gapasin VW Romano V. Reyes VW Paulino Y. Guevarra VW Edison P. Rivera VW Roseten E. Tugaff VW Dexter H. Santos VW Noel R. Cartagena VW Rolando M. Garcia
R III-E	Bulacan	VW Alberto G. Aniag VW Rommel B. Nadurata VW Beda L. Melgar VW Reyleo S. Tupaz, Jr. VW Edgar A. Pacano, Jr. VW Ysmael S. Yu
R III-F	Nueva Ecija (North)	VW Jose Lucius Pocholo M. Dizon VW Reynaldo C. Cachuela VW Tito Jesus R. Tuquero

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
		VW Esteban C. Valdez, Jr. VW Manuel G. Tambalque III VW Marino L. Parane
R III-G	Tarlac	VW Magno S. Biag VW Victor Gerald A. Castañeda VW Eleno R. Mangrobang VW Arturo F. Sebastian VW Carlo Gomer M. Ladia
R IV-A1	Cavite	VW Roberto Joseph S. Moran VW Ramon P. Labo, III VW Demetrio D. Calderon VW Victor Jose B. Padilla VW Caesar D. Asuncion VW Noriel D. Vertudez
R IVA-A2	Cavite	VW Juan D. Dela Cruz VW Bernard P. Villasor VW Glicerio P. Villanueva VW Alberto S. Ararao VW Joel D. Antonio
R IV-B	Laguna	VW Ponciano M. Mabaga VW Bonifacio L. Alaiza VW Glenn P. Flores
R IV-C	Quezon	VW Wilfredo J. Sumilang VW Jose E. Almero VW Orlando C. Dy
R IV-D	Batangas	VW Cenon T. Lumabad, Jr. VW Francisco B. Santiago, Jr. VW Marvin G. Marasigan
R IV-E	Mindoro	VW Leodegario B. Ramos VW Rafael L. Infantado
R V-A	Camarines Norte Camarines Sur, Catanduanes	VW Benjamin S. Suratos VW Armin Jesus R. Nagera VW Froilan B. Navarroza
R V-B	Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate	VW Dionesio T. Laceda VW Wilson C. Asueta

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
R VI-A	Panay, Iloilo, Antique Aklan	VW Ren T. Darroca VW Cayo F. Venturanza II VW Robert L. Petate
R VI-B	Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental	VW Richard K. Tan VW Alexander D. Cabales VW Rhette P. Demonteverde
R VII-A	Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor	VW Gregg S. Gatal VW Rammy B. Salvador VW Janby H. Earl Yu
R VIII-A	Samar	VW Antonio Y. Uy-Sobremonte, Jr. VW Rod Laurean P. Suan
R VIII-B	Tacloban	VW Albert R. Villahermosa VW Thomas A. Cu
R IX-A	Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay	VW Anwar Sabdani P. Hadjirul VW Danilo C. Monge VW Johnny V. Sy
R IX-B & X	Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Norte	VW Claver A. Pajaren VW Serafin G. Uy
R IX-C	Zamboanga, Jolo, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi	VW Constancio V. Mabalot, Jr. VW Atila S. Barre VW Alfad H. Alsad, Jr.
R X-A	Misamis Oriental	VW Francis R. Balabat VW Mark S. McNew VW Manuelito U. Acabal VW Julius Cesar R. Mendoza
R X-B	Misamis Oriental, Camiguin	VW Reynaldo B. Jampit VW Allen A. Amene VW Joselito B. Tadeo VW Nerio T. Bermudo
R X-C	Misamis Occidental	VW Jay Reuben C. Malinis VW Churchay H. Lim

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

DISTRICT	LOCATION	NAME
R X-D&ARMM	Lanao	VW Alan U. Buenaventura VW Omarbasha S. Lucman VW Fernando F. Rahon
R X-E	Bukidnon (North)	VW Justice Holmes R. Valdez VW Eliel P. Curan
R X-F	Bukidnon (South)	VW Romeo T. Mabelin VW Ceferino C. Bacod
R XI-A	Davao City, Davao del Sur	VW Julius Voltaire Rommel C. Cubelo VW Loreto P. Gamalong VW Anthony O. Padua
R XI-B	Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental	VW Leoncito B. Hernaez, Jr. VW Romeo R. Torres
R XII-A	Cotabato City, North Cotabato	VW Lee Michael A. Rualo VW Raul S. Supiter VW Sadruddin A. Masukat
R XII-B	SocSKSarGEN	VW Dave R. Arreglado VW John Anthony N. Tan VW Nonato S. Martinez VW Gerardo C. Dela Rosa
R XIII-A	CaRaGa	VW Elesio D. Bastareche, Jr. VW Bernard U. Chan VW Tomasito P. Pareja
OVERSEAS-A	Guam	VW Florante R. Rebanal
OVERSEAS-B	Okinawa, Japan	VW Mark E. Frease
OVERSEAS-C	Kanagawa-Ken, Japan	
OVERSEAS-D	Korea	VW George E. Stillwell, Jr.
OVERSEAS-E	Northern Marianas Islands	VW Wilfred G. Ching

KNOW YOUR GRAND LODGE STAFF



Brethren, welcome to your Grand Lodge. Rest assured that you will never ever get lost in a bureaucratic maze when you visit and transact business here. Our bid to qualify for ISO certification aims to ensure that all your transactions at your Grand Lodge will be smooth, pleasing and gratifying.

But just to make sure, we are publishing here your Grand Lodge staff so you will know who will serve you when you come here on business. Even if it is for unofficial or personal visit, you are, of course, always welcome in your home. And by the way, every one of your staff is supposed to serve you with a smile even on bad hair days. Coffee is always hot and bottomless.

Here are your humble servants :



Ms. Jesusana S. Escobia

IMES Secretary
Nickname : **Jess**

She is in-charge of IMES schedules, diplomas and temporarily assists in the Masonic Library.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

ADMINISTRATION



Ms. Evangeline R. Abarquez

GM Secretary
Nickname : **Vangie**

Vangie is responsible for the arrangement of the Grand Master's Schedule, meetings, bookings and hotel reservations as well as those Grand Line Officers and Past Grand Masters. Coordinates with the Office of the Grand Secretary's Office.



Ms. Felina A. Villasanta

Executive Secretary
Nickname : **Felina**

Felina is accountable for the communications of the Office of the Grand Secretary/Asst. Grand Secretary to and from Blue Lodges and other Grand Jurisdictions. Ensure that provision of GL Circular No. 12, etc. and complied with. Assists in the Office of the Grand Master as needed.



Ms. Jennifer C. Magallanes

Cabletow Secretary/Data Encoder
Nickname : **Jenny**

Jenny is answerable for the input of membership data record including petitioners based on the publication of GL Circular No. 12. She's responsible for the distribution of The Cabletow magazine to members, gathering of articles and pictures for inclusion in the magazine, meetings of the editorial board and disseminates the info board messages.



Mr. Joris M. Tabo

Receiving/Archive Clerk
Nickname : **Joris**

Joris receives all documents and fans them out to all concerned departments. He is the guy to call when you follow up or enquire about any transaction from your respective blue lodges. He files the documents from the Office of the Grand Master and Secretary.



Mr. Joel G. Caliat

Liaison Officer/Purchasing Clerk
Nickname : *Joel*

Joel prints and sends the e-file of Edicts, Circulars of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary; releases and mails all documents/supplies. Handles the schedule of Lodge Meetings assigned at GLP Temple. He is Liaison staff of the Grand Lodge.



Mr. Noel T. Embate, Jr.

Accounting Clerk
Nickname : *Noel*

Noel is responsible for preparing check vouchers, billing statements, and other journal entries.

OPERATIONS



Ms. Hazel C. Salvador

Adm Clerk
Nickname : *Hazel*

Hazel processes all kinds of Grand Lodge certificates, issuance of GLP Plastic IDs and dues cards.



Mr. Marcial M. Salas

Store Keeper
Nickname : *Mar*

Mar manages the sale of the products in the Masonic supplies store of the Grand Lodge.

COMPTROLLERSHIP & FINANCE



Ms. Gloria G. Compendio

Chief Accountant
Nickname : *Glo*

Glo is the Chief Accountant, she is over-all in charge of the Accounting department.



Fidel V. Reyes

Carpenter
Nickname : *Fidel*

Fidel does the carpentry at the Grand Lodge.



Ms. Cecile T. Amancio

Cashier
Nickname : *Ces*

Ces receives payment from Blue Lodges and issues corresponding Official Receipts of the Grand Lodge.



Mr. Leonides Dionisio

Janitor
Nickname : *Onong*

Onong maintains the beautification of the garden, ground floor and is responsible for cleaning the New Plaridel Masonic Temple.



Mr. Allan A. Tan

Bookkeeper
Nickname : *Allan*

Allan is responsible for preparing Financial Statements (balance sheet, statement of income & expenses, trial balance and schedule of receivable).



Mr. Luisito G. Salazar

Nickname : *Totoy*

Totoy maintains the cleanliness of the Lodge Meeting Hall and special halls, safekeeping of the aprons and collars of the Blue Lodge meetings assigned at GLP premises.

SALUTE TO OUR FREEMASON BROTHERS, NATIONAL HEROES ALL!



Our Grand Master enjoins the brethren to put up streamers on all Masonic Temples located in the country with the pictures and names of the national heroes, particularly our brothers, as a gesture of our recognition and appreciation for their heroic deeds and contributions to Philippine Independence.

He further directs the brethren to display for two weeks, starting a week before Aug. 30, 2015, streamers, the size of which is 120 cms. x 464 cms., and the design of which is attached to the circular.

MW Rentoy, moreover, instructs all DDGMs to ensure that his circular is implemented strictly in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

PAYING GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF OUR NOBLE PATRIOTS AND HEROES

ON AUGUST 30, THIS YEAR, we again pay grateful tribute to the memory of the countless Filipino patriots and heroes who gave all they had to liberate Filipinas, their adored land, and her people from the deadly stranglehold of foreign invaders – first, the Spanish colonialists; next, the North American neo-colonialists; and, finally, the Japanese expansionist intruders or interlopers. All agapeic lovers of Filipinas, those patriots and heroes willingly and readily sacrificed their lives in order that they would regain her from alien domination, thereby enabling her to live again in freedom. All of them dreamt of building up their “paradise regained” into a “pearl of the sea of the Orient”; into an invaluable and enviable place where the principles or ideals of pagkakaisa, pakikisama, pagkabayani, pagsasarili, and pakikipagkapwa-tao would hold sway; into a country “where there are neither slaves nor oppressors, nor yet executioners, where faith does not kill, and where He who reigns is God.”

“Let’s strive for a republic and never for a monarchy in our country; for the latter exalts one or several families and found a dynasty, while the former makes a people worthy through reason, great through liberty, and prosperous and brilliant through labor.”

Clearly, those courageous souls dreamt of establishing in their idolized country a republican form of government, and they successfully launched their dream into a happy reality; for they had but one main motivation or battlecry: “Bayan muna, bago pamilya, bago sarili” or “Tayo muna, bago kami, bago ako.”

We are now reaping the fruits of the self-immolation of those countless patriots, heroes, and martyrs. I think the best way we can show our gratitude to them is to recapture their unselfish motivation of promoting the welfare, happiness, progress, and prosperity of the whole nation rather than our own selfish interests and those of our families and groups.

Since a great many of our government officials and employees, as well our leaders in the private sector, lack pagkabayani or total dedication to the common good demonstrated by our nation’s heroes, Filipinas is not yet a place where prevail reason, justice and work. Moreover, since the moral evils which our Masonic forebears strove hard to eradicate from Philippine society still rear their ugly – nay, venomous -- heads in our midst, as a people or nation, we are not yet free.

Foremost of the moral evils that plague our country is social injustice -- inequitable distribution of the country’s wealth. Although our country is rich in natural

resources, the greater masses of our people are still suffering from grinding poverty, so that when elections come, many of them sell their votes in exchange of a small sum of money.

We are, indeed, a pathetic people; for many of our government officials are politicians, and only a few of them are statesmen. According to an anonymous author, politicians look to the next elections, while statesmen look to the next generation. Politicians promise progress and prosperity for the people. But when they are catapulted to positions of power and authority in the government, local and national alike, they no longer fulfill their promises. Many politicians pledge, for instance, that if they get elected, they will get rid of graft and corruption in the government units they will head. But when they are already in power, instead of fulfilling their pledges and promises, they themselves, as well as their ilk, commit graft and corruption, as evidenced by the many irregularities in government. The stark and awful truth is that many of the graft and corruption cases filed in our courts of law and in the Office of the Ombudsman remain unsettled or unresolved. Politicians continue to use their government positions for promoting their own vested interests and the interests of their respective families and groups. They are men of dishonor because, as Emilio Jacinto wrote in *Kartilya ng Katipunan*, "To a man of honor, his word is his oath." Indeed, the unscrupulous politicians among our government officials -- the so-called "trapos" -- are the Filipino nation's continuing curse, if not scourge.

We are, undoubtedly, an unfortunate lot because the different units of both national and local government continue to be misgoverned by one political party after another. A great many of our government officials at both local and national levels have a particularistic motivation; they lack *pagkabayani* or total dedication to promoting the welfare and happiness of the greater masses of the Filipino people.

This is one of the reasons for the continued existence of too much inequality among us. The rich and powerful are getting richer and more powerful; the poor and powerless, on the other hand, are getting poorer and more powerless. A great number of our countrymen live in slums under subhuman conditions, while the few filthy rich ones live in mansions or palaces. Many of our countrymen are landless and therefore become "informal settlers" or squatters on pieces of land they do not own, while aliens own big pieces of real estate and also reside in palaces or mansions because unscrupulous government officials violated the anti-dummy law and related pieces of legislation.

Past Grand Master and President Manuel Luis Quezon and other Mason statesmen endeavored most sincerely to bring about social justice and to lessen the gap

between the many poor and the few rich. But, their efforts seemed to have been of no avail. Inevitably, crimes continue unabated, and criminals are on the rampage. These and related problems have caused many of our compatriots to desire that a dictatorial or even a communistic form of government be established in our country, and others to want that another independent state be put up in Mindanao and some other parts of the archipelago. Thus, we continue to be a dismally divided or fragmented people.

How important, then, it is for us to strictly observe the following wise counsel of Brother Apolinario "Katabay" Mabini:

"Let's strive for a republic and never for a monarchy in our country; for the latter exalts one or several families and found a dynasty, while the former makes a people worthy through reason, great through liberty, and prosperous and brilliant through labor."

Definitely, our patriotic or heroic Masonic forebears would have preferred a democracy, with its faults and failings, with its uncertainties and changes, with its struggles and efforts for a better life, to any other form of government that treats the people like automatons or pawns; for, as Tomas Arejola, the reformist from Camarines Sur, strongly stated, "Both Masonry and democracy stand for man's freedom. Masonry thrives in countries where democracy reigns; the leaders of a democratic country are, by and large, the pillars of Masonry."

On Heroes Day, therefore, we brethren should reaffirm our faith in, as well as strengthen our resolve to uphold, both Masonic and democratic ideals and principles. On that day in particular, we should renew our pledge to be exemplary in the discharge of our duties as citizens both of this country and of the global community.

We Masons must exhibit ourselves as consistent lovers of Filipinas, our beloved country, which our Masonic forebears built on the pillars of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity and on the columns of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. We must, as Fr. Vitaliano Gorospe, S.J., has pointed out, contribute our respective shares to her further development, so that she will be better able to participate on free and equal terms with other freedom-loving nations in the attainment of human solidarity or the universal peace and harmony of men of different countries, sects, and opinions, which is, according to Brother Jose Rizal, the very purpose of humanity dictated by the Great Architect of the Universe (GAOTU). In other words, if we are to be veritable patriots, we must develop and manifest both a strong sense of Filipino nationalism and a staunch spirit of cosmopolitanism or internationalism.

"REVISITING" THE REIGN OF

TERROR UNLEASHED BY THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES

ON AUGUST 19 EACH YEAR, we not only celebrate the anniversary of the birth of PGM and Pres. Manuel Luis Quezon but also commemorate the anniversary of the public disclosure by Father Mariano Gil of the Katipunan as the real backbone of the movement to separate Filipinas and her people from Spain

As a aftermath of Fr. Gil's public disclosure, the Spanish authorities unleashed a reign of terror throughout the archipelago.

Most of the high-ranking leaders of the Katipuneros who took to the fields of battle throughout the archipelago were Masons, although many of the Mason Katipuneros were low-ranking soldiers. Among these were brethren of Walana Lodge who fought under the command of Brother Andres Bonifacio, such as the following: Placido Limanoc (Oriente), Claudio Carreon (La Luz), Tomas Alegre (Magat Salamat), Fructuoso Guzman (Malubay), Elias Asuncion (Jonson), Felipe Fulgeras (Eradidez), Aurelio Diokno (Masalisi), Julian Mendoza (Pighati), Santiago Manlapaz (Mapagayas), Francisco Villafranca (Batangas), and Francisco Duhaylunsod (Katwiran).

Unknown to the Spanish authorities was the fact that the incumbent governor-general at that time, Ramon Blanco, was a Freemason. As such, he was obliged to extend kind care, love, and protection to his brethren in Masonry, including a significant number of the Katipunan rebels. Hence, when the conservative and reactionary elements in the country, led by the friars, pressured him to impose martial law in those provinces where disturbances had occurred, he at first turned deaf ears to them.

Aguinaldo told his comrades in arms, "As long as we stay united in both purpose and action, we will be victorious against the enemy."

But on August 30, 1896, Andres Bonifacio, a Freemason, led a disastrous assault on the well-defended powder magazine at San Juan del Monte. This unfortunate event left Blanco with no other option than to issue a decree declaring the provinces of Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija in a state of war and placed them under martial law.

The imposition of martial law notwithstanding, the Katipuneros patiently and perseveringly pursued their armed struggle against the better equipped and better trained Spanish forces.

On August 31, Emilio Aguinaldo, Candido Tirona, Santiago and Mariano Alvarez, Artemio Ricarte, Baldomero Aguinaldo, and other Masons successfully led

simultaneous strikes in different towns of Cavite, so that within the first two weeks of September they controlled practically the whole province.

Aguinaldo told his comrades in arms, "As long as we stay united in both purpose and action, we will be victorious against the enemy."

On September 2, two groups of rebel forces attacked the Spanish garrison in San Isidro, the capital of Nueva Ecija. The group led by Mariano Llanera, the founder of Triangulo Centeno, marched from Cabiao to San Isidro, while that led by Pantaleon Belmonte, the founder of Triangulo Morayta, marched from Gapan to San Isidro. The two groups courageously laid siege on the capital.

On September 4, however, the rebel forces were repulsed by newly-arrived reinforcements from Spain. Unfortunately, Belmonte was killed during the siege.

Also in September, disturbances erupted in other provinces of the country.

The friars pointed to the Masons as the promoters of the rebellion against the Spanish colonial government. Using the pulpit, as well as private and public gatherings, for arousing the people's feeling of hatred toward the Masons, they depicted the Masons as evil or despicable men, as atheists, as associates of the devil, or as enemies of both Church and State, whom the people should shun.

Desirous of quelling the snowballing "revolution", the Spanish authorities ordered the police to arrest suspected rebels, raid their houses, and confiscate their properties.

The police first rounded up the officers of the Gran Consejo Regional (Regional Grand Council). They were Ambrosio Flores (Musa), Grand Master; Numeriano Adriano (Ipil), First Grand Vice-President; Faustino Villaruel (Ilaw), Second Grand Vice-President; Paulino Zamora (Terror), Third Grand Vice-President; Bonifacio Arevalo (Harem), Grand Treasurer; Apolinario Mabini (Katabay), Grand Orator; Isidro Villaruel (Gelano), Grand Almoner; Timoteo Paez (Raxa Matanda), Grand Master of Ceremonies; and Sixto Celis (Liwayway), Grand Accountant.

The authorities also ordered the police to arrest Grand Secretary Arcadio Flores (Sosten) and Crisanto de los Reyes. The police learned, however, that the two had already dropped the working tools of life.

Next, the police arrested and imprisoned officers of different Masonic Lodges in Manila and surrounding areas. These included the following: Logia Taliba -- Modesto Español (Agno), Aniceto Avelino, Epifanio Cuisia (Dagoberto), Teodoro Plata, Alvaro Nepomuceno

(Juarez), Valentin Polintan (Bamboche), Epifanio Saguil (Tibu), Isabelo Artacho (Vikos), and Worshipful Master Jose Dizon (Montgomery).

Toward noontime of September 12, they were marched by fours to the Plaza de Armas outside the west gate of Fort San Felipe to face a firing squad that had just arrived from Manila. Kneeling, hands tied behind their backs, they were shot from behind 45 minutes past high twelve. These patriotic countrymen are now simply known as “Trece Martires de Cavite.”

Logia Modestia -- Worshipful Master Antonio Salazar (Selabis), Jose Reyes Tolentino (Prim), Romualdo Gramonte (Progreso), Aurelio Tolentino (Pangahas), and Vicente Lukban (Victor Emmanuel).

Logia Dalisay -- Felipe Barreto, Ramon Padilla (Mendez Nuñez), Ceferino de Leon (Hanip), Jose Turiano Santiago (Nereo), and Justo Guido (Sumarap).

Logia Walana -- Past Master Tranquilino Torres (Iberico) and Vicente Mariposque (Talim), plus members who were grand officers.

Other Lodges -- Gracio Gonzaga (Camot), Domingo Franco (Felipe Leal), Pedro Casimiro (Saturno), Juan Castañeda (Langam), Dr. Ariston Bautista (Balagtas), Jose Engco (Sumpac), Ladislao Diwa (Baguio), Moises Salvador (Araw), Luis Enciso Villareal (Balisa), Venancio Reyes (Kidlat), Arcadio del Rosario (Job), Honorato Agrava (Makatwiran), Agustin de la Rosa (Luz), Estanislao Legaspi (Azul), Dionisio Ferras (Roeroy), Proceso Santos (Numapukao), Canuto Cruz (Carriedo), Bartolome Paez (Duhart), and Honorato Acosta (Makatwiran). Also: Pascual Poblete, Anastacio Alfonso, Vicente Matias, Gregorio de Jesus, Joaquin Molina, Felipe Noguera, Francisco Cordero, Dionisio Bantin, Antonio Feliciano, and Evaristo Dimalanta.

The police apprehended and jailed the Luna brothers, Juan and Antonio (Gay-Lussac).

The two brothers, together with Deodato Arelano, were later released from prison. Subsequently, the three joined the forces of Emilio Aguinaldo, but they would die during the revolution.

Rosario Villaruel (Minerva), the daughter of Faustino Villaruel of Logia Walana, the first Filipino “Mason” and the first Respectable Gran Maestra of Logia Semilla No. 8, the Lodge of Adoption founded by brethren of Logia Walana, was also apprehended and immured in Bilibid Prison, where she was subjected to cruel lashing. Later on, she would be also be released from prison.

Surprisingly, although they had extended active

assistance and sympathy to the rebel forces in different ways, the other members of Logia Semilla were not apprehended and incarcerated. These included Rizal’s sisters Josefa (Sumikat) and Trinidad (Sumibol); his nieces Angelica Lopez and Delfina Herbosa; Salud Lanuza, Mari-na Dizon, and Romualda Lanuza (Aurora); Purificacion Leyva (Ley), Valeriana Legaspi (Diana), and Sixta Fajardo (Ester); Carlota Zamora, Maria Teresa Robledo (wife of Sixto Celis), and Lorenza Nepomuceno.

Trinidad Tecson, another member of Logia Semilla, became a Brigadier General in the revolutionary army.

THE REIGN OF TERROR THEN SPREAD TO OTHER PROVINCES.

In Cavite, the police apprehended Jose Martin y Martin (Cordoba), a peninsular Spaniard, who was then the Grand Deputy of the Gran Oriente Nacional de España in the Philippines and the founder of Logia España en Filipinas, and Hugo Perez, the Master of the said Lodge. They also arrested members of the same Lodge, such as the following: Ramon Palmero, a capitan municipal; Victoriano Luciano, a scientist, who owned a famous botica; Eugenio Cabezas, a jeweler; Jose Lallana, an ilustrado tailor; Alfonso Ocampo, a prison official; Alfonso Ocampo, another prison official; Maximo Inocencio, a wealthy contractor, who was implicated in the Cavite Mutiny of 1872; Ramon Magcawas, a teacher; Rosauro Francisco, a draftsman at the naval works; Andres Perez, an industrialist; Maximo Gregorio, a clerk at the naval works; Feliciano Cabuco, another clerk at the naval works; Jose Adriosola Reyes, still another clerk; Eulalio Raymundo, a tailor; and Maximo Catís.

The police likewise arrested brethren from other Lodges, including Severino Lapidario, a prison warden, and Luis Aguado, the chief of supplies at the Cavite arsenal.

All of the aforementioned brethren were detained at Fort San Felipe.

Although there was no material evidence against them outside of their forced confessions, the following were charged with treason on September 11, 1896: Lapidario, Perez, Luciano, Inocencio, Gregorio, Cabuco, Lallana, Ocampo, Aguado, and Cabezas, together with three non-Masons.

On the same day, Brigadier General Francisco Rizzo, commanding general of operation for the province of Cavite, ordered that a council of war be formed. In the afternoon, a long trial was held. Although the 13 accused pleaded innocent, they were all declared guilty of rebellion and condemned to death.

Toward noontime of September 12, they were marched by fours to the Plaza de Armas outside the west gate of Fort San Felipe to face a firing squad that had just arrived from Manila. Kneeling, hands tied behind their backs, they were shot from behind 45 minutes past high twelve. These patriotic countrymen are now simply known as “Trece Martires de Cavite.”

The rest of the arrested Cavite Masons were released from prison.

Like Rosario Villaruel, Jose A. Reyes, Eulalio Raymundo, and Maximo Catis outlived the Revolution; they stayed active in the Fraternity until they died.

In San Fernando, La Union and Vigan, Ilocos Sur, the police apprehended prominent residents who were accused of being Masons and part of a conspiracy to overthrow the government and to massacre the Spaniards. These included the following: Dr. Luciano Almeida, Past Master of the Lodge in La Union; Lino Abaya, an ilustrado from Candon, Ilocos Sur; Gregorio Sy-Quia, a very rich Chinese mestizo residing in Vigan; Mena Crisologo, another ilustrado; and Primitivo del Pilar, a telegraph operator.

The police also took the following clergymen into custody: Fathers Mariano Dacanay, Adriano Garces, and Mariano Dacanay, assistant parish priests of Aringay, Balaoan, and San Fernando, La Union, respectively; deacons Gabino Carbonel, Ambrocio Mina and Miguel Florentino; and subdeacons Apolonio de la Peña and Luciano Bernabe.

Some of the aforementioned clergymen are said to have broken down and admitted the charges filed against them. Fr. Garces in particular is said to have admitted that, together with Fathers Gaerlan and Dacanay, he was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry in the Lodge in San Fernando, La Union founded by Arturo Dancel (Rousseau), who previously founded Lodge Dampulan in Jaen, Nueva Ecija. He is also said to have mentioned the names of the men who became Masters of the Lodge, as well as those of other Masons in the province of La Union together with their respective degrees. Moreover, he is said to have specified the names of those allegedly involved in the anti-government conspiracy and those assigned to assassinate the Spaniards in the province.

At any rate, although they were also subjected to flogging, those clergymen were eventually released from prison in April 1897. After giving written accounts of their sufferings, in which they denied they were Masons, the three priests of La Union were rehabilitated in the exercise of their priestly faculties.

In Nueva Ecija, the police arrested Marcus Ven-

tus, a lawyer and the founder of a Masonic triangle, and Mamerto Natividad, Sr., the founder of another Masonic triangle. The former was shot, while the latter was tortured to death.

Domingo Cecilio, a member of Triangulo Centeno and a trusted friend of Mariano Llanera, was shot by the police while he was allegedly fleeing from Cabiao to Calumpit in Bulacan. Ciriaco Sarile, Teodorico Lagonera, and Quintin Tinio were summarily executed.

Pablo Padilla, the founder of Triangulo Ruiz in Peñaranda, furthermore, was the object of liquidation by the police, but he was able to escape. Later, he joined the revolutionary forces and became a general.

In Tarlac, the police arrested and imprisoned members of Logia Abuso, such as Felix Ferrer (Alitaptap), Luis Navarro, Celestino Aragon, Ponciano Bundalian, Bonifacio Guevarra, Ciriaco Santos Cruz, Geronimo Calma, Mariano Torres, Geronimo Mando, Procopio Hilario, and Francisco Tañedo. The last two were adjudged guilty by a court martial and were subsequently executed.

In Pampanga, the police picked up and imprisoned Francisco Joven and Antonio Consunji.

In Batangas, Lauro Dimayuga was arrested and subsequently executed.

In Ambos Camarines, Leon Hernandez was executed, while Esteban Villaruel and Vicente Ursua were deported. Juan Miguel (the founder of a Masonic triangle), Pablo del Villar, Ramon Cabezudo, Gregorio Luyon, Diego Linan, Benedicto Sabater, Pablo Perpetua, Florentino Panalosa, and Adriano Pajarillo were imprisoned.

In Iligan, Rosalio Silos (Lira), the famous bandmaster, was shot to death on December 29, 1896.

To extract confessions from the imprisoned Masons and make them abjure Masonry and retract their membership in it, the authorities subjected them to merciless punishment. (The different punishments to which Mason prisoners were subjected are graphically described by Reynold S. Fajardo in *The Brethren*, p. 186.)

Additionally, the authorities brought the arrested Masons before hastily formed military tribunals, which conducted mock trials. Such kangaroo courts ordered that:

- Jose Rizal, Numeriano Adriano, Domingo Franco, Moises Salvador, Jose Dizon, Antonio Salazar, Luis Villareal, Faustino Villaruel, Ramon Padilla, Jeronimo Medina, Eustacio Mañalac, Teodoro Plata, and others be shot to death.
- Antonio Luna, Jose Reyes Tolentino, Aniceto Avelino, Pascual Poblete, Dionisio Bantín, Honorio Acosta,

Juan Castañeda, Romualdo Gramonte, Isabelo Artacho, Anastacio Alfonso, Jose Engco, and Dr. Ariston Bautista be deported.

- The rest of the arrested Masons, who had already languished in prison for several agonizing months, be released.

Early in the morning of January 11, 1897, ten Freemasons (to wit, Adriano, Dizon, Franco, Mañalac, Medina, Padilla, Salazar, Salvador, Villareal, and Villaruel), together with three non-Masons (namely, Benedicto Nijaga, Braulio Rivera, and Francisco Roxas, were transported from Fort Santiago in horse-drawn carriages, or quilez, to Bagumbayan field, in the spot which is now known as the Chinese Garden, where they were shot by a squad of Filipino soldiers. Their bodies were unceremoniously piled up like garbage in closed horse-drawn carts called forgon. Three of them, namely, Salazar, Salvador, and Roxas, were buried in unconsecrated ground in the Paco Cemetery, while the rest were carted away to La Loma, where they were dumped collectively into a common pit.

Today, the 13 are referred to as “Trece Martires de Bagumbayan.”

In February, the Spanish authorities ordered that Teodoro Plata, Vicente Molina, Roman Basa, and many other Masons be shot by a firing squad also at Bagumbayan field.

News about the executions spread like a telegram throughout the world. Masons were one in expressing grief over the gruesome fate of their fraternity brothers and lost no time in paying tribute to their memory.

In Hong Kong on February 14, 1897, Fr. Severo Buenaventura, the priest who founded a Masonic Lodge in Cavite, led brethren residing in holding commemorative rites in fraternal tribute to the memory of Jose Rizal and other Masons executed as subversives in Manila, Cavite, and other parts of the country. The rites were held at the house of Mariano Marti, Jr., a nephew of Fr. Jose Burgos and a high-degree Mason, and attended not only by Filipino Masons but also by some Masons from other Obediences. After the ceremonies, Rizal's valedictory poem was read, and then his photos and printed copies of his poem were distributed.

In Spain, the authorities ordered the police to pick Mariano Ponce (Kalipulako) and briefly detained him. Besides, they accused the Spanish Masons of having introduced Freemasonry into the archipelago and partly blamed them for the abortive insurrection. So, they ordered the police to raid the headquarters of both the Grande Oriente Español and the Asociacion Hispano-Filipina. The raiders seized the documents of the two organizations and arrested their officers, including Tomas Are-

jola, a reformist from Camarines Sur, who was an active member of Logia Solidaridad No. 53.

Fortunately, before the police arrived at his headquarters, Miguel Morayta (Pizarro), Grand Master of the Grande Oriente Español and President of the Asociacion Hispano-Filipina, was at that time in the northern part of Spain and was able to cross the border to France. From the town of Bourg-Madame in France he fired off a protest against accusations of filibusterismo, pointing out that the Grande Oriente Español had nothing to do with any revolutionary activity in the Philippines. The officers of the Grande Oriente Español who were arrested also denied involvement in the Revolution; they admitted that they knew of some Filipinos who belonged to the Grande Oriente Español, but maintained that these Filipinos had already returned to the Philippines or moved elsewhere.

The Spanish authorities were not able to substantiate their charges against the officers of both the Grande Oriente Español and the Asociacion Hispano-Filipina. After a few weeks, therefore, the Court dismissed the case against them and ordered them to be set at liberty.

Morayta returned to Spain and resumed his Masonic activities. He went out of his way to assist the Filipino exiles obtain their freedom. Besides, when he learned of the execution of Rizal, his former student in the Universidad Central de Madrid, he caused a memorial in his honor to be placed in the halls of the Grande Oriente Español.

Officers of the Gran Oriente Nacional de España were not as fortunate as their counterparts in the Grande Oriente Español. When the police raided the headquarters of Jose Martin y Martin (Cordoba), the Grand Deputy of the Gran Oriente Nacional de España in the Philippines, as well as the houses of the members of Logia Patria, namely, Faustino Villaruel (Ilaw), Dionisio Ferraz (Roeroy), and Canuto V. Cruz (Carriedo), they found Masonic diplomas signed by Jose Ma. Pantoja and Eduardo Caballero de Puga, the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary of the said Grand Orient, respectively.

The Spanish authorities in the Philippines relayed this piece of information to the government in Spain, which in turn caused the officers of the said Grand Orient to be arrested. Their case dragged on for nine months before they were released in June 1897.

Convinced that Marcelo H. del Pilar (Kupang) had turned “disloyal” to Spain, the central government in Madrid laid out plans to arrest him. Having received information that Del Pilar was in Japan, the Spanish Overseas Minister proposed to Governor General Ramon Blanco that he be prosecuted in absentia in Manila, and that on the strength of a criminal case a request be ad-

dressed to the Japanese government for his extradition.

But the Spanish authorities had to abandon the whole idea when they received the news that Marcelo Del Pilar had died in Barcelona on July 4, 1896.

Actually, Del Pilar was planning to return to the Philippines; for he was convinced that the time had arrived to wage the fight for emancipation on native soil. When he was in Barcelona, however, he fell very ill because he was suffering from tuberculosis. Hence, he was no longer able to carry out his plan to return to his native land.

Most, if not all, of the men and women mentioned in the foregoing account are veritable patriots and heroes/heroines, who also rendered genuine service to both Fraternity and Citizenry. To them, therefore, we owe a big debt of gratitude (*malaking utang na loob*). But we do not know a significant number of them due to the sad and awful fact that their names and accomplishments are not

duly recorded and acknowledged in our history books. The history of our nation should, therefore, be rewritten in such a way that those “unsung” heroes and heroines are given the honor and recognition they have long deserved.

Reference: Fajardo, Reynold S. *The Brethren*, Vol. 1. Manila, Philippines: Grand Lodge of the Philippines, 1998.

“I would rather have a country run like hell by Filipinos than a country run like heaven by the Americans, because however bad a Filipino government might be, we can always change it.”

–Manuel L. Quezon

BRO. APOLINARIO ‘KATABAY’ MABINI

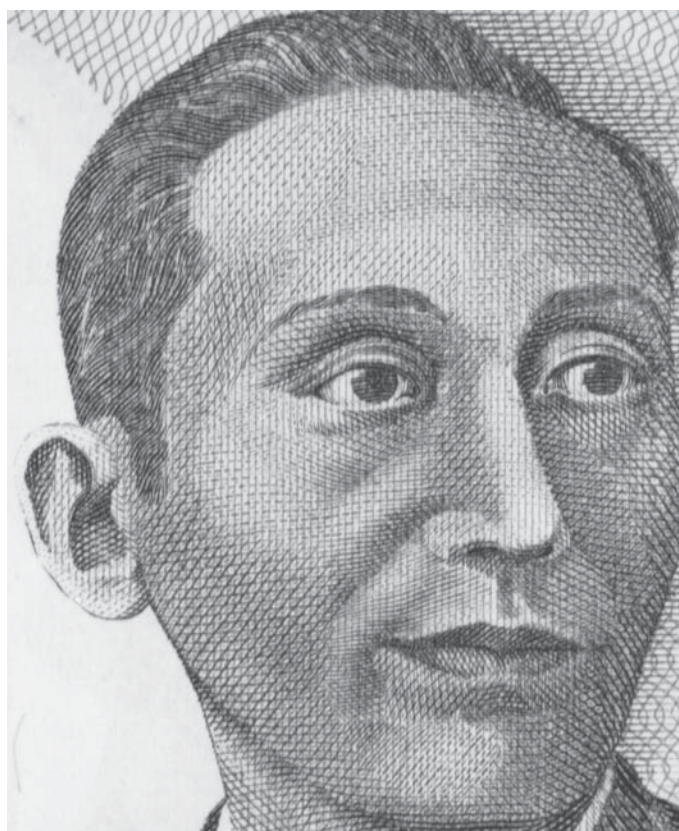
By Flor Ramos Nicolas, PSGL

His Birth, Family, Educational
Attainments

Born on July 23, 1864 in Talaga, Tanauan, Batangas, Apolinario was the second of the eight children of Inocencio Mabini, an unlettered peasant, and Dionisia Maranan, a vendor in the Tanauan market.

He began his informal studies under his maternal grandfather, who was the village teacher. Because he demonstrated uncommon intelligence, he was transferred to a regular school owned by Simplicio Avelino, where he worked as a houseboy. He also took odd jobs from a local tailor, all in exchange for free board and lodging. He later moved to a school conducted by Fr. Valerio Malabanan, whose fame as an educator was so widespread that Jose Rizal mentioned him in his second novel, *El Filibusterismo*.

On the suggestion of Fr. Malabanan, Apolinario



participated in a competitive examination for scholarship at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila, and he topped the examination. Thus, in 1881, he enrolled at the said school, where he took up Bachelor of Arts, major in Philosophy.

Because of a chronic lack of funds, however, his studies in Letran were intermittently interrupted. To earn

money for his board and lodging, he tutored children belonging to rich families in Intramuros.

Working and studying to the best of his ability, he graduated from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran with the highest honors and with the title Professor of Latin.

Although his mother desired him to take up priesthood, he decided to pursue law studies at the University of Santo Tomas in order to be able to defend the poor.

As a student in UST, he did not infrequently feel the pang of poverty. But he did not allow his economic adversity to derail him from his ambition to finish his law studies. To support himself, he continued to teach Latin to children belonging to wealthy families, and he served as a copyist in the Court of First Instance in Manila, where his boss was Numeriano Adriano, a Freemason, whose good example inspired him to petition for membership in the Masonic fraternity.

His Initiation into Masonry

He filed his petition for Masonic membership with Lodge Balagtas in Sampaloc, Manila. The brethren of the Lodge gave his petition the favorable ballot. Hence, in September 1892, they met in the lodge hall to initiate him.

Past Grand Master Reynod S. Fajardo describes Mabini as a candidate for the degrees of Masonry in the following manner:

“... Pale and sickly, he barely passed the physical requirements for admission. He was only a working student, not man of means, unlike the other candidates, who mostly belonged to the affluent class. Above all, he had not manifested any nationalistic inclinations. He was not active during the days of Governor-General Terrero; he did not take part in the Manifestation of 1888; he was neither a member of the Comite de Propaganda, nor was he present when Rizal founded La Liga Filipina, nor yet did he enlist in the Katipunan.... He chose Katabay, a Tagalog word meaning ‘cautious’ and ‘calculating,’ as his symbolic or secret name in Masonry.” (The Brethren, Vol. I, p. 120).

His Post-Initiation Activities

Adds MW Fajardo: “After his initiation, to the delight of his brother Masons, Mabini became a very ardent disciple. He immersed himself completely in the serious study of Masonic mysteries and assiduously participated in Masonic functions. Very importantly, he began to manifest a deep sense of nationalism, plunging himself into propatria activities. In no time, Mabini gained the respect and admiration of his brother Masons. They began to seek his

advice and views and frequently invited him at Masonic meetings. He was their favorite orator.” (Ibid., p. 121).

Apacible's Description of a Lodge Meeting in Nagtahan

Following is Bro. Galicano Apacible's description of a lodge meeting in Nagtahan, where Mabini was the orator of the day:

“At that meeting, the orator of the Lodge read his speech expounding the situation of Philippine Masonry, its difficulties and defects, and proposing the measures that should be adopted. Unconsciously and because of his newness, I took notice of the physical aspect of the speaker. He was a tall man, slim, somewhat pale, whose face, though Malayan, had a Roman profile. His voice was almost a soprano; he spoke softly, and he did not make gestures. His physical look did not impress me favorably. I imagined that his speech would be boresome, and I prepared to sleep in my chair. But as he advanced in his speech, he stirred my interest until my attention was completely absorbed. In my eyes his figure was transformed; it was growing gigantic; his ideas were concrete, vigorous and virile, impregnated with patriotism and sane judgment. At those moments he proved false the maxim of ‘mens sana in corpore sano’. The speaker was a sickly man in striking contrast to his very sane, robust, and vigorous mentality.

“After the meeting, during the refreshment, I asked to be introduced to him personally and then learned that his name was Apolinario Mabini.” (Ibid.).

Mabini's Role in the Formation of the Regional Grand Council

The situation of Philippine Masonry, its difficulties and defects, mentioned by Bro. Galicano Apacible had something to do with the conflict between the leaders of Nilad, the “mother” of Philippine Lodges, and those of the other Lodges in Manila. The latter frowned upon certain actions of the former. Because they knew that Mabini was a master of Masonic law and lore, they consulted him regarding the problematic situation, and he suggested to them that they hold a General Assembly for the main purpose of discussing the formation of a Regional Grand Council instead of a Regional Grand Lodge.

So, in April 1892, representatives of Lodges in Manila held a General Assembly in Malabon. In

that assembly, all the Lodges in Manila, except Nilad, were represented. The representatives voted for the formation of a Regional Grand Council and elected the following as officers thereof: Ambrosio Flores (Musa), President; Numeriano Adriano (Ipil), Grand First Vice-President; Faustino Villaruel (Ilaw), Grand Second Vice-President; Paulino Zamora (Terror), Grand Third Vice-President; Apolinario Mabini (Katabay), Grand Orator; Cipriano Castillo (Algiababal), Asst. Grand Orator; Arcadio Flores (Sosten), Grand Secretary; Jose Barbasa (Tagadagat), Grand Asst. Secretary; Bonifacio Arevalo (Harem), Grand Treasurer; Sixto Celis (Liwayway), Grand Accountant; Isidro Villaruel (Gelano), Grand Almoner; Timoteo Paez (Raxa Matanda), Grand Master of Ceremonies; and Marciano Ramirez (Raxa Bata), Grand Tyler.

Why He Had a Lucrative Law Practice

In 1894, Apolinario Mabini, at long last, graduated from UST with the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.).

With the active assistance and sympathetic support of Numeriano Adriano (Ipil), his boss and mentor, and other Mason lawyers, who referred their clients to him, Mabini had a lucrative law practice, which led to the gradual improvement of his economic condition and, eventually, to the purchase by him of a house and lot in Nagtahan.

But He Became a Paralytic, Was Made Prisoner of War

In 1896, however, he contracted an illness, which his physician-brethren diagnosed as “infantile paralysis”; they did all they could to cure him, but to no avail.

But, when the Katipunan revolt broke out in that year, despite his physical infirmity, he was arrested by the Spanish authorities, who made him a prisoner of war at the San Juan de Dios Hospital, where he started writing *La Revolucion Filipina*, a political and historical treatise, which he would continue in Los Baños, Laguna and complete in Guam.

Why He Had a Change of Mind and Heart

His arrest and imprisonment were an irony because besides being physically infirm, he was at that time a pacifist or reformist. In fact, he served as the Secretary of the reorganized *La Liga Filipina*; for he believed so firmly that the Reform Movement would still succeed that he actively participated in the collection of monthly monetary contributions from Filipino Masons for the support of the

Asociacion Hispano-Filipina, the president of which was Miguel Morayta, the Grand Master of the *Grande Oriente Español* (Spanish Grand Orient), and *La Solidaridad*, the fortnightly publication of the Reform Movement, which was edited first by Graciano Jaena Lopez and then by Marcelo Hilario del Pilar.

According to Past Grand Master Reynold Fajardo once more, Mabini did not join the Revolution of 1896 because, as a brilliant lawyer, he opposed anything that that smacked of illegality, and he preferred peaceful methods in attaining reforms from the government. Later on, however, his political attitude changed from pacifist or reformist to revolutionary because, instigated by the abusive and repressive friars, the Spanish authorities resorted to severe measures to dissuade the Filipinos from emancipating themselves from Spain. They arrested and incarcerated him despite his physical infirmity, and they unjustly and senselessly hounded, harassed, imprisoned, deported, and even executed many of his close friends and brother Masons. (Ibid., p. 221).

What He Did in Los Baños in Laguna

When he was released from prison, he left for Los Baños in Laguna, hoping that the hot springs in that place would help cure his illness.

In his solitude, he continued to analyze the Revolution. He concluded that its failure resulted from the absence of an ideological direction and lack of a comprehensive and coordinated plan for revolutionary consciousness. Deep in his heart he knew that the Pact of Biak-na-Bato did not write finis to the Revolution, and he sensed that the fighting would inevitably resume. Thus, he resolved that this time the Revolution would not fail because he would (1) endow it with intellectual direction, the power of ideas, and the sustaining strength of the spirit, and (2) make sure that it would (a) not be confined to the Tagalog provinces like the Katipunan, but rather participated in by the entire Filipino people, rising as one and recognizing the leadership of a President and the moral leadership of a legislature; (b) provide the new citizens with a law, a fatherland, and a nationality; and (c) aim at attaining independence of the country and her people from foreign domination, but this should only be a means of achieving its ultimate end, which is the social emancipation and regeneration of the Filipino. (Ibid., p. 222).

He Penned “El Verdadero Decalogo”

In April 1898, to bolster the Filipino people’s patriotism and to teach them their civic duties, he penned *El Verdadero Decalogo*, which he patterned after the

Codigo Moral Masonico, and in which he dissected with a surgeon's ruthlessness the true meaning of liberty and, like Moses and Hammurabi, laid down the proper norms of conduct. (Del Castillo and Medina, pp. 173-174).

Mabini firmly believed that the faithful and conscientious observance by all Filipinos of the set of truths or rules contained in El Verdadero Decalogo would bring about a greater political and moral consciousness among them. He wanted the Filipino revolutionists to observe a strict code of morals; for, to him, even more important than triumph in the battlefield was victory in the struggle to establish the habits of virtue and right conduct in the minds and hearts of the Filipinos. (Fajardo, pp. 222-223).

Aguinaldo and Mabini: A "Natural Team"

Reportedly, when the Filipino revolutionary leaders were exiles in Hongkong, Gen. and WB Emilio Aguinaldo (Colon) requested a fellow Freemason, Don Felipe Agoncillo, to recommend to him a highly educated and erudite countryman who could serve effectively as his chief adviser when he would return to the Philippines and resume the war against Spain, and Don Felipe Agoncillo unhesitatingly recommended Apolinario Mabini. Agoncillo is said to have told Aguinaldo, "Paralitiko iyan. Ngunit may ulo, at Kapatid natin siya sa Masonerya."

Thus, Aguinaldo decided to make Apolinario Mabini his chief adviser.

In May 1898, shortly after his return to the country, he sent for the paralytic, who was then vacationing in Los Baños, Laguna. The paralytic was carried in a hammock by many men all the way from Los Baños to Cavite Viejo, where he arrived on June 12, 1898, just in time to witness the proclamation by Gen. Aguinaldo of the independence of the Philippines "before the Filipino people and the civilized nations" of the world and the consecration of the Philippine flag. Hence, on that day, Aguinaldo and Mabini met for the first time.

Comments Past Grand Master Fajardo: "They were a natural team and hit it off from the very start. Aguinaldo provided the muscle for the Revolution, Mabini the brains. Eventually, the two would invest the Revolution with a distinctive Masonic flavor." (Ibid., p. 223).

Mabini versus Calderon

As the chief adviser of Aguinaldo, Mabini had a hand in appointments to high positions. Because he frequently recommended his brothers in Masonry

to be appointed to such positions, Felipe G Calderon assailed the "sectarian Masonic spirit" that pervaded the Revolutionary Government, branding it as one of the evils of the Revolution; he bewailed the "mania of Aguinaldo or rather of his adviser, Mabini, to elevate any person who was a Mason." (Ibid., p. 224).

Some of Mabini's Official Acts

Mabini formulated a decree ordering the reorganization of local government units in those provinces already freed from Spanish control. On June 18, 1898, Aguinaldo signed the decree, which stated, among other things, "The first duty of the government is to interpret the popular will faithfully." This statement may as well epitomize Mabini's policy throughout the Filipino people's struggle against foreign rule.

Two days later, Aguinaldo issued a supplementary decree, again written by Mabini, providing for the administration of justice.

On June 23, Aguinaldo signed the decree setting up the Revolutionary Government. This decree changed the title of the Chief of State from Dictator to President, created four departments to assist the President in his duties, and provided for the creation of a Revolutionary Congress and the election of delegates thereto. (Ibid.).

Mabini versus the Wealthy Members of the Revolutionary Congress et Alii

On September 15, 1898, Aguinaldo convoked the Revolutionary Congress at Barasoain, Malolos, Bulacan. Masons did not control the Congress, so that when its officers were chosen, non-Masons captured the principal positions. Pedro S. Paterno was elected President; Benito Legarda, Vice President; and Gregorio Araneta, first Secretary. These officers, plus other wealthy delegates, planned to draft a Constitution for the First Philippine Republic. They contended that a Constitution addressing the needs of the time was necessary to secure foreign recognition of Philippine independence. Firmly believing that, given the emergency conditions of war, the function of the Congress was simply to advise the President, Mabini opposed the plan to draft a Constitution.

He was, however, defeated by the majority of the delegates to the Congress, who created a committee of 19 to draft the fundamental law. Calderon, the anti-Mason, was made its head. His committee initially considered three constitutional plans: (1) Mabini's Programa Constitucional para la Republica Filipina, which he based on the Statutes of Universal Masonry and in which he charted the course of action to be taken by Aguinaldo's Revolutionary Government; (2) the plan written by Pedro Paterno; and

(3) the one drafted by Calderon himself.

Calderon's committee rejected Mabini's plan because "it was too Masonic." Paterno withdrew his plan from consideration. Hence, the plan submitted by Calderon remained as the sole working draft. This eventually became the basis of the Malolos Constitution of the First Philippine Republic. (Fajardo, pp. 224-225; also Del Castillo and Medina, p. 174).

On January 2, 1899, Mabini was appointed by Gen. and Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo as Prime Minister and as Minister of Foreign Affairs of his newly-formed dictatorial government. Thus, he led the first Cabinet of the First Philippine Republic, which was formally declared by the Revolutionary Congress in appropriate ceremonies held on January 23.

He Negotiated for Peace

On March 6, 1899, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Apolinario Mabini started negotiating for peace with the Americans. He endeavored most earnestly to convince the latter to respect the autonomy of Aguinaldo's new government. But the negotiations for peace failed because Mabini included ceasefire as a condition for peace, and the Americans rejected this condition. So, Mabini sought for an armistice instead. But even this gambit failed. Eventually, feeling that the Americans were not negotiating bona fide, he forswore them, rallied the people, and supported war.

His Conflict with the Wealthy Members of the Revolutionary Congress and of Aguinaldo's Cabinet Intensified

Apolinario Mabini was the most competent thinker and theoretician in Aguinaldo's Cabinet. Although he was a paralytic, he was not only highly educated, but he also had a very flexible and imaginative mind as well as very comprehensive views. However, a significant number of property owners and members of the landlord class who occupied high ranks or positions in the revolutionary government formed a conspiracy to eclipse Mabini as Aguinaldo's principal adviser. (Del Castillo and Medina, p. 175).

His conflict with the conspirators became more and more intense, so that on May 7, 1899, he resigned from all his posts in the Aguinaldo Cabinet. His resignation notwithstanding, he succeeded in exposing the vicious opportunism of the Paterno-Buencamino clique, which tried to gain control over, as well as to profit from, the financial transactions of, the revolutionary government. (Ibid.).

He Was Captured, Set Free, Recaptured, Exiled

On December 10, 1899, the American forces, who were in hot pursuit of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and his soldiers, who were then fleeing northeast toward the province of Isabela, found and captured Apolinario Mabini in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. But later, seeing that he was suffering from extreme physical infirmity, they set him free.

Mabini, however, continued to support the Filipino revolutionists in their ideological struggle against the North Americans; he turned out subversive manifestos appealing to all Filipinos to take active part in the fight against the new invaders. Hence, the latter captured him again.

Former American Governor-General William Howard Taft, who was also a Freemason, described Mabini as "the most irreconcilable among Filipinos, whose physical infirmity had appealed to the imagination of the Filipinos and to the pity of all ... to place him in the attitude of a martyr." (Ibid., p. 172).

In 1901, the American authorities in the country deported Mabini to Guam, together with scores of other Filipino "insurrectos" (insurgents), who also adamantly refused to swear fealty to the United States of America.

When Brig. Gen. Arthur C. MacArthur, Jr., another Freemason, was asked by the US Senate to explain why Apolinario Mabini had to be deported to Guam, he cabled this message to the Senate: "Mabini deported: a most active agitator; persistently and defiantly refusing amnesty, and maintaining correspondence with insurgents in the field while living in Manila." (Ibid., p. 173).

He Finished His Memoirs and *La Revolucion Filipina*

During his exile in Guam, Apolinario Mabini completed writing his *Memoirs* and *La Revolucion Filipina*. The latter work consists of two volumes. The first volume, which covers the period April 1899 to May 1899, contains all that Mabini had written as a private citizen and as a public official under Aguinaldo's revolutionary organization, while the second records Mabini's writings and public letters from June 21, 1899 to September 2, 1902.

La Revolucion Filipina, besides its beautiful dedicatory message for Mabini's mother and a prologue, is made up of these short chapters: (1) The Revolution and Political Evolution; (2) Spanish Domination of the Philippines before the Opening of the Suez Canal; (3) The Cause and Effect of the Garroting of Fathers Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora; (4) Spanish Administration of the

Philippines before the Revolution; (5) Reforms Demanded by La Solidaridad; (6) The Novels of Rizal; (7) La Liga Filipina and the Katipunan; (8) The Early Beginnings of the Revolution; (9) The Revolution in Its Period of Development; (10) The End and Fall of the Revolution; and (11) The Conclusion.

State Del Castillo and Medina: "The foregoing chapter headings indicate that *La Revolucion Filipina* is a rapid historical account written by a quasi- political scientist and philosopher, with an eye to evaluating what transpired in his own time, and that it is Mabini's reasoned analysis and cogent argument concerning the ideological implications of the war against Spain and the resistance to the American invaders." (Ibid.).

They add that this work shows Mabini as "a dedicated and disinterested patriot, always trying to mediate between the people's will and their leaders' decisions." (Ibid.).

He Pledged Allegiance to
the USA, But ...

On February 26, 1903, after taking an oath of allegiance to the United States of America before the Collector of Customs in Guam, Mabini was allowed to return to the Philippines. But on his way back to the country, he issued a statement to the press, which reads this way: "After two long years, I am returning, so to speak, completely disoriented and, what is worse, almost overcome by disease and sufferings. Nevertheless, I hope, after some time of rest and study, still to be of some use, unless I have returned to the Islands for the sole purpose of dying."

To the American officials' chagrin, soon after his return from exile, Mabini resumed his pro-patria work; specifically, he agitated for independence for the Philippines.

He Dropped Life's Working Tools

On May 13, 1903, at the age of 38, he died of cholera in Manila.

Concluding Statements

Bro. Apolinario Katabay Mabini set the good example of not allowing poverty and illness to prevent him from attaining academic and professional success. He consistently exemplified iron discipline, diligence in work and study, strict adherence to convictions and principles, and pagkabayani or disinterested, dedicated, and devoted service to country and countrymen. Although he was Gen. and Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo's chief adviser and the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the First Philippine Republic, he did not take advantage of those positions of power to promote his own welfare and interests. Instead, throughout his stint as a government official, he consistently lived an unselfish and unblemished life. He was, indeed, a real patriot and hero. In Masonic parlance, both as a private citizen and as a public servant, he wore his lambskin apron with credit to himself and honor to the Fraternity.

He was rightly perceived by his contemporaries as "a political philosopher whose counsel enabled General Emilio Aguinaldo's revolutionary government to weather disintegration, and whose political teachings made many of his countrymen bear immense difficulties." And he is not undeservedly recognized and revered by the Filipino people as the "Brains of the Philippine Revolution." (Ibid., p. 172).

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"Woe to the Revolution when the day comes, when the people,
overburdened by contributions and consumed by abuses,
turn to their enemies for salvation!"

Apolinario Mabini

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WHY CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION?

BY Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno (ret.)



Retired Chief Justice Reynato Puno, PGM, has never been more pointed and explicit on his socio-political commentary than in this speech he delivered at a symposium on constitutional reforms at the University of the Visayas, in Cebu City on July 5, 2015.

History repeats itself, so the adage goes. I hardly paid attention to this adage when I was young. As I grew older, I could not but marvel at the truth of the adage. If you look at our current news you will discover that they are repeats of past news, with little modifications but repeats nevertheless. To a movie goer, such repeats pose no problem. He simply tells himself, “Napanood ko na iyan,” and walks away.

I wish we can adopt that dismissiveness, that nonchalance, that indifference to problems that keep manifesting themselves to Filipinos from generation to generation. But if we give up on these problems, if we do not care anymore to the repetition of our errors and tragedies as a people, then the Filipino is ready for the requiem.

What are some of these problems that keep on replaying themselves in our lives for more than a century? — catch that, for more than a century now. Here are some:

One. During the Spanish time, the problem and the news that screamed was the lack of representation of the Filipino people in the Spanish Cortes, the Spanish lawmaking body. Rizal, del Pilar, Lopez Jaena, created a lot of noise and news against this anti-democratic practice.

What is new? Today, so many centuries after, the news is still lack of democratic representation of

some significant sectors of our society but this time, in our Congress, the Executive and the Judiciary. I refer to the complaint of our Muslim brothers and sisters of their utter lack of representation in the Senate and the Supreme Court and underrepresentation in the Executive Department.

Two. Another recurring news is cheating during elections when we elect/choose leaders. The Spaniards never allowed Filipinos to vote for their leaders. This anti-democratic practice was one reason for the revolution against Spain. But Filipinos had their first experience in choosing their leaders during their armed revolution against Spain. The revolution was led by Bonifacio and Aguinaldo. Soon, due to irreconcilable differences in style, intelligence and temper, rivalry between Bonifacio and Aguinaldo developed. They split and they formed the Magdalo and Magdiwang factions, respectively. The two realized that an armed revolution against the super power that was Spain, cannot be waged by divided revolutionaries. They agreed to have an election of sort. Aguinaldo won. Bonifacio lost and he protested the alleged use of fraud and force by the Aguinaldo camp. Bonifacio did not have the opportunity to prove his election grievance. He was executed. Yes, this was the first time, the Filipinos, by themselves, voted on who would be their leader. And it proved to be a catastrophe.

The use of election violence, force, and fraud

was news then, it is still news now. The prostitution of our electoral process is an unmitigated tragedy. Do you know that in Asia, we were the first to exercise the right to vote? That democratic right was given to us by Americans more than a century ago. Look how we corrupted our right to vote, which is the primary means by which the people express their sovereignty. In the 1949 presidential election, where President Quirino bested Jose P. Laurel, our historians tell us that “the birds and the bees” cast the critical votes. In the 1986 snap Presidential election between President Marcos and Mrs. Cory Aquino, electoral fraud prompted the walkout of people canvassing its result, and that triggered the EDSA People Power revolution. A few years ago, we had our national and local elections where for the first time we resorted to automated election. Guess if the automated election got rid of the use of force and fraud in our elections. The categorical answer is no, it did not. Truth to tell, we have more electoral protests after we resorted to automated elections and spent billions of pesos for the same. Cheating in election is still the hot news today.

Three. Look at the complaints about too much power given to the President, and the abuse of the excessive Presidential powers to the detriment of democracy. Again, centuries ago, we read in history books, episodes on how some of our past Executives used/misused their overwhelming powers, starting from Aguinaldo when he ruled as our first dictator fighting the war against Spain. For this reason, most of our Presidents were threatened or were actually charged with impeachment in Congress, Presidents Quirino, Macapagal, Marcos, Estrada, GMA, are examples.

Today, the use or misuse of presidential powers is again top-of-the-line news. Rightly or wrongly, the incumbent President is denounced for the DAP, (Disbursement Acceleration Program), for favoring his partymates in the allocation of budget, for selective prosecution of the members of the opposition, etc. We can expect the charges to escalate as the 2016 Presidential election comes nearer.

Four. Another recurring news is the conflict between the Legislative and the Executive branches of government. Not a few Presidents considered Congress as an obstacle to their reform programs, denouncing legislators as incapable of reformation. Hence, President Marcos immediately abolished Congress when he declared martial law. Similarly, President Aquino refused to revive Congress under the Freedom Constitution. On the other hand, sometimes it is Congress that considers the President as chief of the evil empire. Thus, we saw how the House of Representatives impeached President Estrada, a process that led to the second EDSA revolution. Then, we saw the dogfight between President Gloria Macapagal-Ar-

royo and Congress. Ostensibly wielding its power to investigate in aid of legislation, Congress summoned members of the Cabinet and sub-cabinet of President Arroyo allegedly involved in irregularities like the Fertilizer Scam, ZTE broadband contract anomaly, etc. Pres. Arroyo did not allow her officials to honor the summons and invoked her executive privilege. The result of the squabbling was deadlock between the two great branches of government and the paralysis of our progress.

This is still news today. We hear Malacanang complaining about the difficulty of getting Congress enact its pet bills. The favorite story in the media in the past so many months is the failure of the President to convince Congress to pass the BBL before he delivers his last SONA on July 27.

Will we see an end to this interminable fight between the President and Congress?

The answer is again, no. There will be short pauses in the fight but they are just that — pauses. For sure, there will be no end to the friction between the President and Congress. The reason is simple. The Constitution precisely designed this friction to exist between these two branches of government. They were separated from each other. They were given powers to check each other. Friction was inevitable between the two branches. It was thought that this friction would be healthy for our democracy. It was believed that this friction would prevent tyranny on the part of one branch of government over the other. After years and years of experience, we can conclude that at best, that idea is pure romanticism and at worst, is damaging to our democracy. The friction that separation of powers is designed to produce is turning out to be a flame, and has burned down our house of democracy. Why do I say that? One reason President Marcos declared martial law was dissatisfaction with Congress. Hence, he shut down Congress and that ended our democracy under the 1935 Constitution. It happened again in the time of President Estrada. His relationship with Congress was not too satisfactory. Congress tried to impeach him. When it failed, the mob took over. Again our democracy took a dive.

Five. The recurring news about the lack of independence of the Judiciary. Again, read our legal history. The message it imparts is that for the most part, our courts have not attained that independence enjoyed by their counterparts abroad. Certainly, during the years of American occupation, our Supreme Court lacked independence for its decisions were reviewed by the US Supreme Court. Indeed, its decisions were reversed not a few times. Fast forward its history and still, the complaint is that under the 1935 Constitu-

tion, the Judiciary cannot stand its ground against the two other branches of government. This weakness was fully exposed when Pres. Marcos declared martial law. All the significant decrees of Pres. Marcos passed judicial scrutiny and this raised a lot of howl among proponents of the rule of law.

Today, the independence of the Supreme Court is again hogging the headlines. The impact of the impeachment of former CJ Corona on the independence of the SC has yet to be measured. So is it with the continuing threat of the Congress to investigate how the SC is disbursing its funds. Add to that the insufficient budget allotted to the Judiciary since time immemorial.

Six. The recurring news that a great many of our local government units cannot progress because of too much control of the central government. During the Spanish rule of our country, they called this control as the imperialism of Madrid. During our American rule, it became the imperialism of Washington. After we ruled ourselves, it became the imperialism of Manila.

The imperialism of Manila started in the 1935 Constitution. After 80 years, has the imperialism of Manila over our provinces, cities and municipalities, come to an end? The question answers itself. All that has been granted our local government units is limited autonomy and it has not worked.

Today, the greatest threat to our democracy, more specifically to our territorial integrity is this anomalous imbalance of power, the insufficient power given to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Our leaders are trying to remedy this insufficiency by passing the BBL. Again, the enactment of the BBL is running thru a lot of Constitutional challenge. It is difficult to imagine the catastrophe that will befall the country if our leaders fail to correct this imbalance of power between the central government and the ARMM. No less than President Aquino says we will be counting body bags if the BBL fails to hurdle Congress.

Again, the point is that the issue of concentration of power in our national government is very much alive. Power must be devolved not only horizontally but vertically, meaning, down to the local governments in a significant way. That cascading of real power has yet to happen.

We can go on and on but we don't have the luxury of time. With the degradation of our democracy under the present unitary/presidential form of government, with the decadence that has taken place in our country for centuries now, what do we do? What can we do? Do we say constitutional change is not a

priority? Do we dismiss the Constitution as a mere piece of toiletry? Nobody will buy that thoughtless stance. Others on the other hand, contend that what we need is not change in the Constitution but change of character. The translation is let us just pray, let us wait for the Second Coming of the Lord, wait for the Last Judgment where our character will be adjudged.

I submit that we cannot wait any longer. Our experience of failure under a unitary/presidential form of government after more than a century is enough. It is ridiculous to argue that we are already familiar with our failures and let us just continue with them. The call for a radical reexamination of our Constitution is timely as it has been a consistent one from Recto, from Laurel, from almost all of our great constitutionalists. In surveys after surveys, our people also want meaningful change, even if that change has to come by changing our Constitution. Our major problems cannot be solved by the enactment of ordinary laws. They can be changed only by changing the architectural design of our Constitution. These problems whose solutions can no longer be held in abeyance are beyond dispute. Among others, we have the following problems: the necessity of shifting from the presidential-unitary form of government to a parliamentary-federal form of government; the need to put an end to the monopoly of political power by the political dynasties; the need to break the concentration of economic power in the hands of a few; the need to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor; the need to install an electoral system that can resist all forms of fraud and force; the need to check rampaging corruption in government and others, of similar significance.

I like to believe that the Mamasapano incident is a divine wake up call to the Filipino people. It is a wakeup call not only for us to solve the problem of our Muslim brothers and sisters in Mindanao. It is a wakeup call to solve all our pestering problems. And we can do this only by urging our Congress to call for a Constitutional Convention composed both of elected and appointed delegates. We need a Constitutional Convention to tackle these major problems of our people. For we need an apolitical body to address these long lingering problems. And we need an apolitical body that will not be harassed by time visualizing the exigencies of tomorrow and crafting their solutions.

We have delayed these reforms for more than one hundred years. We cannot delay any further. We have dreamt for these reforms. They said dreams should never die but dreamers do die. I say it is time to put a deadline on our dreams. Good day to all!

MANIFESTO

GISING NA BAYAN KO MGA PILIPINO PARA SA PILIPINAS KALAYAANG BAYAN IKA-12 NG HUNYO, 2015

TAYO AY ISANG BANSANG PILIPINO NA MAY ISANG DIWA AT SALITA,
MAY BANSANG SINILANGAN NA MAY DANGAL AT KINABUKASAN;

TAYO AY MAY PRINSIPYO, AT MATIKAS NA PAG MASYADO NANG NAAAPI,
AY KUSANG AALSA PARA SA KAPAKANAN NG BANSANG;

TAYONG MGA PILIPINO NGAYON AY SOBRANG APING-API NA!
MASYADO NANG CORRUPT ANG MGA PINUNO NATIN, AT BINEBENTA NA ANG ATING BANSANG,
AT ANG ATING KINABUKASAN, SA MGA DAYUHAN AT MGA BANYAGA,
NA WALANG SILBI SA ATING KAPAKANAN AT KALABAN PA NATIN!

ITONG MGA GINAGAWA NILA; IPINAPASA SA KONGRESO ANG BBL AT ANG ECONOMIC CHA-CHA
NA MAKAKASIRA SA KABUUWAN NG ATING BANSANG AT IPAPAMIGAY ANG LIKAS YAMAN YAMAN NATIN;
GINAGAHASA NILA ANG ATING BAYAN!

GINAGAWA ITO NG MGA PINUNO NATIN, AT BINUBUSOG LAMANG NILA ANG MGA BULSA NILA
AT WALANG SILANG PAKIALAM SA ATING KINABUKASAN AT KAPAKANAN!

NAGKUKUNWARI PA ANG MGA ITO (PINUNO NATIN) NA MATUWID SILA,
PERO NILOLOKO LANG TAYO, AT ANG TUNAY NA LAYUNIN NILA
AY ANG KANILANG INTERES LAMANG! HINDI NILA INIINTINDI ANG CRIMEN, KAHIRAPAN AT DROGA!

ANG ATING KINABUKASAN AT INTERES AY ANG ATING LAYUNIN!
ALALAHANIN NATIN ANG ATING MGA ANAK, PAMILYA AT MGA APO!
SILA AY MAY KARAPATAN DIN NA MAMUHAY NG MATIWASAY AT MAUNLAD SA KANILANG BANSANG
NA ANG LIKAS YAMAN NG KANILANG BANSANG AY MAPUPUNTA SA KANILA!

MGA KAPATID , ALALAHANIN NATIN ANG ATING MAHAL NA BANSANG!
KAPOS NA TAYO SA PANAHON! KUMILOS NA TAYO!
SUMALI KA KAYO AT MAKI-ISA AT MAY PAG-ASA PA TAYO!

SUPORTAHAN NATIN ANG LAYUNIN NG ATING KILUSAN
NA PINAMUMUNUAN NG SAMAHANG LA SOLIDARIDAD-II.
ITO AY ITINAYO NG MGA ANAK AT KAAPUAPUHAN NG MGA ORIHINAL NA MGA BAYANI
NA KUMILOS PARA SA BAYAN, NA SILA RING INIHALAD ANG KANILANG MGA BUHAY!

KAYA...TAYO NA MGA KAPATID,,, MGA KAPAMILYA... IPAGLABAN NATIN ANG ATING BAYAN
AT KINABUKASAN NG ATING MGA ANAK! SUPORTAHAN NATIN ANG LA SOLIDARIDAD-II
KALAYAAN, KAPATIRAN, at KATIPUNAN PARA SA BANSANG PILIPINO! MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!

**LA SOLIDARIDAD-II
MGA TUNAY NA PILIPINONG ANAK NG BAYAN**

FEATURE

THE MINDANAO CARAVAN

BY VW Hector A. Emberga, Senior Grand Deacon

MINDANAO GRAND CARAVAN 2015 was the realization of MW Tomas G. Rentoy III's plan to bring the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) closer to its constituent Districts and subordinate Lodges in Mindanao. He saw for himself their actual condition, discussed with the brethren thereof the plans and programs of the GLP during his one-year watch in the Grand East, and felt the brethren's pulse in regard to the relationship of their Districts and Lodges with the GLP.

The following brethren constituted the MW TGR3's Mindanao Caravan Team: VW Nicanor Salvador, Chief of Staff; VW Jose Avelino Magbanua, GLP Office Manager; VW Henry Capela, Executive Assistant; myself, in my capacity as Senior Grand Deacon; and Bro. Vic Aclan, Executive Aide. We were joined later on by VW Erwin Bollozos, DDGM of RX-B.

DAY 1: SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015

When the Mindanao Caravan Team arrived at the Cotabato City airport at about 11:45 a.m. via PAL flight PR 2959, we were warmly welcomed by VW Leopoldo P. Lugtu, the vibrant DDGM of MD RXII-A, which covers Cotabato City and North Cotabato, and brethren of the 6 Lodges in his District, namely: Kutang Bato 110, Shariff Kabunsuan 266, Bantugan 223, Midsayap 267, Rio Grande 192, and Kidapawan 170.

From the airport we were taken straight to the Kutang Bato Masonic Temple, where we witnessed the conduct of Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110's charity drive, "Operation Tuli," and where we had a sumptuous lunch together with the brethren, sisters, DeMolays, and doctors who were part of the charity drive.



After we had checked in at Alnor Hotel and Convention Center, some brethren of Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110, led by their Master, WB Arnold Jim Y. Chua, took us to the Golden Mosque and treated us to an enjoyable, relaxing airboat ride. Afterwards we all proceeded to the beach club, where we waited for the start of the actual fellowship scheduled for the evening.

Our hosts prepared a simple dinner and a short program, during which they presented to the Grand Master a token of appreciation for choosing Cotabato City as the starting point of Mindanao Grand Caravan 2015.

DAY 2: MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015

At about 8:00 a.m., we left Cotabato City and passed through Midsayap Lodge No 267 in Midsayap, Rio Grande Lodge No. 192 in Kabacan, and Kidapawan Lodge No. 170 in Kidapawan, North Cotabato. We took lunch at the new Hotel Micah in Kidapawan, which is owned by VW Lee Michael



Rualo. Shortly after the post-lunch program, we left for General Santos City, where a seminar workshop was being conducted by the Senior Grand Lecturer, VW J. Erwin Ernest Louie R. Miguel.

The brethren of MDRXII-A, led by VW Lugtu, accompanied us to Sultan Kudarat, the gateway to Masonic District RXII-B, which covers General Santos City, Koronadal, and Sultan Kudarat, and which has seven Lodges: Mt. Matutum 156, Koronadal 209, Dadiangas 225, Daguma Mt. Range 244, Kaduh 278, Maribulan 304, and Sultan Kudarat 348.

Brethren of MD RXII-B met us at the boundary of Sultan Kudarat. They then led us to the provincial capitol for a courtesy call on VW



and Gov. Suharto Mangudadatu, who treated us to some refreshments and snacks. Next, VW Donard Pamplona, DDGM of MD RXII-A, and his district officers led us for a quick stop at Koronadal Lodge No. 209.

At about 5:00 p.m., we arrived safely at General Santos City, just in time for the Grand Master to address the seminar-workshop participants.

On that day, Kaduh Lodge No. 278 was celebrating its anniversary. Thus, the second night of Mindanao Grand Caravan 2015 was filled with warm fellowship and jolly camaraderie between the local brethren and the Grand Caravan Team.

DAY 3: TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015

The Grand Caravan continued to forge toward its next destinations, as follows:

- MD RXI-A, which covers Davao del Sur and Davao City; which has 8 Lodges: Sarangani 50, Davao 149, Datu Bago 197, Digos 198, Toril 208, Beacon 213, Podomo 294, and Madayaw 403; and whose DDGM is VW Michael Archangel Bron.

- MD RXI-B, which covers Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, and Davao Oriental;



which has 5 Lodges: Panabo-Dalisay 237, Shangrila 196, Tagum 204, Mati-Aurora 190, and Don Salvador Lopez Memorial 276; and whose DDGM is VW Rolando Tejada.

- MD RXIII-A, which covers the Caraga Region; which has 7 Lodges: Agusan Valley 160, Timberland 219, Mt. Diwata 236, Red Mountain 241, Kamayo 255, Butuan 299, and VW Andoni T. Dumlao Memorial UD; and whose DDGM is VW Lyndon Romero.

Despite the rainy weather, early in the morning, we pursued our journey and arrived at Digos Lodge No. 198 according to schedule. After a quick stop at Madayaw Lodge No 403, we proceeded toward Davao City. Upon entering the city, we were met by not a few brethren, led by their energetic DDGM, VW Bron. At the Davao Masonic Center





(DMC), a great number of brethren, sisters, and Amaranths who were eagerly awaiting our arrival accorded us a very warm welcome. We took a delicious lunch with them at the DMC, and we were delighted by the program they presented in our honor. Hence, in his message, MW Rentoy profusely thanked the members of the Masonic Family in the district for warmly welcoming us; then he challenged them to give due meaning and substance to this year's theme, "A Revitalized, Relevant and Revered Philippine Freemasonry: Our Commitment, Our Covenant."



We left Davao City for Tagum, whence we moved on toward Butuan, where we would spend the night.

We witnessed the signing by Timberland Lodge No. 219 and the Local Government Unit of San Francisco, Agusan Del Sur of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the preservation of Mt. Diwata. We also applauded those who participated in the walk for a cause. This twofold project was an initiative of the Lodge to participate in our M.W. Grand Lodge's continuing Sagip Kalikasan Program.

When we arrived in Butuan City at approximately 8:00 p.m., we were warmly and hospitably welcomed by the brethren and their

families, who had prepared a sumptuous meal and a program for us to relish. The whole night was filled with closeness and ties of brotherly love.

After the social fellowship, we checked in at the Dotties Hotel for a good night's rest in preparation for the next day's hectic schedule – hectic because we would officially visit the following Masonic Districts:



- RX-A, which covers Cagayan de Oro City and Misamis Occidental; which has 9 Lodges: Maguindanao 40, Macajalar 184, Tolomeo C. Galarita Memorial 242, Carmen Valley 250, Kitanglay 256, Makahambus 315, Misamis Oriental 335, Seven Cardinal Virtues 390, and Opol UD; and whose DDGM is VW Ramil P. Acol.

- RX – B, which covers Misamis Oriental and Camiguin; which has 7 Lodges: Apo Kahoy 166, Leonardo T. Pañares Memorial 220,





Camiguin Island 296, Cagayan 298, Benjamin O. Go Memorial 303, Don Antonio Cosin Memorial 308, and Kagay-an 385; and whose DDGM is VW Sherwin Pio B. Bollozos.

- RX – E , which covers Bukidnon North; which has 4 Lodges: Mt. Musuan 155, Don Camilo Osias 253, Bukidnon 245, and Tungkulan 287; and whose DDGM is VW Godwin Valdez.

- RX – F, which covers Bukidnon South; which has 3 Lodges: Zosimo Montemayor 212, Lake Pinamaloy 230, and Laureanos Ledres Memorial 271; and whose DDGM is VW Hermie Engbino.

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

Early in the morning, we set out on a very long journey. Although there were some road repairs along the Bukidnon highway, we arrived in Bukidnon just in time for lunch. At around 3:00 p.m., we took off for Cagayan de Oro City and arrived there at about 5:00 p.m. We checked in at the Luxe Hotel, where a seminar-workshop was being conducted by our Senior Grand Lecturer. After freshening up, we accompanied MW TGR3 downstairs, where he delivered a message before the seminar-workshop participants.

The social fellowship that followed was, to say the least, magnificent and fun-filled. As in the past, the brethren of MDs RX-A and RX-B accorded a grand, well-prepared reception for the



Grand Master and his party. Festivity, gaiety, and camaraderie prevailed throughout the night.

DAY 5: THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015

Again, we woke up early; for, according to our itinerary, we would officially visit the following Masonic Districts:

- RX-D, which covers the ARMM and Lanao; which has 7 Lodges: Maranaw 111, Iligan 207, Glicerio A. Lim Memorial 222, Lake Lanao 227, Manticao 243, Rajah Indirapatra 387, and Judge Valerio V Rovira 259; and whose DDGM is VW Ian Uy.

- RX-C, which covers Misamis Occidental; which has 5 Lodges: Mt. Malindang 130, Palilan 239, Don Lorenzo Tan Memorial 265, Gregorio O. Calit Memorial 154, and Timiteo S. Uy Memorial 349; and whose DDGM is VW Lemuel Torlata.

- RIX-B and X, which has 3 Lodges: Bernardo A Neri Memorial 214, Antonino G. Lim Memorial 162, and Sindangan 240; and whose DDGM is VW George Dolotallas.

We traveled to Dipolog via Iligan, Kausawagan Mukas Port , Ozamis, Plaridel, and Calamba. In Iligan City, we were warmly welcomed





by brethren of the Lodges in MD RX-D, led by their DDGM, VW Ian Uy, and other district leaders.

Our lunch was hosted by Mt. Malindang Lodge No. 130, which is under MD RX-C. MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy and MW Romeo A. Yu, both PGMs, joined us during lunch.

Our lunch was a “scenic” one because it was complete with barbecue and held in an elegant, unique venue. VW Godwin Handumon even took us to his ala “Starbucks” coffee shop, where we had a taste of his brand of coffee.

We really had an evening of fraternal fellowship, close camaraderie, and fun galore. Definitely, we enjoyed the hospitality of the Masonic family in MD RX-C.

DAY 6: FRIDAY, MAY, 22, 2015

Today’s itinerary included official visits to two Masonic Districts, namely:

- RIX-A, which covers Zamboanga del Sur-Sibugay; which has 5 Lodges: Dr Jose G. Hofileña Sr. Memorial 153, Salug Valley 216, Sibuguey Valley 246, Illana Bay 274, and Dr. Aurelio Mendoza Memorial 283; and whose DDGM is VW Anwar Sabdani Hadjirul.

- RIX-C, which covers Zamboanga Sulu Basilan and TawiTawi; which has 6 Lodges: Mt. Apo 45, Bud Daho 102, Juan S Alano Memorial 137,



Bud Bungao 288, Samboangan 310, and Fairway 415.

Once more, we woke up early in order to participate in the tree-planting activity of Salug Valley Lodge No. 216 in Molave. After the tree planting, we took breakfast at the residence of VW Aurelio Mendoza III, and then returned to the temple of Salug Valley Lodge for picture taking.

Afterwards, we took off toward Zamboanga City, and passed through Kumalarang, where we had a taste of the bibingka and “the sweetest buco in town” prepared by VW Rey Quisumbing.

Later on, we, the Grand Master and party, participated in the tree-planting activity of our Sibuguey Valley Lodge No. 246 brethren, who subsequently served simple snacks for us. Then we moved on.

Halfway to Zamboanga, our Ipil brethren, led by those of Aurelio Mendoza Lodge No. 283, prepared a hearty lunch for us.

Finally, we arrived in Zamboanga City at about 5:00 p.m., just in time for the constitution of Fairway Lodge No. 415 and the installation of its officers.

IN CONCLUSION

Mindanao Grand Caravan 2015 was a huge success because it attained its objectives mentioned earlier. Everybody involved in it was happy. On





the one hand, the brethren of Mindanao felt elated because their incumbent Grand Master, MW Tomas G. Rentoy III, found time to be with them and thereby to show to them that our M.W. Grand Lodge is truly interested in the welfare, best interests and progress of their Lodges and Districts. On the other hand, together with his team, our Grand Master felt gratified to have shown to the Masonic Family in Mindanao that he is highly resolved to fulfill the promise he made during his inaugural address at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation in Legazpi City on April 24, this year -- that, as Grand Master, he would not serve as our lord but rather as our servant, and that he is willing and ready to serve, toil, listen, and inspire toward the successful implementation of our Craft's program of reforms during his one-year watch in the Grand East. Yes, through his visits of almost all of the Lodges in Mindanao, he has exhibited himself as a dedicated, disinterested and dynamic leader – one who is willing and ready to work hard “on the mountains and in the quarries” to encourage and promote the welfare, best interests and progress of both Fraternity and Country.

English writer Gilbert Keith Chesterton has paradoxically defined adventure as “an inconvenience rightly considered.” Definitely, Mindanao Grand Caravan 2015 was an inconvenience to the Grand



Master and his team because, among other things, it was a tiresome experience for them, but it became an adventure to them because they rightly considered it as a part of the great and important undertaking of bringing our M.W. Grand Lodge closer to its constituent Masonic Districts and subordinate Lodges, and vice versa.

Let us congratulate ourselves for the success of Mindanao Grand Caravan 2015. Let us also thank the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe for His watchful protection and kind care for all who participated or were involved in Mindanao Grand Caravan 2015.

KAPATIRAN

Isang taong nakaraan
 Ako'y pumasok sa isang samahan
 Lupon ng mga kababaihan
 Na dugong Mason ang pinanggalingan
 Sa aming kapatiran
 Ako'y lubos nasisiyahan
 Mga bagong kaibigan
 Ngayon ay kasabayan
 Layunin naming makipagtulungan
 Sa mga bata'ng nangangailangan
 Kapos man sa kabuhayanan
 Ay patuloy na lumalaban
JOBS DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL
 ang aming pangalan
 Kami ay laging may tawanan,
 sayawan, at kantahan
 Iba't ibang pamilya man
 ang pinangalingan
 Kami ay lubos na nagmamahalan.

*By Ianna Yzabel C. Beray
 10 years old
 2nd Messenger
 Bethel 4 Iloilo
 Jobs Daughters International*

Perla Assembly No. 1

Fulfilling 65 years of the RAINBOW PROMISE

By Karol Joseffe Borja

Arriving at its 65th year, Perla Assembly No. 1 of the Philippine Rainbow Girls have many reasons to be thankful for—and bright prospects ahead for its 157th Installed Officers.

On August 1, 2015, Perla Assembly No. 1 of the International Order of the Rainbow Girls (IORG) held its 157th Open Installation of Officers at the Conrado Benitez Hall of the Scottish Rite Temple, 1828 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila at 2 p.m. Beatrice Gayle Tandoc Atanacio, 15, assumed the position of Worthy Advisor.

The team that installed her was composed of the following: Mother Advisor Kimberly Tandoc-Borja, Installing Hostess; Past Grand Worthy Advisor Nadine Hendrikka Legaspi, Installing Officer; incumbent Grand Worthy Associate Advisor Karol Joseffe Borja (this reporter), Installing Marshal; Past Grand Worthy Associate Advisor Mikaela Lopez, Installing Recorder; Past Grand Representative Stephanie Bañares, Installing Chaplain; and incumbent Grand Sister of Religion Rowelyn Balilo, Installing Musician.

Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland, Cameron Sloan, presided over the installation of the term's Rainbow Dad Juan Miguel Andal. Both men are Dad Masons from the Assembly's sponsoring body, Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, Scottish Constitution.

Together with the Worthy Advisor's father and uncle, Ericson and Emerson Atanacio, respectively, the following members of the Assembly's advisory board conducted a crowning ceremony: Chairman Gregorio Vicente, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Perla de Oriente No. 1034; Juan Miguel Andal; Ill. Gil Aurelio Cruz, 33°; Jian Kalaw; Jesse Chriss Santos; and Manolito Paz.

The ceremony symbolically allowed the Worthy Advisor to once again pass through the seven-color stations. The first time she did so was when she was initiated into the Order. Hence, she was again reminded of the lessons to be learned in the ceremony. Then she received the crown from outgoing Worthy Advisor Alyzza Angeline Alegre.

The Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker was Most Worshipful Tomas G. Rentoy III, Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

Joining him in the East were Honorable Victor Ace Espejo, Grand Master of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay; Mrs. Eleanor Redor, Supreme Inspector in





the Philippines and Supreme Religion of the Supreme Assembly, IORG; Right Worshipful Master Gregorio Vicente Jr. of Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, S.C. and Chairman of the Perla Assembly No. 1's Advisory Board; the Mother Advisor of Perla Assembly No. 1 Kimberly Tandoc-Borja; and the term's Rainbow Beau, Ignacio Gabriel Herrera of A. Mabini Chapter, Order of DeMolay.

Dignitaries present included Royal Order of Scotland's Provincial Grand Master S. Cameron Sloan; Illustrious Benito Ty, 33°, Grand Treasurer of the Supreme Council of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33rd and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Republic of the Philippines; Illustrious Gil Aurelio Cruz, 33°, Past Grand Secretary General of the same; Past Grand Royal Matron Leticia Flores of the Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth; Past Grand Royal Patron Simeon Flores of the Grand Representatives, IORG, Mrs. Corazon Tandoc;



Junior Grand Executive Committee Member Mikaela Lopez of the Grand Assembly of the Philippines, IORG; the Grand Worthy Associate Advisor Karol Joseffe Borja (this reporter); Grand Drill Leader Isobel Sy; Grand Sister of Religion Rowelyn Balilo; and Grand Sister of Patriotism Denelle Mariano of the Grand Assembly of the Philippines,

IORG; Grand Representatives of the Grand Assembly of the Philippines to other jurisdictions of the IORG, Alyzza Angeline Alegre, Beatrice Gayle Atanacio, Kayla Cher Borja, Gillianne Joy Cruz, and Kaira Sy National Senior Councilor Kaiser Paul Balbin; National Junior Councilor Mikhail Lopez; National Congress Secretary Lorenzo Pio Bollozos of DeMolay National Congress; Officers of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, Dexter Macrohon,



Alger Wong, Arthur Allan Ponce, and Jian Kalaw; Past Grand Officers and Representatives of the Grand Assembly of the Philippines; and Past National Master Councilors of DeMolay National Congress, Ramon Herrera and Ericson Atanacio.

The inaugural speech of the newly-installed Worthy Advisor, the message of the immediate Past Worthy Advisor, and the keynote speech of MW Rentoy all expressed hope for our Inang Bayan and stressed relentless adherence to the Philippine Constitution.

According to the speakers, the youth, specifically





Officers of Perla Assembly No. 1 with MW Rentoy and other guests.

the Masonic Youth, are challenged to gain social conscience and to champion responsible democracy in any and all situations that they may bring order and harmony in the family, community, organization, country, and the world. To be able to do so, the youth must be free thinkers but at the same time allow themselves to be guided by the laws which guide principles.

The Worthy Advisor strongly stated, "We may come from various social, cultural, religious, and political beliefs, but the Constitution provides a singular standard on which we collectively base our Order. We always celebrate our democracy, and we always yearn and fight for our freedom, the freedom to choose our own destiny, [...] the freedom to choose using guided and informed actions, the freedom to choose to do what is right, and most importantly, the freedom to choose not to do what is wrong."

She also encouraged her fellow youth to dream not solely for themselves but for something bigger than themselves. The joint effort and leadership of the Masonic youth, a responsibility and commitment all Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters, and DeMolays have sworn to during their

obligation, would no doubt contribute to a greater and more prosperous Filipino nation.

In behalf of Perla Assembly No.1's Officers, Members, Advisory Board and sponsoring body, Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, S.C., the newly-crowned Worthy Advisor expressed her sincerest gratitude to all who participated in the 157th Open Installation of Officers.

She acknowledged the following in particular: Dad Joby Magbanua, Cavite Assembly No.3, Tierra Alta Assembly No.4, Anthurium Assembly No.5, Ma. Makiling Assembly No. 14, Quezon City Assembly LT No.17, Pitong Lawa Assembly No.21, Mt. Banahaw Assembly No. 22, Barasoain Assembly No. 25, Sisters from Job's Daughters Philippines, Brothers from the Order of DeMolay, Past Worshipful Masters and Dad Masons from the different Lodges, Moms and Dads from the Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of Amaranth, and the parents, family, and friends of the members of Perla Assembly No. 1, most especially Ericson and Abigail Atanacio, her parents, for the tireless effort and unwavering support that they had exhibited to make the event a successful and memorable one.

SHAPING GIRLS UP FOR 65 YEARS

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) was first established in the Philippines in the year 1948.

The IORG is an organization whose role is to develop girls of good character, to promote effective

leadership and excellent communication skills, and to provide opportunities of love and service through its various activities. Thus, the slogan: Rainbow gets girls ready for life.

It was founded by Rev. William Mark Sexson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and Past Most Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, on April 6, 1922. Its head office, the House of Gold, which houses the Supreme Assembly, is based in McAlester, Oklahoma. The Supreme Assembly of the IORG offers Rainbow as the proper channel through which it may work for the benefit of and in the interest of teenaged girls.

To many, the Rainbow may just be a coincidental mixture of colors and merely a symbol of the beauty of nature. But to us Rainbow girls, each color stands out and reminds us of the virtues which serve as the seven milestones to the Pot of Gold every one of us aims for. The Rainbow is not just a mixture of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. It means more than that. It symbolizes love, religion, nature, immortality, fidelity, patriotism, and service, lessons which are all inculcated in every member's mind and heart. The colors of the Rainbow are to be reflected in the lives of all of us Rainbow girls -- in every one of our thoughts, words, and deeds. All these colors are merged in harmony into our teenaged lives; our training in Rainbow will serve as a concrete or strong foundation of our lives. When we shall have reached womanhood, we shall have served as examples of firm believers in word, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. All these through Rainbow.

The symbolism of the Rainbow, which has been deeply impressed upon our hearts and minds, is explained by the Supreme Assembly in the following manner:

"The Rainbow is the first visible sign that God gave to His creatures. Its presence in the heavens was a natural consequence of the laws God had established and because it was a natural symbol in the heavens after the storm cloud; it was used to reveal His presence and suggest the words of His covenant. 'And the Bow shall be in the cloud, and I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.'"

The Rainbow, in effect, symbolizes the fulfilment of God's promise on the face of the earth that is filled with sorrow and despair.

The IORG selects us young women to carry on God's promise. It offers to us the Rainbow as our symbol of hope, to which we must hold on with faith and love in every sorrow, sacrifice, and suffering we have to face.

Going No. 1

Established in 1948, the Manila Assembly No. 1, the first Philippine Rainbow Assembly, was composed of a group of 30 American girls, with Mrs. Beth Barnes as Mother Advisor, and was sponsored by Mayon Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star. The formation of Manila Assembly No. 1 kindled interest in

the Order.

Then on April 5, 1950, Perla Assembly No. 2 was instituted, with Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, S.C. as its sponsoring body and Mom Beth Gilmer Barnes as the Mother Advisor.

Since most of the girls of Manila Assembly No. 1 were daughters of American servicemen, their families had to be pulled out of the country by the government of the United States when crisis broke out in Korea. When it was clear that most of the members of Manila Assembly No. 1 were to return to the United States, the charter was surrendered to the Supreme Assembly, causing Perla Assembly No. 2 to become Perla Assembly No. 1.

A special session for the purpose of constituting Perla Assembly No. 1 was held on February 18, 1951 at the Scottish Rite Temple, 1828 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila. Dad Walter H. Schoening, the Deputy of the Order in the Far East, gave the proclamation for the newly constituted Assembly.

April 5, 2015 marked Perla Assembly No. 1's Sapphire Anniversary, 65 years of fulfilling the Rainbow Promise. At this point, the Assembly's membership roster reflects 623 members. Perla Assembly No. 1 has gone through its glories and frustrations, and to this day, it remains radiant and resilient.

The following Saturday, April 11, 2015, the active and majority members of Perla Assembly No. 1 celebrated its 65th anniversary. Six decades of Rainbow Girls from Perla Assembly No. 1 gathered in mirth and sentimentality. Early in the afternoon, the ladies had a meeting to hold a rededication ceremony for its Majority Members in the Stafford Hall of the Scottish Rite Temple. The Active Members were in attendance but the Majority Members were the ones who assumed office during the meeting. Afterwards, the ladies proceeded to Bistro Paleta for a program prepared by the Active Members. There the members of Perla Assembly No. 1 commemorated the day with Dad Masons, Mom Eastern Stars, and Brother DeMolays. The event's Guest of Honor and Speaker was a distinguished Majority Member of Perla Assembly No. 1, Mrs. Solita Collas-Monsod.

Being Assembly Number One of the Order in the Philippines imparts upon its members the responsibility of being a worthy example to sisters of other assemblies by continually living the teachings of the Order. Sixty-five continuous years of encouraging sisters to live by the lessons of the Rainbow truly is a milestone in the history of Perla. With the zeal of its officers and under the guidance of the Mother Advisor, Kimberly Tandoc-Borja, Perla Assembly No. 1 looks forward to another 65 years and more of training young girls to be leaders who can change a nation.

TOWARD BECOMING THE HOPE OF OUR MOTHERLAND

by MW Tomas G. Rentoy, III Grand Master, 2015-2016

*(Delivered during the 157th Installation of Officers of Perla Assembly No. 1,
held at the Conrado Benitez Hall, Scottish Rite Temple, at 2:00 p.m., August 1, 2015.)*

Since I received the letter of Worthy Advisor-Elect Beatrice Gayle T. Atanacio dated July 12, 2015, which was duly noted by Mom Kimberly Y. Borja, Mother Adviser, I have looked forward with much anticipation to being with you, dear officers and members of Perla Assembly No. 1, and enjoying your camaraderie and fellowship, on this historic occasion, the 157th Installation of your officers. In her letter, Beatrice Gayle stated that my task as the keynote speaker is to inspire you, members of our Masonic youth organizations, to put into meaningful action the theme “WE ARE THE HOPE OF THE MOTHERLAND.” Yes , the task you have assigned to me is to inspire you to give due meaning and substance to the all-important theme which was first articulated by our nation’s foremost patriot and hero, Dr. Jose “Dimasalang” Rizal. Let us recall, at this juncture, that the young Jose Rizal, who was himself a victim of Spanish discrimination, prejudice, and brutality, firmly resolved to prove to all and sundry that the indio or Filipino native was as intelligent as, if not more intelligent than, the kastila or any other national. To drive home this all-important point further, in 1879, he participated in a poetry-writing contest, which was open to all residents in the country, including professionals. He was then an 18-year-old college student at the University of Santo Tomas. His entry in the literary competition was contest was an ode entitled “A la Juventud Filipina” (To the Filipino Youth), in which he called the youth “the beautiful hope of my country” and challenged



them to gain knowledge and skills in the arts and sciences, which they were to use for promoting the welfare, happiness, and fame of their Mother Country, namely, Filipinas, and not España. As I said earlier, the topic you assigned me to develop is how you can be of service to our beloved country and her people. My answer is that you should do a Jose Rizal. That means that, like the young Jose Rizal, you must develop yourselves to your highest potential; you must cultivate the talents wherewith God has blest you by working and studying to the best of your ability in order to attain your personal perfection or self-mastery, by means whereof you will contribute to social welfare and human progress. That is, my dear Rainbow Girls, the mission which God has assigned to you in this life. If and when you fulfill that mission, you will have honor, and having this, you will give glory to God, who gave you your talents. The German philosopher Henri Bergson strongly stated that the constant urge of every man and woman is to improve himself or herself and to improve his environment. It follows, then, that the best way you can be of service to our country and her people is to develop yourselves to the fullest and then to use the knowledge and skills you have developed for serving God and your fellowmen, particularly your countrymen. I brought up that significant point in the inaugural address I delivered at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation in Legazpi City on Saturday, April 25, 2015. In that address, I urged members of the Masonic Fraternity or Family in our jurisdiction to work together in close coordination and cooperation towards becoming better men worthy of the respect of our fellowmen, particularly our countrymen, and the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe. Then I urged members of the Masonic Fraternity or Family in our jurisdiction to extend their active assistance and sympathetic support to our government officials in the high enterprise of bringing about stable peace and inclusive prosperity in our local and national communities, as well as safely steering the ship of the Philippine State through the perils that threaten it into the calm seas of a progressive, contented, and happy Filipino people or nation, so that it will be able to participate on free and equal terms with other peoples or nations in the world in the attainment of human solidarity or the establishment upon earth of a true brotherhood of all men under the Fatherhood of God. Moreover, I emphatically pointed out that it is of utmost importance that we, the brethren of the different Lodges and Districts, get the members of our own families and the members of our Appendant Bodies (the Scottish Rite and the York Rite), as well as those of our Allied Orders (the International Orders of the Amaranth, Eastern Star, Job's

Daughters, Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay), and even those of our side organizations or clubs, actively involved in our activities, projects, and programs. If we do this, the residents of our communities will see for themselves that we members of the Craft and the other segments of our Masonic Fraternity or Family are always people who work together in close unity and harmony towards common goals; always people who solve common problems together; always people who share things together in the spirit of sincere love and fellowship; always people who show to one another and the general public our unalloyed pride in our Masonic Fraternity or Family. If we work together in close coordination and cooperation in carrying out our community outreach projects, the residents of our communities will feel the useful and relevant presence of Philippine Masonry and their midst, and they will readily recognize and revere Philippine Masonry as a revitalized fraternal organization that walks arm in arm with progress toward a better life for all who live in the country. How can you, Rainbow Girls in particular, best become the hope of your Motherland? My answer is that you must avidly study and learn the timeless teachings, priceless precepts, precious principles, and invaluable ideals of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls; persistently practice those teachings, precepts, principles and ideals in daily life; and then widely diffuse their light among young fellow Filipino youth. I want to convey, at this point, my most cordial commendation to the officers and members of Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, Scottish Constitution, for continuing to provide Perla Assembly No. 1 with the much-needed financial and moral support. I must also commend and laud the selfless labors of the Eastern Stars who are actively involved in providing the officers and members of Perla Assembly No. 1 with the wise counsel and guidance they need to carry out their various initiatives and endeavors. Dear officers and members of Perla Assembly No. 1, you are, indeed, fortunate to have as your advisers, mentors, and guides dedicated and committed Masons and Eastern Stars, who are expending precious time, effort, talent, and even resources in order to be of help to you in your various undertakings. Show them your heartfelt gratitude by showing to them that you zealously and enthusiastically promote the welfare, happiness and progress of your Assembly in particular and of your Order in general; that you are eager and willing to make progress in the ritualistic and ceremonial work of your Assembly and Order; and that you are strictly obedient to the rules and regulations of your Assembly and Order. Strive to get the best dividends from your membership in your Assembly by actively participating in its worthwhile

activities, projects, and programs. Work together in close unity and harmony towards making your Assembly, to a large measure, an institution of personal development, moral leadership, and philanthropic endeavors. I urge you, dear officers and members of Perla Assembly No. 1, to retain that goodness of heart, that purity of intention, and that love of virtue which we think every Rainbow Girl possesses. Adamantly adhere to the ideals which your Order has taught you. By doing so, you will retain your youth until you drop the working tools of life. Conduct yourselves discreetly, amiably, and virtuously at all times and in all places. Practice out of your Assembly the various duties and virtues you have learned in it. Thus you will convince the world, by your acts, that because you have become members of a Masonic youth organization, specifically the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, you have become better women, better members of the family, better neighbors, better members of the community, better students, and better citizens of the

country. I most sincerely congratulate the newly installed officers of Perla Assembly No. I. I fondly hope that you will exhibit yourselves to the other members of your Assembly to be dynamic, inspired, and inspiring leaders. I also expect you, dear members of this Assembly, to extend to your officers your active assistance and sympathetic support towards the successful implementation of the program of worthwhile activities you have put together. Yes, my dear young friends and daughter, may your Assembly grow both in number and in strength; may it reach higher levels of achievement because you take harmonious steps together toward greatness. Thank you very much for lending me the attentive ear. I hope you will keep the simple thoughts I have shared with you on this auspicious occasion in the repository of your faithful breasts – breasts that are ever faithful to your Assembly in particular and to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in general. *Maligaya't makabuluhang hapon sa ating lahat.*

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF BAGUMBAYAN LODGE NO. 4

*(Delivered by MW Tomas G. Rentoy III at the Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4
Centennial Celebrations held on August 24, 2015, at the Aguinaldo Hall of
the Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila)*

Before anything else, allow me to congratulate the officers, members, Past Masters and senior Master Masons of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, on the occasion of your 100th Anniversary.

Philippine Masonic History tells us that Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 has the distinction of being the first lodge organized by the Grand Lodge of P.I. for Filipinos, at a time when its own lodges did not admit Filipinos. Bagumbayan Lodge is also fondly remembered as the **“golden link upon which the chain of Masonic unity in the country was forged”** because of its persistent efforts to bring about the union of the lodges under the Regional Grand Lodge of the Gran Oriente Español and the lodges under the Grand Lodge of P.I.

Filipinos who were giants in their chosen field saw the light of Masonry in your lodge. To name a few. They were:

Dean Francisco Benitez,
UP President Salvador Lopez,
Dean Vicente Abella,
Dean Jose Espiritu,
Dean Honorio Poblador,
Camilo Osias,
Tomas Mapua,

Cecilio Putong,
Enrique Sobrepeña,
Florentino Cayco,
Dean Maximo Kalaw,
Vitaliano Bernardino,
A.C De los Santos, President of Manila University.

Filipino statesmen (not mere politicians) were raised to the sublime degree of Masonry in Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4:

Justice Jose Abad Santos,
Justice Calixto Zaldivar,
Senator Teofisto Guingona,
Senator Francisco Delgado,
Gen. Vicente Lim,
Joaquin Pardo de Tavera,
Gen. Basilio Valdez,
Jose Fabella,
Pedro Abad Santos,
Jose Sanvictores,
Luis Yangco,
Teodoro Yangco,
Ambassador Tiburcio Baja,
Angel Arguelles,
Governor Tomas Maddela,
Sec. Jose Escaler,
Gen. Percival Adiong, and
Arcadio Matela, to name a few.

Vice Governor General Eugene Gilmore (in whose honor the road connecting Ortigas Avenue with New Manila in Quezon City was named), and the first man

to be made a Mason-at-sight in the Philippines, was also a member of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4; and to top it all, as you already know, your lodge has produced ten (10) Grand Masters which include PGMs Justice Calixto Zaldivar, Damaso Tria and Manuel M. Crudo, among others.

With such a storied past that makes all of us proud, I cannot help but bring up our theme for this Masonic Year: ***“A Revitalized, Relevant, and Revered Philippine Freemasonry: Our Commitment, Our Covenant.”***

Would it not be wonderful to bring back the glory days of Freemasonry in our country? Would it not be fulfilling to bring back those days when Masonry was relevant; and when Masons were revered in society? I believe so; and I know you believe so, too.

To achieve this vision, which has been encapsulated in our theme, I have laid down my reform agenda at the start of my term during the ANCOM 2015 Grand Installation Ceremonies in Legazpi City last 25 April 2015.

- (1) Guard the West Gate (both from without and from within) – by upgrading, preserving and maintaining the quality of our petitioners and candidates; and by weeding-out unworthy members of the Craft.
- (2) Guard the Lamp – by and through Continuing Masonic Education; and
- (3) Guard the Ballot – by implementing genuine Electoral Reforms.



To implement my reform agenda, I have issued edicts and circulars which were drafted and re-drafted, reviewed and re-studied for the last three years of my Masonic journey towards the Grand Oriental Chair. You will recognize and discern that these edicts and circulars are all designed to implement my reform agenda and to realize my vision of a revitalized, relevant and revered Philippine Masonry!

In order to achieve all these, however, we must demonstrate to all and sundry a strong political will and unbending resolve to succeed, against all odds.

Thus, only two (2) months into my term, I was confronted with a case involving a Past Master and officers of Baliwag Lodge No. 301. I was, thus, afforded the opportunity to demonstrate this political will and resolve to cleanse our own ranks.

The argument of the respondent in that case reveals a deep-seated malady and a distorted picture of our beloved Craft. It underscores the need for drastic and forceful reforms - exactly the kind of reforms we would like to see during my term.

The consequent decision to expel and suspend the responsible brethren was a clear statement of my unwavering position on these matters: In order for us to carry out and follow through on the much-needed reforms, we must always be ready, able and willing to slay the dragon of immoral teachings and malpractices as soon as it rears its ugly head, no matter how old or formidable that dragon is!

As you ought to know by now, copies of that decision have been circulated and read in every subordinate lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction. So, I leave it to you to read the facts and details of that case for your own benefit and for the benefit of your lodge.

You, Brethren of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, is among the eldest lodges ever born under the roof of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. But the privilege of the elders often comes with attending responsibilities. You are thus privileged with the precedence in time, coming in the first rank of your sister lodges. You inherited so vast an inheritance of honor and wisdom like no other lodge.

And yet, you squander your inheritance so recklessly, like persons of non-age, with the petty issues that confront you today.

Look deep into yourselves. Look back at how the eminent Brethren of your lodge, who have come this way before, have dealt with the adversities far larger and ruthless than the issues that occupy you today. And always, look into the internal qualities that bind all men, despite differences, into a band of brothers.

Yes, we all cheer for glorious and daring achievements—like conquering the greatest distance ever traveled by man between the earth and the moon. Yet, our worldly eyes often fail to see, that the most challenging of all adventures is to bridge the distance between the hearts of two men in discord and unite them in harmony with each other.

Until we have come to grasp this simple truth, only then shall you realize that your Centennial Celebration is not meant to count the years or the passage of time alone. For once you begin to see in the eyes of the spirit, Brotherly Love will descend upon us, and Time Past and Present will come to a standstill.

And only then can we truly say that you are deserving of another centenary where harmony and peace shall prevail.

Again, my congratulations to Bagumbayan No. 4. Thank you and good evening to you all.

“Life is a life of service, and in that service one has to suffer a great deal that is hard to bear, but more often to experience a great deal of joy. But that joy can be real only if people look upon their lives as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.”

Count Leo Tolstoy.

RECENT EVENTS

NEW PNP CHIEF IS A MASONIC LEADER

We Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines are proud of the fact that the man President Noynoy Aquino appointed as new PNP Chief is our brother in the Fraternity.

We congratulate you, VW Ric Marquez, on your appointment as PNP Chief and ardently wish that your term as such be crowned with much success, fruition and fulfillment.



MENCIUS LODGE BRETHREN TURN OVER DONATIONS TO BENEFICIARIES

Led by WM Oscar Ocampo, brethren of Mencius Lodge No. 93 traveled from Manila early in the morning of Saturday, August 29, 2015, to deliver donations to selected beneficiaries, as follows: two hospital beds, 10 bed sheets, one operating room light, and medicines to the Sto. Domingo District Hospital in Nueva Ecija; 10 wheelchairs to individual recipients, also in Nueva Ecija; and one operating room light to the San Luis District Hospital in Pampanga.



GM RENTOY ATTENDS PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS CHAPTER OFFICERS

Grand Master Tomas G. Rentoy, III also served as the guest of honor and speaker during the 130th public installation of the officers of the Jose Abad Santos Chapter, Order of DeMolay, which was held at the Philippine Youth Masonic Center within the premises of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines Bldg. Jose Abad Santos Chapter, Order of DeMolay, by the way, is sponsored by the Philippine Bodies, A. & A.S.R. the San Luis District Hospital in Pampanga.



SUPREMOS CARRY OUT TWO ACTIVITIES

THE SUPREMOS (brethren of Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199) celebrated the 137th anniversary of the birth of Past Grand Master and Commonwealth President Manuel Luis Quezon at the Quezon City Hall on August 19, 2015. On the day following, they successfully held a Ladies Night dubbed "Ateng Ni Supremo" at the Lounge Function Room, also in Quezon City.



MASONS PARTICIPATE IN WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT THE MABINI SHRINE

Led by VW Alex Madamba, Asst. Grand Secretary, who represented MW Tomas G. Rentoy, III, Grand Master, and VW Manny Ampeloquio, DDGM for Masonic District RIV-D, brethren of Batangas and Laguna participated in the floral-offering ceremony held on July 23, 2015 at the Mabini Shrine in Tanauan, Batangas in celebration of the 161st anniversary of the birth of Apolinario "Katabay" Mabini.



PAKP ELECTION, CONFERRAL

Officers and members of the Pagong Ako Kuyang Philippines (PAKP) demonstrated their "happy together" spirit when they assembled recently at Causeway in Timog Avenue, Quezon City for the election of their officers for 2015-2016 and for the "hatching" of new brother Turtles. Elected officers were the following: President – RWT Tino Ko; Vice President – Ian Francis Loria; and Secretary – Tony Banu. Of the nine hatchlings, one is a member of Noli Me Tangere 42, Niño Christopher Pura; one is a member of F.D. Roosevelt Memorial 81, Emil Cruz ; and the rest are brethren of Labong 59, namely, BroT Alexander Yu, Aaron Jarveen Ho, Rudy Ong, BroT Hilario Orallo, Antonio Pineda, Jr., Rick Jayson Senales, and Pedro Casalnie.



MASONIC DISTRICT NCR-A COMPLETES LIBRARY-IN-A-BOX PROJECT

Congratulations to Masonic District NCR, by led by VW Melvin P. Mallo, DDGM, for completing its Library-in-a Box project. Congratulations likewise to Brother Jun Duque, Jr. for overseeing the fast and successful completion of the project, and to Jacques DeMolay Memorial Lodge No. 305 for serving as the lead Lodge in the conduct of the special project.



ELOCUTION CONTEST IN MASONIC DISTRICT RIII-F

Masonic District RIII-F (Nueva Ecija North) held an inter-Lodge elocution contest on August 28, 2015. The contest consisted of the presentation of the Lambskin Apron in Tagalog and the delivery of the Letter G.



LODGE 318 RETAINS MD RII-B SPORSFEST CROWN

Pinacanauan Lodge No. 318 again emerged as the overall champion of MD RII-B Sportsfest 2015, thereby keeping the championship crown for the third consecutive year.



HIRAMITES, OTHER BRETHREN PAY BROTHER CHITO GASCON, CHR CHAIR, A COURTESY CALL

Officers and other members of Hiram Lodge No. 88 paid a courtesy call on their Lodgemate, Brother Chito Gascon, who was recently appointed Chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). After attending the PCGA meeting/turnover ceremony, other brethren joined the Hiramites at the office of the CHR Chair. The brethren enjoyed the ensuing dinner fellowship.



ALSO IN PURSUIT OF GLP'S SAGIP KALIKASAN PROGRAM

Also in pursuit of the GLP's continuing Sagip Kalikasan program, the brethren of the Quezon City Trowel Club, led by their incumbent president, VW Popoy G. Lipana, held their second tree-planting activity at Soloc, Lobo, Batangas on July 11-12, 2015.



IN PURSUIT OF THE GLP'S CONTINUING SAGIP KALIKASAN PROGRAM

The Kuyangs and Atengs of the Nueva Ecija Court No. 31, Order of the Amaranth, recently conducted a tree-planting activity at the farm of Kuya Rodel and Ate Cathy in Macabaklay, Gapan City. This is in line with the GLP's continuing Sagip Kalikasan Program.



The M.:W. Grand Master William J. Thomas, with the M.:W. Tomas G. Rentoy III, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F&AM of the Philippines with his entourage, during a visit at the Grand Lodge of F&AM of the State of New York.

L-R: R.:W. Paul A. Guerrero-Director MMRL; V.:W. Rufino Arias Jr.-Asst. Chief Protocol GLP; R.:W. Enrique Co – GLP; W.: Jeffrey Co – GLP; V.: Jovy Magbanua – Office Manager, GLP; V.:W. Hector Embarga – Sr. Grand Deacon, GLP; M.:W. Tomas G. Rentoy III – Grand Master GLP; M.:W. Grand Master William J. Thomas; R.:W. Paul Rosen –Grand Secretary; R.:W. Demetrios Melis –DDGM, 4th Manhattan, R.:W. Alfred Dais –Trustee, The Masonic Hall and Home and W. Ed C. Vergara – PM Gramercy :: 537.



A joint Special Communications honoring Park Lodge 516 & Gramercy Lodge 537 Honorary member, the Most Worshipful Tomas G. Rentoy III, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F&AM of the Philippines (seated 2nd from left) at the American Lodge room, Grand Lodge Building, New York City, July 1, 2015. Seated from left to right: W:. Benny Saquibal of Gramercy :: 537; Grand Master Tomas G. Rentoy III; R. W:. Demetrios Melis, DDGM-4th Manhattan District; W:. Gary M. Arceo of Park :: 516; W:. Alfred Lascano of Manahatta :: 449; & W:. Victor Escorbore of Heritage :: 371, attended by Brethren of the 4th Manahattan District, Brethren from other districts of the Grand Lodge of New York and Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and the Philippine Brethren delegation.

MW Rentoy in Photo

