

The Cabletown

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



EDITORIAL

THIS ISSUE covers the SPECOM OF 2017 and some publications of old that are worthy to be reprinted.

The SPECOM integration is included in this issue by VW Tony Andaya. This SPECOM is the second of its kind dating as far back as 1917 or 100 years ago. As observed, a SPECOM is an expensive affair of the Grand Lodge and such could have been avoided if the regular ANCOM have resolved several issues during its convening. This SPECOM was mandated by the ANCOM of 2017 via an ANCOM resolution to that effect. Expensive as it is, the Grand Master deemed it best to save finances, complied with the requirements in adding several items that could be tackled to enable the brethren to resolve it in this forum rather than debate it all on the ANCOM of 2018. Thus the Grand Master stated that the 2018 Ancom will be a fellowship ANCOM rather than a battle of wits and grandstandings. The SPECOM venue design, physical arrangement, food selection and sourcing, and the musical arrangement were personally handled and selected by MW Tolentino himself. The back-drop is hand painted by a local artist and daily supervised by MW Tolentino until it was completed. Items presented during the SPECOM passed through the strict scrutiny of his battery of brother lawyers and Masonic luminaries including PGM MW Reynato S. Puno.

We have also some paid advertisements in this issue and those will form part of the income of the Grand Lodge. Brethren who desire to avail of our ad spaces can contact us. Our Cabletow reaches all parts of the Country and even abroad. It is a good medium of promotion as well a a good medium for the lodges to make known their activities. This year we have limited the issues because we deemed it proper to render informative editions in full color worthy to be placed on your living room rather than mediocre newspaper type publications that only find their way in the trash bins.

Cabletow is now equipped with upgraded computers powered by Intel 7 processors and working on a fast fiber optic GLP upgraded internet. We have also worked to license all softwares being used by the GLP and the Cabletow including the provision of licensed InDesign Adobe Layout software to save on recurring expenses of the Grand Lodge. MW Tolentino will be turning over to the new management a well oiled and efficient system for the envy of the administrators of the past.

I trust that the next Editorial Board of the Cabletow will maintain the upgraded edition of the Cabletow as I invite the brethren to continually send their literary contributions for the betterment of our fraternity.

May brotherly love prevail and all moral and social virtues cement us.



VW Avelino M. Sumagui, PDDGM
Editor-in-Chief

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MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER



It is nearing the conclusion of my term and the last month is mostly spent on preparation of reports from the different committees and final preparations for our Annual Communications in Davao. My grinding schedule as a member of the House of Representatives, as Secretary General of World Chess and the Philippine Chess, and as President of the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines, were supplemented by this worthwhile service to the craft, finding ways to instill discipline, stretching our cable to the war-torn areas and bringing harmony where they are lacking. My travels have been worthwhile and rewarding to our fraternity as I make it good on my promise not to charge any of my travels to the Grand Lodge.

Travels also bring development to our craft as some of the edicts would reveal that new good practices of other jurisdictions are made applicable to us since even the oldest fraternity should not be working within its walls and must evolve with the changing times. Travels allow me to interact with the brothers from far flung municipalities and bring good news from the Grand Lodge.

One thing that I have endeavored is to preside over meetings of the Craft, be it regular, District Convention or Multi-district convention. This power of the Grand Master is set forth in the Land Marks and should be realized that it can only be exercised by a sitting Grand Master, that is, his power to preside over any meeting. In this way, personal interaction is afforded thus allowing the brethren to hear and observe the workings of the Grand Master first hand.

During the times of my visits, I have observed that some of our brethren are still free-masons living in the dark. They do not know what harmony is and what brotherhood really is all about. I still see some lodges with strife against each other, in full absence of humility and brotherly love. No Grand Master can patch all differences within the lodges. Your Masonic life is your life. If that strife will continue to exist, there is no use in attending the lodge meetings. There is no use in having a brother who will stab you at the back. You might as well dissolve your lodge and find your peace in some other form. I believe in the power of the Harmony Officer. They are chosen because of their influence and attainment of highest respect from their lodge. I still hope that peace and harmony will prevail through these respected Masons.

After this term, I will again return to my regular schedule at the House of Representatives and my additional function as Chairman of the Philippine Olympic Committee. I will be bringing with me my invaluable experience as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and will be among the Past Grand Masters who will forever support the objectives and goals of any sitting Grand Masters without equivocation or thought of imposing the power that I once had.

MW ABRAHAM H. TOLENTINO

IMAGES OF THE SPECOM













**specom
welcome
dinner**



Excerpts from the proceedings of SPECOM on December 19, 2017

PGM Reynato Puno explaining the power of sitting GM to call for SPECOM and the power of SPECOM and ANCOM are the same.



PGM Puno : Most Worshipful Sir and Brethren, the issue that from officers, what is a proper interpretation of the provision of the constitution on the power and authority to call a special communication. We are holding today two special communications, the first is that one mandated by the last annual communication the 2017. Annual communication is that on a required of a last annual communication for special communication in accord with our constitution. My respectful submission it that it is in accord with our constitution by way of holding for a special communication is by the call of 1/3 by of our blue lodges. The last annual communication was attended by the more than 1/3 of our lodges. So the call of our last annual communication for this special communications do as much more than satisfies the requirements that 1/3 of the blue lodges can call for a special communication.

The second question is whether our incumbent Most Worshipful Grand Master can call for this special communication, again this power to call for a special communication is -- and clearly provided for in our constitution what the all to guide our incumbent most worshipful grand master in call for a special communication it is the consideration that to -- there is need to call for this special communication because it is call for by welfare of the craft. That judgment call is up to the sitting grand master whether or not the member of the craft necessity in order of this special communication lies in deed the sole discretion of our sitting grand master. What is a difference between a special communication and the regular annual communication in the so power there is no difference.

The power of a special communication is the same as the power of the annual communication. There is only one limitation in the call for special communication and that is the matters that can be discussed in the special communication are limited and should be clearly specified by the sitting grand master when you call for a special communication. And I think that the notice of this special communication spells out on what will be discuss in this special communication. Directly Shown it is the content the agenda of this special communication. The incumbent grand master specifies that. I'll be sure that this edicts and some of this edicts will have the effect of amending our present constitution without the necessity of passing the committee on revision of the constitution that is the issue.

Again, my submission is, this can be done by the incumbent grand master (clapping). In between communication the grand master exercises legislative powers. I think that is a nature. What is the nature of the ... legislative power that can be exercised by the grand master in between the Annual Communication. The first is the power to reenact ordinary legislation that is one aspect of the power to legislative. The second aspect of the power to legislate is the constituent power that is the power to amend or revise the constitution, so a legislative power has two aspects; the power to enact ordinary laws and the power to exercise the constituent power or the power to amend or revise our constitution. So those two powers are powers granted to the grand master in between the communication the constitution did not only give the grand master the power to enact ordinary legislation, but it can also the constituent power that is the power to suggest or amendment or revision to the constitution but subject for the approval of the special communication or the annual communication.

So, the next issue is; can be the grand master do this without first considering this edict which shall be effect of amending the constitution to the commission on revision of the constitution. – it can be done the committee on revision of the constitution is just like that, is a committee. That committee cannot rise upon the grand master when the grand master is exercising his legislative powers. (Clapping). When the grand master is exercising his constituent powers he is the ancom and that committee on revision of the constitution cannot rise upon the Ancom in other words; the sitting grand masters has two options when he, his edicts which would amend in affect the constitution if his extra careful if you're not scroll a tip toe approach to the validity of his edicts he can solicit the view point of the committee on revision on the constitution. That is one option that he can do but it was done by the sitting grand master. But there is another option and that option is to submit this edicts in affect amending the constitution directly to those special communication call for that purpose for the annual communication that we have. Again whether or not the grand master call for special communication for this purpose or when for the annual communications lies within the discretion of the sitting grand master.

(Editor's note: The transcription is copied as faithful as can be audibly heard.)



THE GRAND ORATION



UNITED

Grand Oration for the 105th Anniversary of
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines
VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, GO CSGL PDDGM
Special Communication, Tagaytay City, 19 December 2017

Most Worshipful Abraham N. Tolentino, Grand Master of all Philippine Freemasons, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters and other dignitaries in the East, Right Worshipful Sirs, Very Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, Brethren from our blue lodges all across our Masonic jurisdiction, good morning.

United.

On this day, Brethren, we not only mark our 105th anniversary of our founding as a grand lodge but also our 100th anniversary as a truly harmonious fraternity in the Philippines. On this day, Brethren, as a brotherhood in this country we mark the milestone when we first stood together as whole. On this day, Brethren, as a foundational institution of our Republic we celebrate that we are one. For today we also effectively commemorate the centennial of the Fusion of 1917 that made us united.

On the 13th of February 1917, the merger of 11 American and 27 Filipino lodges effectively realized the first sovereign and regular Masonic jurisdiction in all of Asia, which more senior Masonic jurisdictions came to then recognize and establish fraternal relations with beginning with the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia just three months later. As Asia's most senior grand lodge, it was from blue lodges first chartered in our Masonic jurisdiction that regular craft Freemasonry as an autonomous institution then initially spread to the rest of the region with the founding of the Grand Lodge of China in 1949 and the Grand Lodge of Japan in 1957.

Hence, the 5th founding anniversary of our Grand Lodge on 19 December 1917 was the first celebration of our Craft as one not just of Brethren who were Filipinos, nor just of Brethren who were Americans, but Brethren who together truly were for the first time recognized across the regular Masonic world as Philippine Freemasons. As our then Grand Orator Charles S. Banks in his own Grand Oration during the Annual Communication of that year prayed: God grant that the Masonry for which we stand and which this day has been so harmoniously united, after many years of misunderstanding, equivocal dealing, petty fears, jealousies and somewhat of indifference and racial arrogance, may

find in its present devotees and loyal adherents no cause to protest or complain that its practical application to the affairs of men is a dream, a delusion, a fraud.

Seeds of the Fusion of 1917

We thus really do need to commemorate today what was planted with so great an effort in 1917, for the fruits of that year were produced from the very seeds that emphasize precisely why our fraternity is not just the most ancient but also the greatest philosophical brotherhood of men.

First, the seeds of the Fusion of 1917 were nothing short of miraculous. The merger came about despite a cultural environment where some American social clubs could freely put up signs emphasizing “no dogs or Filipinos allowed” on the entryways of their premises. Despite the presence and seniority of Filipino lodges, Americans who were Freemasons had no qualms organizing their own lodges with charters granted by the Grand Lodge of California, leading to the formation of our grand lodge from such American lodges on the 19th of December 1912. Yet these same American lodges – as a true testament to their practice of the Craft – eventually welcomed Filipino lodges more than twice their number into their fold. The newly admitted Filipinos – in turn demonstrating their own commitment to the ideals of our Craft – opted to unanimously retain the then American Grand Master, MW William H. Taylor, for another year in office. An unwritten understanding then ensued. Brethren, if you go to Aguinaldo Hall at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in Manila, from their very own portraits you will see an unbroken alternate succession of American and Filipino grand masters from 1917 to 1974, at which point there was no American brother worthy, willing, and available to further nominate to the Grand Oriental Chair.

Second, the seeds of the Fusion of 1917 very clearly sprouted from much earlier roots. During the first Congress of our Republic at Malolos, Bulacan in 1899, delegates were presented with an initial draft of our first Constitution calling for the designation of the Roman Catholic faith as the official religion of our country. Fully understanding the strategic implications of such a policy, which would effectively isolate not just Muslims but even other Christians from the mainstream of our society, Bro. Tomas G. Del Rosario organized a campaign to reject such proposal and insert the constitutional guarantee covering the freedom to exercise one’s religion that we enjoy to this very day. Bro. Del Rosario’s proposal won by one vote, effectively his own. Brethren, no masonic lodge today memorializes this worthy brother. Yet he and his fellow Brethren from that era do not need such to commemorate their legacy. Their real legacy lives on in the one united Filipino nation that we have today.

Thirdly, the seeds of the Fusion of 1917 best demonstrate that each seed counts. MW Teodoro M. Kalaw, the then Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge for the Philippine Islands of the Grande Oriente Espanol, could very

well have continued to resist efforts at merger given his background as a crusading journalist persecuted with criminal libel charges by a corrupt American colonial official, but for the fact that an American Freemason so willingly extended his cabletow to MW Kalaw when the latter really needed it.

The landmark El Renacimiento case that was the defining freedom-of-speech litigation of that era had just about exhausted its course with the denial by the United States Supreme Court of MW Kalaw’s appeal in 1914. Regardless of the finality of MW Kalaw’s criminal conviction for libel and despite the rebuke he would receive from his own fellow countrymen, then Governor-General – and Bro. – Francis Burton Harrison pardoned MW Kalaw. That single act of Masonic concern and generosity sealed a fraternal bond between these two Brethren that facilitated MW Kalaw stepping down as the last Regional Grand Master for the Philippine Islands of the Grande Oriente Espanol, hence paving the way for the Fusion of 1917.

Manifestations of the Fusion of 1917

In the Fusion of 1917 we therefore find manifest the true genius of Freemasonry: Compassionate equality and mentorship before the Great Architect of the Universe, regardless of race, religious creed, or partisan rancor. Our Chinese Brethren in Mencius No. 93 in Manila and our American Brethren of Rising Sun No. 151 in Japan are just as much Philippine Freemasons as our Batangueno Brethren of Batangas No. 35, our Cebuano Brethren of Cebu No. 128, and our Davaoeno Brethren of Davao No. 149. The First Muslim Senator of the Republic is memorialized at Hadji Butu Rasul No. 393 in our country’s commercial capital, Makati City, just as the Christian Holy Family and its pilgrimage site is commemorated at Sagrada Familia No. 375 in Iba, Zambales. Brethren who are members of the college fraternity Alpha Phi Omega work Frank Reed Horton No. 379 in memory of their founder and fellow masonic brother, just as our Brethren in the military work General Artemio Ricarte No. 322 in honor of our masonic brother who was the Father of the Philippine Army. Batasan Lodge No. 381 was formed for brethren-legislators in our House of Representatives, just as Rafael Palma No. 147 was founded as the first University lodge in our masonic jurisdiction for faculty and alumni of the University of the Philippines, and Brethren in the Filipino-Chinese business community spearheaded the chartering of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen No. 398 of Manila to celebrate both their cultural and economic roots. Regardless of where we situate ourselves in life, we together are all – ALL – Philippine Freemasons, practicing one universal Craft, under one sovereign Masonic jurisdiction, joined together by that one fraternal bond we comprehend as our mystic tie.

In the Fusion of 1917 we also find manifest the distinct and special nature of Philippine Freemasonry within our universal Craft. While our grand lodge distinguishes

itself as the most senior grand lodge of Asia, the Mother Grand Lodge of all regular Freemasonry, the United Grand Lodge of England, is celebrating this very year the tercentennial of its own formation at a tavern literally facing the great St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Our one hundred years as a fully unified Masonic jurisdiction is thus exactly a full third of the first three hundred years of regular Freemasonry as an established global institution. This special distinction is one we should both cherish and nourish: 100 within 300.

Most significantly, in the Fusion of 1917 we find manifest the fundamental significance of Masonic formation and conscience. Just as our Brethren then were faced with the choice of division or union that would define their own age in the Craft, we stand here today with a similar foundational choice as to how we define our brotherhood for our own age. Namely, do we promote a fraternity of formalism or a fraternity of fusion?

Formalism. Fusion. Anoiyon? ("What are these?") Perhaps we can best define the distinction between the two with three questions.

- Do we promote a fraternity focused on rules, or a fraternity focused on reflection?
- Do we promote a brotherhood that cherishes relics, or a brotherhood that cherishes respect?
- Do we promote an order that emphasizes rank, or an order that emphasizes responsibility?

Rules versus Reflection. Are we so concentrated on finding the appropriate letter of the rules that fits our perspective, or do we seek to understand and live by the wisdom and spirit that underlies our body of Masonic Jurisprudence? No rule can contain masons who are not first formed in their heart.

Relics versus Respect. Do we prize so much more the decals on our cars, the square and compasses on the clothing we wear, and the rings that decorate our fingers, or do we aim to cultivate an orientation towards one's brother that is the foundation for fraternal respect and assistance? No masonic relic will ever substitute for the timely extension of one's cabletow.

Rank versus Responsibility. Do we value so much more the titles and designations we collect in our Fraternal Order, or do we most cherish the opportunity to become better men in the eyes of our own Brethren. No status attained in our Fraternal Order will ever replace genuine mentorship for one's fellow Brethren. The Fundamental Choice of Our Masonic Age

Perhaps from what we see today in many amongst us, it appears so much easier to preach formalism over fusion. But we do have tangible examples of the latter, as can be readily demonstrated in so many of our Masonic Brethren who have gone on to our Celestial Lodge Above. So now we must ask ourselves today: Hanggang yabang nalang ba tayo? ("Are we okay with simply enjoying our hubris?")

This indeed is the fundamental choice of our Masonic age. Founded on the faith of our Masonic forefathers and our

duties as the current stewards of our Craft to future Filipinos, we must take on the challenge of selecting fusion over formalism. Just as we take pride in how our fraternity was instrumental in forging our nation, we must be concerned with how our succession of Lewises – our sons, our grandsons, and their sons thereafter – will come to view our time.

We make that choice by first looking inward. I can remember during my much younger days finding in the cavernous basement library of our ancestral home in San Juan, Metro Manila the York Rite Chapeau of my Lolo Ted, our Grand Master for 1975 MW Teodoro Kalaw Jr. Bringing it up and presenting it to him in his second floor bedroom, I asked him what it was for, as I thought it was some sort of pirate hat. Delivered with his characteristic understated smile, His one-sentence answer to my eleven-year old self was "Teddyboy, the answer is in your hands". I had absolutely no clue what he meant then, but have an inkling of what he was really trying to convey now.

Our Fraternity has always been in our hands. Yet how often do we so readily shift stewardship to another? When there is discord, we blame our fellow Brethren. When the lodge cannot resolve our concern, we blame our Worshipful Master. When we cannot achieve what we want within the Craft we blame the Grand Master. Why is it always another brother's problem and never our challenge to better ourselves in Masonry? Instead of requiring the Craft to conform to our whims and wants, should we not first ask ourselves how we can best demonstrate practicing the Craft each and every day?

We make that choice by going beyond guarding the West Gate and properly forming those who commit to seeking Masonic light, thru the appropriate guidance of Brethren in the true principles of our Craft as represented by its timeless symbols. Entry into the secrets and work of King Solomon's Temple is not just about keeping mercenaries out, but also ensuring the initiates do not themselves become mercenaries. Yet how do we treat our petitioners? How do we treat the performance and mastery of our liturgy? Most importantly, how do we treat each other? Is not the very essence of our Craft the very act of striving to become better in order to serve as a model for other men?

We make that choice by essentially deciding where we best work and practice our Craft, which is by focusing on where the lessons of Freemasonry are truly nourished and transmitted. This begins with our understanding that the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is first and foremost not a collection of dispersed Brethren nor an aggrupation of Masonic districts but a genuine union of individual blue lodges. Because it is in these lodges that we come together as one fraternal brotherhood. Because it is in these lodges that we learn to practice one universal craft. Because it is in these lodges that we con-

tinue to construct the mental cornerstones and keystones that are essential to building our nation. One Brotherhood, One Craft, One Nation

One distinct brotherhood demonstrating that Philippine Freemasonry is the very meaning of BEING Filipino. One universal Craft practiced not just for all Brethren but for all Filipinos. One Filipino nation. This is why we are really gathered here today Brethren: To commemorate and recommit ourselves to the notion that Philippine Freemasonry is truly one brotherhood, one Craft, and one nation.

United.

Maraming salamat sa inyong pagkingig mga Kapatid at mabuhay ang Masonerya PARA sa Filipinas. ("Thank you for listening Brethren and long live Freemasonry for our Country.")

Cabletow reproduce for the record one of the letters sent to MW Tolentino on account of his continual Congressional release of million funds to various people's hospitalization

Thank You Letter of VW Bro. Eduardo Lachica Jose Rizal No. 22

First of all, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for giving us, brother masons who are really devoted to our fraternity.

By this, I was given the chance of prolong my life with the help of people around me who showed their care and generosity to a simple brother like me. And by grace of God, I was able to survive the triple bypass I have undergone last February 25, 2018 this year.

I again extend my gratitude aside to one God in heaven to those here on earth showing compassion and a noble intent to serve brethren of freemasonry and other communities, catering the need of all the less fortunate in this brotherhood, who in their heart feels being a true mason, a man who is always in action. A man who nothing in return.

By this act of love and charity, we strength our relationship with one another giving inspiration to live to the fullest and giving values of being a mason.

Helping a fellow mason with this kind of situation as mine is not an easy task unless a true brotherly love exists in one's heart.

I thank you also for giving me more chance to send my extended life with my whole family, with my all my friends and with all my brother masons.

Your willingness to help me until I was able to open my eyes again and see how wonderful the people are around me had inspired me more eagerly to spend the rest of my life teaching our fellow brethren the values of freemasonry.

I know, hereby so overwhelmed, wanted much to thank our dear Grand Master Most Worshipful Abra-

ham Tolentino. I couldn't believe it, he had just known me as an ordinary brother here in the Grand Lodge, he doesn't even knew me personally until only now.

Most Worshipful Sir, may God bless you more than what you are giving, bless your daily mission and your endeavor. More power to you Sir.

I would like also to take this opportunity to extend my thankfulness to my mother lodge Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 under the leadership of our incumbent Master Worshipful Brother Arthur Emile Dela Cerna, with the whole set of officers in his lineup. Also, to Biak Na Bato Lodge No. 7 under the leadership of their Worshipful Master Adriatico Akok Tan Lee with Bro. James Ngan, also to Dalisay Logde No. 14 to which I am an honorary member has visited me by Bro. Benito Sy and Broang Keu thank you also to the other lodges who wished and prayed for my fast recovery.

Lastly, I would like to be a living witness of God's Love and Mercy for us who truly believes in his almightiness. This is an assumption of a miracle from heaven to God be all the glory. Amen I praise him!

VW EDUARDO Y. LACHICA
Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22



SETTING MAUL

I am a mass of mortal stone
Placed here beyond the mist of chance;
My qualities are named my own,
My measurements are
Marked and known
And set by maul of circumstance.

There is immortal part in me,
Affinity for that above;
When stone is smote as it shall be
My spirit will be set and free
By God's own setting maul of love.

By MILFORD E. SHIELDS

Durango, Colorado

(Father of Bro. Chester A. Shields who was raised in Hiram Lodge No. 88,
Manila)



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND FREEMASONRY

By
Bro Honorio N. Sakall, PDDGM

The author, a charter member of Rizal Shrine Lodge U.D. (then Shrine City Lodge U.D), initiated to coordinate with the catechists of the catholic church at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Sta. Felomina, Dipolog City last May 21, 2017 where there are children of depressed families from the different villages in Dipolog City and adjacent municipalities in Zamboanga del Norte attending “Flores de Mayo”.

As a gesture of brotherly love and affection, the author was able to arrange with the parishioners to extend assistance for the depressed children by way of gift giving of school supplies, such as notebooks, pencil, papers, crayons, eraser, etc. for their school needs upon opening of regular classes in June 2017, as one of our CHARITY PROJECT.

Indeed, the brethren of then Shrine City Lodge U. D. (now Rizal Shrine Lodge U. D.) extended their financial assistance on the purchase of said school supplies for the children of depressed families numbering One Hundred Four (104) pupils studying in Eighteen (18) different elementary schools in Dipolog City, while some are studying in a remote barangay in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

Distribution of school supplies was scheduled last May 31, 2017 at 10:00 A. M., closing program of the religious activities of “Flores de Mayo”, set after the Holy mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church in Sta. Felomina, Dipolog City, and distribution of awards/certificates to deserving children, and school supplies numbering One Hundred Four (104) pupils with the presence of Rev. Fr. Cesar F. Tinga, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church. He was very thankful to the assistance extended for the benefit to the school children of depressed families in the community, as he sayeth “GOD REWARDS A CHEERFUL GIVER”.

(Photos sent were not published due to resolution issues.)

Orientation of Petitioners/Masonic Education, 27 January 2018, Daet Lodge 247 F.&A.M of the Philippines, Bagasbas, Daet, Camarines Norte

by: Judge Leo Lumabad Intia,* PDDGM, Region V-A

A. What is Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is a system of moral philosophy structured on the principle of Brotherhood of Man and on a belief in God and immortality, imparted symbolically and allegorically through a coordinated complex of Masonic lodges.

The Masonic Belief

There is one God, the Father of all Men. The Holy Bible is the Great Light in Masonry, and the Rule and Guide for faith and practice. Man is immortal. Character determines destiny. Love of Man is, next to love of God, man's first duty. Prayer, communion of man with God, is helpful.

The Masonic Teaching

Masonry teaches man to practice charity and benevolence, to protect chastity, to respect the ties of blood and friendship, to adopt the principles and revere the ordinances of religion, to assist the feeble, guide the blind, raise up the downtrodden, shelter the orphan, guard the altar, support the government, inculcate morality, promote learning, love man, fear GOD, implore His mercy, and hope for happiness.

The Masonic Code

Thou shall adore the Grand Architect of the Universe, which is GOD. Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself. Never do evil, even though thou shouldst not receive good. Detest anger for it only rests in the hearts of the stupid. Cast greediness from thy breast, because it is only vanity. Esteem those who are kind, take pity on the frailties of thy neighbour, shun the wicked, and do not hate anybody. Listen to the voice of conscience, if it is just. Be a father to the poor; every tear the needy shall shed through the hardness of thy heart will be an anathema that shall cover thee with shame.

Respect the traveller, stretch thy hand to the indigent, strengthen the weak, dress the naked, share thy bread with the hungry and offer shelter to the pilgrim. Avoid quarrels, ignore insults and see that all thy acts are on the side of reason. Do not be proud; be humble without meanness. Defend the oppressed and protect the innocent.

The tenets of Masonry are Science and Virtue. Its dogmas – Prudence and Courage; one for all, all for one. Its mysteries – light and reason. Its precepts – Charity, by humanity and for humanity. Assistance and protection between Masons, even at the cost of One's life, if necessary, is obligatory. The Masonic Order reserves due punishment for those who break their obligation.

Freemasonry. It is not a religion nor a secret society. It teaches man to practice charity and benevolence, to protect the ties of blood and friendship, to adopt the principles and serve the ordinances on one's religion, to assist the feeble. Guide the blind, raise up the downtrodden, shelter the orphan, guard the altar, support the government, inculcate morality, promote learning, love man, fear GOD, implore his mercy, and hope for happiness. It is the universal morality which is suitable to all men regardless of race and creed. It teaches no doctrine except those truths which tend directly to the well-being of man and thereby achieve better men in a better world, happier men in a happier world, and wiser man in a wiser world.

B. Brief History of Freemasonry

As a philosophy

The fact that the basic tenets of Masonic philosophy are belief in GOD - Supreme Being and immortality, Freemasonry traces its roots from the dawn of human thought. When did science begin? Art? Religion? Literature? They did not

begin, they evolved – developed coincidentally with the intelligence and creative thinking of man. So it is with Freemasonry. It did not begin, but over an extended period of time emerged from the rudimentary philosophy of early man to the structured organization which exists today.

As an organization

In days gone by, craftsmen organized themselves into groups, much as workers do today. Among others, a principal reason for such organization was to protect the trade from intrusion by those who were unqualified. Stonemasons, ranking high in importance among artisan groups of the day guarded the skills of their craft from impostors, so that the structures built by them would be perfect in every detail and not blemished by those improperly or inadequately trained. Even in modern times, no one can practice, medicine, teach school, be admitted in the bar or board without being lawfully recognized as a qualified physician, instructor, lawyer, architect, engineer, accountant or other professions or callings. And members of these groups are first to insist on high standard of admission and quick to expose quackery and malpractice among their ranks. Thus, as the “secrets” of medicine, school teachers and law may be obtained only after completing a prescribed course of study and training, so the “secrets” of early masonry were imparted only to those serving an apprenticeship under the master masons who were competent to teach them. Young men who wished to become stonemasons underwent careful scrutiny as to character, reputation, and ability before being entered as apprentices, and completed a training period of some seven years before being admitted as fellows of the craft. Today, we have diplomas, certificates, and licenses which testify to the bearer’s educational background or technical skills in his profession or trade. In early times, such printed means of recognition were lacking, and reliance was placed on certain signs, grips, and passwords as a means of identification, remnants of this ancient custom still existing in symbolical form in Freemasonry today.

1) The beginning of Freemasonry as an organization.

The Craft association is traced as early as about 1012 BC in the construction of King Solomon’s temple, where we find the Dionysian Artificers – men who grouped together as a trade/construction group specializing in architecture. Dionysian Artificers were sent by Hiram, King of Tyre, to assist King Solomon in the construction of the Temple. In the Roman Empire, highly organized

groups of tradesmen and artisans called themselves as the Roman Collegia. The decline of the Roman empire due to the repeated invasions by the barbarian hordes brought the members of these societies of skilled architects to the refuge of Lake Como in Northern Italy and they were known as Comacine Masters, and it is here that the Comacine theory developed which is of significant importance to Freemasonry. The Comacine theory theory bridges the gap between the Roman College of Architects and the celebrated builders of the middle ages in Europe. The building skills of the Comacine Masters, who were the descendants of the members of the Roman College of Architects, were passed on from generation to generation, and eventually spread northward into Germany, France, Spain, and England, ultimately being represented in the construction of the great cathedrals so characteristic of medieval Europe. The Comacine Masters were organized into lodges, with officers, rites, ceremonies, signs, passwords, rituals, and trade secrets.

In the fifteenth century, political, economic, and artistic progress flourished. Two most important guilds and association of men were known – the merchants guilds and the craft guilds. The craft guilds have three classes of members: masters, journeymen and apprentices. Like the Comacine Masters and the Roman College of Architects, they had an organizational structure with masters, wardens, meeting places, and social functions. Each guild limited the number of apprentices accepted into the craft, determined the hours of labor, regulated methods of construction, and set up quality standards for the work. Charity was practiced; members attended the funerals of deceased brothers; and each guild was represented by a patron saint. The art of building embodied several such guilds, and the most important to Freemasonry are the stone masons. The prominence of the masons’ status then became more and more vital because their constructional skills are necessary without which the erection of abbeys, churches and cathedrals were surely hampered. It was manifest that the underlying principles of Gothic architecture were a product of the Comacine Masters. The accelerated pace of building influenced the growth

and development of the stonemasons' guild. During this period, the word Free became prefixed to the term mason, and the expression of Free Mason, Free-Mason or Free-mason came into being. A reasonable assumption is that it came about because of the privileges and freedom of travel which were granted to the masons by the feudal guilds. These were denied the members of other guilds, but were enjoyed by the stonemasons because of the importance placed on their skills and the necessity for them to be free to move about from one locality to the next when their services so required. Admission then into masons' guild was confined to operative masons – those who actually build and plied the trade. Gradually, in the seventeenth century, their function and purpose took a new turn, with greater emphasis being placed on social and cultural activities. Because of this, men who outside the craft (not operative masons) seek admission. Among them were individuals representing various occupations and stations in life, who came to be known as accepted (later, speculative) masons to distinguish them from their operative brethren. FREEMASONRY today is termed speculative (accepted) because of its concentrated emphasis on the moral philosophy which has come to be its foundation.

The uniting of four lodges at London, England on June 24, 1717 led to the formation of the first Grand Lodge – Premier Grand Lodge of England. This date marks the beginning of FREEMASONRY – structured and functioning as it does – as we know it today. In 1813, all the lodges in England united and became the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England. Grand Lodges were established in Ireland in 1729; Scotland in 1736; it is from the English, Irish, or Scottish Grand Lodges that all legitimate lodges throughout the world can trace their origin. The first regular and duly constituted lodge in America is the St. John's Lodge of Boston which dates from 1733. The growth and development of Freemasonry in America is a colourful story involving the members of the Craft as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Paul Revere, John Paul Jones, many generals of the Revolutionary Army and a considerable number of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

2) The beginning of Freemasonry in the Philippines. Philippine history would have a wide and big vacuum without Philippine Freemasonry. The Founders of our Republic, those who struggled and died for our country's freedom and people's independence are the same Founders and pillars of Philippine Freemasonry. The struggle for Philippine Independence is the factual and historical testimony of Freemasons service to country. Our national

hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal together with Marcelo H. del Pilar who were member-masons of La Solidaridad Lodge, Madrid, Spain, initiated a project to establish Freemasonry in Manila and the provinces exclusively for Filipinos. They had two reasons: 1) they perceived that masonry could help unify the Filipinos and imbue them with a sense of nationhood. They were sadly aware that essentially the Philippines was just a cluster of hopelessly divided tribes. The inhabitants did not have a true sense of nationhood, they did not look upon themselves as Filipinos, but merely as Tagalogs, Pampanagos, Ilocanos, Bicolanos, Ilongos, etc ...2) they perceived freemasonry as “the universal protest against the ambition of tyrants” as the “supreme manifestation of democracy” as the fraternity/organization which could redeem and transform the Philippines “from a downtrodden Spanish colony poor and sickly, without rights and liberties, - into a dignified, free and prosperous nation”. They believed that the masonic lodges in the Philippines could later constitute, together with those in Spain and other countries, a strong consolidated league against oppression in this country.

The founders of Philippine Freemasonry were: Marcelo H. del Pilar, Jose P. Rizal from Laguna, Graciano Lopez Jaena from Iloilo, Galicano Apacible from Batangas, Tomas Arejola from Camarines Sur, Jose Ma. Panganiban from Camarines Norte, Jose Alejandrino from Pangasinana, Ariston Bautista from Manila, and Julio Llorente from Ilocos. Hence, Freemasonry in the Philippines was born. And the rest is history – Philippine revolution was hatched, planned and executed ... Philippine Independence was won,... These were the very reasons why Freemasonry was established in the Philippines in 1892 – for freedom, justice and equality. Freemasonry was founded in the Philippines to respond to the call for unity, for Filipinos to have a sense of nationhood, to fight tyrants and foreign oppressors; for the love of country and fellowmen.

As the movement grew, it attracted membership among the wealthy and the poor but educated Bicolanos. From the list of Masons the names of the following Bikolanos were included: Jose Ma. Panganiban, Vicente Lukban y Rilles, Tomas Arejola,

Leon Hernandez, Esteban Villareal, Pablo del Villar, Gregorio Luyon, Benedicto Sabater, Pablo Pajarillo, Diego Liñan, Florentino Peñalosa, Adriano Pajarillo and Ramon Cabezu, a Spanish mestizo. Aside from these names, it could be assumed that there were many more. In the same biographical sketch of Vicente Ursua, the names of Pablo Perpetua, Juan Razonable, Celedonio Reyes, and Rufino Hernandez were also mentioned as early members of the Masonic lodge in Libmanan. By 1895 Masonry had already taken root among the more educated class in the region. The report of Bishop Campo in 1895 indicated that "Jose Sabater who was a member of the provincial board of Camarines Sur was affiliated with the Masonic lodge established in the previous year in the town of Libmanan, which extended a little later to this capital and to other towns of Camarines Norte." Although many Bikolano and Spanish Masons had openly professed their affiliation, there were many more who preferred to remain anonymous. Some exercised tremendous influences in the colonial community; some were probably with the staff of the only regional newspaper in the last decade of the 19th century, the *El Eco del Sur*. Printed in the *La Bicolana* owned by Don Fausto Carrasco, the *El Eco del Sur*, was the first weekly newspaper which came out every Sunday since 25 June 1893. In its 11 November 1894 issue, apparently the last, an article was printed with the title *La Masoneria*. Appearing as an innocent literary treatise on the Masonic movement, the discussions eventually spiraled into a deceptive discourse, slyly propagating the Masonic movement. Signed by "Epifanio Truenogordo," a fictional author and probably a nom de plume of a Mason, the article was loaded with cryptic messages. One of which was the word *epifanio* which, in Spanish, means "appearance" and *truenogordo* "a thunderclap following a lightning flash." Putting the names together, it seemed to herald an event, "something is coming with a loud thunder." Two years after, the 1896 revolution erupted and was led mainly by Masons.

3) Daet Lodge 247

On 25 April 1981, The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines by the authority of the Grand Master Simeon Rene Lacson, convinced

that the advancement of Freemasonry will be encouraged, and the wise, moral, and beneficent purposes of the Ancient Craft will be promoted, DAET Lodge No. 247, F. & A.M. was chartered, constituted and numbered upon the registry as a regular Lodge, with the following Founders and Pioneer Officers: Worshipful Master – Tomas L. Ong.; – Junior Warden - Santiago M. Turingan, Secretary- Jose T. Seeping Jr., Treasurer - Ong Peng Lee.

In 2009 or twenty eight years after its chartering, Daet Lodge No. 247 F.&A.M. together with Bicol Bodies A.& A.S.R. formed a Foundation. Under the stewardship of Illustrious Tomas L. Ong, Supreme Grand Inspector General, 33°, Orient of Camarines, A.&A.S.R., Leo L. Intia Worshipful Master of Daet Lodge 247, the Foundation was formed. The formation of this Foundation was inspired and with the guidance of Court of Appeals Justice EUGENIO S. LAVITORIA, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the A.&A.S.R. in the Philippines, Past Grand Master F.&A.M. of the Philippines. Hence, Daet Lodge 247 & Bicol Bodies A.& A.S.R. Foundation, Inc. was born with the following Pioneers: Illustrious Tomas L. Ong – Chairman, Board of Trustees, Leo L. Intia – President, Ben L. Ong – Vice President.

As a manifestation of their dedication to the principles of Freemasonry and true to the corporate motto of the Foundation "A life that is not consecrated to a great and noble calling is like a stone wasted in the fields without becoming a part of any edifice" (sublime words of brother mason Dr. Jose P. Rizal), on 4 April 2009, the Masonic Foundation Center located at Bagasbas, Daet, Camarines Norte was Dedicated and Blessed officiated by Justice Eugenio S. Lavitoria, Past Grandmaster and Sovereign Grand Commander A.&A.S.R of the Philippines. The lot where the Building was erected was donated by the Family of Illustrious Tomas L. Ong. It was also on that occasion that the Installation of the new set of officers of Daet Lodge 247, and the Induction of the officers of the Foundation was held.

Some topics on Freemasonry:

On Masonry and Religion: Freemasonry opens its doors

to all men, regardless of religious conviction, the essential requirement in this regard being an avowed belief in GOD and immortality.

On Freemasonry, Politics and the Business World: With its emphasis on universality and good-will among men, Masonry frowns upon controversial political discussion within the confines of its lodges. Freemasonry as an organization does not align itself politically; it cannot, for among its members are represented opinions which vary and predispose them to affiliate with the political organization which best represents those opinions. The charge of a Freemason is to be a peaceful citizen, true to our government and just to our country, never countenancing disloyalty or rebellion and submitting patiently to legal authority. A man should not petition for affiliation with a masonic lodge for the purpose of promoting his business or increase his income through additional patronage he might expect to receive by reason of his Masonic membership.

On Masonic Benevolence: A man does not, and should not, petition for membership in a Masonic Lodge to be the recipient of charity, nor should he look upon his membership as a guaranty which will provide security for him and his family in times of stress. A Mason finds, however, that assistance will be forthcoming should it ever be needed, notwithstanding the fact that the Brotherhood has never pretended to be an insurance or protective society. Merit is the just title to our privileges.

Dynamic Personal Development through Freemasonry: Since the traditional teachings of Freemasonry encompasses the values of friendship, morality, brotherly love, relief, truth, restraint, fortitude, prudence, justice, and reverence, it follows that the craft can instill these intrinsic qualities of leadership in those who will accept and practice its fundamental principles.

(Reference Materials: The Brethren, Masons in the Struggle for Philippine Independence, by Reynold S. Fajardo; What is Freemasonry, published by the Masonic Service Association of the United States of America; The Brethren in the Days of Empire, by Reynold S. Fajardo; The Cable Tow (Official

Publication of the MW Grand Lodge of F.& A.M. of the Philippines; The Masonic Movement in Kabikolan (1894-1896) by Danilo Madrid Geronima, PH.D.)

*The writer-compiler - Judge Leo Lumabad Intia, is the Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 27, Naga City. His Court is the designated Environmental Court. He was also assigned as Acting Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Courts, Branch 64 Labo, Camarines Norte, (2002 to 2004) Branch 38, Daet, Camarines Norte, (2004 to 2006) and Branch 35, Iriga City (2007 to 2009). He was a nominee for three consecutive years (2006, 2007, 2008) by the Court Administrator's Nomination Committee to the Search for Outstanding Judges of the Philippines sponsored by the Society for Judicial Excellence. He was One of the Five National Finalist in the 7th Annual Awards for Judicial Excellence in the 1997 Search for Outstanding Public Prosecutors of the Philippines sponsored by the Foundation for Judicial Excellence. He is a Past Master of Daet Lodge 247 (1998-1999/2008-2009) and Past District Deputy Grand Master, Region V-A (2010-2011). He is married to Dr. Arlene Arenas Angeles - Intia, DMD, with four children - Dr. Laurice Ann Angeles Intia, MD, Leo Anthony A. Intia, Liz Angela A. Intia and Lea A. Intia. His Father is Judge Bonifacio Calleja Intia, Retired Regional Trial Court Judge, Branch 30, Tigaon, Camarines Sur, and Mother Remedios Regaspi Lumabad - Intia, Retired Public School Teacher. His motto: Ut in Omnibus Glorificatur Deus, (That in all Things, GOD may be Glorified) he learned from San Beda College, Mendiola, Manila during his law school days. A former: private practitioner, lawyer of the Public Attorney's Office, Prosecutor, and in 2001 the first Freemason in Camarines Norte to be appointed Regional Trial Court Judge. He is a professor, College of Law, University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City.

I WORE MY FATHER'S APRON

By JOSE S. GATMAITAN
Malolos Lodge No. 46, F. & A. M.
Malolos, Bulacan



I must confess, at the outset, that I was born a Catholic as my father and mother were, and I married a girl of my faith and our children, three girls, are now being schooled in a catholic institution. Before being a mason. I have pondered no little a time why I should join our fraternity as I was always tormented by this question. Is Masonry incompatible with my faith?

When, at least, I arrived at the crossroads of my decision and decided to be a mason and was initiated into the mysteries of freemasonry, I was then convinced that Masonry does not interfere with my faith. From the time I was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason and passed to the degree of Fellowcraft until I was raised to the sublime or "Smithen Builder's" degree, I had the rare privilege, upon my own request, to wear my father's apron during all those ceremonies; and I say that the apron, which is the badge of our humility and the symbol of our innocence, is like the three great lights of masonry and the working tools of the three degrees, impressed me very much. The apron is that indispensable thing that when worn during our lodge deliberations, makes you feel a free born and reminds you of TEMPERANCE, FORTITUDE, PRUDENCE and JUSTICE, the four cardinal virtues, which a mason should ably possess for without these masonic virtues, a mason, human as he is may err. The apron, once worn, distinguishes us from ordinary mortals for it makes us stand and walk uprightly before God and men and makes us feel, as masons, with that truly masonic reward-humility with pride.

In my present quest for Light, I have the fortune of having the masonic emblems of my father who was a master of the Royal Secret and a Scottish Rite Mason and also the misfortune of losing some of them because of the last war, and I treasure them more than other earthly possessions I do now have. For as a mason, although young as I am, by persistent study and search for Light, with my father's emblems made me able to seek into the heart of truth, for it is axiomatic that, in this world of gloom, truth must prevail; and the performance of which, each and every mason must endeavor as our ancient brothers had done, for to fail in this worthy task, we become unworthy builders of that great and spiritual Temple, where we shall, sooner or later, enter after our terrestrial journey below to humbly face our Supreme Grand Master in the Celestial Lodge above.

Every mason is a builder of his temple as every upright heart is.

Discovering Masons Lane, Central, Hong Kong

Article Writer:

Sir Enrique Sadosa, KCR

Producer, "Dr. Jose P. Rizal Trek

2020 - Retracing The Footsteps of
the National Hero Around The World"

While trying to persuade the Hong Kong Government to put up a bust of Dr. Jose P. Rizal at the Rednaxela Terrace (same location where a marker has been dedicated to the Philippine national hero), Sir Pieter Nootenboom, a Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR), Knights of Rizal of the Philippines and a Philippine Mason, received a suggestion from Mr. Joseph L. Bautista, also a Philippine Mason, for him to do a research on Dr. Jose P. Rizal and the former Zetland Hall where the national hero used to attend masonic sessions when he was in Hong Kong. Bautista's suggestion revolved around the possibility of a marker installed by the Hong Kong Government for Dr. Rizal at the location of the former Zetland Hall in Zetland Street. The government turned down this request. Nootenboom went through a 2-year discussion with the Hong Kong Electric (now owners of the site where the former Zetland Hall was located) regarding Dr. Rizal's marker. Sadly, this too was turned down by the electric company.



Sir Pieter Nootenboom, KGOR at his "discovered" Masons Lane at Zetland Street.

Finally, Nootenboom's request for assistance from the Hong Kong Antiquities Department for the same marker was also denied. Built in 1865, the former Zetland Hall was the center used by Hong Kong Masons and visitors overseas for gatherings and meetings before it was destroyed by American bombs against the Japanese forces in Hong Kong in 1944. A new Zetland Hall now stands tall at #1 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.



(L-R) Sir Steven Cheong, KCR, Lady Aida Villanueva, Sir Greg Tabuena, KCR (a Mason), Sir Bert Nanquil, KGCR, and Lady Nanquil, Sir Pieter Nootenboom, KGOR, and Sir Reynato Puno, KGCR at Masons Lane.

However, in the middle of his research scanning old Hong Kong maps, Sir Pieter Nootenboom, KGOR, discovered a short lane between Whyndam and Zetland Streets and that the original building was built in 1865 as clearly shown in a 1901 map. He also noticed that post 1960s maps still show this lane, but the name "Masons Lane" is no longer written on the newer maps. Masons Lane is running parallel with the elevated On Hing Terrace which is leading directly to the old location of the former Zetland Hall. Google Maps may have missed out this small lane being unmarked and having an illegal metal door structure placed by one of the building owners in the lane blocking the ancient right of way.



When Dr. Rizal was having his eye clinic at the nearby D'Aguilar Street, it was reported in Manila that he has been attending Masonic meetings at the former Zetland Hall. Dr. Rizal and other Masons would have used this lane rather than the elevated On Hing Terrace to get to Zetland Hall for convenience. Hence, the Hong Kong Government mapmakers named it "Masons Lane" as officially marked in older Hong Kong maps and known to locals since then. At his own initiative, Sir Pieter Nootenboom single handedly convinced the building management to clean and repaint the wall by himself beside Masons Lane. He also had a brand new street marker made for the lane and had it riveted on the wall.

Sir Reynato Puno, Sr., KGCR, officially visited Hong Kong last August 12, 2017, and went to the Philippine Consulate for the chartering and induction of new members of the Knights of Rizal China Chapter. The former Philippine Chief Justice, MW Past Grand Master GLP, and now Supreme Commander of the Knights of Rizal, proudly posed in front of the "discovered" Masons Lane together with his entourage when toured by Sir Pieter Nootenboom, KGOR, on the 12th of August at the site. The former Chief Justice congratulated Nootenboom for a job well-done and his dedication as a true Rizalist and a Knight of Rizal.



Sir Reynato Puno, KGCR, at the Dr. Jose P. Rizal marker at Shelley Street (adjacent to Dr. Rizal's place). The building in front of this marker is NOT the correct building where Dr. Rizal resided).



Sir Reynato Puno, KGCR, at #5 D'Aguilar Street in Central, Hong Kong, where Dr. Jose P. Rizal had his eye clinic. A Dr. Rizal marker is visible on the upper part of the photograph.



Sir Reynato Puno, KGCR, at the exact site of Dr. Jose P. Rizal's place at the #2 Rednaxela Terrace.

Sir Reynato Puno, KGCR, at the Morrisson Hill Park, the place where the first Philippine flag was sewn by Marcela Marino de Agoncillo, Lorenza Agoncillo, and Delfina Herbosa de Natividad and unfurled during the Proclamation of Philippine Independence of the First Philippine Republic on June 12, 1898 by President Emilio Aguinaldo in Cavite. (Article Writer, Sir Ricky Sadosa, KCR stands at extreme right).



THAT LODGE CALLED PERDONA Y ABRAZO MASONIC LODGE UD

2005 marks the year when sanity broke loose in Cavite District and disgruntled brothers separated from the GLP to form the Independent Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. It all started when then Grandmaster Romeo Yu did not appoint Mr. Joseph Capuyan as DDGM for Cavite District. Cavite opines that the Grandmaster can only choose from 3 of their recommended officers. The GM ruled otherwise that it is the prerogative of the Grandmaster to appoint whoever he pleases; which prerogative stands firm in our Masonic Jurisdiction. Cavite region insists on the Gentlemen's agreement that the DDGM to be appointed should come from the host lodge whose round of hosting falls on that year. The Cavitenos held series of meetings, and the original result was to send a District Resolution to the GLP expressing that sentiment of disgust.

However, some went overboard and started secret meetings with the end in view of forming another Grand Lodge, that is when the IGLPI was formed. As it was formed out of hatred and disgust, the same was not given recognition by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and to date, it is considered a clandestine lodge and any interaction with the members of the same would be treated by the GLP as a violation of his masonic oath. With the IGLPI's formation, they started to forcibly grab GLP's masonic buildings and finances which led to multiple cases. In Mendez Nunez alone, there was a time when the GLP and IGLP were holding stated meetings on the same building. Mendez Nunez 316's original lodge was built on the property owned by the Sarmientos who converted to IGLPI, however, great amount of funding was sourced out from GLP members. GLP will come and hold their meetings only to come again with the gates padlocked on their next meeting. Animosity breeding to its extreme level, the GLP Mendez Brothers decided to buy a separate lot and built their new beautiful building that will be an envy to other lodges.



Series of efforts were made by the Grand Lodge to patch out the issues, however, they proved futile. Interviews with several Past Masters who were affected reveals that they are willing to accommodate some of the IGLPIs back to the fold but they cannot accept those that have taken the funds of the lodge.

As soon as MW Abraham N. Tolentino ascended to the East, he made it one of his projects to exert some efforts to give the IGLPIs members a last chance to redeem themselves by sending ambassadors. It will have of course some conditions that will assure the GLP of loyalty checks and clear intentions. Feelers revealed that a great number of new members entered the IGLPI on the pretext that they are entering the GLP and that they are not classified as clandestine. After history has been revealed, a great number of IGLPI members finally sent their intention to be part of GLP and in clear day, they indeed made a visit to the GLP to make their intentions concrete.

Groundrules and paperworks fol-



lowed and thus, the lodge called Perdona Y Abrazo Masonic Lodge was made Under Dispensation. The lodge was initially chartered under the auspices of Tagaytay Masonic Lodge No. 165 and shall hold their stated meetings at Tagaytay Masonic Lodge Building in Tagaytay



VW Gonzalo Mapili serves as Charter Worshipful Master

City. As their rites of initiation, passing and raising were the same rites followed by the IGLPI, a special consideration of going through the rites was made in circular by the Grandmaster. We have here an exceptional circumstance where a great number of Masons will be accredited under the fold of the GLP, the Grand Lodge must extend its brotherly love to whom it is overdue. Congratulations to the MW Abraham N. Tolentino for such task well concluded. It shows how really you love your Cavite Brethren. Enter the gates as they are now opened by our Cavite Grandmaster. Awaken my Brother.

WHEN BROTHERS STOP ACTING LIKE BROTHERS

Effectively Resolving Masonic Cases

By VW Lyceo Martinez, PJGL

There is a saying: Temper gets you in trouble. Pride keeps you there.

These are words that basically sum up how masonic disputes originate and how it develops into full-blown masonic cases.

Freemasonry promotes harmony among its members—that much is true. However, when you have men from all walks of life meet on the level in an environment that promotes open-minded discussion and equality of footing among members, particularly on the lodge floors, it is no surprise that such disagreements and misunderstandings negate the teachings and principles of our Ancient Craft.

Over the years, brethren from the same lodge, from different lodges, and even those coming from different masonic jurisdictions file countless masonic cases against each other before the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

What is more surprising is that these cases are often brought about by the most trivial of matters—causes such as not being able to invite certain brethren to one's birthday celebration or one brother simply did not like the way the other brother looked at him at a particular fellowship or another brother apparently heard from a friend that a certain brother said unsavory things about the former without even verifying the authenticity of such reports, these have apparently given cause to the filing of such cases for unmasonic conduct.

What happened then, to the practice of resolving matters over a few rounds of cold beer?

It used to be that these matters were resolved immediately within the lodge or even within the district. However, the culture of close affinity and “pakikisama” as well as the so-called “padrino” system of Filipinos have rendered obsolete the customary mediation practices of in some lodges and districts. Thus, these brethren now bring their cases before the Grand Lodge



and to the Office of the Grand Master for resolution.

However, with more than 25,000 registered members being served by less than 20 staff and a handful of brethren picked by the incumbent Grand Master—the load may be too much for the Grand Lodge to cope with. This results in the piling up of cases before GLP committees such as Grievance and the Office of the Grand Secretary and of the Assistant Grand Secretary, who are charged with the duty of receiving such complaints and dispensing them to the proper committees or personality for action.

In masonic year 2016–2017, during the incumbency of then-Grand Master MW Voltaire T. Gazmin, the number of masonic cases unresolved have reached alarming levels to such point that two steel filing cabinets in the GLP still proved insufficient to hold all the dockets and records of these cases with several more being filed every week. Realizing this, MW Gazmin formed a team to determine why there are so many cases are before the Grand Lodge for disposition.

The team, composed mostly of brethren belong-

ing to the legal profession came to several conclusions: first, that Masons in this jurisdiction file masonic cases over the smallest of things; secondly, that some of the reasons for filing masonic cases sprout from matters unrelated to Freemasonry, such as a failed business deal or agreement; and third, that it is indeed very easy to file complaint of whatever nature before the Grand Lodge.

Realizing this, MW Gazmin issued Edict No. 293 creating a Special Committee on Preliminary Investigation, headed by VW Lyceo C. Martinez, PJGL of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16, a lawyer of recognized competence and experience in Masonic laws and jurisprudence. The said edict addresses the urgent need to create a special committee to assist the Grand Master in determining the existence of actionable cause or lack thereof in each complaint. Furthermore, the edict dictates that only meritorious cases should proceed to trial and that, in order to avoid unnecessary and costly expense and delay, all frivolous charges should be disposed of immediately or acted upon with finality in a preliminary investigation proceeding thereby expediting the disposition of cases and serve the interest of masonic justice.

Indeed, upon cursory examination of the cases inventoried shortly after the creation of said edict, it was discovered that many of the cases were trivial in nature, incompliant with requisite masonic laws and procedure and erroneously filed in the Grand Lodge instead of the Blue Lodge, tending to take its toll on the financial, human, and other logistical resources of the Grand Lodge which may have been better allocated for more essential masonic concerns and services.

Edict No. 293-Gazmin seeks to expedite the processing and disposition of such complaints by the thorough and circumspect review thereof and allowing only meritorious cases to go to trial while at the same time dismissing frivolous and trivial charges.

Much like how prosecutors in criminal cases determine the existence of probable cause, the Committee on Preliminary Investigation weeds out frivolous and unnecessary suits filed before the Grand Lodge and recommends to the Grand Master which cases are to be assigned to trial committees that may be formed thereafter pursuant to our established trial procedures.

The edict was issued towards the tail end of MW Gazmin's term, yet during the brief period of three months, it was able to decrease the then-current case load of the GLP by 40% thereby proving the efficiency and effectiveness of establishing such a committee. The Committee on Preliminary Investigation was re-established during the immediately succeeding term of

MW Abraham Tolentino, with VW Lyceo C. Martinez, PJGL still at helm. MW Tolentino then advanced an extra step in trimming further the cases being handled by the Grand Lodge with the issuance of Edict No. 304 which imposed filing fees for masonic cases filed before the Grand Lodge.

The fees, seeks not only to augment the ever-increasing cost of managing the records and reproducing the voluminous dockets, but also aims to discourage brethren and other parties who may wish to file such complaints before the Grand Lodge for more 'selfish' reasons such as to vex or annoy another brother or 'simply for the heck of it' to prove that they can file cases against any one, any time. The imposition of fees and other charges would discourage such practices and in effect, make these brethren 'think twice' before complaining before the Grand Lodge and encourage them to return to the practice of settling these controversies at the lodge or district levels where no such fees are imposed.

With the issuance of Edict No. 295 by MW Abraham N. Tolentino pursuant to Sec. 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution and Approved Resolution during the Annual Communication of 2017, calling for a Special Communication, the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, Committee on Jurisprudence and Committee on Special Communication were constituted as a Joint-Committee acting as Technical Working Group of the Grand Lodge responsible for the integration of all approved edicts beginning the term of MW Gabionza, and further, in order to update the Constitution and Ordinances.

Accordingly, Edict No. 293-Gazmin creating a Special Committee on Preliminary Investigation and Edict No. 304-Tolentino rationalizing the imposition of filing fee on unmasonic conduct cases were integrated and approved as part of the revisions in our Masonic Constitution during the Special Communication held on December 19, 2017 at Tagaytay City. Consequently, Edict No. 293-Gazmin is now one of the "Standing Committees" specified in Part I, Article VII Section 1 (par m) of the approved revised version of our Masonic Law Book. It has transcended from a special committee into a standing committee becoming part and parcel of the laws of the Craft.

These two edicts, hand-in-hand, create safeguards and obstacles that seek to destroy the harmony being protected in blue lodges and frees up some of the GLP and Grand Master's attention to attend to other Craft matters and concerns. They do not seek to change trial procedures that are contained in Article XVIII of the Masonic Law Book as well as other previously-issued edicts by Grand Masters of past ages.

However, it is further hoped that in the next few years, we can see these edicts becoming obsolete and unnecessary with improved mediation rules and guidelines that may be established and approved by succeeding Grand Masters or Annual Communications. Until then, these edicts are indicative of the desire of the Grand Lodge to encourage the brethren to settle problems and misunderstandings strictly amongst themselves as brothers would.

Remember brethren, as masons we can disagree without being disagreeable and as what our rituals have always echoed out to us, that we part upon the Square.

ABOUT THE WRITER: The writer is a lawyer by profession and have served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines as member on the Committees on Grievance and Preliminary Investigation.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GRAND MASTER



THE SEARCH FOR RICARTE

Brother General Artemio “El Vibora” Ricarte



Brother General Artemio Ricarte y Garcia was born of poor parents in 1866 in Batac, Ilocos Norte and had to work his way through school to earn the Certificate of Maestro de Instruccion Primaria from the Escuela Memorial in Ermita. He was one of the first members of the Katipunan and held the position of treasurer of the: Balangay ng mga Anak Bayan Mapagtiis (the Katipunan name of Francisco de Malabon).

Throughout the tumultuous years of the Filipino-Hispano hostilities, Bro Ricarte - popularly known under the nome-de-guere “el Vibora” (the Viper) - was always on the forefront leading the Filipino forces and was thereafter elected as the first commanding general of the Philippine forces on March 22, 1897 (322/1897). It was because of the same that el Vibora was thereby christened and will forever be considered as the “Father of the Philippine Army.”

Refusing to swear allegiance to America after the same took over rule

over the Philippines from Spain; el Vibora was imprisoned and thereafter exiled from the Philippines by the Americans. He stayed in Hong Kong from 1910 to 1915 before transferring to Japan where he opened a small restaurant, Karihan Luvimin, and returned to teaching. In all the years he stayed in Japan, his dream of an independent Philippines never waned. Every year, he never failed to celebrate Rizal Day and Bonifacio Day by hosting big affairs with Filipino residents and Japanese officials.

When World War II erupted and after Japan's military forces occupied Manila, Prime Minister Tojo asked Ricarte to return to the Philippines to help maintain peace and order. He agreed based on Tojo's promise to give Philippines its genuine independence from the American colonial rule and thus returned to the Philippines and fought the Americans until he died due to dysentery in 1945.

As the famous Filipino author Benjamin Cailles Unson wrote of Bro General Artemio Ricarte, “he was an iron-willed man who defied the Americans down to his last breath.” It is thus that Bro Ricarte has likewise been referred to as the “unconquerable patriot” - a patriot who is “the living body, the flesh and blood of the Filipino heroes who chose hardships, misfortune and death to subjugation.”

Finding Ricarte

Various sources would purport that Bro Gen Artemio Ricarte's body is actually buried in a tomb in the Libingan ng mga Bayani within Fort Bonifacio (formerly Fort William McKinley) in Western Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines. The truth is, however, the same is not.

The search for Bro Ricarte's true burial site began when the brethren of General Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322 went to Japan for its twinning with Rising Sun Lodge No.151 and performed a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate his birthday on October 20, 1917 at Bro Ricarte's monument in Yamashita Park in Yokohama, Japan. Together with Worshipful Master Gonzalo Jesus “GJ” R. Garcia III was VW Jeffrey P. Alba, DDGM for MD-NCRG, WB Harold N. Cabreros, Bro Juan F. Keyser, Bro Albert C. Flores, and Bro Arnold L. Bernardo.



Having posted pictures of the wreath laying in Japan on Social Media, Army Historian General Ramon Yogyog (Ret.) saw the same and contacted WM GJ Garcia III, informing him that he knew where Bro Gen Ricarte's original tomb is located and where parts of his remains were actually buried. As it turns out, Bro Ricarte's remains were buried in several places: a part in his original burial site in Hungduan, Ifugao Province; a part in his hometown in Batac, Ilocos Norte; and a finger in Yamashita Park, Yokohama, Japan.

Hence, last January 5, 2018, WM GJ Garcia III, together with four brethren of General Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322 (GARL 322) - VW Johnny S. Camba, PM and Bros Dominador C. Doctolero, Juanito Abraham S. Pitel Jr, Alfred Julius P. Tee and Tecson John S. Lim - and their guide, Gen. Yogyog, travelled to Hungduan in Ifugao Province in search of Bro Ricarte's original burial site.

The journey to Hungduan was a hard one despite the new expressways. After reaching San Jose, the last town of Nueva Ecija, long and winding roads had to be taken to first reach Banaue, Ifugao Province. Reaching Banaue past midnight, the brethren and their guide was forced to stay in a half-constructed half-way house whose accommodations had the team sleeping in an unsecured room and with bathing waters that was ice-cold.

With an appointment to keep with Mayor Hilario "Larry" Bumangabang of the Municipality of Hungduan, the said team rose early and took on approximately another hour of twisting and rugged roads to the said municipality.

However, despite the fatigue from the long and tiring journey to reach Hungduan, all exhaustion melted away after seeing the National Historical Commission's near dilapidated Marker identifying Bro Gen Artemio Ricarte's original burial site and the truly glorious view created by our creator that served as the marker's backdrop.

Contemplating on the near dilapidated state of Bro Ricarte's marker, WM GJ Garcia III and the brethren there and then negotiated with the Municipality's Mayor to put up a Masonic obelisk that would not only tell a better tale of our nation's "unconquerable patriot," but more importantly, to recognize him as a brother Mason.

With Mayor Bumangabang agreeing to the construction of the same, designs were immediately drawn up by Bro Dominador C. Doctolero and a groundbreaking was then and there conducted.

Achieving everything that the Brethren had set off to do and more, the team travelled back to Banaue later that day to view the other glorious works of our creator; enjoyed an evening of fellowship; met with the brethren of Ifugao Lodge No. 218 in preparation of the unveiling of the obelisk that was to be built; enjoyed a hearty meal at Bro Bong Fontanilla's famous restaurant in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya; shopped for some fresh vegetables along Dalton Pass; and then headed straight back to Manila.

Unveiling of the Ricarte's Masonic Obelisk

Almost two weeks after the aforementioned ground breaking, the brethren of GARL 322, led once again by WM GJ Garcia III, once again embarked on another long journey.

On January 18, 2018, the brethren once again took off for Hungduan to personally inspect



the construction of the Masonic Obelisk; travelled to Vigan City in Ilocos Sur for the Twinning Ceremonies with Angalo Lodge No. 63 on January 20, 2018; and then headed back to Hungduan for the unveiling of the Masonic Obelisk on January 22, 2018.

In the morning of January 22, 2018, in the Municipality of Hungduan, Ifugao Province, the Masonic Obelisk in honor of Bro Gen Artemio Ricarte was thus unveiled in a grand event jointly conducted by GARL 322 with the assistance of the brethren of host lodge Ifugao Lodge No. 218, the Local Government of Hungduan, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The joint event was a combination of the Municipal Government's Monday flag raising ceremony, the ribbon cutting and unveiling of Bro Gen Ricarte's Masonic Obelisk, a wreath laying ceremony, and a boodle fight.



the labor of building the Masonic obelisk. The ribbon cutting and unveiling of the same came after which was conducted by WM Gonzalo Jesus R. Garcia III; VW Jeffrey P. Alba, DDGM for MD-NCRG; VW Edilberto Carabacan, PSGI; WM Cleto Tocyap of Ifugao Lodge No. 218, Mayor Hilario Bumangbang, and Gen. Ramon Yogyog.

This was immediately followed by a wreath laying ceremony hosted by the 54th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army led by its Battalion Commander, Bro Ltc Nicolas Quemado, Jr. of Gen Artemio Ricarte Lodge No 322 where the entourage presented two wreaths in honor of our patriotic brother.

Transferring to the stage prepared by the Municipal Government, messages were rendered by WM GJ Garcia III, VW Jeffrey P. Alba, VW Edilberto Carabacan, Mayor Hilario Bumangbang, Gen. Ramon Yogyog, and VW Loreto G. Rirao that all generally focused on the importance of remembering the legacy of our patriotic brother Gen Artemio Ricarte and how we should use his memory as a guide as to how we, as Masons and as Filipinos, can do patriotic and heroic things as we live out our own lives.

The event was then formally closed by a hearty boodle fight sponsored by the host lodge, Ifugao Lodge No. 218, where the brethren broke bread with the members of the LGU, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and the Philippine Army.

Having departed the municipality, GARL 322 celebrated the successful event with a fellowship at the Headquarters of the 54th Infantry Battalion sponsored by its commander, Bro Ltc Nicolas Quemado, Jr. of GARL 322.

Taking Home Ricarte's Light

As always, traveling to far and distant places with the brethren always have its benefits - we make the acquaint-

tance of brethren and people from such places, our appreciation of our creator's glorious works are rekindled or heightened, we are inspired with new ideas as to how to best work and best agree, more importantly, our brotherly love for each other is heightened.

This particular journey however, allowed the brethren of Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No. 322 to take home a little something more. Similar to the journey we, as Master Masons, all took during our climb up the winding stairs, the brethren went back though time and rediscovered how invaluable knowing our history and the lives of some of our brethren is, and how we should remember to use the same to chart our destination.

Like our brother, the “unconquerable patriot” Gen. Artemio Ricarte, we learned that we should never give up on our aspirations and allow earthly circumstances to change our course, no matter how rough and rugged the road towards our destination may be and even if others may wrongly perceive our intentions and deeds. For at the end, he who sits on the great white throne will be the one to judge us and that which we may do while in the body echoes in eternity.



To our brother Gen. Artemio “Vibora” Ricarte - we thank you. We thank you for having guided us as we retraced your life, for through the same we have been invested with your light. Rest assured that we, the brethren of Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge No.322, will live up to your namesake and shall endeavor to share your light by keeping your story alive and living life with such patriotism and conviction as you did until your last breath.

Also, our deepest appreciation again to everyone who made this “journey” possible and successful: General Ramon Yogyog (Ret.) and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Mayor Hilario Bumangabang and the entire municipal government of Hugnduan; and, of course, WM Cleto Tocyap of Ifugao Lodge No. 218 and the brethren of Masonic District RII: Nueva Vizcaya Lodge No. 144, Cordillera Lodge No. 178, Villaverde Lodge No. 206, Ifugao Lodge No. 218, and Mt. Palali Lodge No. 420.



**MW ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO.
CHAIRMAN.
PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2018**



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte administers the oath for the newly-elected Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) Chairman and incumbent Cavite Seventh District Representative Abraham Tolentino and POC President Victorio Vargas during a ceremony at the Malacañan Palace on March 5, 2018.

(TOTO LOZANO/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

February 23, 2018 marks a birthday celebration of our Grand Master. It also marks the day when our Grand Master takes the helm of the Philippine Olympic Committee as its Chairman. Many brethren are unaware of the time, effort and resources that our Grand Master has poured in the Philippine sports scene and International arena as the President of the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines since 2009, as Secretary General of the Philippine Chess and the World Chess; as Member of the Management Committee of the Asian Cycling Confederation; as Member of the Philippine Practical Shooting Association; as Member of the Philippine Kick-boxing Association. Taking over the POC from a seasoned veteran politician as Mr. Peping Cojuangco is a gargantuan task that spells 14 years. This timely event is his birthday gift that is a celebration for the Fraternity.



GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

2018-2019

Near the Grand Lodge of the Philippines	Grand Lodge	Grand Representative to the Philippines
Avelino I. Razon, Jr.	Alabama	J.V. Wade
Chester Warren Y. Tan	Alaska	
Juanito G. Espino Jr.	Alberta	Stanley E. Mottershead
Oscar V. Bunyi	Arizona	Jon William Blue
Jesse D. Alto	Argentina	Geronimo Ojeda Ayzarnazabal
Rolando F. Rocha	Arkansas	Myles A. Oliver
Samuel P. Fernandez	Austria	Helmuth A. Niederle
Victor Antonio T. Espejo	Amazonas Y. Arce	Pedro A. De Amorin
William Rañaga	Belgium	Philipps Clement
Edgardo E. Lupisan	Bolivia	Ismael Montes de Oca
Jaime Y. Gonzales	British Columbia	Angelio Tacata Vizcarra
Reynato S. Puno	Califonia	Ira E. Coburn
Mario E. Bumanglag	Canada	Johnny P. Chua
Luis A. Ferrer, IV	Ceara (Brazil)	Luis Alberto Dias
Manuel E. Crudo, Jr.	Chile	Exequiel B. Moraga
Enrique Y. Co	China	Jumbo C. P. Yu
Romalino Valdez, Jr.	Colorado	Kent R. Gould
Peter Lim Lo Suy	Columbia-Barraquilla	Rafael Blanco
Emmanuel J. Diesta	Columbia-Bogota	Ernesto V.D. Cortes
Nataniel S. Golla	Columbia-Cartagena	Rafael Mesa Perez
Armando Cazzola	Connecticut	Leodovico T. Morales
Romeo A. Bartolome	Costa Rica	Ronald Hirsch K
Rodel Riezl SJ. Reyes	Cuscatlan	
Avelino M. Sumagui	Czech Republic	Angelito Tolentino
Olegario Dela Cruz	Delaware	Julius A. Weinstein
Gilbert S. Mendoza	Denmark	Jon Henrik Mortensen
Lucas T. Ty	District of Columbia	Curtin Winsor
Gonzalo Q. Mapili, Jr.	Dominican Republic	Francisco Chapman
Joven K. Chua	Ecuador	Carlos A. Rolando
John L. Choa	England	Iain R. Bryce, TDDL
Oscar P. Musni	Finland	Antti Talvite
Voltaire T. Gazmin	Florida	Antonio Melgar Cate
Rolen C. Paulino	Georgia	Joseph C. Allen
Abraham N. Tolentino	Grand Lodge National Francaise	Angelito Tolentino
Pablo C. Ko, Jr.	Germany	Ian N. Livermore
Rosendo C. Herrera	Greece	Panayiotopoulos Al.
Norberto Cue	Guatemala	Nathan J. Meyer
Benito T. Ty	Hawaii	Jose Marques Rosales
Eugenio S. Labitoria	Honduras	Victor M.D. Galeano

Percival T. Salazar	Idaho	David G. Smith
Santiago T. Gabionza	Illinois	Vicente V. Cabrera
Robert S. Dy	India	Suresh Khemani
Wharton R. Chan	Indiana	Isaac Hoshaver, Jr.
Juanito P. Abergas	Iowa	Earl Dusenbery
Alfredo T. Go King	Iran	Mohammad Ali Ahmadi
Noel C. Baybay	Ireland	John Dickson
Rogelio D. Gevero, Jr.	Israel	Bernard Cohen
Albert K. Tan	Italy	Sergio Cortese
Hector Emberga	Japan	Norihiro Inomata
Leonardo P. Chua	Kansas	David C. Eckert
Ernesto A. Uy	Kentucky	Garry C. Kelly
Nerville P. Peñalosa	Luxembourg	Gerald Fritz
Narciso B. Nieto	Louisiana	George W. Barker
Tommy O. Que	Maine	Manuel G. Sangalang
Jose Waldemar V. Valmores	Manitoba	Jesus Manalang
Rodel T. Matias	Maryland	Miguel Banagan, Jr.
Teodoro Alejandro Kalaw, IV	Massachusetts	Wm. N. Woodland
Henry S. Oaminal	Mato Groso	Lucirdes Dias Ferreira
Abelardo L. Aportadera, Jr.	Mexico (York)	Max S. Von Son
Nelson T. Yau	Michigan	Richard M. Strauss
John C. Tan	Minas Gerais (Brazil)	Nilo L. Barroso
Jeffrey N. Co	Minnesota	Romeo R. Filoteo
Juanito B. Vaño, Jr.	Mississippi	Bobby R. Ainsworth
Samuel C. Parilla	Missouri	Norman Johnson
Emmanuel Antonio M. Umali	Montana	Billy B. Millhollin
Agapito S. Suan, Jr.	Nebraska	Charles M. Godwin
Robert O. Asuncion	Netherlands	Melle Assies
Romeo A. Yu	Nevada	Jay V. Orolfo
Henry T. Ching	New Brunswick	Frank MacVay Langley
Robin U. Go	New Hampshire	Harold E. Fernald, Jr.
Jimmy A. Ang	New Jersey	Philip Divinagracia
Alexander B. Madamba	New South Wales	Rey Porras
Rosendo C. Herrera	New York	Valentin T. Basiga, Jr.
James C. Go	New Zealand	Roger Gillatt
Hubert Tubio	Nicaragua	Alfredo Galeano
Rudyardo V. Bunda	North Carolina	Robert Stevens James
Danilo D. Angeles	North Dakota	Sterling A. Walker

Janby Earl H. Yu	Norway	Benny Rustviken
Diosdado V. Lacsamana	Nova Scotia	Danilo A. Hernandez
Antonio U. Chua	Nuevo Leon	
Dennis T. Gabionza	Ohio	Harold W. Hall
Franklin J. Demonteverde	Oklahoma	Charles E. Green
Benjamin S. Geli	Oregon	Gerald Laurens
Tomas G. Rentoy	Panama	Miguel A. Canales
Benvenuto C. Alegre	Paraiba (Brazil)	Severino Ramos de Oliveira
Ramiro M. Cruz	Paraguay	Buenaventura Pujadas
Rudy L. Ong	Peru	Jaime Dextre Mansilla
Ricardo C. Marquez	Pennsylvania (Prince Hall)	
Francis Boñales	Prince Edward Island	R. Allison Ellis
Pablo S. Chu	Puerto Rico	Raymond Founier
Robert Pe Liao	Quebec	Albert G. Tan
Gregorio M. Monreal	Queensland	Bill Borg
Leo Rafael M. Cueva	Rhode Island	Malcomb C. Bromber
Trese Wenceslao	Rio Grande Do Sul	Gelson Solon Fernandes
Jose Roncesvalles	Romania	Radu Homescu
Johnny T. Pimentel	Sta. Catarina	Henrique Chiste Neto
Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.	San Paulo, Brazil	Claudio Akira Misina
Oscar Garcia	Saskatchewan	Karl Ozeroff
Julio M. Cabali	Scotland	Neil S. Gordon
Emmanuel M. Sanico	South Australia	L. S. Coventry
Erwin Pio B. Bollozos	Southern Africa	O. Oberholster
Crispulo M. Fernandez, Jr.	South Carolina	Roger D. Viduya
Frederick W. Siao	South Dakota	
Alan La Madrid Purisima	Spain	Nicolas Arkas
Efren T. Arayata	Switzerland	Stefan Garlinski
Gilbert Angemille S. Toledo	Tasmania	P. W. Calvert
Cesar R. Villar	Tennessee	Diosdado Ablan Barawid, Jr.
Rizal D. Aportadera	Texas	John W. Rice
Mac Duffie A. Tan	Turkey	Macit Turen
Roberto O. Sing	Uruguay	Ruben Otatto Jorge
Noel Rosal	Utah	Victor Fernandez
Salic Dumarpa	Venezuela	Daniel Medvedov Delibaltov
Victor A. Yu	Vermont	Mark Gates
Ricardo P. Idquival, Jr.	Victoria	Felix Pintado

Ricardo P. Idquival, Jr.	Victoria	Felix Pintado
Christopher Florencio Y. Gococo	Virginia	Regalado P. Pasicarlos
Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr.	Washington	Donn Eisselle Castro
Marcus Antonius T. Andaya	Washington (Prince Hall)	
Safiro A. Vinarao	Western Australia	Robbie McInnes
Lyceo C. Martinez	West Virginia	Richard E. Nuhfer
Sixto S. Esquivias, IV	Wisconsin	Harold Fried



UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

MW Bro Abraham Tolentino
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the Philippines
Plaridel Masonic Temple,
1440 San Marcelino St, Manila,
Philippines



30 November 2017

Dear Brother Tolentino,

It was a pleasure to welcome you to our Tercentenary Celebrations in London.

It was very kind of you to make a presentation. The metal mounted shell with pearl, Grand Lodge of the Philippines book and Philippine Blue Lodges: Heritage, Heraldry and Heart are currently on display in a special exhibition in our Museum and will be incorporated into our permanent collections. Please pass on to your Brethren our thanks for their generosity.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Master



CONSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION PER SPECOM
as Presented by VW Marcus Antonio Andaya
Senior Grand Lecturer

PART I
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Sec. 6. The Official delegates during District and Multi-District Conventions, Annual and Special Communications:

The only official delegates of lodges who can speak, comment, object, move, second, manifest and/or participate in any discussion and deliberation and vote on any matter during the District and Multi-District Conventions and Annual and/or Special Communications are the following:

1. Incumbent Worshipful Masters;
2. Incumbent Wardens;
3. Immediate Past Masters representing the Past Masters of Chartered Lodges;
4. Past Grand Masters; and
5. Incumbent Grand Line Officers except the Grand Lodge Inspectors; or
6. In the absence of the delegates of the Lodge, Representative as defined under Part II, Ordinances.

All other members of the Grand Lodge who are not included in the above enumeration of official delegates may be present during the Conventions, Annual and/or Special Communications as mere observers. Others may be recognized to speak and participate during the discussion and deliberation only if they are directly involved or part of the cases or matters decided by a Committee and/or by the Grand Master at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

Official delegates may only speak and participate in any discussion and deliberation in accordance with the resolution or instructions of their respective lodges on matters in the plenary.

Members of the Committees but are not official delegates may speak and participate only if the subject matter subject of the discussion in the plenary is the report of their respective Committee.” (Edict No. 317 Tolentino)

ARTICLE V

ELECTION, QUALIFICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

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

(Any district which fails to elect the required number of nominees shall forfeit their entitlement as provided for in the immediately preceding paragraph for the succeeding masonic year.)

IV. Annual Communications (ANCOM) Level.

34. In the election of the JGW, the candidate who obtains the highest vote shall be declared the winner regardless of whether or not such a candidate garnered the majority votes cast by the voting delegates; (Edict No. 268-D)

35. The candidate who obtains the highest number of votes by plurality in the single balloting shall be proclaimed the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden. In case of a tie, the same shall be broken by a toss coin and the candidate who wins in said toss coin shall be proclaimed the winner and the duly elected Junior Grand Warden. The toss coin shall be done in public by the Chairman of the ELECOM. (Edict No. 268-D)

ARTICLE VI

VOTING, REPRESENTATION AND ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

Sec. 6 The Electoral Committee.

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

ARTICLE IX

THE GRAND MASTER

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

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

ARTICLE XXXIV

GRAND LODGE INSPECTORS

Sec. 3. Duties.

It shall be his duty:

i. To be present at the balloting of petitioners or election of lodge officers and to ascertain that the duties of the Master under m, n and o of Sec. 2, Art. XI, Part II-Ordinances and duties of Secretary prescribed in k, l and m of Sec. 1, Art. XIV, Part II-Ordinances are duly complied with; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

PART II

ORDINANCES

ARTICLE I

ORGANIZATION OF A LODGE

Sec. 2 The Grand Master may, in case of manifest propriety And necessity, grant a dispensation to form a new lodge upon receipt of a petition satisfying the following conditions:

f. It must be accompanied by an undertaking that it will acquire or construct its own permanent lodge or masonic temple in an identified location within a period of three (3) years from the date of its Charter. In case of non-compliance with the undertaking, the Grand Lodge may review, recommend and if necessary take appropriate actions thereto.” (Edict No. 300 Tolentino)

Sec. 7 The Lodge shall submit its name for approval by the Grand Lodge which shall not be the name of any living person or Chartered lodge and must bear the word “Masonic” in its official name, and request a number for it. No dispensation shall be granted to form a new lodge unless the official name of the Lodge bears the word “Masonic”; (Edict No. 307 Tolentino)

ARTICLE III

DUTIES OF A LODGE

Sec. 2 Among its duties to the Grand Lodge are the following:

a. To hold one stated meeting a month except in case of a lodge visitation in accordance with the enumerated guidelines. (Edict No. 296 Tolentino)

ARTICLE IV

PROHIBITIONS ON A LODGE

Sec. 2. Among others, a lodge is prohibited from performing the following:

e. To change its place of meeting from the city, town or municipality specified in its dispensation or charter to another place except (i) Lodges with Masonic Temples pursuant to Edict No. 302 Tolentino or (ii) unless notice of such intention is given its members at a stated Meeting and approval granted by the Grand Master.

v. Chartered Masonic Lodges including Lodges U.D. are hereby prohibited from using the word "Memorial" in its Lodge name; (Edict No. 298 Tolentino);

w. Masonic Lodges constituted using the names of Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines and National Heroes are hereby decreed to perpetually use the name of the Lodge and henceforth prohibited from being revised, altered, changed or modified except when removing the word "Memorial" pursuant to Edict No. 298 Tolentino (Edict No. 299 Tolentino);

x. No balloting of petitioners or election of lodge officers shall be conducted without the presence of the Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI); (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

ARTICLE VI

DEGREES AND AFFILIATIONS

A. Qualifications and Other Requirements

Sec. 1 A petitioner for the degrees of Masonry must be a man at least twenty-one (21) years old and for a son of a Mason, eighteen (18) years old with parental consent and support at the time of signing of the petition, freeborn, a believer in God and a future existence, of good moral character, literate and physically able to conform substantially to what the several degrees require of him and those not sons of Masons have made adequate provision for himself and for his family in case of death.

The father of the 18-year-old petitioner must be a Master Mason in good standing and financially capable or with adequate provision to assist the 18 year old son in the financial re-

quirements for the petition for degrees and membership fee of the lodge.” (Edict No. 308 Tolentino)

Sec. 9 Proficiency.

The newly initiated, passed or obligated brother who has not yet made the required proficiency examination when the Lodge was considered defunct may obtain the necessary examination through the Grand Master or his duly appointed representative at the Grand Lodge or at the jurisdiction of the duly appointed representative of the Grand Master where the defunct lodge was located;

Affiliation.

After passing the required proficiency examination, the Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellow Craft Mason or the newly raised Master Mason of the defunct lodge shall apply for affiliation with a Chartered lodge within twelve (12) months thereafter in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances on affiliations and is required to pay the affiliation fee; The Entered Apprentice Mason or Fellow Craft Mason of the defunct lodge who fails to affiliate without a valid reason for a period of twelve (12) months starting from the date the Lodge is considered defunct or from effectivity of this edict for those already Entered Apprentice Mason or Fellow Craft Mason from defunct lodges prior to this Edict, may hereafter be dropped from the rolls;

The newly raised Master Mason of the defunct lodge who fails to affiliate without a valid reason for the same period of time shall be deemed unworthy of Masonic consideration and not entitled to any of the rights, privileges and charities of the Craft until such time he has affiliated with a Chartered lodge.

The newly raised Master Mason is further required to pay his dues from the time he was considered a non-affiliated mason;

Adoption.

The sponsoring lodge, if any, of the Lodge U.D. is enjoined to adopt all Masons Initiated, Passed and/or Raised by the defunct lodge, subject to the applicable provisions of the Ordinances on affiliations;

In the absence of the sponsoring lodge, the said Mason/s, may apply for affiliation with any of the Chartered lodges under the jurisdiction of Masonic District where the defunct lodge belongs or is situated. The applicable provisions on affiliations shall likewise apply; and

If none of the abovementioned is available, the said Masons may opt to choose any Chartered Lodge where he may deem fit to continue his degrees in Masonry, subject to the regulations governing residency.

In all cases, the regulations governing proficiency examinations and tried and proven are hereby strictly implemented.” (Edict No. 301 Tolentino)

C. Balloting

Sec. 16. In balloting, members entitled to vote shall walk along the border to a point directly in front of the Senior Warden, face east and walk individually to the Altar where, after properly giving the Third Degree sign, he shall cast his vote by dropping a white ball for election or a black cube for rejection of a candidate

through the opening in the wall of the uncovered compartment into the covered compartment. He shall then leave the altar and return to his seat. Members from the south side of the hall will vote first with the Secretary leading, when all members in the South voted, then the Treasurer will vote followed by the members from the North side. The Senior Deacon votes last. Every member of a lodge qualified to vote, when present, must vote upon a ballot for the degrees or for affiliation.

In order to be able to participate in the balloting on a petition of a candidate for the degrees of masonry or affiliation, a lodge member must possess ALL of the following qualifications:

- a. He must be a member in good standing, i.e. not suspended for non-payment of dues, fees and other assessments payable to the Grand Lodge (Sec. 4.f., Art. XX, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book); or not suspended for failure to attend at least three (3) Stated Meetings of his lodge (Sec. 1.g, Art. XI, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book); or not suspended for other Masonic offenses. He must be a member in good standing not only in the lodge conducting the balloting but in all of the lodges in which he may be a regular or plural member of. (cf. Sec. 7, Art. VI, Part II-Ordinances, Masonic Law Book);
- b. He must have attended an aggregate of at least six (6) Stated Meetings during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the balloting or election. In determining or counting the number of stated meetings attended, the month when the balloting or election is scheduled shall be excluded; and
- c. He must have passed the proficiency examination for the third degree of masonry. (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

The following brethren shall be exempt from the strict application of the "Six Meeting-Rule":

- a. Life Members by Longevity (LML) provided they have attended at least THREE (3) STATED MEETINGS;
- b. Those who worked abroad for more than six (6) months during the 12-month period immediately preceding the balloting or lodge elections. Provided they have attended at least THREE (3) STATED MEETINGS.

The foregoing exemptions shall apply only if the following conditions are complied with:

- a. That the brother seeking exemption must have a Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) issued by his Mother Lodge and the Dual/Plural Lodge wherein he intends to cast his ballot;
- b. That he must have made the Third (3rd) Degree Proficiency Examination;
- c. That his employment abroad must be properly documented and his length of stay outside the country duly established through his passport; (Edict No. 276-A Rentoy)

ARTICLE XI

THE MASTER

Sec. 2. His duties are:

m. To assure that all brethren present during the balloting or election are only those qualified to cast BALLOT upon a petition of a candidate/s or affiliation/s or VOTE for lodge officers; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

n. To cause the roll call of all lodge members present before the lodge proceeds with the conduct of the balloting of petitioner/s or affiliation/s or election of its officers; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

o. To receive from the secretary an attested/certified list of all qualified brethren to cast BALLOT upon petitioner/s or affiliation/s or VOTE for lodge officers and to direct the brother or brethren disqualified to be temporarily seated at the north side of the lodge, while such balloting or election is being conducted; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

ARTICLE XIV

THE SECRETARY

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary:

k. To provide a certified listing of all regular members present inside the lodge that are to participate in the BALLOTING OF CANDIDATE/S OR AFFILIATION/S or ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS and to make an attestation and certification below said listing that “ he has verified the minutes of previous meetings and tyler’s book of the lodge, and had personally ascertained from other documents, record and other means that all brethren listed therein possess all the qualifications prescribed; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

l. To keep and maintain a copy of the said attested/certified listing of qualified brethren to cast BALLOT upon petitioner/s or affiliation/s or VOTE for lodge officers to form part of the record of the lodge; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

m. To provide the Worshipful Master a copy of his attested/certified listing of qualified brethren and personally advise him of the presence of a brother or brethren, if any, who do not possess the qualifications as provided under Section 16, Art VI, Part II-Ordinances for his appropriate action; (Edict No. 276 Rentoy)

ARTICLE XVIII

CHARGES, TRIALS AND PROCEDURES

H. Cases of Abandonment and other cases tried and decided by the Grand Master”

“Section 1. Cases filed against any Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, whether or not a member of the Grand Lodge maybe filed directly with the Grand Lodge which shall be resolved by way of a summary procedure;

Section 2. The Rules of Summary Procedure under the Rules of Court shall be supple-

tory hereto wherein, after the filing of the verified- complaint and answer, the parties shall be required to submit Position Papers, attaching all their supporting documents, evidence and supporting affidavits of their witnesses. Only the Grand Master shall have the power and authority to hear and decide on the expulsion or grant of pardon to an expelled brother pursuant to this Edict;

Section 3. For purposes of this Edict, a regular mason shall not be considered a proper party in filing the complaint. A written complaint under oath from the legitimate spouse shall be indispensable for the commencement of the action;

Section 4. No action or complaint under this Edict shall prosper unless it appears clearly from the verified complaint that earnest efforts toward a compromise have been made, but that the same have failed. If it is shown that no such efforts were in fact made, the same case must be dismissed;

Section 5. Notwithstanding the imposition of the penalty of Expulsion, a Mason expelled under this Edict may be pardoned by the Grand Master and restored to Masonry in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Masonic Law Book due to any of the following grounds:

- a. Upon presentation of joint-sworn statements of the spouses that the abandonment ceases to exist and that the spouses are living again as husband and wife;
- b. Upon presentation of joint-sworn statements of the spouses that the spouses have amicably settled their differences and are mutually happily living separately from each other; or
- c. Upon presentation of a court decision ordering the legal separation or a decree of annulment of the marriage of the spouses;" (Edict No. 303 Tolentino)

I. Reversals and Restorations

Sec. 59. Any brother expelled upon a decision of expulsion made by the Grand Master duly approved during the past and succeeding Annual Communications (ANCOM) except expulsion under Edict No. 303 Tolentino, is not subject to restoration within a period of five (5) years. In case of restoration after the said period of five (5) years pursuant to a petition duly made to the Grand Lodge by the expelled brother and upon showing remorse, the penalty of expulsion originally imposed shall only be commuted to a penalty of suspension for no less than a period of ten (10) years inclusive of the five (5) year expulsion period duly served.

The Masonic records will continue to reflect the penalty of expulsion imposed notwithstanding any restoration. The restored brother even after serving completely the commuted penalty shall no longer be eligible for any appointive and/or elective positions in the Lodge or the Grand Lodge. " (Edict No. 318 Tolentino)

END OF INTEGRATION

CIRCULARS FROM THE GRAND LODGE

CIRCULAR NO. 24 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES
OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PURSUANT
TO SEC. 2, ARTICLE IV, PART I OF THE CONSTITUTION AND APPROVED RESOLUTION
DURING THE ANNUAL
COMMUNICATION OF 2017

To All Members of the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines:

Notice is hereby issued that the Special Communication pursuant to Sec. 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution and Approved Resolution during the Annual Communication called by MW Abraham N. Tolentino, Grand Master of all Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines will be held on 19 December 2017 at 8:00a.m. at Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City, with the following objectives:

The Objectives of the Special Communication are limited to the following, to wit:

- I. Pursuant to the approved Resolution during the Annual Communication:
 - a. Deliberate and vote upon the unfinished business of ANCOM 2017;
- II. Pursuant to Sec. 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution as called by the Grand Master:
 - b. Reading and approval of the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017;
 - c. Integration with our existing Masonic law book all Edicts approved beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as presently contained in the Masonic Law Book, Centennial Edition, covering Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV thereof;
 - d. Deliberate and vote upon the Edicts amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances issued by the Grand Master before the Special Communication; and
 - e. Partial Grand Master's Report containing all other Edicts, Circulars, Judicial Pronouncements, Administrative Orders issued and such other actions undertaken by the Grand Master

before the Special Communication.

No other business shall be transacted at the Special Communication other than for this purpose.

The following shall be the Order of Business in the Special Communication:

- i. Opening of the Grand Lodge;
- ii. Reception of Past Grand Masters;
- iii. Reception of Guest of Honor and Speaker; (Note: Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Spain signified his intention to be the Guest of Honor and Speaker to talk about the 100th year Anniversary of Unification)
- iv. Prayer by the Grand Chaplain;
- v. Singing of the National Anthem;
- vi. Tribute to the Flag
- vii. Panunumpa sa Watawat;
- viii. Singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn;
- ix. Grand Oration;
 - x. Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker;
 - xi. Message of the Guest of Honor and Speaker;
 - xii. Retirement of the Guest of Honor and Speaker;
- xiii. Roll Call of Delegates and Determination of Quorum;
- xiv. Transaction of Business;
- xv. Adjournment;
- xvi. Closing of the Grand Lodge

Optional

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 7th day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary
ANT/DDA/MATA/vangie

CIRCULAR NO. 25 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : ENROLLMENT UNDER THE ON-LINE METHOD OF
INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING AS QUALIFICATION FOR
ELECTION

The pertinent portions of the approved Edict No. 283 (MW Rentoy) state that:

“Masters and Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and Auditors of all subordinate Lodges are DIRECTED to take the IMES Diploma Course instead, as a qualification for election. This requirement shall be enforced during the December 2016 annual election of Lodge officers and all other succeeding elections.”

The same provision was incorporated under Edict No. 315, An Edict Harmonizing, Revising, Synchronizing all Edicts Pertaining to IMES (MW Tolentino).

The annual election of subordinated lodges’ officers in December as provided for under Section 1, Article X Officers of Subordinate Lodges, Part II Ordinances is fast approaching and there are brethren who have not yet completed all the modules under the On-Line Method of Instruction and Learning as provided for under Edict No. 309, Providing for an On-Line Method of Instruction and Learning (MW Tolentino).

Master Masons who are enrolled under the On-Line Method of Instruction and Learning are considered taking the IMES Diploma Course. Henceforth, Master Masons who are enrolled under the On-Line IMES at the time of the annual election of lodges are qualified for election. A Certificate from the Institute (IMES) as a proof of enrollment shall be presented to Lodge’s Secretary on or before the day of the actual election of lodges to be eligible to be voted upon to any elective office.

However, the elected Master Masons should complete the IMES course before the installation of Lodge’s officers and a duly issued IMES Diploma Certificate shall be presented to the installing officer at the time of installation.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 10th day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

CIRCULAR NO. 26 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS
AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS
JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : LODGE ASSESSMENTS FOR SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Pursuant to Edict No. 295-A (MW Tolentino), the registration fees and the Lodge assessments for the Special Communication therefore shall be as follows:

1. Php2,000.00 per Lodge for the four (4) Authorized Delegates of the Lodge;
2. Php1,000.00 for every Grand Line Officer of the Lodge;

As expressly stated in the said Edict, the above-mentioned assessments to the Lodges for the authorized delegates shall be due to the Grand Lodge on or before 30 November 2017 regardless of whether or not the authorized delegates will or can attend the Special Communication. Payment of the aforesaid lodge assessment is an additional requirement to representation in the Annual Communication of 2018.

For those Lodges that will fail to pay the Lodge assessment within the required period, their official delegates are still considered registered and can still attend the Special Communication. The unpaid assessment shall be included as an additional requirement to the representation in the Annual Communication of 2018 per the above-mentioned edict.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 16th day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary
ANT/DDA/MATA/vangie

CIRCULAR NO. 27 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF
THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : MASONIC INTERCOURSE WITH EXPELLED
MASONS DURING LODGE FELLOWSHIPS INSIDE
THE GLP PREMISES

It has come to the attention of the Grand Master that some members of the Craft hold an after Lodge stated meeting fellowship within the premises of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in the presence and/or in the midst of expelled Masons.

This is to remind that all Masons and Lodges are prohibited from holding Masonic intercourse during any masonic occasion including but not limited to fellowships after Lodges' stated meetings especially within the premises of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and other Masonic Temples with expelled Masons for they have already been deprived of all their rights and privileges as such.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 20th day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 28 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : ADAPTING THE EXEMPTION OF SECRETARIES,
TREASURERS AND AUDITORS OF ALL SUBORDINATE
LODGES TO TAKE THE IMES DIPLOMA COURSE AS A
QUALIFICATION FOR ELECTION

Edict No. 283 (MW Rentoy) requires Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and Auditors of subordinate lodges to take the IMES Diploma Course as a qualification for election beginning annual election in December 2016 and all succeeding elections, the pertinent provisions therein state that:

“Masters and Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and Auditors of all subordinate Lodges are DIRECTED to take the IMES Diploma Course instead, as a qualification for election. This requirement shall be enforced during the December 2016 annual election of Lodge officers and all other succeeding elections.”

On the other hand, MW Gazmin issued Circular No. 20 providing that Secretaries, Treasurers and Auditors who have already served in such elective capacity cumulatively for more than five (5) years already, are exempted from the requirement to take the IMES Diploma Course as a qualification for election.

The approved Edict No. 283 (MW Rentoy) does not exempt the aforesaid elective officers from taking the IMES Diploma Course as a qualification for election. Under our Masonic laws, the Circular of MW Gazmin does not and cannot amend the requirements provided for under the two (2) edicts. The exemption provided in the circular was effective only during the term of MW Gazmin.

In fact, Edict No. 315 (MW Tolentino), An Edict Harmonizing, Revising, Synchronizing All Edicts Pertaining to IMES did not adapt the exemption provided for under the Circular of MW Gazmin. As a consequence thereof, the exemption of the above-mentioned elective officers from taking the IMES Diploma Course is no longer in effect.

For this Masonic year however, the exemption of the aforesaid elective officers from taking the IMES Diploma Course as a qualification for election is hereby adapted and continued. Thus, Secretaries, Treasurers and Auditors who have already served in such elective capacity cumulatively for more than five (5) years already are exempted from the requirement to take the IMES Diploma Course as a qualification for election this December 2017.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 20th day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 29 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS
AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF
THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : REMINDER TO STRICTLY OBSERVE THE PROPER
HANDLING OF CANDIDATES DURING DEGREE CONFERRALS

This is to remind all Masons under the jurisdiction of the Philippines to strictly observe all the Edicts issued pertaining to the proper handling of Candidates during degree conferrals and our current laws such as the Revised Penal Code and R.A. No. 8049 otherwise known as AN ACT REGULATING HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR.

The Grand Master is bound to enforce our Masonic laws and that of the Republic of the Philippines regarding hazing. As the Grand Master is absolutely against hazing of candidates, he will not be hesitant to enforce our Masonic laws and that of the Republic against hazing to the fullest extent of the law. Thus, any violation of the laws against hazing shall not be tolerated and shall be meted with the extreme penalty of expulsion, if warranted.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 22nd day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary
ANT/DDA/MATA/vangie

CIRCULAR NO. 30 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF
THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : APPOINTMENT OF TWO (2) SETS OF GRAND DEACONS
AND VARIATIONS/CHANGES ON THE FLOORWORKS AND
WORDINGS IN THE RECEPTION OF DIGNITARIES DURING THE SPECIAL COMMUNICA-
TION ONLY

The Special Communication on 19 December 2017 coincides with the celebration of the anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the grand celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Unification of the Gran Oriente de Espanol and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The event is expected to be attended by numerous dignitaries from Masonry and Masonic families who should be properly received according to our Masonic rituals. The rituals on reception of dignitaries may therefore require a considerable number of time of the Communication.

In order to expedite the process and for the smooth flow of the rituals on reception of dignitaries, two (2) sets of Grand Deacons who may or may not be Past Masters will be appointed for the Special Communication only to alternate with the duly appointed and installed Grand Deacons to assist the Grand Master and Grand Wardens in such manner as the ancient usages of the Craft prescribe. The appointment is just for the Special Communication only and the appointees will not be conferred the title of Very Worshipful for appointment as such.

Further, some floor works and wordings in the rituals on reception of dignitaries may be changed during the Special Communication only for the same reasons.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 25th day of November 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 31 – MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF
THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GRAND LODGE
OFFICERS REPORTS FOR SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

The following brethren are appointed as members of the Committee on Grand Lodge Officers' Reports for the Special Communication who will serve at the will and pleasure of Grand Master:

VW Avelino M. Sumagui	-	Chairman
VW Gregorio M. Monreal, AGT	-	Member
VW Nathaniel S. Golla, AGS	-	Member

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 8th day of December 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 32 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF
THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : IMPOSITION OF PENALTY FOR INEXCUSABLE ABSENCE
OF OFFICIAL DELEGATES DURING THE SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

As early as May 23, 2017, Edict No. 295 (MW Tolentino) calling for a Special Communication pursuant to Sec. 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution and Approved Resolution during the Annual Communication of 2017 on 19 December 2017 has already been issued. Subsequent Edicts on the matter have likewise been issued.

Under Edict Nos. 295, 295-A and 295-B, the following are the Authorized Delegates thereto:

“The Masters and Wardens of the Chartered Lodges and the Immediate Past Masters representing the Past Masters of Chartered Lodges, Past Grand Masters and Grand Line Officers of the Grand Lodge shall constitute the authorized delegates for the Special Communication.”

In fact, the Edicts require that all authorized delegates must be duly registered for the Special Communication.

Aside from the Edicts on Special Communication, notices for the said event were also issued via Circular and newspaper publication. Henceforth, summons for the Special Communication on 19 December 2017 have been sent to the official/authorized delegates. The official/authorized delegates are under obligation therefore to obey all summons sent within the body of a just and legally constituted lodge of Master Masons and be present during the Special Communication.

Thus, failure to appear at the Special Communication without any justifiable reason is tantamount to disobedience to the summons sent by the Grand Lodge and therefore will warrant the imposition of penalty.

Official/authorized delegates of Lodges who cannot attend the Special Communication must inform in writing their respective District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs) within fifteen (15) days after the Special Communication the reasons for their absence. Grand Line Officers who likewise cannot attend must inform in writing the office of the Grand Secretary thru the Assistant Grand Secretary within the same period the reasons for their absence. The Grand Lodge will determine if the same is an excusable absence.

Failure to do so would warrant the imposition of the appropriate penalty.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 18th day of December 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 33 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS,
WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS ON MASTERS –ELECT AND
WARDENS –ELECT PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

The guidelines laid down under Circular No. 20 (MW Gazmin) Guidelines on Proficiency on Elective Officers of the Lodge Prior to Installation and the suggested questionnaires contained under Edict No. 19 (MW Gazmin) are hereby adopted.

The examinations shall be given during the District Meeting for the month of January or earlier if warranted which shall be conducted by the concerned District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) under the guidance of the concerned Junior Grand Lecturer and assisted by their respective District Grand Lecturers and Grand Lodge Inspectors during the actual examination.

In addition thereto, the Treasurers-elect and Secretaries-elect shall likewise take the examinations during the January District meeting in that part of the Constitution, By-Laws, Edicts and Regulations of the Grand Lodge referring to the government of Lodges.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masters of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 20th day of December 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 34 - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS
JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : GRAND LODGE AWARDS FOR 2017- 2018

In an effort to recognize outstanding achievements, the Grand Lodge will continue the practice of granting awards to individual Masons and Chartered Lodges. The awards are as follows:

- a. For Outstanding Lodge and Outstanding Worshipful Master. Worshipful Masters per Multi-District shall convene to vote among themselves, based on the general criteria, the Outstanding Lodge and Outstanding Worshipful Master. The top two (2) nominees shall be submitted by the DDGM of the Host District to the Committee on Awards. The Grand Lodge shall only award one (1) Outstanding Lodge and one (1) Outstanding Worshipful Master per Multi-District.
- b. For Outstanding Lodge Secretary. The District Deputy Grand Master shall submit one (1) nominee from within his District to the Committee on Awards. The Grand Lodge shall award one (1) Outstanding Lodge Secretary per Multi-District.
- c. For Outstanding District and Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM). DDGMs per Multi-District shall convene to vote among themselves, based on the general criteria, the lone nominee for Outstanding District and Outstanding Deputy Grand Master to be submitted by the DDGM of the Host District to the Committee on Awards. The Grand Lodge shall only award one (1) Outstanding District and one (1) Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master per Multi-District.
- d. For Outstanding Junior Grand Lecturer (JGL). The Senior Grand Lecturer shall recommend his nominee for the Outstanding Junior Grand Lecturer, based on the general criteria, to be submitted to the Committee on Awards. The Grand Lodge shall only award one (1) Outstanding Junior Grand Lecturer for the entire Grand Jurisdiction.

The Committee on Awards will review the nominations and submit its recommendations for the final evaluation and approval of the Grand Master.

- e. For Outstanding District Grand Lecturer (DGL) and Outstanding Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI). The DDGMs are given the authority to grant awards for Outstanding District Grand Lecturer (DGL) and Outstanding Grand Lodge Inspector based on the general criteria for each Masonic District. The awards shall be given in any District Meeting, District Turn-over, or any Lodge Stated Meeting within the District.

The deadline for submission of nominations to the Committee on Awards is not later than February 28, 2018. Nominations received after the deadline will not be included in the selection.

Attached herewith is the general criteria for each category of the award.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 11th day of January 2018.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 35 – MW TOLENTINO

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

SUBJECT : DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF 2017 ANNUAL REPORT,
LODGE REPORTS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2017 AND REMITTANCE OF 2018 ANNUAL
DUES

One of the duties of a Lodge (Part II, Ordinances, Article III, Section 2, Par.j, page 29 of our Masonic Law Book) is to “xxx submit to the Grand Lodge its annual report, for the preceding year and remit the required dues, fees or other charges with the first fifteen (15) days of January.”

Furthermore, our Masonic Law Book (Article VI, Section 9, Part I) provides that “(no) Subordinate Lodges which failed to submit its Annual report and paid in full its dues and fees to the Grand Lodge within the period provided for in the Ordinances shall be entitled to representation at the Annual Communication.”

In view thereof, all Lodges are enjoined to settle their outstanding obligation including assessment for Special Communication together with the Annual Report and other mandatory Lodge Reports for the period January to December 2017 and Remittance of 2018 Annual Dues not later than March 15, 2018.

The deadline shall be strictly implemented. No reports or payments will be accepted during the 102nd ANCOM scheduled from April 26-28, 2018 in Davao City.

Lodges can make payments on or before March 15, 2018 through the Grand Lodge account as follows:

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

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

Lodges making payments through any branch of BPI and Metrobank must send the deposit slips (proof of payments) to the Grand Lodge specifying the nature of payments, thru Grand Lodge Fax Number 522-2218 or Grand Lodge email glp_ogm@yahoo.com.

This Circular shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting following its receipts and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 17th day of January 2018.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 02. – MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS,
WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : SETTING ASIDE THE DECISION DECLARING ALL THE
DEGREES CONFERRED UPON PETITIONER/CANDIDATE
JOCEL C. BAAC AS NULL AND VOID

WHEREAS, MW Peter Lim Lo Suy issued a letter dated December 4, 2009 addressed to Officers and Members of Bernardo A. Carpio Lodge No. 359, notifying them of his (MW Lim Lo Suy) decision to declare all the degrees conferred upon petitioner/candidate Jocel C. Baac as null and void;

WHEREAS, it appears that the report of the Grand Master, MW Peter Lim Lo Suy, during the 2010 Annual Communication does not include the aforesaid decision;

WHEREAS, Petitioner/candidate Joel C. Baac in his letter dated 01 July 2017 addressed to the Grand Lodge inquired about his status on Masonry;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Jurisprudence has rendered its opinion on the propriety of the nullification of all the degrees in Masonry of Petitioner/candidate Joel C. Baac, the pertinent portions thereof are hereby quoted as follows:

"The records of Jocel Baac, as furnished to this Committee reveal no other reason for the nullification of his degrees other than the alleged insubordination and/or disobedience of then Worshipful Master to the directive of the Grand Master to hold in abeyance any and all actions regarding the advancement of petitioner (Jocel Baac) to freemasonry, and not due to his non-compliance with the requirements for petitioning. Thus, even on the assumption that lodge officer/s have indeed committed disobedience/insubordination to the Grand Master, the same will not negate the fact that Jocel Baac, is qualified to file his petition in any of the lodges in Quezon City, as well as in any of the lodges in Kalinga, where he both maintain residences. For it is not unusual for a person to have more than one residence.

In view of the foregoing, in the absence of other valid ground/s existing at the time of his application/petition that disqualifies Jocel C. Baac in receiving his degrees in masonry, it is only just for the Grand Lodge to recognize the degrees previously conferred upon him, subject to the payment of his dues from the time of his raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason until the present.

Finally, this Committee is of the opinion that the Grand Master, as the shepherd of the Grand Lodge and Steward of the Craft has the unstated power to rectify and correct any irregularity that may have transpired in the Masonic journey of a candidate, like Bro. Jocel C. Baac, who does not appear to be disqualified and who has not committed any misrepresentation in filing his petition.

WHEREAS, the aforesaid recommendation of the Committee is hereby approved and implemented;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this Judicial Pronouncement:

The Grand Lodge hereby recognizes the degrees previously conferred upon Petitioner/candidate Jocel C. Baac, subject to the payment of his dues from the time of his raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason up to the present.

This Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 11th day of September 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 03. – MW TOLENTINO

Series of 2017

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS,
WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : COMMUTATION OF PENALTY FROM FIVE (5) YEAR
SUSPENSION TO TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION IMPOSED UPON
WB VLADIMIR V. VILLASENOR AND BRO ERLIN M. ABDON

WHEREAS, in the Order dated 18 December 2015 of MW Rentoy in the Masonic case entitled “ IN THE MATTER OF: The hazing incident that reportedly occurred at Zambales Lodge No. 103, during its Stated Meeting last 7 November 2015”, the following Brethren meted the penalty of Suspension for five (5) years as Master Mason:

- (1) Bro. Erlin M. Abdon
- (2) Bro. Jelson Dayupay
- (3) Bro. Bro. Heriberto Linsangan
- (4) WB Vladimir V. Villaseñor
- (5) VW Pedrito B. Reyes

WHEREAS, Bro. Abdon, Bro. Dayupay and Bro. Linsangan were found directly responsible for inflicting the wounds and physical injuries upon the candidate while WB Villaseñor and VW Reyes were mere officers present during the incident;

WHEREAS, in the Order dated 25 April 2016 of MW Rentoy in the same case, the Motion for Reduction of Sus-

pension of the following Brethren was granted upon showing remorse and after having promised not to allow the same thing to happen again whereby the penalty of Suspension for five (5) years as Master Mason was reduced to two (2) years:

- (1) Bro. Jelson Dayupay
- (2) Bro. Bro. Heriberto Linsangan
- (3) VW Pedrito B. Reyes

WHEREAS, WB Vladimir V. Villaseñor and Bro. Erlin M. Abdon in their letters to the Grand Master dated 08 and 05 September 2017 respectively, appealed for the reduction of penalty upon showing remorse and willingness to be of service to the Fraternity with a promise not to allow the same thing to happen again and prevent any similar incident in the future;

WHEREAS, if the Fraternity has earlier extended compassion to the three (3) Brethren who took active roles during the unfortunate incident by reducing the penalty of suspension to two (2) years and in the absence of any showing that conspiracy to commit the offense existed, WB Vladimir V. Villaseñor and Bro. Erlin M. Abdon likewise deserve the same understanding and compassion moreso that they have already served almost two (2) years of the penalty of five (5) year suspension;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this Judicial Pronouncement:

The Five (5) year Penalty of Suspension imposed upon WB Vladimir V. Villaseñor and Bro. Erlin M. Abdon is hereby commuted and reduced to Two (2) years Suspension from the date of the Order of Suspension.

This Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 24th day of October 2017.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM

Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 04. – MW TOLENTINO

Series of 2017

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS,
WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : COMMUTATION OF PENALTY FROM FIVE (5) YEAR
SUSPENSION TO TWO (2) YEAR SUSPENSION IMPOSED UPON
BRO. GILBERT DIAZ

WHEREAS, in the Order dated 18 December 2015 of MW Rentoy in the Masonic case entitled “ IN THE MATTER OF: The hazing incident that reportedly occurred at Mt. Tapulao Lodge No. 389 during its Stated Meeting last 7 November 2015”, the following Brethren meted the penalty of Suspension for five (5) years as Master Mason:

- (1) Bro. Gilbert Diaz
- (2) Bro. Jelson Dayupay
- (3) Bro. Erlin M. Abdon
- (4) WB Carlito L. Samonte
- (5) VW Pedrito B. Reyes

WHEREAS, Bro Diaz, Bro. Abdon and Bro. Dayupay were found directly responsible for inflicting the wounds and physical injuries upon the candidate;

WHEREAS, in the Order dated 25 April 2016 of MW Rentoy in a similar case, the Motion for Reduction of Suspension of Bro. Jelson Dayupay was granted upon showing remorse and after having promised not to allow the same thing to happen again whereby the penalty of Suspension for five (5) years as Master Mason was reduced to two (2) years:

WHEREAS, Bro. Gilbert Diaz in his letter to the Grand Master dated 08 September 2017 appealed for the reduction of penalty upon showing remorse and willingness to be of service to the Fraternity with a promise not to allow the same thing to happen again and prevent any similar incident in the future;

WHEREAS, if the Fraternity has earlier extended compassion to Bro. Jelson Dayupay who took an active role during the unfortunate incident by reducing the penalty of suspension to two (2) years and in the absence of any showing that conspiracy to commit the offense existed, Bro. Gilbert Diaz likewise deserves the same understanding and compassion moreso that he has already served almost two (2) years of the penalty of five (5) year suspension;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this

Judicial Pronouncement:

The Five (5) year Penalty of Suspension imposed upon Bro. Gilbert Diaz is hereby commuted and reduced to Two (2) years Suspension from the date of the Order of Suspension.

This Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 24th day of October 2017

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 05. – MW TOLENTINO

Series of 2017

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS,
WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : RESTORING CERTAIN BRETHREN TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE
GRAND LODGE OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, in Edict No. 232-B (MW Yu) dated September 18, 2006, in which some members of Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31 were declared as clandestine masons, it was essentially stated that if those so declared, as such, will signify in writing that they did not freely and voluntarily intend to declare independence from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (or "Grand Lodge"), they will be restored to membership in their respective Lodges and in the Grand Lodge;

WHEREAS, BRO. ALFREDO P. DIMAPILIS of Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31 F.&A.M., was declared clandestine Mason in said Edict. However, he has recently declared in writing his full support and allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines and his said Declaration was attested to by the Officers of Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31 WB Hernan O. Dagunan, Worshipful Master, Bro. Tristan Jay T. Reyes, Secretary. The declaration was favorably endorsed by MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, GMH, Chairman, Committee on Cavite Affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, by virtue of the powers in me vested as Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines, and finding merit to the written declaration duly endorsed do hereby declare the restoration of BRO. ALFREDO P. DIMAPILIS as Master Mason in good standing of Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31 and of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons the Philippines.

His Masonic records will reflect all the circumstances on his Masonic life until the date of his restoration.

This Judicial Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said Stated Meeting

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, this 20th day of November 2017, in the City of Manila, Philippines.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master
Attest
DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 06. – MW TOLENTINO

Series of 2018

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, ASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : COMPLAINT FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT IN
VIOLATION OF EDICT NO. 131 IN RELATION TO EDICT NO. 131-A

WHEREAS, a complaint for unmasonic conduct in violation of Edict No. 131, Handling of Candidates During Initiation, Passing and Raising, in relation to Edict No. 131-A, Strengthening Edict No. 131 which Prescribes the proper Handling of Candidates During Degree Conferrals was filed by VW Cesario E. Espejon, PDDGM against the following members of Mt. Diwata Lodge No. 236:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. King Solomon | - | VW Nathaniel Layola, DDGM |
| 2. Hiram of Tyre | - | Bro. John Cubillan, SW |
| 3. Junior Warden | - | VW Von Ronald Ocenar, GLI |
| 4. Senior Deacon | - | WB Den Ryan Cagas, GLI |
| 5. First Door South Gate | - | Bro. Alimark Olita |
| 6. Second Door West Gate | - | VW Brian Pates, DGL |
| 7. Third Door East Gate | - | Bro. Arnold Go |
| 8. WM Oscar Camacho | | |

WHEREAS, the Candidate subject of the violations of Edict Nos. 131 and 131-A who is now a brother is Bro. Calvin Chan;

WHEREAS, after due investigation and deliberation the candidate himself who is now a brother even personally denied that there was hazing that took place during the degree conferral;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and

Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this Judicial Pronouncement:

The herein complaint for unmasonic conduct in violation of Edict No. 131, Handling of Candidates During Initiation, Passing and Raising, in relation to Edict No. 131-A, Strengthening Edict No. 131 which Prescribes the proper Handling of Candidates During Degree Conferrals is hereby dismissed with prejudice.

This Judicial Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 17th day of January 2018.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

100th Grand Master

Attest

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM

Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 7 – MW TOLENTINO

Series of 2018

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : EXPULSION OF NAPOLEON ABRUGENA SISON BY THE GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN

WHEREAS, VW Napoleon Abrugena Sison, DDGM for MD Overseas Japan is a member of the Okinawa Masonic Lodge No. 118;

WHEREAS, VW Sison is at the same affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Japan and the Junior Grand Warden of the said Grand Lodge;

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines received an official communication from the Grand Lodge of Japan stating that VW Sison was subjected to Masonic Trial for Unmasonic Conduct by the Trial Commission in Teikoku Lodge Number 19 and found guilty of the charges with a penalty of "EXPULSION" imposed effective immediately;

WHEREAS, the decision of the Trial Commission was affirmed by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan;

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Japan is the daughter Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and both have an existing amity relationship and are recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England;

WHEREAS, in view of the existing amity relationship, the decision of the Grand Lodge of Japan against VW Sison should be acted upon in our jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this

Judicial Pronouncement:

In view of the decision of the Grand Lodge of Japan imposing the penalty of expulsion, Napoleon Abrugena Sison is hereby SUSPENDED in our jurisdiction effective immediately subject however to the outcome and final decision in the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Japan.

All Appendant Bodies and GLP accredited Masonic clubs and organizations are likewise furnished copies of this Pronouncement for their information thereof and appropriate actions thereto.

This Judicial Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of said Stated Meeting

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 9th day of February 2018.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO

100th Grand Master

Attest

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM

Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 8 – MW TOLENTINO

Series of 2018

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
MASTERS, WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGES
OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : LIFTING OF PENALTY OF SUSPENSION IMPOSED
UPON VW JOSE ANTONINO I. PALOMAR

WHEREAS, the Grievance Committee for Masonic year 2016–2017 has made the herein–below quoted recommendation in the case of VW Jose Antonino I. Palomar:

“Consequently, we recommend the modification of his penalty to that of Suspension for Two (2) years, counted from April 25, 2016.”

WHEREAS, MW Voltaire T. Gazmin approved the said recommendation of the Committee which was subsequently upheld by the brethren during the ANCOM 2017 in Tagaytay City;

WHEREAS, VW Palomar has already served one (1) year and ten (10) months of the penalty of two (2) year suspension for alleged violations of laws on the processing of petitioners who were subsequently recognized by the Grand Lodge as Master Masons. Thus, the penalty will soon be fully served on 25 April 2018;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this Judicial Pronouncement:

The penalty of suspension imposed upon VW Jose Antonino I. Palomar shall automatically be lifted and his immediate reinstatement as a regular member shall be in full effect on 25 April 2018 WITHOUT the need of any further action on the part of the Grand Lodge. The Office of the Grand Secretary shall make the necessary updating and reinstatement in the Masonic records of VW Palomar on the said date.

This Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 9th day of February 2018.

ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
100th Grand Master

Attest:

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary





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W. Bro. Eddie Yeo, P.A.D.G.D.C., P.D.G. Tyler

District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago

Noli me Tangere Lodge #42

Manuel A. Roxas #152

General Manager

The Heritage Hotel Manila

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