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THE CABLE TOW

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



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, please allow me to express my gladness that the first Cable Tow issue under the term of our Grand Master MW Agapito S. Suan, garnered positive reviews from our brethren. The Cable Tow team has received numerous congratulatory messages, citing their appreciation and admiration of the new format of our magazine. Many readers remarked about the new “feel”, the freshness of news and features articles and even the crossword puzzle and the comic strip “Yangkow”, which were cited to have added even more flavor to the pleasurable reading experience.

We also received plenty of encouragement to continue on with the collectible centerfold poster. Our brethren who are avid collectors of anything and everything “Masonic” are poised to collect all of the envisioned frame-able posters depicting our Craft, which we will include in all the Cable Tow issues within the term of MW Suan. At this stage we wish to thank IMES President VW Rudy Ong and WB Ryan Villafranca of Intramuros Lodge No. 363 for sponsoring the collectible posters in the last issue.

Amidst the rigors of preparing the first issue, we also managed to respond to the request of the office of MW Suan in designing the cover for the One Million Notebook Project and in helping in the procurement of its printer/supplier. We wish to clarify that the One Million Notebook is not a project of the Cable Tow team. We simply provided support. It is a direct project of the Grand Lodge.

Brethren, this Cable Tow issue that you now hold in your hands is themed: INSTRUMENTS OF ILLUMINATION. This alludes to the members of the craft both in the past and at the present time, who have been a source of radiating light to fellow Masons and to the community at large.



WELL-RECEIVED. Bro. Mike Jaldon of Nilad Lodge No. 12 receives his Cable Tow shirt for contributing the Crossword Puzzle in the last issue.



Shedding light to eliminate darkness in the lives of our fellowmen requires a sacrifice and often comes with a price. But be that as it may, many of our brothers who have chosen this path nonetheless have done so without reservation or evasion. We aspire to honor them in strategically-placed segments of this magazine.

It is along these lines as well that we have now added new features that we elevate further those who choose to be instruments of light. These are the “Brothers In Focus” and “The Long Reach of our Cable Tow” pages.

Our worthy brothers in focus in this issue include one who everybody knows, and everybody loves. He is Bro. Luis Salazar of Dalisay Lodge No. 14, a truly remarkable man. He is by-and-large a true-blue jack-of-all-trades, skilled in many things and perennially proficient. Know more about him, and a couple of other high-caliber brothers in the pages of this issue.

We will be including feature stories under the title: “The Long Reach of our Cable Tow” in this, and in future issues of our magazine. This part will highlight feel-good and heart-warming accounts that will surely inspire many of our brothers as they continue on with their Masonic journey.

Let me end by again inviting constructive comments from you, my brothers. We endeavor to keep improving for the sake of our august Fraternity.

VW JESUS L. R. MATEO

Editor-In-Chief

ARAW NG KALAYAAN 2019



“May we never falter in loving the motherland and may we ever continuously strive to better ourselves, for as long as there are patriotic and capable Masons, the foundations of this great Republic are unbreakable”

MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr.-
Grand Master of Masons
Masonic Year 6019-6020 A.L.



Speech of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. during the 121st Philippine Independence Day Celebration in Manila, 12 June 2019

MW Reynato Puno, Past Grand Master and our esteemed guest of honor and speaker;

Most Worshipful Danilo P. Angeles, PGM;

Most Worshipful Juanito Abergas, PGM;

Very Worshipful Nonoy BASSIG, DDGM of Masonic District NCR-G, the host district in charge of today's event;

VW Ariel Cayanan, DDGM Masonic District NCR-B;

Worshipful Sirs, members of the appendant bodies and allied organizations, brethren and sisters,

Good morning.

“Charity and Humility, Foundations of a True Mason.”

As we commemorate the brightest moment of our country's rich history, I am deeply moved by the strong spirit of patriotism amongst the brethren and sisters that stood in this hallowed grounds of our Grand Lodge to celebrate our country's 121st Independence.

Let us then remember and honor those great men and women who greatly sacrificed, bravely fought, and honorably perished all for the glory of our motherland.

Most of these heroes did not die in vain as they serve to inspire freethinking men of immense faith and integrity...we call brothers.

As we cherish the freedom of our 121st Independence Celebration, brought about by these dauntless patriots, we understand the peculiar common denominator of these men who we look up to with pride and emulation.

For like them we share the same Masonic principles. The same virtues of morality and truth.

The same fervent veneration to God in whom we put our trust.

Yet, we might not tangibly observe such heroic character nowadays, as we witness the inevitable triumph of evil and steady decay of morality in most instances.

I remembered one revered person of impeccable nature who once said, that we now live in a place where heroes walk no more....

Yes, this might be true but its not yet the end of the road.

The constant battle of the forces of light and darkness should awaken us to actively repel such impending doom should darkness prevails.

I believe that if we truly love our country we should by all means be involved in making ourselves better examples to others so that we will create ripples of positivity in character that will ignite others to do good and all together create a vibrant place to live devoid of so much politics, greed, corruption, and envy.

Speech of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. -121st Philippine Independence Day Celebration (cont.)

This I understand, is our ultimate goal as masons.

It is very sad though to note that to many Filipinos, Independence Day has simply become part of their holiday lists.

There is hardly any effort in educating the future generations about the struggles that our liberators endured to provide us the freedom that we enjoy today.

Today we are so lucky to have no less than the most illustrious Masonic personality of modern times, MW Reynato Puno.

On behalf of everyone present here this morning, I thank you MW Sir, for spending with us your precious time on this holiday, while sharing your valuable thoughts on this auspicious occasion.

We are all enlightened.

You made us revisit some important events of the past which made us proud of the legacy which Freemasonry has passed on from generation to generation.

On this special event, I find it fitting to cite no less than Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo, when he strongly proclaimed that the successful revolution in 1896 was due largely to the contributions of our brother masons.

Hence, we must cherish our hard-earned freedom by reaffirming our conviction to be faithful to our obligations and duties as Masons and responsible citizens.

So that by being true to our obligations, we can show to the world that this Present Revolution for Moral Transformation is Masonically Inspired, Masonically Led and Masonically Executed.

And that each of us present today will then venture to say that we are all part of it, an achievement we owe, largely, to Masonry and the Freemasons.

Bro. Jose Rizal, once said "it is a useless life that is not consecrated to a great ideal. It is like a stone wasted on the field without becoming a part of any useful structure"

By continuously striving to better ourselves, we are ensuring our role in this country as nation builders.

May we never falter in loving the motherland and may we ever continuously strive to better ourselves, for as long as there are patriotic and capable Masons, the foundations of this great Republic are unbreakable.

Thank you. And May we all have a meaningful Independence Day.

Mabuhay ang Masonariya! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Good morning.



**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
JUNE 12, 2019
RIZAL MONUMENT, MANILA**



**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
JUNE 12, 2019
RIZAL MONUMENT, RIZAL PARK, MANILA**



ADVERTISING FREEMASONRY

Bro Ali C. Espina

I am a Marketing Communications person; in Advertising to be exact. I started my career in advertising and communications, and have been in the industry for over 20 years already. Advertising, as with all other aspects of marketing, intends to sell something. It tells us to buy something. And oh boy, I have been selling all kinds of things ever since – for airlines, for banks, for the National Centennial Commission, for NAMFREL, and for an amusements park. I sold magazines, cars, motorcycles, hard liquor, cigarettes, juice drinks, milk, hotdogs, ham, medicines, telecommunications, real estate, etc. I have done it in many forms - TV commercials, radio commercials, print ads, advertorials, digital posts, websites, events, billboards, etc. I have also done advertising here and abroad.

While I love advertising as a profession and clearly it is in my blood, I do not like Freemasonry being advertised. I do not like its mystique, benevolence, and the unconditional and authentic charity to humankind to be seen as common. I do not want its actions to be mistaken as a “humble-brag” post of a brother, of a lodge, of a district, or even the Grand Lodge. Certainly, I do not want it to be perceived as a contest of who-does-the-most for a prize in the end.

I do not like news of what and how it is to be a brother to be discussed outside of the lodge. I do not want the Craft to be talked about; how great its is (every brother knows it is) - to circumvent our unwritten law that we must never divulge anything outside of the fraternity.

When we post anything about what we do, whether intentional or not, whether or not as a consequence of the relief or charity that we do, we are advertising. And from where I come from, when we advertise, we aim to sell something. In this case, we are selling Freemasonry! I do not want to “sell” the Craft. I want to preserve it. How it was in the beginning is how it should be today - an organization of liked individuals doing things in repetitive fashion in the hopes of improving themselves. Quietly.

The Masonic forerunner principles of Equality, Liberty and Fraternity will not be understood until they are studied. Our Principal Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth hold equal weights. Our rituals say, “light” or “see further light...” There is also Masonic Education from a lodge member and/or from the Grand Lodge. Education is part of the Order of Business of every Stated Meeting. And so therefore “Truth” should not be relegated behind Brotherly Love & Relief. Good men trying to better themselves surely need a good amount of studying and learning.

Studying (and learning!!!), in the world of Freemasonry, is the quietest form of trying to be better men.

I don't like us to chat. Chatting is being “noisy.” Freemasons are not noisy. I don't want us to chat in Chatgroups. Discussing in Chatgroups sometimes is the cause of digital aggression towards each other. If we need to discuss, let it be in the proper venue with every brother seeing and feeling the emotions involved in what would otherwise be digital rants that can often be misconstrued.

Brother Andres Bonifacio advertised when he was starting the Katipunan. Heavily. With good intentions. But did he get the right audience? Did he recruit the right people? Don't get me wrong, I adore Brother Andres almost to the level that I adore Brother Rizal. But for wanting to grow in number, the Katipunan recruited also some of the wrong people. As a result, the once secret organization was discovered. No thanks to whom? From people who shouldn't have been members of the Katipunan in the first place. Why were there quarrels within the organization? The answer is the same.

Organized Freemasonry has survived for more than 300 years in the world. It certainly has survived here in the Philippines for more than a century. It has survived persecutions, wars, and schisms. It has survived because the foundation of its superstructure is built upon principles that are pure, unfailing and timeless. It has withstood time because a handful of brothers figured out how to make it transcendental - the likes of Brothers Carl Claudy, Albert Pike, Malcolm Duncan, and Reynold Fajardo. It started and maintained its stature in the past without advertising. It will survive the next centuries. And hopefully still in its purest form.

My brothers, this is just me; just my opinion. Actually, sometimes I also advertise our fraternity. In this age of social media sometimes I want people to know that this and that person is a brother. I am happy if I may have acquired your attention. And as I based this piece only on my personal experience, I would certainly welcome, any opinion different to mine.

Salam. Shalom. Pax. Peace. Kapayapaan.

ARAW NG KALAYAAN 2019

RIGHT KNOWLEDGE WILL SET US FREE

**SPEECH OF MW REYNATO PUNO, PGM
DURING THE 121ST INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
GLP GROUNDS, MALATE, MANILA**

The be all and end all of masonry is knowing for masonry is about the search for the ultimate knowledge, the pursuit of wisdom that liberates. If people have gained independence, it is because of knowledge which imbibed to them the right to be free, because freedom is inherent in the nature of man, and in accord with the will of the GAOTU who created them.

This Independence Day morning, allow me to give some brief thoughts on the duty of masons to know for it is knowledge that frees. Let me submit for your consideration the proposition that if masons have a duty to know, masons have no right to be ignorant. Masons have a duty to know because it is knowledge that liberates while ignorance imprisons. More than any weapon, it is knowledge that broke down kingdoms and empires that denied man their basic freedom and dignity. Masons who discharged this duty to know are hailed all over the world as heroes for it is their knowledge lighted the road to freedom of hitherto enslaved people.

In the war against ignorance, our national hero, Jose P. Rizal should serve as our model. The history of civilization reveals that nations saddled by an uneducated people are the most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. More than any factor, ignorance is the greatest shackle on the liberty of man. Indeed, a nation of ignorant people cannot attain genuine democracy. For in a nation where ignorance reigns, a few will always rule the many. The sovereignty of the people will be a fiction for the ignorant can never be truly sovereign; they may reign but they cannot rule; they will always be governed and abused.

It is for this reason that Rizal devoted his life urging the Filipino masses to get educated, to seek knowledge as one of the highest goods of society. He himself exhibited an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He was well honed in philosophy, in humanities and in the sciences for he scoured and found wisdom in the best academes in the world. Belonging to the brown race and looked down as inferior by the Spaniards, Rizal armed himself with education for he knew that education is the great equalizer in life. Thus, Rizal urged the Filipinos of his day who were mired in ignorance to get educated before rising in revolution against Spain to demand their freedom. Rizal knew that winning a revolution is difficult but more difficult is the work after a successful revolution --- to rule people who are not ready to be free because of their ignorance.

I advert to Rizal because his perorations about the value of knowledge and the evils of ignorance are still relevant today. For then and now, our problem, indeed, the problem of the world is the nonstop oppression of the ignorant and the perpetuation of their inequality. There are various sociological studies that attempt to explain the root cause of this ongoing wickedness against the ignorant. A man of the cloth, Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, cites as its cause our culture that worships success and the successful man. He says that modern man has only one commandment and that it to beat the competition, to soar to the top and let the devil devour the disadvantaged and the disabled or to use more modern parlance, the differently abled as if twisting semantics is enough sympathy to them.

As masons who look up to Rizal, it is our bounden duty to change this culture, this philosophy which pulls up self and pulls down others. This philosophy has produced countries where many live in poverty and only a few wallow in prosperity and the Philippines is a good example. Worse, it has produced people who cannot participate in intelligent debates about what is right and what is wrong, about what is righteous and unrighteous. More than any other time, we need to know the truth and it is knowledge that will lead us to the doorstep of truth. More than any other time, truth is eluding us. From sunrise to sunset, we are bombarded by social media with false news. This daily diet of false news, this everyday fog of misinformation, this era of post truth is disabling us from exercising our basic rights in a democracy. The foremost of these rights is the right to know which is a useless right unless the exercise of the right will lead us to truth. Like Rizal, let us not be weary in telling our people the blessings of education and the curse of ignorance. Education is the light that will dissolve ignorance, the ignorance that results in inequality, the inequality that enslaves.

Today, the call to us is to dissolve the darkness caused by ignorance in our landscape. Darkness in our lives. Darkness in society. Darkness in the world. But remember what one philosopher advised --- let us not curse the darkness for that will not drive away the darkness. Rather, let us bring light to dissolve the darkness. Like Rizal, let us all be the torch bearers of knowledge.

Let me end by quoting a part of Rizal's Last Farewell.

xxx

A pure chord, strong and resonant, shall be in your ears;
fragrance, light and color whisper, lyric and sigh;
constantly repeating the essence of faith.

Yes, Rizal's wisdom still resonates. The essence of his faith will survive the tumults and turbulence of our times. His counsel for the people to be knowledgeable, to be enlightened, to scorn ignorance is timeless. Rizal has always called us to be vigilant in the search for truth but only the educated can succeed in the search for truth. The ignorant cannot succeed for an ignorant mind is the graveyard of truth.

Let us always remember that Rizal brought down the greatest colonial empire of his time, not with the use of the bow and the arrow, not by wielding the sword, not by exploding the gun powder. No, Rizal collapsed this colonial empire with his wisdom, with knowledge that finally exposed its truth to the Filipino people.

This then is the masonic thought that must preoccupy us as we celebrate our independence day ... where knowledge thrives, freedom cannot be suppressed; but where ignorance dominates, servitude will follow.

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MABINI DAY

TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2019, TANAUAN CITY, BATANGAS

During the 155th Birth Anniversary of National Hero and Freemason Brother Apolinario Mabini, our Grand Master, MW Agapito S Suan, Jr., was invited to be the guest of honor and speaker during the commemoration event at the Mabini Shrine in Tanauan City, Batangas hosted by the City Mayor, Hon Mary Angeline Yson Halili and the City Government of Tanauan.



MW Suan receives a token from Tanauan City Mayor Mary Angeline Yson Halili and Vice Mayor Atty. Herminigildo Trinidad Jr.



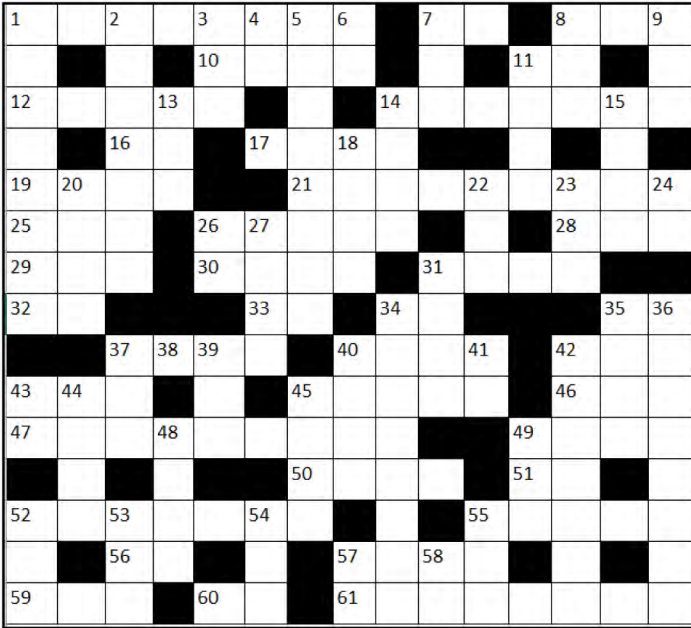
Crossword Puzzle contributors are welcome! Tokens await!
 Email to: cable.tow2019@gmail.com

MASONIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Contributed by: **WB Joselito Dela Cruz**
 Masonic Academicians Club

DOWN

1. Distributors of alms
2. Atomic Number 33
3. Advanced Digital Network
4. Negative
5. Pitchers
6. Expression of surprise
7. Implement of a Seafaring Man
8. Not a sound of this was heard in the building of King Solomon's Temple
9. Special __
11. Not under, not __, always on the level
13. Solo
14. Child's play
15. Ends with Easter
18. Lump
20. One time only
22. Drink
23. It's About Time
24. General Electives
26. Binibini
27. To cut with a laser
31. Mason at Sight, William Howard __
34. Type of Necrosis
35. Herbal plant
36. With 52 Across
37. Federal Tax Authority
39. By way of
40. City in Nevada
41. Musical note
42. Stimulate
43. Is, in Chile
44. Partial
45. MWs, RWs, VWs
48. Destiny
49. Southeasterly direction
52. To go, in Cuba (first person singular)
53. Deacon's implement
54. Hallway sharp turns
55. American Uncle
57. Alien
58. 365 Days



ACROSS

1. Appendant Body, Order of __
7. Overtime
8. Past
10. Qatar Capital
11. Beast of burden
12. Free and Accepted
14. Sojourns
16. In, in Spain
17. PGM
19. Nothing
21. Man met by the Fellowcrafts
25. Entertainment Network, Inc.
26. What GAOTU does to us
28. Gobbled
29. Red Cross of Constantine
30. Watering holes
31. Proficiency Exam
32. Corner where Brosec sits
33. Senior Steward
34. General Assembly
35. Aircon
35. Alludes to the Orders of architecture
40. Riff-__
42. East Los Angeles
43. Eastern Standard Time
45. Sale, in Argentina
46. Neither
47. Man spoke to by Fellowcrafts
49. Slider
50. Joppa, for ex.
51. Yes, in Peru
52. With 36 Down
55. Alludes to Liberal Arts & Sciences
56. Old English
57. Irish Singer
59. First Letter of the Tetragrammaton
60. Junior Steward
61. Endpoint

YANGKOW



COURTESY CALLS OF APPENDANT BODIES



Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

From L-R: VW Odiellon Aquino, Illus. Emilio Mabini, Illus. Eduard Lim, SGIG, Grand Treasurer Illus. Benito Ty, MW Agapito S. Suan Jr., Sovereign Grand Commander Illus. Edilberto Carabacan, Illus. Juanito Abergas, SGIG, and Grand Secretary-General Illus. Celso Viray.

The Grand York Rite of the Philippines

The Grand York Rite of the Philippines (L-R), Hon. Evaristo A. Leviste, PGM of SCOD, VW Victorino A. Floro III, VW Genesis V. Aquino, MW Agapito S. Suan Jr., VW Edgar D. Lim, PGM Juanito P. Abergas and VW Arlen P. De Guzman.



Shriners International of the Philippines

From L-R: Nobles Ali C. Espina, _____, Rolando F. Rocha, Aaron Ho, Al Joseph Dimalanta, Paul Guerrero, Jose Pocholo Bonoan, and Nasser Sutherland; Ill. Willie Manalang; MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.; Ill. Nelson Yau; Nobles Eulatio Lorenzo, Dennis Cunanan, Rodolfo Magtibay, Fernando Romeo Austriaco, Jr. Dado Melegrito, and Francis Bianco

Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay Philippines (SCOD)

From L-R: Bro. Benny Johnson, EVP Bro. Mark Henson S. Tio, Grand Junior Councilor Bro. Albert V. Maniulu, National President Bro. Angelo A. Mangao, Honorary GM of SCOD Hon. Albert K. Tan, Grandmaster of SCOD Hon. Adriano Durano III, Deputy GM for Luzon Bro. Ericson B. Atanacio, PGM of SCOD Hon. Riezi R. Reyes, PGM of SCOD Hon. Sonny Leviste and Jurisdiction Master Councilor for Luzon Bro. Paolo T. Medina.



COURTESY CALLS OF APPENDANT BODIES



Grand Court of the Philippines - Order of the Amaranth

To the right of MW Suan: SK Irineo P. Dones, Sr, Grand Royal Patron, HL Janet B. Domingo, Grand Secretary, SK Danilo Angeles, PGRP, HL Elenita Alfonso, Grand Lecturer, HL Ma. Lourdes Carabaccan, PGRM. To the left of MW Suan: HL Marita C. Dones III, Grand Royal Matron, HL Irma Lopez, Grand Associate Conductress, HL Leticia Flores, PGRM. The rest are delegates from District 5 and District 7 of the Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth.

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls - Philippines

GWA Camildawn Ramos (with the crown), GM MW Suan, Mom Eleanor Redor, Supreme Inspector in the Philippines IORG, Mom Corazon Tandoc, Director of the Grand Representatives of the Grand Assembly, and Rainbow Girls from different Assemblies in Luzon.



Job's Daughters - Bethel 22 Manila, Bethel 34 Las Piñas, Bethel 21 Cotabato and Bethel 31 Naga

Jobies together with some members of the Bethel Guardian Councils of Bethel 22 Manila and Bethel 34 Las Piñas. Also with the Grand Team of the Grand Guardian Council of Job's Daughters International-Philippines for Term 2019-2020, Grand Guardian Maria Rita Francia R. Fornoles, Associate Grand Guardian Norman P. Rabang, Miss Philippines Job's Daughter Maia A. Garcia (now Miss International Job's Daughter), Grand Bethel Honored Queen Bien Requerme and Deputy for Mindanao B, Rowena M. Padolina.



International Order of the Rainbow for Girls – Grand Assembly of Nevada

Supreme Worthy Adviser Mom Joanie Jacka and Supreme Inspector in the Philippines IORG Mom Eleanor Redor accompanied the Grand Worthy Advisor Madisson Jacobs and other dignitaries and guests of the Grand Assembly of Nevada last May 30, 2019.







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Worshipful Master
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MASONIC EDUCATION: FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST ENEMIES OF THE CRAFT

WB IGNACIO E. DOMINGO

When I was the worshipful master of Cabanatuan Lodge No. 53, a certain "Matias" filed a petition for admission to our fraternity. Necessarily, I assigned a committee of investigators composing of our three (3) brethren for the purpose of evaluating the petitioner's qualification to become one of us. I was then anticipating a smooth sailing process for the said petitioner to hurdle the investigation, after all, he is a relative of one of our respected brothers in this lodge.

To my surprise, however, the investigating committee filed a report rejecting the petitioner based on the grounds stated in the report. I then realized that the committee of investigators is virtually powerful regarding the fate of every petitioner, even powerful than the collective membership of our lodge who was deprived of the right to admit or not to admit a candidate thru balloting.

The MLB provides for certain qualifications and other requirements relating to petitions for degrees and affiliations, to wit:

SEC. 10. All petitions for degrees and affiliation shall be referred to a committee of three (3) who shall make a strict examination of the petitioner and report thereon to the master at the next stated meeting unless further time be granted.

SEC. 11. The report shall recite in detail the facts ascertained with respect to the petitioner and must be returned to the master. The conclusion of the committee shall be read to the lodge. The facts ascertained shall be read when directed by the master, or when requested by any member of the lodge. The names of the members of the committee shall not be made known.

SEC. 13. If the report of the committee of any member thereof be unfavorable, no balloting shall be had, instead, the master, upon the reception of such report, shall declare the petitioner rejected.

As can be gleaned from the foregoing provision of our constitution, masonic investigation is one of the most important aspects in the acceptance or rejection of a prospective petitioner for membership in our distinguished fraternity. We have to bear in mind that the members of the investigating committee are the first line of defense against enemies of the craft as well as those who, through indifferent character, might be prone to bring discredit upon the raft. Our fraternal security depends in great part on the ability of the investigating committee and their findings.

Each member of this vitally important committee should ever bear in mind that he may be investigating a petitioner who might one day become worshipful master of the lodge or who may sometime wear the purple of the fraternity, or may even rule and govern the grand jurisdiction.

The members of the committee should satisfy themselves that the petitioner is indeed worthy of consideration for membership. They should never restrict their inquiries by just contacting the recommender (sponsors) and asking them for evaluation. The committee members should try to obtain the full picture of the petitioner and not to rely on what the recommender would tell them about the said petitioner. Much less, at the last minute before time to report, contact the other committee members, as for the result of the discoveries and, if favorable, to go along with their report. Each investigator should make an independent and separate inquiry and file his report, regardless of what the others may do.

The master should bear in mind that not all brethren are skilled or adept at investigative work. It is advisable for the worshipful master, wherever possible, to select those who have investigative experience or talent for such. If available, the worshipful master might appoint those are lawyers, law enforcement officers, private investigator, and the like.

Being members of a political affiliation or religious denomination, if they differ from that of the investigators have no bearing on the evaluation of petitioner's qualification. If the investigator entertains doubt as to the petitioner's qualification, he should always resolve his doubt in favor of the lodge and freemasonry and not in favor of the petitioner.

Some of the qualification of the petitioner to be considered are:

1. He should be a man who first has freemasonry in heart.
2. Man of unimpeachable character who enjoys a good reputation among his friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and associates wherever he is known.
3. It should be clear to him and if possible to his wife, that if he is accepted into the fraternity, he must sacrifice time and energy, which call for evenings away from home.
4. He should be a man who has a record of paying his just debts and living up to his words.
5. Who has no record of living a dissolute life or having immoderate habits.
6. He should have no criminal record.
7. He should have sufficient education to be able to grasp and retain precepts of freemasonry as taught him in the lodge.
8. He must be literate and sufficiently fit physically to participate in the degrees.
9. He must have filed the petition of his own free will and accord and not from any improper solicitation of friends.
10. He should not view the craft lodge as being nothing more than a stepping-stone for what he thinks is something more desirable.

It is not acceptable to file a favorable report because the investigator talked to a member or persons who said, "I never heard anything against him".

COURTESY CALL OF ELYSIAN LODGE No.418 from the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT

Bro. Khris Albano

The brethren of Elysian Lodge No. 418 from the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & the Australian Capital Territory received a special license to enable the brethren to travel to Manila, Philippines and conduct a Raising Ceremony for Bro Charbel Haddad.

The event was made possible by the positive coordination of both UGLNSW&ACT and GLP and accommodation of Macario Ramos Lodge No. 255, GLP.

Bringing the Charter and the Special License to the iconic Scottish Rite Temple in the Philippines, the Elysians were joined by brethren wearing the respective regalia from seven other Grand Jurisdictions to make the historic event a success.

Represented in the event were:

1. United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & the Australian Capital Territory (Australia)
2. Grand Lodge of the Philippines
3. Grand Lodge of New York
4. United Grand Lodge of England
5. Grand Lodge of Scotland
6. Grand Lodge of Virginia
7. Grand Lodge of China
8. Grand Lodge of California

Incidentally, the Grand Master, MW Agapito Suan Jr. is a Mark Man of the Elysian Lodge No. 418 having been identified with his two sons, Bro Lordan and Bro Aga during a Special Meeting in 2018.



Bro. Khris Albano



Front (L-R): RW Bro Arnel Landicho, VW Bro Ferdinand Pandes, MW Agapito Suan Jr, VW Bro Khris Albano (WM), VW Bro Eddy Sarkis(SW)
2nd Row (L-R): WB Edgar Dela Cruz, Bro John Callao, Bro Gene Capistrano, RW Rey Porras, WB Jay Tayag, RW Bro Paul Schultz, WB Clarence Reyes

COURTESY CALL OF MASONIC ACADEMICIANS CLUB

The officers of the Masonic Academicians Club (MAC) headed by its President, VW Joy Conde Puno visited the Grand Master, MW Agapito S. Suan on August 6, 2019.

Below are the incumbent officers of MAC:

- President – VW Joy C. Puno
- VP-Internal – WB Joselito R. Dela Cruz
- VP External – Bro. Edmund T. Espina
- Secretary – Bro. Febwin E. Villaceran
- Asst. Secretary – Bro. Ian D. Encarnacion
- Treasurer – WB Dennis M. Panganiban
- Asst. Treasurer – Bro. Tristan Jay T. Reyes
- Auditor – Bro. Napoleon A. Ramiro
- PRO – VW Constantino L. Arcillana Jr.



MAC President VW Joy C. Puno and VP for Internal Affairs WB Joselito R. Dela Cruz are joined by other MAC Officers at the office of the Grand Master, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.



Masonic Record



Know All Men By These Presents

that Brother _____ is a Master Mason

of _____

Lodge No. _____ Masonic District _____

under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Initiated as Entered Apprentice on _____.

Passed to the Fellowcraft Degree on _____.

Raised to the Sublime Degree on _____.

Attested By: Bro. _____

Lodge Secretary

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!



THE SOUND OF AXES AND HAMMERS WERE HEARD

AT THE 4TH FLOOR OF THE NEW PLARIDEL TEMPLE
Bro. Rodolfo T. Azanza Jr.

In the last few months, many workers toiled and labored for the repair of the 4th level of the New Plaridel Masonic Temple at the Grand Lodge. The repair activities involved the full replacement of the floor vinyl tiles with high-quality porcelain ceramic tiles, repainting of walls and repair/replacement of ceiling boards.

This project was spearheaded by Masonic District NCR-B DDGM Ariel Cayanan to complement the landscaping project that the district also completed just recently. The blue lodges composing the district agreed to contribute from their own coffers (and donor members) to defray the expenses related to the repairs. The sound of axes and hammers were heard reverberating on the walls of our Masonic temple and echoing into the inner recesses of our brethren's cerebellum as if whispering a beautiful message that much can be achieved when we work together for a common purpose.

MASONIC DISTRICT NCR-B's Landscaping of GLP Grounds

Bro. Ponly Pena (Nilad Lode No. 12)

Have you been to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines lately? If you have, it would be hard to miss the newly-manicured grass and beautifully-landscaped environs surrounding our stately edifices.

Noting that the trees and vegetation that were planted in the GLP premises in the past do not survive in the long term, a proper study was made by trained agriculturists at the behest of the leadership of Masonic District NCR-B under DDGM Ariel Cayanan. It was recommended that the type of plants to be brought in should be attuned to the soil and dirt qualities in the area, and likewise locate them with due consideration of the morning and afternoon sunlight. In short, our brethren had to science their way into this if these carefully-selected plants are to survive and be functional in their purpose of adding more color and beauty to the grandeur of the Grand Lodge environs.

The landscaping was done in May this year, and after a few months the roots were evidently taking hold. With the proper care of a gardener tasked to water the plants and remove the weeds regularly (funded through a monthly contribution from our NCR-B brethren), the project has remarkably uplifted the look of our GLP grounds with those fresh streaks of lush and swanky green.

Our brethren from Masonic District NCR-B has once again proved that knowledge is power and science is progressive. And since we are already at it, shall we just say as well that time is gold and duct tape is silver. Well done, brethren!

ANSWER KEY: CROSSWORD PUZZLE IN LAST ISSUE

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THE STORY OF BRO. MANUEL A. ROXAS & MAKAWIWILI LODGE NO. 55

Excerpts from an article originally written by **MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM**

In 1919, the Masons hailing from Capiz led by Senator Jose Altavas conceived the idea of founding a Masonic lodge in their province. They applied for and duly received a dispensation from Grand Master Milton Earl Springer on September 11, 1919 and subsequently, at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge held in January 1920, they were given a charter for their lodge. It was named Makawiwili Lodge No. 55, after a beautiful mountain within the view of Capiz, Capiz.

On April 9, 1920, Grand Master Rafael Palma constituted the lodge in the spacious hall of the "palatial residence" of Bro. Senator Jose Altavas who was the Charter Master of the new lodge. The ceremony was held in the presence of the leading citizens of the province, including a fast-rising political figure named Governor Manuel A. Roxas.

Four months after the constitution of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55, Roxas was honored as one of its initiates. In a terse report to the Senior Grand Lecturer, Grand Lodge Inspector Manuel Camus stated: "Makawiwili Lodge No. 55 at Capiz was visited by me on August 14 (1920). Governor Manuel Roxas of the province was initiated. WB Jose Altavas, Master of the Lodge, used the old Spanish ritual. The ceremony was impressive xxx."

Bro. Governor Manuel A. Roxas was then barely 28 years of age, being born on January 1, 1892 to Gerardo Roxas and Rosario Acuna in Capiz, Capiz, a town which has since been renamed Roxas City in his honor. He became very active in the Craft. When Bro. Saturnino Alegre of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55 died on August 18, 1923, Bro. Roxas delivered a funeral oration. It was published in full in the October 1923 issue of the Cable Tow.

The entry of Bro. Roxas into the Freemasonry came as no surprise. In the prior years he already had extensive associations with Masons. A number of those who promoted his career and encouraged him were Masons, among whom were Senator Jose Altavas, Secretary of the Provincial Board Ramon Acuna Arnaldo, Fortunato Acuna, Felipe Fernando, Gervacio Ramirez and Rito Isla. When he studied law at the newly-opened University of the Philippines, it was under the presidency of a noted Scottish Rite Mason, Murray Bartlett. As a law student, Roxas studied at the feet of another Scottish Rite Mason, George A. Malcolm. He graduated valedictorian in 1913 and topped the bar examinations given in the same year. Roxas immediately went into law practice and thereafter accepted an appointment as private secretary to Chief Justice Cayetano S. Arellano. He also taught law in the Philippine Law School and the National University. After a few years with Chief Justice Arellano, he returned home to accept an appointment as municipal councilor. In 1919, he won as Governor.

In 1921, his political stock was fast on the rise and he caught the attention of Senate President Manuel L. Quezon, PGM. In 1922 he won a seat in the House of Representatives to represent his district in Capiz and also became Speaker of the House with the backing of Senate President Manuel L. Quezon and Senator Sergio Osmena.

In 1923, Bro. Roxas joined the Philippine Bodies and received the 32nd Degree. When he traveled to the United States for a delicate mission to lobby for the passage of an independence bill for the Philippines, both the Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite Masons showered him with touching acts of generosity and friendship.

He was treated most kindly by Senator and Brother Frank B. Willis, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Philippines and by Congressman and Brother Louis W. Fairfield, Chairman of the House Committee on Insular Affairs. When he returned home he profusely lauded the Masonic spirit in the United States.

In the November 1925 issue of the Cable Tow, we read that when Grand Maser Christian W. Rosentock visited Makawiwili Lodge No. 55, a reception was held in the beautiful home of Roxas, "where the ladies served refreshment, and thither the Brethren repaired for a few hours enjoyment of the Terpsichroean art to the music furnished by an excellent orchestra."



Four months after the constitution of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55, Bro. Manuel A. Roxas was honored as one of its initiates.

VISAYAS

In 1927, Bro. Roxas was elected from the floor as Master of Makawiwili Lodge, with Bro. Guillermo J. Jimenez as Senior Warden and Bro. Braulio C. Manikas as Junior Warden. During his incumbency as Master he established the Masonic cemetery of the lodge. An imposing monumental gate was erected at the entrance with the Square and the Compasses and the legend "Masonic Cemetery" inscribed thereon, all of which manifestly gave an impression of strength, power and dignity. The well-kept graves and tombstones also showed that brotherly love does not stop with the breath of the body. The completed project, needless to say, was a pride of the entire Fraternity.

When Roxas stepped down from the Oriental Chair on January 24, 1928, his grateful lodge awarded him a solid gold Past Master's Jewel. It was pinned on his breast by Judge Leonardo Gardunio, a Past Master of Sinukuan Lodge.

Roxas remained as Speaker of the House of Representatives up to 1933. As Speaker he headed other independence missions to the United States. With the help of several of his brother Masons such as Camilo Osias and Pedro Guevarra, he successfully obtained passage of an Independence Act known as the Hare-Hawes Cutting Act, the forerunner of the Tydings-McDuffy Act secured by Pres. Manuel L. Quezon. Later on, Bro. Roxas was succeeded as Speaker by Past Grand Master Quintin Paredes.

When the election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention was held in 1934 Roxas was elected along with Bro. Conrado Benitez and 39 other Masons. The Constitutional Convention presented the Masons with a golden opportunity to inject universal Masonic principles in the Constitution. To this end, they organized themselves. After the Constitution drafted by the Convention was adopted and ratified by the people, the Grand Master of Masons circularized to all the Lodges urging them to hold appropriate ceremonies to celebrate Constitution Day. The main celebration was held at the Plaza Hotel in Manila with Bro. Roxas as one of the principal speakers. He gave a scholarly and authoritative discourse on the "Masonic Principles of the Constitution."

To prepare the nation for the coming independence in July 1946, President Quezon appointed Bro. Roxas as chairman of many government agencies. Throughout the time, Bro. Roxas maintained his active involvement in Masonic affairs. His appointments to various government positions were dutifully reported in the pages of the Cabletow. In September 1938 issue, he was featured on the front cover and the caption under his name read: "Assemblyman from Capiz who has been appointed Chairman of the National Economic Council. Brother Roxas is a past master of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55 and continues to be active in the affairs of the Fraternity." When he was appointed Secretary of Finance, the Cabletow again published his picture in the December 1938 issue along with Bros. Rafael Alunan and Jose Abad Santos who were appointed Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Justice, respectively.

In 1941, Japan invaded the Philippines, and Bro. Roxas volunteered for military service and was made an aide to General Douglas MacArthur. An act of heroism paved the way for his promotion to full Colonel. He was eventually captured by the Japanese forces and adroitly parried all attempts by the Japanese to enlist his collaboration.

He was, however, prevailed upon to serve as a member of the Independence Commission charged with the task of framing a Constitution for the Japanese-sponsored Philippine Republic, but he saw to it that the charter would include the principles of democracy. He also agreed to head the Bigasang Bayan (or BIBA) which was tasked to procure and distribute rice among the civilian population as he felt that with the BIBA he could help stave off starvation among his countrymen. And although Bro. Roxas was outwardly serving the government, he surreptitiously maintained close contact and collaboration with the resistance movement. The letters he received after the Liberation from such guerilla leaders as Major Edwin F. Ramsey, Major Robert E. Lapham, Lt. Col. Bernard L. Anderson, Capt Ray C. Hunt, Jr., and Col. Wendell W. Fertig, fully attest to this. Eventually he was rescued from Japanese Forces and brought to the headquarters of a brother Mason, General Walter Krueger, of the American Sixth Army, at San Fernando, Pampanga, and subsequently to another brother Mason, General Douglas MacArthur at his headquarters in Manila, for a happy reunion. Reporting for military duty the following day, Roxas was promoted to General by General MacArthur.

After the war, Bro. Roxas assumed his duties as Senator and was promptly elected President of the Senate. In April 1946, he won the presidency and became the last President of the Philippine Commonwealth. Inaugurated into office anew when Philippine Independence was proclaimed on July 4, 1946, he also became the first President of the Philippine Republic. Bro. Roxas succumbed to a heart attack on April 15, 1948. Our distinguished brother has finally laid down his working tools. His earthly labors have ceased.

During his incumbency as Master he established the Masonic cemetery of the lodge. An imposing monumental gate was erected at the entrance with the Square and the Compasses and the legend "MASONIC CEMETERY" inscribed thereon, all of which manifestly gave an impression of strength, power and dignity.



TWO MASONS: INTERLINK OF DIVERSITY

VW EDGAR S. BENTULAN

*Don Camilo Osias Masonic Lodge No. 253
Leonardo T. Panares Masonic Lodge No. 220*

MINDANAO

This lamp doesn't just easily flicker out here. It keeps on burning to environ with its illumination the otherwise delicate, iffy political domain that has been for decades and decades haunted by people who are ramified in convictions, somewhat gloomed, shadowed by differences in tribal traditions and worship. It steadily keeps the flame here, sharing its brilliance like it is attracting -- metaphorically, that is -- its preys of moths whose motivation is virtually either fervent curiosity or speculative pursuits, or both.

This one inflicts narry even a pain of the heat of fire to deflect from it these metaphorical moths. Neither does it suggest to thread inflaming further enmity among the people in the context of their differing understanding. Verily, the mystic of Masonry even conveys its unifying glow of awakening to many a people to join the band of brotherhood with "who best can work and best agree." As if persisting to suggest and presaging more peace and prosperity in the indissoluble interlink of human diversity through the rest of the island.

In this article we proffer to cite examples of irreproachable brothers who glow distinctively well as instruments, at least two of them, with notable works as Masons and men to the Fraternity of the sublime and worthy world of the profane in general. We picked one here who could be considered once the sublime torch-carrier in his lifetime and another one living, looming to rise to higher pinnacle of Masonic brightness.

VW SATURNINO D. ALFONSO, SR. PAST DDGM (DECEASED)

He was featured in an article "A Mason Compleat: VW Saturnino Alfonso, Sr." written by VW Bro. Miguel Antonio Prantilla, then Worshipful Master of Bukidnon Lodge 245, for the segment "Where Have All the Masons Gone" published in 'Bukidnon Beehive,' quarterly publication of MD-RX Bukidnon North, Vol. I, Issue No. 2, July-October 2017. (This news organ came into print in four issues during the term of then VW Roy J. Tiu as DDGM of the District, with this author as editor.)

Born in Guagua, Pampanga on December 29, 1929 where he finished his secondary education. As a scholar he pursued his college in Accountancy in DeLa Salle University in Manila where he graduated with honors. He was immediately hired by Vicente Araneta, brother of Gregorio Araneta of the Araneta Coliseum fame, and brought to Bukidnon to be comptroller of the Araneta Research Farms, Inc. (ARFI) which owned and managed an expanse of 3,000 hectares agricultural land in Barangay Kahaponan, Valencia. He sooner became ARFI's accountant, then finally its farm manager.

Later in Valencia he met his wife, Juanila Mercado of Sogod, Leyte whom he married in July 4, 1952 just as soon as he was hired as Supply Officer in Mindanao Agricultural College (now Central Mindanao University) in Musuan, Maramag, Bukidnon.



VW Saturnino
Alfonso, Sr.

Anon, he was not content working as an employee seeing that he could help better the farmers to be more productive. The man, a "farmer by heart" as sketched by son VW Almer M. Alfonso, eventually tried running his own business in Bukidnon to sell farm chemical supplies. Very soon he became exclusive distributor of tractor parts and other agricultural machineries of such brands as Kubota, Japan, Massey-Ferguson, UK, and John Deere, USA. This benefited the rice farmers even in flood-prone palay fields and areas with no NIA-irrigation system to transform their farms from reaping single cropping to two croppings in a year. He was among the very few in Mindanao who pioneered and shared to other farmers the use of mechanized farming.

His farm machine business grew and expanded quickly under the company name Juanila Trading, Inc. (JUANIL) to establish branches in Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City and Bayugan, Agusan del Norte, with main branch in Valencia. In supplement to his lines of services, four rural banks were subsequently put up to address the farmers' banking needs in Valencia, Don Carlos, Maramag and Kalilangan, all in Bukidnon. The business spread is now just survived by the 24-hectare Juanila Village Subdivision in Barangay Poblacion, Valencia City, where the Saturnino Alfonso Sr. Masonic Temple stands.

The late VW Brother Tony Alfonso, Sr. was the first Master Mason in Bukidnon initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree right in the first chartered lodge in the province, Mt. Musuan Masonic Lodge #155 in Malaybalay.

A very active member of the Craft, a "true Mason, pillar of Bukidnon lodges who was always present in lodge meetings and conventions," in the revering words of VW Joseph B. Baula, PDDGM.

VW Ferdinand R. Roque, PDDGM, also shared that the late VW Alfonso Sr. served as Worshipful Master of this Lodge for three times, first in 1965, and again in 1973, then in 1975. Mt. Musuan 155 originally got its charter in Musuan, Maramag, that's how it got its name. During his term then as its lodge master, Mt. Musuan 155 collaborated with Maguindanao Lodge No. 40 to put up what became now Timberland Masonic Lodge No. 219 in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

In 1979, on joint efforts with then Bro. Conrado Abiera, VW Alfonso Sr. petitioned to create a lodge in Valencia, Bukidnon which successfully brought about the constitution of Bukidnon Lodge No. 245 the following year. VW David M. Porticos, PDDGM in Bukidnon, said that WB Conrado Abiera became its first Worshipful Master.

VW Dave Porticos recalled that after his raising to Master Mason in Zosimo Montemayor Lodge No. 212 in 1980, he joined Bukidnon Lodge 245. In 1983 the Lodge was already holding its meetings in Mt. Musuan 155 temple in Malaybalay. Concerned with the members' hassles in traveling the distance to and fro for the meetings, in the same year VW Alfonso, Sr. announced he would donate to the lodge a portion of his property. It was at this time when the worshipful master was WB Jesus Cellona who was also at the same time president of the lodge temple association.

TWO MASONS: INTERLINK... (Cont.)

The emblematic bees of the Lodge at that time buzzed to raise funds needed for the temple's construction through contributions from members, donations from friends and lottery raffles, etc.

VW Porticos reminisced that it was in his time as WM in 1985 that actual construction started although it was only in July 17, 1990 when the deed of lot transfer covering 525 square meters in area from VW Alfonso Sr. to Bukidnon Lodge No. 245 was perfected. On December 14, 1990 the Lodge ultimately acquired the title to the lot.

VW Alfonso, Sr. rose to the position of District Deputy Grand Master to succeed VW Zosimo Montemayor when Bukidnon was laboring under only one Masonic District.

"In honor of his selfless and priceless contribution to Masonry," VW Mike Prantilla, now DGL, wrote in his feature of him, the temple erected in that piece of land he donated has been named after him. It is memorialized now as VW Saturnino Alfonso, Sr. Masonic Center.

He dropped his working tools on January 1, 1999 but not until his name became a byword in the community of Masons not only in Bukidnon but also among the several districts in Region X. One living legacy he left to follow the path of his noble journey is his son, among the five siblings, VW Almer M. Alfonso, a Doctor of Medicine by profession, member of the Order of DeMolay International, who served as Worshipful Master in Bukidnon Masonic Lodge No. 245 in year 2002 and became DDGM in MY 2006-2007.

VW Tony Alfonso, Sr., a 33rd Degree White Capper in the Scottish Rite, earned several credits of recognition for his notable dedication and contributions to Freemasonry, just too many to keep track of and recollect. Indeed a very rare gem of the Craft, "a very devoted, righteous Mason," as Sister Juanila says of him, now 90 years in age but still physically sound, Masons who knew him are consistent in recollecting their esteeming reverence in what they remember of him as one such Brother who was very passionate, highly committed and fatherly to his brothers in the Fraternity.

As VW Mike Prantilla perpended in his piece, this Mason developed and pursued a business ethics in his profession through the prime of his years in this inscrutable moral paradox: "I will not dwell on a business that uses a weighing scale for reason that there is obviously cheating in the business that uses a weighing scale."

VW ISIDRO V. BUTASLAC, JR. PAST DDGM, GRAND STANDARD BEARER 2019 ANCOM CONVENTION DIRECTOR



VW Isidro Butaslac, Jr.

Very few are aware that the Annual Communication (ANCOM) hosted last April 25-27 in this City was very successful, unwontedly that is, because of the exceptional team efforts and the detailed preparations super-finely directed by this brother. He was the Ancom convention director, a designated alternative in replacement of the late VW Engr. Ricardo Enriquez Rotoras whose sudden death is still shrouded in mystery, but just as too psyched up to operate on a zero-based budget to rev up things in motion and get things done.

Bro. James E. Dunsmore of Ben O. Go Lodge 303 and I were so curious and hyped up to get it from the horse's mouth as we entered the office of the Port Manager of Philippine Ports Authority-Cagayan de Oro that morning.

We sat before him all the more instantly overwhelmed in awe to read the name plate on his table: "Engr. Isidro Butaslac, Jr., PUBLIC SERVANT."

"We raised seed money by encouraging all 16 lodges and 5 appendant bodies in CDO to invest at P50,000 each with guaranteed ROI after closing of books of the 2019 Ancom," VW Bong Butaslac, as fondly called, enthused to explain. With the seed money on hand, he said, "we were able to kick off with other fund-generating programs." All told, this ended up with all investors receiving each 700% ROI. Wonder of all wonders, out of nothing the convention host management raked in a net earning of more than P10 million. From this net income, GLP claimed a share of P1.5 million, plus all other expenses covered for the travels of its officials.

How did he manage to do this? "I was just made an instrument of the Hands that guide us, Kuyang." He modestly confessed. He related that in the initial meetings with the different working committees, a sum of P1.4 million budget was proposed to him, but this was asking for the moon and the stars. So, after some more meetings this budget was severely slashed down to only P300,000 of which ceiling they agreed to accomplish their respective tasks till closing of the Ancom.

"Our thoughts and words have effects on the molecular structure of water," VW Bong digressed, even more and more perplexing our already intrigued minds with the sudden drift. "Man's body is 70% H2O (water)," he continued. Our thoughts and emotions can affect the behavior of another. That is why we need to calibrate what we think and say in order to lead. "We can make the impossible possible. If there's a will, we can always find a way," VW Bong pointed out. Not finished with this, the '19 Ancom convention director went on to expound his management technique of "knowing the right mix, not to spoil and waste time." In dealing with situations which vary according to time and place, we should "buy stress," which when applied can make us uniquely overcome difficult problems in actual condition and circumstance.

For his academic background, VW Bong Butaslac, Jr. graduated with academic excellence earning the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Electronics Communications. He also took up his Master's Degree in Management Engineering and finished his Doctoral Degree as Doctor in Management, also merited for academic excellence.

Verily, he actually opened himself up to us in this particular moment leading to his leadership style that stimulates him in steering his office organization at PPA. I clearly recalled having observed the awful gap of difference of the Surigao City Port that I saw since six years ago and the one I was used to long before in 1990 when I was there for a short while on my official tour as manager of NFA Surigao del Norte, when the pier activities there were rather so chaotic. He was assigned in Surigao City just a little after me to manage that port. Now, you should look at the very orderly flows of passengers and cargoes getting in and out of the port predeparture and disembarkation, loading and discharging areas through the high-tech security systems ensconced in the CDO port, which inevitable contributions to the overall peace of Mindanao are too significant to ignore. As yet, the fast expansion of the port facilities never done before, are just too awesome.

No one can escape the technology of automation now, this must be harnessed and utilized to aid humans in practically all endeavors they engage in. "But a good mix of manual and automated ways is much more effective," said this Mason engineer and manager. In PPA, Manager Bong is a recipient of several awards in recognition of his dynamic leadership and exemplary and innovative performance in the service.

TWO MASONS: INTERLINK... (Cont.)

"How did he harness automation to effective use in last Ancom's management? "Believe in what things can be done," he shared. From registration of delegates to their meals, election of Grand Lodge Officers, up to the raffles, this was installed, nestled in major aspects of operation. Every delegate who entered Limketkai's Atrium where the convention proceedings were held was each given raffle number stub to keep him inside the session hall throughout the day's program and plenary. And, when a delegate had to leave for personal relief? He got another raffle number automatically fed into the machine when he returned upon showing his registration ID for scanning by personnel at ingress, consequently increasing his chance of winning. USB's inserted in the delegates' kits took the place of the usual heavy bulk of documents of GLP's edicts, circulars, reports and other paper works.

"But, of course, for bigger and more sensitive issues of concern like security on movements of dignitaries, delegates and their family members attending that Ancom," VW Butaslac expounded, "the right mix and thorough planning with the committee for security and intelligence had to be done". Consultation meetings with the intelligence community, mostly Brother Masons, were made on all aspects of security over six months before the Ancom. Preparations covered the wider circumferential expanse of Iligan City and Lanao del Norte, Marawi and Lanao Sur, Agusan del Sur and Norte, Bukidnon, Camiguin Island, Cebu and the city of Cagayan de Oro.

Of course, all working committees for that Ancom had their fair share of the sweet fruits of their sterling labor. But if there's one to deserve the distinguished accolade for pointing the right person to do all these fantastic planning and operations to make that Ancom truly a success, he should be none other than, in his own natural business acumen, Most Worshipful Agapito S. Suan, Jr., then Deputy Grand Master, immediate heir to the Grand Oriental Chair he is now sitting on.

VW Isidro 'Bong' V. Butaslac, Jr., born in Cebu City on March 2, 1964, joined Don T. Cosin Memorial Lodge No. 308 to be initiated in June 22, 1998 and raised to Master Mason on August 24 of same year. After three years, in 2001, he was elected as Junior Warden and became Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 2003. He became District Grand Lecturer three years later, 2005-2006, and Grand Lodge Inspector In 2008. For reasons affecting his job, he became District Deputy Grand Master for MD RX - Misamis Oriental and Camiguin only in MY 2016-17 under MW Voltaire T. Gazmin, when he was awarded as Most Outstanding DDGM and his district as Most Outstanding Masonic District. Then last year he was appointed as Grand Standard Bearer for MY 2018-19 serving in the inception of the term of Grand Master Agapito S. Suan, Jr.

He is a plural member of Misamis Oriental Lodge No. 335 and Kagay-an Lodge No. 385, both in Cagayan de Oro City. His membership in the appendant bodies includes: Order of the Eastern Star, Cadena de Amor Chapter 16; Agila Shriners of Mindanao, Shriners Temple No. 195; Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Mindanao Bodies, Orient of Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon, Valley of Cagayan de Oro; Order of the Secret Monitor, Provincial Grand Conclave of West Pacific, Kagay-an Conclave No. 27.

Asked to describe in three words his feat in the success of the 2019 Ancom hosting, he texted this back: "Time, patience and perseverance."

THE LONG REACH OF OUR CABLE TOW


Bro. Tommy Co of Dalisay Lodge No.14



PROFILE OF A TRUE & DEDICATED FREEMASON

1. **Corinthian 1-13** "If I speak in the tongue of men and of angels, but have no love, I'm only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal",

In like manner, we can speak volumes of the greatness and goodness of Free-masonry. However, our actions in the eyes of our fellowmen surely make the great different! Bro. Tommy Co of Dalisay Lodge No. 14 – a medical doctor proudly exemplifies the love that we mason are thought through the degrees in masonry! He silently dedicated his training, knowledge and time in serving as a volunteer doctor in the Manila China Town Charity Foundation Inc., in Binondo for 30 years sans fanfare, a time Mason worthy of emulation are we must be proud of!

By: 
Bro. Leonardo T. Chua (FDR81)



Certified Inspiring Brother!

THE LONG REACH OF OUR CABLE TOW

“RAPHAEL”

I am, with great appreciation, privileged to share how I have seen the beauty of Freemasonry unravel before my eyes. Humbling to say, my son has been the beneficiary of our Institution’s generosity for several times and allow me to share with you how Masonry has depicted the true essence of CHARITY.

My son, Raphael Inigo M. Zarraga aka “Gogo”, was diagnosed with a rare Liver Disease at the age of 2 months old called Biliary Atresia which happens to 1 out of 15,000 births. The only long-term solution to save him was to undergo Liver Transplantation. During the course of his medical tests, they found other congenital abnormalities like: Meckel's Diverticulum, Urinary Bladder Diverticulum, Left Kidney Ureter Stenosis which leads to Bilateral Hydronephrosis, and Vesicoureteral reflux (VUR). With the GAOTU’s blessings, he was able to survive ten (10) different procedures and operations before receiving his Liver Transplantation in July 2011 at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan. After his Liver Transplantation, he developed complications and had to undergo 3 more additional surgeries to address these. By 2013, he had been under the needle for 14 times already just before he reached the age of 3 years old. With our hopes high that he has already surpassed the major complications, we thought that he could now live his life as a normal kid.

In mid-2017, my son, suddenly vomited fresh blood and at the same time melena was found in his stool. These were manifestations that he was having Gastrointestinal (GI) Bleeding, which again was a rare complication of his disease. We immediately rushed him to the ICU of a Liver Transplant Center in Manila. During those trying times, my simple post in social media for prayers went viral and brethren from all over extended their compassion in joining us in prayer, as well as in extending their cabletow to aid and assist us in the hospital bills. This experience showed me how fortunate I was to have hundreds or even thousands of brethren praying for his miraculous recovery.

A year and a half after the first episode, he experienced another massive GI Bleeding which made us decide to fly him back to Taiwan for further evaluation and treatment. The doctors suspected that the bleeding was caused by ruptured veins or Varix (Varices) and scheduled him to undergo another operation to address his medical problem. During that time, we were amazed to receive a visit from the brethren of the jurisdiction of Taiwan who made us feel that despite being in a foreign country, we have family there ready to support us.

We came back to the Philippines a few days before my final walk as Master of my mother Lodge and my heart was overwhelmed by the love and support of the brethren.

Six months after his last operation, he suddenly experienced another episode of GI Bleeding and we again decided to go back to Taiwan to have him re-evaluated. The doctors finally explained to us my son’s medical condition, it was heartbreaking for us to hear that despite being an 8-year post-Liver Transplant patient, the cause of my son’s recurrent Gastrointestinal Bleeding is still **Portal Vein Hypertension** or congested pressure in the blood flow of the Hepatic Portal Vein. This again is a rare complication for post Liver Transplant patients and as per the hospital’s data, the **prevalence of this condition is only 0.01%** among their Filipino Pediatric Patients they have. Having discussed his medical condition with our doctors, they told us to prepare a huge amount which would be needed in the next few months to cover for the expenses for all the procedures and check-ups both in the Philippines and in Taiwan. I was again overwhelmed to receive messages of encouragement as well as financial assistance to assist us in our trying times. Truly, the wages of a Master Mason need not be asked for, it will come during the most trying times.

Humbling to say, we have decided to re-activate “*Raphael Inigo’s Medical Fund-raising Campaign*” as we begin raising funds to continuously support his medical needs since his medical condition would be a lifetime journey for him and our family. For the past 9 years, the cost of his procedures and treatments have financially drained our family as we have already spent almost **PhP12,500,000** having had 16 different surgeries, procedures, and operations already.

No parent would just watch his child suffer and do nothing at all. As a father, despite my continuous efforts to provide for our family, I humbly confess that these hospitalizations and procedures are no longer within my capacity to support, that is why as all father’s would do, I am again appealing to your goodness to **please support Raphael Inigo’s Medical Fund-raising Campaign**. If not for my son I would not be doing this, but my love for him is of far greater importance than whatever pride I have left in me, that is why with all humility, I am again submitting myself to your prejudice and mercy to help me save the life my son, Raphael Inigo.

We will forever be grateful to your goodness and may our good Lord bless you ten-folds more. Please continue to pray for his well-being and recovery from all these medical procedures. May God bless you all always!

You can send your support for “*Raphael Inigo’s Medical Fund-raising Campaign*” to:

Account Name: Mellord Ivan O. Zarraga
BPI Family Account No.: 6666218084 (Savings)
BPI Savings Account No.: 3399144859 (Savings)

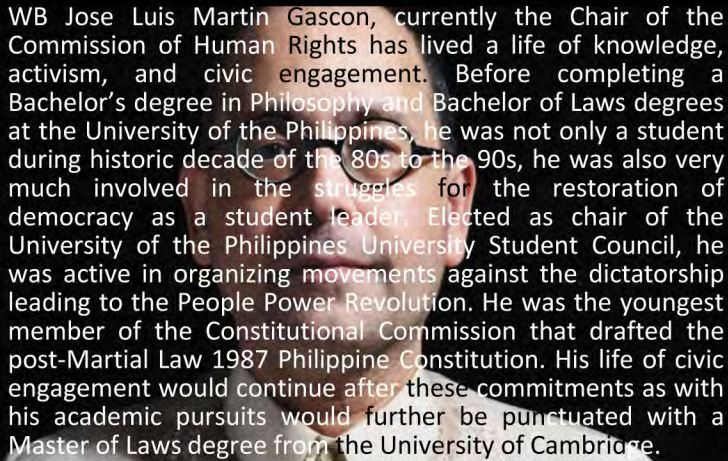


VW MELLORD IVAN O. ZARRAGA, DGL
Dasmariñas Masonic Lodge No. 346
Bantayang Bato Masonic Lodge No. 447

WORTHY BROTHERS IN FOCUS

[Both articles are excerpts from **THE BRETHERN Book 3: The Craft Under The Republic 1946-2018**, which is now available at the Masonic Supply Center, GLP]

WB JOSE LUIS MARTIN GASCON



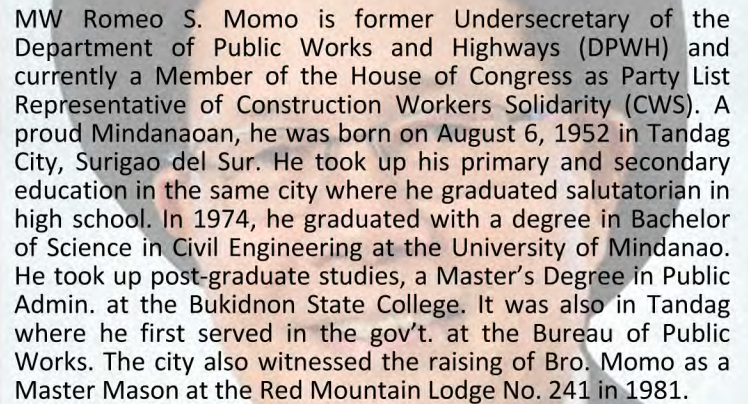
WB Jose Luis Martin Gascon, currently the Chair of the Commission of Human Rights has lived a life of knowledge, activism, and civic engagement. Before completing a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Bachelor of Laws degrees at the University of the Philippines, he was not only a student during historic decade of the 80s to the 90s, he was also very much involved in the struggles for the restoration of democracy as a student leader. Elected as chair of the University of the Philippines University Student Council, he was active in organizing movements against the dictatorship leading to the People Power Revolution. He was the youngest member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the post-Martial Law 1987 Philippine Constitution. His life of civic engagement would continue after these commitments as with his academic pursuits would further be punctuated with a Master of Laws degree from the University of Cambridge.

Before rising to become the chair of the Commission on Human Rights, WB Chito served other important government positions such as being undersecretary of the Department of Education and also Undersecretary for Political Affairs under the Office of the President. He has also served as the Director-General of the Liberal Party, Executive Director of LIBERTAS, and Executive Director of the National Institute of Policy Studies. WB Chito also taught political science at the De La Salle University. He was appointed Chair of the CHR in 2015. With vast experiences in civil society organizations, academe, and government service, WB Chito was an exemplar in many ways, an inspiration to future brothers in the craft.

When asked to reflect on how the craft impacted his life, WB Chito mentioned that in the beginning, he also thought that Masonry was like any other civic organizations, engaged in philanthropic work and public service. He soon learned that it was more than that—being a Mason meant discovering so much more about the Fraternity. Having known no Mason before being one, it was a personal journey in many ways. Masonry, as he reflected, introduced him to a different way of interacting with his fraternity brothers, it was a new way of life. He notes how he received some fair warnings from brothers with regard to the potential implications of him being a Mason to his being a Catholic. He recounts how the values of being upright and reminders to relate to others with honor as among the values that the fraternity espouses that resonate with him. In relation to his career in law and human rights, he relates that the lessons he received from the Fraternity have been helpful. These lessons, he notes are part of a way of bettering one's life in the private, professional, and public contexts almost on a daily basis. He also underscored the importance of creating a network of solidarity among brothers in order to help each other be better persons. It was an opportunity to reinforce many of his values that validated his decision to be a Mason.

This network of like minded men committed the values of the Fraternity is one of the strengths of the brotherhood. He points as well to the structure of the fraternity that reinforces this strength. Taken together, while Masonry is a large, grand, organization, the structure of having the strong base in the Blue lodges that builds the Grand Lodge, and

MW ROMEO S. MOMO, PGM



MW Romeo S. Momo is former Undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and currently a Member of the House of Congress as Party List Representative of Construction Workers Solidarity (CWS). A proud Mindanaoan, he was born on August 6, 1952 in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur. He took up his primary and secondary education in the same city where he graduated salutatorian in high school. In 1974, he graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Mindanao. He took up post-graduate studies, a Master's Degree in Public Admin. at the Bukidnon State College. It was also in Tandag where he first served in the gov't. at the Bureau of Public Works. The city also witnessed the raising of Bro. Momo as a Master Mason at the Red Mountain Lodge No. 241 in 1981.

A civil engineer by profession, he rose through the ranks from being an engineer aide at the Bureau of Public Works in 1974, to DPWH Assistant District Engineer from 1997 to 1998, District Engineer from 1998 to 2002, Assistant Regional Director of Region XIII (CARAGA) from 2002 to 2004, and Regional Director of the same region from 2004 to 2008. In 2008, due to his hard work and commitment, he was appointed Undersecretary of the DPWH by President Arroyo, a position he held for until his retirement in 2017. His service to the nation as an engineering and a public servant were not left unnoticed. Through the years, MW Momo received awards and distinctions such as the Most Outstanding Alumni of the University of Mindanao, Honorary Fellow of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization, Certificate of Completion for Leaders in Development Program from Harvard University, and the most Outstanding Civil Engineer by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). His retirement did not stop him from being active in his chosen field. Presently, he is the Co-Chairman of Technical Committee 21 (TC 21) of the ASEAN Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC). He is also the President of the Road Engineering Association in Asia and Australasia.

His retirement also allowed him to take on the great task of holding the Grand Oriental Chair of the GLP in 2018-2019. Under his leadership and the support of PGMs Puno, Tolentino, and Gabionza, the GLP met and initiated talks with Senate President Sotto on possible exemption of the organization from the Anti-Hazing Law (RA11053). The meeting was fruitful, as the proposal got a positive response from the Senate leadership. This move by MW Momo is just one of the achievements of his administration as he led the GLP to a better and more relevant future.

being comprised of committed individuals constitute the strength of the fraternity. The diversity of the members, having brothers from various sectors of society but bound together by the common experience of being a Mason, is another strength of the craft.

To future Masons, WB Chito highlights the significance of reflecting about their motivations why they are joining the Fraternity. If these motivations point to the desire to improve themselves, their society, the nation, and the world, he wholeheartedly encourages them to proceed.

WORTHY BROTHERS IN FOCUS

A TRUE-BLUE JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES

Bro. Carlo Bala

Another worthy brother in focus hails from Dalisay Lodge No. 14 and is an honorary member of Nilad Lodge No. 12. He is Bro. Luisito Guiao Salazar or simply Bro. Totoy. Born on August 30, 1985, he is married to Marie Eillen C. Tanawan and they are blessed with two children namely, Eimkhe Elize and Francesco Lucho.

The story of the travel of Bro. Totoy started from his employment with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP), where he has been part of the building maintenance team for many years. He narrates that what encouraged him to join Freemasonry was the demeanor of the brethren who would gather on their respective stated meetings in the GLP. Kuyang Totoy observed that the brethren would endeavor to practice charity by helping those who are sick and needy, and those who have been affected by calamities. He also observed the relevant programs that are conducted by the brethren on a regular basis such as the Brigada Eskwela, which seeks to give less fortunate children support school materials to prepare them for the upcoming academic year, and the tree-planting program, which seeks to help our ecosystem to recover from the harmful effects of industrialization.

What resonated with Bro. Totoy is that Freemasonry makes good men better. And indeed, he was able to witness it firsthand. He saw that children who were in dire need of medical assistance would go to the GLP, and the brethren would not hesitate to reach out and help.

Bro Totoy's travel is not a typical one, as his day job involves the building maintenance at the GLP. His job also entails providing support to the various lodges within the Grand Lodge premises, example of which is when there would be an installation of officers, he is the one tasked, among others, to prepare and monitor the sounds system of the Jose Abad Santos Hall which is quite sensitive and complicated given the solemnity of the occasion. These tasks he had to do while also petitioning for Degrees in Masonry. However, Bro. Totoy in his determination and resolve did not mind it, and did his duties with no qualms, complaints or hesitation, which not only showed his dedication to his work at the Grand Lodge, but also that of being a petitioner. His determination paid off and today he is now our brother in the craft. He is now our resident true-blue jack-of-all-trades and perennially proficient brother in the New Plaridel Masonic Hall.

Today, Bro. Totoy's work with the GLP is the best and ideal set-up for him; a prime example of work-life balance. He enjoys working therein because the job entails providing support to the lodges, and at the same time allows him to participate in the Masonic labors per se.

As Mark Twain said, "Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life!" And that is exactly what Kuyang Totoy is relishing right now.



Our perennially proficient Kuyang Luis "Totoy" Salazar poses with Cable Tow Legal Adviser Bro. Carlo Bala

As Bro Totoy would share, the constant mentoring of other brothers to him has greatly helped him and that Freemasonry has given him a better direction in life. The teachings of Freemasonry echo in his daily tasks. He now exudes understanding, patience, brotherly love and most of all, humility.

He thus succinctly states, "It is not what you did that defines you but the manner that you did it."

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MABUHAY SHRINERS ATTEND IMPERIAL SESSION IN NASHVILLE, VISIT MECCA TEMPLE

Bro Ali C. Espina, Grand Historian

Illustrious Potentate Nelson T. Yau of Mabuhay Shriners Temple together with his Divans and other nobles attended the 145th Imperial Session in Nashville, Tennessee last 30 June to 4 July 2019.

Divans present were Chief Rabban Ayong Lorenzo and Temple Admin Francis Blanco. Grand Master MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. was also present, a Mabuhay Honorary Member and Agila Shrine Past Potentate.

They were also joined in the event by Past Potentates Ill. Roberto Fajardo and Ill. Joselito Mendoza, and MWGLP Past Grand Masters, MW Juanito Espino, Jr. and MW Avelino Razon, Jr.

A good number of Nobles also participated in the Imperial Session, namely: Paul Castro, Hector Torres, Rene Paynaganan, Vener Santiago, Rey Noble, Elmer Garcia, Freddie Lilagan, Kenneth Chua Cham, Gani Verzosa, Mike Tezon, Dado Viardo, Ryan Altea, Ricky Ragragio, Glen Altea, Rix Malabanan, Roger Bitara, Dario Añasco, Rommel Fajardo, Ben Alipio, Rod Mapoy, Ike Flores, Dindo Reyes, Philip Dy, Danny Villa, Dax Navarro, Adonis Baluyot, Mike Hortel, Gerard Ceballos, Boni Alaiza, Raymond dela Pasion, Dominic Sy, and Rizal dela Pasion.

The Imperial Session is the annual official business session of Shriners International. During this time, representatives vote on the official business of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children and committee chairmen give reports. It is also in this occasion that recognitions are given to Shrine Temples for exemplary performance. Mabuhay is 1 of the Temples given this prestigious recognition; being 1 of the Hall of Fame Awardee on membership for 7 consecutive years! As of this writing, there are already 250 new & affiliate nobles of Mabuhay.

Last 5 July also, Mabuhay reciprocated the visit of Mecca Shrine Temple No.1 last April by making its pilgrimage once again to the Mother Shrine. Them with delegation from Agila Shrine Temple headed by MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. was met by the Nobles of Mecca headed by Illustrious Potentate Willie Manalang (Labong Lodge No. 59 and Park Lodge No. 516)

Mecca itself was awarded recognition for membership during the Imperial Session.



Illus. Nelson Yau, Mabuhay Potentate & Illus. Willie Manalang, Mecca Potentate. The 2 potentates are members of Labong Lodge No. 59.



MABUHAY SHRINERS PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA.

Photo (L-R): Illus. Nelson Yau (Mabuhay Potentate), MW Agapito Suan, Jr. (Grand Master of The Philippines & Past Potentate, Agila Shrine Temple), MW William Sardone (Grand Master, Grand Lodge of The State of New York, Illus. Willie Manalang (Mecca Potentate)



Mabuhay Shrine Temple delegation with Alec, Shriner Hospital for Children Spokesperson



Mabuhay Shrine Temple delegation during the parade

THE TEMPLE BUILDER:

RW DON RAMAS UYPITCHING

BEHOLD, OUR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN. He hails from a long line of hardworking and inspiring businessmen in the Philippines' South. His great grandfather, Uy Kim Pong, arrived on a Chinese junk in Dumaguete in the 1880s, and eventually married a Cebuana named Gregoria Ramas. They were blessed with one child, a son they baptized Nicanor Ramas whose Chinese name is Uy Pit Ching. Years later, Nicanor took over the helm and after surviving some challenges, managed to instill good business instincts and principles to the Ramas-Uypitching children. He possessed that unique Chinese ability to see opportunity where others only saw waste. After World War II ended, he recognized the unwanted military jeeps and other materials of the American army as a valuable asset. He offered to take them off their hands for a modest price for resale. That became a profitable enterprise, and was the forerunner to Ramas-Uypitching & Sons being formed in 1954. That, in turn, would lead to the creation of Ramas-Uypitching Sons, Inc. (RUSI) in 1983.

In 1989, the second generation of family management in all Uypitching group of companies retired to make way for the third generation. This is when our JGW Don Ramas Uypitching and his two elder brothers Antonio Jr. and Tyrone, together with their elder cousins, Ernesto and Roberto, took over.

JGW Don Ramas Uypitching is a Certified Public Accountant, and was designated as audit and operations manager, aside from being the RUSI corporate secretary. Today the Ramas-Uypitching family is one of the most influential in Negros Oriental, being one of the most successful commercial enterprises in the Philippines. Their family business interests are diverse: financing, lending, banking, money transfer; lumber and construction supplies, hardware; automotive parts, auto repairs; real estate development; hotels including Hotel Nicanor named after their late grandfather; and of course, motorcycles and multicabs. RUSI now operates nationwide with more than 6,000 employees in more than 800 locations. RUSI Ram Cycles is now a contender in the motorcycle industry of the Philippines.

Many family-owned businesses disappear after a few generations. Kuyang Don revealed that his family has survived family issues over the years because of their creation in 2008 of a Family Constitution which clearly outlines how decisions will be made, and how to deal with any internal problems. Nothing to worry, with God always considered as the first and ultimate priority. The Family Constitution is reviewed every five years to reflect on the changing circumstances.

Only family members related by bloodline are allowed to participate in the ownership and operations of their family businesses. No in-laws are allowed to participate in the businesses. Very recently, the women in the family related by bloodline have been allowed to be active in the businesses as well. "Change is necessary. We must adapt to modern times." Kuyang Don says, noting how other major Filipino-Chinese families now place women family members in leadership roles.

Kuyang Don said that when she qualifies, his only daughter Hannah, and nieces in the Ramas-Uypitching bloodline, could also become involved in RUSI top management.

Now that you understand the hereditary forces that framed our Junior Grand Warden, it is also important to know his strong religious and social beliefs to fully understand this very inspiring brother in Freemasonry.

RW Don experienced a diverse religious upbringing. His mother, Karen Terng Ramas-Uypitching, is a Protestant from Taiwan, and was a schoolteacher for more than 30 years at Dumaguete's Chinese Catholic school, Holy Cross High School. RW Don spent 12 years at Holy Cross as a pupil, while being active with the Mary Immaculate Church as choir member. He also became treasurer of Silliman University Church after graduating from college at Silliman. When asked about his religion, RW Don said, "I'm a faithful God-fearing Christian and a free-thinker. I am not a member of any church but I now attend Calvary Chapel, a non-denominational, Bible-based church."



THE TEMPLE BUILDER (Cont.)

On a more personal note, our JGW's other interests are basketball, trivia books and games, and watching movies. Kuyang Don's eyes light up when talking about his three children: David is 17, Hannah is 15, and Nathan is 10. They are clearly central to his life. He sees his greatest achievement not in business terms but through the achievements of his three children as he watches them progress in their respective lives. "Kids grow up so fast; I only want all of them to be happy."

He is a man devoted to service -- to his family and to the community. He is known to have a very big heart; a generous man. His greatest fear is that he may someday become insignificant and old; become helpless, instead of being helpful.

There is nothing flamboyant about this man. He certainly could never be accused of dressing extravagantly. He lives simply. He does not need any of that nonsense. He knows where he came from, who he is, and what his family's future could be.

(Details of this article were largely lifted from a piece written by Michael O'Riordan for the Metro Post.)



UP CLOSE! RW Don Ramas-Uypitching huddles with VW Angel Delfin and IPM Armand Alcala, both from La Naval Lodge No. 269, during Ancom 2019.

RW Don Ramas-Uypitching is the current Buglas Shrine Club President. He is also a Past Master of Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 in Dumaguete, and a past District Grand Lecturer of Negros Island. Having been elected as our Junior Grand Warden at the Ancom 2019 in CDO City, his advocacy is focused on erecting masonic temple buildings everywhere. His battlecry is, "A lodge temple building for every lodge."

CONSTITUTION OF LODGES

**Bantayang Bato
Masonic Lodge
No. 447
May 29, 2019**



WM - WB Rodrigo S. Fernandez Jr
SW - VW Felipe Del Rosario I JW - VW Jesus Miguel Bunyi



**Cabuyao City
Masonic Lodge
No. 442
May 20, 2019**



WM- Josefino Meigar Jr.
SW- VW Robert Santos I JW- VW Dennis Baterina

CONSTITUTION OF LODGES

**Calasiao
Masonic Lodge
No. 449**



WM – VW Romeo G. Lim
SW - VW Rafael D. Peralta Jr. | JW – WB Rolly T. Reyes

**Davao De Oro
Masonic Lodge
No. 443
May 15, 2019**



WM – Joselito B. Caballero, PDDGM
SW - WB Rene B. Madrid | JW – VW Don F. Donaivo, PDDGM

**Deodoro C. Go
Masonic Lodge
No. 445
May 31, 2019**



WM - VW Floren L. Ambatali, PDDGM
SW - WB Anacleto B. Bulaciac | JW - WB Efrén M. Gelacio

**Moncada
Masonic
Lodge No. 446
June 6, 2019**



WM – VW Efrén Ramirez
SW - VW Eimer Garingo | JW - VW Richard Padilla

**Primera
Republica
Masonic Lodge
No. 444
June 6, 2019**



WM - WB Neil C. Valenzuela
SW - WB Ramil P. Catanghal | JW - WB Cornelius C. Cabatonga

**Pangarap
Masonic
Lodge No. 448
June 3, 2019**



WM - VW Raul Canon
SW - VW Peter I. Corvera | JW - Bro. Juan Edgardo Angara

GM TRAVELS: New York, USA

Sunday, 07 July 2019, New York, USA

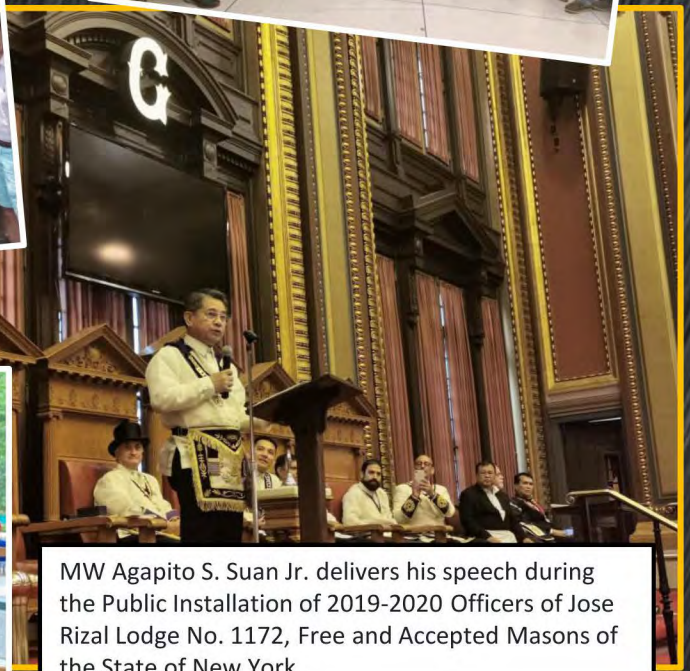
The Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. recently visited New York, USA to grace the Public Installation of 2019-2020 Officers of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.



MW Agapito S. Suan Jr. poses with WM John Paul Abrio of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, GLNY; MW Juanito Espino Jr., PGM and incumbent Grand Treasurer of the GLP; MW William M. Sardone, GM, State of NY; and, **MW Roger B. Quintana, IPGM, State of NJ.**



Fellowship with the brethren of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.



MW Agapito S. Suan Jr. delivers his speech during the Public Installation of 2019-2020 Officers of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.



SCHEDULE OF MW AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.'S FOREIGN TRIPS:

- Oct. 18-20, 2019 - 170th Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of California
- Oct. 24-26, 2019 - Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of China
- Feb.21-23, 2020- Multi District Convention, Guam
- Mar.20-21, 2020 - Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Japan

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Monday, 05 August 2019 @GLP

Hosted by Demolay International, Jobs Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and the Committee on Youth



TREE-PLANTING EVENT

Saturday, 27 July 2019 - Ipo Dam Watershed, Norzagaray, Bulacan

The Most Worshipful Grand Master Agapito S. Suan, Jr. led the environmental campaign to protect the environment with a massive tree planting activity at the Ipo Dam Watershed area in Norzagaray, Bulacan covering almost 120 hectares of land. The event was led by Lodges from the Masonic District of RIII-Bulacan and was overwhelmingly supported by other Central Luzon and NCR Masonic Districts numbering more than 250 brethren and families in attendance. This is the first of a series of tree planting activities that the GLP will be undertaking this year.



ONCE UPON THE LEVEL OF TIME:

What happened after the Declaration of Philippine Independence?

WB Joseph Harold W. Santiago, PM

Filipino Masons are familiar with the Philippine Day of Independence. On the 12th of June of each year the Brethren from the Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges go out into the community clad in their jewels and aprons worn-over the Barong Tagalog, and participate in various activities commemorating the freedom of the country.

In line with this celebration of liberty, let us travel back upon the level of time and glimpse at the summary of events and somehow satisfy the titular inquiry.

FREEDOM - 1898

The chapter year begins with **Emilio Aguinaldo**, leader of the Philippine Revolutionary forces, already out of the country pursuant with the **Pact of Biak-na-Bato**. Instead of retiring in a foreign land, he organized his fellow expatriates into a revolutionary government in exile known as the **Hong Kong Junta**. As they plan new strategies to gain Philippine Independence from Spain, the United States declared War against their enemy on **April 21, 1898**. An opportunity thus presented itself for the Filipino Patriots.

May 1898 - The first major engagement of this conflict was the **Battle of Manila Bay** on **May 1** where the American Asiatic Squadron defeated their Spanish Pacific counterpart. It marked the end of the Spanish Navy as a global maritime force.

Aguinaldo at this time was in Singapore monitoring the developments and was in a secret interview with American Consul Spencer Pratt regarding Filipino-American collaboration against Spain. Arriving in the Philippines on **May 19**, Aguinaldo met with US Commodore George Dewey, each expecting support from the other. For though victorious the Americans cannot move further in land and only have control of the Bay. Aside from giving the Filipino Leader a free ride back to his country, no formal agreements between the U.S. and the Filipino Revolutionist have been established.

Aguinaldo's return galvanized his countrymen into renewing the revolution against Spain. A Dictatorial Government was established to prosecute the war. During the Battle of Alapan (Imus, Cavite) in **May 28**, Aguinaldo unfurled his new banner rallying the people to the cause of liberation. Town after town, province after province was freed by the Filipinos from Spanish rule. Except for the Port of Cavite which was in American hands and the Spaniards besieged in the City of Manila (Intramuros), the Island of Luzon was virtually under Aguinaldo's Government by June.

June 1898 - With a working Government on a liberated land, the 2nd Sunday of June was set aside for the proclamation of independence to inspire the people to protect their new-found freedom and contribute to building the Filipino Nation. **Julian Felipe** - a musician from Cavite was asked to compose a march to be played during the independence ceremonies. He complied six days later with *Marcha Filipina Magdalo*. The melody so impressed Aguinaldo that it became the official Philippine March and renamed **Marcha Nacional Filipino**.

On the appointed date **June 12**, between 4:00-5:00 PM, from his house window in Cavite II el Viejo (present-day Kawit) Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence of the Philippines. The **Philippine Flag** was waived as the Banda San Francisco de Malabon played *Marcha Nacional Filipino*. Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista read the **Philippine Declaration of Independence** that he himself prepared. The document was signed by 98 persons.

Apolinario Mabini begins his crucial role in Philippine Governance with the preparation of a decree for Aguinaldo stating that **"the first duty of the government is to interpret faithfully the will of the people."** Through Mabini's advice, the local government was reorganized and the Dictatorial Gov't changed to Revolutionary Form.

As the Filipinos were preoccupied with reorganization and their forces entrenched around Intramuros, the Americans begin to move according to their own interest. On this same month, Major General Wesley Merritt departed from the US to the Philippines with the Eight Army Corps to provide a ground contingent that will exploit Dewey's success in Manila.

August 1898 - Upon Merritt's arrival in Manila, a secret meeting was held between the Americans and the Spaniards for the surrender of the city. To save face "some form of resistance" will be shown by the latter before capitulating. Another Spanish request is the exclusion of the Filipino Revolutionists in their surrender. The Americans acceptance of these terms was a clear act of treachery to the Filipinos. On the 13th, the event known as the **"Mock Battle of Manila"** was played out according to script. Animosity between Filipinos and Americans begins.

September 1898 - From Cavite Aguinaldo decides to move his capital to Bulacan. Two Towns were considered: Baliuag and Malolos, the prestige was awarded to the latter. On **September 15** (Thursday), delegates and spectators flock to the Barasoain Church in Malolos that fateful morning to witness the inauguration of the Filipino representatives into a body which will go down in history as the **Malolos Congress**. It consisted of 136 delegates (68 elected & 68 appointed) from the reorganized provinces of the Philippines. Its elected leaders were cosmopolites Pedro Paterno, President; Benito Legarda-Vice-President; Gregorio Araneta-First Secretary and Pablo Ocampo-Second Secretary.

Among its first acts was the ratification of the Philippine Declaration of Independence. Another achievement of this august assembly is the drafting of the **Malolos Constitution**. It is - according to historian Teodoro Agoncillo *"the first important state document that the Filipino people, speaking through their representatives, ever produced. It was a monument to the capacity of the Filipino people to rule themselves in a democratic way."* It was a unicameral legislature with the legislative branch (Congress) more powerful than the executive and the judiciary.



Filipino exiles and Spanish officials, Hongkong 1898

ONCE UPON THE LEVEL OF TIME (cont.)



December 1898 - The Spanish – American War ends with signing of the **Treaty of Paris** on the 10th. Spain cedes the Philippines to the United States, receiving a compensation of 20 million dollars. It marked the end of the Spanish Empire and heralded the ascension of the United States to the “World Empire”. On December 21, U.S. President McKinley makes the **Benevolent Assimilation Proclamation** declaring America’s imperial policy in the Philippines.

FILIPINAS - 1899

January 1899 - The New Year gave the promise of hope for the new Filipino Nation. On day 1, Congressional Delegates officially elected Emilio Aguinaldo as President of the Republic. He appointed his Cabinet the next day with Apolinario Mabini as its Head and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. On **January 21** - 3rd Saturday, the Malolos Constitution was proclaimed thus establishing the First Republic in Asia. *“Great is this day, glorious this date, and forever memorable this moment in which our beloved people are raised to the apotheosis of Independence.”* said Aguinaldo, who took his Oath of Office 2 days later.

From Malolos the Republic implemented its mandate to the Filipino People. In this historic Bulacan Town Laws were legislated, taxes were collected, diplomatic policies crafted, the military retrained and other transactions appertaining to running a decent government.

Meanwhile in Manila, Uncle Sam’s Policy as contained in McKinley’s Proclamation was received early in January. The United States will stay in the Philippine Islands to assert their sovereignty over the Filipinos. With the American Forces headed by General Elwell Otis preparing to impose the Treaty of Paris and Benevolent Assimilation from Intramuros and the Filipino Republic’s capital just 40 kilometers away, it was only a matter of time before a new war would erupt.

February 1899 - The incident in San Juan between the shooting of a Filipino Soldier who was about to cross the bridge, by an American Private on the night of **February 4** became the match that ignited the **Filipino – American War**. The U.S. Fleet began their bombardment early the next day as a warm-up for the American drive to the north with the capture of Malolos as their objective.

March 1899 - Despite the gallantry of the soldiers and officers of the fledgling republic, the Filipinos were overwhelmed by the enemy forces and the first capital fell on **March 31**.

An American survey team headed by Dr. Jacob Schurman, Cornell University President was sent by McKinley to assess the conditions in the Philippines. Arriving early in March, it failed to accomplish its mission due to the raging war but manage to perform some functions like conducting hearings in Manila and receiving Aguinaldo’s emissaries before returning to the US.

April 1899 - Following the fall of Malolos, the Republic retreats northward. Mabini urged the Filipino people to continue the struggle for independence. At this point, the Schurman Commission offered autonomy tempting the likes of Pedro Paterno and other prominent members of the Filipino Government. The Sublime Paralytic stood up (metaphorically) for our Independence prompting the Filipino Assembly (formerly Malolos Congress) to pass a resolution asking Aguinaldo to repudiate Mabini’s position and relieve him as head of his Cabinet.

May 1899 - Barely 11 months since Mabini partnered with Aguinaldo, the latter re-organized his cabinet with Paterno as its head. Mabini resigns – it was May 7.

Another Filipino Leader dedicated to the cause of the Filipino struggle was **General Antonio Luna – Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army**. Like Mabini he was suspicious of the Americans. He also knew that the Philippine Army given its weaknesses is no match for their opponent. Despite the undeniable military disadvantages, he managed to execute a strategic retreat with a grand plan of establishing the Republic’s last stronghold in a guerilla base in the Cordilleras. The strategy is not to defeat the Americans but to bleed them out by making their advance as difficult as possible until the U.S. Government decides to abandon their imperialistic enterprise on this part of the globe. Such plan has its merits since an Anti-Imperialist League exists back in America criticizing the War.

Luna however had a temper, this combined with his intense passion for the country earned him enemies among his peers and subordinates within the Republic.

June 1899 - The first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was marred by Luna’s assassination by Aguinaldo’s men in June 5. His death was announced 3 days later and the gruesome details made public only by June 13. It caused much confusion that the Americans even thought that Luna had taken over leadership of the Republic.

August – September 1899 - Late in August, soldier and writer **Jose Palma** inspired by the hardships of the fledgling republic penned the Spanish poem **FILIPINAS** during a stay in Casa Hacienda in Bautista, Pangasinan.

On the 1st Anniversary Issue of La Independencia (**September 3**) a newspaper founded by Antonio Luna, **FILIPINAS** was published. It was later set to the tune of **Marcha Nacional Filipina** to become the lyrics of the **Philippine National Anthem**.

November 1899 - After Luna’s death, General Aguinaldo personally took command of the Filipino Army who has suffered continuing defeat in battle. In **November 12**, it was disbanded as Aguinaldo shifted to guerilla warfare. An advice recommended by Luna months earlier. Unheeded however was the Luna Plan of standing the Republic’s ground in the Cordilleras. With a great number of the army loosing morale on the assassination of the Ilocano General, Aguinaldo avoided the Ilocos Region throwing his lot in the opposite area of Luzon facing the Pacific.

ONCE UPON THE LEVEL OF TIME (cont.)

December 1899 - To buy time for Aguinaldo's escape, Gregorio Del Pilar and his men made their heroic stand at Tirad Pass in December 2. The Boy General's sacrifice made the Americans lose track of Aguinaldo for more than a year.

FEDERALISMO 1900-1901

In the last year of the 19th Century, the Schurman Commission, upon submission of its report to Pres. McKinley in **January 31** recommended the enforcement of American Sovereignty over the entire Philippines, self-government for Filipinos, protection of their civil rights and promotion of their welfare. Its conclusion *"the United States cannot withdraw. ...We are there and duty binds us to remain. The Filipinos are wholly unprepared for independence ... there being no Philippine nation, but only a collection of different peoples."*

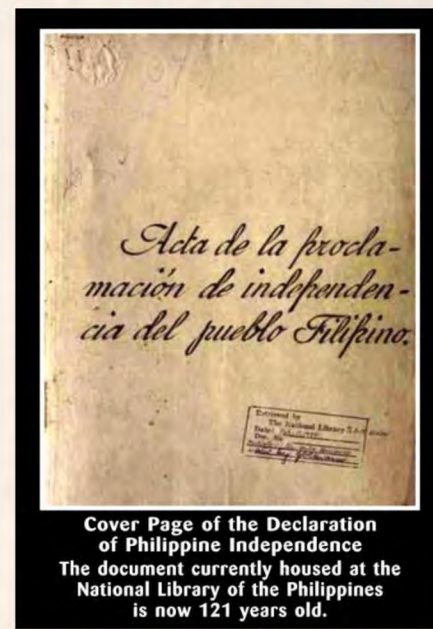
Following the recommendations of the First Commission, McKinley established the Taft Commission which became the legislative body in the Philippine Islands from September 1900 to August 1902 organizing the civil government. Its first head was William Howard Taft. While the Americans are reorganizing the local municipalities and provinces of the Philippine Islands, guerilla resistance continued in different areas. Some members of the Malolos Congress particularly Felipe Buencamino and Pedro Paterno led a group of "Pacificados" to collaborate with the enemy paving the way for American Rule. By December, they have become a Political Party known as **Partido Federal** whose advocacy is to make the Philippines an American State. This idea of assimilation was not nurtured by Uncle Sam, but the Party was used with much pleasure by the Americans to encourage the surrender of the remaining Filipino Revolutionary forces.

Emilio Aguinaldo at this time has reached the Province of Isabela. His capture on **March 23, 1901** in Palanan dissolved the First Republic. By then, it has been 2 years, 9 months and 11 days since the declaration of our Independence.

Losing the Filipino-American War made the Filipinos rethink of new ways of gaining back their short-lived Independence. They may have lost their freedom but they have earned the honor of being called **FILIPINOS** - a term that was once reserved to the Spaniards who were born in the Philippines.

EPILOGUE:

Less than a month since his capture (**April 19**) Aguinaldo took his Oath of Allegiance to the United States formally ending the First Republic and recognizing the sovereignty of the United States over the Philippines. Some Filipino Commanders continued the revolution but they soon discontinued the crusade either by surrender, capture, or death. A gallant few will not switch their allegiance despite being held under the aegis of a foreign flag. They were the **Irreconcilables**. Among those who continue to "stand up" to his principles was ironically - the cripple Apolinario Mabini. As a consequence, he was exiled in Guam together with scores of other principled gentlemen of a once patriotic era. They deserve a separate chapter upon the level of time.



Cover Page of the Declaration of Philippine Independence
The document currently housed at the National Library of the Philippines is now 121 years old.

APOLINARIO MABINI
Graduation Photo

Made a mason in 1892 at Logia Balagtas.

Advocated for reforms as a member of La Liga Filipina. With Rizal's Martyrdom in 1896, he changed his views and gave full support to the revolution.

He may have lost the use of his legs due to Polio in January 1896, but his principles have stood up more straight and taller than most of his peers.

Photo c/o Mr. Kevin Cortez and the Presidential Museum and Library.

The Leaders who determined the course of the Philippines

US President William McKinley
1843 - 1901
Made a Mason in 1865 at
Hiram Lodge No. 21, F.&A.M.
Winchester, Virginia

RP President Emilio Aguinaldo
1869 - 1964
Made a Mason in 1895 at
Pilar Lodge No. 203, GOE
Imus, Cavite

Clippings of an American Newspaper reporting on Luna's Death

Made a Mason in Spain during the period of the Propaganda Movement.

Antonio Luna was a man of many talents being a scientist, writer, marksman, martial artist and military strategist.

He helped establish the first military academy for Filipinos.

Even the Americans admired him.

GENERAL LUNA.

LONDON, June 13.—The Filipino Junta here confirms the story of the assassination of General Antonio Luna, and says it was the result of a long contest on the part of Luna against Aguinaldo. It is also said at the Junta that Agonillo has returned to Paris from Rome, where he had an audience at the Vatican, and was told that a Filipino bishop might be appointed if the Filipinos would release the imprisoned Spanish friars.



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*Valid upon presentation of Lodge I.D



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

THE COVER DESIGN

This issue of The Cable Tow adopts the theme: "Instruments of Illumination". The front cover features the Square and Compasses, which are two of the most commonly used emblems in Freemasonry to illustrate and teach symbolic lessons. A rope or "cable tow tied thrice around" the magazine also conveys a masonic lesson well known to members of The Craft. These lessons in Freemasonry provide illumination or guiding light which will polish the rough edges of a good man and make him better. The feather quill pen and parchment paper are added to the cover design to symbolize the written word as the main vehicle of conveying the illuminative lessons in this magazine.

The back cover also features the feather quill pen, a stack of books and an old lamp. They all symbolize the knowledge and wisdom that comes from members of our noble Fraternity, who serve as inspiration to others. Some are considered as heroes while others may be plain citizens of our society. But their stories are all equally inspiring and worthy of emulation. They are therefore also deemed as instruments of illumination in their own right.

