



# THE CABLE TOW

VOL. 96, NO. 4, JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2020

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

**Inside:  
MW Suan leads 107th  
GLP Anniv Rites**



**Mati City hosts  
64th MinCon  
IMES 2019 Year-  
End Report**

# SURIGAO LA SUERTE CORPORATION

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Tandag City



ENGR. RUEL D. MOMO

*President*

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**ABOUT THE COVER:** This issue's cover features the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. distributing gift packs to the less fortunate members of the GLP's immediate community during the celebration of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines' 107th Foundation Anniversary last December 19, 2019.



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# EDITOR'S NOTES

BY VW MARLON M. CASTOR, PGO

## One for the road...

IN VINO VERITAS.

I have always been that type of writer who forges words better with a bottle of cold beer. Thus, I am compelled to reach into the fridge for a cold one as I write the notes to the newest issue of *The Cable Tow*. Why? \*\*\*\*\*

Aside from being blessed with a rare yet priceless article from one of my Kuyang Idol, VW Victor A. Yu, PSGL, Volume 96, No. 4 issue has been peppered with contributions from brethren and lodges which have somehow made the time to publish events and happenings in their respective territories in this grand jurisdiction.

Indeed, for a young father such as myself, juggling my time between legal practice, being a dutiful husband and doting father as well as your EIC has been taxing, not only on the nerves and mind but also somewhat punishing on my aging body.

Thus, getting contributions from other well-meaning writers such as VW Vic Yu, VW Rudy Ong, WBro, Wisco Santiago, and VW Ed Bentulan among others is always a welcome blessing.

This being the month of February, *The Cable Tow* thought it best to feature an article on love--- particularly the brand that we brethren are more familiar with: Brotherly Love. \*\*\*\*\*

In this issue, we will again follow the travels and adventures of our Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. as he touch and communicate with lodges and brethren of this grand jurisdiction.

Thus, we will post pictures of institutions (yes! more lodges!), installations, and temple dedications to which our Grand Master along with members of his team, have graced, attended, and presided over. \*\*\*\*\*

This issue will also feature the

installation of officers of some lodges who have been kind enough to send us their photos and write-ups of their events.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of installations, I have been fortunate enough to be selected as Installing Officer of my younger brother, WM Mark Eric M. Castor as Worshipful Master of our mother lodge King Solomon Lodge No. 150 of Makati City. Joining me in this momentous event is our father and Master of Ceremonies, VW Teodorico G. Castor, PDDGM. It is indeed a proud moment for our family.

Congratulations and good luck, WM Eric Castor! Welcome to the club!

\*\*\*\*\*

I would also like to thank my cousin, WB Roberto F. Castor, outgoing Worshipful Master of Lodge Victoria Cross No. 928 of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory for attending our lodge installation of officers. It is regretful that a technicality prevented your place in the Installing Team.

\*\*\*\*\*

Likewise, I would like to congratulate the incoming Worshipful Masters

and officers of blue lodges of this grand jurisdiction on their installation in their respective lodges.

Cheers, *mga Kuyang!*

\*\*\*\*\*

ERRATUM: Lest I forget, I wish to make amends to Bro. Assandras Menghrajani, Jr. for an inaccurate rendition of his name to his article in last issue. My apologies for using "Goloo" and not your proper name, Kuyang! Beers on me!

\*\*\*\*\*

To the brethren, I hope that most of you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoy making it.

God bless, brethren!

VW MARLON M. CASTOR, PGO  
Editor In Chief, Volume 96  
*The Cable Tow*





# Working Tools of Brotherly Love

By VW Bro. Victor A. Yu, PSGL

*“Force unregulated or ill-regulated, is not only wasted in the void... it is destruction and ruin... blind force of the people is a force that must be economized, and also managed... it must be regulated by intellect.”*

*(Pike, Morals and Dogma, page 3)*

Brotherly love or love for our fellow human beings is a great force. It is so forceful that it can fortify yet at the same time if misunderstood and misused, destroy friendships and relationships.

By the exercise of brotherly love in Masonry, we unite men of every country, sect and opinion; and cause

true friendships to exist even among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. However, in our Masonic journeys, we also experience controversies and intrigues amongst the brethren. Discordant passions result in the destruction of the time-honored tradition of peace and harmony in blue lodges which are supposed to

be the foundations of our becoming better men and Masons. Prejudices in favor of the high and mighty prevail as the Craft seeks more of the wages than of its labors. Ambitions for prestige and mercenary motives have become wolves hiding behind the skins of superficial fraternal ties.

Nevertheless, during such discouraging times, there is still hope for the Widow’s Son. For within our walls are working tools to be found in our quest for the true essence of

continually reminds us to seriously and consciously commit to our self-improvement and to take heed that “time” is priceless and once lost, can never be taken back.

As Fellow Craft Masons, we were presented with: the Plumb, Level and the Square as the working tools. The Plumb symbolizes rectitude of conduct. It regulates our passions and prejudices to ensure that our Cabletow of Tenets and Cardinal Virtues are continually lengthened.

*Nevertheless, during such discouraging times, there is still hope for the Widow’s Son. For within our walls are working tools to be found in our quest for the true essence of brotherly love.*

brotherly love.

As an Entered Apprentice Mason, we were given the Common Gavel and the 24-inch Gauge. The Common Gavel teaches us to face our dark selves and break off the darkness or ill motives within us as we become living stones for our respective moral and Masonic edifices. On the other hand, the 24-inch gauge

The Level impresses upon our minds that “a time shall come and the wisest knows not how soon, when all things save that of goodness shall cease: and death the mighty leveler of human greatness reduces us to the same state”. With the lessons of the Plumb and Level, we are thus better enabled to determine if we have acted upon the Square or justly in our several stations before God and mankind.

As Master Masons, we then receive the Trowel to spread out the cement of brotherly love and affections that should be emanating from our hearts where hypocrisy and deceit are unknown; and where our actions in life are distinguished by sincerity and plain dealing. Underlying the building of harmonious relationships is the principle of “who best can work and best agree” of which the fundamentals are mutual respect and understanding. Respect for each other’s background and

and mercenary ruffians. But, as we reflect on the symbolism of the working tools vested upon us, genuine brotherly love shall prevail in our lives. As taught us: “time, patience and perseverance shall accomplish all things”. And when human strength and wisdom fails, we should ever remember that Divine assistance is vouchsafed us through the medium of prayer to the GAOTU.

My Brethren, brotherly love does

*By daily entering into our respective temples in our hearts to see if any self-improvements may be made, we will often travel on rough and rugged roads beset with ambitious and mercenary ruffians. But, as we reflect on the symbolism of the working tools vested upon us, genuine brotherly love shall prevail in our lives. As taught us: “time, patience and perseverance shall accomplish all things”. And when human strength and wisdom fails, we should ever remember that Divine assistance is vouchsafed us through the medium of prayer to the GAOTU.*

understanding each other’s trials and tribulations in life. By doing so, we become tolerant of each other’s differences and preferences: and direct our focus towards matters that unite us rather than those that separates us.

By daily entering into our respective temples in our hearts to see if any self-improvements may be made, we will often travel on rough and rugged roads beset with ambitious

unite and it is us human beings who divide. Hence, instilled with the working tools of our Craft, let us truly promote each other’s welfare and rejoice in each other’s prosperity. May we never give up and continue to use the substitutes until the right can be found. May the true foundations of Masonry expressed through Charity and Humility constantly strengthen us in our labors. Together, Brethren.



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. POURS OIL INTO THE RECEPTACLE AS HE PRESIDES OVER THE TEMPLE DEDICATION OF DALUSAN-M.P. KO LODGE NO. 210 LAST JANUARY 23, 2020 IN BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL.

## ***New temple for the brethren*** **MW Suan presides over Dalusan M.P. Ko Lodge No. 210 Temple Dedication**



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH RW DON RAMAS-UYPITCHING, JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN, POSES WITH THE BRETHREN OF DALUSAN-M.P. KO LODGE NO. 210.



THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, RW ROLAN C. PAULINO, REPRESENTING THE GRAND MASTER MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR., WELCOMES OUR ESTEEMED VISITORS FROM THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND TO THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES LAST JULY 4, 2019.



# GL of Scotland Grand Master visits GLP

*Based on accounts by Bro. Benito K. Tan, HSDW,*

*Grand Representative For the Philippines to the Grand Lodge of Scotland*

GMM Bro. William Ramsay McGhee and Sister Ann McGhee, accompanied by Grand Secretary Bro. J. Euan Edment and Sister Helen Edment visited the Philippines from July 3 to 6, 2019.

Listed below are the details of their activities of that visit.

## JULY 3, 2019: ARRIVAL

GMM Bro. William Ramsay McGhee



THE GL OF SCOTLAND DELEGATION INSIDE PACO PARK IN MALATE, MANILA.

and Bro. J. Euan Edment and their respective spouses were met in the airport by the Welcome Committee headed by RWM Edwin Pineda of Lodge Perla Del Oriente No.1034 (LPDO) on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The guest proceeded to Sofitel Hotel and after check-in, the GMM and Grand Secretary hit the ground running. A meeting and briefing was called by the GMM.

The guests were given a tour of the Seascope Restaurant Complex and dinner was hosted by select members of LPDO at Asian Taste Seafood Restaurant.

## JULY 4, 2019: WREATH-LAYING

GMM William Ramsay McGhee and party arrived at RIZAL PARK at 8:00 a.m. for some photo opportunity. A contingent of 95 officers and men of Marine Corp Honor Guard with their brass band assisted the GMM

in the Wreath Laying. While the Brass Band played an appropriate music, a 21-gun salute in honor of our National Hero Bro. Jose Rizal belled.

A big delegation from Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 under jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines attended the wreath-laying.

The GMM and party proceeded to the historic San Agustin Church where they toured the museum. After which, we proceeded to Paco Park where the remains of Bro. Jose Rizal was originally interred. On the way there, the GMM and party dropped by Scottish Rite Temple along Taft Avenue and LPDO office.



THE GL OF SCOTLAND DELEGATION IN FRONT OF THE RIZAL MONUMENT IN LUNETTA, CITY OF MANILA.

At 2:00 p.m., GMM and party escorted by brethren of LPDO made a courtesy call at the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in San Marcelino, Malate, Manila.



**GMM WILLIAM RAMSAY MCGHEE OF THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND RECEIVES A MINIATURE JEEPNEY-AN ICON OF FILIPINO CULTURE DURING THE FORMAL DINNER HELD IN HIS HONOR DURING HIS VISIT TO THE COUNTRY LAST JULY 3 TO 6, 2019.**

In the absence of the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito Suan, Jr., they were received by his representative, the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. Rolan Paulino, DGM. The GMM and party were given a tour of the Plaridel Masonic Complex. RW Bro. Rolan Paulino was invited to a formal dinner in the evening.

LPDO No.1034, S.C. hosted a formal dinner at Illustrado Restaurant at the historic Intramuros in Manila in the evening. The popular restaurant is known for their authentic native Filipino and Spanish dishes. Some of Bro. Jose Rizal's favorite dishes from the appetizers to the main courses as

well as desserts were served to the honored guests.

Dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines headed by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. Rolan Paulino and MW Bro. Santiago Gabionza, Jr., PGM graced the occasion. Tokens and souvenirs of our appreciation for the visit were presented to our distinguished guests.

**JULY 5, 2019-TZUCHIBUDDHIST CHARITY FOUNDATION**

GMM and Party visited the Tzu Chi Foundation Complex in Bacood, Sta.

Mesa, Manila. Medical Director Dr. Antonio Say gave us a tour of their eye laboratory and operating Rooms equipped with the most modern equipments.

The delegation were invited to a sumptuous vegan lunch. While



**THE GL OF SCOTLAND, HEADED BY ITS GRAND MASTER, GMM WILLIAM RAMSAY MCGHEE, VISITING THE MEDICAL FACILITY OF THE TZU CHI BUDDHIST CHARITY FOUNDATION IN STA. MESA, MANILA LAST JULY 5, 2019.**

having our lunch, an audio-visual presentation was shown. It presented the Foundation's various charitable activities, particular the GLoS and Tzu Chi Joint-Venture at Ormoc Tzu Chi Great Love Village--- a resettlement site for victims of "Yolanda" or Typhoon Hai Yan. Our Multi-Purpose Building which houses a clinic, a social welfare office and a police station is now the center of medical activities from immunizations, pre-natal examinations, vaccinations, circumcisions, minor surgeries, as well as medical and dental

operations.

The GMM and Party motored to the National Museum where they were given a special guided tour of the facility.

In the evening the Guest and representatives of LPDO enjoyed a farewell dinner at Aristocrat--- the most popular restaurant in the Philippines along Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

**JULY 6, 2019: DEPARTURE**

GMM William Ramsey McGhee, Sister Ann McGhee, Bro. J. Euan Edment and Sister Helen Edment left the Philippines personally experiencing the well-known Filipino hospitality with fond memories.



**WITH THE PHILIPPINE MARINES.**



**AT THE SRT IN TAFT AVE., MANILA.**

# Craftsmen unite for Taal volcano evacuees



HEEDING THE CLARION CALL: THE BRETHREN OF TALAVERA MASONIC LODGE NO. 273 IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED TO THE PLIGHT OF THE TAAL VOLCANO EVACUEES.

## *Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 of Masonic District RIII Nueva Ecija East and Aurora Heeds The Clarion Call*

Brotherly Love, RELIEF, and Truth but the greatest of these is CHARITY.

In another unprecedented turn of events, the Taal phenomenon has unleashed the nature of men in Freemasonry.

RELIEF and CHARITY as the “magic word” need not to be uttered in situation of like manner, where the Brethren of

Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 stretched one by one the list of benefactors at Talavera KUYANG Only Group Chat.

Still to take his solemn vow before the Holy Bible, Square & Compasses, Bro. Alfred Leonard B. Domingo, then WM-elect, echoed the call with a sounding brass which were heard by the Brethren in an instant click of a finger started by the Lodge Chief



ABOVE AND BELOW: THE BRETHREN OF TALAVERA MASONIC LODGE NO. 273 VISITED SEVERAL EVACUATION SITES TO DISTRIBUTED RELIEF GOODS TO THE TAAL VOLCANO EVACUEES.



of Staff, VW Bro. Edison Rivera, PDGL, followed suit in droves by Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 brethren.

The end result was a whooping sixty grand in cash, four large garbage bag loads of assorted clothings, linens, beddings and 100 kilograms of rice, for the benefit of our less fortunate countrymen in the southern foothills of Taal Lake.

Right after his inaugural address, WM Bro Alfred turned over to VW Bro. Rhomel A. Martinez, DDGM, MD RIII Nueva Ecija East and Aurora the 273 Brethren's share for TAAL RELIEF OPERATIONS.

In full onsite action with the District Officer's request for company in distributing relief goods thru our Brethren in Cavite jurisdiction on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, WM Bro. Alfred Leonard B. Domingo with VW Bro. Edison P. Rivera in tow, accompanied the District Officers in delivering relief goods in the affected areas.

Fourteen MMs, led by VW Mhel A. Martinez, Team MD RIII Nueva Ecija East and Aurora trooped to Southern Luzon in the early wee hours of Wednesday and met at the appointed time by the Brethren of MD R-4 Cavite

East jurisdiction.

As requested by VW Bob Moran, DDGM R-4 Cavite East, the equivalent of our cash solicitation amounting to a little over P129k was earmarked for the purchase purely of infant formula milk products such as Bonna, Bonnamil and Bonnacid as there were many infants and kids in the evacuation centers.

Other relief goods as basic needs like bottled water, assorted non prescription medicine and diapers were brought to the evacuation centers coming from individual personal donations coursed thru VW Bro. Mhel A. Martinez.

VW Ronnie Canlas del Birut, DGL, ably assisted by Sister Carmina, prepared a simple "feast" for the Novo Ecijanós brethren upon arrival at the distribution center.

Thereafter, the early morning milk distribution took place at Nasugbu Evacuation Centers, with the following recipients:

- BSU-ARASOF
- DCBES
- Pantalan Elem. School
- NECS

The next stop was at about 11:00 a.m. in Calatagan, Batangas Evacuation Centers where the

distribution of milk, diapers and blankets were held at the following:

- Angelita Zobel Elementary School
- Jose M. Caisip Elementary School
- Paraiso Elementary School
- Florencio Firmante Elementary School
- Enrique Zobel Elementary School
- Bokal Elementary School
- Encarnacion Elementary School
- Hukay Elementary School
- Lucsuhin National High School

R-3 Tarlac thru VW Rex Kiok, DDGM, Masonic District R-4 Cavite East thru VW Bro. Bob Moran, DDGM and WM Samuel Martin of VML#116.

At the end of the day, everyone present in Taal Relief Operations, from North, West, East and Aurora towards South was all in high spirits upon returning back to their respective places of abode, as the age-old Masonic tradition of relief and charity has once again, worked its way to the needy beneficiaries. **By Bro. Noel T. Patelo and VW Bro. Edison P. Rivera, PDGL, with reports from VW Bro. Ronnie Canlas Del Birut, DGL and Bro. James Mata, District PRO/Historian.**

VW Bro. Rhomel A. Martinez, extended his grateful thanks thru the abled assistance of District Officers from Masonic District



THE BRETHREN OF TALAVERA MASONIC LODGE NO. 273 VISITED SEVERAL SCHOOLS WHICH WERE BEING USED BY EVACUEES OF THE RECENT UNREST OF THE TAAL VOLCANO IN BATANGAS TO DISTRIBUTED RELIEF GOODS.

# MW Suan joins 2019 Rizal Day Rites

2019 RIZAL DAY RITES: AS PRACTISED IN RECENT YEARS, THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. LED THE BROTHERS OF THE PHILIPPINE MASONIC JURISDICTION IN COMMEMORATING THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MASONIC HERO DR. JOSE P. RIZAL IN RIZAL PARK, CITY OF MANILA.



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. WITH THE PHILIPPINE MASONIC CONTINGENT.





IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE: (FROM TOP TO BOTTOM) THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. OVERSAW THE GIFT-GIVING ACTIVITIES HELD ON THE OCCASION OF THE 107TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLP HELD LAST DECEMBER 19, 2019 AT THE GRAND LODGE COMPLEX IN MALATE, CITY OF MANILA. HUNDREDS OF BENEFICIARIES COMING FROM NEIGHBORING BARANGAYS IN AND AROUND THE MALATE AREA WERE GIVEN GIFT-PACKS COMPOSED OF FOOD ITEMS WERE MADE HAPPY BY THE GESTURE OF THEIR MASONIC NEIGHBORS. THE GIFT-GIVING ACTIVITY KICKED-OFF THE 107TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES.



## *107 Years of Philippine Freemasonry* **MW Suan lead GLP gift-giving sortie**



PILLARS OF THE CRAFT: THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE PAST GRAND MASTERS AND HONOREES AT THE COCONUT PALACE IN THE CITY OF MANILA LAST DECEMBER 19, 2019.

*107 Years of Philippine Freemasonry*  
**MW Suan lead GLP  
anniversary rites**





ABOVE: A VIEW OF THE GUESTS FOR THE 2019 PAST GRAND MASTER'S NIGHT HELD ON THE OCCASION OF THE 107TH FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES. BELOW: THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH RW BRO. ROLEN C. PAULINO, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER AND RW BRO. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL, SENIOR GRAND WARDEN, GIVING TOKENS TO SOME OF THE PAST GRAND MASTERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES.



PHOTOS BY VW BRO. ELMER VITUG, VW BRO. RONNIE DEL BIRUT, AND BRO. DHING ROQUE



ABOVE: AT THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH RW BRO. ROLEN C. PAULINO, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER AND RW BRO. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL, SENIOR GRAND WARDEN, WITH MW BRO. VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN, PGM. BELOW: THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. ENTERTAINING HIS GUESTS AND CONTEMPORARIES AT THE VIP HOLDING AREA.





**IMES Lecturer, VW Ruben Azarcon III administering the Oath of Alumni Membership to the Graduates of IMES Class 2019-151 @ Alfonso Lee Sin Lodge No.158 last November 24 in Dagupan City Organized by Masonic District RII-Pangasinan**

## ***IMES 2019 Year-End Update***

*By IMES President VW Bro. Rudy L. Ong, PJGL*

The Institute of Masonic Education & Studies this Masonic Year made significant improvements, in so far as effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability is concerned.

What initially struck us hard was the structure of expenditures. Last year, Php 883,373.15 was spent for travels alone, while Php 354,500.00 was spent for honoraria of lecturers. These levels covered 22 courses all over the jurisdiction. This was almost the same pattern for the years prior. The archipelagic character of our jurisdiction really poses formidable challenges. Thus, if we were to

operate with the same budget, some changes had to be made. Efficiency, without sacrificing effectiveness, has become the foremost consideration.

Upon review of the curriculum, the IMES leadership effected some significant changes. One, the lecture on Masonic History had to be cut down from 12 hours to 4 hours, even as we added more content to pre-1717 periods. But more importantly, we incorporated the theories of history and this ensured an interdisciplinary elaboration of Masonic developments. With regard to Philosophy and Symbolism, we also

had to do away with the superfluous elements and stuck to the basics thus likewise cutting down the delivery to 4 hours.

We then merged the two topics --Jurisprudence and Lodge Management into an integrated single subject of Governance and Jurisprudence, intertwined as they are at the macro level of the Grand Lodge and the micro on the level of the blue lodges. We did away with duplications and with corporate definitions about management and leadership and instead pursued Governance from what is commonly shared among us, the O.B. and Ancient Landmarks and Ancient Charges and the Masonic Law Book. The handling of Governance as a topic became more empirical and experience-based while Jurisprudence focused more on deviations from our prescribed behavior, as shown by amendments in Masonic law and by actual Masonic complaints and decided cases. In doing so, what used to be a whole day discussion of 8 hours for the two separate topics has been cut down to 6 hours of lively intercourse.

We also did trim

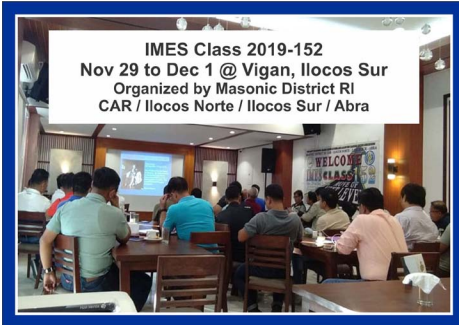
down Masonic Protocol and Decorum from the previous 4 hours to only 2 hours, without compromising content. This was done through the facility of having added more slides in the PowerPoint presentation.

The Rituals lecture has remained the same at 4 hours, but we made sure to stick to the prescribed 2015 Monitor. So even while we encountered substantial deviations among the different regions, we have ensured standardization in compliance as we limited to only one speaker the conduct of such section.

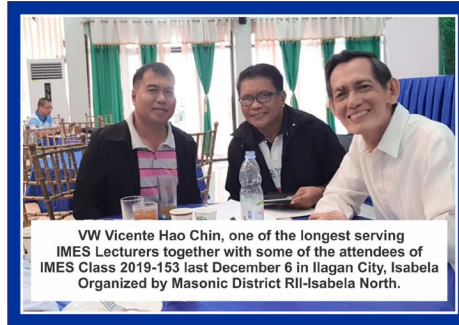
Overall, the IMES Diploma Course has been condensed to a 3-day Friday-to-Sunday treat, including the Graduation and the fellowship on the last day. We ensured the progressive and purposive logic of the topics whereby a lecture builds up on the succeeding one. Electronic copies of the lectures



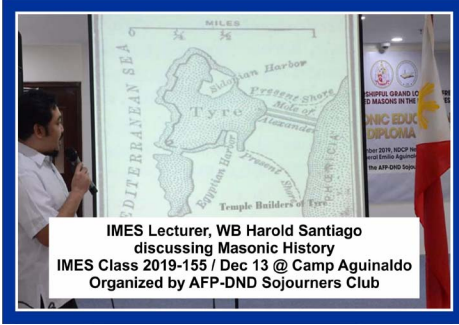
**IMES Class 2019-145  
October 4 to 6 @ Capas, Tarlac  
Organized by Masonic District RIII-Tarlac  
Photo Credits: Bro. Jonathan Apostol**



**IMES Class 2019-152**  
Nov 29 to Dec 1 @ Vigan, Ilocos Sur  
Organized by Masonic District RI  
CAR / Ilocos Norte / Ilocos Sur / Abra



VV Vicente Hao Chin, one of the longest serving IMES Lecturers together with some of the attendees of IMES Class 2019-153 last December 6 in Ilagan City, Isabela Organized by Masonic District RI-Isabela North.



IMES Lecturer, WB Harold Santiago discussing Masonic History IMES Class 2019-155 / Dec 13 @ Camp Aguinaldo Organized by AFP-DND Sojourners Club



Father & Son Classmates: WB Odilon Paderanga (48) & Bro Chester Wyrlo Paderanga (12) attending the last IMES Class of 2019 (Dec 13 to 15) at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

have been widely disseminated. Such condensed version has been appreciated most by majority of brethren-graduates who have yet to become Lights in their lodges.

From the previous 5-day course, this shift has proven significantly efficient as attendees would sacrifice only one weekend instead of the previous two, which has made the course become attractive and popular. For both the host districts and the attendees, it has meant much less cost in terms of budget and time. Electronic copies shared among the graduates ensure that the knowledge gained has a long way to go.

On the right is a tabulation of the IMES Courses already conducted

in the first 8 months of the Masonic Term. From May 1 to December 31, 2019, IMES have conducted 21 Classes in 18 different provinces and producing 1,202 graduates. Of these, 4 of the Classes were conducted in the NCR Region which produced 329 graduates or 27% of the current total.

The 4th Quarter, from January to April 2020, will complete the Diploma Course among regions not having been served thus far. The remaining 4 months can accommodate up to 10 more classes which can translate into an increased number of Master Masons equipped with added knowledge in their journey to become better men.

DATE	NO.	CLASS	LOCATION	NO. OF GRADUATES
Jun 28 - 30	01	135	NCR - C / GLP	87
Jul 05 - 07	02	136	Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur	45
Jul 12 - 13	03	137	Iloilo City, Iloilo	43
Jul 19 - 21	04	138	Davao City, Davao del Sur	104
Aug 02 - 04	05	139	NCR - E & F / GLP	96
Aug 09 - 11	06	140	NCR - A & G / GLP	76
Aug 23 - 25	07	141	Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental	32
Sep 06 - 07	08	142	City of Meycauayan, Bulacan	69
Sep 13 - 15	09	143	Subic, Zambales	65
Sep 27 - 29	10	144	City of Dasmariñas, Cavite	64
Oct 04 - 06	11	145	Capas, Tarlac	71
Oct 11 - 13	12	146	Cebu City	30
Oct 18 - 20	13	147	Legazpi City, Albay	33
Oct 25 - 27	14	148	Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	57
Nov 08 - 10	15	149	San Pablo City, Laguna	52
Nov 15 - 17	16	150	Tacloban City, Leyte	16
Nov 22 - 24	17	151	Dagupan City, Pangasinan	56
Nov 29 - Dec 01	18	152	Vigan City, Ilocos Sur	38
Dec 06 - 08	19	153	Ilagan City, Isabela	84
Dec 12 - 14	20	154	Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental	14
Dec 13 - 15	21	155	Camp Aguinaldo (DND), Quezon City	70
			<b>TOTAL GRADUATES</b>	<b>1,202</b>

**Remaining IMES Classes for MY 2019-2020**

DATE	CLASS	LOCATION
Jan 17-19	156	NCR / GLP
Jan 24-26	157	Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija
Feb 07-09	158	Dipolog, Zamboanga Del Norte
Feb 21-23	159	To be announced
Feb 28-Mar 01	160	IMES, GLP
Mar 06-08	161	Butuan, Agusan Del Norte
Mar 13-15	162	To be announced
Mar 20-22	163	Nueva Vizcaya
Mar 20-22	164	To be announced
Apr 03-05	165	To be announced
Apr 17-19	166	Summing Up
Apr 24-26	167	Terminal Report

# An annual changing of the guards MW Suan attends installation of lodges

On the month of December of each, blue lodges of this grand jurisdiction holds their annual election of lodge officers. Automatically, these lodges are given the period from December to March of the succeeding year to install their new sets of officers for the ensuing masonic year.

In some of these installations, mostly held in public view, the Grand Master is invited as Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Here are some of the installations that our Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. have attended.



MANILA-MT. LEBANON MASONIC LODGE NO. 1  
JANUARY 21, 2020  
JOSE ABAD SANTOS HALL, GLP



NARRA MASONIC LODGE NO. 171  
JANUARY 18, 2020  
SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA



TRINITY MASONIC LODGE, U.D.  
JANUARY 20, 2020  
CONRADO BENITEZ HALL,  
SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE,  
MANILA





MACAJALAR MASONIC  
LODGE NO. 184  
JANUARY 16, 2020  
MACAJALAR MASONIC TEMPLE,  
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. OFFERS THE WINE OVER THE ALTAR DURING THE TEMPLE DEDICATION OF GEN. MALVAR LODGE NO. 427 LAST JANUARY 18, 2020 AT THE SCIENCE CITY OF MUNOZ, NUEVA ECIJA.

## *Creating new landmarks of the Craft* **MW Suan lead Gen. Malvar Lodge No. 427 Temple Dedication**



PILAR MASONIC LODGE NO. 15  
JANUARY 25, 2020  
UPHS-DALTA AUDITORIUM  
PAMPLONA, LAS PIÑAS CITY



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH THE BRETHREN OF GEN. MIGUEL MALVAR LODGE NO. 427 OF MUNOZ, NUEVA ECIJA.



*Its all in the blood*  
**GLP joins Dugong Alay,  
 Dugtong Buhay in blood  
 drive**



LAST JANUARY 12, 2020, THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE GLP OFFICERS, JOINED THE MEMBERS OF DUGONG ALAY, DUGTONG BUHAY--A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH PROVIDES FREE BLOOD TO THOSE WHO NEED IT, IN HOLDING A BLOOD DRIVE AT THE AGUINALDO HALL OF THE PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE IN MALATE, MANILA.





# 64<sup>th</sup> MINDANAO MASONIC CONVENTION

JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 2, 2020  
A57 TECHNO PARK CONVENTION CENTER  
CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL

## Masons meet in Mati for 64th MinCon

By VW Bro. Edgar S. Bentulan

The 64th Mindanao Convention which was attended by more than 700 delegates from all over the country's southern island, was conveniently hosted last January 31 to February 1, 2020 by Masonic District R-XI Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Davao de Oro with Mati Aurora Masonic Lodge No. 190 as lead lodge at the brand new 'A57 Techno Park,' Don Martin Marundan in Mati City, Davao Oriental. A total of 85 blue lodges registered in the convention from 14 Masonic Districts throughout Mindanao.

In his welcome address, VW Joel Capalit, convention host chairman, whose mother lodge is Don Salvador P. Lopez Masonic Lodge No. 276,

revealed that this coming April 2020 is the Golden Charter Anniversary celebration of Mati Aurora Masonic Lodge (MAML) No. 190, the first lodge that was founded in "the vast expanse" of the masonic district comprising Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Davao de Oro, will come to its "end."

VW Capalit considered "those golden years" remarkable as MAML No. 190 with its forebears "saw the birth of five more blue lodges in the District" which included Davao de Oro Masonic Lodge No. 443 in Nabunturan, Davao de Oro, one of the youngest lodges in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, that the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan

Jr. himself constituted last May 15, 2019. "When is a man a Mason?"

District Deputy Grand Master VW Bro. Capalit, in his expressed elation announced, "today 50 years after its constitution on September 9, 1969 by then MW Manuel M. Crudo, PGM, the place of abode of Mati Aurora 190," now Mati City, is hosting for the first time a Mindanao Masonic convention with the MAML No. 190 as the lead lodge. He further said, "indeed, we come to fellowship and join hands here today on the level as one united, strong and honorable Freemasons of Mindanao."

### Guest speaker, a sister and judge, dares brethren

As guest speaker, Sister Sheila O. Resabal-Vinluan, presiding judge of MCTC of Cateel and Boston, Davao Oriental, wife of Bro. Oliver D. Vinluan, senior deacon of Mati Aurora 190, representing Hon. Corazon N. Malanyaon, representative of Davao Oriental First District, posed this profound clincher to the brethren on their role as Freemasons.

Extolling the place of women in Masonry and with Masons, Sister Sheila went on to invoke the significance of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, two eminent patron saints of



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. ALONG WITH OTHER GRAND LINE OFFICERS DURING THE 64TH MINDANAO MASONIC CONVENTION HELD IN MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL LAST FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

Masonry for their many virtues that Freemasons should emulate from, in their “constant quest to be better.”

the basis of community building and environmental protection.”

### MOU of mutual cooperation forged

### A ‘dagmay’ token as exemplary of Charity and Humility

In what could be a novel MinCon highlight, during the Grand Master’s night, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was forged between the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental and the Davao Oriental Freemasons and MW Bro. Agapito Suan Jr. as witnessed by VW Bro. Joel Capalit, DDGM and convention chairman, and the brethren. For its objective and principles, “The MOU intends to establish the general principles of mutual cooperation in the field of education and environmental conservation, according to which the Parties may jointly identify areas of mutual interest and implement cooperative actions on

This was followed by the conferment to the Grand Master of a ‘dagmay’ cloth. When asked later, VW Capalit explained, this token was a “symbol of patience and labor of love among the Mandaya tribe,” designed and dyed with indigenous or native material using local plants as source of the natural dye, “reflecting wisdom, strength and beauty.

“This token,” said the host DDGM, “depicts the Grand Lodge theme ‘Charity and Humility: Foundations of True Mason’ as exemplified in person by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Jun Suan, himself.



ABOVE: SOME OF THE DIGNITARIES IN THE EAST DURING THE 64TH MINDANAO MASONIC CONVENTION HELD IN MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL LAST FEBRUARY 1, 2020.



## ‘Tis a season of giving Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 42 conducts own gift-giving event

LAST DECEMBER 27, 2019, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF NOLI ME TANGERE LODGE NO. 42 SHARED THEIR BLESSINGS WITH THE LESS PRIVILEGED MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY THROUGH A GIFT-GIVING ACTIVITY HELD AT THE AGUINALDO HALL OF THE PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE IN MALATE, MANILA.





THE GRAND MASTER COMETH: MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH OTHER GRAND LINE OFFICERS IS RECEIVED DURING THE THE 64TH MINDANAO MASONIC CONVENTION HELD IN MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL LAST FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

# MW Suan: “We need to increase our dues to tide us over.”

## The Grand Master warns against non-compliance to anti-hazing laws

By VW Bro. Edgar S. Bentulan

An unpopular hurdle

Last MY 2019 alone, as of latest report, a total of P16,370,772.95 was disbursed by the Grand Lodge to pay for the hospitalization, death and relief assistance of members as against the collections of P12,236,250.00, MW Agapito S. Suan Jr., Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, announced. He shared this information in apparent bid to win solid support from fellow Mindanao brethren to his move to

increase the annual membership dues during the 64th Mindanao Convention (MinCon) held in Mati City, Davao Oriental last February 1, 2020.

The Grand Master in his keynote speech fended for his proposal to increase the per capita annual membership dues to P2,500 from P1,725 amid some clamor for its freeze and advice of “great challenge before Ancom” as an “unpopular” move. “I will face the challenge... I

couldn’t care less about this,” GM Suan asserted. “Please, note, our dues have remained unchanged for 12 years already” despite the escalation of prices of supplies and materials and “yearly increase of expenditures,” he explained.

MW Suan assuaging the brethren in his hurdle, said, *“This reliance on membership dues should change in the near future as the Grand Lodge is now embarking on two huge joint venture projects that can turn our real estate assets to produce substantial income.”*

GM Suan cited two major projects that promise potential financial infusion to the coffers of the Grand Lodge, which “may come into fruition three to five years from now.” They were as follows: construction of high rise commercial buildings in the GL premises, and a modern columbarium in a property in Manila North Cemetery. According to him these plans have already been presented to the Board of General Purposes for the succeeding administration to pursue.

GM Suan likewise expressed deep concern on the mind set of some members that the “rigorous rule” adopted by the Grand Lodge on the processing and treatment of degree candidates, that “according to them they clash with long-established lodge traditions.”

“This is wrong!” the grand master asserted. He said, we need to conform to the government’s policy which is the Anti-Hazing Law and “let certain of our illegally practiced traditions die.”

“If there are violations of Edict 328,” he forewarned, “please expect that the response from the Grand Lodge will be swift and drastic.” He presupposed, “We may lose members, we may lose some lodges.” But “we must adjust to new realities because our survival as an ancient institution” depends largely on our ability to “embrace the needed change,” he said.

On the eve of convention opening in the Grand Master’s Night that Jan. 31, three eminent local leaders gave special color to the conviviality of the fellowship as they shared each their felicitous remarks on their appreciation and gratitude for choosing Mati City, a burgeoning tourist destination in the region, as the venue of the Mindanao convention.

Giving the welcome address was Hon. Michelle N. Rabat, Mati City mayor. Provincial Governor Nelson L. Dayanghiran was the Grand Master’s Night host and guest of honor and speaker, while Cong. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, representative of Davao Oriental District II, gave the inspirational message.



SENIOR GRAND LECTURER VW BRO. TEODORO ALEJANDRO "TEDDY" KALAW IV GIVING HIS MASONIC EDUCATION LECTURE DURING THE 64TH MINCOM IN MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL LAST FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

By VW Bro. Edgar S. Bentulan

# Freemasonry is being Filipino

For his Masonic education, Senior Grand Lecturer VW Bro. Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV, in his usual professorial presentation as lecturer, gave a Masonic perspective in Philippine history and political system on a thesis: "Our Craft is the Foundation of our Nation." From this he proceeded to detail the role of early Philippine Masons in influencing the evolution of governmental system in the country and the concept and principles of

Freemasonry itself, thus:

- A. Philippine Freemasonry as the product of a unique fusion of genuine Brotherly Love.
- B. Philippine Freemasonry as a promoter of religious tolerance.
- C. Philippine Freemasonry as a cultural cornerstone of society.

From these premises, he declared that "Without Filipino Masons there would be no Filipino nation." It was Philippine Freemasonry, he postulated, that effectively served the cornerstone of the Philippine revolution. In nutshell, SGL Kalaw concluded in reassessment of our experience in the Philippines in Freemasonry, as follows:

- Freemasonry in the Philippines being "a merger of Continental and Regular Masonry, is a product of a unique fusion of genuine Brotherly Love."
- Freemasonry in the Philippines is "a promoter of religious tolerance" it being a "Regular Masonry in a Catholic country."
- Freemasonry in our country is a "cultural cornerstone of Philippine society."

In the objectives and advocacies of the Propaganda Movement, he cited, came to serve the three foundations of the Philippine nationhood:

1. A unified campaign for reforms, in that the Propaganda Movement primarily spurred through Freemasons, was the first to facilitate an organized and unified campaign against abuses of the Spanish imperial regime and the local church hierarchy.
2. Liberal ideals of public governance. In here, he explained, the Propaganda Movement primarily steered and run by Freemasons, "led to the eventual adoption of liberal ideals that became the basis of our system of governance" and political system, such as: governance through elected representatives; separation of church and state; enforcement of fundamental freedoms as freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, etc.; regulation of basic education by the state as against religious orders; and, equality and Fraternity of mankind under law.
3. Genuine sense of nationhood directly because of the Propaganda Movement through the Freemasons, which firstly conceptualized the need to foster a genuine sense of nationhood from "formerly dispersed regional interests."

The popularity of social media has been both a bane and boon to the current generation of netizens, which includes members of this Ancient Craft.

For through social media, communication with the world is facilitated with almost the ease of thought. Thus, anybody can be made famous or infamous, depending on what a person posts or publish on social media.

It is no wonder why social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have become so popular among mobile phone and computer users, particularly in documenting and sharing life moments, experiences, and

milestones with the rest of the world. However, the issue of posting certain aspects of Freemasonry on social media has been a source of debate among members of the Craft for several with certain members posting events and meetings of the Craft online---regardless of the imagery and context it may present to the mundane.

Thus begs the question: how much of our Fraternity are we allowed to share with the rest of the uninitiated?

**WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE SHARED**

As far as we have been informed, Freemasonry is not a secret society.

However, it is a society which guards certain secrets.

A cursory look at our obligations underlines the importance of “keeping inviolate that which has been entrusted to our care.” The OB even resorts to redundancy with respect to the use of words as regards to what we should keep secret as well as the extent and manner as to how we are cautioned against sharing these secrets of the Craft.

Even the Lodge Secretary, whose primary duty is to document the details of every meeting of the brethren of the lodge, is charged during installations to keep “a faithful record of all things proper to be written,” thus indicating that every member of this Fraternity should be discrete and circumspect as to what we share to the world.

Yet, despite the many safeguards that our laws, rules, and regulations, rituals, and practices have installed, there are still brethren who share photos of the activities beoing conducted inside tyled lodge meetings. There are even those that posts pictures of conferral teams in full regalia during our conferrals.

There is a reason for tiling these types of meetings and these reasons are better explained in the confidence of a whisper of good counsel by the more experienced and better

informed members of our respective lodges.

**NO HARM, NO FOUL?**

In a forum of craftsmen on Facebook, a certain brother had once argue that although these photos were taken during tyled meetings, there was no secrets of the Craft that were divulged or revealed---so signs and tokens that were displayed or demonstrated.

However, if we are to follow this argument, this would open the floodgates of the practice of documenting our tyled meetings online “as long as no secrets are divulged” and allow posting it on social media with reckless impunity. What then would be the purpose of tiling lodge meetings save for the opening and closing rituals? Should the business and proceedings of the meetings of the lodge be opened to the public---cowans and eavesdroppers included?

**ERRING ON THE SIDE OF SECRECY**

This issue on the effect of social media on Freemasonry still strike a sensitive nerve on the perceptions and opinions of its members. Thus, it may be prudent to err on the side of secrecy until such topic may be resolved with finality in fora that has been created for such purpose.



By VW Bro. Marlon M. Castor, PGO

*Beware what you post online, brethren!*  
**Guarding against cowans and eavesdroppers**



# Reflections Upon the Level of Time: GLP Time- Travelling Tools

By *WBro. Joseph Harold W. Santiago, PM*

Of that which was Lost

In 2009, I visited the Grand Lodge for the first time for the purpose of gathering materials appertaining to the History of my Mother Lodge.

As historian for Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48 our initial strategy was to assess whatever records and documents are still available from the Grand Lodge. Assisted by the late Brother Marcelino Bernales (more commonly known as Kuyang Roger) we were directed to the GLP Archives and it was through him that we learned of a disappointing

loss - lodge documents submitted from 1945 to 1960 were among those burned during the conflagration that engulfed the old GLP Building in 2000.

This sad revelation by our Brother Archivist stomped my initial search for historical materials. The fire affected all subordinate lodges that have existed from 1960 and earlier. Like Pampanga 48, their lodge minutes, reports, resolutions and other communications submitted to the Grand Lodge in that same span of time were also lost. Thus,

access to such collection of primary documents will now depend on whatever copies these subordinate lodges have retained during those times.

Surviving papers will most probably be carbon versions of type-written documents. The photocopying machine was commercialized only in 1959 by the Xerox Company and so such document-duplicating process was unlikely to have been used before 1960.

Another unfortunate observation is that most GLP and Blue Lodge Records from 1912 to 1941 were lost during the chaos of the 2nd World War.

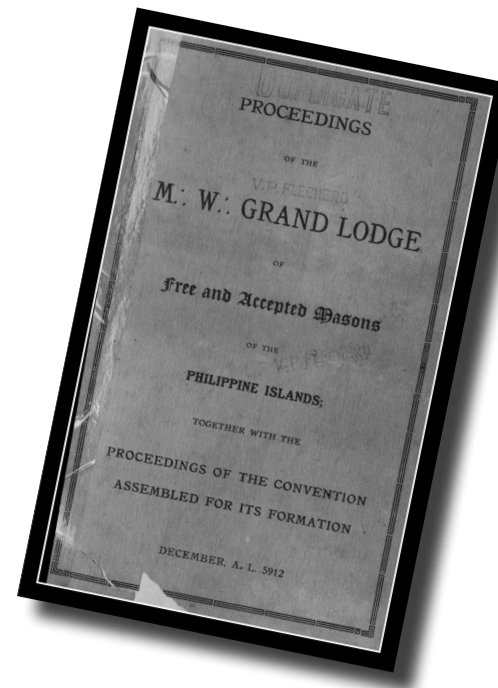
In fine the extent of document loss on Philippine Freemasonry in general and the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands in particular can be established between 1912 to 1941 and 1945 to 1960 – spanning 48 Years or the first half-century of the GLP. There are no regular masonic activities on record from 1942 to 1944. Inventory on Philippine Masonic Documents before 1912 is yet to be made.

We shifted our search strategy for pre-1960 historic materials from the GLP Archives to the Grand Lodge Library; fortunately diligent search made some fruitful results.

## Time Machine No.1: Official Journey to 1912

At the GLP Library our attention was directed to the copies of various Proceedings of Annual Communications from 1912 to the present. Basically, these are the Official Compilation of a Grand Master's Activity during his term.

For lodge researchers, each volume provides a regular flow of data such as: Lodge Delegation to the AnCom, Membership Deaths, Lodge Awardees for 25 & 50 years and other merits, Roster of Grand Lodge & District Officers as well as other note-worthy (and sometimes embarrassing) matters that a particular lodge or brother



may have made or submitted to the Grand Lodge in a specific year. Our collection of Proceedings appears to be complete - from the creation of the Grand Lodge until the present thus giving us an "official time-travelling tour" all the way back to 1912.

Browsing through more than 100 Volumes of AnCom Proceedings may be a boring journey to some travelers but personally I enjoyed the discoveries made along the way, like:

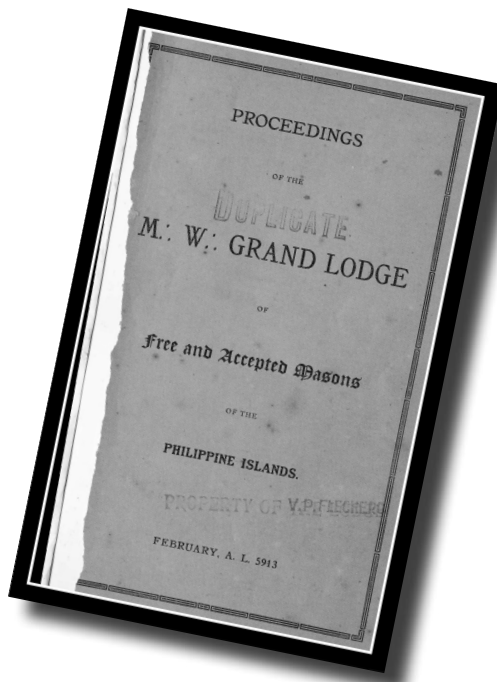
*How the first 3 lodges forgot to issue the first 3 charters in our jurisdiction - an oversight admitted by the officiating members themselves as the Brethren were overwhelmed with excitement caused by the Big Bang of 1912 (Proceedings of the 1st AnCom - 1913).*

*Or, how MW Manuel Quezon resigned on the 11th hour of his term as Grand Master in 1918 and even failed to submit his report as stated by his successor then RW Milton Springer. In fairness to Brother Quezon, his reasons far outweigh that of his masonic office as he hurriedly left for the U.S. to lobby for the Country's Independence at the United States Congress (Proceedings of the 7th AnCom - 1919).*

*Or, when Brother President Emilio Aguinaldo was received by the Grand Lodge as the Guest of Honor*

*& Speaker in one of the Annual Communications in the 1950's and made his speech which included that famous quote: "The successful Revolution of 1896 was masonically planned, masonically led and masonically executed and I venture to say that the first Philippine Republic of which I was its humble President, was an achievement we owe largely, to Masonry and the Masons".*

*There was even an instance from 100 Years ago, when the Committee on Grievance reported to everyone's satisfaction that THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE Un-masonic Case filed for an ENTIRE Masonic Year! (Proceedings of the 8th AnCom - 1920). And like Jerusalem during King Solomon's Reign, Peace &*



Tranquility TRULY pervaded the Philippine Masonic World in 1919 - a sublime point upon the level of time that ALL Masonic Eyes should now be directed and all Brethren today should try to emulate.

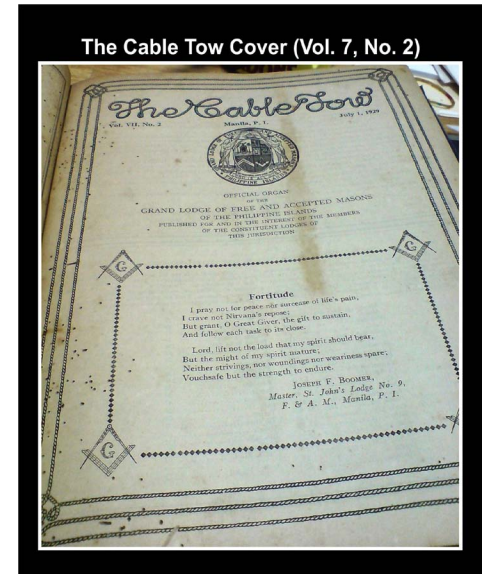
These are just a few of many interesting events that can be found in those precious Proceedings of AnComs past. The late MW Reynold Fajardo delved into them which led to the 2nd Volume of his magnum opus - The Brethren.

**Time Machine No. 2: Alternate Trip to 1923**

The next thing to which our attention was directed were to some bond paper-sized compilation of dusty and termite-eaten magazines that were copies of the early issues of the Cable Tow.

Browsing through these compiled volumes of our Grand Lodge Newsletter gave us another opportunity to travel back this time to 1923.

Of particular interest in these vintage volumes were the Lodge News Sections. For despite the archival loss of pre-1960 masonic documents, some of the articles published before 1960 provided glimpses of a lodge's past that would otherwise have been lost providing opportunities for the Brethren to rediscover them.

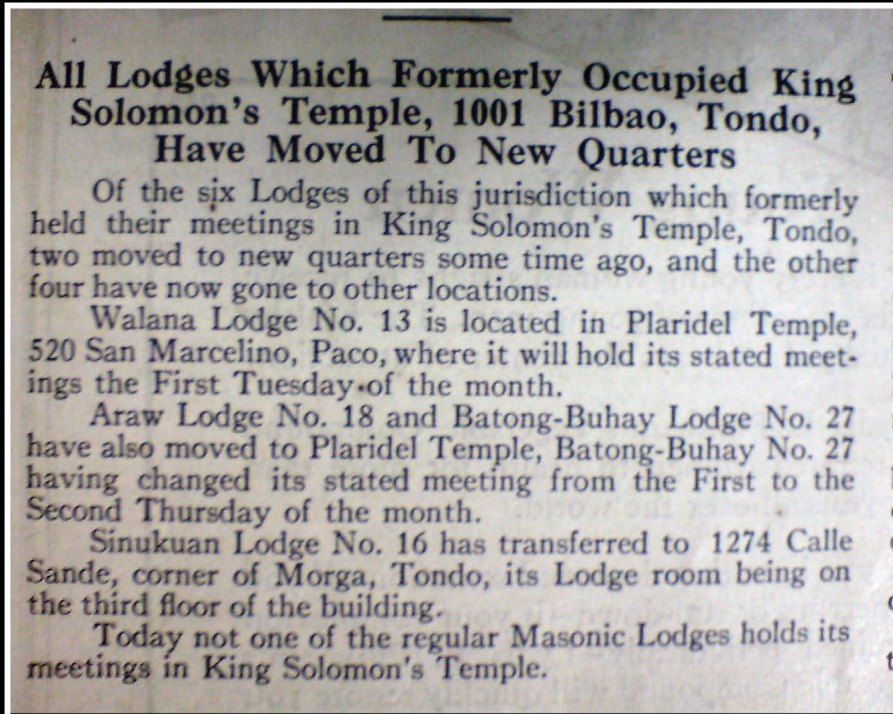


**But this kind of Time-Travelling Technique has its limits:**

First, one can only go back until The Cable Tow's maiden issue of **June 1923** as the Newsletter is 11 – years younger than the Grand Lodge.

Second, **some portions** of the older The Cable Tow issues were **written in Spanish** – the lingua franca of the learned in that generation. Reading them will require present day researchers to have some working knowledge of the language to interpret their contents.

Third, **selected information** about a particular lodge can **only** be found if and only if that lodge did submit them



Sample clippings from old Cable Tow Issues (c.1920's)

and (another if) the editorial team deemed such material worthy of being published.

Lastly, the trickiest part is for the researcher to leaf-through each brittle page of old articles (more than 90 Volumes) to see if there are any data or information to be gathered appertaining to a lodge that he is interested in – a very painstaking and uncertain process.

Despite these difficulties, the early issues of the Cable-Tow Newsletter

provide an alternative view of our masonic past and finding articles about a specific lodge can be truly rewarding especially to data-hungry researchers and historians.

**Until future ages rediscover the Right**

As taught us in Freemasonry, the lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance and the devastations of war have INDEED laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity. Fortunately, there are instances when written and printed records remain as testimony of what

once was.

Primary Lodge Documents at the Grand Lodge Archives act as bridges uniting the present with the past causing true portals to exist that can lead travelers back in time.

Our AnCom Proceedings and the Cable Tow Newsletters can be Time-Travelling Tools that create fraternal links between the old and the new generations of masons who might otherwise have remained at perpetual distance.

I still visit the GLP Library at every available opportunity and each time that we have a new Librarian (we've already met 3 of them since 2009) I would share this serious advice – **that should there be an urgent need to evacuate the contents of our library kindly prioritize the Cable Tow Newsletters and the Proceedings from the Annual Communications giving precedence to the older volumes from 1912 and 1923 to 1960.** Pointing out the obvious that copies of the same cannot just be bought or sought in any bookshop from around the corner.

At this point, I would like to make an appeal to the powers that be in our Most Worshipful Institution that is the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines – I pray that specific instructions, proper training, and ample resources be

provided to our Library and Archive Staff to make digital copies of these Treasured Tomes of authentic Philippine Masonic Lore.

Furthermore, may we suggest that digital copies of Lodge reports submitted to the Grand Lodge from 1961 onwards be reproduced and that they be made available to their respective lodges and districts.

Amidst the losses of some of our archival documents, there is still strength left in the value of what remains. It is therefore our duty, nay, it is the OBLIGATION of the present generation of Filipino Masons to catalogue, preserve, and reproduce the remnants of our masonic past so that the Legacy of the Craft in the Philippines can be inherited by future generations of Craftsmen.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: WBRO. HAROLD WISCO SANTIAGO IS THE CURRENT NEWS EDITOR OF THE CABLE TOW. HE IS REPUTABLE MASONIC HISTORIAN AND IS A REGULAR LECTURER OF THE INSTITUTE OF MASONIC EDUCATION AND STUDIES.**



JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN RW BRO. DON RAMAS-UYPITCHING SHARED HIS ADVOCACY OF BUILDING TEMPLES FOR MASONIC LODGES DURING THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF LEONARDO U. PANARES LODGE NO. 220.

By VW Bro. Edgar S. Bentulan

## Leonardo U. Panares Lodge No. 220 installs new officers; JGW bats for new temples

This was the forthright avowal of RW Bro. Don Ramas-Uypitching, Junior Grand Warden, guest of honor and keynote speaker, before the brethren of Leonardo T. Panares Masonic Lodge No. 220 and other lodges during its 43rd public installation of officers at newly erected Shanker Lalwani Masonic Temple, Jan. 20, 2020.

In the first installation ceremony to be held in this new temple building, Bro. Adrian Lagamon Barba who

accepted the gavel of authority from outgoing Worshipful Master Harish S. Lalwani, was installed to the Oriental Chair of LTP 220 for MY 2020. Bro. Roy A. Magsalay was installed as senior warden and Bro. Reynaldo S. Tan as junior warden.

In his extemporaneous keynote speech, RW Uypitching, who in his words distinctly valued charity for love, lamented the overcrowding of several lodges in the country meeting in one temple. This to him

was not anymore productive for Masonic labors.

It will be recalled, this new owned Shanker Lalwani temple edifice of Leonardo T. Panares Lodge 220, which is now 75% complete in construction, was one of the first major recipients of magnanimous donations from RW Uypitching in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

“I want to help lodges build their own temple,” RW Bro. Uypitching declared, as he exuded in aura of certitude and convictions committing more support for L.T.

teamed installation, espoused his term’s theme of administration: “Harmony, Humility and Unity are Pillars of Strength in Freemasonry.” Appealing to LTP 220 members to put premium on these pillars, he stressed that in our pursuit for excellence as brothers, “we should not lose against our struggle for humility.”

Newly installed WM Barba cautioned that the potential for discord is always there when pride is allowed to prevail. “And when there is discord, there is no harmony,” he said. “And without harmony, we are in shambles for we lack unity... There

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*“Every lodge should meet in its own temple. With God’s Will, nothing is impossible.”*

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Panares Lodge No. 220 to complete the temple building soonest.

is no brotherhood when we cannot stand as one.”

“Every lodge should meet in its own temple,” he said. “With God’s Will, nothing is impossible,” the Junior Grand Warden enthused to affirm more assistance to the lodge, which was received with wide and loud applauses from the brethren present.

In what could be a presaging of reminder for his administration, installed master WM Barba entreated brethren, “Unity can only come when we humble ourselves and constantly keep in mind and heart that no brother is less and no brother is more.”

Worshipful Brother Adrian Lagamon Barba in his inaugural address during the all-Lagamon-

Outgoing master Harish Lalwani, who made history serving two

Masonic years in his term, in his valedictory speech thanked Junior Grand Warden Uypitching for his “very generous” donations and LTP 220 members for “doing their part to build” the temple “quickly operational now for lodge functions.”

Composing the installation team were blood brothers, VW Alphon R. Lagamon, District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) of RX-A Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro, as installing officer; VW Alberto R. Lagamon, PDDGM, master of ceremony; and, Archibald R. Lagamon, assistant master of ceremony.

Other elected officers installed to positions were: Bro. Reynaldo P. Dare, treasurer; Bro. Rex Manuel P.

Paayas, secretary; VW Joel B. Lolo, PDGL, auditor.

Appointed officers installed: VW Alan Fernan, PDDGM, chaplain; Bro. Antonio Roberto Feliciano, assistant treasurer; VW Edgar Bentulan, DGL, assistant secretary; Bro. Nemesio Escleto, marshall; Bro. Jessie Manuel Lim, senior deacon; Bro. Paolo Acenas, junior deacon; Bro. Ray Gica, senior steward; Bro. Rogie Ortencio, junior steward; Bro. Fayed Philip Tan, orator; Bro. Moises Samray Alas, almoner; WB Abraham Olegario, PM and WB Gilberto Chan, PM; Bro. Cedric Cabardo, organist; Bro. Antonio Roberto Feliciano, lodge custodian; VW Jose Yamut, PGLI, harmony officer; and WB Harish Lalwani, IPM, tyler.



JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN RW BRO. DON RAMAS-UYPITCHING WITH THE BRETHREN OF LEONARDO U. PANARES LODGE NO. 220.



THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. INSTALLS THE NEW DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR THE NEWLY-CREATED DISTRICTS.

# MW Suan installs new GLP officers

*Newly-appointed officers of the Masonic Districts of NCR-H, Cavite, and Bulacan formalized*

By virtue of Edict No. 327-MW Suan issued last December 6, 2019, the masonic districts of NCR-G, Cavite East and West, as well as Bulacan were further divided into smaller districts.

In order to ensure proper administration of these newly-created masonic district, the Grand Master, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. appointed new district officers and installed them in a simple yet solemn ceremony at the Plaridel Masonic Temple last December 16, 2019 at Malate, City of Manila.



# *An ever-growing jurisdiction* **MW Suan institutes new lodges**

In order to promote the principles and teachings of Freemasonry to the less travelled corners of this grand jurisdiction, the Grand Master, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. approved the dispensation to create new lodges as well as preside over the institution rites thereof. Among the newly-created lodges include Masaraga Masonic Lodge, U.D. (instituted last 4 January 2020 at the

Grand Lodge of the Philippines), WB Gil Fernando Masonic Lodge, U.D. (instituted last 21 January 2020 in Marikina City), and Filipinas Bondoc Peninsula Masonic Lodge, U.D. (instituted last 29 January 2020 at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines). The installation of the first set of officers immediately followed the rite of institution of these new lodges.



MASARAGA MASONIC LODGE, U.D.  
JANUARY 4, 2020  
JOSE ABAD SANTOS HALL, GLP



WB GIL FERNANDO  
MASONIC LODGE, U.D.  
JANUARY 21, 2020  
MARIKINA CONVENTION CENTER,  
MARIKINA CITY



FILIPINAS BONDIC PENINSULA  
MASONIC LODGE, U.D.  
JANUARY 29, 2020  
JOSE ABAD SANTOS HALL, GLP





GRAND MASTER MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. WHO HIMSELF IS A DEDICATED SHRINER GRACED THE INSTALLATION OF THE MAHARLIKA SHRINE CLUB.

## Maharlika Shrine Club installs new officers

Last December 14, 2019, the members of the Maharlika Shrine Club held the installation of its new set of officers at Green Hills UNO Seafood Palace along Annapolis St. in Green Hills, San Juan City.

Installed as new club President is incumbent IMES President VW Bro. Rudy L. Ong.



## Agila Shrine Club holds Novice Night

THE NOVICES AND MEMBERS OF THE AGILA SHRINE CLUB WERE JOINED BY THEIR FORMER ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE, GRAND MASTER MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. DURING THEIR 4TH COLD SANDS CEREMONIALS HELD LAST 24 OCTOBER 2019 IN TAIPEI CITY, TAIWAN.





ON THE OCCASSION OF ITS 2020 PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, THE BRETHREN OF KING SOLOMON LODGE NO. 150 ALSO CELEBRATED THE FORMAL PURCHASE OF THE FUTURE SITE OF ITS OWN MASONIC TEMPLE IN TAGUIG CITY.

*King Solomon Lodge No. 150 2020 Installation of Officers:*

# Father-Son tandem installs own kin to the Oriental Chair

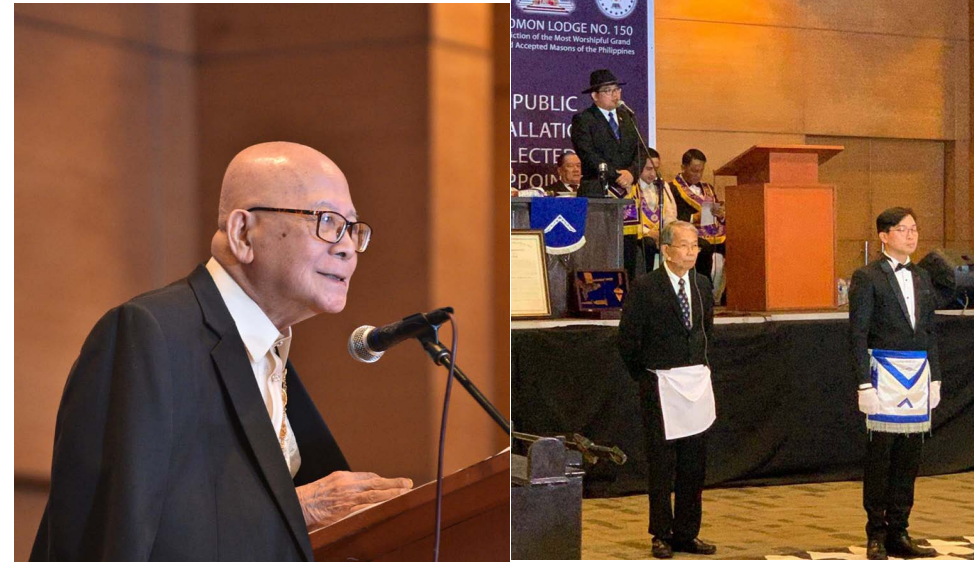
In recent years, King Solomon Lodge No. 150 has seen its ranks filled with second generations of their members.

Last January 25, 2020 in Pasig City, when it installed its Worshipful Master Mark Eric M. Castor to the Oriental Chair, it further added to the continuing lore of the lodge.

Composing the Installing Team was the WM's own brother VW Bro. Marlon M. Castor, PGOra and The Cable Tow's incumbent 2-time Editor-In-Chief (as Installing Officer) and his father, VW Bro. Teodorico G. Castor, PDDGM



THE SPEAKERS: INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER VW SIXTO S.ESQUIVIAS IV, PSGL SHARING SOME THOUGHT WITH GOHAS AND NATIONAL ARTIST DR. BIENVENIDO L. LUMBERA.



ABOVE LEFT: GOHAS AND NATIONAL ARTIST FOR LITERATURE DR. BIENVENIDO L. LUMBERA SHARES THE ROLE OF THE LANGUAGE IN STRENGTHENING TRUE AND AUTHENTIC FILIPINO CULTURE. ABOVE RIGHT: WM MARK ERIC M. CASTOR (RIGHTMOST) IS PRESENTED BEFORE THE BRETHREN BY IO VW MARLON M. CASTOR, PGO AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES VW TEODORICO G. CASTOR, PDDGM.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION: (RIGHT) THERE IS NO PROUDER MOMENT FOR VW TEODORICO G. CASTOR, PDDGM, THAN TO INVEST HIS SON, WM MARK ERIC M. CASTOR WITH THE JEWEL OF THE MASTER AND INSTALL HIM TO THE ORIENTAL CHAIR OF HIS MOTHER LODGE, KING SOLOMON LODGE NO. 150 LAST JANUARY 25, 2020.



and incumbent GLP Building Administrator.

Adding prestige and substance to the event was the presence of National Artist for Literature Dr. Bienvenido L. Lumbera as GOHAS and its own VW Bro. Sixto S. Esquivias IV, PSGL as Inspirational Speaker.





THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. (2ND FROM LEFT) ALONG WITH SOME GLP OFFICERS AND THE DFA STAFF, FLANKS DFA SECRETARY AND BRO. TEDDY LOCSIN (3RD FROM LEFT) DURING THE FORMER'S VISIT TO THE LATTER AT HIS OFFICE LAST DECEMBER 16, 2019 IN PASAY CITY.

*The Grand Master pays Philippines' top diplomat a courtesy call*

## MW Suan visits Bro. Teddy Locsin at the DFA

Last December 16, 2019, the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr., along with some brethren, visited Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teddy Locsin at his office in Pasay City.



Sec. Locsin is a member of Jacobo Zobel Masonic Lodge No. 202 and is brother to MW Enrique Locsin, PGM.

## The Grand Lodge at Work



SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND LUIS CO CHI KIAT FOUNDATION, FEB. 06, 2020.



GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER AND RELIEF MEETING HEADED BY MW VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN, PGM

# A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Brethren:

Fraternal greetings!

As we await the dawn of the coming year, I join the brethren in commemorating all the memories--both the good and the bad; the trials and challenges that went our way, the triumphs and victories that we shared, and the accomplishments that have brought us closer together as brethren. Indeed, all these have contributed in a way to the glorious year that was.


As 2020 will be a year that will be, we look forward with a brighter and clearer vision of charity and humility being the foundations of a true and worthy member of our Ancient Craft.

In the next few months, the GLP through its officers and staff and with the able and valuable support of the brethren, I hope to bring this vision further into a tangible realization that will be shared and enjoyed by all under this jurisdiction.

In behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and my family, I wish you health, happiness, and prosperity for the coming year.

Thank you and God bless, brethren.

Fraternally yours,



MW Brp. Agapito S. Swan, Jr.  
Grand Master



CHARITY & HUMILITY: FOUNDATIONS OF A TRUE MASON