



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

VOLUME 102 ISSUE NO. 2

THE CABLE TOW

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**Our Grand Master
in Action**

His Midterm
Accomplishments

**The Nominees for
Junior Grand Warden**



Junior Grand Warden

N O M I N E E S



WB Ferdinand C. Arbas



WB Wharton R. Chan



WB Paul L. Dumlao



WB Faustino Michael
Carlos T. Dy III



WB Beda A. Epres



WB Marco Manuel L.
Lagdameo



WB Philip Mark U.
Olivan



WB Almerick B.
Pua Phee



WB Darwin S. Reyes



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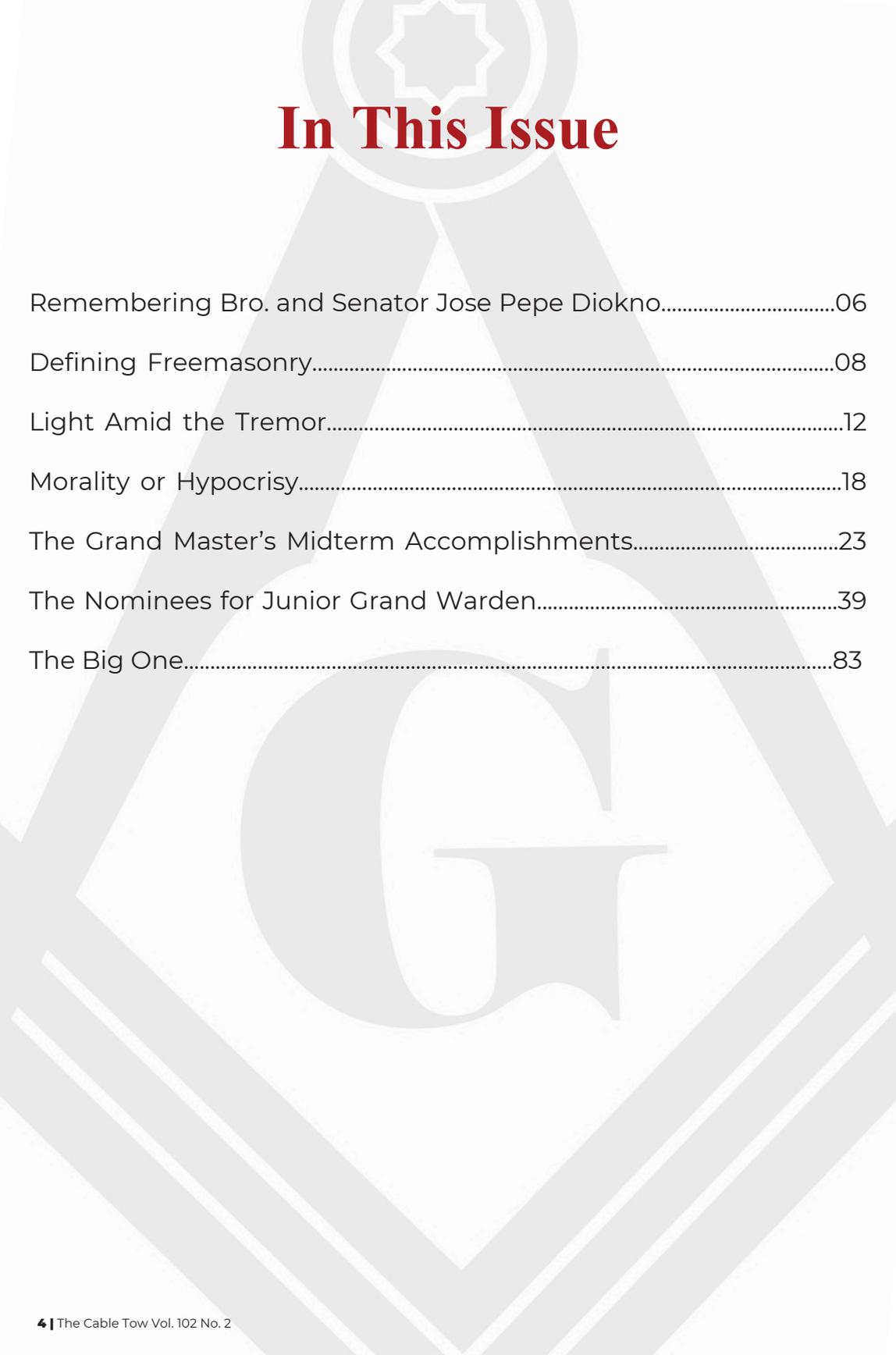
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Editor's Note

Brethren,

This issue is devoted to highlighting the labors and accomplishments of our Grand Master, MW Raul E. Canon within his midterm tenure. Proper emphasis is likewise given to the twelve Brethren nominated for the office of Junior Grand Warden in the forthcoming ANCOM 2026. This edition also features thoughtfully curated articles contributed by Brethren from throughout the jurisdiction, submitted with the purpose of enhancing Masonic education, promoting better governance, and fostering continuous improvement.

The Editorial Team prepared this issue of The Cable Tow in the hope of offering informative and edifying insights that will enrich and inspire our shared Masonic journey.

Fraternally,
VW Edward Barin
Editor-in-Chief, The Cable Tow



Pepe braved the Marcos dictatorship with a dignified and eloquent courage our country will long remember.

Remembering

BRO. SENATOR JOSE PEPE DIOKNO

RW Samuel P. Fernandez, HPJGW

I would like to remember Ka Pepe as a dedicated and principled lawmaker whose mind and heart was for those who have less in life. Ka Pepe earned his bachelor's degree in commerce, summa cum laude, at La Salle and topped the CPA board in the same year with a rating of 81.18 percent. In 1944, Diokno, without finishing his Bachelor of Laws degree, took and topped the bar examination with a rating of 95.3 percent. No doubt, he was a stalwart in the field of law where he proved his mettle against powerful businessmen who were lording it over the economy of the land. Ka Pepe was idolized by lawmakers for his brilliant mind, as well as feared by those who wantonly took advantage of the disenfranchised and the deprived.

Few, however, know that Sen. Jose W. Diokno was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Nilad Lodge No. 12 on September 6, 1975, the same lodge in which his father, Ramon Diokno, former associate justice of the Supreme Court, was a member. Justice Magno Gatmaitan, Worshipful Master of Nilad Lodge No. 12, conferred the first section, while Past Grand Master Macario Ofilada, former CFI Judge, presided during the second section. Ka Pepe was the first member of the opposition to be arrested and imprisoned without charges on Sept. 21, 1972. Released from prison, he organized the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), which gave free legal services to the victims of military atrocities. Ka Pepe was a well-respected human rights lawyer and a towering figure in denouncing human rights violations during martial law. Joaquin "Chino" Roces, another street parliamentarian, wrote: "Although his death was expected, it is unfortunate at this time to lose a true Filipino."

Indeed, Ka Pepe was a true Filipino. He fought against the political mighty powers in defending the poor and the downtrodden. He was legal luminary who used his brilliance for the betterment of his people.

We miss you, Ka Pepe. We miss you as our role model, especially when senators spend time clowning in the Senate halls. We miss you especially when our leaders forget their avowed responsibilities.

DEFINING FREEMASONRY

RW Samuel P. Fernandez, HPJGW

Robert Macoy in his Dictionary of Freemasonry defines a Mason as “a man whose conduct should be squared by strict rectitude and justice towards his fellow creatures; his demeanor should be marked by the level of courtesy and kindness; while uprightness of heart and integrity of action, symbolized by the plumb, should be his distinguishing characteristic; and thus guided by the movable jewels of Masonry, he may descend the vale of life with joy, in the hope of being accepted by the Most High, as a successful candidate for admission into the Grand Lodge above.”

Freemasonry or Masonry is used interchangeably. Despite extant numerous definitions Masons are united in declaring that Freemasonry is a system of morality, by the practice of which each member may advance their moral and spiritual interests. For purposes of understanding the meaning of Freemasonry, the following are quotations for the enlightenment of the public.

MASONRY AS VIEWED BY CLERICS

“From its origin to the present hour, in all its vicissitudes, Masonry has been the steady, unvarying friend of man.”

(Rev. Erastus Burr)

“The precepts of the Gospel were universally the obligations of Masonry.”

(Rev. Dr. Russell)

“I highly venerate the Masonic institution, under the fullest persuasion that where its principles are acknowledged, and its laws and precepts obeyed, it comes nearest to the Christian religion, in its moral effects and influence, of any institution with which I am acquainted.”

(Rev. Fred Dalcho)

“Charity, or brotherly kindness, is as much a Masonic as it is a Christian virtue.”

(Rev. Dr. Slade)

“A Mason’s Lodge is a school of piety. The principal emblems are the teachers.”

(Rev. Dr. Norval)

“The aims of Freemasonry are not limited to one form of operation, or one mode of benevolence. Its object is at once moral and social. It proposes both to cultivate the mind and enlarge and purify the heart.”

(Rev. J.O. Skinner)

“Its laws are reason and equity; its principles benevolence and love; and its religion purity and truth; its intention is peace on earth; and its disposition good will toward man.” **(Rev. T.M. Harris)**

SECULAR VIEWS

“Freemasonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.” **(Samuel Hemming)**

“The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”
(George Washington)

“Masonry is an art, useful and extensive, which comprehends within its circle every branch of useful knowledge and learning, and stamps an indelible mark of preeminence on its genuine professors, which neither chance, power, nor fortune can bestow.” **(William Preston)**

“Freemasonry is an establishment founded on the benevolent intention of extending and conferring mutual happiness upon the best and truest principles of moral life and social virtue.” **(Wellins Calcott)**

“Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind.” **(Andrew Jackson)**

“Freemasonry is a moral order, instituted by virtuous men, with the praiseworthy design of recalling to our remembrance the most sublime truths, in the midst of the most innocent and social pleasures, founded on liberality, brotherly love and charity.” **(Augustus CL Arnold)**

“I have ever felt it my duty to support and encourage the principles of Freemasonry, because it powerfully develops all social and benevolent affections.” **(Lord Durham)**

“The study of Freemasonry is the study of man as a candidate for a blessed eternity. It furnishes examples of holy living, and displays the conduct which is pleasing and acceptable to God. The doctrine and examples which distinguish the Order are obvious, and suited in every capacity. It is impossible for the most fastidious Mason to misunderstand, however he may slight or neglect them. It is impossible for the most superficial brother to say that he is unable to comprehend the plain precepts, and the unanswerable arguments which are furnished by Freemasonry.” **(George Oliver)**

“Freemasonry is an institution based on that never-failing charity which upholds universal love, calms the troubled sea of our evil passions, and leaves a smooth surface, in which all men, who are sincere and conscientious worshipers of God, and unexceptionable in moral deportment, may unite, bless each other, and rejoice in practically realizing the sublime sentiment that: God hath made mankind one Mighty brotherhood, Himself their Master, and the World his Lodge.” **(Dr. J. Burns)**

“Freemasonry is an ancient and respectable institution, embracing individuals of every nation, of every religion, and of every condition in life. Wealth, power and talents are not necessary to the person of a Freemason. An unblemished character and a virtuous conduct are the only qualifications for admission into the Order.” **(Alexander Lawrie)**

“Freemasonry is an institution founded on eternal reason and truth, whose deep basis is the civilization of mankind, and whose everlasting glory it is to have the immovable support of those two mighty pillars, science and morality.” **(Dr. Dodd)**

“Masonry superadds to our other obligations the strongest ties of connection between it and the cultivation of virtue, and furnishes the most powerful incentives to goodness.” **(Dr. Witt Clinton)**

“Freemasonry is an order whose leading star is philanthropy, and whose principles inculcate an unceasing devotion to the cause of virtue and morality.”
(Marquis de Lafayette)

“I regard the Masonic institution as one of the means ordained by the Supreme Architect to enable mankind to work out the problem of destiny, to fight against, and overcome, the weaknesses and imperfections of his nature, and the last to attain to that true life of which death is the herald, and the grave the portal.”
(John W. Simons)

DEFINITION OF MASONIC SCHOLARS

“The prosperity of Masonry as a means of strengthening our religion, and propagating true brotherly love, is one of the dearest wishes of my heart which, I trust, will be gratified by the Great Architect of the Universe.”

(King Christian VIII of Denmark)

“Masonry is one of the most sublime and perfect institutions that ever was formed for the advancement of good happiness, and the general good of mankind, creating in all its varieties, universal benevolence and brotherly love.” **(Duke of Sussex)**

“For centuries when had Freemasonry existed, are modern political controversies which were ever heard of, and when the topics which now agitate society were not known, but all were united in brotherhood and affection. I know the institution to be founded on the great principles of charity, philanthropy, and brotherly love.”

(E Bulwer-Lytton)

“Everything which tends to combine men by stronger ties is useful to humanity; in this point of view, Masonry is entitled to respect.” **(Jérôme Lalande)**

“The Masonic system exhibits a stupendous and beautiful fabric, founded on universal piety. To rule and direct our passions, to have faith and love in God, and charity toward man.” **(Stephen Jones)**

“Freemasonry is a science of symbols, in which, by their proper study, a search is instituted after truth – that truth consisting in the knowledge of the divine and human nature, of God and the human nature, of God and the human soul.” **(Dr. A.G. Mackey)**

Masonry is a succession of all allegories, the mere vehicles of great lessons in morality and philosophy. He who desires to understand the harmonious and beautiful proportions of Freemasonry must read, study, reflect, digest, and discriminate. The true Mason is an ardent seeker after knowledge; and he knows that both books and the antique symbols of Masonry are vessels which come down to us full-freighted with the intellectual riches of the Past; and that in the lading of these argosies is much that sheds light on the history of Masonry; and proves its chain to be acknowledged the benefactor of mankind, born in the very cradle of the race.

“There are Great Truths at the foundation of Freemasonry – truths which it is its mission to teach - and which as constituting the every essence of the sublime system which gives the venerable institution its peculiar identity as a science of morality, and it behooves every disciple diligently to ponder and inwardly digest. **(Albert Pike)**

COLLEGIAL DEFINITION OF GRAND LODGES

“Freemasonry is an institution essentially philanthropic and progressive, which has for its basis the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. It has for its object the exercise of benevolence, the study of universal morality, and the practice of all virtues.” (Constitution, Grand Orient of France)

“One of the oldest secular fraternal societies.. a society of men concerned with spiritual values. Its members are taught its precepts by a series of ritual dramas, which follow ancient forms and use stonemasons’ customs, tools as allegorical guides. The essential qualification for admission and continuing membership is a belief in a Supreme Being. Membership is open to men of any race or religion who can fulfill this essential qualification and are of good repute...” (1984 United Grand Lodge of England Board of General Purpose)

For further edification, enlightenment and education.

LIGHT AMID THE TREMOR

**CEBU BRETHREN SHINE AMID THE EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH
AS NARRATED BY VW MARK S. BALAMON DGL**

Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge 252, Talisay-Sugbo Masonic Lodge No. 422,
Masonic District R7

THE NIGHT THE EARTH TREMBLED

At 9:59 in the evening on September 30, 2025, a sudden and violent phenomenon shattered the stillness of the night. A powerful magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck northern Cebu, toppling homes, cracking roads and bridges, and leaving dozens dead and hundreds injured. The ground roared, walls shook violently, and panic spread as people fled into the streets seeking safety under the open sky. Authorities soon reported extensive destruction across 89 cities and municipalities across the region. More than 80,000 families or over 366,000 individuals were affected. Thousands were displaced as aftershocks continued through the night.

By morning, 53 localities were placed under a state of calamity. Seven major road sections and eleven bridges were reported damaged, while over 5,000 homes across Region VII suffered varying levels of destruction. Thousands spent the night outside, several in evacuation centers, some huddled in open fields, others along highways fearing the aftershocks that continued to rock the island.

In the Northern part of Cebu, residents took the streets, writing pleas for help on pavements and holding up makeshift signs begging for food, water, and other basic necessities. With power lines down and roads blocked by landslides, many communities were cut off, relying only on the mercy of passing motorists and the compassion of others.

THE CALL TO RELIEF

In times of disaster, a Mason's heart hears the silent cry of distress. And true to our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, the brethren of Talisay-Sugbo Masonic Lodge No. 422 rose to the call of service. Under the leadership of Worshipful Master Marchel Sarno, together with his Lights and brethren, and in collaboration with Cavite La Progressus Lodge No. 467, the lodge quickly organized a relief mission two days after the calamity. Funds were raised through the generous pledges of the brethren, making Talisay-Sugbo Lodge the first in Masonic District R7 to bring direct assistance to the affected families.

A total of 200 food packs and 2000 bottles of water were prepared and delivered to northern *barangays* that had yet to receive government aid. VW Mark was among the three brethren who joined the first wave of relief, accompanied by petitioners of Talisay-Sugbo Lodge and friends who volunteered to help identify the most affected communities.

Brethren who could not join the mission due to responsibilities they faced in their own homes shared their support as they provided food, logistics, and transportation to sustain the team, proof that even behind the scenes, Masonic labor continues. Upon arrival, they went directly to Maya, Daanbantayan, one of the hardest-hit towns in northern Cebu. There, a petitioner from Datu Daya Lodge No. 520, who lived in the area, helped gather affected families and organize the distribution.





With remaining supplies, they decided to extend aid to families along the roadside who were pleading for food and water on their way home.

Their journey back was no less perilous. To avoid heavy traffic, they took an alternate route and only to find roads split open, bridges broken, and no warning signs ahead. The darkness made the trip treacherous, and had narrowly avoided danger several times.

Yet, by the grace of the Great Architect of the Universe, we returned home safely, he says, despite the exhaustion, the experience filled our hearts with gratitude and purpose. It was a day of true Masonic service, humbling, meaningful, and worth every risk taken.



EXTENDING THE HAND OF RELIEF: MT. MORIAH LODGE NO. 252

Meanwhile, Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252 through the initiative of Worshipful Master WB Alphen W. Yu, extended its own form of relief. The Lodge provided medicine, and water to Manog Elementary School, a long-time adopted school of the Lodge. Their assistance provided much-needed help to teachers and students, reaffirming the Lodge's continuing mission of education and community support.



A DISTRICT UNITED IN SERVICE

With the direction and guidance of VW Efen A. Nimeno, District Deputy Grand Master, Worshipful Master Ian Godornes of Datu Daya Masonic Lodge No. 520 spearheaded the Masonic District R7 Relief Operations Simultaneous coordinated relief mission in partnership with other lodges across the District consolidated funds and ensured strategic procurement and equitable distribution of aid. Being the only lodge situated in northern Cebu, Datu Daya Lodge possessed the knowledge, access, and logistical advantage to identify the most severely affected areas. Their leadership was instrumental in transforming compassion into concrete action.



Through the collective effort of the brethren, the District raised an impressive ₱542,000 in pledges. Relief operations were carried out in three separate missions, spaced a few days apart to allow for procurement and transport. In total, aid was delivered to 300 affected families, consisting of:

- 200 boxes of 5-liter bottled water
- 100 solar-powered flood lamps
- 3,000 cups of noodles
- 300 tents
- 200 mosquito nets

The brethren of Datu Daya Masonic Lodge No. 520, with the assistance of petitioners and volunteers, carried out these distributions with discipline and dedication, proving that Masonic light shines brightest in times of darkness.



THE SPIRIT OF THE CRAFT

This collective mission was more than an act of Charity, it was a testament to Masonic Brotherhood. Brethren from across lodges, including those from other jurisdictions, extended their assistance through donations, coordination, and importantly, prayers.

Their selfless commitment demonstrated the true essence of the Craft: service to God, country, and humanity. Speaking on behalf of the Brethren, VW Mark shares they are deeply humbled and proud to have been part of this mission. It reaffirmed what it truly means to be a Mason, to be a builder of hope, a bearer of light, and a servant of the Great Architect's will.

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide our hearts and strengthen our hands, that wherever there is suffering, a Mason's compassion may bring relief.

When the ground shook, the Brotherhood stood unshaken because even when the earth trembles... the foundation of our Brotherhood stands unshaken.

IN THE FACE OF RUIN, WE BUILT HOPE. IN THE AFTERMATH OF DESTRUCTION, WE OFFERED RELIEF. AND IN A WORLD SHAKEN BY UNCERTAINTY, WE STOOD FIRM IN OUR PRINCIPLES.



MORALITY OR HYPOCRISY

BY BRO. VICTOR A. YU, PSGL

Morality is inseparable from Masonry. No explanation or exposition on this is necessary, because moral lessons intrinsically permeates in all our rituals, teachings and writings. What are these moral lessons? They are the tenets and virtues taught by the allegory of the building of King Solomon's Temple, and illustrated by symbolisms of the builders' tools and implements. Instead of building a physical structure, Masons are directed to erect their individual moral temples where their souls may serve as vessels for the Great Creator to fill His spirit.



Our most familiar symbol of our Craft should alone evoke our duty to obey the moral law - that law which is not man-made, but rather revealed by the Great Architect of the Universe in the Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL). Each Mason has his respective VSL, and the teachings therein are largely universal. They are unanimous in guiding men to their rightful duties to God, their neighbor (others) and themselves, and inspiring them to lead virtuous, discrete and dignified lives.

The square teaches us to measure our thoughts, words and acts within the square of our principal tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth. The compasses admonishes us to circumscribe our insensitivities, undue passions, and prejudices in dealing with our fellow creatures. We are therefore taught to ensure that our hearts and minds are aligned with our tenets and virtues. Finally, the letter "G" in the middle - instantly reminds each one of us, that the All-Seeing Eye is ever upon us in every moment as we travel in our earthly abode.

We are also taught that situated in every Lodge is a point within a circle, with the VSL on top and two perpendicular lines beside such circle. The point represents the individual Mason and the circle the boundary line of his conduct beyond which he should never suffer his passions, his prejudices, or his interests to betray himself, because the Great Artificer bestowed goodness upon every human being. On the sides of such circle are two perpendicular lines representing our Holy Saints John - St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, reminding us of the dualities in life.

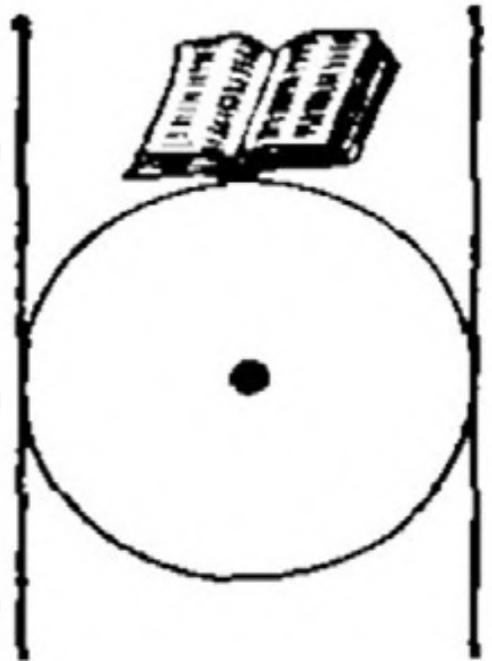
Such symbolism teaches us the importance of attending our Lodge meetings. By regularly attending our Stated Meetings, we are constantly reminded of the valuable moral lessons taught by our symbolisms through our opening and closing rituals. Moreover, we are given tremendous opportunities to practice such teachings with our brethren during such meetings.

Exploring the symbolisms of the point within the circle, the point in the middle of the circle represents the individual Mason.

The circle represents the circumspection of his insensitivities, undue passions and prejudices.

Four equal right angles can be drawn within such circle using a square. Such equal forty five degree (45°) angles ever reminds us that we should always think, speak and act within the circle of our four Cardinal Virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice (fairness).

The two perpendicular lines beside the circle teaches us that: whether with the fervor of St. John the Baptist or by the gentleness of St. John the Evangelist, we should always circumscribe our thoughts, words and acts within the circle of cardinal virtues.



Finally, and most importantly, with the VSL on top of the circle, we are admonished that every Mason should revere the VSL as his main source of the moral law for which he is bound to strictly abide by.



When a Mason thus observes the upright conduct symbolized by the point within a circle during his Lodge meetings, his character is gradually developed, and he eventually also employs his improved self in his dealings beyond Masonry. When placed in stations of power, a Mason is charged with grave responsibilities to the Supreme Creator. Thus, he should never let greed, vanity and conceit overpower his soul. No such motives should make him swerve from his duties, violate his vows and betray the trust bestowed upon him by his brethren.

Lest his soul shall become barren and tormented, with his tongue muffled from truthful communication with his brethren, his heart sealed away from the warmth of his sincere friends, and his memory erased in the minds of his loved ones – all that remains are pitiful attempts to gain self-worth through power, wealth and influence, which shall pass. In these present times of moral decadence prevailing over our society, our ancient fraternal institution had not been spared from the materialism of the world.

We see amongst us those who blatantly disregard our tenets and virtues. While they invoke brotherly love as a misplaced shield for their wrongdoings, relief is never due them because truth is a divine attribute of our Almighty Judge and the foundation of every virtue.

To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. Being influenced by this tenet, hypocrisy and deceit should be unknown amongst us. Sincerity and plain dealings distinguish us. With thoughts, words and acts, we are obligated to promote each other's welfare and rejoice in each other's prosperity.

Therefore, let every Mason deeply reflect: if his life and actions are squared with our tenets and virtues; if his covetous inclinations are circumscribed by our compasses; and most importantly, if his soul is worthy for the Great Architect of the Universe to instill His spirit. Moreover, he should similarly contemplate if the teachings imparted by the point within the circle had bettered his character, to one that promotes harmony and progress, rather than cause avarice and disharmony.

He should thus seriously reflect on his worthiness to be regarded as a Mason before wearing any ring, shirt, heart, etc. with a Masonic emblem, or furthering his membership in our social and moral fraternal institution. Our emblem of the Sword Pointing to a Naked Heart demonstrates that justice will sooner or later overtake us, and although our thoughts, words, and actions may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet that All-Seeing Eye whom the sun, moon and stars obey, and under whose watchful care, even comets perform their stupendous revolutions, pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our merits.

But there is hope for the ruffians of the temple. Their path to redemption was exemplified by ruffians when they truly admitted their guilt and freely accepted their sentences. Let those offenders in imitation of them also declare themselves “guilty”, for the times they allowed their covetousness and hubris to overpower them. With the grace of our Almighty Creator, their undertaking of this crucial step may lead them to redemption.



Masonry is a fraternal institution that had bettered humanity. For it to continue to survive, its moral foundations should never be eroded but should rather be strengthened. Unlike in some parts of the world, membership in our grand jurisdiction is growing. Nevertheless, a growth in our numbers without ensuring the worthiness of our members is meaningless. It is pure hypocrisy when our members do not lead exemplary lives as men and Masons, as taught to us in our Lodges. Thus, each one within Masonry matters (Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga).

Each Mason in our jurisdiction can seriously employ our tenets and virtues in his Lodge, his family, his workplace and his community. In doing so, he shall manifest the harmony of Masonic governance and thereafter the beauty of Masonic improvement. The time for the moral renewal in our grand jurisdiction is now and each one in our jurisdiction is obligated to partake in its labors. Together, Brethren, let us invoke the blessings of the Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, and commence our labors for a better Freemasonry, country and world.



THE GRAND MASTER'S MIDTERM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As we mark the meridian or midpoint of the term of MW Raul E. Canon Jr. as the 107th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, we see that Masonry's aim to make good men better is indeed instrumental in creating positive social transformation.

THEME AND 3 THRUSTS

Upon his installation as Grand Master on April 26, 2025 during the 108th Annual Communication, MW Canon announced the theme of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for Masonic Year 2025: "Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga" (Each One in Masonry Matters).

He explained that the theme has internal and external aspects.

- **The internal aspect** enjoins each Mason to practice Freemasonry's principal tenets in his interactions inside the Lodge,
- While **the external aspect** enjoins him to reflect these principal tenets in his thoughts, words, and deeds outside the Lodge, and also apply such tenets in his dealings outside the Lodge halls.

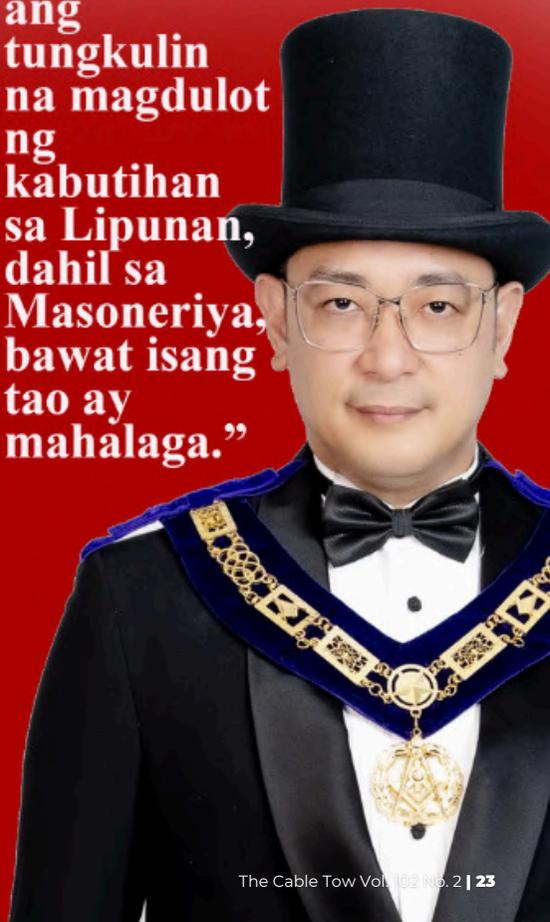
GM Canon has issued 18 edicts and 34 circulars to achieve the three thrusts of the theme for this Masonic Year 2025.

- The first thrust is **Masonic Education**,
- The second thrust is **Masonic Governance**, and;
- The third thrust is **Masonic Improvement**.

As GM Canon explained during his installation ceremony:

"With these simple thrusts, the labor of each Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction will matter; each Brother's efforts to discover and harness his potential to contribute goodness to society, will make an important positive difference.

"Bawat isa sa loob ng Masoneriya ay mahalaga ang tungkulin na magdulot ng kabutihan sa Lipunan, dahil sa Masoneriya, bawat isang tao ay mahalaga."



THRUST 1. MASONIC EDUCATION

On the first thrust, Masonic Education, GM Canon took two important actions during the first half of his term.

On his first day as Grand Master in April 2025, MW Canon issued his Electronic Guide for Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2025. The E-Guide contains all 12 Masonic lectures to be delivered by the District Grand Lecturers during the monthly stated meetings of the Lodges.

Then, GM Canon strengthened the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (or IMES) by issuing Edict No. 382, which created a ladderized program of courses.

- It also clarified the purpose of the Institute: that of promoting the continuing Masonic education of individual Masons by complementing, not replacing, the Masonic education provided through the Subordinate Lodges.

THRUST 2. MASONIC GOVERNANCE

On the second thrust, Masonic Governance, GM Canon sought to improve the governance of the following five important Masonic institutions in the Grand Jurisdiction of the Philippines:

- (1) first, the Grand Lodge assembled during its Annual Communication,
- (2) second, the Grand Lodge in between its Annual Communication,
- (3) third, the Masonic Districts,
- (4) fourth, the Subordinate Lodges, and
- (5) fifth, the Masonic allied organizations.

2a. ANCOM (C2 ACTIONS, C15 REGISTRATION)

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines assembled during its Annual Communication which is the most important institution in Masonic governance. The ANCOM is when all officers and members of the Grand Lodge providentially assemble yearly.

Immediately after the 108th Annual Communication, which was held in Metro Manila in April 2025, GM Canon issued Circular No. 2 to publicize the important actions taken by the Grand Lodge during ANCOM 2025.

And then to further emphasize the significance of the ANCOM, GM Canon issued Circular No. 15, encouraging the Brethren to register and attend ANCOM 2026, which will be held in Tagaytay City in April 2026.

2B. GLP (C1 OFFICERS, C3 COMMITTEES; E379 BGP, E392 VWI, E393 APPOINTIVE TERM, E394 CLAD)

The second important institution in Masonic governance is the Grand Lodge in between its Annual Communication. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines is the supreme Masonic power and authority in the Philippine national territory and in the overseas areas under its jurisdiction.

During the first half of his term, GM Canon took five significant actions to highlight the key role in Masonic governance that is played by the Grand Lodge officers and committees.

First, GM Canon issued Circular Nos. 1 and 3, announcing the names of the elected and appointed officers of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for Masonic Year 2025, as well as the chairmen and members of its Standing and Special Committees.

Second, GM Canon strengthened the Board for General Purposes as the Grand Master's advisory board by issuing Edict No. 379. The Edict:

- Created the positions of Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and
- Ensured continuity in the programs, projects, and leadership of the Grand Lodge by making (1) the Deputy Grand Master as Ex-Officio Board Secretary, and (2) the Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden as Ex-Officio Mandatory Observers, and provides them with unique insights on the potentials as well as the challenges of the Craft.

Third, through Edict No. 392, GM Canon invested the Grand Lodge Inspector with the title "Very Worshipful Inspector", which is the title that is appropriate to the importance of his power in supervising the Subordinate Lodge.

Fourth, with Edict No. 393, GM Canon strengthened the governance of the Grand Lodge by requiring the appointive Grand Lodge Officers to serve for the entire term of the Grand Master who appointed them.

Finally, GM Canon improved clarity and order in Masonic governance through Edict No. 394, which prescribes the manner by which incumbent and past elective and appointive officers shall be addressed, known, and clad.

2C. DISTRICTS (E378 HANDOVER, E388 DISPENSATIONS, C6 DISCONS)

The third important institution in Masonic governance is the Masonic District. During the first half of his term, GM Canon took four important actions to improve the role of the Masonic Districts as the administrative arms of the Grand Master in governing the Grand Jurisdiction.

First, the very first edict issued by GM Canon, released in May 2025, promoted simplicity and circumscribed the desire for extravagance. Edict No. 378 enjoined the Masonic Districts to conduct a simple handover in lieu of a formal district turnover ceremony.

Second, GM Canon issued Edict No. 388 rationalizing and consolidating the provisions of the Masonic Law Book and recent Edicts on the power of the Grand Master and his District Deputy Grand Masters to grant dispensations.

Third, GM Canon issued Circular No. 6, enjoining the Brethren to conduct joint district conventions, and announcing the dates of the joint, tri-, and quad district conventions. This injunction reduced the number of district conventions from of 75 down to 45, thus allowing Masons in one Masonic native province and in adjoining provinces to congregate and bond.

Circular No. 6 also announced the venue and host districts of the Multi-District Conventions, as well as the dates, which were chosen by lots drawn by the host District Deputy Grand Masters.

Finally, GM Canon issued Circular No. 10, designating the Masonic districts that would be jointly hosting the monthly flag-raising ceremony of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. This is the first time that the hosting by the Masonic districts was organized at the start of the Masonic term. It provided opportunities for brethren to develop our mystic ties, for otherwise they may have remained at a perpetual distance.

2D. LODGES (E383 CONFERRAL, E391 CONSENT, E386 NAME, E89 3SM)

The fourth important institution in Masonic governance, and also the basic unit of Masonry, is the Masonic Lodge. During the first half of his term, GM Canon took six important actions to strengthen and empower the Subordinate Lodges.

First, in September 2025, GM Canon restored the authority, based on our ancient customs and usages, of the Lodges to confer the Degrees of Masonry during any Lodge meeting, whether Stated Meeting or Special Meeting, through Edict No. 383.

Second, GM Canon issued Edict No. 386, providing clarity and guidance on which names may be proposed for new Lodges to be formed under dispensation.

Third, GM Canon promoted harmony within the Lodges by issuing Edict No. 387, which prescribes the rules on communications and financial transactions involving Subordinate Lodges and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and Lodges and Brethren under Foreign Grand Jurisdictions.

Fourth, in October 2025, GM Canon strengthened the Subordinate Lodges through Edict No. 389, which imposes upon every regular member of a Lodge to attend at least three Stated Meetings of the Lodge during every calendar year.

- The requirement to attend at least nine (9) Stated Meetings within a period of twelve (12) months was imposed by MW Puno as early as 1984 because of the problem of chronic absenteeism in the Lodges.
- Forty years later, GM Canon enforced this mandatory attendance principle by prescribing a three (3) Stated Meeting Attendance Rule requirement by providing for the suspension of Masons who will fail to comply.

Fifth, GM Canon promoted harmony within the Subordinate Lodges and among the Brethren through Edict No. 390, which requires every complaint against a Brother for unmasonic conduct or violation of Masonic law, to be accompanied by a sworn certification and undertaking.

- The complainant and his witness must certify that their allegations are made in good faith, without intent to harass, embarrass, or malign, and solely for the purpose of upholding Masonic law and discipline.
- They must also undertake to accept the penalty of expulsion or the penalty requested in the complaint, if it is adjudged that the complaint or witness statement is unfounded, baseless, or malicious.
- Through Edict 390, GM Canon strengthened the role of the District Temple of Harmony and the Harmony Officer of the Lodge.

Finally, GM Canon strengthened the role of the Subordinate Lodges through Edict No. 391, providing for the formal procedure to obtain Lodge consent, which a Mason is required to obtain when applying for membership in another Lodge or in a Masonic allied organization.

2E. ORGANIZATIONS (C5 SYMBOLIC MTG, C13 ACCREDITATION, C14 COUNCIL)

The fifth important institution in Masonic governance is the Masonic allied organization. This includes appendant bodies and Masonic associations and clubs, such as:

- 1.the Scottish Rite Supreme Council
- 2.the Grand York Rite Bodies
- 3.the Order of the Eastern Star;
- 4.the Order of the Amaranth;
- 5.the Order of DeMolay;
- 6.the Order for the Rainbow for Girls;
- 7.Job's Daughters;
- 8.the Royal Order of Scotland;
- 9.Shriners Philippines; and
- 10.Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc.

GM Canon strengthened the relationship between the Grand Lodge and these allied organizations through Circular Nos. 5 and 14, when he summoned the heads of these organizations to a symbolic first meeting with the GM and later to attend the meeting of the Masonic Coordinating Council.

GMCanon then issued Circular No. 13, listing the Masonic associations and clubs that were accredited for Masonic Year 2025.

THRUST 3. MASONIC IMPROVEMENT

For the third and last thrust for Masonic Year 2025, Masonic Improvement, during the first half of his term, GM Canon took several important actions to promote:

- (1) Masonic improvement among individual Masons, the Subordinate Lodges, and their temples; and
- (2) Masonic improvement through greater clarity in Masonic rituals, protocols and governance.

3a. INDIVIDUAL (E79E and C8 LONGEVITY; C12 MM PROFICIENCY)

GM Canon promoted individual Masonic improvement by

- (1) honoring long-serving Brethren, and
- (2) requiring proficiency among Master Masons.

First, GM Canon created two new longevity awards through Edict 79-E, to honor our Brethren who have labored in the Craft for decades, so that they may serve as exemplars of continuous individual Masonic improvement:

- (1) the 40-year button, diploma, and Ruby apron; and
- (2) the 60-year button diploma and Diamond apron.

Second, GM Canon issued Circular No. 8, to assist the Brethren who are entitled to the Longevity Awards by mandating the Lodges to submit their recommendations by August 15 in order that the Longevity Awards and aprons may be conferred by the Grand Master during the Multi-District Conventions.

Finally, GM Canon promoted individual Masonic improvement by requiring proficiency among Master Masons through Circular No. 12. Under the circular, Master Masons who have not taken their Third Degree proficiency examination, are given until November 2025 to do so.

3B. LODGES (E381 & C11 CONSTITUTION; TEMPLES)

381. NEW LODGES

The formation of new Lodges signifies Masonic growth and improvement. GM Canon issued Edict No. 381, authorizing the extension of the 60-day period of constitution of newly-chartered Lodges.

- The 2025 Annual Communication granted charters to an unprecedented number of eighteen Lodges. Due to the extraordinarily large number of new Lodges; their location in distant cities and provinces; and the need for a careful review to determine who among the proposed Charter Members had met the Masonic Law Book qualifications, it was physically impossible for Grand Master Canon to constitute all 18 Lodges in the cities and provinces where these Lodges are located, within sixty days.
- By virtue of Edict 381, Grand Master Canon issued Executive Order No. 1, extending the constitution period to one hundred days.
- Within the prescribed period, GM Canon presided over the ceremony of constitution of the 18 newly-chartered Lodges. GM Canon also acted as the Installing Officer for the installation of the officers of these newly-chartered Lodges.
- The first four Lodges were in Southern Luzon:
- Mamburao Masonic Lodge No. 504 on June 3 in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Dr. Ernesto H. Malabanan Masonic Lodge No. 515 on June 21 in Batangas City
- Two days later, Pili Capital Cimarrones Masonic Lodge No. 521 in the morning of June 23 in Naga City, Camarines Sur
- Vinzons Masonic Lodge No. 507 in the afternoon of the same day, at the same venue in Naga City, Camarines Sur
- After two days, in Western Mindanao:
- Zambozur Masonic Lodge No. 511 on June 25 in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur
- Two days later, James J. Wilson Masonic Lodge No. 512 on June 27 in Zamboanga City
- Three days after, the seventh Lodge, this time in the Visayas, Datu Daya Masonic Lodge No. 520 on June 30 in Cordova, Cebu Province
- After two days, back in Luzon, St. Joseph Masonic Lodge No. 513 on July 2 in Tarlac City
- Two days later, Laang Kawal Masonic Lodge No. 516 on July 4 in Tagaytay City
- The next day, Katimugan Masonic Lodge No. 509 on July 5 in Kawit, Cavite
- Five days later, in Northern Luzon:
- The eleventh Lodge, Calvary Hills Masonic Lodge No. 508 in the morning of July 10 in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Province
- Mount Cagua Masonic Lodge No. 514 in the afternoon of the same day, at the same venue in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Province
- Five days later, St. Germain Masonic Lodge No. 517 on July 15 at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in the City of Manila

- The next day in Northern Luzon:
- The fourteenth Lodge, Addalem Masonic Lodge No. 519 on July 16 in Diffun, Quirino Province
- The next day, Angadanan Viejo Masonic Lodge No. 505 in the morning of July 17 in Echague, Isabela Province
- Hinirang Masonic Lodge No. 506 in the afternoon of the same day, at the same venue in Echague, Isabela Province
- Four days later, Luneta Masonic Lodge No. 510 on July 21 at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in the City of Manila
- Three days later, the eighteenth Lodge, Justitia Masonic Lodge No. 518 on July 24, also at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in the City of Manila

In relation to the constitution of newly-chartered Lodges, GM Canon issued Circular No. 11, consolidating and clarifying the rules on petitions to form a new Lodge, the review of the records of the Lodge formed under dispensation, the grant of its charter, and the determination of who its Charter Members are. He then issued related circulars listing the Charter Members of each of the 18 newly-chartered Lodges.

3B2. TEMPLES

The Grand Master sought to improve Masonic harmony and Brotherly Love by holding caravans during the first half of his term. He visited over 150 Masonic temples in the distant cities and provinces in the Grand Jurisdiction.

In NORTHERN LUZON

ABRA		
Bangued	1	Abra Masonic Temple
APAYAO		
Luna	2	Apayao Masonic Center
BENGUET		
Baguio City	3	Baguio Masonic Temple
La Trinidad	4	La Trinidad Masonic Lodge No. 344 Temple

CAGAYAN		
Aparri	5	Mabini Lodge No. 39 Temple
Gattaran	6	Gualberto C. Agatep Masonic Lodge No, 341 Temple
Sanchez Mira	7	Sanchez Mira Masonic Lodge No. 233 Temple
Solana	8	Itawes Masonic Lodge No. 215 Temple
Tuguegarao City	9	Gonzaga Masonic Lodge No. 66 Temple
Tuguegarao City	10	Tuguegarao Masonic Lodge No. 408 Temple

IFUGAO		
Lamut	11	Ifugao Masonic Lodge No. 218 Temple
ILOCOS NORTE		
Laoag City	12	Laoag Lodge No. 71 Temple
ILOCOS SUR		
San Vicente	13	Angalo Masonic Lodge No. 63 Temple
Candon City	14	Lam-Ang Masonic Temple
ISABELA		
Aurora	15	Aurora Masonic Lodge Masonic No. 405
Cauayan City	16	Maharlika Masonic Lodge No. 180 Temple
Cauayan City	17	Cauayan City Masonic Lodge No. 478 Temple
Cordon	18	Rufino S. Roque Masonic Lodge No. 289 Temple
Echague	19	Ganano Masonic Lodge No. 313 Temple
Gamu	20	Pinacanauan Masonic Lodge No. 318 Temple
Ilagan City	21	Isabela Masonic Temple
Naguilian	22	San Mariano Temple
Quezon	23	Casili Creek Lodge No. 340 Temple
Ramon	24	Timpuyog Masonic Lodge No. 343 Temple
Roxas	25	Mallig Plains Lodge Temple
San Mateo	26	San Mateo Masonic Lodge No. 319 Temple
Santiago City	27	Cagayan Valley Masonic Lodge No. 133 Temple
Tumauini	28	Tumauini Masonic Temple
KALINGA		
Tabuk	29	Rio Chico Masonic Temple
LA UNION		
San Fernando City	30	Union Masonic Temple
Agoo	31	Diego Silang Masonic Temple

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE		
Bontoc	32	Bontoc Masonic Temple
NUEVA VIZCAYA		
Aritao	33	Ari-Tau Masonic Lodge No. 279 Temple
Bagabag	34	Cordillera Masonic Lodge No. 178 Temple
Bambang	35	Salinas Masonic Temple
Bayombong	36	Magat Temple
Quezon	37	Mt. Palali Masonic Temple
Solano	38	Veinte Tres Novo Vizcayanos Temple

Villaverde	39	Villaverde Masonic Lodge No. 206 Temple
PANGASINAN		
Alaminos City	40	Hundred Island Masonic Lodge No. 201 Temple
Calasiao	41	Calasiao Masonic Lodge No. 449 Temple
Dagupan City	42	Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 Masonic Temple
Dagupan City	43	Alfonso Lee Sin Masonic Temple
Lingayen	44	Moises J. De Guzman Masonic Temple
Mangaldan	45	Jose H. Yuchongtian Masonic Temple
San Nicolas	46	Edilberto A. Tamondong, Sr. Masonic Temple
Tayug	47	Agno Masonic Lodge No. 75 Temple
Urdaneta City	48	Urdaneta Masonic Temple
QUIRINO		
Cabarroquis	49	Saranay Masonic Lodge No. 193 Temple
Diffun	50	Diffun Masonic Lodge No. 317 Temple
Maddela	51	Pinappagan Masonic Lodge No. 353 Temple
Orani	55	Bataan Masonic Lodge No. 104 Temple
NUEVA ECIJA		
Aliaga	56	Aliaga Masonic Lodge No. 404 Temple
Bongabon	57	Allium Ceba Masonic Lodge No. 453 Temple
Cabanatuan	58	Mario Garcia Masonic Temple
Cabanatuan City	59	Kapatiran Masonic Temple
Cabanatuan City	60	Kapitan Pepe Masonic Temple
Cabanatuan City	61	Cabanatuan Lodge No. 53 Temple
Cuyapo	62	Apolinario Mabini Lodge No. 235 Temple
Gapan City	63	Gen. Llanera Masonic Lodge No. 168 Temple
Guimba	64	Gen. Manuel Tinio Masonic Temple
Guimba	65	Jose R. Dizon Masonic Lodge No. 264 Temple
Jaen	66	Jaen Triangle Masonic Lodge No. 476 Temple
Llanera	67	Ang Bagong Bayan Masonic Lodge No. 463 Temple

Lupao	68	Molave Masonic Temple
Lupao	69	Golden Beehive Masonic Lodge No. 388 Temple
Palayan City	70	Palayan City Lodge No. 331 Temple
Quezon	71	Nueva Ecija Masonic Lodge No. 73 Temple
Rizal	72	Pantabangan Bonari Masonic Temple
San Antonio	73	Antonio R. Lamson Masonic Lodge No. 290 Temple
San Isidro	74	Factoria Masonic Lodge No. 311 Temple
San Jose City	75	Narra Masonic Lodge No. 171 Temple
San Jose City	76	San Jose City Lodge No. 309 Temple
San Leonardo	77	San Leonardo Masonic Lodge No. 386 Temple

Santa Rosa	78	Santa Rosa Masonic Lodge No. 297 Temple
Santo Domingo	79	Model Masonic Lodge No. 373 Temple
Muñoz City	80	Memorial Lodge Temple
Muñoz City	81	VW Fernando Cruz Masonic Temple
Muñoz City	82	Gov. Eduardo L. Joson Masonic Lodge No. 326 Temple
Talavera	83	Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 Temple
Talugtug	84	Eulogio R. Dizon Masonic Temple
Zaragoza	85	Zaragoza Masonic Temple
TARLAC		
Anao	86	Arcadio R. Evangelista Memorial Lodge No. 254 Temple
Conception	87	Ang Rehenerasyon Masonic Lodge No. 402 Temple
La Paz	88	La Paz Masonic Lodge No. 413 Temple
Moncada	89	Moncada Masonic Lodge No. 446 Temple
Panique	90	Enrique M. Cojuangco Masonic Lodge No. 472 Temple
Pura	91	Pura Lodge No. 312 Temple
Santa Ignacia	92	Victory Masonic Temple
Tarlac City	93	Isagani Lodge No. 96 Temple
Tarlac City	94	Cosmo P. Antonio Memorial Lodge No. 339 Temple
Tarlac City	95	Tarlac Kaunlaran Lodge Temple
Victoria	96	Apolinario B. Yap Lodge No. 328 Temple
BULACAN		
Baliuag	97	Baliuag Masonic Lodge No. 301 Temple
Bocause	98	St. John The Baptist Lodge No. 362 Temple
Bulakan	100	Cupang Masonic Lodge No. 295
Calumpit	101	Hagonoy Masonic Lodge No. 369 Temple
Guiguinto	102	Bulacan Masonic Lodge No. 400 Temple
Malolos	103	Malolos Masonic Temple
Meycauayan	104	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Masonic Lodge No. 272 Temple
Meycauayan	105	WB Manuel C. Ibasco Lodge No. 432
Plaridel	106	Quingua Masonic Lodge 364 Temple
Pulilan	107	Pulo ng lilan Masonic Lodge No. 439 Temple
San Jose Del Monte City	108	San Jose Del Monte Lodge No. 357 Temple
San Miguel	109	San Miguel De Mayumo Lodge No. 412 Temple
Santa Maria	110	Kakarong Masonic Temple

PAMPANGA		
Angeles City	111	Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 Temple
Bacolor	112	Tiburcio Hilario Memorial Lodge No. 394 Temple
Florida Blanca	113	Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Masonic Lodge No. 469
Mabalacat City	114	Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No. 333 Temple
Magalang	115	Magalang Masonic Lodge No. 391 Temple
Porac	116	Porac Masonic Lodge No. 411 Temple
San Fernando City	117	Pampanga Masonic Temple
ZAMBALES		
Botolan	118	Primo Maniquiz Masonic Temple
Iba	119	Zambales Masonic Temple
Olongapo City	120	Lincoln Masonic Center
Olongapo City	121	Unity Masonic Temple
San Marcelino	122	San Marcelino Masonic Lodge No. 380 Temple
San Narciso	123	Pinatubo Lodge No. 52 Temple

SOUTHERN LUZON

Batangas		
Batangas City	124	Batangas Masonic Lodge No. 35 Temple
Camarines Sur		
Naga City	125	Isarog Masonic Lodge No. 33 Temple
Naga City	126	Naga City Masonic Lodge No. 257 Temple
Naga City	127	Camarines Sur Masonic Lodge No. 382 Temple
Occidental Mindoro		
San Jose	128	Mindoro Lodge No. 157 Masonic Temple
Sablayan	129	Generoso Madridgal Masonic Lodge No. 368 Temple
Oriental Mindoro		
Calapan City	130	Tamaraw Masonic Temple
Roxas	131	Halcon Masonic Lodge No. 249 Temple
Bongabong,	132	Bongabong Lodge No. 324 Temple

VISAYAS

Cebu		
Carcar	133	Leon Kilat Masonic Temple
Cebu City	134	Borromeo Masonic Temple
Cordova	135	Datu Lapu Lapu Masonic Temple
Aklan		
Kalibo	136	Aklan Masonic Center
Bohol		

Panglao	137	Panglao Masonic Temple
Tagbilaran City	138	Dagohoy Masonic Temple
Tubigon	139	Chocolate Hills Masonic Lodge No. 477 Temple

NORTHERN MINDANAO

Agusan Del Norte		
Butuan City	140	Balangay Nine Masonic Lodge No. 493
Agusan Del Sur		
San Francisco	141	Timberland Masonic Lodge No. 219 Center

SOUTHERN MINDANAO

Davao del Norte		
Tagum	142	Tagum Masonic Temple
Panabo City	143	Panabo-Dalisay Lodge No. 237 Masonic Temple
Davao de Oro		
Mawab	144	Davao De Oro Masonic Center

WESTERN MINDANAO

Tawi Tawi		
Bongao	145	Bud Bongao Masonic Lodge No. 288 Temple
Basilan		
Isabela City	146	Juan S. Alano Masonic Lodge No. 137 Temple
Zamboanga del Sur		
Pagadian City	147	Illana Bay Masonic Temple
San Miguel	148	Baganian Peninsula Masonic Lodge No. 275 Temple
Zamboanga City	149	Mt. Apo Masonic Temple
Zamboanga City	150	Samboangan Masonic Center
Zamboanga Sibugay		
Buug	151	Sibuguey Valley Masonic Temple

Harmony among the members of a Masonic Lodge is greatly fostered by the Lodge having its own Masonic temple.

- GM Canon conducted the ceremony of dedication of the Masonic temple of Pilar Lodge No. 15, the mother Lodge of Deputy Grand Master RW Robert Joseph S. Moran Jr.
- GM Canon also conducted the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Masonic temples of Santiago City Masonic Lodge No. 457, Agusan Marsh Masonic Lodge No. 474, and Taguig Masonic Lodge No. 431.

3C. RITUALS (C16) AND PROTOCOLS (E384 RECEPTION, E385 SEATING)

GM Canon took several important actions to promote Masonic improvement through greater clarity in Masonic rituals, protocols and governance.

He issued Circular No. 16 and, in October 2025, convened over 600 Installing Officers, Masters of Ceremony, and Past Masters to review the rituals and practices of the Ceremony of Installation for the Officers of Subordinate Lodges. The comments of these Brethren are now being reviewed by the Committee on Works, for recommendation to GM Canon.

GM Canon then issued Edict Nos. 384 and 385, updating the rules (1) on the reception of dignitaries, and (2) on their seating arrangement in the East during Lodge meetings, ceremonies of installation of Lodge officers, and District and Multi-District Conventions. Such edicts consolidated and harmonized the previous issuances on such protocol concerns.

3D. MISCELLANEOUS

Additionally, GM Canon issued new policies regarding (1) parking of vehicles in the Plaridel Masonic Temple compound, and (2) the attire that the Brethren must wear when entering the Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Finally, the offices and infrastructure of the Plaridel Masonic Temple underwent important renovations to improve (1) the efficiency of the services offered by Grand Lodge to the Brethren, and (2) the work environment for the Grand Lodge officers and employees who labor at the Temple every day. The Grand Lodge did not spend any funds for the renovation projects.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, at the meridian or midpoint of the term of MW Raul E. Canon Jr. as the 107th Grand Master, we see that Masonry's aim to make good men better is indeed instrumental in creating positive social transformation. With the theme "Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga", and the thrusts toward **MASONIC EDUCATION, MASONIC GOVERNANCE, AND MASONIC IMPROVEMENT**, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, under the term of GM Raul E. Canon Jr., shall be stronger and more united than ever.

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN NOMINEES

WB Manuel Ferdinand C. Arbas

WB Wharton R. Chan

WB Paul L. Dumlao

WB Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III

WB Beda A. Epres

WB Marco Manuel Q. Lagdameo

WB Philip Mark U. Oliván

WB Almerick B. Pua Phee

WB Darwin S. Reyes

WB Nabil A. Tan

WB Hossain VC

Shamsoddin Vostakalaei

WB Nelson T. Yau



**WB MANUEL
FERDINAND C. ARBAS**

WB MANUEL FERDINAND

"Patch" ARBAS

PROFILE

Manuel Ferdinand C. Arbas entered the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to provide technical assistance to Commissioner Rufus B. Rodriguez in January 1999. His duties included reviewing and studying existing policies and procedures to propose measures to streamline, simplify, and enhance systems efficiency to address the various concerns of the transacting public.

In July 1999, the Commissioner designated Manuel FC Arbas as his Technical Assistant for the Alien Registration Division (ARD). With the support of the Commissioner, he was able to propose and implement numerous innovations to curb the red tape often perceived by the Division's clientele.

These measures, which the Division is still observing, have merited many recognitions from the international community and chambers of commerce of the different countries.

In addition to performing his functions at the ARD, Manuel FC Arbas, having gained the trust and confidence of Commissioner Fernandez, was tasked to:

- Represent the Commissioner at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to ensure the enforcement of passenger processing rules, policies, and procedures;
- On behalf of the Commissioner, act on petitions for the updating And extension of authorized stay of overstaying foreign nationals;
- Supervise the documentation and investigation of fraudulent, tampered, mutilated, or fake passports confiscated by Immigration airport personnel; and
- Oversee the issuance of Special Work Permits (SWP) for foreign Artists, Entertainers, Athletes, Players, Preachers, Lecturers, or Resource Persons.

Designated as ARD Acting Chief in July 2016, Manuel FC Arbas wanted to ensure that the Division renders a better and more efficient service to its stakeholders. To achieve this, he spearheaded the reduction of the documentary requirements, consolidation of application forms, and streamlining of processes of the Division's current 21 transactions.

In 2019, Manuel FC Arbas, ran for President of BI's official employees' association, the BUKLOD ng mga Kawaning CID. He is currently representing the association's 1,600+ members in the Collective Negotiation Agreement with top management, actively ensuring that the Personnel Selection Board equitably deliberates qualified employee-members applying for promotional appointments, espousing spearheading numerous activities geared towards personal capacity building and wellbeing.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth : 07 November 1969
Place of Birth : Jaro, Leyte
Parents : Dr. Juan M. Arbas and Lilia C. Arbas
Spouse : Atty. Ma. Lourdes Consuelo M. Arbas

EDUCATION

- **Bachelor of Arts Major in Political Science | Bachelor of Arts Major in Social Sciences |** University of the Philippines
- **Juris Doctor |** San Sebastian College of Law
- **Masters in Business Management |** St. Francis of Assisi College

SERVICE RECORD

Supervising Immigration Officer | Bureau of Immigration, Manila, Philippines
27 March 2007 to present

SERVICE RECORD

Immigration Officer III | Bureau of Immigration, Manila, Philippines

02 July 2003 to 27-Mar-2007

Immigration Officer II | Bureau of Immigration, Manila, Philippines

12 December 2000 to 01 July 2003

Legal Assistant | Bureau of Immigration, Manila, Philippines

04 January 1999 to 11 December 2000

Legal Officer I | Small Business Guarantee Finance Corporation (SBGFC) Makati, Philippines

02 June 1996 to 14 June 1997

Political Affairs Officer Office of former Finance Secretary Roberto "Tiger Bobby" F. De Ocampo Manila, Philippines

15 June 1997 to 03 January 1999

MASONIC BACKGROUND

MOTHER LODGE: Juan Sumulong Masonic Lodge No. 169

- Initiated: December 2, 2006
- Passed: January 10, 2007
- Raised: March 17, 2007
- Junior Warden: 2012
- Senior Warden: 2013
- Worshipful Master: 2014
- Grand Lodge Inspector: 2015 – Marikina Lodge No. 119
- District Grand Lecturer: 2016 – Masonic District NCR – F
- Junior Grand Lecturer: 2020 to 2021 - Masonic Districts NCR E & F
- District Deputy Grand Master: 2023 - Masonic District NCR – F
 - **HIRAM Award Recipient: September 2024**

CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS

- Isaac I Puno Jr Masonic Lodge No. 401
- Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No. 430
- Commonwealth Masonic Lodge No. 460

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

- Aklan Masonic Lodge No. 205
- St. John the Baptist Masonic Lodge No. 362
- Mandaluyong City Masonic Lodge No. 277
- Katipunan Masonic Lodge No. 489
- Pinaglabanan Masonic Lodge No. 374
- Silanganan Lodge No. 19
- Solidarity Masonic Lodge No. 421

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

“Elevating Brotherhood, Enlightening Our Minds, Empowering the Brethren - Together, We Build a Legacy of Light.”

This Two-Point Agenda aims to invigorate lodge activities and strengthen bond among members

1. Strengthen Lodge Unity and Fellowship

- Encourage stronger ties between younger and elder Masons through Mentorship Programs, ensuring the continuity of Masonic wisdom and values. Thus, the establishment of HOME – Home of Masonic Elders.
- Invest in Membership Welfare and Engagement by Standardizing and institutionalizing a support system for members in need, such as healthcare assistance, financial aid, and mental health resources
- Promote deeper brotherhood by organizing inter-lodge fellowship activities such as fora, sports events and community service projects.

2. Enhance Masonic Education and Leadership Development

- Introduce modular and accessible learning programs focusing on the teachings of Masonry, history and leadership.
- Provide scholarship or grants for members to attend regional and international Masonic Conferences, fostering a global perspective.



**WB WHARTON
R. CHAN**

WB WHARTON RODRIGUEZ CHAN

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Address : Magallanes, Cavite
Spouse : Shirley Dyanne
Children : Danaerys, Duke, and Drake

EDUCATION

Arellano University - School of Law | Bachelor of Laws / Juris Doctor 2009-2013
Philippine School of Business Administration Manila | Bachelor of Science Major in Marketing 2002-2006
Philippine Pasay Chung Hua Academy | Primary and Secondary School 1992-2002

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Lawyer | Private Practice
Proprietor | WRC Construction and General Merchandise
Proprietor | 3D Concrete and Ready Mix
Proprietor | Triple D Leasing Corp.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Secretary - General Philippine Olympic Committee
Chief Legal Counsel Philippine Olympic Committee
Member Olympic Council of Asia
Council Member SEA Games Federation
Secretary - General Samahang Kickboxing ng Pilipinas
President (OIC) Philippine Billiards
Founding Member Federation Internationale Mixed Martial Arts

MASONIC INFORMATION

Mother District: Masonic District National Capital Region – D
Mother Lodge: Saigon Masonic Lodge No. 188 (Raised: 11/12/2008)
Worshipful Master: Saigon Masonic Lodge No. 188 (MY2015)
Charter Master: Almagea Masonic Lodge No. 499 (MY2024)

OTHER LODGE MEMBERSHIPS

Plural Membership/s: Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No. 430
Almagea Masonic Lodge No. 499
Charter Membership/s: Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No. 430
Federico P Ambatali Masonic Lodge No. 490
Almagea Masonic Lodge No. 499
Ama-Deus Masonic Lodge No. 500

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Masonic Year 2015 - Most Outstanding Lodge Saigon Masonic Lodge No. 188
Masonic Year 2025 - Hiram Awardee Almagea Masonic Lodge No. 499

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP/S:

Biak na Bato Masonic Lodge No. 7 Isaac Puno Masonic Lodge No. 401
Noli Me Tangere Masonic Lodge No. 42 Aurora Masonic Lodge No. 405
Laoag Masonic Lodge No. 71 Tuguegarao Masonic Lodge No. 408
Taga Ilog Masonic Lodge No. 79 Magtagumpay Masonic Lodge No. 410
Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 88 Muntinlupa Masonic Lodge No. 414
Manuel A Roxas Masonic Lodge No. 152 Silang Masonic Lodge No. 416
Unity Masonic Lodge No. 285 Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No. 430
Catanduanes Masonic Lodge No. 291 Calasiao Masonic Lodge No. 448
Santa Rosa Masonic Lodge No. 297 Carmona Sorteo Masonic Lodge No. 451
Pinacanauan Masonic Lodge No. 318 F. Ambatali Masonic Lodge No. 490
Palayan City Masonic Lodge No. 331 AMA-Deus Masonic Lodge No. 500
Santiago L Chua Masonic Lodge No. 336 Trident Masonic Lodge No. 9891EC
Pinaglabanan Masonic Lodge No. 374

GLP APPOINTMENTS & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Masonic Year 2016

Grand Lodge Inspector

Manuel A. Roxas Masonic Lodge 152

Masonic Year 2017

District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District NCR-D

Chairman, Committee on Youth

Member, Committee on Jurisprudence

Member, Committee on Revision of the Constitution

Masonic Year 2019

Member, Committee on Grievance

Masonic Year 2021

Grand Chaplain

Chief of Staff (MW Paulino)

Chairman, Committee on Revision of the Constitution

Vice Chair, Committee on Masonic Association & Clubs

Masonic Year 2021

Member, Committee on Jurisprudence

Member, Committee on Grievance

Member, Committee on Credentials

Member, Committee on Resolutions

Member, Committee on Awards

Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms

Member, Technical Working Group

Masonic Year 2024

Member, Committee on Grievance

Member, Committee on Cavite Affairs

“THREE – FOLD” Plans & Programs

Guiding Principle: In fidelity to the Ancient Landmarks, the Constitution of this Grand Jurisdiction, and under the guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe, if ever I shall be elected, we will pursue a balanced and purposeful agenda that strengthens governance, preserves the sanctity of our Rituals, and nurtures the fraternal and family life of our Brethren.

This Agenda will be called the WRC Framework: Work • Ritual • Community

W — WORK (Administrative Digitization and Strengthened Governance)

We recognize the need to responsibly adapt to the demands of the present time while preserving the dignity, decorum, and traditions of the Craft. Under this program, this Administration shall pursue the modernization of administrative processes through structured, secure, and carefully implemented digitization—always guided by Masonic law and sound governance.

Digitalization shall not replace the values of Masonry, but rather support them by improving efficiency, transparency, and accuracy in the performance of our labors.

Programs and Directives

- Gradual digitalization of Grand Lodge and constituent lodge administrative records, ensuring that all processes remain consistent with the Constitution, Edicts, and established data security and confidentiality protocols
- Standardized electronic systems for reporting, official communications, and record-keeping, aimed at reducing redundancy, delays, and administrative errors

- Streamlined procedures for submissions, approvals, dispensations, and circulars to promote accountability, timeliness, and uniformity across the jurisdiction
- Training and capacity-building programs for Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers, recognizing their vital role as custodians of lodge records and finances

Purpose: To enhance efficiency, transparency, and accuracy in Masonic governance, allowing Lodges and Brethren to devote greater time and attention to Masonic education, fellowship, charity, and service to the Craft.

R — RITUAL (Strengthening and Fidelity to Masonic Rituals)

The heart and soul of Freemasonry rest in its Rituals. This Administration affirms its unwavering commitment to the preservation, proper execution, and reverent observance of our Rituals in accordance with established standards and traditions of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Ritual work shall be approached not merely as performance, but as instruction—imparting moral lessons, discipline, and Masonic values to every Brother.

Programs and Directives

- Reinforcement of ritual proficiency and officer competency, ensuring that lodge officers are adequately prepared to perform their duties with confidence and correctness
- District and regional ritual workshops and schools of instruction, providing continuous learning and improvement opportunities for ritualists and officers
- Mentorship programs pairing experienced ritualists and Past Masters with junior officers to cultivate skill, discipline, and continuity
- Emphasis on decorum, floor work, and proper lodge conduct, reaffirming the solemnity and dignity of all lodge proceedings
- Promotion of well-prepared, meaningful, and dignified degree conferrals, discouraging rushed or perfunctory work in favor of quality, understanding, and impact

Purpose: To ensure that every Masonic degree is conferred with solemnity, accuracy, and understanding, thereby strengthening the moral, spiritual, and fraternal foundation of the Craft and deepening the Masonic experience of every Brother.

C — COMMUNITY (Sports, Family, and Fraternal Engagement)

Freemasonry flourishes when fellowship is strong, relationships are nurtured, and families are valued. This program seeks to foster unity, balance, and camaraderie among the Brethren while recognizing that the support of the Masonic family is essential to the well-being of every Mason. Beyond the lodge room, we strengthen the bonds that sustain our Brotherhood.

Programs and Directives

- Inter-lodge and inter-district sports activities designed to promote healthy competition, teamwork, and brotherhood
- Family-oriented Masonic events and fellowship activities that encourage the participation and inclusion of spouses, children, and loved ones
- Wellness initiatives addressing physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, recognizing that a healthy Mason is better able to serve his family, lodge, and community
- Support and encouragement for Masonic youth organizations and activities that promote values, leadership, and continuity of the Craft

Purpose: To strengthen fraternal bonds, promote holistic well-being, and cultivate a supportive Masonic environment that enriches not only the Brother, but also his family and the wider Masonic community.

In conclusion, through the “Three-Fold Plans & Programs (Work, Ritual, and Community)”, we seek to honor our traditions, strengthen our institutions, and ensure that Freemasonry remains relevant, vibrant, and respected in the years to come.

Guided by the Great Architect of the Universe and united in brotherly love, relief, and truth, we shall labor together for the continued advancement of the Craft in our Grand Jurisdiction.



**WB PAUL L.
DUMLAO**

WB PAUL DUMLAO

BRIEF NARRATIVE

Bro. Paul Dumlao is the son of WB Andoni Tansinsin Dumlao, a past Grand Tyler of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, a civil engineer and a former UP student leader and alumnus, and Mrs. Norma Lequit Dumlao. He is also an alumnus of the University of the Philippines – Diliman and a civil engineer by profession.

After successfully passing the board exams, Paul Dumlao became the driving force behind the family construction business, A.T. Dumlao Construction, Inc. Under his leadership, the company has flourished, establishing itself as a front-runner in the construction industry, particularly in roads and bridges, across the Philippines.

His rise in politics was unexpected, despite his successful career and family life. He is currently serving his second term as Mayor of the City of Surigao, and one of his great contributions as chief executive was the improvement of the financial sustainability of the city, which led to its reclassification from Third Class to a Second Class component city.

Paul Dumlao's masonic career began in 2010 and saw him serve as Master of the lodge in 2014, District Deputy Grand Master in 2017, Grand Chaplain in 2021, and Chief of Staff of MW Johnny T. Pimentel during his incumbency as Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in 2021.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Date of Birth : September 22, 1979
Place of Birth : Surigao City, Philippines
Occupation : Civil Engineer
College : University of The Philippines – Diliman

MASONIC DETAILS

Initiated : August 15, 2010
Passed : September 18, 2010
Raised : October 23, 2010

Mother Lodge - Mt. Diwata Masonic Lodge No. 236

Worshipful Master
- Mt. Diwata Lodge No. 236 (M.Y. 2014-2015)
District Deputy Grand Master
- RXIII Agusan and Surigao (M.Y. 2017-2018)
Grand Chaplain
- MW Johnny T. Pimentel (M.Y. 2021-2022)
Chief of Staff
- MW Johnny T. Pimentel (M.Y. 2021-2022)

Scottish Rite
- Agusan Bodies 32 KCCH

Honorary Membership :
VW Andoni T. Dumlao
Masonic Lodge No. 424

Cauayan Masonic Lodge No. 478

Appendant Bodies : Shriner's International
- Bamboo Shrine Club, Mabuhay Temple
- Mindanao Shriners, Agila Temple

Dual Membership : VW Andoni T. Dumlao
Masonic Lodge No. 424

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Be The Change You Want See

As a Freemason, I have come to the realization that our involvement and support can significantly impact our communities. By fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and commitment among our members, we can collectively contribute to the growth and well-being of our local communities.

Through the experiences shared during our Masonic Education, local lodge meetings and gatherings, we can facilitate the development of leadership skills and strengthen our Masonic circle. These shared experiences will serve as catalysts for future growth and expand our membership at the blue lodge level.

We are entrusted with the responsibility of fostering decorum and respect within our society and among ourselves through the principles of civility, kindness, and charity. By cultivating a willingness to serve others, our craft will undoubtedly flourish both internally and externally. “Be The Change You Want to See” will serve as my anchor and theme if given the opportunity to serve as Grand Junior Warden. Change will only occur after a thorough examination of our flaws and our superfluities of life. After such reflection, we can tell ourselves that being the change we want to see can bring us to where we want to be, be it in our own aspirations in general or to the future of Freemasonry in particular.

In detail, allow me to share the following plan:

1. Serving the Grand Master
 - Support all programs and activities of the incumbent Grand Master.
2. Traveling Traveller
 - Visiting out of district lodges and foster sisterhood relationship among lodges.
3. Master and Wardens Academy
 - Use the Annual Communication as an additional opportunity to train future blue lodges leaders about Freemasonry through breakout sessions.
4. Promote, grow and expand Freemasonry within our youth organizations
 - Support visionary activities of Masonic Youth organizations, such as DeMolay, Rainbow for girls, and Jobs Daughters, among others.
5. Harmony as a source of strength for our fraternity
 - Provide optional opportunities for our Harmony Officers to attend mediation training to better equip them when handling and mediating conflict among brother Masons.
6. Progressive Planning
 - Future-proofing the Grand Lodge by supporting digital transformation initiatives of the GLP like online transactions, online submission of reports, and digitized record-keeping of all its resources for future generations, among others.



**WB FAUSTINO MICHAEL
CARLOS T. DY III**

WB FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS DY III

Past District Grand Lecturer
Masonic District R II Isabela (North)

Age : 47

Date of birth : 17 September 1979

Place of birth : Manila

Residence : Barangay District 3, San Manuel, Isabela

Occupation : Legislative Representative (5th District of Isabela)
House of Representatives

Entrepreneur conducting marketing and commercial distribution of goods

Civil status : Married with 4 children

Spouse : Kristine Arnaldo Dy

MASONIC RECORD

Circulation of petition : 10 August 2012

Initiated : 03 May 2014

Passed : 06 June 2015

Raised : 04 July 2015

Mother Lodge : Aurora Masonic Lodge No. 405 (Aurora, Isabela)

Worshipful Master : Aurora Masonic Lodge No. 405 (2019)

District Grand Lecturer : MD Region II – Isabela North (2021)

1st Nominee at the 2025 Northern Luzon Multi-DisCon held at the City of San Fernando,
La Union on 26-27 September

Other Lodge Memberships/Affiliations

Charter Member

Cauayan City Masonic Lodge No. 478 | Federico Ambatali Memorial Lodge No. 490

Member

Pagong Ako Kuyang Masonic Club

Institute of Masonic Education and Studies

Centurion Class (2016-100)

PROFESSIONAL RECORD

Member, House of Representatives (5th District of Isabela) : 2019 to present
Chairperson, Committee on Youth and Sports Development (2020 – present)
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on ASEAN Affairs (20th Congress)
Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs (20th Congress)
Member, Committee on Housing and Urban Development (20th Congress)
Member, Committee on North Luzon Growth Quadrangle (20th Congress)
Member, Committee on Nuclear Energy (20th Congress)

Local Chief Executive (Mayor) of San Manuel, Isabela : 2010 to 2019

Recipient of Good Governance Seal Award by the Department of the Interior and Local Government

Aspiration: QUALITY IN MASONRY: Informed Masons Make Better Decisions

The urge and desire to continuously develop oneself is consistent with the Masonic mantra of “making good men better”. Members of the craft can all be likened to rough ashlar, requiring unceasing pounding and smoothing to achieve the state fit for the builder’s use.

Policy:

- 1.Pursue a continuing program of education which shall make available at affordable cost, basic to advance courses/modules on relevant masonic topics;
- 2.Ensure an appropriate and innovative education program dedicated to address the needs of the brethren while undergoing the 3 degrees of Masonry in blue lodges;
- 3.Promote the conducive environment for learning for the brethren.

Governance Framework:

I Participative Leadership and Policy Formulation

- Participative governance shall be practiced to bring out the best ideas forward.
- Senior members of Craft, including the Council of Past Grand Masters, shall be constantly engaged in the shaping of policies and initiatives.
- Masonic clubs and organizations shall likewise be engaged in the formulation of guidelines for their operation within the grand jurisdiction.

II Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

- Existing Masonic Regional Formations shall be engaged with consultations and other means to solicit ideas and identify “best practices”.
- Available technology and other developments shall be employed and maximized in the conduct of consultations.

III Transparency, Accountability and Information Access

- Information, data, proceedings, and other resources shall be made available online to members to promote transparency and accountability, subject to the Data Privacy Law.
- Digital Masonic ID via QR Code – the aim is to modernize and streamline the identification process within the Craft, by leveraging the power of QR Codes. This concept shall provide members with a secure, easily accessible, and efficient digital alternative to traditional IDs.



WB BEDA
A. EPRES

WB BEDA ANGELES EPRES

PROFILE

Beda Angeles Epres, born on November 14, 1970 in Iriga City, Camarines Sur, is the first of the five appointed Commissioners of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines' Commission en banc - the highest decision and policy-making body of the Commission. Commissioner Epres is currently serving a seven-year term from 2022 to 2029. He graduated from Far Eastern University (Political Science, 1990) and Arellano University School of Law (LL.B., 1995). He was then admitted to the Bar in 1995.

Commissioner Epres started his career at the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) as an Assistant Right Way Officer from 1995 to 1996 and a Senior Right Way Assistant from 1996 to 1997.

His 25-year career at the Office of the Ombudsman started at the Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices (MOLEO) as a Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer from 1997 to 2008. While serving at the OMB, he joined the academe as a part time professor at the Far Easter University from 1998 to 2001. From 2008 to 2009, Commissioner Beda served as the Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer II and Head of Monitoring Team of the Field Investigation Office. Later on, he served as the Head and Team Leader of its Intelligence Bureau from 2009 to 2010. From 2010 to 2011, he later served as the Acting Director of the Bureau before assuming the position of Director in 2011.

From 2011 to 2014, Commissioner Epres served as the Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer III (Managerial) at the Office of the Special Prosecutor at the Office of the Ombudsman. He later served at the General Investigation Bureau-A, Field Investigation Office I as the Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer IV from 2014 to 2018 before assuming the position of Director IV in 2018. Commissioner Epres's 25- year service to the Office of the Ombudsman concluded in 2022 after being appointed by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. as first appointed Commissioner of CHR's Commission en banc VI.

Complementing his extensive career as a civil servant, Commissioner Epres has received a Civil Service Sub-Professional Eligibility in 1989 and a Civil Service Professional Eligibility in 1990. He has also received numerous interventions and trainings from distinguished national and international institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), UP Law Center, the British Embassy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), AMLC, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) among others.

His leadership and character were not only evident throughout his career, but was also unmistakable in the various roles he held as a member of the Laong Laan Lodge No. 185 where he was raised in September 2005. He assumed the role of Worshipful Master in 2010 and he became the District Grand Lecturer of Masonic District NCR E in 2011. By 2018, Commissioner Beda served as the Junior Grand Lecturer of the Masonic Districts NCR E and F. He was then voted as the District Deputy Grandmaster of the Masonic District NCR- E from 2019 to 2021. In addition to these roles, Commissioner Beda was also a Hiram Awardee in 2025 and a member of the Bamboo Shrine Club.

PROPOSED PLANS AND PROGRAMS

My term will focus on practical, lodge-level implementation of our most cherished and fundamental Pillars namely:

Brotherly Love
Equality
Dignity
Advancement

The goal is to move these principles from constitutional text into daily Masonic practice.

I. Program for BROTHERLY LOVE

This program focuses on social connection, mutual support, and charitable outreach.

a) Lodge-to-Lodge Visitation Initiative

Goal: To foster deeper fraternal bonds across districts and lodges, especially those that are geographically distant.

Plan:

- Establish a Grand Lodge Visitation Schedule that encourages lodges to formally visit a neighboring lodge's regular stated meeting at least once per quarter.

b) Enhancement of Masonic Assistance to Brethren

Goal: To streamline and boost the existing fund's capacity for rapid relief.

Plan:

- Conduct a review of the current Masonic Assistance protocols for easier application and faster disbursement to Brethren and their families facing emergencies (e.g., medical, disaster) with special focus on elderly brethren.
- Launch an annual, Grand Lodge-sanctioned "Brother's Keeper Day" fund raising in the lodge level to replenish the fund.

II. Program for EQUALITY

This program ensures that all Brethren, regardless of rank, seniority, or background, feel valued, heard, and equally respected within the Craft.

a) Senior Brother/Junior Brother Mentorship Program

Goal: To eliminate perceived stratification and encourage knowledge-sharing between seasoned and newly-raised Masons.

Plan:

- Mandate a formal pairing system in every lodge, where a Master Mason with 10+ years of service is assigned to mentor a newly-raised Master Mason for their first year.
- The mentorship should focus on Masonic history, lodge governance, and the practical application of Masonic tenets.

b) Lodge Transparency and Inclusivity Campaign

Goal: To ensure all Brethren have a clear understanding of lodge finances and decision-making processes.

Plan:

- Advise all Worshipful Masters to establish a "Brethren's Open Forum" at least quarterly, where any Brother can raise a question or concern about lodge operations without fear of reprisal.
- Promote the equal opportunity of all Masons, regardless of profession or economic status, to serve as officers and committeemen.

III. Program for DIGNITY

This program focuses on upholding the honor of the Craft, proper decorum, and maintaining a high standard of moral conduct.

a) Masonic Protocol Refresher

Goal: To ensure uniformity of ritual and proper dignified conduct in all lodge proceedings and public appearances.

Plan:

- Implement District-level workshops focused on the Standardized Ritual and the correct GLP-mandated protocols for opening, closing, degree work, and funeral services.
- Emphasize lectures on Masonic Etiquette—specifically proper attire, respect for the East, and conduct during balloting and debate.
- This plan is in close coordination with the teachings in the IMES Course.

b) Zero-Tolerance Policy Communication on Unmasonic Conduct

Goal: To communicate clearly that integrity is paramount and ensure the dignity of the title "Mason" remains untarnished.

Plan:

- Publish and disseminate a clear, concise summary of the Grand Lodge's edicts on Unmasonic Conduct and the process for filing complaints, ensuring Brethren understand the seriousness of violations.
- Advocate for the swift and judicious handling of internal disciplinary cases to preserve the Craft's integrity.

IV. Program for ADVANCEMENT

This program supports intellectual, leadership, and personal growth for every Brother.

a) Lodge Leadership and Governance Seminar

Goal: To prepare future Worshipful Masters and officers not just in ritual, but in essential leadership, financial management, and legal compliance.

Plan:

- Develop a mandatory, accredited training module for all Senior Wardens, focusing on GLP By-Laws, basic non-profit financial oversight, and conflict resolution.
- Encourage the establishment of a Lodge Library or digital knowledge resource within every lodge to promote self-study.

b) Masonic Education Speaker Series

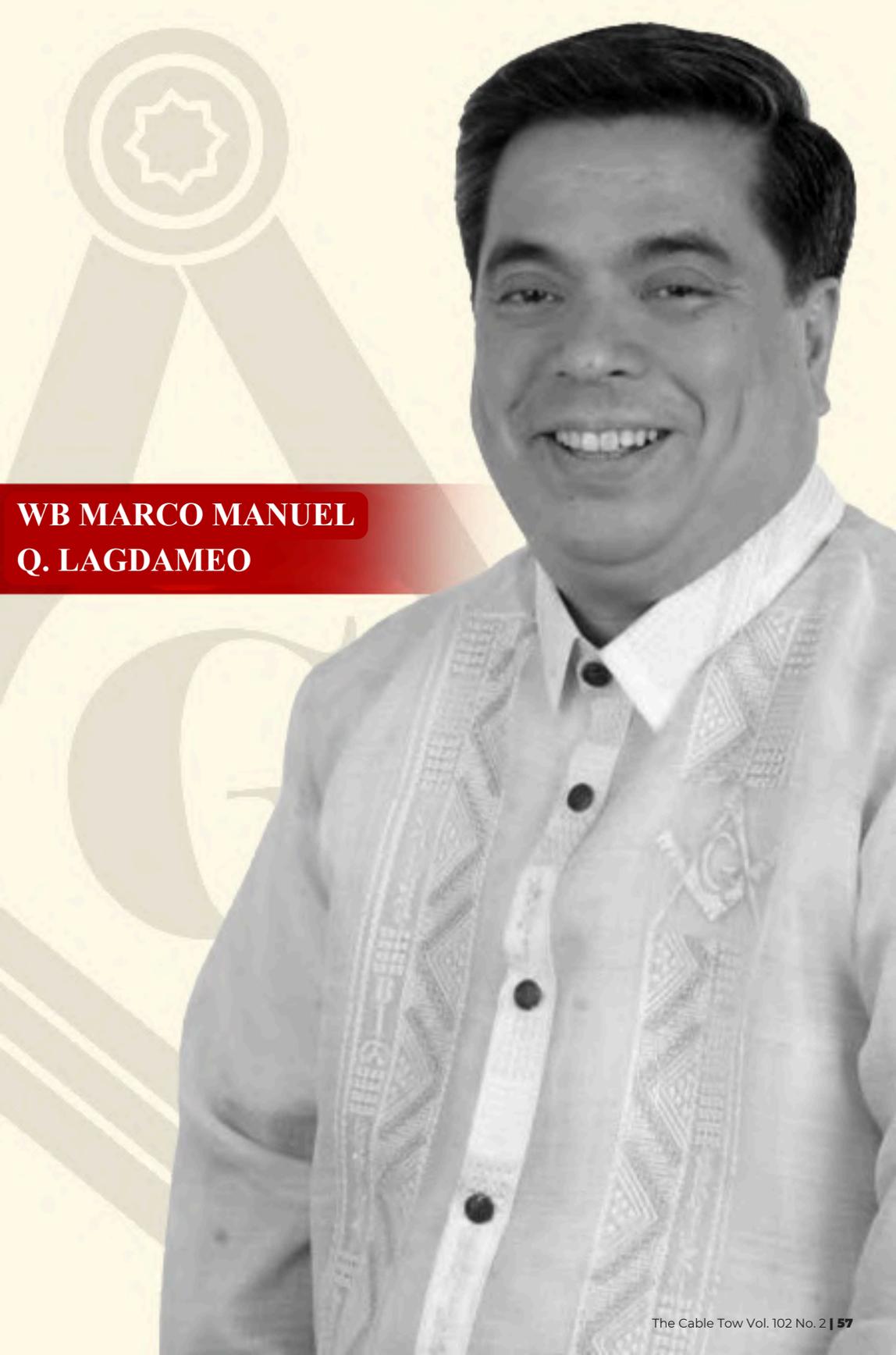
Goal: To inspire intellectual curiosity and deep understanding of the Craft's history and philosophy

Plan:

- Organize a quarterly Grand Lodge-sponsored lecture series featuring eminent scholars and Masons on topics like Operative vs. Speculative Masonry, Masonic symbolism, and the role of Masonry in Philippine history and in close coordination with the IMES Course.
- The lectures could be digitally recorded and distributed to all lodges for wider consumption.
- This plan is in close coordination with the teachings in the IMES Course.

These programs are designed to be actionable, measurable, and directly linked to existing edicts and principles, demonstrating a focus on both substance and tradition.

Worthy of note however, the application of continuity of plans and programs in Freemasonry's Leadership succession particularly in the Grand Lodge, is crucial in preserving the fraternity's stability, identity and mission. Unlike political governance, Masonic Leadership is primarily focused on upholding Ancient landmarks, ritual and tradition.



**WB MARCO MANUEL
Q. LAGDAMEO**

WB MARCO MANUEL GREGORIO QUIRINO LAGDAMEO

Nominee for Junior Grand Warden – Central Luzon
Bulacan Masonic Lodge No. 400, F&AM
Masonic District RIII Bulacan West

“BROTHERLY LOVE IS MANDATORY.”

A committed Mason, lawyer, and public servant, Marco Lagdameo brings decades of leadership grounded in justice, humility, and Harmony. His vision for the Craft is anchored on the belief that Brotherly Love is not optional—it is the obligation that holds Masonry together. Known for his calm stewardship, integrity, and ability to resolve complex disputes, he stands ready to help strengthen harmony across Lodges, Districts, and the Grand Lodge.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

A family rooted in service, values, and public leadership.

Date of Birth : 25 May 1969

Place of Birth : Manila

Parents : Mr. Enrique Revilla Lagdameo (+) Mrs. Militza Quirino Lagdameo

Siblings : Mr. Enrique Lagdameo, Jr., Mr. Paolo Lagdameo
Dr. Ma. Pilar Lagdameo-Leuenberger, Mrs. Tanya Lagdameo-Travers
Hon. Monique Yasmin Lagdameo, Representative, 1st District of Makati

Spouse : Mrs. Donna Mitzi Lagdameo

Children : Victoria Isabelle, Veronica Martin, Vanessa Aliyah, Vivienne Ancila

EDUCATION

Strong academic foundation in law, governance, and public leadership.

- Bachelor of Laws – University of the Philippines Diliman (1996)
- BS Hotel & Restaurant Administration – University of the Philippines (1991)
- La Salle Greenhills – Secondary (1986), Primary (1982)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marco’s legal practice spans more than 25 years with experience in arbitration, dispute resolution, legislation, and institutional governance. These skills directly strengthen his vision for restoring harmony in the Masonry.

- Founding Partner, Orosa Kahayon Lagdameo Law Offices (2013–present)
- Founder & Owner, Marco Manuel Lagdameo & Associates (2004–present)
- Associate, Justice Manuel M. Lazaro & Associates Law Firm (1998–2010)
- Chief Legislative Staff Officer, Office of Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III (1996–1998)

MASONIC BACKGROUND

Marco’s track record demonstrates consistent service, trusted leadership, and deep commitment to jurisprudence, harmony-building, and the strengthening of Masonic institutions.

- Grand Lodge Inspector, St. John the Baptist Masonic Lodge No. 362 (2025)
- District Deputy Grand Master, MD RIII Bulacan West (2022)
- District Grand Lecturer, MD RIII Bulacan West (2021)
- Member, Committee on Masonic Cemeteries (2022)
- Member, Committee on Jurisprudence (2016)
- Scottish Rite (A&ASR)
 - 32° Master of the Royal Secret, Bulacan Bodies (2016–present)
 - Secretary, Bulacan Bodies (2017)

MASONIC BACKGROUND

- Bulacan Masonic Lodge No. 400
 - Worshipful Master (2018)
 - Junior Warden (2017)
 - Secretary (2015–2016)
 - Member (Elected 21 Aug 2012; Initiated 4 Sept 2012; Passed 5 Mar 2013; Raised 2 Apr 2013)

PUBLIC SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Dedicated to humanitarian work, youth leadership, and national service.

- President, Philippine Band of Mercy (2025) Leading early surgical-medical interventions for children with cleft lip/palate and clubfoot—supported by Shriners, Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Smile Train and other donors
- Treasurer, Philippine Band of Mercy (2021–2025)
- Trustee, Philippine Bar Association (2025)
- Director, Philippine Red Cross, Pasay Chapter (2021 to present)
- Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary
 - Captain, 128th Squadron (2008–present)
 - Commander, 128th Squadron (2004–2008)
- Other Affiliations
 - Integrated Bar of the Philippines (1997–present)
 - Most Illustrious Fellow, Upsilon Sigma Phi (1995–1996)
 - College Representative, UP Student Council (1990–1991)

PLATFORM: BROTHERLY LOVE IS MANDATORY

Restoring harmony by resolving misunderstandings, strengthening Brotherhood, and bringing back unity. Masonry endures because of the tenet that binds all others, Brotherly Love. Yet today, nearly 70 cases lie pending before the Grand Lodge, many arising from avoidable misunderstandings. These conflicts strain our Brotherhood and distract us from our higher purposes. Marco's platform enters on restoring Harmony through sincere Brotherhood and structured conflict resolution.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Brotherly Love in all actions, decisions, and relationships—without exception.

As MW Pacifico B. Anig consistently instills, BROTHERLY LOVE IS MANDATORY. Brotherly love is mandatory and should be in every part of our Masonic life:

- In resolving conflicts;
- In interpreting and implementing laws, resolutions, and edicts; and
- In caring for our elders and the builders of our Lodges.

PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

A clear plan to strengthen harmony, ensure justice, and uphold the integrity of Masonry. If granted the honor of serving as Junior Grand Warden and future Grand Master, Marco commits to the following pillars:

1. Professionalization of Harmony Officers through mandatory arbitration training
All Harmony Officers (Lodge, District, and Grand Lodge) will undergo structured, expert-led arbitration and mediation training. Skilled peacebuilders create peaceful Lodges.
2. Hands-on leadership where brotherhood is fragile, and healing is needed most
When brethren remain divided after going through all the levels of the Temple of Harmony, Marco will lead the final dialogue personally. Leadership must be present especially where Brotherhood is fragile.
3. Uphold true Masonic justice and limit frivolous complaints to protect the Craft from misuse
During his term, only legitimate Masonic grievances will be entertained. Cases rooted in business partnerships or financial disputes will not prosper. Our Craft is sacred; it must not be misused.



**WB PHILIP MARK
U. OLIVAN**

WB PHILIP MARK OLIVAN

Naga City Masonic Lodge No. 257 and
Pili Capital Cimarrones Masonic Lodge No. 521

Born in Naga City in 1983, Philip Olivan was identified as profoundly Deaf at the age of two. In 1990, he migrated with his family to Vancouver, Canada to access quality education for the Deaf—an experience that shaped his lifelong commitment to inclusion, leadership, and service.

He pursued higher education in the United States, attending the Rochester Institute of Technology from 2002 to 2005, and later graduating in 2008 from California State University, Northridge with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, major in Business Law.

In 2009, he returned to Naga City to help manage and grow the family business. He has since served as Executive Manager of CBD Plaza Hotel, co-founded B&P Distributors with his wife, Donna, and currently serves as General Manager of Bicol CHB, a fully automatic manufacturer of hollow blocks. He also successfully opened a franchise of Bigg's, Inc.

His Masonic journey began in Granada Hills Lodge No. 378 in California, where he was initiated on October 25, 2005, passed on February 15, 2006, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 22, 2006. In 2012, he affiliated with Naga City Masonic Lodge No. 257, where he served as Junior Warden (2017), Senior Warden (2018), and Worshipful Master (2019).

He is a charter member of Pili Capital Cimarrones Masonic Lodge No. 521 and an honorary member of Vinzons Masonic Lodge No. 507, reflecting strong fraternal ties across jurisdictions.

Following his term as Worshipful Master, he continued to serve the Craft in higher offices. He was appointed District Grand Lecturer in 2021 and was recognized as Most Outstanding DGL. He then served as Grand Lodge Inspector in 2022 and District Deputy Grand Master in 2023 under Most Worshipful Don T. Ramas-Uypitching.

He is an active member of several appendant and allied bodies, including the Scottish Rite (Central Bicol Bodies), the Shriners where he currently serves as First Vice President of the Bicolandia Shrine Club, the Order of the Secret Monitor (Ibalong Conclave No. 24), the KAMANAVA Travellers Club, and the Quezon City Trowel Club.

Guided by the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, he remains committed to strengthening the Craft through inclusive leadership, transparency, and faithful service to the Grand Lodge and the Brethren.

PROGRAM

Vision:

To strengthen the Grand Lodge of the Philippines through sound governance, open communication, and genuine inclusivity—so that every Brother, from the youngest Master Mason in the Northeast to the most senior Past Master, feels valued, heard, and empowered to serve.

Statement of Continuity and Support:

I fully support the reforms initiated by Most Worshipful Raul E. Canon, Jr., which have laid a strong foundation for modern, responsive, and accountable Masonic leadership. I likewise commit to actively supporting and advancing the plans and programs of his successors, including Right Worshipful Robert Joseph S. Moran, Right Worshipful Ruel S. Rivera, and Right Worshipful Oliver K. Co, recognizing that the strength of our Grand Lodge lies in continuity, cooperation, and collective wisdom.

Mission:

To uphold the highest standards of Masonic leadership rooted in accountability, integrity, and brotherly love, ensuring that our Craft continues to grow in unity and purpose for generations to come.

Core Pillars and Programs

1. Good Governance

Objective: To build a culture of accountability, efficiency, and responsible stewardship within the Grand Lodge.

Key Initiatives:

- **Financial Stewardship:** Introduce clearer financial reporting practices, with regular updates to constituent Lodges about fund utilization, budgets, and major projects.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide continuing education and leadership workshops for Lodge officers to enhance their administrative and Masonic management skills.
- **Digital Modernization:** Advocate for the adoption of digital tools to streamline Lodge communications, records, and reports, ensuring better data management and efficiency.

2. Transparency

Objective: To promote openness and trust through clear, timely communication and accessible information.

Key Initiatives:

- **Quarterly Communication Updates:** Introduce digital newsletters or bulletins to update all brethren on Grand Lodge projects, activities, and decisions.
- **Consultative Leadership:** Encourage two-way communication—seeking input from Districts and constituent Lodges before major policy changes.
- **Public Accountability:** Recognize and celebrate best practices among Lodges that model transparent and ethical leadership.

3. Inclusivity

Objective: To ensure that every Brother—regardless of geography, background, or ability—has an equal opportunity to participate, contribute, and grow within the Craft.

Key Initiatives:

- **Provincial and District Empowerment:** Provide greater support to Lodges in the provinces and remote areas to strengthen their programs and member development.
- **Programs for the Differently-Abled Masons:** Encourage inclusivity by supporting initiatives and accessibility improvements that ensure full participation of all brethren.
- **Youth and Family Engagement:** Promote programs that involve families, DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, and Rainbow Girls in Masonic community efforts.
- **Diversity and Harmony:** Celebrate the unique contributions of every Brother—fostering respect across generations, languages, and regional traditions.

4. Service Beyond the Lodge

Objective: To make Freemasonry more visible and relevant to society through acts of charity and community involvement.

Key Initiatives:

- **Masonic Social Responsibility (MSR):** Develop community-based projects focusing on education, health, and disaster response.
- **Partnerships with Civic Organizations:** Collaborate with local government and NGOs to expand our reach and impact.
- **Emergency Assistance Program:** Establish a fund or rapid response system for brethren and communities affected by natural disasters or crises.

Conclusion

If entrusted with the honor to serve as Junior Grand Warden, I pledge to uphold our Masonic values with humility and diligence—to serve not above, but among the Brethren.

Let us build a Grand Lodge that listens, acts, and grows together.

A Grand Lodge that leads with Governance, shines with Transparency, and unites through Inclusivity.

Listening with our Hearts, and responding with Brotherly Love! 🇺🇸👉



**WB ALMERICK
B. PUA PHEE**

WB ALMERICK PUA PHEE

PERSONAL PROFILE

Date of Birth: December 19, 1976
Place of Birth: Baguio City
Name of Spouse: Cheryl B. Pua Phee
Children: Aiana Castiel B. Pua Phee
Alymer Kenrich B. Pua Phee

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, BAGUIO CITY
Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
LA UNION CULTURAL INSTITUTE, San Fernando City, La Union
Secondary Education (High School) and Primary Education (Elementary)

PROFESSIONAL/OCCUPATION/WORK/BUSINESS PROFILE

Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
Vice President Camp 7 Lumber and Construction Supplies, Baguio City
President Plaza De Castiel Hotel, Urbiztondo, San Juan, La Union

MASONIC PROFILE

Date Initiated: March 29, 2003
Passed: May 10, 2003
Raised: June 28, 2003

MOTHER LODGE: Siete Martires Masonic Lodge No. 177
Worshipful Master 2006 & 2017

DUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Baguio Masonic Lodge No. 67

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:

Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31
Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273
Sultan Haroun Al-Rashid M. Lucman Masonic Lodge No. 406

*Nominated as a Junior Grand
Warden candidate during the 11th
North Luzon Multi-District
Convention held last September 27,
2025 at the Speaker Pro Tempore |
Francisco Ortega Convention Center,
San Fernando City, La Union*

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS:

District Deputy Grand Master: 2009
District Grand Lecturer: 2008
Grand Lodge Inspector: 2007

NOTABLE GLP RECOGNITION/S RECEIVED:

HIRAM Awardee
Most Outstanding Worshipful Master per Multi District, North Luzon MY 2017
Most Outstanding Lodge per Multi District, North Luzon MY 2017

“REDISCOVERING FRATERNAL ROOTS: REVISITING MASONIC FUNDAMENTALS”

Our programs involve a combination of Masonic Education, Reflection, Active participation in Lodge Activities, Mentorship and Guidance, Fostering Brotherhood, and honoring Ancient Practices shall help members reconnect with the core values of Freemasonry.

I. Masonic Education

Set Up Weekly / Monthly Study Groups and the use of Digital Tools for Study and Connection:

Organize a group within the Lodge or a few like-minded brothers to meet regularly to study Masonic literature. Focus on specific books, rituals, or the meanings of key symbols. Understanding the deeper meanings of Masonic symbols and rituals can help reinforce the teachings of Freemasonry.

II. Reflect on the Core Values of Freemasonry

Brotherhood: Reflect on the importance of brotherly love, charity, and relief within the Masonic community.

Morality and Ethics: Reflect on how the principles of truth, justice, and personal integrity are reflected in both our everyday lives and Masonic practices.

Community and Service: Reflect on how Freemasonry encourages and inspire members to make a positive impact on the community and society at large.

III. Participate in Lodge Activities

Engage in Lodge Meetings and promote Active Involvement: Attend regular Lodge meetings to reconnect with fellow Masons and engage in discussions about the values and practices of Freemasonry. Take part in organizing events, charity work, and ritualistic activities within the Lodge. Being actively engaged can help us rediscover the sense of purpose and community that Freemasonry provides.

IV. Mentorship and Guidance

Seek Mentorship: Establish a formal program where newer members are paired with experienced Masons who will guide them in both the ritualistic and philosophical aspects of the craft.

V. Revitalize Rituals and Traditions

Honor Ancient Practices: Explore the rich traditions and ceremonies that form the backbone of Masonic teachings. Holding of Lodge of Instruction to ensure everyone understands their symbolism and importance.

VI. Build a Stronger Community

Foster Brotherhood: Strengthen the bonds within the Lodge by encouraging brotherly communication, social activities, and charitable efforts that reinforce the Masonic spirit.

VII. Teach and Share the Masonic Message

Public Outreach: Host public events to educate others about Freemasonry and its values. This could help non-Masons understand the fraternal bonds that exist within the Fraternity and possibly attract like-minded individuals who are interested in Masonic teachings.



**WB DARWIN
S. REYES**

WB DARWIN SANTOS REYES

EDUCATION

College of Law : Arellano Law School Taft Ave., Pasay City 2000

Degree : Bachelors of Law

College : De La Salle University Taft Ave., Manila 1992-1995

Degree : Bachelor of Science in Commerce | Major : Legal Management

Secondary : Chevalier School Angeles City 1988-1992

Award : Gerry Roxas Leadership Award

Elementary : Chevalier School Angeles City 1986-1988

Awards : 1st Honorable Mention | Gerry Roxas Leadership Award

Holy Family Academy Angeles City 1982-1986

Awards : Consistent Honor Student

WORK EXPERIENCE

Legal Consultant for: Eco Protect Management Corporation, Green Eco Xpress Inc., Showa Aircraft Industry Philippines, Manila Uni Capital Corporation, EMA Credit Corporation, Dongeun Philippines Development Corporation, St. Catherine Realty Corporation, R6 Bros Realty Corporation, S. of G. Foundation, Inc., Megaland888 Infrastructure and Trading OPC.

2006-Present

REYES IRISARI-REYES LAW OFFICE

DS Reyes Building, Don Bonifacio Avenue, Angeles City

Managing Partner

2001 – 2006

BERMUDO REYES BERMUDO AND ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE

1282 Miranda St., Angeles City

Partner

1997 – Present

REYES LAW OFFICE

Magalang, Pampanga

2001-2007

ANGELES UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Angeles City

Part-Time Teacher (Law Subjects)

1995-1996

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Diliman, Quezon City

Apprentice (Practicum)

PERSONAL DATA

Parents : Atty. Jose V. Reyes

Lucia S. Reyes

Date of Birth : 12 March 1975

Place of Birth : Angeles City

Height : 5'6"

Weight : 150 lbs.

Civil Status : Married

Wife : Atty. Milani Irisari-Reyes

Children : Frida Lucille

Regina Ysobel

Marcus Matteo

MASONIC JOURNEY

Bro. Darwin was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on July 30, 2009, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft Mason on August 27, 2009, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on September 29, 2009 in his Mother Lodge, Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105. From the beginning of his Masonic journey, he embraced Masonry not merely as a fraternity, but as a way of life founded on humility, discipline, and brotherly love.

He served as Worshipful Master of Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 in 2017, focusing on lodge harmony and meaningful Masonic education. Prior to becoming the master of the lodge, he served as Junior Deacon in 2012, Senior Deacon in 2013, Treasurer in 2014, Junior Warden in 2015, Senior Warden in 2016.

He was appointed Grand Lodge Inspector in 2018 and District Grand Lecturer in 2021, helping uplift ritual proficiency and Masonic instruction among the lodges.

In 2023, he was entrusted with the ope of District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 3 - Pampanga, where he led with balance, fairness, and fraternal wisdom.

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In recognition of his exemplary leadership, dedication, and effective supervision of the lodges under his care, Bro. Darwin was awarded as one of the Best District Deputy Grand Masters during his term. This distinction reflects the trust and confidence of both the Grand Lodge and the brethren.

SERVICE AT THE GRAND LODGE LEVEL

Bro. Darwin has rendered valuable service at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines through various committees, including: Member, Preliminary Investigation Committee Alternate Member, Grievance Committee Member, Joint Committee on Constitutional Revision These roles demonstrate his deep understanding of Masonic jurisprudence and his commitment to fairness, harmony, and due

ANCOM SERVICE

A significant highlight of his Masonic service was his appointment as ANCOM Director during the Annual Communication held in Clark, Pampanga. In this role, he contributed to the successful planning and execution of one of the most important gatherings in Philippine Masonry, demonstrating strong organizational leadership and the ability to unite brethren nationwide.

MASONIC AFFILIATIONS

In addition to his service in Blue Lodge and Grand Lodge offices, Bro. Darwin is a member of the Mt. Arayat Shriners Club, reflecting his commitment to the wider Masonic family and to the principles of charity, fellowship, and service to humanity espoused by the Shrine.

PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Should the Great Architect of the Universe bless him with the opportunity to serve as Junior Grand Warden, Bro. Darwin commits to programs that are practical, simple, and sustainable, guided by the belief that programs must support lodges—not burden them.

1. Enhanced and Engaging Masonic Education

Masonic education is the foundation of a strong and informed Craft. While short verbal lectures remain valuable, they will be enhanced through PowerPoint presentations and visual aids prepared at the district or Grand Lodge level and shared with lodges. These presentations will be concise and designed for five-to-ten-minute delivery, using symbols, diagrams, timelines, and quotations to make lessons clearer and more memorable. Storytelling and personal reactions by senior brethren will also be encouraged to demonstrate the practical application of Masonic principles in daily life.

2. Lodge Harmony and Mediation Program

Harmony is the lifeblood of every lodge. This program emphasizes early, calm, and fraternal mediation. Lodge officers will be encouraged to listen first, address concerns privately, and focus on reconciliation rather than discipline. District officers may assist as neutral facilitators when needed, ensuring that misunderstandings are resolved before they escalate into formal grievances.

3. Brother's Assistance and Care Program

This program strengthens the lodge as a Masonic family by encouraging care for sick, elderly, and distressed brethren. Lodges will be encouraged to designate an officer or small committee to monitor welfare, coordinate visits, and respond to emergencies. Simple acts of presence, communication, and timely assistance ensure that no brother is ever forgotten.

4. Support and Development of New and Young Masons

The future of Masonry depends on how new members are guided. This program promotes mentorship, early involvement in lodge activities, and inclusive fellowship. Senior brethren will guide newly raised Masons, helping them understand lodge culture, develop confidence, and prepare for future leadership.

5. A More Accessible and Service-Oriented Grand Lodge

This initiative envisions a Grand Lodge that is present, approachable, and supportive. Clear communication, timely responses, and lodge visits aimed at listening and assisting, rather than merely inspecting, will be emphasized. Best practices from successful lodges will be shared across districts to promote unity and collective growth.

A COMMITMENT TO HUMBLE SERVICE

All his plans and actions are guided by the principles of Dedication, Service, and Reputation — dedication in giving time and presence, service rendered without expectation of reward, and protection of the good name of Masonry in all actions.

Bro. Darwin S. Reyes sees himself as Junior Grand Warden not in pursuit of rank or title, but in sincere answer to a call to serve, always under the guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe.

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

– Proverbs 3:6



WB NABILA. TAN

WB NABIL ALFAD TAN

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

1988–1989 – Masters in Government Management, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

1976–1980 – Bachelor of Laws, University of the East

1972–1976 – Bachelor of Arts, Major in Political Science, University of the East

1967–1971 – Secondary Education, Notre Dame of Jolo

1961–1967 – Elementary Education, Philippine Muslim College

1960–1961 – Pre-School Education, Notre Dame Elementary School

CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY / BAR EXAMINATION

March 19, 1981 – Bar Examination, Manuel L. Quezon University, Manila

June 16, 1978 – Civil Service Examination (Professional), Manila

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

August 12, 2022–Present – Re-appointed Member of Parliament, Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), BARMM

January 26, 2021–Present – Deputy Speaker, Bangsamoro Transition Authority, BARMM

Feb. 22, 2019–August 11, 2022 – Member of Parliament, Bangsamoro Transition Authority, BARMM

Aug. 18, 2016–Feb. 21, 2019 – Deputy Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Undersecretary), OPAPP

July 01, 2016–Aug. 17, 2016 – Senior Consultant, OPAPP

Dec. 14, 2012–June 30, 2016 – Undersecretary, Office of the Executive Secretary; Head, Mindanao Coordinating Office

Feb. 01, 2011–Dec. 13, 2012 – Undersecretary, Office of the Executive Secretary; Executive Director, ATC-PMC

Nov. 03, 2009–June 30, 2010 – Deputy Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, OPAPP

Oct. 12, 2009–Nov. 02, 2009 – Officer-in-Charge, OPAPP

June 2006–Oct. 12, 2009 – Deputy Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, OPAPP

March–May 2006 – Senior Adviser, OPAPP

Feb. 2005–Apr. 2006 – Philippine Program Manager, Asia America Initiative

Dec. 2004–Jan. 2005 – Philippine Senior Adviser, Asia America Initiative

June 2004–Jan. 2005 – Law Partner, Cervantes, Delarmente & Tan Law Offices

Jan. 2004–Sept. 2005 – Consultant on Local Government, ARMM ORG

Jan. 2002–Dec. 2003 – Executive Secretary, ARMM

April 2001–Jan. 2002 – Deputy Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

May 2001–Present – AFP Reservist Officer (Lt. Colonel), Philippine Army

Aug. 1997–1998 – Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process (Undersecretary)

Apr. 1994–1996 – Chairman, Regional Management Consultative Assembly, ARMM

Aug. 1995–1996 – Co-Chair, Task Force Mindanao for Anti-Poverty Alleviation

Oct. 1993–1996 – Member, GRP Peace Panel (SPAG)

May 1993–1996 – Chairman, CIDA-funded LG Support Program (RMC-ARMM)

Apr. 1993–1996 – Regional Vice Governor, ARMM; Cabinet Secretary (DILG-ARMM)

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Feb. 1990–Jan. 1993 – Assemblyman, 1st District of Sulu, ARMM
Mar. 1988–Dec. 1989 – Legislative Staff, House of Representatives
Dec. 1987–Mar. 1988 – Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Mayor, Jolo, Sulu
1986 – President, Provincial Food and Agricultural Council, Jolo, Sulu
1982–1984 – Law Partner, Asaali Tammang & Tan Law Office, Jolo, Sulu
1981 – Secretary to the Mayor, Jolo, Sulu; Lecturer on Business Law, MSU Jolo

HIGHLIGHTS OF MASONIC CAREER

Raised August 22, 1992 – Bud Daho Masonic Lodge No. 102, Jolo, Sulu
Life Member by Longevity, Bud Daho Masonic Lodge
Charter & Dual Member, Keystone Lodge No. 100, GLP Metro Manila (2006)
Past Master, Keystone Lodge No. 100 (2008)
Past District Deputy Grand Master (2014)
Member, Grievance Committee, Grand Lodge of the Philippines (2014)
Charter Member, James Wilson Lodge No. 512, Zamboanga City (2024)

PROPOSED PLANS AND PROGRAMS

STRENGTHENING THE CRAFT THROUGH INTEGRITY, EDUCATION, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The strength of Freemasonry does not rest on a single individual or a select few, but on the quality of men into whom every member is molded. This process begins long before admission into the Brotherhood and continues until each of us joins the choir invisible. Rooted in Masonic principles, the following plans and programs are proposed to reinforce among us the importance of preserving the vitality, harmony, and integrity of our fraternity.

GUARDING THE WEST GATE

This proposal ensures that only worthy and prepared men are admitted into the fraternity through a structured and deliberate admission process that safeguards the harmony and integrity of the Lodge. It does not seek to impose an ultra-stringent or exclusionary approach to admission, but rather mandates the adoption of uniform standards emphasizing character, temperament, motivation, and reputation.

These standards shall be supported by strengthened investigation and vetting procedures, including personal interviews, background and reputation checks, and well-considered written reports. All such processes shall be guided strictly by Masonic values and principles and shall not be influenced by politics, economic or social status, partisanship, personal affiliations, or any considerations inconsistent with the spirit of the Craft.

Those who vouch for and sponsor a petitioner shall be held accountable not merely as endorsers, but as guarantors of character and mentors throughout the admission process. Each Lodge shall institute a well-defined pre-admission observation period to allow for the objective and careful assessment of a petitioner's conduct, discipline, humility, and capacity for harmony. In furtherance of this duty, Past Masters shall be consulted in the evaluation of candidates, particularly on matters of maturity, readiness, and the preservation of lodge harmony. Through these measures, this pillar seeks to ensure higher quality membership, minimize internal discord, and strengthen adherence to the enduring values of Freemasonry.

CONTINUING MASONIC EDUCATION

This proposal affirms that admission into the Craft marks only the beginning of a Mason's journey, and that continuous Masonic education is essential in cultivating humility within ourselves and harmony among brethren. The Lodge shall institutionalize Masonic education as a regular component of every stated meeting, supported by structured instructional modules on the Ancient Charges, rules and regulations, Masonic tenets and symbolism, and the principles of harmony, integrity, justice, humility, and ethical leadership.

Particular emphasis shall be placed on forming brethren who approach the Craft with humility, respect for authority, and sincere regard for the opinions and welfare of others. Past Masters shall serve as lecturers, facilitators, and mentors to younger and newly admitted brethren, contributing not only their knowledge of Masonic teachings and traditions, but also their stewardship of institutional memory and the core character of Freemasonry.

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

To ensure that every member continues to repose trust in the Brotherhood, those entrusted with leadership must assume responsibility for promoting integrity in the operations of their respective Lodges. Lodge officers are therefore called to discharge their duties with utmost transparency, defined accountability, and morally grounded leadership, not only in fiscal and financial matters but also in all administrative undertakings. To operationalize this responsibility, a uniform set of clear, consistent, and concise financial and administrative guidelines shall be institutionalized across all Lodges, supported by standardized reporting systems and proper documentation.

In furtherance of accountability, regular financial audits and reviews shall be conducted to ensure compliance, identify irregularities where they may exist, and reinforce financial discipline. Such mechanisms, however, shall never be used as instruments of politicking, factionalism, or discord among the brethren, but solely as tools for stewardship and institutional integrity. To properly guide those charged with fiduciary duties, governance and ethics trainings shall likewise be undertaken to equip Lodge officers with best practices in accountability, internal controls, transparency, and the proper management of conflicts of interest.

Through these measures, this proposal seeks to strengthen trust and confidence among the brethren, uphold sound financial discipline, and cultivate ethical leadership at all levels of Lodge governance, consistent with the values of Freemasonry.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Implementation of these plans and programs shall be carried out through the designation of responsible committees for each proposal. Compliance shall be subject to regular monitoring and oversight, with periodic and standardized review and refinement undertaken by lodge and district leadership to ensure continued effectiveness.

Monitoring and evaluation shall be guided by clear indicators, including the quality and conduct of newly admitted members, participation in education and mentorship activities, compliance with audit and financial reporting standards, and the overall state of harmony and trust within the Lodge. An annual assessment and reporting process shall be observed, complemented by structured feedback from brethren and lodge officers, to promote continuous improvement and faithful adherence to the principles and objectives of these programs.



**WB HOSSAIN VC
SHAMSODDIN
VOSTAKALAEI**

Your paragraph text

WB HOSSAIN VITO CRUZ SHAMSODDIN VOSTAKALAEI

PERSONAL DATA

Date of Birth NOVEMBER 20, 1978
Name of Spouse JASMIN A. SHAMSODDIN VOSTAKALAEI
Name of Children/s MASSOUD A. SHAMSODDIN VOSTAKALAEI
AMIR JAN A. SHAMSODDIN VOSTAKALAEI
HOSSAIN A. SHAMSODDIN VOSTAKALAEI
Father's Name DR. MASSOUD N. SHAMSODDIN
Mother's Name DR. CRESENCIA VC. SHAMSODDIN
Language/Dialect ENGLISH/TAGALOG

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Araullo University
2009

MASTER OF ARTS IN

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation Colleges, Inc.
2003

MASTER OF HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

St. Bernadette College of Lourdes
December 20, 2021

BACHELOR OF ARTS

MAJOR IN MATHEMATICS

Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation Colleges, Inc.
2001

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation Colleges, Inc.
2006

SECONDARY HIGHSCHOOL

Divina Pastora College
Gapan City
1996

PRIMARY ELEMENTARY

Divina Pastora College
Gapan City
1992

WORK EXPERIENCES

PRESIDENT/Board of Trustees

Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation Colleges, Inc.
Castellano, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija
June 2021 up to present

PRESIDENT/Board of Trustees

Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Foundation Colleges of
Cabanatuan City, Inc.
June 2021 up to present

Board of Trustees

Dr. Gloria D. Lacson General Hospital
Castellano, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija

PRESIDENT

Royal Crest Hotel and Restaurant
Cabanatuan City

PRESIDENT/CEO

M-GEN Power 168 Construction Corporation

PRESIDENT/CEO

JHAM Power 168 Industrial Corporation

ORGANIZATIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Philippine Red Cross
Nueva Ecija Chapter
2019 up to present

MASONIC PROFILE

- **Mother Lodge-Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273**

- **Initiated Enter Apprentice Mason**

(August 16, 2003)

- **Fellowcraft Mason**

(September 20, 2003)

- **Master Mason**

(October 18, 2003)

- **Dual Member: General Llanera Masonic Lodge No. 168**

Charter and Dual Member: San Leonardo Masonic Lodge No. 386

- **Worshipful Master**

- **General Llanera Masonic Lodge No. 168**

(2015-2016)

- **Past District Grand Lecturer**

- **Masonic District R3-D Nueva Ecija South and Aurora**

(2018-2019)

- **Past District Deputy Grand Master**

- **Masonic District R3-D Nueva Ecija East and Aurora**

(2021-2022)

- **Grand and Glorious Order of the Knights of the Creeping Serpent (ETA Class 2004)**

- **Member, Order of the Secret Monitor**

- **Member, Mabuhay Shriners International**

- **Mother Club**

- **Saigon Shrine Club**

- **Member, Kabukiran Shrine Club**

- **Position Held, Kabukiran Club President**

(2020-2021/2021-2022)

- **Mabuhay Shriners Ambassador**

(2020-2021/2021-2022)

- **Elected Oriental Guide of Mabuhay Shriners International**

(2022)

- **Elected High Priest and Prophet of Mabuhay Shriners International**

(January 2023)

- **Elected Assistant Rabban of Mabuhay Shriners International (January 2024)**

- **Elected Chief Rabban of Mabuhay Shriners International (January 2025)**

- **Member, Widow Sons Masonic Rider Association of the Philippines
Dimasalang Class 2023**

- **Member, International Order of DeMolay**

- **Frank S. Land Centennial Knight 2024**

- **Member, Nueva Ecija York Rite Bodies No. 46**

- **Honorary Membership:**

Pantabangan Bonari Masonic Lodge No. 203

Allium Cepa Masonic Lodge No. 453

Kapatiran Masonic Lodge No. 228

Nueva Ecija Masonic Lodge No. 73

Manuel L. Quezon Masonic Lodge No. 262

Pacific Masonic Lodge No. 501

- **Awarded the Hiram Award by Talavera Masonic Lodge 273 on January 18, 2025**

My plans and programs for our beloved craft consist of providing a solid foundation towards the Advancement of freemasonry in the Philippines through strong leadership, enhanced masonic education and a strong emphasis on the welfare of lodges and its members.

LEADERSHIP

The beauty and uniqueness of freemasonry is that we are both democratic and autocratic thus the opinion and vote of every brother in good standing are important and every voice should be heard. I will make sure that our democratic way of life is diligently observed in the grand lodge and subordinate lodges at the same time to strictly implement the laws and regulations of our institution. I will also endeavor to continue the work started by the past grand masters of proper governance with the same transparency and integrity.

EDUCATION

Masonic Education is the key to making good men better, Nourishment of the mind through sustained and well-planned learning programs are but important in holistically developing the brother to be better. We do believe that the journey of life will be challenging if we are not prepared to face its adversities and tests. We will endeavor to roll out continuous learning programs that will help develop the intellectual capabilities of each and every brother in support of the Lodge, of the Grand Lodge and that of the community where we belong.

TECHNOLOGY

To continuously improve our current digital platform by introducing an app that would enable us to identify current members and their membership status including a digital version of their dues card which can be further enhanced to provide other services in the future in order to protect and secure the west gate and to adopt and improve our best practices as we move forward to the future of Philippine Masonry.

LODGES AND MEMBERS

The lodge and its members can be considered the backbone of our fraternity, therefore, I would like to emphasize more on extending our masonic charity to our masonic families, widows, and orphans by adding more charitable programs focusing on educational and medical assistance. As freemasons we are encouraged to not only practice charity in its cerebral or spiritual sense but also to engage in a practical one.



WB NELSON T. YAU

WB NELSON YAU

PERSONAL DATA

- Date of Birth: June 09, 1965
- Place of Birth: Caloocan City

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Tertiary: BS in Marketing at San Beda College in 1986
- Secondary: Chiang Kai Shek College in 1982
- Elementary: Chiang Kai Shek College in 1978

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- President – Triumph 89 Philippines Trading Inc.
- President – Redmaroon Construction Inc.
- Chairman – Masagana Marketing and Consultancy Inc.

MASONIC RECORD

- Assistant Grand Treasurer - 2009
- District Deputy Grand Master (NCR-B) – 2006
- DDGM Host Chairman of 2006 NCR Multi District Convention
- District Grand Lecturer (NCR-B) – 2005
- Grand Lodge Inspector – 2004
- Worshipful Master – 2003
- Master Mason – 1998 Labong Lodge # 59

Honorary Membership

- Service Lodge # 95
- Victory Lodge # 116
- Island Luzminerva Lodge # 5
- San Leonardo Lodge # 386
- Intramuros Lodge # 363
- Golden Beehive Lodge # 388
- Isagani Lodge # 96

APPENDANT BODIES & OTHER RELATED MASONIC ORGANIZATION

- Member – Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Philippines (Luzon Bodies)
- Past Potentate – Mabuhay Shrines Philippines Inc. 2019
- Executive Director - Mabuhay Shires Patients and Hospital Board
- High Shereef – Bamboo Shrine Club 2014
- Past President – Kamanava Travelers Club Inc. 2004
- Member – Quezon City Trowel Club Inc.
- Honorary Member – Bureau of Internal Revenue Travelers Haven Inc. (BIRTH)
- External VP – AFPHSC Purple Serpent Club

CIVIC ORGANIZATION & AFFILIATION

- Vice President – Federation of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigade Inc. 1991 – 1994
- Fire Chief – Hometown Volunteer Fire Brigade Inc. 1989 -1991
- Deputy Fire Chief – Hometown Volunteer Fire Brigade Inc. 1983 – 1989

COMMITMENT

- If the Great Architecture of the Universe gives me the opportunity to serve in the Grand Oriental Chair, I Commit:
- To sustain the growth and relevance of the Craft in our Grand Jurisdiction throughout the generations;
- To serve our brethren by sincere governance and administration of the Grand Lodge;
- To encourage exemplary lives within the Craft and amongst our respective families, workplaces and communities;
- To engage in endeavors that leave lasting impacts on Masonic values to both young and old Masons.

PROPOSED THEME

“Uniting in the Grand design of Promoting Happiness”

My theme would emphasize the value of unity and harmony in attaining the objective of my proposed plans and programs. Using such mindset, I hope to cascade this theme down to our subordinate lodges with the intent of revitalizing and inspiring solidarity and cooperation among the brethren. We would endeavor to make our maxim “who best can work and best agree” a reality in all masonic undertakings.

PROPOSED FOUR POINT PROGRAM

1. PROMOTE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW PETITIONERS AND ENGAGEMENT OF INACTIVE MEMBERS

Masonic membership quality will be given top priority . Lodge will be encourage to consider a stricter and thorough background checks and ensure applicants are well-informed about the lodge's values and the responsibilities of membership.

Ensure that each applicant also receives a thorough interview and understanding of their motivations for joining by way of proper orientation of prospective petitioner and their family members to ensure uniformity of manual.

For inactive members – to conduct sunshine visitation and to have acquired knowledge of their dwindling interest in order to improve approaches in lodge management and governance. To conduct talks or symposium from our esteemed Past Grand Master and to revitalize interest in the continuing education of brethren.

2. EFFECTIVE LODGE GOVERNANCE THRU ORIENTATION LECTURES AND TRAINING

Lodges will be encourage to participate in any Grand Lodge Orientation Lectures including that of IMES Lodge Management Classes even for new members for them to understand that their Lodge needs:

- Strong Officers: Leaders must "best work and best agree," demonstrating skill and diligence.
- Progressive Leadership: Develop future leaders by guiding them through the chairs (Junior Deacon to Master).
- Strategic Planning: Create development plans to attract and retain members, adapting to modern needs.

Lodge Management lectures should also include consultative decision-making, self-improvement, and ethical decision-making, which are essential for effective Masonic leadership. These principles help Lodge officers and members build trust and foster a culture of collaboration and inclusivity within their organizations

3. CONTINUING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO FOSTER GOOD WILL IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES AND THE SOCIETY

Lodges Community Partnerships will be encourage, like Adopt-A-School- Program, Medical Missions and other effective avenues through which Masonic Lodges can extend their influence beyond ceremonial spaces and actively contribute to the betterment of communities. These collaborations provide an opportunity for lodges to share their resources, expertise, and goodwill with local barangays , schools, and other community groups.

4. PROMOTING HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF THE CRAFT – UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO INTRODUCE FREEMASONRY TO THE PUBLIC

Visual content has a powerful impact on social media platforms. Lodges will be encourage to utilize videos, infographics, and other multimedia elements and incorporate them in our Candidate Orientation Programs. I will initiate the production of high quality visuals of the Grand Lodge that will showcase the rich traditions, symbols, and rituals of Freemasonry for the benefit of the candidates and their families.

It is my firm belief that Freemasonry remains relevant today as it was throughout the ages. It remains our important duty to be exemplary in all our undertakings be it within or without the mystic circle, so that our concrete deeds rather than our words will be the basis for judging the goodness of our institution.

THE BIG ONE

WB Jonathan R. Amoroso, PDGL

Duck. Cover. Hold.

These are the by-lines in Metro Manila as the nation prepares and disseminates some “tips” for an earthquake with a magnitude of intensity 7 that is ripe to happen. Recently, the MMDA has set a day-run for emergency awareness and many government and private companies cooperated in order to minimize the adverse effects of the “BIG ONE”.

Google says that, “it might be impossible to predict when the next earthquake may occur but scientists can pin down what is called a recurrence interval or the average time span between earthquake occurrences. The Philippines archipelago is sandwiched in between two opposite subduction zones- that of that European Plate (South China Plate) which subducts (is forced under) Luzon along the Manila Trench and that of the Philippine Sea Plate that subducts towards the West along the East Luzon Trench. These zones explain high seismic activities in Luzon.

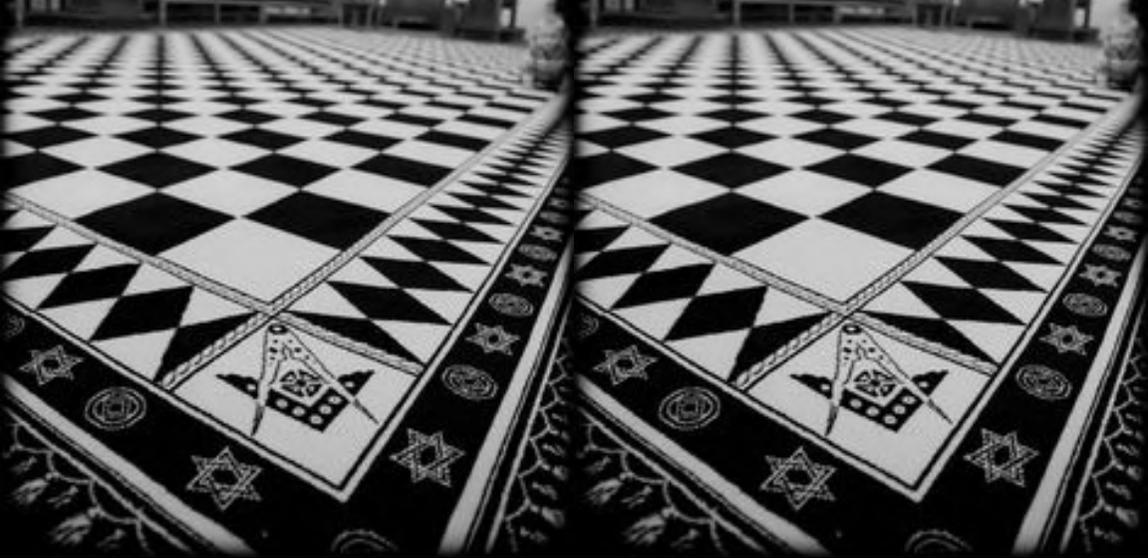
The West Fault, a 100-kilometer fault that runs through six cities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, is considered the worst case scenario. According to Metropolitan Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS), a 7.2 magnitude earthquake from the West Valley Fault will result in the collapse of 170,000 houses and the death of 34,000 people. Another 114,000 individuals will be injured while 340,000 houses will be partly damaged.

When the Big One strikes, it will be felt this way xxx you will fall to the ground, unable to keep standing. You hear a booming sound. You hear screams from the people inside their homes. You hear breaking glasses. Telephone and power poles sway violently. Then the power goes off. In front of you, the village road is heaving, as if you are riding waves. The string ground shaking goes on for the longest 50 seconds of your life.

This sounds like the Apocalypse indeed. It is like waiting for the red horsemen's announcement that this is the end of the line and the lord of the stars is coming onto the stage to put down the curtains. But as we wear our safety helmets, duck under the table, and tuck our panic bags, unknown to us, the big ones have been constantly crossing our paths on a daily basis as moral individuals.

Surviving the shock brings us back to several Masonic symbols that may have been taken for granted. The Six Pointed Star or the Star of David, a symbol of unity of the spiritual and the material. It is equivalent to the Masonic square and compass signifying the perfected human being or the true Master Mason. Another is the Checkered Pavement of black and white square. This denotes the dual quality of everything connected with terrestrial life and the physical groundwork of human nature. Everything material is characterized by inextricably interblended good and evil, light and shade, joy and sorrow, positive and negative... The dualism of these opposites governs us in everything, and experience of it is prescribed for us until such time as, having learned and outgrown its lesson, we are ready for the advancement to a condition where we outgrow the sense of this chequer-work existence and those opposite cease to be perceived as opposites, but are realized as a unity or synthesis. To find that unity or synthesis is to know the peace which passes understanding... And this lofty condition is represented by the indented or tessellated border
(The Deeper Meanings of Masonic Symbolism, Chin, 2010 Edition).





Per force, unlike an earthquake that boosts its arrival with a bang of a collapsing Ruby Tower or by loud squeak of a rolling pavement, the tremors come by indiscreetly on every crossroad where one gets to decide whether to keep his passion within due bounds or let it roll on a limitless space without a conscience that delineates his actions. Every day, when the “carmageddon” seems to bring out worst in the wits of the motorists, the reckoning point may have happened at EDSA during the rush hour when one gets tempted to blaspheme a road swerver, a yellow lane usurper, a box-outer at the foot of a fly-over, or a blind spot biker yet he opts to breath slow and realizes that bidding the offender a good day remains one legit option. It may have come in a court room when throwing a knuckle on an alleged child molester ought to be spontaneous as a knee jerk but he acknowledges that lending an ear to what he would say as a prescription of due process is just as innate. It may be experienced inside the St. Vincent Chapel when one is tempted to fly an elbow on a rumor-mongerers lips but offers him a peace sign instead knowing that only forgiveness can forever tame even the foulest of mouths.

But kidding aside, for a Mason, the big one happens all the time, every second, and in every place where he gets a jolt, his virtues tested but at the end of the day, he checks the box of righteousness on a sheet of multiple choices because the only way to deal with these conflicts is to go back to the nursery basics of just observing the right conduct. The truth is nobody is really prepared for disasters. People can have all the earthquake drills or calisthenics that may be organized and they can master the art of ducking, hiding and holding on to something to score safety. But once the real melt down hits land and the hell hounds are unleashed, when the floors crack, and the earth’s core summons, only heaven knows what would happen.



The last scout standing is probably the man who keeps these “tips” in his heart- one who does not mind to be at the end of a snail-paced line because he understands that his time is as precious as the others in front of him; one who stays on his traffic lane because he knows that nobody has claimed exclusive sovereignty over formula bundy clocks; one who keeps his mouth shut whenever there is no pleasant word to say because he reckons that a bad fume only comes from a rotten source; or simply, one who is the master of his outrage and not its helpless servant.

The rumble of the good and the bad would continue, and the dread of the breaking fault line would every day be at the corner of one’s mind. But it pays to stand on a solid base so we can shake that groove thing - be it small, medium or the big one.

(Adopted from the February 2017 issue of the Tinig Silangan)

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