



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

THE

VOLUME 102 ISSUE NO. 1

CABLE TOW

inside look into
**ANCOM2025
METRO MANILA**



**Building
Brotherhood
Celebrating
Legacy**

MUST READ!

*The First Masonic
Family to have
reached Mt. Everest*

BLA
mahalaqa

**The Grand
Master's Speech**
*a message of
leadership and
light.*



The Cable Tow

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In This Issue

Editor's Note	4
Grand Master's Speech	6
Pilar Lodge No. 15: A Legacy Reforged in Stone and Spirit	10
First Masonic Family to have reached Mt Everest Base Camp	20
A Lecture on The Junior Warden	28
"Bawat Isa Sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga"	35
Elected Grand Officers	36
Elected and Appointed Grand Line Officers MY 2025-2026	38
Grand Treasurer: MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching, PGM	50
Tribute to MW John L. Choa, PGM	52
ANCOM 2025 Manila	60
Autobot Offroad	68
Banayad Whiskey	72
Fine Craftsmen	74
Twins by Blood. Brethren by Light.	78
From the Archives: The Cable Tow	82

Editor's Note

Brethren,

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that we present to you the maiden issue of Volume 102 of our esteemed publication, The Cable Tow. This issue is a significant milestone in our journey, not only marking the beginning of a new volume but also reflecting our commitment to the ideals that define Freemasonry: Truth, Relief, Brotherly love.

This issue, as you will see, places special emphasis on the leadership and initiatives of our Grand Master, as well as the activities surrounding the 103rd Annual Communication ANCOM. It comes partly in response to the numerous requests from Brethren who were unable to attend and actively participate in this historic event. As such, we gave a vivid account of the key moments and other activities of this year's ANCOM.

In addition to this, we are pleased to feature select articles submitted by Brethren to the editorial team. These submissions offer valuable insights into the diverse facets of our Masonic journey, and we hope they will resonate deeply with our readers. We are committed to ensuring that the Cable Tow remains a platform where the voices of our Brethren are heard, respected, and celebrated.

Looking ahead, the overarching theme for this volume, “Bawat Isa Sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga” (Everyone in Masonry is Important), will guide much of our editorial direction. This theme underscores the essential values we hold dear as Freemasons—the idea that each individual within our Fraternity contributes to the collective strength and purpose of the Craft.

Our Grand Master's leadership echoes this sentiment, and it is reflected in the way we, as a Brotherhood, continually strive to uplift one another and to bring out the best in each of us.

To further enrich our readers' experience, Volume 102 will also introduce a From the Archives section. In this feature, we will revisit past articles from previous issues of The Cable Tow that align with the current theme. These reflections from our rich Masonic history not only connect us to the wisdom of our predecessors but also provide valuable perspectives that continue to shape our present and future. As we move forward together in unity, we are reminded that the principles of Freemasonry are timeless, and the lessons we learn today are built upon the foundations laid by those who came before us.

We hope that this issue, with its carefully curated content and thoughtfully articulated themes, will inspire all of us to continue working in harmony, fostering brotherhood, and living the values that define us as Freemasons. As always, we remain dedicated to preserving the legacy of Freemasonry while ensuring that it evolves with the changing times, brethren are encouraged to access the digital versions of the cable tow at <https://www.grandlodge.ph/resources/cabletow>

May the light of knowledge, understanding, and fraternity continue to guide our path.

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





The Grand Master's Speech

I express my profound gratitude to all the brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for entrusting the leadership of our Craft to me.

While honored by such trust,
I am also humbled by the grace of our Great Architect of the Universe,
who bestowed me with a team of worthy brethren indispensably necessary to fulfill our obligation to serve all the brethren well.

Our theme for this year is:
Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga.
Each One Within Freemasonry Matters.
Tunggal Maysa Napateg iti Masoneriya.
Balang Metung keng Masoneriya, Maulaga.
Importante so Balang Sinansakey ed Masoneriya.
Kada Saro sa Masoneriya Importante.
Tanang Mason Importante.

BAWAT ISANG MASON ay MAHALAGA dahil BAWAT ISA ay HALIGI ng KAPATIRAN.

Ang sabi sa aklat ng Mangangaral, Kapitulo 4, Bersikulo 10-12 or Ecclesiastes 4:10-12:

"Kapag nabuwal ang ISA, ay maitatayo sya ng kanyang KASAMA. xxx
Kung ang nag-iisa'y maaaring magtagumpay laban sa isa, LALO NA ANG DALAWA.
Ang LUBID na may TATLONG PILIPIT NG HIBLA ay hindi agad malalagot."

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow xxx
And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him;
and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

I chose such theme with a firm resolve
to reawaken each Mason's consciousness of his obligation to practice the basic tenets of
Freemasonry within our Lodges and in our daily lives, thereby better enabling us all to
ensure the welfare of each brother in the Craft.

While the theme may seem too exclusive to Freemasonry, it is but a mere return to the
original purpose of our existence -that of providing a venue for improving oneself so that he
and his brethren may create a universal league of goodness even on a "small scale": and
hence serve his Great Creator well.

Within our trestle board for this Grand Lodge Year
are the following main thrusts:

- Masonic Education
- Masonic Governance
- Masonic Improvement

Masonic Education concentrated in empowering Lodges with the true beauty of
Freemasonry in its symbolisms and rituals.

Masonic Governance in the rightful application of our principles, laws and regulations in our
Lodges.

And with Masonic Improvement as our constant plumb to gauge the positive differences in
our Lodges as a result of our earnest labors.

With those simple thrusts,
it is hoped that each Mason in our jurisdiction shall matter, as he discovers and harnesses
his potential in contributing goodness to the society.

It is prayed that we may enable ourselves to be more grateful to the blessings of the Great
Architect of the Universe, and thus become more emphatic to the trials and tribulations of
our brothers, and less hasty in making judgments. May our doing so result in fraternal
harmony in our Lodges and amongst the brethren which shall cause positive ripple effects
and eventually build a better society for all.

One brick at a time to the splendid edifice of our esteemed Fraternity will definitely go a
long way in restoring the relevance of Freemasonry in the present day as we pursue our
Grand Lodge Mission in promoting love, fostering brotherhood and achieving harmony
among Masons and men.

An esteemed Past Grand Master used to tell me:
"The universe has its own great plan for things."

May the plans of the Great Architect of the Universe unfold for each and every one of us.
May His wise and grand plan for the Craft be laid out through each and every one of you.
May He bless all our labors.

Let us then commence our labors. Together, Brethren.

*Maraming salamat po sa pagkakataon na mapaglinkuran ang
ating Kapatiran.*

Mabuhay ang Masoneriya!



Pilar Lodge No. 15: A Legacy Reforged in Stone and Spirit.

On June 14, 2025, Pilar Lodge No. 15, Free and Accepted Masons, celebrated a momentous dual occasion: the 131st anniversary of its charter and the consecration of its newly constructed temple—a long-awaited dream brought to life by years of dedication, planning, and brotherly cooperation.

A Lodge with a Rich History





Pilar Lodge No. 15 stands among the oldest Masonic lodges in the Philippines. Since its chartering in 1894, the lodge has remained a bastion of Masonic light and leadership in Cavite. Through the decades, the lodge has weathered the changing tides of time—colonial transitions, world wars, and national transformation—emerging each time with renewed strength and purpose.



The Vision Begins: Laying the Groundwork

In 2010, under the visionary guidance of RW Robert Joseph S. Moran, VW Edwin P. Costes, and the dedicated brethren of Pilar Lodge, the journey toward a permanent temple gained momentum. Through their persistent efforts and collective resolve, the lodge successfully acquired a parcel of land—a critical first step toward building a home worthy of its storied past.

Architecture Rooted in Brotherhood

The responsibility of designing the new temple was entrusted to VW Bernardo S. Afable Jr., whose plans reflected both modern sensibilities and the timeless ideals of Freemasonry. His architectural vision fused functionality with dignity, making space not only for ritual but also for community and brotherhood.

Building a New Era

After over a decade of planning and preparation, construction officially commenced in 2022. With the foundation now literally in place, the brethren rallied once more—offering time, talent, and treasure to see the dream through. Two years later, in 2024, the new temple of Pilar Lodge No. 15 stood proudly completed—a testament to enduring commitment and Masonic unity.

A Grand Celebration of Heritage and Hope

The highlight of the lodge's long and vibrant journey came on June 14, 2025, when the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, under the leadership of MW Raul E. Canon Jr., Grand Master, consecrated the new Masonic edifice during a historic ceremony. He was joined by RW Robert Joseph S. Moran, Deputy Grand Master; RW Ruel S. Rivera, Senior Grand Warden; RW Oliver C. Ko, Junior Grand Warden; the Grand Line Officers; VW John S. Salazar, DDGM of Masonic District RIV – Cavite East; District Officers; and brethren from Pilar Lodge No. 15 and other neighboring lodges.

The event was a proud and emotional gathering, led by Bro. Lesmond Raymond G. Seguin, Worshipful Master of Pilar Lodge, who, together with the officers and members, welcomed guests and fellow Masons in a celebration not just of a building, but of legacy, labor, and love for the Craft.



PILAR LODGE No.15

Free & Accepted Masons

Under the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines



IMUS, CAVITE



Looking Ahead

With a new home consecrated and 131 years of history behind it, Pilar Lodge No. 15 stands stronger than ever ready to continue its mission of Masonic service, fraternal harmony, and community leadership for generations to come.

Bro. Lesmond Seguin







*A new temple rises, consecrated by unity,
carrying forward 131 years of Masonic
heritage.*






First Masonic Family to have reached Mt Everest Base Camp

“A Journey Beyond Altitude: The Narisma Couple’s Historic Climb to Mt. Everest Base Camp”

By VW Geoffrey Barrientos, for The Cable Tow

In the rich narrative of Philippine Freemasonry, few stories blend physical triumph with Masonic virtue as gracefully as that of Worshipful Master John Paul Narisma and his wife, Sistine Sacay-Narisma — a couple from Shangri-La Masonic Lodge No. 196, Masonic District RXI (Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, and Davao de Oro),



who have etched their names in history as the first from the City of Tagum to reach the foot of the world's highest mountain: Mt. Everest Base Camp.

Their separate, but spiritually united ascents reflect not only a remarkable personal achievement, but also a profound journey in line with Masonic ideals — endurance, harmony, and unwavering commitment.

The Master's Path Upward

On October 9, 2023, Bro. John Paul Narisma, a dedicated Freemason, and a Junior Warden of Shangri-La Lodge No. 196, stood at the Everest Base Camp, 5,364 meters above sea level.



Heights of Love and Brotherhood: Tagum's Trailblazing Couple at Everest



With the frost of the Himalayas against his brow and the weight of years of preparation on his shoulders, he looked out toward the iconic Khumbu Icefall — and inward toward a deeper understanding of his own strength.

“Climbing Everest was not just a physical test,” he reflected. “It was a spiritual one. Every hardship reminded me of the teachings of the Craft — the patience of the Entered Apprentice, the strength of the Fellowcraft, and the wisdom of the Master Mason.”

Bro. Narisma’s accomplishment was celebrated not only by his brethren in District RXI but by the entire Masonic community of Mindanao, who saw in him a shining example of how the working tools of Masonry can guide us through even the most formidable terrain.

A Sister's Summit of Strength

Nearly two years later, on May 14, 2025, Sister Sistine Sacay-Narisma followed her own path to Base Camp — a journey of heart, will, and boundless courage. A beloved partner in community service and Freemasonry's extended family, Sistine's climb was not in the shadow of her husband's, but in the full brilliance of her own spirit.


"I wanted to prove that the heights he reached, I could reach too — not just to stand beside him, but to stand equally strong," she shared. "Our bond as husband and wife is strengthened by challenge, by faith, and by shared purpose."

Her ascent marks a significant milestone, not just as a personal feat, but as a symbol of equality, empowerment, and partnership — values held dear within the Masonic family.

Tagum's Trailblazing Couple

Together, the Narisma couple stands as Tagum City's first-ever husband and wife to reach the base of the world's tallest peak — a distinction not merely geographical, but deeply symbolic. Their accomplishment is a living testament to the harmony of the Masonic household: where a Brother is uplifted by the strength of his spouse, and where life's great journeys are undertaken hand in hand.



A color calibration bar with various colored squares is located at the top of the page.

Their feat has stirred admiration across Masonic District RXI and beyond — a beacon for younger Masons, aspiring leaders, and families who seek meaning not only within the walls of the Lodge, but in the mountains of life.

More Than a Mountain

Freemasonry has long taught that we must improve ourselves in body, mind, and spirit. The Everest Base Camp — a daunting goal for even seasoned trekkers — becomes in the light of this couple's story not just a geographical location, but a metaphor for aspiration.

In their climb, Worshipful Master John Paul Narisma and Sister Sistine Sacay-Narisma have built something far more enduring than a cairn on a Himalayan trail: they have built a legacy.

A legacy of love, of unity, and of rising — together.



A lecture on The JUNIOR WARDEN

By: VW ELIAS ALTAVAS CONLU, PDDGM

“As the sun at meridian height is the beauty and glory of the day, so stands the JW in the South, the better to observe the time; to call the craft from labor to refreshment and from refreshment to labor again at the will and pleasure of the WM.”

The above-quoted Primary Duty of the JW is not at all as simple as may sound. It is actually pregnant with concomitant duties which are not monitorial and therefore unknown to a majority of the brethren and incumbent WMs and even Past Masters. Among these other duties are:

1 When the WM declares that... “the brethren may consider themselves free from restraint, until the sound of the gavel in the East.” Immediately, the JW erects his column and assumes his role as Acting WM (the SW lowers his column to recognize that the JW is now in charge. The brethren should not scramble toward the door like wild horses but shall remain at their seats and wait for the WM to take off his hat, come down from the Oriental Chair, approach the JW’s station and give the due guard and sign of whatever degree the lodge is on labor, await the small nod of the JW in acknowledgement

of the salute before leaving the lodge room. Only then, may the brethren rise from their seats, approach the South Station, give The Salute, wait for the acknowledgement (a small nod) of the JW and then go out the lodge room for refreshments or relieve themselves at the comfort room. In the performance of his duty as Acting WM the JW has two assistants: the Junior Steward at his left and the Senior Steward at his right whom he may request to get some refreshments for him, or request one of them to sit in the JW's station if he needs to go to the comfort room, always taking care that the JW's Station shall never be left vacant during the hours of recess.

2 Upon returning to the Lodge room, the brethren shall individually or in small groups, approach the JW's station and give the required salute before proceeding to their seats. The Stewards shall discreetly call the attention of these brethren who are remiss in their duties to give the required salute to the Acting WM. The WM upon his return to the Lodge room shall salute the JW before proceeding to the Oriental Chair, put on his hat and rap once with his gavel which signals that the Lodge is now on Labor and he is resuming his position as WM. (JW lowers his column while the SW erects his column.)

3 During fellowship breakfast, lunch, or dinner the JW takes charge and makes sure that everyone is properly seated and adequately provided with food. He calls the brethren to rise for prayer or grace before meal which he may offer or request someone to do the honors. In the course of the fellowship meal, it is expected of the JW to make relevant announcements of significant events effecting a brother or his family such as a birthday, the birth of a son, daughter or grandchild and to offer a celebratory toast to mark the event. Also, on very rare occasions wherein we are treated to fine dining, it is incumbent upon the JW to give the brethren discreet instructions on table etiquette and good manners to avoid any embarrassment when the wrong utensil is used for a specific course. (Fine dining is when the table is set with three different sizes of forks, spoons, knives, etc. etc..) It is not uncommon for people to pick up the wrong fork with which to eat his salad, or the wrong spoon for his soup. This is where the JW comes in, if he is conversant with fine dining, if not, he should seek the assistance of a brother who is.

4

At your Installation as JW, the Installing Officer was very clear in his admonition:"

To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshment; it is therefore indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but that you should carefully observe that none of the craft be suffered to convert the means of refreshment into intemperance and excess."

Great big words with even greater and bigger responsibilities. In simple language, do we really and clearly understand the impact and magnitude of these words? Reading between the lines, the JW may be shocked to realize that the brethren, including the candidates who get intoxicated are his responsibility. Refreshment is not limited to solid food; it includes liquids such as water soda and liquor.

That unfortunate incident at the lodge in Zambales where we lost a brother could have been avoided if the JW had performed his duty... but can we honestly put the blame on the JW? The answer is a big No! Why? Because these duties were never explained to him. We cannot blame someone for not performing his duty which he does not even know about. So, who is to blame?... The Lodge! The Lodge was remiss in its duty to conduct Masonic Education on the duties and responsibilities of the JW, SW, and WI which can be made lively and interesting with examples and dramatizations followed by an open forum for Questions and Interaction from the brethren, presided over by the lecturer.

Perhaps the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) can pick up the cue from this lecture and incorporate relevant matters and protocols in their Lectures for the information of the brethren who, sad to say, are ignorant of these matters. Thank you for lending your ears.

Disclaimer: This article is an expression of the perspective of its author and published in the Masonic spirit of tolerance of every opinion. The contents therein does not represent the official view and position of the Grand Lodge.

About the Author

Retired Judge Elias Altavas Conlu is the most active senior member of Makawiwili Masonic Lodge No. 55, at Roxas City, Capiz, Philippines where he was born and live for the last 87 years. He served his Lodge as WM for 5 terms; was DDGM of M.D. 20-A (now R-VI-Panay Island); G.L.I., DGL, JGL; served as Lodge Secretary for 10 years, Treasurer of 6 years. Currently: Custodian of the work, Chairman, Committee on Masonic Orientation of Petitioner & Candidates: Chairman, Committee on Masonic Education, and, Lecturer. A Hiram Awardee; Wears the Golden Apron since 5 years ago, and a Blue Capper, 33° A.&A.S.R.

BIA

mahalaga



“Bawat Isa Sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga”

MW Raul E. Canon, Jr.
Grand Master–Masonic
Year 2025–2026

The Grandline Officers



MW Raul E. Canon, Jr
Grand Master



RW Robert Joseph S. Moran
Deputy Grand Master



RW Ruel S. Rivera
Senior Grand Warden

MY. 2025-2026

RW Oliver C. Ko
Junior Grand Warden



MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching, PGM
Grand Treasurer



MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM
Grand Secretary



ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR MASONIC YEAR 2025–2026

For the information and guidance of the Brethren, the following are the Elected and Appointed Officers of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for Masonic Year 2025–2026:

ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Grand Master	MW Raul E. Canon Jr.
Deputy Grand Master	RW Robert Joseph S. Moran Jr.
Senior Grand Warden	RW Ruel S. Rivera
Junior Grand Warden	RW Oliver C. Ko
Grand Treasurer	MW Don T. Ramas–Uypitching, PGM
Grand Secretary	MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM

APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Assistant Grand Treasurer	VW Jeffrey N. Co
Assistant Grand Secretary	VW Sherwin C. De Joya
Grand Auditor	VW Peter Irving C. Corvera
Grand Chaplain	VR Mellord Ivan O. Zarraga
Grand Orator	VW Juan Edgardo M. Angara
Grand Marshal	VW Joseph A. Canon
Grand Historian	VW Jesh Y. Go
Senior Grand Deacon	VW Michael Camilo G. Datario
Junior Grand Deacon	VW Juan Hervas D. Nacpil
Grand Standard Bearer	VW Dominador E. Matias
Grand Sword Bearer	VW Rhet Butler M. Gonzales
Grand Bible Bearer	VW Mark Llandro L. Mendoza
Senior Grand Lecturer	VW Andre C. Palacios

Junior Grand Lecturers

NCR A & B	VW Rolando E. Bonoan Jr.
NCR C & D	VW Robert A. Biato
NCR E & F	VW Martin John S. Yasay
NCR G & H	VW Ricardo Z. Lumbre Jr.
NCR I, J & K	VW Plutarco B. Bawagan Jr.
North Western Luzon A (Ilocos, Abra, Benguet & La Union)	VW Merrill Cliff O. Dy
North Western Luzon B (Pangasinan)	VW Dennis C. Uy
North Eastern Luzon A (Cagayan, Mt. Province, Kalinga & Apayao)	VW Romel T. Bagtang
North Eastern Luzon B (Isabela North & Quirino)	VW Charlie Gil P. Pagulayan
North Eastern Luzon C (Isabela Central & South)	VW Dante B. Nilo
North Eastern Luzon D (Nueva Vizcaya South & North & Ifugao)	VW Gerald Mart B. Gamboa
Central Luzon A (Nueva Ecija North & West)	VW Oliver P. Ang
Central Luzon B (Nueva Ecija South & East & Aurora)	VW Robert C. Suguitan
Central Luzon C (Pampanga)	VW Hilarion Ritche D. Nacpil
Central Luzon D (Tarlac)	VW Rex D. Kiok
Central Luzon E (Bataan)	VW Jonathan D. Uy
Central Luzon F (Zambales)	VW Cesar Angelo M. Aquino Jr.
Central Luzon G (Bulacan)	VW Angelo M. Tapales
Southern Luzon A (Cavite)	VW Nathaniel S. Golla
Southern Luzon B (Laguna)	VW Jesus Miguel V. Bunyi
Southern Luzon C (Rizal)	VW Randall C. Tabayoyong
Southern Luzon D (Batangas)	VW Ferdinand Allan U. Alda
Southern Luzon E (Quezon & Marinduque)	VW Isaias B. Ubana II
Southern Luzon F (Mindoro)	VW Djan Bioz A. Suzara
Southern Luzon G (Bicol)	VW Wilson C. Asueta
Western Visayas A (Panay Island)	VW Ryan R. Castro
Western Visayas B (Negros Island)	VW Omar Francis P. Demonteverde
Central Visayas	VW Jeff Edward L. Pintac
Eastern Visayas	VW Medino L. Acuba
Eastern Mindanao (Agusan & Surigao)	VW Hercules R. Chanjueco
Northern Mindanao (Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, BARMM & Lanao Del Sur)	VW Erlqui n C. Lim
Southern Mindanao A (Davao)	VW Arnold O. Lao
Southern Mindanao B (SOCKSARGEN)	VW Romegildo B. Alocelja Jr.
Western Mindanao (Zamboanga, Misamis Occidental, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte Basilan, Sulu & Tawi-Tawi)	VW Quirino G. Esguerra Jr.
Japan & Korea	VW Heinrich T. Khoo
Guam & Saipan	VW Narce C. Naval

Senior Grand Steward
Junior Grand Steward
Grand Pursuivant
Grand Organist
Grand Cyber Warden
Grand Scribe
Grand Tyler

VW Juan Carlo A. Tambio
VW Nerito S. Santos Jr.
VW Bernardo S. Afable Jr.
VW Eduardo V. Interior
VW Robert L. Raqueño
VW Edward Q. Barin
VW Michael James M. Villacruz

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

National Capital Region

NCR-A
NCR-B
NCR-C
NCR-D
NCR-E
NCR-F
NCR-G
NCR-H
NCR-I
NCR-J
NCR-K

VW William R. Teng
VW Sherwin S. Capin
VW Alvin R. Estrella
VW Niño Christopher R. Pura
VW Jeffrey Ian C. Dy
VW Ronaldo G. Garcia
VW Jayrex Joseph C. Bustinera
VW Felvin Lennon R. Mariano
VW Richard A. Peralta
VW Manjit T. Singh Reandi
VW Jerick R. Venturina

Luzon

CAR Mt. Province, Kalinga & Apayao
RI CAR Benguet & La Union
RI CAR Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur & Abra
RI Pangasinan (East)
RI Pangasinan (West)
RII Cagayan (North)
RII Cagayan (South)
RII Isabela (Central)
RII Isabela (North)
RII Isabela (South)
RII Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao
RII Nueva Vizcaya (South)
RII Quirino
RIII Bataan
RIII Bulacan (East)
RIII Bulacan (West)
RIII Nueva Ecija (East) & Aurora
RIII Nueva Ecija (North)
RIII Nueva Ecija (South)
RIII Nueva Ecija (West)

VW Novo Brent T. Abad
VW Richard S. Chan
VW Jessie E. Galano
VW Ruffy S. Meneses
VW Russell Q. Bernal
VW Emmanuel P. Pascua
VW Arthur Francis B. Taguba
VW Emelito M. Marquez
VW Rey B. Sales
VW Anthony C. Calahi
VW Clarence D. Buhong
VW Juan R. Urani, Jr.
VW Biley E. Temanel
VW Ramon G. Ignacio
VW Nathanael B. Madrid
VW Cornelius C. Cabalonga
VW Alfred Leonard B. Domingo
VW Randy A. Macadangdang
VW Alan I. Purisima Jr.
VW Roger C. Mendoza

RIII Pampanga
 RIII Tarlac (North)
 RIII Tarlac (South)
 RIII Zambales (North)
 RIII Zambales (South)
 RIV Batangas
 RIV Cavite (Central)
 RIV Cavite (East)
 RIV Cavite (West)
 RIV Laguna (East)
 RIV Laguna (West)
 RIV Mindoro
 RIV Quezon & Marinduque
 RIV Rizal
 RV Albay, Sorsogon & Masbate
 RV Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur
 & Catanduanes

VW Joey Y. Pangilinan
 VW Michael Paul P. Diamsay
 VW Richmond Davin G. Lim
 VW Lindy Y. Mayormita
 VW Israel V. Ortega
 VW Irvin I. Estrada
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 VW Renzo Emmanuel K. Dimatulac
 VW Alwin M. Uy
 VW Paterno L. Domondon Jr.
 VW Wilbert T. Lee
 VW Joseph C. Cua

Visayas

RVI Panay Island
 RVII Cebu, Bohol & Siquijor
 RVIII Leyte
 RVIII Samar
 RXVIII Negros Island Region

VW Anthony Andrew C. Gustilo
 VW Efren A. Nemeño
 VW Neone P. Asilom
 VW Paterno R. Kapunan Jr.
 VW Laurence Christian J. Valdeviezo

Mindanao

RIX & RX Zamboanga Del Norte
 & Misamis Occidental
 RIX Zamboanga del Sur
 & Zamboanga Sibugay
 RIX Zamboanga City, Basilan, Sulu
 & Tawi-Tawi
 RX Bukidnon (North)
 RX Bukidnon (South)
 RX Cagayan De Oro Central
 RX -A Iligan & Lanao Del Norte
 RX Misamis Occidental
 RX Misamis Oriental and CDO
 RX Misamis Oriental & Camiguin
 RX B BARMM & Lanao Del Sur
 RXI Davao del Sur & Davao City
 RXI B - Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte
 & Davao de Oro
 RXII North Cotabato & Cotabato City
 RXII SOCKSARGEN
 RXIII Agusan & Surigao

VW Jossil R. Macute
 VW Ferdinand M. Morales
 VW Aldrin Q. Ibbo
 VW Francesco Manuel P. Valdez V
 VW Benjamin B. Torrevillas II
 VW Alfredo Z. Gomez
 VW Johnny T. Po
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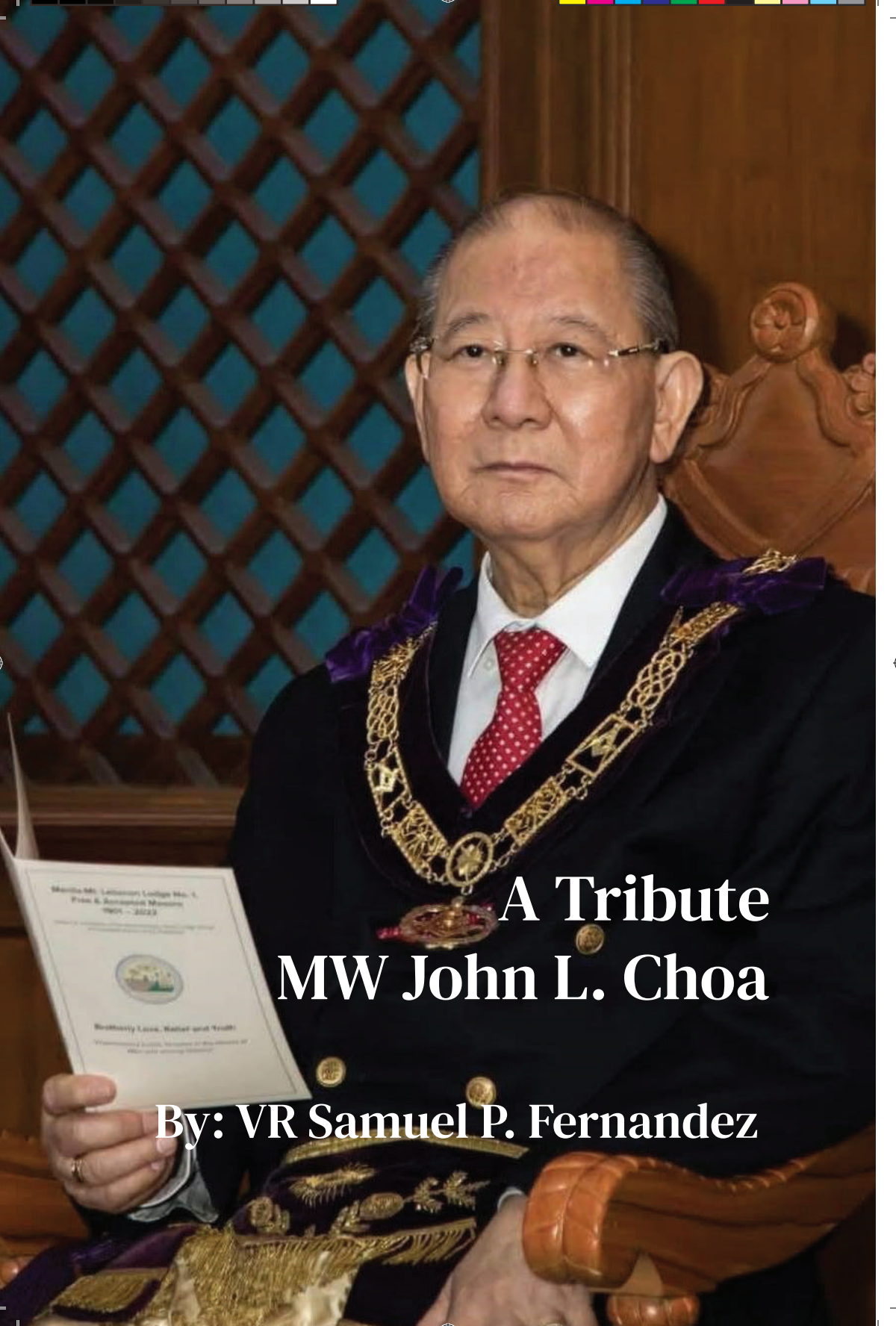
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*A leader, builder,
and brother— Grand
Treasurer MW
Don Terng Ramas-
Uypitching PGM
journey reminds us
that true Masonic
leadership is measured
in both service and
legacy*



Grand Treasurer MW Don Terng Ramas-Uypitching PGM Masonic journey is marked by significant leadership and dedication to the fraternity. Initiated into Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 in 2008, he quickly rose through the ranks, serving in key roles such as Junior Deacon, Junior Warden, and Worshipful Master in 2014, where he revitalized lodge activities and improved financial stability. His contributions extended beyond his lodge, including his appointment as Grand Lodge Inspector and District Grand Lecturer, and his work as the Charter Treasurer and 2018 President of the Buglas Shrine Club. Additionally, MW Don has been instrumental in the construction of 18 Masonic temples, earning him the title “Chief Temple Builder” for his commitment to expanding Masonic infrastructure across the Philippines.





A Tribute MW John L. Choa

By: VR Samuel P. Fernandez



"My aim is to inculcate into the minds of each Mason the importance of projecting a disciplined life so that I have chosen a very simple yet very masonic theme for us this year: 'Freemasonry As Our Way of Life.' As Masons we should always endeavor to practice the dogma of Freemasonry as our way of life in order to let our lights so shine before our fellowmen."

Parents

MW John Lim Choa, PGM, was born in Manila on August 2, 1942. His father, Choa Tai Hun, was an author of four accounting books with English and Chinese translations. He was chief of BIR when MW Manuel L. Quezon, PGM, was Philippine Commonwealth President. His mother Lim Giok Eng, was a midwife.

MW John's parents contracted tuberculosis when he was seven years old. There was no cure then to the dreaded disease. After his mother died, his father was confined to a charity ward in Quezon Institute.

Orphaned

At seven MW John was orphaned and taken to the Children's Garden in Taytay, near the boundary of Antipolo, Rizal.

The orphanage was founded by MW Charles Mosebrook, PGM, a Methodist missionary; and Honorable Asuncion Perez, Secretary of Social Welfare Administration (SWA) during President Elpidio Quirino's term.

Deeply impressed by the benefaction of Freemasons of taking care of orphans, young John made a promise to himself that: "when I will come of age, I, too, will join the masonic fraternity."

Education

Young John took grades 1 to 5 at Hope Christian High School and finished his sixth grade at the Taytay Elementary School. After two years at the Juan Sumulong Memorial High School, he left the Children's Garden and ventured into the asphalt jungle of Manila. To survive, he took odd jobs by selling comics, sampaguita and shining shoes.

At age 15, he worked as janitor in a printing press. He was later promoted to the position of salesman. MW John enrolled in the evening school of the Far Eastern University in 1963 where he completed his high school.

In 1967, he finished the course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce (BSC) major in Accounting. He likewise obtained the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at the FEU.

Civic Leader

"His own difficult youth, as well as the good example shown by the Freemasons to the children at the "Garden", has impelled MW Bro John to have a deep compassion for the disadvantaged members of our society. A committed Christian, he has manifested his dedication to the upliftment of the quality of life of Filipinos, particularly the poorest of the poor."

He served as member of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Garden and the Deaf Evangelical Alliance Foundation.

MW John was chosen Most Outstanding President of Y's Men's International-Philippine Region, District Governor of Y's Men's International-Metro Manila District, and honorary member of the YMCA Manila, Inc.

He was founder and charter president of the Square & Compass Toastmasters Club No. 4749-75.

Masonry

MW John found out that his relative, VW Richard Khoo, was a Freemason. True to his promise when he was still at the orphanage, he knocked at the door of Freemasonry and was initiated at Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1 in April 1974.

VW Flor R Nicolas wrote about MW John's masonic involvement before he became the Most Worshipful Grand Master, thus:

"Shortly after his raising, he became a member of Manila Bodies. A.&A.S.R., and of Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, SC. He also obtained dual membership in Capitol City Lodge No. 174, F.&A.M.

"In 1979, the year he was actively involved in the Manila Downtown Y'S Men's Club, he was invested with the rank of 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH).

"In 1980, he was elected Worshipful Master of Manila-Mt. Lebanon. In the same year, he received the Most Outstanding Member Award from Manila Bodies.

"In 1981, right after serving as WM of Manila-Mt. Lebanon, he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) for Masonic District 1-A. In fact, he was DDGM of MD 1-A up to 1986.

"In 1981 and again in 1982 he received from our Grand Lodge the Distinguished Masonic Service Award. This was the time that he was chairman of the Scottish Rite Luncheon Forum.

"In 1983 our Grand Lodge again awarded MW John with a Plaque of Recognition for his Masonic achievements,

For having whipped up MD 1-A into an A-1 District, he was selected Most Outstanding DDGM for Masonic Year 1984-85.

"In 1984, he was coronated 33° Inspector General Honorary (IGH) by the Supreme Council.

"He was also actively involved in the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the "Philippines, so that he was elected Deputy Grand Guild Master.

"In 1986 our Grand Lodge once more gave him a Plaque of Recognition and the Distinguished Masonic Service Award.

"His deep commitment to the Craft may be seen from the various positions he had in the Grand Lodge and in the appendant bodies at various times."

Grand East

In 1987, MW John L. Choa was elected Junior Grand Warden (JGW). He was chosen President of the Temple Builders Club where he prepared a plan to raise funds needed to complete the new Grand Lodge Temple, and which he tirelessly pursued to a successful completion.

His total devotion to our Fraternity, coupled with his acute sense of duty, steadily led him toward the Grand Oriental Chair.

On April 18, 1990 on the occasion of the 74th Annual Communication of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, the orphan-turned-tycoon was installed as our 73rd Grand Master."

Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines

Conceptualized by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, during his term as Grand Master in 1984, the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines aims to provide and protect the welfare and interest of our Past Masters, their widows and orphans.

Thus, MW John Choa, PGM, in his capacity as President of the Grand Guild for more than 25 years, has been consistent, conscious and faithful in upholding that mandate by judiciously managing the funds of the Grand Guild. The Guild grants Death Gratuities to widows and children of Past Masters who have dropped their working tools and/or to Past Masters who were

hospitalized. Guided by the principle of good governance and responsible leadership, said gratuities have seen an annual increase.

The Death Gratuity which started at P2,000 has now been increased through the years to P35,000 as of 2023. Responding to the request of brethren for them to enjoy benefits while they are still alive, a second program was conceptualized,

The Hospitalization Gratuity. Initially starting with P1,000 at twelve months interval, this has been increased to P25,000 as of 2023.

The elected officers continue to serve the Past Masters with dedication and devotion, It is all a Labor of Love,

to extend full Masonic services to our Past Masters and provide them with maximum benefits. Having worked with MW John Choa, PGM, as Secretary of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines from 1997–2019, the author has personal knowledge of MW John's integrity and work ethics.

To MW John L. Choa, PGM, "it is very important that the leaders of an organization be dedicated, honest and selfless. We must always have a vision that is fueled by the constant drive to innovate, raise the bar and create values that define excellence.

Our vision is about constant changes, quality concepts and services. This vision transformed our Grand Guild of Past Masters to be recognized and appreciated by its members for outstanding contributions to the welfare and interest of our Past Masters, who served our fraternity with honor and distinction during their prime.”

“Until we meet again in that undiscovered country from whose born no traveller returns”. Farewell, dear Brother!

–Bro Sam

Dominus Vobiscum
The Lord be with you



Building Brotherhood Celebrating Legacy

ANCOM 2025 Manila

ANCOM 2025 in Manila celebrated unity, tradition, and new leadership under the theme “Bawat Isa Sa Masoneriya Ay Mahalaga.”

ANCOM 2025 Manila unfolded on April 24 through the 26th blending solemn tradition, vibrant celebration, and the promise of new leadership for Philippine Freemasonry. Hosted at the World Trade Center, the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines drew brethren from across the country and overseas to witness and participate in the historic moment.



The ANCOM, as we know, is our fraternity's highest annual assembly and its principal decision-making forum. The gathering elects and installs the Grand Lodge officers, ratifies policies, resolves jurisdictional matters, sets strategic priorities for the year ahead, and provides an official platform for reporting on charitable, educational, and membership initiatives.





ANCOM also reinforces the fraternal unity, facilitates networking and mentorship between lodges, and projects the Craft's public presence and civic commitments.

Inside the World Trade Center, thousands of delegates filled the hall as formal proceedings began. The atmosphere was charged with much anticipation and energy. The highlight of ANCOM 2025 was the installation of Most Worshipful Raul E. Canon Jr. as the 107th Grand Master of the Philippine jurisdiction.



The installation, carried out with full symbolism and solemnity affirmed the Craft's living traditions while opening a new chapter for the fraternity.



In his address, MW Raul E. Canon Jr. declared his theme: "Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga — Each One in Masonry Matters." The theme emphasizes inclusiveness and the value of every brother which resonated warmly with the thousands in attendance.





The Grand Master's Night at the Cultural Center of the Philippines grounds combined formal ceremony and festival atmosphere. A massive stage, live performances, and abundant hospitality ushered an evening of brotherhood and celebration.

Activities of the ANCOM were not limited to the formal proceedings. The event also showcased exhibits and booths of products made by the brethren and other participants who in one way or another had a deeper connection to Freemasonry as the exhibitors section will show.





ANCOM 2025 is a testament of what it means to be part of the Craft today. The installation of MW Raul E. Canon Jr. marked more than a change in leadership. It reaffirmed Freemasonry's enduring principles in the Philippines and advanced a call to unity and inclusiveness.







EXHIBITORS

AUTOBOT OFFROAD STEALS THE SHOW AT ANCOM 2025

World Trade Center, Pasay – April 24–26, 2025

If you thought ANCOM 2025 was just about sharp suits and handshakes, think again. Because right in the middle of the World Trade Center floor, Autobot Offroad rolled in with a rig display that looked like it had driven straight out of a jungle trail and into the heart of Pasay.

Front and center were Autobots fully-kitted overlanding rigs, tents, gear, and equipment ready to conquer mountains or camp under the stars. These weren't just vehicles on display. They were rolling statements: rough, rugged, and ready.



The booth itself? Jam-packed and buzzing from day one. Why? Because Autobot didn't just bring rigs they brought the goods. The launch of exclusive Mason merchandise had brethren lining up, alongside the much-awaited drop of Autobot Offroad gear and apparel. Shirts, caps, and limited items flew off the shelves as fast as the rigs stole the spotlight.



Meanwhile, the Autobot Service Center booth turned heads with premium brands lined up like an arsenal proof that only the toughest gear makes the cut. And when it comes to toughness, Profender Suspension stepped in to flex its best setups, giving everyone a taste of what real off-road capability feels like.

And just when you thought the engines were loud enough, Autobot dropped a quiet bomb: the Luminox x Autobot Offroad collab watch. Low-key released during the event, the timepiece was built like their rigs tough as nails, engineered for extremes, and limited to a select few who managed to grab one.

Of course, this wasn't just about rigs and gear. The Rough & Rugged Masonic Lodge Club added a layer of exclusivity, offering Freemason members freebies and that brotherhood vibe only they can deliver.



And then came the big moments: Mr. Autobot himself, Randy Ronald M. Lao, Worshipful Master of Emilio Aguinaldo Lodge No. 31, proudly helmed the display. To top it off, we were deeply honored and humbled when MW Raul Canon, Grand Master of Freemasons, not only visited the Autobot booth but also stood as one of our proud Autobot merchandise endorsers. His presence was an unforgettable highlight, symbolizing unity, brotherhood, and trust in the Autobot legacy.



At ANCOM 2025, Autobot Offroad didn't just show rigs. They showed what happens when passion, craftsmanship, and a little bit of madness come together. The verdict? Rough. Rugged. Unstoppable.

OFFROAD

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of passion, power,
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THE ORIGINAL

PIDOL'S BANAYAD

SCOTCH WHISKY

Pidol's Banayad Whisky Booth Shines at ANCOM 2025

One of the standout attractions at ANCOM 2025 was the Pidol's Banayad Whisky Booth, a perfect blend of nostalgia and craftsmanship.

What began as a comedy punchline from Dolphy's iconic "Banayad Whisky... lasang blade" skit has now become a real whisky brand, proudly carried on by the Quizon family. The booth drew crowds with free tastings, heritage displays, and collectible bottles that celebrated the Comedy King's legacy.



Adding to the excitement, Boy2 Quizon, the apo of King of Comedy Dolphy, was present at the booth, personally promoting the product and sharing stories about his grandfather's enduring influence. His presence gave visitors a rare chance to connect with the family behind the brand, making the experience even more memorable.

At ANCOM 2025, the booth wasn't just selling a drink; it was sharing a piece of history, honoring Dolphy, and raising a glass to Filipino creativity.



EXHIBITORS

Where Masonic Values Meet Modern Lifestyle Branding





Fine Craftsmen at ANCOM 2025

Fine Craftsmen's presence at ANCOM 2025 powerfully showed how Masonic principles can inspire modern business success. Founded in 2014 by Bro. Manny Laxamana of Lodge No. 358, the brand embodies his belief that "as Masonry is a way of life, so should Masonic clothing be." Today, it stands as an international premium lifestyle label with collaborations alongside New Era, Giordano, Luminox, and Rudy Project.



Fine Craftsmen demonstrated how lifestyle branding rooted in integrity, unity, and quality can thrive both commercially and within the fraternity.

Occupying stalls 95–99, Fine Craftsmen was one of the highlight of ANCOM. Brethren flocked to its booth, eager for its diverse offerings and especially the exclusive ANCOM theme shirts—now a beloved annual tradition. Distinguished visitors included MW Bro. B. Khristian Albano, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT, and MW Wilfredo Philip R. Leaño, Jr., Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Alberta. The brand achieved record-breaking sales, a testament to its strategic presence, strong following, and the emotional value of its merchandise.

More than just a business, Fine Craftsmen demonstrated how lifestyle branding rooted in integrity, unity, and quality can thrive both commercially and within the fraternity. Its ANCOM 2025 success sets a new benchmark for Masonic-affiliated enterprises.

**EIC – We look forward
to more brethren
sponsored booths at
ANCOM 2026.**

Twins by Blood. Brethren by Light.

A Day of Firsts in Masonic History



ANTONIO POCHOLO T. MIRO

ANTONIO PAOLO T. MIRO

A black and white photograph of two men, Antonio Pocholo T. Miro and Antonio Paolo T. Miro, both smiling and laughing. The man on the left is wearing glasses, a white tuxedo jacket, a white shirt, and a black bow tie. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. They are both clapping their hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

KAMBAL

THIRD DEGREE CONFERRAL RAISING
TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF MASTER MASON
CONFERRAL : MUNTINLUPA CITY MASONIC LODGE NO. 414 TEMPLE
FELLOWSHIP : WINNER EVENTS PLACE STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

JUNE 28, 2025

*The first twin brothers to be raised
together in the history of the Grand
Lodge of the Philippines.*



By: MCML414

On June 28, 2025, the Muntinlupa City Masonic Lodge No. 414 proudly celebrated a moment etched in the annals of Masonic history — their first Raising of the Masonic Year.

But this was no ordinary conferral.

Brothers Antonio Paolo T. Miro and Antonio Pocholo T. Miro, biological twins, were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on the same day — making them not only the first Masons raised in MCML414 for 2025, but quite possibly the first twin brothers to be raised together in the history of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

What made the occasion even more profound was the presence of their father, Very Worshipful Antonio “Jojo” N. Miro, who had the distinct honor of charging his sons — now also his Brothers in the Craft — to walk uprightly as true Masons.

VW Jojo fondly recalled how, as young boys, the twins would accompany him to the Christmas celebrations of his mother lodge, Tumauni Masonic Lodge No. 251. “They were the little rascals running around the fellowship hall,” he reminisced. “To see them now don the apron of a Master Mason fills me with pride beyond words.”

He added that this moment was not only significant for MCML414, but also a historic first for TML251 — marking the first time in its history that a Brother’s sons have entered the ancient and honorable Fraternity.

The twins, for their part, expressed deep gratitude for the warm welcome from the Munti Masons, and heartfelt thanks to their “Kuyang Papa,” who journeyed from the province of Isabela despite the demands of his public service duties to be present on their special day.

As Bros. Paolo and Pocholo embark on their Masonic journey, they do so not only with the light of the Craft, but with the Munti Masons and the entire Grand Lodge before them — with pride, with light, and with brotherly love.

From the Archives



From the Grand East



THE KIND OF OFFICERS OUR LODGES NEED

IN THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER each year we elect officers of our Lodges for the ensuing Masonic year. We should elect only those brethren who we believe can provide inspired and inspiring leadership and who we think can best work and best agree, particularly in designing and implementing a program of year-round activities that will contribute to the brethren's growth and development as well as to the improvement of the communities in which the brethren and their families live.

Assisted by the other officers of the Lodge, the Worshipful Master must appoint to responsible positions in the Lodge brethren with a deep sense of moral and Masonic responsibility and a keen sense of belonging not only to the Lodge and the Masonic District, but to the whole Craft as well.

Each Worshipful Master must be so flexible as to be at once a sharing, reconciling and building leader. He is a **sharing** leader if he delegates powers and responsibilities to the other officers and qualified members of the Lodge. He is a **reconciling** leader if he harmonizes conflicting factions and groups within his Lodge or restores harmony and cooperation among the factions and groups, thereby facilitating the attainment of Lodge goals. He forcibly impresses upon the officers and members of his Lodge that they cannot and will not reach greater heights of

achievement unless they all work together in close harmony. He is a **building** leader if he builds upon his worthy predecessors' accomplishments and readily spots what to change.

I fondly hope that each Worshipful Master in our grand jurisdiction will not be too autocratic, but rather friendly and understanding, always keeping lines of communication open to the other officers and members of his Lodge; that he will provide them with the necessary encouragement and motivation; that he will generously praise them for having done their job well; that he will allow them to develop their full potential; and that he will take pleasure in developing the leadership talents of younger members of his Lodge, thereby paving the way for them to take over the helm of the Lodge if due time.

Each Worshipful Master in our grand jurisdiction must govern and preside over his Lodge according to established rules and regulations in order to be just and fair to all, but must at the same time show kindness and mercy to erring, offending or neglectful brethren. He must, moreover, ever remember that he will occupy the Oriental Chair or wield the gavel, emblem of power, for only one year, unless the brethren re-elect him to the same position for another year. Therefore, he must be a leader rather than a boss.

According to Past Senior Grand Lecturer (PSGL) Benjamin S. Geli, the boss drives subordinates, while the leader coaches them. The boss depends upon authority, but the leader depends upon goodwill. The boss says "I"; the leader, on the other hand, says "we." The boss fixes the blame for the breakdown; contrariwise, the leader fixes the breakdown. The boss knows how it is done, while the leader shows how. Finally, while the boss says "Go," the leader says "Let's go."

If wise, each Worshipful Master will use as guide bits of wisdom crafted by writers, scholars, philosophers and sages, such as the following:

- The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and will to carry on. — WALTER LIPPMAN
- Leaders don't create followers; they create more leaders. — TOM PETERS
- If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader. — JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

- You cannot be a leader, and ask others to follow you, unless you know how to follow, too. — DENNIS A. PEER
- Leadership is an opportunity to serve. It is not a trumpet call to self-importance. — LOGAN PEARSALL SMITH

My worthy predecessors in the Grand East, such as MWBs Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Romeo A. Yu, Jaime Y. Gonzales, Pacifico B. Aniag, and Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, and I have come out with manuals for use by Masonic leaders at all levels of the Craft. I fondly hope Lodge Officers for the ensuing year will make optimal use of those manuals toward becoming efficient and effective leaders.

Finally, each Worshipful Master, together with the other officers, must seek the wise counsel and guidance of the Lodge's Past Masters. These are, after all, the pillars of the Lodge and of the Craft.

May all Worshipful Masters prove themselves effective, efficient, and proficient leaders rather than bosses in their respective Lodges and Districts.

*Maligaya't makabuluhang
Pasko sa inyong lahat, mga kapatid, at
sa inyong mga pamilya. Masagana't
manigang Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat!*

Fraternally yours,



AVELINO I. RAZON, JR.
Grand Master, 2010-2011

USING BRO. RIZAL'S VALUES, IDEALS, PRINCIPLES AND DEEDS FOR GUIDING US, AS A PEOPLE, INTO THE FUTURE

by MW and SX Avelino L. Razon, Jr., Grand Master, KGDR

(Message delivered at Paco Park on December 30, 2010 – on the occasion of the commemoration of the 114th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bro./Dr. Jose Rizal).

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE the 114th anniversary of the martyrdom of our eminent Brother, Dr. Jose Rizal. As we do so, we are challenged once more to renew, if not to strengthen, our commitment to using his values, ideals, principles and deeds – the things he lived and died for – for guiding us, as a people, into the future. We must, at the same time, renew, if not strengthen, our resolve to emulate his many virtues, which distinguished his conduct as a man and as a Mason. Allow me, therefore, to present to you on this auspicious occasion some of my thoughts on the values, ideals and principles Bro. Rizal stood for, as well as his admirable qualities both as a man and as a Mason.

His Keen Sense of Justice

Bro. Jose Rizal could not accept why there were different rules for different people on account of race or economic standing. He had a very strong sense of justice, which is defined in our Monitor as “that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man his just due without distinction.” Besides, he was a firm believer in the symbolic significance of the Level. This working tool, as we know very well, demonstrates that we human beings are descended from the same stock; that we partake of the same nature and share the same hope; and that although distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are Brethren, for he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortune’s wheel may be entitled to our regard because a time will come, and the wisest know not how

soon, when all distinctions save that of goodness shall cease, and death, the mighty leveler of human greatness, reduces us to the same state.

His Relentless Pursuit of Personal Perfection

Throughout his life, Bro. Jose Rizal never stopped learning the wisdom of the ages and perfecting what he had learned. Thus, he developed himself from “rough” to “perfect ashlar” and transformed himself into a truly versatile Renaissance man. As a Mason, he was induced to be his best and to do his best at all times – or to reach for greatness by aiming at developing himself to his highest potential.

His Courageous Defense of Truth

Bro. Rizal exerted all-out effort to liberate his people by exposing the truth, even in the face of overwhelm-

we are to become a strong nation. We must strive hard to imitate Bro. Rizal, as well as other Mason heroes and statesmen, in their values, in their ideals and principles, in their virtues, and in their noble deeds.

I urge the brethren who belong to the Rizal Lodges League in particular to take the lead in diffusing the light and luster of the teachings, precepts and principles of Bro. Jose Rizal, as well

as those of other Mason heroes and statesmen, more widely than before among our countrymen, so that in the not distant future we will be able to eradicate from Philippine society the very evils which our Masonic forebears exposed valiantly in their speeches and writings.

May you spend the rest of the day joyfully and meaningfully.

- *If we are to be good and true Masons, we must be and do our best in every one of our endeavors, including sports competitions among the Craft.*

- *We must show to the non-Masonic public that we are always people working together in close harmony toward common goals or purposes. Doing things together, accomplishing things together, sharing things with one another in sincere love and fellowship, working together in unity; demonstrating our pride in the Fraternity to one another and to the general public – this will make wonderful things happen. That is what Freemasonry is all about. We must not lose that; for if we do, we have lost it all.*

- *Masonry is mainly fellowship. Hence, we must ensure that we can indulge that fellowship in our meetings and other activities.*

B1A

mahalaga



**A picture speaks a thousand words
but if I was to choose one it is HARMONY**



ANCOM 2026 TAGAYTAY CITY

A Historic Gathering in Tagaytay

Brethren, as we look toward the future of our Craft, we eagerly anticipate the Annual Communication (ANCOM) of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in 2026. This momentous occasion will be held in the historic and scenic city of Tagaytay—renowned for its cool climate, tranquil surroundings, and inspiring views.

ANCOM has always been more than a yearly assembly; it is a time for fellowship, reflection, and the strengthening of the ties that bind us as Brothers. In 2026, Tagaytay will serve as a fitting host city, not only for its natural beauty but also for its deep cultural and historic significance.

As we prepare for this gathering, let us look forward with renewed zeal, ready to share in the labors and joys of our fraternity. May ANCOM 2026 in Tagaytay stand as a testament to our enduring brotherhood, a celebration of our Masonic heritage, and a beacon of unity for the years to come.