



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

THE

VOLUME 102, ISSUE NO. 5 SPECIAL ONLINE ISSUE

CABLE TOW



BLA
mahalaga

**Grand Master
MW Raul E. Canon Jr.
Caps off a
Successful
Term**

Our 107th Grand Master,
Most Worshipful Raul E. Canon Jr.

**THE
CABLE TOW**



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FOREWORD

WB Jonathan R. Amoroso, PDGL

Junior Associate Editor

In our casual conversations with acquaintances, we often hear or say this common expression: Iba na talaga ang panahon ngayon. It may refer to a lot of topics from the multifaceted subjects to the jocular or just anything about the universe involving mind-boggling changes that are happening around us that affect our lives or just earn our bewilderment, one way or another. It may touch on our disgust that afternoons nowadays seem to emit more than infrared rays of the sun that make us sweat but they radiate, figuratively speaking, “Kryptonite” that totally wears down our energy. It may allude to our lamentation that the price of diesel which used to be the fuel of the masses is now astronomically high. It may refer to our amazement over the routine of the children who used to bask under the sun but now would stuck their heads in front of monitor screens. Or it may pertain to the fresh morning of the outgoing Grand Lodge officers which previously was stiff and suffocating but abruptly became nice and easy after the ANCOM. Really, the hard-working team of Most Worshipful Raul E. Canon, Jr. and his team deserve a change from a stifling to soothing scenario, as much as they are entitled to well-merited rounds of applause for a very successful term.

But climate change, post-pandemic partums, fuel or energy crisis, or a shift of administration in the GLP are simply malapropos to The Cabletow. The fact is, from the time The Cabletow was first published in 1958, its goal, and aspiration remains the same: to keep the brethren within a hailing distance. Through the words of then Grand Master, Howard R. Hick, who happened to be its Editor-in-Chief also, “The Cabletow is the official gazette and a library of reference for the Craft in the Islands. It keeps the Brethren in the outposts of Masonry posted on masonic activities in the Philippines and in the Masonic world at large. It furnishes them instruction and entertainment. It shows them that the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is a going concern, with officers and members constantly on the alert in the interest of Masonry in general and of the Craft in these islands in particular. He went on to say that “as the official Grand Lodge organ it should speak for Freemasonry in the Philippines. It is not

to be subordinated to any masonic organ in our Grand Lodge Jurisdiction. Therefore, I enjoin all masons who have a message for their brothers, to contribute to the Cable Tow. Further, the Cable Tow is not limited to the product of a masonic mind, there are those who think and act as we do, who do not wear the lambskin. When we find such material, it can be, with the permission of the author, used as informative material which will embrace the vitality of our Grand Lodge program.”

He then made a call that “Let us raise the standard of our Cabletow; let us produce a Grand Lodge organ of which we can be proud, one which will tell the world that we are active, we are strong, alive, and that we are playing our small part in advancing the principles and tenets of our great Fraternity.”

After almost 80 years after the launch edition, some relevant things have been unaltered. The spirit that had moved the Cabletow in the past to be the voice of the GLP, the peekhole of its activities, and the teller that masonry is alive and gaining strength by the day remains to be the same core that gives life to it as the lingo of the Craft. It has even adopted well in the digital platform with wider distribution capacity, easier accessibility, greater audience reach, and increased reader or audience engagement.

And now, on the last issue of The Cabletow on the term of MW Raul, we highlight as our cover story, so to speak, his Grand Master’s Accomplishment Report featuring his activities throughout his term – his meaningful foreign travels as the envoy of the GLP in international and foreign jurisdictions, his journeys to practically almost all the masonic lodges in the country to constantly keep in touch with the brethren, the edicts that sought to streamline, standardize and systematize bureaucracy, protocols and procedures consistent with the practical and logical interpretation of masonic rules and regulations; the decisions that were difficult and even painful to decide but have to be imperatively done to uphold the tenets of Freemasonry and the moral virtues and principles that it stands for, and all other works and activities that he accomplished without anybody watching just to keep the fraternity in top condition. In all these, The Cabletow was a attentive and eager witness as the Grand Master rushed his steps, flattened the grasses, skipped on stones, and blazed his trail not only to make himself within a hailing distance to the brethren but to stand breast to breast with them and shake their hands as brothers.

As a final thought, it is funny that the challenges of The Cabletow from way back still persist. MW Hick continued his discourse that “However, there remains the problem of securing, original, strong, vital, informative and interesting material to put into our Grand Lodge organ. Material which will be interesting to our brethren in the Philippines and to our masonic brothers overseas. Because you, and you, have failed to produce, have failed to contribute, it has been frequently necessary to use foreign material to complete an issue” and that xxx “it too has had vicissitudes and even at this communication we have taken upgrade its quality and improve its reception among the member of the Grand Lodge”. Yet these are simply small bumps on the road and if we have passed through them in all those long years, we will continue to survive them with flying colors in time. Besides, and as we have been saying all along, the times have changed. This is the now the era when the brethren are not anymore afraid to speak their minds out and when they have several venues or media to let the world know what they are thinking. We just have to stick our noses where there are worthy scoops or exclusives, fill the pages of The Cabletow, and continue to encourage the brethren to pitch-in their good ideas. We shall empower the brethren through information and draw them closer to hear their heartbeat. At the end of the day, nobody shall be ghosted or left behind because for MW Raul, every Mason has story to tell and that in Freemasonry, “bawat isang Mason ay mahalaga.”

And so, The Cabletow team, under the guidance and supervision of MW Raul, now takes a bow and signs off confident that his term slogan, regardless of a switch in leadership, shall remain true, 80 years from now and forever, and for as long as there is Freemasonry, indeed, every Mason matters.



PANGARAP

MASONIC LODGE NO. 448

WELCOMES FATHER AND SONS

In a rare and historic ceremony, Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 conferred the Sublime Degree of Master Mason upon a father and his two sons on the same occasion—marking a truly memorable milestone in the annals of the Lodge.

Brother Jaime B. Santiago, former Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, was raised alongside his sons, Brothers Jhimmy and Jimi, on 3 March 2026. Their shared journey through the degrees stands as a testament to both family unity and a deep commitment to the Craft.

The Santiago family began their Masonic journey together, having been initiated as Entered Apprentice Masons on 26 November 2025, and later passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on 17 February 2026. Throughout their progression, all three demonstrated commendable proficiency—not only in the required degree work, but also in the lectures of the First and Second Degrees—reflecting both dedication and a genuine appreciation of Masonic teachings.

Brother Jaime brings with him a distinguished career in public service. He previously served as NBI Director, Regional Trial Court and Metropolitan Trial Court Judge, Manila City Prosecutor, and Chief of the Western Police District Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.



Brother Jhimmy, the eldest son, is a respected legal professional and currently heads the Legal Department of Light Rail Manila Corporation. He was formerly a partner at Carag Zaballero Llamado and Abiera Law Offices for over a decade. Earlier in his career, he served as a staff member of the late Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago while completing his law degree.

He remains an active member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the IBP Manila II Chapter and as a Commissioner of the IBP Commission on Bar Discipline.

Brother Jimi, the youngest, previously served as an Executive Assistant at the Office of the Director in the NBI. He is currently a third-year law student at San Beda College Alabang, pursuing his legal education while continuing his Masonic journey.

Brother Jaime shared that his desire to join the Craft dates back to his early years in law enforcement, having worked closely with esteemed Past



Grand Masters, Most Worshipful Avelino I. Razon, Jr. and Most Worshipful Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. However, the demands of his career delayed his entry. Upon his retirement, he embraced the opportunity to finally enter the Craft alongside his sons.

The Santiago family extends their sincere gratitude to Most Worshipful Raul E. Canon for the opportunity to be welcomed into the fraternity, and for allowing them to contribute, share who they are, and grow within the Craft. This gratitude is equally extended to all the Brethren of Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448, whose support and brotherhood have made their Masonic journey truly meaningful.

Their story stands as a powerful reflection of brotherhood, legacy, and the enduring values of Freemasonry.

GRAND MASTER'S REPORT

MASONIC YEAR 2025-2026

April 22, 2026

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

Annual Communication 2026

Tagaytay City Velodrome

Most Worshipful Sirs,
Right Worshipful Sirs,
Very Worshipful Sirs,
Very Worshipful Inspectors Sirs,
Worshipful Sirs,
Brethren:

It is my distinct honor and privilege to report before this Grand Assembly and the brethren, our actions and accomplishments for this term and the current state of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. This report encompasses all my actions as the Grand Master in the exercise of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial functions entrusted to the Grand Master in between the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge.

Raul E. Canon Jr.
Grand Master

PART I

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

In the exercise of the Executive Powers of the Grand Master, we took the following executive actions to implement the existing provisions of Masonic Law and rules and regulations, in accordance with the theme for this Masonic Term, “Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga” (Each One in Masonry Matters), and the three thrusts of the Grand Lodge, namely: (1) Masonic Education, (2) Masonic Governance, and (3) Masonic Improvement.

1. Membership Status

Our lodges **raised** 1,385 brethren to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, representing a 41% increase compared to the previous term. In addition, 58 brethren were **restored**, and 82 **affiliated** from foreign Masonic jurisdictions. In total, our gross membership now stands at **27,920 Master Masons**.

Of this number, 4,748 are **plural** members, and 5,411 are Life Members by Longevity (**LML**). This leaves a total of 22,509 regular members paying the **full amount** of annual dues.

The fraternity lost 913 members, comprising: 147 brethren who dropped their working tools, 758 who were suspended for non-payment of dues, 10 who were suspended for cause, and eight who were expelled for un-masonic conduct. Seven hundred twenty-two (722) brethren demitted as charter or plural members but remain in good standing as regular members. Due to Edict No. 389, 348 brethren were suspended for non-attendance.

On the trestle board, we currently have 1,319 petitioners, 889 Entered Apprentice Masons, and 1,056 Fellowcrafts.

2. Lodge Management

As of the date of this report, there are 472 chartered lodges and lodges under dispensation in our Jurisdiction, as follows:

- Prior to the 108th Annual Communication held in April 2025, there were four hundred forty-six (**446**) chartered Subordinate Lodges in our Jurisdiction.
- During the 108th Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge granted: (1) eighteen (**18**) lodges their charter; and (2) five (**5**) lodges a continuance or extension of their dispensation.
- During this Masonic Term, we personally conducted the constitution of these eighteen (18) newly chartered lodges and afterwards personally

installed the lodge officers. We granted dispensations to the five lodges granted an extension during the 108th Annual Communication.

- We granted dispensations to another four (4) lodges and proceeded with the institution of these lodges under dispensation.
- One lodge was suspended.

The geographical distribution of lodges across our Jurisdiction is as follows:

Multi District	Districts	Chartered Lodges before ANCOM 2025	Lodges granted Charter during ANCOM 2025	Lodges Under Dispensation in MY 2025 (five extended during ANCOM 2025, four instituted in MY 2025)	Lodges Suspended in MY 2025	Chartered Lodges and Lodges Under Dispensation, as of April 22, 2026
National Capital Region	11	79	3	4		86
Northern Luzon	13	63	5			68
Central Luzon	12	88	1	1		90
Southern Luzon	11	75	6	2		83
Visayas	5	41	1	1		43
Northern Mindanao	6	34				34
Southern Mindanao	4	27				27
Western Mindanao	6	32	2	1		35
Overseas	5	7			(1)	6
Total	73	446	18	9	(1)	472

In a historic achievement for this Masonic Term, all Subordinate Lodges fully satisfied the reportorial and financial requirements mandated by our Masonic Law Book and successfully obtained accreditation to send their representatives to the Annual Communication, and for the first time in the history of our Grand Lodge hitting a 100% compliance rate. This milestone is the result of sustained and consistent efforts to remind the lodges of their obligations, particularly through the issuance of Edict No. 395 on Dues, as well as Circular Nos. 19, 19-A, and 19-B.

Edict No. 395 on Dues, mandates every member of a Subordinate Lodge to fully pay his Annual Dues for the succeeding year on or before the stated meeting in December; otherwise, he will face suspension. This measure has proven highly effective, as all lodges were quickly able to collect the dues outstanding from their members. Lodge Secretaries have benefited from Edict No. 395, as it eliminated the need to send individual notices to delinquent brethren for dues collection.

After favorable consultation with the Board for General Purposes, Circular Nos. 19, 19-A, and 19-B were issued to remind lodges to remit their Annual Per Capita Dues to the Grand Lodge within the prescribed period; otherwise, the lodges will incur penalties. A ten percent (10%) penalty was imposed for delayed remittances that were made from January 16 to January 31, 2026, while a fifty percent (50%) penalty applied to delayed remittances that were made from February 1 to February 28, 2026.

As a result, forty-three (43) lodges incurred a ten percent (10%) penalty, one (1) lodge incurred a thirty percent (30%) penalty, and twelve (12) lodges incurred a fifty percent (50%) penalty on their required Per Capita Dues remittances to the Grand Lodge. These penalties amounted to a total of Nine Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Twenty-Four Pesos (₱942,024.00).

We approved the change in the name of the following lodges:

1. From: Grand Secretary Reynold S. Fajardo Masonic Lodge No. 383
To: Grand Secretary Reynold S. Fajardo Lodge No. 383 F.&A.M.
2. From: Isaac I. Puno, Sr. Mem. Lodge No. 401
To: WB Isaac I. Puno, Sr. Lodge No. 401 F.&A.M.

We approved amendments to the by-laws of the lodges listed below:

1. Corregidor Lodge No. 3
2. Balintawak Masonic Lodge No. 28
3. Makawiwili Masonic Lodge No. 55
4. Angalo Masonic Lodge No. 63
5. High Twelve Lodge No. 82
6. Rafael Palma Masonic Lodge No. 147
7. Dalusan – M.V. Ko Masonic Lodge No. 210
8. Luis J. Reyes Masonic Lodge No. 224
9. Tolomeo C. Galarrita Masonic Lodge No. 242
10. Kaduh Masonic Lodge No. 278
11. Catanduanes Island Masonic Lodge No. 291
12. MW Ruperto S. Demonteverde Masonic Lodge No. 320
13. Dasmariñas Masonic Lodge No. 346
14. Subic Bay Masonic Lodge No. 361
15. Ang Rehenerasyon Masonic Lodge No. 402
16. Sultan Haroun Al-Rashid M. Lucman Masonic Lodge No. 406
17. Solidarity Masonic Lodge No. 421
18. Kasiguruhan Masonic Lodge No. 423
19. Taguig Masonic Lodge No. 431
20. Valenzuela City Masonic Lodge No. 466
21. Umingan Masonic Lodge No. 497
22. Adriatico “Akok” Tan Tee Masonic Lodge No. 502

3. Financial Management

I render this report on the financial condition of our Grand Lodge with a deep sense of responsibility, mindful that the trust reposed upon us demands not only stewardship, but meaningful and lasting results.

3A. Financial Overview

Under my term, the Grand Lodge has achieved a strong and meaningful operating surplus of ₱21,116,594.73, the result of deliberate reforms, decisive financial measures, and sustained fiscal discipline.

These outcomes reflect our collective commitment to ensure that the resources of this Grand Jurisdiction are managed with prudence, integrity, and foresight.

3B. Revenue Growth and Optimization

We have realized significant gains across key revenue streams, brought about by focused initiatives:

- **Commercial and Facility Rentals**

Rental Commercial Spaces reached ₱3,595,203.34 against a budget of ₱3,300,000.00, while Rental Halls and Offices amounted to ₱9,335,275.01 versus a budget of ₱6,600,000.00. These favorable results were driven by the review and renegotiation of lease agreements and the improved utilization of our facilities.

- **Expanded Income Streams**

Other Income reached ₱4,637,452.00, substantially exceeding the budget of ₱1,650,000.00, driven mainly by the Grand Lodge's 3% share from lodge fund-raising activities, filing fees for cases, and supplier accreditation fees. As well as late payment penalties on annual dues amounting to ₱942,024.00, further strengthening the Grand Lodge's revenue base.

- **Membership-Related Collections**

Revenue from Plastic ID amounted to ₱241,500.00, surpassing the budget of ₱220,000.00, reflecting higher compliance and improved collection efficiency during the period.

3C. Institutional Milestone: Tax Exemption

A significant achievement during this term was the grant of tax-exempt status by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to the Grand Lodge.

On September 16, 2025, the Grand Lodge formally filed its application pursuant to Section 30(C) of the National Internal Revenue Code and Revenue Memorandum Order No. 38-2019.

Five weeks later, on October 23, 2025, the Grand Lodge was granted a Certificate of Tax Exemption, following full compliance with documentary and regulatory requirements.

This accomplishment was made possible through the collective efforts of the Grand Lodge leadership, with the invaluable assistance of **RW Robert Joseph S. Moran, Jr., Deputy Grand Master**, whose support and coordination were instrumental throughout the process.

Supporting submissions included certifications and documentation detailing the organization's activities, sources and disposition of income, and compliance with applicable laws.

This milestone strengthens the financial foundation of the Grand Lodge and affirms its standing as a non-stock, non-profit fraternal institution.

3D. Prudent Expense Management

While certain expenses—particularly utilities (light and water)—increased due to external factors, expenditures were generally managed with discipline and accountability. Light and Water expense amounted to ₱4,609,123.03 against a budget of ₱4,200,000.00, resulting in an overage of ₱409,123.03.

3E. Net Financial Position

As of March 31, 2026, the Grand Lodge recorded a net surplus of ₱21,116,594.73, already reflecting all recognized expenses, including accrued obligations of ₱8,025,898.46.

This surplus stands as a testament to sound governance, responsible leadership, and the collective effort of the Brethren.

3F. Enduring Impact

The financial performance of the Grand Lodge during this Masonic Term affirms that:

- Strong leadership and decisive action yield tangible financial results
- Institutional reforms create lasting value
- Sound stewardship strengthens the future of the Craft

More importantly, these gains enable the Grand Lodge to better fulfill its mission—supporting our Brethren, advancing our charitable works, and contributing meaningfully to society.

As we move forward, it is my hope that the foundations we have laid will continue to guide this Grand Jurisdiction toward greater strength, unity, and purpose.

4. Special Communications

This Masonic Term, the Grand Lodge held thirty-eight (38) Special Communications, one for each of the following as required by Masonic Law: (1) the ceremony of constitution of eighteen newly-chartered Lodges; (2) the ceremony of cornerstone-laying for ten masonic temples yet to be built; and (3) the ceremony of dedication of ten newly constructed Masonic temples.

We have likewise developed a **Grand Tyler’s Book for Special Communications**, intended to serve as the official record of all Ceremonial Grand Officers that performed the various ceremonies and rituals whenever a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is convened.

This record book also includes a detailed listing of the members of the host lodge in attendance, as well as the members of the Grand Lodge and other brethren who were present to witness the proceedings. Its implementation ensures proper documentation, preserves the integrity of ceremonial records, and contributes to the orderly conduct and historical preservation of such important Masonic activities.

4A. Ceremony of Constitution of Newly-Chartered Lodges

Pursuant to the mandate of the 108th Annual Communication, we issued Circular No. 11, setting out the relevant provisions of Masonic Law and the relevant facts concerning the organization and constitution of the eighteen newly-chartered Lodges.

After careful review and evaluation as to compliance by these Lodges with the relevant provisions of Masonic Law, additional circulars (Circulars 11-A to RR) were issued containing (1) the final list of names of charter members of each newly-chartered Lodge, as of the date of its constitution; and (2) the date and place of constitution of each newly- chartered Lodge. We then constituted all eighteen (18) newly-chartered lodges in the actual place indicated in their respective by-laws.

These newly-chartered lodges are distributed across eleven (11) geographical areas, as follows: one in Mindoro, one in Batangas, two in Camarines, two in Zamboanga, one in Cebu, one in Tarlac, two in Cavite, two in Cagayan, three in the National Capital Region, one in Quirino, and two in Isabela.

Date	Lodge	Location
June 3, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Mamburao Masonic Lodge No. 504	Mindoro Masonic Lodge No. 157 Temple, San Jose, Occidental, Mindoro Province

Date	Lodge	Location
June 21, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Dr. Ernesto H. Malabanan Masonic Loge No. 515	Batangas Masonic Lodge No. 35 Temple, Batangas City, Batangas Province
June 23, 2025 9:00 A.M.	Pili Capital Cimarrones Masonic Lodge No. 521	Naga City Masonic Lodge No. 257 Temple, Naga City, Camarines Sur Province
June 23, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Vinzons Masonic Lodge No. 507	Naga City Masonic Lodge No. 257 Temple, Naga City, Camarines Sur Province
June 25, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Zambosur Masonic Lodge No. 511	Hiram King of Tyre Masonic Temple, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur Province
June 27, 2025 2:00 P.M.	James J. Wilson Masonic Lodge No. 512	Zamboanga Masonic Temple, Zamboanga City Zamboanga Province
June 30, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Datu Daya Masonic Lodge No. 520	Datu Lapu-Lapu Masonic Lodge No. 347 Temple, Cordova Municipality, Cebu Province
July 2, 2025 2:00 P.M.	St. Joseph Masonic Lodge No. 513	Tarlac Kaunlaran Masonic Lodge No. 360 Temple, Tarlac City, Tarlac Province
July 4, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Laang Kawal Masonic Lodge No. 516	Tagaytay Masonic Center, Tagaytay City, Cavite Province
July 5, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Katimugan Masonic Lodge No. 509	La Naval Masonic Lodge No. 269 Temple, Municipality of Kawit, Cavite Province
July 10, 2025 9:00 A.M.	Calvary Hills Masonic Lodge No. 508	Gonzaga Masonic Lodge No. 66 Temple, Tuguegarao City, Province of Cagayan
July 10, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Mount Cagua Masonic Lodge No. 514	Gonzaga Masonic Lodge No. 66 Temple, Tuguegarao City, Province of Cagayan
July 15, 2025 4:00 P.M.	St. Germain Masonic Lodge No. 517	New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR
July 16, 2025 3:30 P.M.	Addalem Masonic Lodge No. 519	Diffun Masonic Lodge No. 317 Temple, Municipality of Diffun, Province of Quirino
July 17, 2025 9:00 A.M.	Agandanan Viejo Masonic Lodge No. 505	Ganao Masonic Lodge No. 313 Temple, Municipality of Echague, Province of Isabela
July 17, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Hinirang Masonic Lodge No. 506	Ganano Masonic Lodge No. 313 Temple, Municipality of Echague, Province of Isabela
July 21, 2025 4:00 P.M.	Luneta Masonic Lodge No. 510	New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR
July 24, 2025 4:00 P.M.	Justitia Masonic Lodge No. 518	New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR

Date	Lodge	Location

Under Section 5, Article I, Part II of the Masonic Law Book, a newly-chartered lodge is required to be constituted within sixty (60) days from the issuance of its charter. We issued Edict No. 381, authorizing the extension of the period for the constitution of a newly-chartered Lodge, when necessary due to exceptional circumstances.

In the case of the eighteen lodges granted their charters during the 108th Annual Communication, it was necessary to extend the period due to their exceptionally large number and their various locations in distant places. We issued Grand Master’s Executive Order No. 1, extending the sixty-day period to one hundred days. Within the extended period, we personally presided over the ceremony of constitution for the eighteen newly-chartered lodges, as well as the ceremony of installation of their lodge officers, in the proper location.

4B. Ceremony of Cornerstone-Laying for Masonic Temples Yet to be Built

This Masonic Term, we laid the cornerstones of ten (10) future Masonic Temples across ten (10) different provinces – Agusan del Sur, Isabela, National Capital Region (NCR), Zambales, Tarlac, Cavite, Pangasinan, Bukidnon, Mountain Province, and Zamboanga del Norte.

It is encouraging to note that lodges across the country have exerted considerable effort to build their own Masonic temple for their convenience and use, with these structures specifically dedicated to the practice and advancement of Freemasonry.

Date	Lodge	Location
July 14, 2025	Agusan Marsh Masonic Lodge No. 474	Sta. Teresita, Bayugan City, Agusan Del Sur
July 18, 2025	Santiago City Masonic Lodge No. 457	Purok 1 Brgy. Salvador, Santiago City, Isabela Province
Sept. 4, 2025	Taguig Masonic Temple	No. 91 Amihan St., Brgy. Ususan, Taguig City, NCR
Nov. 28, 2025 10:00 A.M.	Justice Alejo Labrador Masonic Lodge No. 395 Temple	Brgy. Nabunga, Municipality of Catillejos, Zambales Province
Nov. 28, 2025 2:00 P.M.	Aguman Masonic Lodge No. 480 Temple	Brgy. Lourdes, Municipality of Bamban, Tarlac Province
Dec. 5, 2025 8:00 A.M.	Cavite La Progressus Masonic Lodge No. 467 Temple	Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas City, Cavite Province

Date	Lodge	Location
Feb. 20, 2026	Bugallon Masonic Lodge No. 492 Temple	Brgy. Bañaga, Bugallon Municipality, Pangasinan Province
Mar. 28, 2026 9:00 A.M.	Metro Cagayan de Oro Masonic Center	Brgy. Gango, Ubona Municipality, Bukidnon Province
April 9, 2026 12:30 A.M.	Bessang Pass Masonic Lodge No. 314	Brgy. Tubeng, District of Poblacion, Baguio, Mountain Province
April 16, 2026	Rizal Shrine Lodge Masonic Lodge No. 434	Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte

4C. Ceremony of Dedication of New Masonic Temples

This Masonic Term witnessed the completion of the construction and renovation of ten (10) Masonic Temples, which were duly dedicated and consecrated for Freemasonry. These temples stand as a living testament to the enduring presence and legacy of Freemasonry in their respective provinces. Of these, four (4) are located in the province of Cavite, while one (1) each is found in La Union, Pangasinan, Batangas, Isabela, Mountain Province, and the National Capital Region (NCR).

It is likewise worth commending the exemplary accomplishments of two (2) lodges that were able to complete the construction of their Masonic temples within the same year of commencement.

The Taguig Masonic Temple of Taguig Masonic Lodge No. 431 laid its cornerstone on September 4, 2025, and held its Dedication and Consecration on November 17, 2025, completing construction in a remarkable two (2) months.

Similarly for Santiago City Masonic Lodge No. 457, the cornerstone for its temple was laid on July 18, 2025, and the temple was dedicated on April 8, 2026, finishing construction in nine (9) months.

Date	Lodge	Location
June 14, 2025	Pilar Lodge Masonic Temple	Imus City, Cavite Province
June 16, 2025	Diego Silang Masonic Temple	San Miguel, Municipality of Agoo, Province of La Union
Nov. 17, 2025 8:00 A.M.	Taguig Masonic Temple	No. 91 Amihan St., Brgy. Ususan, Taguig City, NCR
Jan. 10, 2026 8:00 A.M.	Molino Masonic Lodge No. 352 Temple	Vitas St., Molino IV, Bacoor Municipality, Cavite Province
Jan. 10, 2026 11:00 A.M.	Silang Masonic Lodge No. 416 Temple	Brgy. Biluso, Silang Municipality, Cavite Province
Jan. 10, 2026 2:00 P.M.	Dasmariñas Masonic Lodge No. 346 Temple	Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite Province
Feb. 18, 2026	Alfonso Lee Sin Masonic Lodge No. 158 Temple	Tapulac District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan Province
March 4, 2026	Nasugbu Masonic Lodge No. 407 Temple	Nasugbu Municipality, Batangas Province
April 8, 2026 10:00 A.M.	Santiago City Masonic Lodge No. 457 Temple	Brgy. Salvador, Santiago City, Isabela Province
April 8, 2026 9:30 P.M.	Bontoc Masonic Lodge No. 140 Temple	Municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province

5. Lodges Formed Under Dispensation

5A. Petitions for Dispensation to Form a New Lodge

This Masonic Term, we received a total of twenty-seven (27) petitions for dispensation to form a new lodge, comprising: fifteen (15) petitions carried over from the previous Masonic Term, and twelve (12) new petitions filed this Masonic Term.

5B. Dispensations Issued (Extension and New)

We granted dispensations to the five (5) lodges listed below that were granted a continuance or extension of their dispensation during the 108th Annual Communication:

1. Legazpi City Masonic U.D.
2. Lim Hock Chiu Masonic U.D.

3. MW Jose Guerrero Masonic U.D.
4. General Antonio Narciso Luna Masonic U.D.
5. Lord Baden Powell Masonic U.D.

After careful review and evaluation of their qualifications, proposed locations, and compliance with the requirements for organizing lodges as prescribed in our Masonic Law Book, we granted dispensations to form four (4) new lodges, pursuant to Part I, Article IX, Section 2(a) of the Masonic Law Book

5C. Lodges Instituted

We instituted the following lodges in accordance with our ancient customs and traditions:

Date	Lodge	Location
Nov. 18, 2025	MW Rosendo C. Herrera Masonic Lodge U.D.	Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR
Dec. 20, 2025	Boyet Sy Masonic Lodge U.D.	Palma Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR
Dec. 20, 2025	Nalucaban Masonic Lodge U.D.	Palma Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR
Dec. 20, 2025	Candelaria Masonic Lodge U.D.	Palma Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR

5D. Petitions Requiring Further Evaluation

Further study and evaluation are required for the pending petitions for dispensations to form the following lodges:

1. Tondo Masonic Lodge – Manila
2. Frank S. Land Masonic Lodge – Manila (PDYC)
3. Pedrona, Abraza Y Resurrecion Masoinc Lodge – Cavite
4. Paombong Masonic Lodge – Bulacan
5. Sto. Tomas (Batangas) Masonic Lodge
6. Sir Knight Isaac Firmeza Arribas, Jr. Masonic Lodge – Manila
7. Magalawa Island Masonic Lodge – Palauig, Zambales
8. Pamintinan Masonic Lodge – Rizal
9. Ianganan Masonic Lodge – Valenzuela City
10. Mt. Manase Masonic Lodge – 3rd District Camarines Sur
11. Monumento Masonic Lodge – Quezon City
12. Francisco E. Lahora Masonic Lodge – Manay, Davao Oriental
13. Makima Masonic Lodge – Maasim, Sarangani
14. Lumad Sibugayon Masonic Lodge – Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay

15. General Vicente R. Lukban Masonic Lodge – 1st District Camarines Norte
16. Juanito A. Tio Masonic Lodge – Cabanatuan, Isabela
17. Masala Masonic Lodge -Pampanga
18. Ang Karangalan Masonic Lodge – Novaliches Quezon City
19. United Masonic Lodge – Manila, NCR
20. Davsuranon Masonic Lodge –
21. Igacos Masonic Lodge – Island Garden City of Samal, Davao del Norte
22. New Vizcaya Masonic Lodge – Nueva Vizcaya
23. Sta. Rita Triangle Masonic Lodge – Bacolor Pampanga

6. Lodges Recommended for Grant of Charter

Circular No. 23 urged the Lodges Under Dispensation to submit their reportorial requirements for evaluation by the Grand Lodge Committee on Administration of Lodges, Charters, and Returns, by March 31, 2026.

6A. All Requirements Met. Upon careful evaluation, the Committee found that the Lodges Under Dispensation listed below have fully submitted and satisfactorily complied with all requirements for the grant of their charter, as prescribed in our Masonic Law Book. Accordingly, the Committee has recommended that these Lodges Under Dispensation be granted their charter and assigned the lodge number indicated beside their name:

1. Lord Baden Powell Masonic Lodge No. 522
2. Nalucaban Masonic Lodge No. 523
3. Boyet D. Sy Masonic Lodge No. 524
4. Lim Hock Chiu Masonic Lodge No. 525
5. MW Jose Reyes Guerrero Masonic Lodge No. 526
6. MW Rosendo C. Herrera Masonic Lodge No. 527
7. Legazpi City Masonic Lodge No. 528
8. General Antonio Narciso Luna Masonic Lodge No. 529

6B. Failed to Meet All Requirements. On the other hand, the Committee found that the Lodge Under Dispensation listed below: (a) failed to comply with the requirements set forth in our Masonic Law Book; and (b) committed the violations. Accordingly, the Committee has recommended that its dispensation be extended to give them another chance to rectify their violations and prove their eligibility to be granted their charters.

1. Candelaria Masonic Lodge Under Dispensation
 - a. They have demonstrated “disharmony” within the lodge.
 - b. Special meetings were not opened on the proper degree for the conduct of the appropriate business.
 - c. The Appointed Senior Warden failed to confer the degree he is tasked with.

- d. They failed to admit new members into Freemasonry during the prescribed period.

6C. Special Requirement as to Degree Conferral. In the ceremony of installation of the officers of a **Chartered Lodge**, certificates are presented to vouch for the proficiency of: (1) the Master elect in “the ritual of our Order”; (2) the Senior Warden elect in “the Lectures and Ritual of the First and Second Degrees”; and (3) the Junior Warden elect in “the Lecture and Ritual of the First Degree.”

As to a **Lodge Under Dispensation**, Section 10, Article I (Organization of a Lodge), Part II (Ordinances) of the Masonic Law Book 2019 Edition (2019 MLB), provides: “All its degree conferrals shall be conducted and performed strictly by direct participation of the three lights named in the dispensation and shall not be delegated to other members, within or without the Lodge.”

Applying the rule that “Lodges under Dispensation are subject to the same rules as Chartered Lodges”, the only logical interpretation of the special requirement as to degree conferral under Section 10 is as follows: (1) **Third Degree** conferrals shall be conducted and performed strictly by direct participation of the **Master** of the Lodge Under Dispensation; (2) **Second Degree** conferrals by the **Senior Warden**; and (3) **First Degree** conferrals by the **Junior Warden**.

Thus, it is **wrong** to say that the special requirement as to degree conferral under Section 10 is met simply by the direct participation of the three Lights of the Lodge Under Dispensation, **regardless of their role** in the conferral of the three Degrees.

7. Reorganization of Masonic Districts

Upon careful study and consideration, the Grand Lodge Committee on Subordinate Lodge Mapping and Membership Assessment, created under Edict No. 367 (MW Uypitching), recommended to reorganize the districts within the National Capital Region (NCR). The NCR consists of eleven (11) masonic districts, with lodges under Masonic Districts NCR-B, C, D, I, and J meeting at the New Plaridel Masonic Temple, and NCR-E, F, and K meeting at the Capitol Masonic Temple in Quezon City. The number of lodges per NCR district varied significantly, ranging from as few as eight (8) lodges to as many as eleven (11) or twelve (12) lodges.

To address this imbalance, we issued Edict No. 401, which will take effect upon its approval during the Annual Communication. Edict No. 401 reorganizes the NCR into ten (10) districts with a more equitable distribution of lodges and meeting locations. Under the new arrangement, Masonic Districts NCR-B, C, D, and E will meet at the New Plaridel Masonic Temple; NCR-F and G will meet at

the Capitol Masonic Temple; NCR-H will consist of lodges in Mandaluyong, Pasig, Marikina, Taguig, and those lodges that meet at the Capitol Masonic Temple; NCR-I covers lodges in Makati and Jacobo Zobel Temple; and NCR-J includes lodges in Las Piñas, Parañaque, and Muntinlupa.

Likewise, due to geographical distance and the resulting logistical burden on the District Deputy Grand Master of Region VII (Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor), this district will be divided into two (2): Masonic District RVII-Cebu and Masonic District RVII-Bohol and Siquijor.

We trust that through this redistricting, the District Deputy Grand Masters will be afforded more time and capacity to effectively manage and supervise their respective districts.

8. Muti-District Conventions Attended

We personally attended all Multi-District Conventions held during this Masonic Term, except for the Overseas Multi-District Convention, which was held in Guam.

It is noteworthy that RW Robert Joseph S. Moran Jr., Deputy Grand Master; RW Ruel S. Rivera, Senior Grand Warden; and RW Oliver C. Ko, Junior Grand Warden; were present in the majority of these conventions — an occurrence that was uncommon in previous years.

During the Multi-District Conventions, we emphasized that the Lights of the lodges have the responsibility to attend the convention as the representatives of their lodge. Their presence is essential, particularly in participating and voting for their Multi-District nominee for the position of Junior Grand Warden.

In line with this, we issued a *Notice to Explain* to the Lights of the lodges who were absent during their convention or failed to take part in the election process. After due consideration, many of those concerned were issued formal warnings or reprimands, following their acknowledgment of fault and expression of remorse for their lapse in fulfilling their duties.

Date	Multi-District	Venue
Sept. 13, 2025	Western Mindanao (Host: Masonic District RIX Zamboanga, Sulu & Tawi-Tawi)	Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
Sept. 27, 2025	Northern Luzon (Host: Masonic District RI CAR Benguet & La Union)	San Fernando City, La Union

Date	Multi-District	Venue
Oct. 4, 2025	Northern Mindanao (Host: Masonic District RXIII Agusan & Surigao)	Tandag City, Surigao del Sur
Oct. 11, 2025	Southern Mindanao (Host: Masonic District RIV Batangas)	The Tent, Lima Park, Lipa City, Batangas Province
Nov. 8, 2025	Visayas (Host: Masonic District RVII Cebu, Bohol & Siquijor)	J Park Hotel, Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City
Nov. 15, 2025	Southern Mindanao (Host: Masonic District RXIB Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte & Davao De Oro)	Tagum City, Davao del Norte
Nov 22, 2025	NCR (Host: Masonic District NCR-J)	Intramuros, Manila
Nov. 29, 2025	Central Luzon (Host: Masonic District RIII Tarlac North, & South)	Tarlac City, Tarlac

9. District Conventions and Activities Attended

Forty-seven Masonic Districts conducted their convention jointly with neighboring districts, reducing the number of District Conventions from 73 to 45. Beyond reducing the demands on resources and planning, joint conventions allow Brethren within the same geographic area to come together in fellowship, this fostering stronger camaraderie and bonds of brotherly love.

The District Conventions, Past District Deputy Grand Masters’ Nights, and District Christmas Parties that we attended include the following.

Date	District	Venue
Jul 19, 2025	MD Samar & Leyte Joint District Convention	Leyte Academic Center, Palo, Leyte
Jul 23, 2025	MD Batangas District Convention	Lipa City, Province of Batangas
Aug. 2, 2025	Quad District Convention of Nueva Ecija Districts	Senator Edgardo J. Angara Convention Center, Baler, Aurora
Aug. 9, 2025	Quad District Convention of Isabela	Amphitheater, Isabela State University, Echague, Isabela
Dec. 6, 2025	Masonic District – Batangas Christmas Party	515 Banquet Hall, Tanauan City, Batangas

Date	District	Venue
Dec. 10, 2025	Masonic District Cavite East Christmas Party	Villa Toscana Club House, Bacoor City Cavite
Apr 11, 2026	NCR-H Past District Deputy Grand Master's Night	Northwest Plaza Building, El Grande Ave., BF Homes Parañaque
April 12, 2026	Thanksgiving party of MD RIII Nueva Ecija (East & Aurora)	Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija
April 17, 2026	Past District Deputy Grand Master's Night of MD RIV Laguna West	Margelou Court Hotel San Pedro, Laguna

10. Subordinate Lodge Activities Attended

We attended at least Sixty (60) lodge activities throughout the Jurisdiction, many of which were by formal invitation in our capacity as Guest of Honor and Speaker, particularly during lodge anniversary celebrations and the ceremony of installation of the officers of the Subordinate Lodges.

Date	Subordinate Lodge and Event	Venue
May 17, 2025	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Stated Meeting & Raising	Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Lodge No. 69 Temple, Kawit, Cavite
May 17, 2025	Ang Tipolo Masonic Lodge No. 334 Past Master's Night	Estancia del Lorenzo, San Mateo, Rizal
Jun. 11, 2025	Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Lodge No. 398 Fellowship Dinner	Dynasty Restaurant, Maria Orosa, Malate Manila
Jun 17, 2025	Dr. Filemon C. Aguilar Masonic Lodge No. 332 Anniversary	Aguinaldo Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Jun 20, 2025	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Charter Day & Past Master's Night	Rizal Park Hotel, Manila
Jun 28, 2025	75 th Anniversary of Cebu Masonic Lodge No. 128	Cebu City
Jul 12, 2025	75 th Anniversary of Tagum Masonic Lodge No. 204	Tagum City, Davao
Aug. 16, 2025	Aklan Masonic Lodge No. 205 Lodge Visitation with Primera-Luz Filipina Masonic Lodge No. 69	Aklan Masonic Center, Kalibo, Aklan
Aug. 23, 2025	Chocolate Hills Masonic Lodge No. 486 – Lodge Visitation of Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448	Dagohoy Masonic Temple, Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Date	Subordinate Lodge and Event	Venue
Sept. 20, 2025	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Stated Meeting	Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Temple, Kawit, Cavite
Oct. 14, 2025	50 th Charter Anniversary Beacon Masonic Lodge No. 213	Acacia Hotel, Davao City
Oct. 18, 2025	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Stated Meeting	Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Temple, Kawit, Cavite
Nov. 1, 2025	Primera-Luz Filipina Masonic Lodge No. 69 Stated Meeting	Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Temple, Kawit, Cavite
Nov. 11, 2025	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Stated Meeting	Primera Luz Filipina Masonic Temple, Kawit, Cavite
Nov. 28, 2025	Ang Rehenerasyon Masonic Lodge No. 402 Marker Unveiling	Entry/ Exit SCTEX Concepcion, Brgy. Santiago, Concepcion Tarlac
Dec. 6, 2025	Primera-Luz Filipina Masonic Lodge No. 69 Christmas Party	Sequoia Hotel, Manila Bay, Aseana City Business Park, Paranaque
Dec. 6, 2025	Pilar Masonic Lodge No. 15 unveiling and dedication of Historical Marker	B5 L13 Aguinaldo Highway, Palico IV, Imus, Cavite
Dec. 12, 2025	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Christmas Party	Crystal Palace, Kawit, Cavite
Dec. 13, 2025	Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31 Charter Day and Past Master's Night	Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Jan. 7, 2026	Cavite Masonic Lodge No. 2, Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Jan. 13, 2026	Mencius Masonic Lodge No. 93 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Jan. 14, 2026	Dr. Sun Yat Sen Masonic Lodge No. 398 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Jan. 16, 2026	Pilar Masonic Lodge No. 15, Installation of Officers	Fynn Botique Hotel, Bacoor City, Province of Cavite
Jan. 17, 2026	Mt. Kaladias Masonic Lodge No. 91 Installation of Officers	Mount Kaladias Masonic Temple, South Road,(National Road), Dumaguete. City, Negros Oriental

Date	Subordinate Lodge and Event	Venue
Jan. 23, 2026	Luzon Masonic Lodge No. 57 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Jan. 23, 2026	Gen. Antonio Luna Masonic Lodge U.D. Lodge Visitation	Silanganan, Masonic Lodge
Jan. 24, 2026	Mt. Huraw Masonic Lodge No. 98 Installation of Officers	Samar convention Center, Catbalogan City, Province of Samar
Jan. 29, 2026	Tribute to WB Trece Wenceslao	Plaza Leticia, Lakewood, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija
Jan. 30, 2026	Magdiwang Masonic Lodge No. 238 Installation of Officers	MW Rudyardo V. Bunda Masonic Temple, Noveleta Cavite
Feb. 3, 2026	Dalisay Masonic Lodge No. 14 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 6, 2026	Bagong Ilaw Masonic Lodge No. 97 Installation of Officers	Bagong Ilaw Masonic Temple, Noveleta, Cavite
Feb. 7, 2026	Cebu Masonic Lodge No. 128 Installation of Officers	Casino Espanol de Cebu, Cebu City
Feb. 9, 2026	Molino Masonic Lodge No. 352 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 11, 2026	Pilgrimage Masonic Lodge No. 498 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 12, 2026	Montalban Masonic Lodge No. 376 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 14, 2026	Araw Masonic Lodge No. 18 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 14, 2026	Indang Masonic Lodge No. 115 Installation of Officers	International Convention Hall, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite
Feb. 16, 2026	Master Builder Masonic Lodge No. 461	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR

Date	Subordinate Lodge and Event	Venue
Feb. 17, 2026	Batasan Masonic Lodge No. 381 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 18, 2026	Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 Installation of Officers	Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Masonic Temple, Pangasinan
Feb. 19, 2026	Primera Republica Masonic Lodge No. 444 Installation of Officers	Brittany Palazzo, Almanza Dos, Daang Reyna, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila
Feb. 20, 2026	Pangasinan Masonic Lodge No. 56 Installation of Officers	Pangasinan Masonic Lodge Temple, Tondaligan Park, Dagupan City
Feb. 21, 2026	Diego Silang Masonic Lodge No. 417 Installation of Officers	Diego Silang Masonic Temple, San Agustin East, Agoo, La Union
Feb. 24, 2026	Frank Reed Horton Masonic Lodge No. 379 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 27, 2026	Katarungan Masonic Lodge No. 450 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Feb. 28, 2026	Aklan Masonic Lodge No. 205 Installation of Officers	Marzon Convention Center, Kalibo, Aklan
Mar. 3, 2026	Bulacan Masonic Lodge No. 400 Installation of Officers	Feliza Jazz Pavillion, Malolos City, Bulacan
Mar. 5, 2026	Pangarap Masonic Lodge No. 448 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Mar 6, 2026	Maktan Masonic Lodge No. 30 Installation of Officers	Parklane International Hotel, Cebu City
Mar. 7, 2026	Labong Lodge No. 59 Installation of Officers	Conrado Benitez Hall, Scottish Rite Temple, Ermita, Manila
Mar. 9, 2026	Bagong Buhay Masonic Lodge No. 17 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Mar. 11, 2026	Keystone Masonic Lodge No.100 Installation of Officers	Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila
Mar. 12, 2026	Hagonoy Masonic Lodge No. 369	Feliza Jazz Pavillion, Malolos City, Bulacan

Date	Subordinate Lodge and Event	Venue
Mar. 14, 2026	Jaen Triangle Masonic Lodge No. 476	Jaen Triangle Masonic Temple, Jaen, Nueva Ecija
Mar. 18, 2026	Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 88 Installation of Officers	Conrado Benitez Hall, Scottish Rite Temple, Ermita, Manila
Mar. 19, 2026	Manuel L. Quezon Masonic Lodge No. 262 Installation of Officers	Baler, Aurora
Mar 25, 2026	Service Lodge No. 95 Installation of Officers	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Ermita, Manila
Mar. 30, 2026	Luneta Masonic Lodge No. 510 Installation of Officers	Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila
March 31, 2026	Emilio Aguinaldo Masonic Lodge No. 31, Installation of officers	Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila
April 13, 2026	Stated Meeting of Teodoro R. Yangco Lodge No. 351	Zambales

11. Masonic Concordant Bodies, Appendant Bodies, Youth Organizations, and Affiliated Organizations Activities Attended

We likewise attended numerous conventions, celebrations, and activities of Masonic Concordant Bodies, Appendant Bodies, Youth Organizations, and Affiliated Organizations accredited by the Grand Lodge, often upon their invitation as their Guest of Honor and Speaker.

These engagements consistently provided valuable opportunities to observe and better understand the operations and overall condition of these organizations. Such visits proved meaningful and insightful, allowing us to assess how these bodies continue to function and contribute to the broader Masonic community.

Masonic Concordant Bodies, Appendant Bodies, Youth Organizations, and Affiliated Organizations may be regarded as integral members of the Masonic family, operating under the guidance and authority of the Grand Lodge. Some are dedicated to women, others to the youth, while still others are focused on the pursuit of further light and deeper Masonic study. Collectively, they serve to supplement and complement the principles and teachings of Freemasonry.

Guided by the banner, *“Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga,”* these organizations remain vital to the inclusive growth and development of the Craft.

Each plays a significant role in advancing the mission of Freemasonry and, as such, merits the continued support, care, and recognition of the Grand Lodge.

Date	Body or Organization	Location
May 18, 2025	Job's Daughter International Convention	Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay
May 31, 2025	DeMolay Convention	Iloilo
Jul 20, 2025	Tanza DeMolay Chapter Installation	Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, NCR, Manila
Nov. 19, 2025	Mabuhay Shriner's International Inc. Installation	Palacio de Manila, Malate, Manila
Dec. 6, 2025	Order of the Amaranth	Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila, NCR
Dec. 9, 2025	Maginoo Shrine Installation of Officers	Celebrity Sports Club, Quezon City
Dec. 16, 2025	Balisong Shrine Installation of Officers	Aguinaldo Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple
Jan. 10, 2026	Order of Eastern Star	Conrado Benitez Hall, Scottish Rite Temple, Taft, Ermita, Manila
Jan. 10, 2026	Mabuhay Shrine Election	Jose Abad Santos Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Ermita, Manila
Jan. 18, 2026	Bethel QC	Capitol Masonic Temple, QC
Jan. 20-21, 2026	Cotobato Agila Shrine Club	Koronadal
Jan. 30, 2026	Bicolandia Shriners	Bicol
Mar 13, 2026	Supreme Council Scottish Rite Annual Session	Scottish Rite Temple, Malate, Manila
Mar 21, 2026	DeMolay Founding Anniversary	Parklane Internation Hotel, Mandaue, Cebu City
Mar 22, 2026	Order of Eastern Star Installation of Officers	Datu Daya Masonic Temple, Cebu City

12. Activities of Masonic Associations and Clubs and Other Groups Attended

We attend the activities of Masonic clubs and associations within our Grand Jurisdiction. These engagements reflect the breadth, diversity, and vibrancy of our Institution, as they bring together brethren from varied backgrounds, professions, and interests under a common bond of fraternity.

Such occasions provide valuable opportunities to strengthen fraternal ties beyond the formal confines of lodge activities, fostering deeper camaraderie and mutual understanding among the brethren. They also highlight the dynamic and multifaceted nature of Freemasonry, demonstrating that while we are united in our principles and obligations, we remain enriched by the diversity of perspectives and experiences within our ranks.

Moreover, participation in these events affirms the Grand Lodge’s continued support for affiliated groups and reinforces the spirit of unity and inclusivity that underpins our jurisdiction. Through these interactions, we further cultivate fellowship, cooperation, and a shared commitment to the enduring ideals of the Craft.

Date	Masonic Association or Club	Location
Jun. 11, 2025	Masonic Order of Law Association Inc., (MOLA)	Manila Hotel, Manila
Jun 18, 2025	Canon Cup	Alta Vista Golf & Country Club
Jun 26, 2025	Blood-Letting Activity	Pagadian City
Aug 8, 2025	BIR Traveler’s Haven Inc. (BIRTH) Event	Centris, Quezon City
Sept. 16, 2025	Canon Cup	Pradera, Pampanga
Sept. 29, 2025	Bagwis Square and Compass Club	PAF Firing Range Multi-Purpose Hall, CJVAB Pasay City
Oct. 15-16, 2025	Widow’s Son	Brgy. Tumbler Gen. Santos City, Soccksargen
Nov. 22, 2025	RW Oliver’s Ko Birthday Celebration	Cebu City
Dec. 7, 2025	RW Robert Joseph S. Moran, Jr., Birthday Celebration	Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila City, NCR
Dec. 9, 2025	Philippine Air Force Christmas Party	Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

Date	Masonic Association or Club	Location
Dec. 27, 2025	RW Ruel S. Rivera Birthday Celebration	Lakehall at Nena's Sanctuary, Santa Rosa, Laguna
Jan. 27, 2026	Masonic Order of Law (MOLA) Thanksgiving	Corinthians Garden Club House Quezon City
Feb. 22, 2026	Tree Planting Activity	San Pablo, Laguna
April 20, 2026	Opening of ANCOM Sportsfest	Tagaytay

13. National Historical Commemoration Events Attended

Freemasons have long been at the forefront of promoting patriotism and active civic engagement. In the Philippines, Freemasonry has consistently maintained a visible presence in national affairs, particularly in activities that honor the country's history and heritage.

During this Masonic Term, we were invited to participate in several national historical events commemorating the birth and death anniversaries of our national heroes, many of whom were Brother Masons. We express our sincere appreciation to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines for its continued recognition of the vital role that Freemasonry has played in the lives of these heroes and in shaping the course of Philippine history.

Through our active participation in these commemorative events, we were able to demonstrate to the public the enduring spirit of patriotism that Freemasonry seeks to instill in its members. More importantly, these engagements serve as a platform to inspire the younger generation to rediscover and uphold the values of national pride and love of country—principles that must continue to be nurtured in the face of changing times.

Date	Commemorative Event	Location
June 12, 2025	Philippine Independence Day	Luneta Park, Manila
June 19, 2025	Birthday Anniversary of Jose Rizal	Rizal Shrine, Calamba, Laguna
July 23, 2025	Birth Anniversary of Apolinario Mabini	Mabini Shrine, Tanauan Batangas
Aug. 30, 2025	Birth Anniversary of Marcelo H. Del Pilar	Bulacan
Dec. 30, 2025	Death Anniversary of Jose Rizal	Luneta Park, Manila Paco Park Manila

Date	Commemorative Event	Location
Jan. 23, 2026	127 th Anniversary Araw ng Republikang Filipino	Barasoain, Malolos Bulacan
Feb. 16, 2026	Gomburza Anniversary	Japanese Garden, Luneta, Manila, NCR
Apr 9, 2026	Araw ng Kagitingan Wreath laying Ceremony	Muntinlupa Masonic Temple

14. Grand Master’s Caravans

One of the most ambitious undertakings this Masonic Term was the conduct of the Grand Master’s Caravans. These required considerable time, effort, and resources. Inspired by the caravans initiated by MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching, PGM, GT, during his term as Grand Master, we undertook to visit all masonic temples — from the farthest northern reaches of the archipelago to the most remote areas in the south.

Through the caravans, we visited:

1. Ninety-two percent (92%) of all masonic temples in the Jurisdiction: two hundred fifty-six (256) out of two hundred seventy-nine (279) temples;
2. Ninety-five percent (95%) of all Subordinate Lodges under the Grand Lodge: four hundred forty-nine (449) out of four hundred seventy-two (472) lodges.

While this endeavor was demanding and at times physically exhausting, it proved to be deeply meaningful and rewarding. Many of the temples visited had not seen a Grand Master for many years, and some had never been visited before. Not all brethren are able to attend the Annual Communications and the Multi-District Conventions, or visit the Plaridel Masonic Temple, where they may personally meet the Grand Master. In several instances, elderly brethren expressed that it was their first time to personally see and meet a Grand Master during such visits.

These experiences affirm our commitment to the guiding principle, *“Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga.”* Regardless of the time, effort, or resources required, the opportunity to personally meet and engage with the brethren remains invaluable and beyond measure.

Date and Name of Caravan	Temples Visited
Jun. 2-4, 2025 Mindoro Caravan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tamaraw Masonic Temple 2. Mindoro Masonic Temple 3. Halcon Masonic Temple 4. Bongabong Masonic Temple

Date and Name of Caravan	Temples Visited
Jun 22-24, 2025 Camarines Sur Caravan	5. Generoso Madrigal Masonic Temple 6. Isarog Masonic Temple 7. Naga City Masonic Temple 8. Camarines Sur Masonic Temple 9. Camarines Norte Masonic Temple 10. Julian S. Ocampo Masonic Temple 11. Daet Masonic Temple
Jun 24-28, 2025 Pagadian – Zamboanga Caravan	12. Dr. Hofileña Sr. Temple 13. Sibuguey Valley Temple 14. Illana Bay Masonic Temple 15. Dr. Aurelio Mendoza Temple 16. Mt. Apo Masonic Temple 17. Juan S. Alano Temple 18. Samboanga Masonic Temple 19. Pedro Cuevas, Jr., Temple 20. Bud Bongao Masonic Temple 21. Banganian Peninsula Masonic Temple 22. Sallug Valley Masonic Temple
Jun 28- Jul 1, 2025 Cebu Caravan	23. Borromeo Masonic Temple 24. Leon Kilat Masonic Temple 25. Cebu Masonic Temple 26. Datu Lapu lapu Temple 27. Chocolate Hills Masonic Lodge 28. Panglao Masonic Lodge 29. Dagohoy Masonic Tmple
Jul 9-11, 2025 Tuguegarao Caravan	30. Gonzaga Masonic Temple 31. Itawes Masonic Temple 32. Tuguegarao Masonic Temple
July 16-28, 2025 Isabela - Quirino	33. Isabela Masonic Temple 34. Mallig Plains Masonic Temple 35. Tumauni Maosinc Temple 36. Diffun Masonic Temple 37. Ganano Masonic Temple 38. San Mateo Masonic Temple 39. Maharlika Masonic Temple 40. Cauayan City Masonic Temple 41. Santiago City Masonic Temple 42. Rufino S. Roque Masonic Temple 43. Cagayan Valley Masonic Temple 44. Timpuyog Maosonic Temple;
Jul 25-30, 2025 Central Luzon Caravan	45. San Jose del Monte Temple 46. Kakarong Masonic Temple 47. St. John the Baptist Temple 48. Hagonoy Masonic Temple 49. Marcelo H. del Pilar Temple 50. Cupang Masonic Temple 51. WB Manuel Ibasco Temple 52. Pulo ng lilan Masonic Temple 53. Malolos Masonic Temple 54. Bulacan Masonic Temple 55. Quingua Masonic Temple 56. Baliuag Masonic Temple

Date and Name of Caravan	Temples Visited
	57. San Miguel de Mayumo Temple 58. Gen. Llanera Masonic Temple 59. Factoria Masonic Temple 60. Antonio Lamson Temple 61. Jaen Triangle Temple 62. San Leonardo Temple; 63. Santa Rosa Temple 64. Kapitan Pepe Temple 65. Cabanatuan Temple 66. Mario S. Garcia Temple 67. Kapatiran Temple 68. Palayan Temple 69. Allium Cepa Temple 70. Pantabangan Bonari Temple 71. Ang Bagong Bayan Temple 72. Pampanga Masonic Temple 73. Talavera Temple 74. Model Masonic Temple 75. Gov. Eduardo Joson Temple 76. Memorial Masonic Lodge Temple 77. Narra Temple 78. San Jose City Temple 79. Molave Temple 80. Golden Bee Hive Temple 81. Kadanglaan Masonic Temple 82. Gen. Miguel Malvar Temple 83. Eulogio R. Dizon Temple 84. Jose R. Dizon Temple 85. Gen. Manuel Tino Temple 86. Nueva Ecija Temple 87. Gen. Manuel Tinio Masonic Temple 88. Apolinario Mabini Masonic Temple 89. Aliaga Temple 90. Zaragoza Temple 91. La Paz Masonic Temple 92. Apolinario B. Yap Temple 93. Pura Masonic Temple 94. Arcadio R. Evangelista Temple 95. Moncada Temple 96. Enrique M. Conjuanco Temple 97. Cosmo P. Antonio Temple 98. Victory Temple 99. Isagani Temple 100. Tarlac Kaunlaran Temple 101. Ang Rehenerasyon Masonic Temple 102. Magalang Temple 103. Jose Abad Santos Temple 104. Leonard Wood Temple 105. Porac Masonic Temple 106. Tiburcio Hilario Temple 107. Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Temple 108. Bataan Masonic Temple 109. Meridian Temple

Date and Name of Caravan	Temples Visited
	110. Luis J. Reyes Temple 111. Dambana ng Kagitingan Temple 112. Baliwag Masonic Temple 113. Unity Masonic Temple 114. Lincoln Masonic Temple 115. San Marcelino Temple 116. Batangas Masonic Temple 117. Sixto Lopez (Batulao) Masonic Temple 118. Mabini-Kalaw Masonic Temple 119. Pinatubo Masonic Temple 120. Primo Maniquiz Temple 121. Zambales Masonic Temple
Aug 9-10, 2025 Laoag Northern Luzon Caravan	122. Tumaini Masonic Temple 123. Isabela Masonic Temple 124. Pinacanauan Masonic Temple 125. San Mariano Masonic Temple 126. Maharlika Masonic Temple 127. Cauayan City Masonic Temple 128. Casili Creek Masonic Temple 129. Mallig Plain Masonic Temple 130. Aurora Masonic Temple;
Aug 12-13, 2025 Laoag Northern Luzon Caravan	131. Laoag Masonic Temple 132. Angalo Masonic Temple 133. Abra Masonic Temple 134. Lam-ang Masonic Temple 135. Siete Martires Temple 136. Union Masonic Temple 137. Francisco Isabelo Ortega Temple 138. La Trinidad Temple 139. Diego Silang Masonic Temple 140. Baguio Masonic Temple 141. Pangasinan Temple 142. Hundred Islands Temple 143. Moises J. de Guzman Temple 144. Alfonso Lee Sin Temple 145. Calasiao Temple 146. Jose Yuchongtian Temple 147. Agno Masonic Temple 148. Urdaneta Masonic Temple 149. Edilberto A. Tamondong Sr. Temple
Aug 26 – 28, 2025 Northern Luzon Caravan	150. Ari-Tau Masonic Temple 151. Salinas Masonic Temple 152. Magat Masonic Temple 153. Viente Tres Novo Viscayano Masonic Temple 154. Mt. Palali Masonic Temple 155. Villa Verde Masonic Temple 156. Cordillera Masonic Temple 157. Ifugao Masonic Temple 158. Rio Chico Masonic Temple 159. Gualverto Agatep Masonic Temple 160. Mabini Masonic Temple 161. Sanchez Mira Masonic Temple

Date and Name of Caravan	Temples Visited
Dec. 5, 2025 Cavite Caravan	162. Apayao Masonic Temple; 163. Bagong Ilaw Temple 164. Magdiwang Temple 165. La Naval Temple 166. St. Augustine Temple 167. Trece Martires Temple 168. Gov. Luis Olimpo Ferrer Temple 169. Pilar Temple 170. Primera Luz Temple 171. Dasmariñas Masonic Temple 172. Molino Masonic Temple 173. Pintong Bato Masonic Temple 174. Mt. Mainam Temple 175. Indang Temple 176. Tagaytay Temple 177. Mendez-Nunez Temple 178. Magtagumpay Temple 179. Silang Masonic Temple 180. Malinaw Masonic Temple 181. Pinagsabitan Masonic Temple 182. Makiling Masonic Temple 183. Sierra Madre Masonic Temple 184. Alaminos Masonic Temple 185. Dr. Jose P. Rizal (Calamba) Masonic Temple 186. Dr. Jose P. Laurel Temple 187. San Pedro Masonic Temple 188. Nasugbu Masonic Temple 189. San Jose Masonic Temple 190. Padre Garcia (Batangas) Temple
Jan. 20-21, 2026 Mindanao Caravan	191. Daguma Mountain Range Temple 192. Koronadal Masonic Temple 193. Dadiangas Masonic Temple 194. Kaduh Masonic Temple 195. Maribulan Masonic Temple
Mar 19, 2026 [-] Caravan	196. Kasiguruhan Masonic Temple 197. Manuel L. Quezon Masonic Temple
Mar. 26-29, 2026 MD RX Caravan	198. Omar Manabilang Masonic Temple 199. Thani U. Telow Masonic Temple 200. Lake Pinamaloy Masonic Temple 201. Laureano Ledres Masonic Temple 202. Zosimo Monteymayor Masonic Temple; 203. Bukidnon Masonic Temple 204. Mt. Musuan Masonic Temple 205. Don Camilo Osias Masonic Temple 206. Tangkulan Masonic Temple 207. Maximo Ratunil Masonic Temple 208. Maguindanao Masonic Temple 209. Macajalar Masonic Temple 210. Leonardo Panares Masonic Temple 211. Toleomeo C. Galarita Masonic Temple 212. Kitangkay Masonic Temple 213. Lake Lanao Masonic Temple

Date and Name of Caravan	Temples Visited
	214. Maranaw Masonic Temple 215. Judge Valerio Rovira Masonic Temple;
April 8-9, 2026 North Luzon – NCR Caravan	216. Deodoro C. Go Masonic Temple 217. Santiago City Masonic Temple 218. Pinappagan Masonic Temple 219. Bontoc Masonic Temple 220. Muog Masonic Temple 221. MW Roberto Pagotan Masonic Temple 222. Muntinlupa City Masonic Temple;
April 11, 2026 NCR Caravan	223. Plaridel Masonic Temple 224. Scottish Rite Temple 225. Capitol Masonic Temple 226. San Mateo Masonic Temple 227. Silanganan Masonic Temple 228. Valenzuela Masonic Temple 229. Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple 230. Pangarap Masonic Temple;
April 14, 2026	231. Nagrense Masonic Temple 232. MW Joseph E. Schon Masonic Temple 233. Kanlaon Masonic Temple;
April 15, 2026 Leyte Caravan	234. Sogod Bay Masonic Temple 235. Hilongos Masonic Temple
April 16-17, 2026 Mindanao Caravan	236. Antonio G. Lim Masonic Temple 237. Rizal Shrine Masonic Temple 238. Bernardo A. Neri Masonic Temple 239. Gregorio O. Calit Masonic Temple 240. Palilan Masonic Temple 241. Mt. Malindang Masonic Temple 242. Salug Valley Masonic Temple 243. Don Lorenzo Tan Masonic Temple;
Apr 18-19, 2026 Quezon	244. Bulusan Masonic Temple 245. Mayon Masonic Temple 246. Tabak Masonic Temple 247. Julian Ocampo Masonic Temple 248. Daet Masonic Temple 249. Bernardo Carpio Masonic Temple 250. Plaridel Masonic Temple 251. Rizal Masonic Temple 252. Balintawak Masonic Temple 253. Kalilayan Masonic Temple 254. Tayabas Masonic Temple 255. Plaridel Masonic Temple 256. Ang Tipolo Masonic Temple

15. Board for General Purposes Meetings, Grand Lodge Corporate Meetings, and Other Meetings Attended

We attended the following meetings, all of which were held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Date	Body That Held a Meeting
May 14, 2025	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Jul 4, 2025	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Jul 15, 2025	Board for General Purposes and MCCI Meeting
Aug 11, 2025	Board for General Purposes
Aug 11, 2025	Corporate Board
Sept. 5, 2025	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Oct. 2, 2025	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Nov. 18, 2025	GLP Anniversary Meeting
Dec. 1, 2025	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Jan. 16, 2026	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Feb. 12, 2026	Board for General Purposes and Corporate Board
Feb. 27, 2026	Past Grand Masters
Feb. 27, 2026	Courtesy Call from the Grand Lodge of China
Mar. 9, 2026	Corporate Board
Mar 10, 2026	Board for General Purposes
Apr 6, 2026	Corporate Board

16. Grand Lodge Flag-Raising Ceremonies Attended

We attended the following flag-raising ceremonies, all of which were held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Date	Flag-Raising Ceremony Host
Monday, May 7, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MW Raul E. Canon, Jr., Grand Master
Monday, June 2, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RIII – Pampanga • MD RIV – Cavite (East) • MD RIV – Cavite (West) • MD RIV – Cavite (Central) • MD NCR – A • MD RX – Misamis Occidental • Mabuhay Shriners Philippines
Monday, July 7, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RIII – Nueva Ecija (North) • MD RIII – Nueva Ecija (South) • MD RIII – Nueva Ecija (East) & Aurora • MD RIII – Nueva Ecija (West) • MD RIV – Quezon & Marinduque • MD NCR – B • MD RX – BARMM & Lanao Del Sur
Monday, August 4, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RI CAR – Benguet & La Union • MD RIV – Rizal • MD NCR – C

Date	Flag-Raising Ceremony Host
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RVIII – Leyte • MD RVIII – Samar • MD RXI – Davao Del Sur and Davao City • MD RXI – Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte & Davao de Oro • Agila Shriners Philippines
<p>Monday, September 1, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RII – Nueva Vizcaya (North) & Ifugao • MD RII – Nueva Vizcaya (South) • MD RIII – Zambales (North) • MD RIII – Zambales (South) • MD NCR – D • MD RVII – Cebu, Bohol & Siquijor • MD RIX ARMM – Zamboanga City, Sulu, Basilan & Tawi-Tawi • Grand Bodies of York Rite of the Philippines
<p>Monday, October 6, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RII – Quirino • MD RIII – Bataan • MD RIV – Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur & Catanduanes • MD NCR – E • MD RVIII – Panay Island • MD RVIII – Negros Island • MD RIX – Zamboanga del Sur & Zamboanga Sibugay • Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay of the Philippines
<p>Monday, November 3, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RII – Cagayan (North) • MD RII – Cagayan (South) • MD RIV – Albay, Sorsogon & Masbate • MD RXII – SOCKSARGEN • Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Philippines • General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of the Philippines
<p>Monday, December 1, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RI CAR – Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte & Abra • MD RIII – Bulacan (East) • MD RIII – Bulacan (West) • MD RIV – Mindoro • MD NCR – G • MD RX – Bukidnon (North) • MD RX – Bukidnon (South) • Supreme Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Philippines
<p>Monday, January 5, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RI – Pangasinan (East) • MD RI – Pangasinan (West) • MD RIII – Tarlac (North) • MD RIII – Tarlac (South) • MD RIV – Laguna (East) • MD RIV – Laguna (West) • MD NCR – H • MD RIX and RX – Zamboanga del Norte & Misamis Occidental • Grand Guardian Council, Job’s Daughters International, Philippines
<p>Monday, February 2, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RII – Isabela (North) • MD RII – Isabela (Central) • MD RII – Isabela (South) • MD NCR – I • MD NCR – J

Date	Flag-Raising Ceremony Host
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD RX – Cagayan de Oro Central • MD RX – Misamis Oriental & Camiguin • MD RX – Misamis Oriental & Cagayan de Oro • MD RXII – North Cotabato & Cotabato City • Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth
<p>Monday, March 2, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD CAR – Mountain Province, Kalinga & Apayao • MD RIV – Batangas • MD NCR – F • MD NCR – K • MD RVIII – Agusan & Surigao • MD RX – Iligan City & Lanao del Norte
<p>Monday, April 6, 2026</p>	<p>RW Robert Joseph S. Moran Jr., DGM</p>

17. GLP 113th Founding Anniversary

On December 19, 2025, the Grand Lodge celebrated its 113th Anniversary with a series of programs and events lasting the whole day.

In observance of the Christmas season and in celebration of our Grand Lodge’s anniversary, the day commenced with a gift-giving activity. A total of one thousand (1,000) bags containing grocery items and *noche buena* essentials were prepared and distributed to indigent families within the vicinity of the Grand Lodge. This annual initiative reflects our enduring commitment to charity and relief, helping provide food and a measure of comfort to those in need during the Christmas season.

Following the gift-giving activity, an interfaith prayer meeting was held at Aguinaldo Hall of the Grand Lodge. We have invited Pandit Ahok Maharaj from Senatana Dharma; Imam Usman Amilul from the Ermita Islamic Mosque at Marcelo H. Del Pilar Street, Ermita, Manila; Reverend Lemuel E. Grencio from the Church of Christ at Cruzada St., Manila; Monsignor Emmanuel Ballesteros from the Philippine Independent Church.

This gathering underscored our collective aspiration for unity and peace in a time when conflict and unrest persist in many parts of the world. It also served as an occasion to offer gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe for His manifold blessings and guidance throughout the 113 years of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Moreover, it reaffirmed our non-sectarian principles, demonstrating respect for all religions and belief systems.

The day’s celebrations culminated in the Grand Lodge Anniversary and Past Grand Masters’ Night, held at the Manila Hotel along Roxas Boulevard, City of Manila. The evening featured a variety of performances, including those by El

Gamma Penumbra, the UP Manila Chorale, and the well-known band South Border.

During this significant event, the Grand Lodge also recognized brethren who have made notable contributions to the nation. From the Legislative branch, one (1) member of the Senate and eighteen (18) members of the House of Representatives were honored. From the Executive branch, recognition was given to one (1) Cabinet Secretary, fifteen (15) Undersecretaries, nine (9) Assistant Secretaries, seven (7) Commissioners, two (2) Ambassadors, and six (6) other officials. From the Judiciary, three (3) members of the Supreme Court, eight (8) from the Court of Appeals, three (3) from the Sandiganbayan, and sixty-five (65) judges from the Regional Trial Courts were recognized. Additionally, one (1) member from a constitutional body and twenty-four (24) from the prosecution service were honored.

From the Local Government sector, ten (10) Governors, six (6) City Mayors, and twenty-eight (28) Municipal Mayors were recognized. Among the uniformed services, honorees included six (6) from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, four (4) from the Philippine Army, five (5) from the Philippine Air Force, four (4) from the Philippine Navy, eighteen (18) from the Philippine National Police, eight (8) from the Philippine Coast Guard, nine (9) from the Bureau of Fire Protection, and eleven (11) from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

It was also during this momentous occasion when RW Samuel P. Fernandez was recognized for his fifty-nine (59) years of exemplary service to the Grand Lodge and for his significant contributions to Philippine Freemasonry. He was conferred the title of Honorary Past Junior Grand Warden.

One of the highlights of the evening, in accordance with Edict No. 79-E on 40-Year and 60-Year Longevity Awards, was the recognition of Past Grand Masters for their enduring dedication to the Craft. The 40-Year Ruby Apron was conferred upon MW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., PGM; MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, PGM; MW Pacifico B. Aniag, PGM; MW Romeo A. Yu, PGM; MW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., PGM; MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, PGM; and MW Enrique L. Locsin, PGM. The 50-Year Golden Apron was awarded to MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM; MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM; and MW Rizal Aportadera, PGM. Finally, the prestigious 60-Year Diamond Apron was conferred upon MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM.

18. Masonic Ritual, Education, and Proficiency

18A. Masonic Ritual

On October 6-7, 2025, at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, we convened over 600 Past and Incumbent Masters of the Subordinate Lodges who have performed, or intend to perform, as Installing Officer or Master of Ceremonies of the **ceremony**

of installation of officers of the Subordinate Lodge using the **English language**, for a two-day meeting to review the rituals and practices of the ceremony.

On January 6, 2026, at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, we convened Past and Incumbent Masters of the Subordinate Lodges who have performed, or intend to perform, as Installing Officer or Master of Ceremonies of the ceremony of installation of officers of the Subordinate Lodge using the **Filipino language**, for a one-day meeting to review the Filipino language versions of the ceremony.

Based on the results of these meetings, and the recommendations of the Grand Lodge Committee on Works, we issued Edict No. 400 and 400-A.

18B. Masonic Education

Masonic Education is one of the three thrusts for this Masonic Term. Masonic education is undertaken: (1) *individually* by Master Masons seeking further light in Masonry through their independent study; and (2) *institutionally* through the *Subordinate Lodges* conducting meetings and mentoring, as complemented and supported by the *Grand Lodge* through: (a) the Grand Lecturers, (b) the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES), and (c) other means.

For the institutional Masonic education program of the Grand Lodge through the Grand Lecturers, we directed: (1) the District Grand Lecturers to deliver masonic lectures during the Stated Meetings of the Subordinate Lodges assigned to them, using the *Electronic Guide for Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic Year 2025*, which was issued on the first day of this Masonic Term on April 26, 2025, and contains all twelve monthly masonic lectures to be delivered by the District Grand Lecturers; (2) the Junior Grand Lecturers to deliver the masonic lecture during the District Convention of the district assigned to them; and (3) the Senior Grand Lecturer to deliver the masonic lecture during the Multi-District Conventions.

For the institutional Masonic education program of the Grand Lodge through the IMES, we directed the IMES to implement the ladderized program of courses prescribed under Edict No. 382: (1) from the introductory Basic Course; (2) to the Intermediate Course, which is a qualification for elective Lodge officers and appointive Grand Lodge officers; and (3) the Advanced Courses for Brothers who seek further light in Masonry.

From a total of two hundred twenty (220) IMES graduates during the previous term, the number has significantly increased to a record high of two thousand one hundred fifty (2,150) graduates this year. This brings the cumulative number of IMES graduates to thirteen thousand six hundred eighty-three (13,683) since its establishment.

During the present term, the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) successfully conducted one (1) Diploma Class under the old curriculum. Under

the newly adopted ladderized program, it administered nineteen (19) Level I (Basic) courses with a total of 1,509 graduates, eight (8) Level II (Intermediate) courses with 570 graduates, and one (1) Level III (Advanced) course with 15 graduates.

Consistent with prior terms, IMES continued to administer examinations at the conclusion of each module to ensure the retention and assimilation of learning among its participants. As a result, IMES has evolved beyond a system of mere compliance. Its graduates now possess the requisite proficiency in the Craft, with the assurance that the knowledge they have gained extends well beyond the symbolic value of an IMES certificate.

18C. Masonic Proficiency

Masonic Improvement, the third thrust for this Masonic Term, is a never-ending process which requires, among others, developing and maintaining the proficiency of individual Master Masons in: (1) the rituals and lectures of the degrees of Masonry; and (2) the Masonic regulations on the government of a Subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

For the proficiency of newly-raised Master Masons, we issued Circular No. 12, to implement Section 41, Article VI (Degrees and Affiliations), Part II (Ordinances) of the 2019 Masonic Law Book, requiring “every newly-raised Master Mason [to] submit himself, in an open lodge, to a strict examination to demonstrate his proficiency in the Master Mason’s Degree not later than ninety (90) days after he is raised.”

Through Circular No. 12, we directed the Masters and Secretaries of the Subordinate Lodges to: (1) identify any Master Mason raised in their Lodge who has not passed the proficiency examination; and (2) require and assist him to take and pass the examination anytime from June to November 2025.

For the proficiency of the elective officers of a Subordinate Lodge, we issued Circular No. 18, to implement: (1) Sections 3 through 5, Article X (Officers of Subordinate Lodges), Part II (Ordinances) of the 2019 Masonic Law Book, as amended by Edict No. 388, prohibiting the installation of a Master-elect or Warden-elect who has no certificate of proficiency in the work and lecture of the relevant degree of Masonry and in the regulations on the government of a Subordinate Lodge; and (2) Section 1a, Article XXVII (The Grand Lecturers), Part I (Constitution) of the 2019 MLB, providing for the examination of the said officers as well as the Treasurers-elect and Secretaries-elect as to their proficiency in the regulations on the government of a Subordinate Lodge.

Through Circular No. 18, we directed: (1) the District Deputy Grand Masters to organize the conduct of proficiency examinations for their district and to serve

as Certifying Officers; and (2) the Junior Grand Lecturers or, in their absence, the District Grand Lecturers to serve as Examining Officers.

19. Building and Facilities Management (New Plaridel Masonic Temple)

19A. Elevator

At the outset, one of the issues discussed during the 108th Annual Communication was the non-functional elevator in the Plaridel Masonic Temple, which had remained unrepaired from the previous administration. Accordingly, within the first few days of our assumption of office, we immediately ordered the necessary parts to facilitate its prompt repair. Since then, we are pleased to report that the elevator has been functioning properly and has not experienced any further malfunctions.

19B. Stairs

The stairs serve as an essential alternative route and function as an emergency exit. To enhance safety, we have installed lighting along the stairways, along with gold trimming to improve visibility and overall guidance for those using them.

19C. Painting of the Grand Lodge Crown

The Grand Lodge Crown serves as both a symbolic and aesthetic feature of the Plaridel Masonic Temple. To preserve the building's dignified façade, we have undertaken its repainting.

19D. Airconditioning System

We have implemented a quarterly schedule for the maintenance, cleaning, and inspection of all air-conditioning units within the GLP building. This preventive maintenance program is designed to minimize the risk of malfunctions and extend the service life of the units. It also ensures optimal performance, improved energy efficiency, and better air quality.

In addition, units that are already worn out and no longer serviceable have been replaced to maintain the overall effectiveness of the system.

19E. Conference Room

To better accommodate meetings and discussions, we redesigned the second-floor spaces of the Plaridel Masonic Temple to create a larger conference room capable of hosting more participants. This new conference room has been fully refurbished with new tables, air-conditioning units, lighting, and executive

chairs. Notably, all improvements were made through generous sponsorships, without utilizing any funds from the Grand Lodge.

Throughout the year, the conference room has been extensively used for meetings of the Board for General Purposes, corporate boards, the Masonic Charity for Crippled Children Inc., various committees, and even for hosting visiting foreign Grand Lodges.

19F. Grand Secretary's Office

Following the redesign of the conference room, we also undertook the renovation of the Grand Secretary's Office. This was done to provide a more suitable and efficient working environment, enabling the Grand Secretary to effectively carry out his responsibilities in managing the administrative affairs of the Grand Lodge.

Accordingly, as we reconfigured the overall space to accommodate the new conference room, we deemed it appropriate to include the renovation of the Grand Secretary's Office as part of the improvements. And all of this was done without spending a single centavo from the Grand Lodge Fund.

19G. IT Server Room

The IT Server Room has been transferred to the new three (3)-story Multi-Purpose Building, located above the parking area of the Grand Lights, for several reasons:

1. The computer server contains all Masonic records and data accumulated over the 114-year history of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Due to the critical importance of this information, it must be protected from fire hazards and unauthorized access. To enhance security, the server room has been relocated to a more isolated area with minimal human traffic, reducing the risk of interference, accidents, or damage.
2. The second-floor office of the Grand Lodge experiences a high volume of daily activity, as brethren frequently visit to conduct transactions, meet with the Grand Secretary or Grand Master, and attend committee or board meetings. Given this constant foot traffic, relocating the server room to a quieter, restricted area is more appropriate. This also allows the vacated space to be better utilized for office functions.
3. The server room requires continuous 24/7 operation, including full-time air conditioning, which contributes significantly to the building's electrical load. When combined with the existing demand from various offices and rooms within the Plaridel Masonic Temple, this creates a heavy concentration of power usage. Transferring the server room helps

distribute the electrical load more evenly across the Grand Lodge complex, improving overall efficiency and reducing strain on a single building.

19H. Transaction Hub

To improve ease of doing business with the Grand Lodge, we established a redesigned office where brethren can conveniently conduct their transactions. This transaction hub is now located in the space used to be occupied by the Masonic Supply, near the stairway on the ground floor of the New Plaridel Masonic Temple.

It has since been relocated to the ground floor, allowing brethren to complete their transactions without the need to proceed to the second floor. This relocation has also helped reduce foot traffic and congestion in the second-floor offices. As a result, only those with official business with the Grand Master or other specific concerns are required to go upstairs, significantly improving crowd management and overall efficiency.

Moreover, the construction of this new transaction hub was made possible through the generosity of sponsors, without utilizing any funds from the Grand Lodge.

19I. Masonic Supply Store

With the relocation of the Transaction Hub to the ground floor of the New Plaridel Masonic Temple, the Masonic Supply Store has been transferred to the Grand Lodge Museum. This transfer and corresponding renovation serve two key purposes.

First, this arrangement ensures that the Grand Lodge Museum is consistently staffed. In previous years, the museum was often closed and only opened to accommodate visiting guests due to the lack of personnel assigned to manage the area. With the Masonic Supply now housed within the museum, its staff are able to oversee and maintain the space, allowing the museum to remain open on a regular basis.

This approach effectively achieves two objectives at once: it provides continuous staffing for the museum while avoiding the need for additional expenditures on separate personnel.

Second, relocating the Masonic Supply to the Grand Lodge Museum increases awareness among the brethren of the museum's presence and significance. It also encourages more frequent visits, as brethren conducting transactions at the Masonic Supply can conveniently explore the museum at the same time. Likewise, the relocation of the Masonic Supply Store was done without the Grand Lodge spending a single centavo.

19J. Rentals

19J-1. Commercial Spaces

Currently, we have ten (10) commercial spaces being leased, this is aside from the GLP hostel and the Cafeteria at the ground level of the GLP hostel. However, many of which have already expired contracts which have not been reviewed, or there are contacts that were unilaterally renewed during the previous administration but weren't presented or approved by the Corporate Board or Board for General Purposes.

In line with the above predicament, the 108th Annual Communication has directed the current administration to make a comprehensive study and review of the rental agreements.

1. Unit 2 – Feast Makers Banquet Company

The owner is Waleza P. Marfori. The actual store area is 73.31 sqm, the previous rental rate set at Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) per month, with annual escalation of Ten percent (10%) per annum. The lease agreement was from Feb 1, 2025 to Jan. 31, 2026.

The proposed updated is rate Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen Pesos and Eighty Centavos (P42,519.80) Per month, with a 10% percent escalation per year.

However, they opted not to renew the lease agreement.

2. Unit 3 – the Craft Boutique Store

The owner is Sis. Sarah Jane B. Cruz. The actual area of the store is 73.69 sqm with previous rental rate set at Twenty Thousand Per Month (P20,000.00). The lease agreement was from Feb. 15, 2021 to Feb. 14, 2026 (5 years), with a Biennial escalation of 10% upon renewal.

After renegotiation and following the approval of the Corporate Board and Board for General Purposes, the updated rental rate is Forty-two thousand seven hundred forty pesos and twenty centavos per month, with a lease period of three (3) years from Jan 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2028.

The owner has agreed to the above rental rate and has signed the new contract.

3. Unit 4 – Makabansang Unifikasyon ng Guardians Inc., / M-24 Builders of Guardians, Inc.

The owner is WB Alex P. Quillope, MSM. The Actual store area is 62.25 sqm with previous rental rate set at Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) per month, the lease agreement was from Jan. 15, 2021 to Jan 14, 2022 (1 year) with a Biennial Escalation rate of 10% upon renewal.

The new updated rate is Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred and Five pesos (P36,105.00) per month with a 3-year lease contract from Jan 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The escalation rate is P 30,000 per month for year 1; P 36,000.00 per month for year 2; and P 40,000.00 per month on Year 3.

The said establishment has agreed with the above terms and condition.

4. Unit 5 – Palabra de Honor

The owners are Bro. Timothy James Cruz / Bro. Joel Papa. The Actual store area is 62.61 sqm with previous rental rate set at P 20,000.00 per month (VAT Inclusive).

The updated rental rate is set at P 36,313.80 per month, and lease contract is set from Jan 1, 2026, to Dec. 31,2028,8 with a 3-year term lease.

The owners have agreed to above set condition and have already signed the contract.

5. Unit 6 – Complete Solution Pharmacy Inc.

The owner is Richard M. Dolina. Actual Store area is 70.12 sqm with previous rental rate set at P 20,000.00 per month. The contract of lease is from Feb. 3, 2025 to Jan. 31, 2026 with an annual escalation of 10% upon renewal.

The updated rental rate approved by the Corporate Board and Board for General Purposes is Forty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Nine Pesos and Sixty Centavos (P 40,669.60) per month.

However the owner has decided not to renew the lease contract anymore.

6. Unit 7 – Roxane Miranda Bulalohan

The owner is Roxanne F. Miranda. Actual Store area is 69.90 sqm with previous rental rate set at Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) per month. The contract of lease is from Aug 1, 2019, to Jan. 31, 2020, with an annual escalation of 10%.

The updated rental rate approved by the Corporate Board and Board for General Purposes is set at Forty Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Two Pesos (P 40,542.00), the contract of lease is from Jan 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2026. In addition, the following provision shall be required for the owner to comply: (1) the premise

shall be free from foul, offensive or objectionable odors, smoke, grease emission and unsanitary conditions. The owner shall likewise install or maintain adequate exhaust ventilation, and odor control systems, including grease filters or similar devices, properly collect, store, and dispose of all food waste, kitchen refuse, grease, and other by-products of its operations in sealed containers in accordance with applicable health, sanitation, and environmental regulations; ensure that grease, oil, food residue, or other solid waste are not discharged into drains or plumbing systems and install and maintain grease traps when necessary; and regularly clean and sanitize all kitchen, food preparation, cooking, and dining areas, including floors, walls, equipment, and drainage systems, so as to maintain hygienic conditions and prevent the accumulation of grease, waste, or unpleasant odors.

The owner has agreed to the above conditions and has already signed the contract.

7. Unit 8 – Raptor’s Eye Security Services

The owner is Bro. Fernando M. Opelanio. The Actual Store area is 62.21 sqm with previous rental rate at Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) per month. The contract for lease is from Feb 1, 2025 to Jan. 31, 2026. With annual escalation of 10% per upon renewal.

The updated rental rate approved by the Corporate Board and Board for General Purposes is Thirty-Six Thousand Three Hundred and Thirteen Pesos and Eighty Centavos (P 36,313.80) per month.

The owner has agreed with the new updated rental rate and have already signed the contract.

8. Unit 9 & 10 – Katipuneros Foodies, Inc.

The owner is Jonmark G. Ong. The actual store area is 61.62 sqm and 61.49 sqm with a total area of 123.12 sqm. The previous rental rate is Forty Thousand Pesos P 40,000.00 per month. The contract of lease entered is from Sept. 15, 2024, to Aug. 15, 2034, and Oct 15,2024,4 to Sept 15, 2034, with a 10-year lease contract that was not approved by the Corporate Board nor by the Board for General Purposes.

The update rental rate approved by the board for general purpose and corporate board is set at Seventy-One Thousand Four Hundred and Nine Pesos and Sixty Centavos (P 71,409.60). after renegotiations, the owner has agreed for 3- year lease contract with the following rental rate escalations: P 60,000.00 per month for year 1; P 70,000.00 per month for year 2; and P 73,500.00 per month for year 3.

In addition the following provision shall be complied by the establishment: They shall maintain the Leased Premises in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, and shall ensure that the same is free from foul, offensive, or objectionable odors, smoke, grease emissions, and unsanitary conditions that may disturb occupants of adjacent premises or the surrounding area. They shall also, at its own expense, install and maintain adequate exhaust, ventilation, and odor control systems, including grease filters or similar devices; properly collect, store, and dispose of all food waste, kitchen refuse, grease, and other by-products of its operations in sealed containers in accordance with applicable health, sanitation, and environmental regulations; ensure that grease, oil, food residue, or other solid waste are not discharged into drains or plumbing systems and install and maintain grease traps when necessary; and regularly clean and sanitize all kitchen, food preparation, cooking, and dining areas, including floors, walls, equipment, and drainage systems, so as to maintain hygienic conditions and prevent the accumulation of grease, waste, or unpleasant odors.

9. Arzo Hotel and Resorts, Inc.

The owner is Rayner Lorenzo. The total area is 600 sqm, with a previous rental rate of P100,000.00 per month with a 1 month advance and 1 month deposit. The lease term is from Aug 13, 2024 to Aug 12, 2034, with no escalation clause on the rents.

The updated rental rate as approved by the Board for General Purpose and Corporate board is set at P180,000 per month for Year 1; P220,000.00 per month for Year 2; and P210,000.00 per month for Year 3. With a 3 year lease agreement from Jan 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2028.

10. The Obelisk Cafeteria

The owner is Rayner Lorenzo. The actual area is 60 sqm. The original rental rate is incorporated with the rental rate of Arzo Hotel.

The new updated rental rate is 20,000.00 which will be still subject for approval.

19J-2. Office Room Rentals

Currently there are sixteen (16) lodges / bodies leasing office rooms around the Grand Lodge premises. For year the office room rental has not been updated hence we conducted a study and updated the office room rental rate following approval from the Board for General Purposes. From the previous P100.00 per sqm rental rates, we have updated it to P200.00 per sqm.

Lodge	Loc	Area	Previous	Updated
Dr. Sun Yat Sen Lodge No. 498	3 rd floor	10	1,000	2,000
Bagumbayan No. 4	3 rd floor	11	1,100	2,200
Keystone No. 100	3 rd floor	11	1,100	2,200
Manuel Roxas No. 152	3 rd floor	11	1,100	2,200
Araw No. 18	3 rd floor	12	1,200	2,400
Nilad No. 12	3 rd floor	15	1,500	3,000
F.D. Roosevelt No. 81	3 rd floor	15	1,500	3,000
Escudo No. 371	3 rd floor	27	2,700	5,400
Hiram No. 88	3 rd floor	42	4,200	8,400
Noli Me Tangere No. 42	4 th floor	16	1,600	3,200
Taga-ilog No. 79	4 th floor	16	1,600	3,200
Island Luz No. 5	4 th floor	42	4,200	8,400
Isaac Puno Lodge No. 401	1 st floor	16	1,600	3,200
Grand Guild of Past Master	GLP Hostel Ground Floor	18	1,800	3,600
Grand York Rite	GLP Ground Floor	57	5,700	11,400

19J-3. Hall Rentals

For hall rentals, upon conducting market survey on the prevailing rental rates in nearby establishment on the, we found out that have kept up with the current market rates. Hence, upon due presentation and approval with the Board for General Purpose, we have also adjusted the hall rentals as follows:

Hall	Old Rate	New Rate
Bonifacio Hall Stafford Hall Palma Hall	P 1,000.00 per hour	P4,000.00 first 3 hours and P1,500.00 for each succeeding hour
Aguinaldo Meeting Rooms	P 1,500.00 per hour	P6,000.00 for the first 3 hours and 1,500.00 for each succeeding hour
Jose Abad Santos Hall	P10,000.00 for the first 2 hours, and 2,000 for each succeeding hour	P 20,000.00 for the first 3 hours, and 3,000.00 for each succeeding hour
Emilio Aguinald Hall	P8,000.00 for the first 2 hours, and P1,500.00 for each succeeding hour	P 15,000.00 for the first 3 hours and P 2,000.00 for each succeeding hour.

Emilio Aguinaldo Hall (for non mason)	P 10,000.00 for the first 2 hours, and P2,000.00 for each succeeding hour	P 20,000.00 for the first 3 hours, and P3,000.00 for each succeeding hour.
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19J-4. Storage Space Rentals

Currently there are thirteen (13) lodges renting the cabinet storage at the lobby of the 4th floor New Plaridel Masonic Temple. These Cabinet Storage were used by the lodges to safekeep their Jewels, Aprons, Charters, Tylers Books and other lodge furniture and paraphernalia. However the Rentals for these Cabinet Storages has not been updated for years. Hence after approval of the Board for General Purpose, we have updated the Cabinet Storage Rental from Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per month to One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) and required a yearly advanced payments.

19K. Hall Reservation Forms

In the past, there have been several instances where lodges reserved the lodge or function hall but failed to make prompt payments, even months after use. In some cases, payments for hall rentals were delayed for years, requiring repeated follow-ups from the Grand Lodge accounting office before settlement was made.

To address this, a new policy has been implemented this year requiring advance payment for lodge hall rentals. Lodges must pay for the first three (3) hours of use upon reservation, with any additional hours to be settled immediately after the event. If a lodge fails to pay for excess hours, it will not be allowed to reserve the hall again until all outstanding balances are cleared. This measure aims to prevent the accumulation of unpaid dues and make it easier for lodges to manage their obligations.

In addition, penalties have been introduced for late payments. A fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per week will be imposed on any outstanding balance that remains unpaid.

Furthermore, it has been observed that some lodges frequently reschedule their reservations and request that payments be credited to new dates. In some cases, rescheduling occurs just days before the scheduled use, while others cancel entirely and request that payments be applied elsewhere. This practice has created additional workload for the accounting department, particularly in tracking payments and auditing reservations. It has also resulted in lost opportunities for the Grand Lodge to rent out the hall to other parties.

In response, a strict no-rescheduling policy has been adopted. Lodges may cancel their reservations and receive a 50% refund only if the cancellation is made at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled event. The refunded amount will be credited toward a future reservation within one (1) year from the date of cancellation, subject to the approval of the Grand Master. Cancellations made within fourteen (14) days of the event will no longer be eligible for any refund.

19L. Security Service Agreement for GLP Premises

The current security service provider engaged by the Grand Lodge for the protection of its premises is Crossline Security Agency, Inc. The existing service contract, which covers the period from October 9, 2023 to October 8, 2025, is approaching its expiration and is therefore due for renewal.

Following careful study and deliberation by the Corporate Board and the Board for General Purposes, it was resolved that the service contract be renewed for the period of October 9, 2025, to October 8, 2026. The renewed contract provides for the deployment of five (5) security guards within the GLP premises, at a monthly rate of Fifty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Five Pesos and Eighty-Six Centavos (₱51,755.86) per guard. This rate includes the daily wage of Six Hundred Ninety-Five Pesos (₱695.00), as well as agency fees and other related costs.

20. Building and Facilities Management (Capitol Masonic Temple)

Currently, there are twenty-eight (28) bodies holding their meetings at the Capitol Masonic Temple, this includes twenty (20) subordinate blue lodges, and eight (8) appendant bodies or allied organizations.

The rental income from the Capitol Masonic Temple from June 2025 to April 15, 2026 yielded an income of One Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand and Ninety-Three Pesos and Twenty-Four Centavos (P 152,093.24) net of expenses. Electricity still accounts for fifty-three percent (53%) of the expenses incurred, while allowance for personnel (Ate Melba and the Administrator) accounts for 31% of the expenses.

For the regular upkeep of the building, we have repaired the floors of the waiting area, hall room and stairways. Likewise, to prevent the roof from worsening and causing water damage, we have replaced some of the roofs. All of these repairs and improvements amounted to a total of seventy thousand Nine hundred seventy-six pesos (P 70,976.00).

Likewise, since we started the implementation of lodge rentals being paid in advance, in order to ease the burden of collection, we were able to collect One

Million Eight Hundred and Six Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty pesos (P 1,806,350.00) in advance rental until December 2026.

21. Masonic Clubs and Associations Accredited

At the start of this term, we issued Circular No. 5, which scheduled a meeting with all appendant bodies, allied bodies, clubs, and associations. This initiative aimed to familiarize the heads of these organizations with the policies of the Grand Master, as well as to coordinate their planned activities with those of the Grand Lodge, thereby avoiding any conflict or overlap with official Grand Lodge programs.

Likewise, based on the recommendations and evaluation of the Committee on Masonic Clubs and Associations, we accredited the following clubs and associations that satisfactorily complied with all required reportorial requirements under Edict No. 256-A (MW Rentoy) and Edict No. 362 (MW Uypitching) governing the accreditation of Masonic clubs and associations.

1. BIR Travelers Haven Inc., (BIRTH)
2. Assembly of Customs Travelers Inc., (ACT)
3. KAMANAVA Travelers Club Inc.
4. Masons' Order of Law, Association (MOLA)
5. Pagong Ako Kuyang Pilipinas Inc., (PAKPI)
6. Quezon City Trowel Club
7. Widow's Son Masonic Rider Association Philippines
8. Sons of Luzon
9. Pasig Knights Square and Compass Club
10. Coast Guard Traveler Sanctuary (Dolphins)
11. Widow's Son – Secret Vault Chapter
12. Widow's Son – Mt. Moriah Chapter

22. Fraternal Relief Assistance Program

This masonic year, total receipts of the FRAP is at Thirteen Million One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand and Eight Hundred Pesos (P 13,179,800.00) while total expenses is only at Four Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand (P4,725,000.00). resulting in an excess of receipts over expenses (surplus) of PHP Eight Million Six Hundred Twenty Thousand and Fifty-Eight Pesos (P8,620,058.00).

During this fiscal year, we have a total of one hundred thirty-five claimants (135) claimants which is a decrease of thirty-four (34) claimants compared to the previous year.

Our current asset for the FRAP this year amounted to Forty-Three Million One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Eight-Two (P 43,127,582) which have grown by 25% from last year's asset. This means that we have enough cash reserve to cover our members.

FRAP Enrollment this masonic year reached a total of Twenty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Three Members.

23. Grand Lodge Charity

Under Charity Fund – Edict No. 237 of MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, PGM, a total of thirty-six (36) death claims were processed and approved with each beneficiary receiving Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00), amounting to a total disbursement of Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P 360,000.00). In addition, hospitalization claims under the same edict benefitted twenty-three (23) members, each receiving Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), for a total of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P 115,000.). These Forms of assistance ensured that both bereaved family and hospitalization brethren were provided with immediate financial relief.

Moreover, the Death Aid and Hospitalization Benefit Program extended assistance to seven (7) beneficiaries, each receiving Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P 15,000.00), resulting in a total disbursement of One Hundred Five Thousand Pesos (P 105,000.00). This program further strengthened the support system available to members during the time of distress.

Seeing that we still have ample fund to cover for the hospitalization assistance and death gratuities extended to the brethren, and considering the rising cost of living, we have issued Edict No. 402, which raised the Hospitalization Assistance to Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) while increasing the Death Gratuity to Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00). This edict has benefitted eleven (11) bereaved families of our brethren who were able to received Twenty Thousand (P 20,000.00) Death Gratuity each, making the amount disbursed for death gratuity to Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 220,000.00). Likewise, seventeen (17) brethren benefitted from the increased hospitalization assistance, making a total hospital assistance claim disbursed to be One Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (P 170,000.00)

In summary, the Grand Lodge, disbursed a combined total of Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand (P 970,000) to a total of Ninety-Four (94) beneficiaries across all programs. These accomplishments underscores the institution's enduring dedication to the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and charity, ensuring that assistance is extended promptly and compassionately to those in need.

24. Information Technology

The current information system used by the Grand Lodge to store and manage records of the brethren across the jurisdiction was developed and implemented in the late 1990s by Yek Yio Technologies, Inc., under the leadership of the late Brother Edward Sy. Despite the steady growth in membership over the years, the system has neither been significantly upgraded nor replaced. This raises a critical concern as to how much longer it can reliably handle the increasing volume of data being processed daily before it becomes unstable or obsolete.

Moreover, following the passing of Brother Edward Sy, system support has been limited to his wife, Sister Jean Sy, who has since been the sole resource for maintenance and troubleshooting. This dependency presents a significant operational risk. In the event of a system failure without immediate technical support, the Grand Lodge may face the possibility of losing vital records and disrupting its day-to-day operations.

In addition, because the system was designed decades ago, it relies heavily on manual data entry. Records are encoded based on submitted minutes and Monthly Membership Reports (MMRs) from subordinate lodges, making the process vulnerable to human error and potential manipulation. There have been instances in the past where inaccurate or falsified entries were deliberately encoded by unscrupulous individuals, posing a serious threat to data integrity and security.

In response to these challenges, the Committee on Information Technology has proposed a comprehensive upgrade to the existing system. The new platform, to be developed by e-Biz Solutions, Inc., will modernize and streamline operations across the jurisdiction. Under this system, lodge secretaries will be able to submit all required reports—including Monthly Membership Reports (MMRs), minutes of meetings, and financial reports of both the Secretary and Treasurer—through a standardized online platform in a timely and efficient manner.

Furthermore, subordinate lodges will be enabled to process online payments for dispensations, petition fees, and annual dues. This digital transformation will significantly enhance financial transparency, as transactions will be recorded in real time. Report submissions will also be standardized and closely monitored, improving compliance with requirements such as attendance, proficiency examinations, and annual dues. The system will be accessible to both Lodge Secretaries and Worshipful Masters, making adherence to regulatory requirements more straightforward and transparent.

Following presentation to both the Corporate Board and the Board for General Purposes, the proposed upgrade was approved with a contract amounting to Two Million Pesos (₱2,000,000.00). The contract was formally signed on April 15,

2026, by the undersigned and Right Worshipful Robert Joseph S. Moran, Jr., on behalf of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and by Brother Nathaniel O. Marquez, Chief Executive Officer of e-Biz Solutions, Inc.

Implementation of the new system will be carried out in phases. The initial phase, scheduled for July 15, 2026, will cover the submission of digital reports and the activation of online payment capabilities. A full transition to a completely online reporting system is targeted for completion by December 2026.

Notably, a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) has already been developed and has been undergoing pilot testing with Masonic District Cavite-East since last year, providing valuable insights for the system's refinement prior to full deployment.

25. Masonic Cemetery

During this Masonic Term, we conducted site visits and inspections to assess the overall condition of the grounds and surrounding facilities. These inspections were essential in identifying areas requiring immediate attention, such as routine maintenance, clearing of overgrown vegetation, and general upkeep to ensure safety and accessibility. These inspections also highlighted areas in need of long-term improvements.

The Masonic Cemetery, in particular, has suffered from years of neglect, compounded by the absence of formal documentation supporting the Grand Lodge's claim over the entire property. This has given rise to several significant concerns.

First, while the Local Government of the City of Manila recognizes the Grand Lodge's rights over the Masonic Cemetery, and won't allow any burial to be made without the approval of the Grand Lodge, there are no formal documents—such as a land title or council resolution—to substantiate full legal ownership.

Second, there are numerous gravesites and mausoleums containing the remains of non-Masons, despite the cemetery being intended exclusively for members of the fraternity.

Third, pursuant to Edict No. 133, issued by Most Worshipful John Choa, burial plots are to be leased for a period of five (5) years, extendible for only another five (5) years. However, several gravesites have exceeded this prescribed period without proper regulation or enforcement.

Lastly, the Committee on the Masonic Cemetery is mandated to maintain accurate and updated records of all lease agreements, including their corresponding expiration dates, as well as an inventory of available plots for lease.

It has been observed, however, that no such comprehensive records are currently being maintained.

In light of these issues, a proposal has been put forward to restructure and reorganize the Masonic Cemetery. However, such an undertaking would be difficult to implement without first securing the Grand Lodge’s legal rights over the property. Accordingly, further study and coordination—particularly with the Local Government of the City of Manila—are necessary to establish proper documentation and formalize the Grand Lodge’s claim over the cemetery.

26. Foreign Relations and Correspondences

26A. Grand Representatives

Due to vacancies in several positions of Grand Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge of the Philippines—caused by death, resignation, or other reasons—and upon careful study and evaluation by the Committee on Foreign Relations and Correspondence, we have recommended the following brethren to serve as Grand Representatives of their respective Foreign Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge of the Philippines:

Grand Lodge of Alberta	RW Oliver C. Ko, JGWL
Grand Lodge of Argentina	VW Stephen Parreno, DDGM
Grand Lodge of Belgium	WB Ronald Randy Lao, IPM
Grand Lodge of Chile	WB Edison Abella, PDGL
Grand Lodge of Denmark	VW Irvin I. Estrada, DDGM
Grand Lodge of District of Columbia	VW Andre C. Palacios, SGL
Grand Lodge of Guatemala	VW Russel Q. Bernal, DDGM
Grand Lodge of Illinois	VW Jeffrey Ian C. Dy, DDGM
Grand Lodge of Ireland	RW Joseph S. Moran, Jr., DGM
Grand Lodge of Japan	MW Stantiago T. Gabionza, Jr., PGM
Grand Lodge of Kentucky	WB Joel E. Papa, PDGL
Grand Lodge of Minnesota	RW Ruel S. Rivera, SGW
Grand Lodge of Mississippi	VW Juan Edgardo M. Angara, GO
Grand Lodge of New Mexico	VW Novid T. Mohammed Jafari, DGL
Grand Lodge of New York	VW Sherwin C. de Joya, AGS
Grand Lodge of Nicaragua	VW Abdiel Dan Elijah S. Fajardo, DDGM
Grand Lodge of Nuevo Leon	WB Noel C. Baybay, PDGL
Grand Lodge of Oregon	VW Renzo Emmanuel K. Dimatulac, DDGM
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania	VW Robert L. Raqueño, GCW
Grand Lodge of Rio Grand Do Sul	WB Jun Wilvir Capili, PDGL
Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan	VW Peter Irving Corvera, GA
Grand Lodge of South Australia	VW Jeshar Y. Go, GH
Grand Lodge of South Carolina	VW Cornelius C. Cabalonga, DDGM
Grand Lodge of Turkiye	VW Deogracias M. Natividad, DGL
Grand Lodge of Virginia	VW Alfred Leonardo B. Domingo, DDGM
United Grand Lodge of England	MW Raul E. Canon, Jr., GM
United Grand Lodge of Victoria	MW Don T. Ramas-Uypitching, PGM, GT

26B. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction

We received a report from the District Deputy Grand Master of R3 Pampanga regarding a pressing concern with Mabuhay Lodge No. 59, under jurisdiction of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of State of Washington and Jurisdiction (MWPHGLWA) that is operating in Angeles City, Pampanga. It has been reported that they have been receiving petitioners which have been rejected by lodges of our jurisdiction. In addition, they have also violated the memorandum they agreed with us in 2011 - that Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 will only receive petitions from Military and their Dependents, Civilians working for the military as well as retired military. And that they will not receive the petitioner of Philippine Nationals.

After communication of the said issue with the MWPHGLWA, they affirmed that Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 did violate the said memorandum and reiterated it through a correspondence issued to Mabuhay Lodge No. 59, furthermore they have directed Mabuhay No. 59 to refrain from accepting petitions or initiating local nationals of the Republic of the Philippines. In additions, Local Nationals of the Republic of the Philippines that was initiated, passed or raised in Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 are direct not to seek visitation or Masonic Privileges within the lodges under the jurisdiction of the GLP uncles approved by their Grand Lodge.

In response, we acknowledge and appreciate that actions taken by the MWPHGLWA, however the measures outlined appear to be primarily prospective in nature, and it would also be necessary that they address the acts already undertaken in violations of the 2011 directive. We likewise request for concrete and definitive action in respect of the acts undertaken in violation of the said directive, particularly the acceptance of petitions and conferral of degrees upon Filipino Nationals, including the imposition of appropriate disciplinary measure upon the officers of Mabuhay Lodge No. 59 found to be responsible for such violations as well as clear determination of the status and disposition of those individuals who were admitted under such circumstances.

26C. Invitations for the 109th Annual Communication

Likewise, I am pleased to report that Twenty-Five (25) Grand Lodges have accepted our invitation to attend or send their official representatives to our 109th Annual Communication. Among the Foreign Dignitaries, Twelve (12) are incumbent Grand Masters, Ten (10) are Past Grand Masters and Eight (8) are Grand Lights (*Assistant Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Senior Grand Wardens, Junior Grand Wardens*).

It is noteworthy that eight (8) Grand Lodges will be attending our Annual Communication for the first time. These include United Grand Lodge of England, Grand Lodge of South Carolina, Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, Grand Lodge of New York, Grand Lodge of Arizona, Grand Lodge of Manitoba, Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and Grand Lodge of India.

Moreover, we take pride in recognizing that there are four (4) Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters of Filipino Nationality among the foreign jurisdiction, three (3) whom are members of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines namely: MW Bernie Khristianne S. Albano, Grand Master of United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital Region, and member of Dalisay Masonic Lodge No. 14; MW Godofredo S. Lascano, Past Grand Master of Grand Lodge of the State of Washington, and member of King Solomon Masonic Lodge No. 150; MW Gloriani A. Lontoc, Past Grand Master and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii, and member of Magdiwang Masonic Lodge No. 238; and MW Richard Rey Galapon, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba;

27. Awards

Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Awards, we have conferred upon Worshipful Brother Edward Y. Chua, PGO, the José Abad Santos Silver Medal, with citation, in recognition of his invaluable support and unwavering dedication to the service of Philippine Freemasonry in general and to this Grand Lodge in particular.

Worshipful Brother Chua's Masonic journey is marked by thirty-five (35) years of long and distinguished record of service. He has faithfully discharged his duties in various capacities within the Grand Lodge, consistently demonstrating competence, integrity, and a deep commitment to the principles and tenets of the Craft. His leadership and willingness to labor have contributed meaningfully to the advancement of our institution and the strengthening of its programs and initiatives.

Beyond the Blue Lodge, he has likewise rendered exemplary service in numerous appendant, allied, and concordant bodies. His active involvement in the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the Grand York Rite, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, and other Masonic organizations reflects both the breadth of his engagement and the depth of his devotion to the fraternity. In each of these bodies, he has not merely participated, but has distinguished himself as a committed and dependable worker in the quarry.

Equally noteworthy is his significant contribution outside the fraternity. His active engagement in the academe highlights his dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and the development of future generations. Through his work in

education and community development, he has exemplified the Masonic ideal of service beyond the lodge, extending the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth into the broader society.

Taken together, his record is not defined solely by the passage of time, but by a consistent pattern of fidelity, leadership, and excellence. Over decades of active Masonic labor, Worshipful Brother Chua has demonstrated an enduring commitment to the Craft, making him eminently deserving of this distinguished recognition.

28. Executive Clemency

We declined to entertain the idea of the Grand Master possessing, much less exercising, any power of executive clemency as we are mindful of:

(1) the fundamental precept in our Jurisdiction that **all actions** of the Grand Lodge during its Annual Communication are **final**, as reflected in Section 6, Article III (Power, Authority and Jurisdiction), Part I (Constitution) of the Masonic Law Book, 2019 Edition (2019 MLB); and

(2) the corollary doctrine of immutability of judgment, which provides that **all cases** decided by the Grand Lodge during its Annual Communication shall be **final**, as reflected in Section 60, Article XVIII (Charges, Trials and Procedures), Part II (Ordinances) of the 2019 MLB, as amended by Edict No. 366 (MY Uypitching).

29. Circulars and Executive Orders Issued to Implement Masonic Law

In the exercise of the Executive Powers of the Grand Master, we issued the following Grand Master’s Circulars and Executive Orders to implement the existing provisions of Masonic Law and rules and regulations.

Date	Number of Circular or Executive Order	Subject
May 9, 2025	Circular No. 1	Elected and Appointed Officers of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for Masonic Year 2025-2026
	Circular No. 2	Actions Taken by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines during its 108 th Annual Communication

Date	Number of Circular or Executive Order	Subject
	Circular No. 4	Grand Master’s Message to the Worshipful Masters and Brethren of Subordinate Lodges
	Circular No. 5	Symbolic Meeting and Coordination Activities with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines
May 22, 2025	Circular No. 3	Standing and Special Committee of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines
	Circular No. 6	District and Multi-District Conventions
	Circular No. 7	Philippines Independence Day
May 29, 2025	Circular No. 8	Longevity Awards
	Circular No. 9	Adopt-a-School Program and Brigada Eskwela 2025 Activity
	Circular No. 10	Monthly Flag Raising Ceremony
June 2, 2025	Circular No. 11	Constitution of Newly Chartered Lodges
	Circular No. 11-A	Constitution of Mamburao Masonic Lodge No. 504
	Circular No. 12	Master Mason Proficiency Exam
June 13, 2025	Circular No. 13	Masonic Associations and Clubs Accredited for 2025-2026
	Circular No. 14	Masonic Coordinating Council Meeting
June 19, 2025	Circular No. 11-B	Constitution of Dr. Ernesto H. Malabanan Masonic Lodge No. 515
	Circular No. 11-C	Constitution of Pili Capital Cimarrones Masonic Lodge No. 521
	Circular No. 11-D	Constitution of Vinzons Masonic Lodge No. 507
June 20, 2025	Circular No. 11-E	Constitution of Zambasur Masonic Lodge No. 511
	Circular No. 11-F	Constitution of James J. Wilson Masonic Lodge No. 512

Date	Number of Circular or Executive Order	Subject
	Circular No. 11-G	Constitution of Datu Daya Masonic Lodge No. 520
June 24, 2025	Executive Order No. 1	Extension of the Period for the Constitution of Newly-Chartered Lodges
June 30, 2025	Circular No. 11-H	Constitution of St. Joseph Masonic Lodge No. 513
	Circular No. 11-I	Constitution of Laang Kawal Masonic Lodge No. 516
	Circular No. 11-J	Constitution of Katimugan Masonic Lodge No. 509
July 8, 2025	Circular No. 11-K	Constitution of Calvary Hills Masonic Lodge No. 508
	Circular No. 11-L	Constitution of Mount Cagua Masonic Lodge No. 504
	Circular No. 11-M	Constitution of St. Germain Masonic Lodge No. 517
	Circular No. 11-N	Constitution of Addalem Masonic Lodge No. 519
	Circular No. 11-O	Constitution of Angandanan Viejo Masonic Lodge No. 505
	Circular No. 11-P	Constitution of Hinirang Masonic Lodge No. 506
	Circular No. 11-Q	Constitution of Luneta Masonic Lodge No. 510
July 11, 2025	Circular No. 15	ANCOM 2026 Registration
July 17, 2025	Circular No. 11-R	Constitution of Justitia Masonic Lodge No. 518
Sept. 3, 2025	Circular No. 16	Review of the Rituals and Practices of the Ceremony of Installation of Elected and Appointed Officers of Subordinate Lodges
Nov. 18, 2025	Circular No. 17	Certificate of Tax Exemptions Issued in Favor of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

Date	Number of Circular or Executive Order	Subject
Dec. 4, 2025	Circular No. 18	Examination and Certification of Proficiency Prior to Installation of Elective Lodge Officers
Dec. 29, 2025	Circular No. 16-A	Translation of the Official English Version of the "Installation Ceremony for the Officers of Blue Lodges" as provided under Edict No. 400 - MW Canon, into Filipino National Language
	Circular No. 19	Annual Reports and Annual Dues
Jan. 7, 2026	Circular No. 13-A	Additional Masonic Associations and Clubs Accredited for 2025-26
Jan. 20, 2026	Circular No. 20	Grand Lodge Awards for Masonic Term 2025
Jan. 16, 2026	Circular No. 21	ANCOM 2026 Raffle Draw
Jan. 17, 2026	Circular No. 19-A	Extension of Period for Submission of Annual Reports and Remittance of Annual Dues; Imposition of Late Penalty
Feb. 12, 2026	Circular No. 19-B	Final Extension of Period of Submission of Annual Reports and Remittance of Annual Dues; Imposition of Late Penalty
Feb. 26, 2026	Circular No. 22	ANCOM 2026 Sportsfest
Mar. 13, 2026	Circular No. 23	Submission of Records for Evaluation by the Grand Lodge Committee on Administration of Lodges, Charters and Returns
Mar. 17, 2026	Circular No. 24	Instructions and Timeline for the Uploading of the ID Pictures of the Voting Delegates by the Subordinate Lodges for the 2026 Annual Communication
Mar. 23, 2026	Circular No. 25	Conferral of the Installed or Past Master's Degree
April 7, 2026	Circular No. 26	Official Schedule of Activities for ANCOM 2026 Week (April 20-25, 2026)
April 11, 2026	Circular No. 27	Prohibitions of Holding Events, meetings and Fellowship and other Activities Simultaneously during the Grand Masters's Night at the Annual Communication

Date	Number of Circular or Executive Order	Subject
April 11, 2026	Circular No. 28	Obedience to Masonic Law in Recognized Foreign Jurisdiction
April 18, 2026	Circular No. 11-RR	Constitution of Justitia Masonic Lodge No. 518
April 21, 2026	Circular No. 1-A	Appointive Grand Lodge Officers Who Completed the Grand Master's Term for Masonic Year 2025-2026
April 21, 2026	Circular No. 29	Prohibition Against Campaigning
April 22, 2026	Circular No. 30	ANCOM 2026 Reports and Documents

**PART II
LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

In the exercise of the Legislative Powers of the Grand Master, we issued the following Edicts to promote (1) Masonic Education, (2) Masonic Governance, and (3) Masonic Improvement, pursuant to the theme of the Grand Lodge for this Masonic Term, “Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga” (Each One in Masonry Matters).

Date	Edict Number	Subject
May 2, 2025	Edict No. 378	Enjoining the Conduct of Simple Hand-over in lieu of a Formal Turn-over Ceremony
May 15, 2025	Edict No. 79-E	40-Year and 60-Year Longevity Awards
	Edict No. 379	Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ex-Officio Secretary and Mandatory Observer of the Board for General Purposes
	Edict No. 380	Suspending the Effectivity of Edict No. 369 and Edict No. 372
Jun. 24, 2025	Edict No. 381	Authorizing the Extension of the Period for the Constitution of Newly-Chartered Lodges
Aug. 14, 2025	Edict No. 382	Strengthening the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies
Sept. 12, 2025	Edict No. 383	Conferral of Degrees of Masonry During Stated Meetings and Special Meetings
	Edict No. 384	Rules on Reception of Dignitaries
	Edict No. 385	Seating Arrangement of Dignitaries in the East
	Edict No. 386	Proposed Names of Lodges to be Formed Under Dispensation
	Edict No. 387	Policy, Rules and Regulations on Communications and Financial Transactions involving Subordinate Lodges and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and Lodges and Brethren under Foreign Jurisdiction
Oct. 30, 2025	Edict No. 388	Dispensations
	Edict No. 389	Three-Stated Meeting Rule

Date	Edict Number	Subject
	Edict No. 390	Sworn Certification and Undertaking
	Edict No. 391	Procedure for Obtaining Lodge Consent
	Edict No. 392	Incumbent Lodge Inspectors to Hold the Title “Very Worshipful Inspector”
	Edict No. 393	Appointive Grand Lodge Officers
	Edict No. 394	The Manner by Which Incumbent and Past Elective and Appointive Officers Shall Be Addressed, Known, and Clad
Nov. 13, 2025	Edict No. 395	Dues
Nov. 24, 2025	Edict No. 396	Conferring on WB Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC, the Rank and Title of Honorary Past Junior Grand Warden
Nov. 29, 2025	Edict No. 79-F	Further Amending and Clarifying Edict No. 79
	Edict No. 397	Safe Environment for Masonic Interactions
	Edict No. 398	Strengthening the Six-Stated-Meetings Attendance Rule
Dec. 12, 2025	Edict No. 399	Harmony in the Craft
	Edict No. 400	Ceremony of Installation of Officers of Subordinate Lodge
Jan. 16, 2026	Edict No. 400-A	Filipino Translation of the Masonic Rules and Regulations on the Ceremony of Installation of the Officers of Subordinate Lodges
	Edict No. 401	Masonic Districts
Feb. 2, 2026	Edict No. 402	Increasing the Death Gratuity and Hospitalization Benefits Granted to Master Masons in Good Standing
Feb. 11, 2026	Edict No. 403	Masonic Awards
April 18, 2026	Edict No. 404	Lodge Duty to Raise Master Masons
April 18, 2026	Edict No. 405	Past Grand Masters

Date	Edict Number	Subject
April 18, 2026	Edict No. 406	Masonic District By-Laws, Funds, and Officers
April 22, 2026	Edict No. 407	Elective Grand Lodge Officers

1. Legislative Actions concerning Masonic Education

1. Edict No. 382 strengthened the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) by clarifying its purpose, i.e., to complement, not replace, the Masonic education provided through the Subordinate Lodges, and to complement the Masonic education program of the Grand Lodge.
2. The Edict created a ladderized program of IMES courses: (1) from the introductory Basic Course; (2) to the Intermediate Course, which is a qualification for elective Lodge officers and appointive Grand Lodge officers; and (3) the Advanced Courses for Brothers who seek further light in Masonry.

2. Legislative Actions concerning Masonic Governance

Masonic Governance is strengthened through the Masonic institutions, namely:

1. the Grand Lodge assembled during its Annual Communication;
2. the Grand Lodge acting through the Grand Master in between its Annual Communications;
3. the Masonic Districts;
4. the Subordinate Lodges; and
5. the Masonic concordant bodies, appendant bodies, associations and clubs, youth organizations, and affiliated organizations.

2A. Masonic Governance of the Entire Jurisdiction

To improve the governance of this Jurisdiction:

1. Edict No. 379 strengthened the Board for General Purposes as the Grand Master’s advisory board, by: (1) creating the positions of Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman; and (2) ensuring continuity in the programs, projects, and leadership of the Grand Lodge by having the Deputy Grand Master as Ex-Officio Board Secretary and the Grand Wardens as Ex-Officio Mandatory Observers.
2. Edict No. 380 eliminated uncertainty as to the effectivity of Edict Nos. 369 and 372 pending their review, which had been directed by the Grand Lodge during its 108th Annual Communication.

3. Edict No. 392 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.
4. Edict No. 393 requires the appointive Grand Lodge Officers to serve for the entire term of the Grand Master who appointed them.
5. Edict No. 394 prescribes the manner by which incumbent and past elective and appointive officers shall be addressed, known, and clad.

2B. Masonic Governance of the Masonic Districts

To improve the governance of the Masonic Districts:

1. Edict No. 378 enjoins the conduct of a **simple handover** in lieu of a formal district turnover ceremony, to promote simplicity and circumscribing the desire for extravagance.
2. Edict No. 388 consolidates the provisions of Masonic Law and recent Edicts on the power of the Grand Master and his District Deputy Grand Masters to grant **dispensations**.
3. Edict No. 401, which will take effect upon its approval during the Annual Communication, provides for (1) the **reorganization** of the National Capital Region into ten **Masonic Districts** with a more equitable distribution of lodges and meeting locations; and (2) the division of Masonic District Region VII (Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor) into two districts; with the aim of allowing the District Deputy Grand Master to effectively manage and supervise his district.

2C. Masonic Governance of the Subordinate Lodges

2C1. To improve the governance of the Subordinate Lodges by restoring, clarifying, or expanding the **powers of the Subordinate Lodges**:

1. Edict No. 383 restored the authority of the Subordinate Lodges, based on masonic ancient customs and usages, to conduct **degree conferral during any Lodge meeting**, whether Stated Meeting or Special Meeting.
2. Edict No. 391 provides for the procedure to obtain **Lodge consent**, which a Mason is required to obtain when applying for membership in another Lodge or a Masonic concordant body, appendant body, or association or club.
3. Edict No. 395 provides for, among others: (1) the duty of “each regular member of [a] Lodge...to pay his **annual dues** for the succeeding year in full before the Stated Meeting of [the] Lodge for the month of December” and the duty of the Master to impose the penalty of suspension for non-payment of

dues; (2) an improved procedure for notifying non-paying members; (3) a prohibition against the use of Lodge funds to pay a member's dues; (4) the amount of dues to be paid to the Grand Lodge by a plural member; and (5) a clarification regarding the exemption from the payment of dues, enjoyed by members who were conferred a longevity award.

4. Edict No. 397 ensures a **safe environment** for masonic interactions, by prohibiting the following acts in the premises of a Masonic Temple or venue of a Masonic meeting, ceremony, or activity: (1) smoking tobacco products, using electronic cigarettes, or using devices creating aerosol (or vapor) while inside the Lodge Hall or preparation room, outside the designated smoking and vaping area, or inside the designated fellowship area; (2) consuming alcoholic beverages outside the designated fellowship area; or (3) engaging in any form of gambling or immoral activity.

2C2. To improve the governance of the Subordinate Lodges by **requiring attendance** in the Stated Meetings of the Lodge:

1. Edict No. 387 prescribes the rules on **communications and financial transactions** involving: (1) Subordinate Lodges and Brethren of the Grand Lodge, and (2) Lodges and Brethren under Foreign Grand Jurisdictions.
2. Edict No. 389 enforces the requirement, imposed by then Grand Master MW Puno over forty years ago in 1984 to address chronic absenteeism in Lodge meetings, that every regular member of a Lodge must attend at least **three Stated Meetings** of the Lodge during every calendar year.
3. Edict No. 398 requiring a regular member of a Lodge to attend at least **six Stated Meetings** of the Lodge during the prescribed twelve-month period in order to qualify to perform certain acts, such as voting on a Lodge action on any matter, voting for or being voted for as Lodge officer, objection to a petition, balloting on a petition, serving as petitioner for a new lodge, charter membership, plural membership, and membership in a Masonic concordant body, appendant body, or association or club.

2C3. To improve the governance of the Subordinate Lodges by promoting **harmony within the Subordinate Lodges**:

1. Edict No. 390: (1) strengthened the role of the District Temple of Harmony and the Harmony Officer of the Lodge; and (2) 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.

2. Edict No. 399: (1) clarified that **Lodge Harmony Officer** is an elective Lodge officer; and (2) prescribed the design of his collar and jewel.

2C4. To improve the governance of the Subordinate Lodges by **other means**:

1. Edict No. 381 authorizes the extension of the 60-day **period for the constitution of a newly-chartered Lodge** when there are exceptional circumstances, such as an exceptionally large number of newly-chartered Lodges located in distant places. The possibility to an extension will ensure that the Grand Master can personally preside over the Special Communication for the ceremony of constitution of the Lodge in its proper location.
2. Edict No. 386 provides guidance on which **Lodge names** may be proposed for new Lodges to be formed under dispensation.

3. Legislative Actions concerning Masonic Improvement

3A. To promote Masonic improvement by encouraging Master Masons to **maintain their good standing** and continue in their masonic labors:

1. Edict 79-E created two new longevity awards, namely: (1) the 40-year button, diploma, and **Ruby apron**; and (2) the 60-year button, diploma, and **Diamond apron**.
2. Edict 79-F allowed the longevity period to be counted from the date of **last restoration**.
3. Edict No. 396 conferred the rank and title of **Honorary Past Junior Grand Warden** upon WB Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC.
4. Edict No. 402 increased the **death gratuity and hospitalization benefits** of Master Masons who are in good standing.
5. Edict 403 consolidated and strengthened the Masonic regulations on the conferment of **Masonic awards**, particularly, the Hiram Award.

3B. To promote Masonic improvement by ensuring **clarity in the rituals and protocols** of the Craft:

1. Edict Nos. 384 and 385 updated and clarified the Masonic regulations on the **reception of dignitaries** and their **seating arrangement** in the East,

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respectively, during Lodge meetings, ceremonies of installation of Lodge officers, and District and Multi-District Conventions.

2. Edict Nos. 400 and 400-A prescribed the manner of conducting the ***ceremony of installation*** of the officers of a Subordinate Lodge in the English language and the Filipino language, respectively, to: (a) eliminate any gaps in the Masonic regulations governing such ceremony; (b) clarify any vague or ambiguous provisions of such regulations; and (c) prevent innovations or deviations from the approved ritual.

PART III

JUDICIAL ACTIONS

The Grand Master is empowered and authorized to exercise the judicial powers of the Grand Lodge between Annual Communications and all such powers as by ancient general Masonic usage are given to him by virtue of his office. Inherent in this authority is the duty to ensure that the Constitution, Masonic Usages, Ordinances, Edicts, and all laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge are faithfully observed, and that discipline within the Craft is administered with firmness, equity, and due regard to the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Moreover, it is the bounden duty of the Grand Master, as guardian of the Fraternity during the recess of the Grand Lodge, to exercise careful supervision over the Craft, to correct abuses, to redress grievances, and to ensure that the integrity of Masonic governance is preserved at all times. Undertaken pursuant to the faithful exercise of these powers and authorities, and ever mindful that the same are to be exercised solely for the benefit of the Fraternity and never for personal interest, the following judicial actions are hereby reported:

I. Grand Master's Review

During the 108th Annual Communication (ANCOM) held on 24–26 April 2025, the Grand Lodge, upon recommendation of the Committee on Grand Lodge Officers' Reports, deferred the effectivity of certain Decisions and referred the same to the Grand Master for Masonic Year 2025–2026 for further evaluation and appropriate action. Pursuant to said directive, and in the exercise of the judicial authority vested in the Grand Master under the Constitution, the corresponding Grand Master's Reviews were undertaken to determine the proper disposition of the matters so referred. In resolving these cases, a careful and comprehensive review of the records was conducted, taking into account the findings of prior proceedings, the applicable provisions of Masonic law, and the overarching need to uphold both justice and harmony within the Craft. The dispositions rendered reflect a judicious exercise of review powers, resulting in the affirmation of prior decisions where supported by substantial Masonic proof, the modification or reversal of dispositions where warranted by the evidence or applicable law, and the dismissal of complaints in instances of insufficiency of basis, procedural infirmities, or where the matters had already been conclusively resolved. Appropriate disciplinary sanctions were imposed where liability was established, calibrated to the gravity of the offense and attendant circumstances, with due regard to the doctrines of finality of adjudicated matters, compliance with mandatory procedural requirements, and the proper exercise of authority by Masonic officers.

II. Grand Master's Decisions

Apart from the foregoing Reviews, the Grand Master likewise exercised original jurisdiction over complaints and disciplinary matters filed and acted upon during the period under review through the issuance of Grand Master's Decisions. These cases involved various forms of Unmasonic Conduct, including abuse of power, breach of fiduciary duty, misrepresentation, violations of the Constitution, Ordinances, Edicts, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, and acts prejudicial to the interests of the Craft. The penalties imposed reflect a calibrated and principled approach to discipline, ranging from expulsion from Masonry in cases of grave misconduct demonstrating clear unfitness to remain in the Fraternity, to suspension for definite periods proportionate to the severity and circumstances of the violations, to reprimands and admonitions accompanied by stern warnings in cases warranting correction rather than severance. Complaints were likewise dismissed where the evidence failed to establish liability or where mandatory procedural requirements were not complied with. In appropriate instances, directives were issued to ensure institutional compliance, including orders relating to lodge governance, accountability of funds, conduct of elections, and proper custody and turnover of lodge properties. On motions for reconsideration, the Grand Master consistently upheld the integrity of prior findings, while, in the exercise of Masonic mercy, modifying penalties where circumstances justified a tempered sanction without compromising accountability.

For purposes of this Grand Master's Report, and in compliance with applicable data privacy laws and the policy of the Grand Lodge to protect personal information, only the dispositive portions of the Grand Master's Decisions and Reviews are herein reflected in the attached Annexes. All parties concerned have been duly furnished copies of the complete Reviews, Decisions, and Resolutions in accordance with Masonic due process.

Taken together, these judicial actions demonstrate a firm yet measured application of Masonic law, anchored on the principles of justice, discipline, and mercy. They underscore the unwavering commitment of the Grand Lodge to safeguard the integrity of the Fraternity, uphold the rule of Masonic law, and promote harmony among the Brethren, ensuring that the exercise of discipline remains not merely punitive, but corrective and restorative, in faithful adherence to the highest ideals of the Craft.

PART IV PENDING MATTERS

We leave the following matters to the sound judgment and able hands of the next Grand Master, if he will wish to address them.

EXECUTIVE MATTERS

1. Draft documents on continually strengthening the institutional financial and **internal controls** of the Grand Lodge, with focus on updating the internal guidelines of the Grand Lodge on on the **procurement** of goods, works, services, and infrastructure

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

1. Draft documents on strengthening the existing rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge on Masonic **appendant bodies, concordant bodies, youth organizations, affiliated organizations, and associations and clubs**
2. Draft documents on strengthening the existing rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge on **fundraising activities** by the Subordinate Lodges, Masonic Districts, and Masonic appendant bodies, concordant bodies, youth organizations, affiliated organizations, and associations and clubs

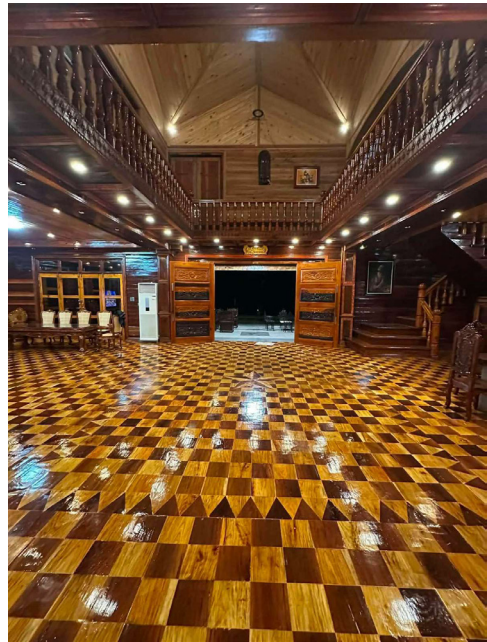
RECAPTULATION

In the exercise of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial functions entrusted to the Grand Master for Masonic Year 2025-2026 in between the 108th Annual Communication and 109th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, we have sought to promote (1) Masonic Education, (2) Masonic Governance, and (3) Masonic Improvement, pursuant to the theme of the Grand Lodge for this Masonic Term, “Bawat Isa sa Masoneriya ay Mahalaga” (Each One in Masonry Matters).

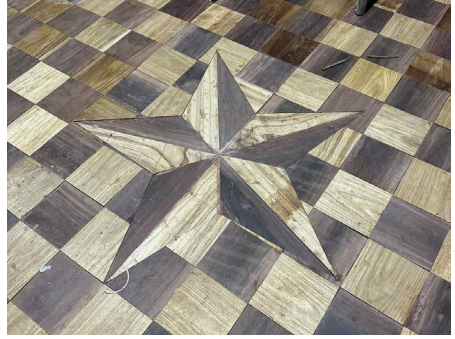
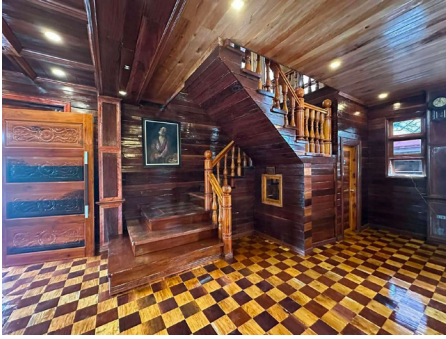
San Antonio Cove: A Sanctuary Built on the Square And Compasses

San Antonio Cove in Labo, Camarines Norte is more than a retreat—it is a quiet testament to resilience, craftsmanship, and the enduring spirit of brotherhood. Conceived as a masonically inspired haven, the resort opened its doors in March 5, 2022, carrying with it both a story of loss and a vision reborn.

Its beginnings were marked by trial. The first structure, built with hope and anticipation, was tragically lost to fire. Yet from the ashes rose a more thoughtful and deliberate creation—one that reflects not only architectural beauty but also symbolic meaning deeply rooted in Masonic tradition.



At the heart of the cove stands the pavilion, a masterpiece of native craftsmanship. Built from some of the Philippines' finest woods—dirigkalin also known as “saw breaker”, kalantas (Toona calantas), almaciga (Agathis philippinensis), and narra (Pterocarpus indicus) —it exudes warmth, strength, and timeless elegance. Every beam and panel tells a story of patience and purpose, echoing the Masonic values of perseverance and harmony with nature.



Leading up to the pavilion is a staircase unlike any other. Inspired by the symbolic Masonic progression of 3-5-7, each step—crafted from sturdy katmon wood (*Dillenia philippinensis*)—invites reflection as much as movement. It is not merely a passage, but a journey upward, mirroring the personal and moral ascent cherished in Masonic teachings.

Beneath one's feet lies the pavilion's crowning detail: a mosaic trestleboard flooring. Intricate and meaningful, it serves as both art and allegory—a reminder of the blueprint upon which every Mason builds his life, guided by virtue, discipline, and purpose.

San Antonio Cove is the vision of Brother Senior Warden Leo Zanco A. Mago of Vinzons Masonic Lodge No. 507. His dedication is etched into every corner of the property, from its thoughtful design to its welcoming spirit. Among its most distinguished spaces is the Grand Master's Bedroom, aptly named the "GrandMaster Raul E. Canon, Jr. Room," honoring leadership and legacy within the fraternity.

Yet beyond its symbolism and structure, the cove offers something more profound—peace. Nestled beside a gentle river, it allows guests to surrender to the soothing rhythm of flowing water. Here, sleep comes easily, conversations linger longer, and time itself seems to soften.

San Antonio Cove stands as a sanctuary where nature, tradition, and brotherhood meet—a place where every detail, from the grandest design to the quietest sound, speaks of purpose, reflection, and renewal.

Dedication by:

The Brethren of Vinzons Masonic Lodge No. 507

From the Archives



This edition's From the Archives section proudly presents a collection of articles, reflections, and addresses by Most Worshipful Reynato S. Puno, Past Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines and former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Widely respected for his eloquence and intellectual depth not just in Masonic and legal circles, Most Worshipful Puno has enriched the Craft through writings that illuminate the timeless values of brotherly love, relief and truth.

This section offers readers an opportunity to revisit his enduring insights and thoughtful perspectives on Masonry, leadership, nation-building, and moral governance. Through these writings, MW Puno continues to inspire brethren to pursue excellence in character, fidelity to Masonic teachings, and dedicated service to God, country, and fellow man.

From the Archives

GRAND ORATION

MASONRY DOES NOT FAIL MAN, IT IS MEN WHO FAIL MASONRY

By MW REYNATO S. PUNO, PGM
Grand Orator

This year we are celebrating the 75th year of masonry in the Philippines. Our Grand Lodge officers, especially our incoming Grandmaster, RT.W. Teodorico Baldonado, are leaving no stone untouched to assure the success of the celebration. On the trestle board is a carefully crafted year long celebration with which we shall regale the world and ourselves of the coming of masonry in this Pearl of the Orient Seas.

By any reckoning, 75 years constitute a considerable length of time. Masonry is freighted with immutable moral lessons and one of them relates to the significance of time. I hope you can remember the day when you knocked at the door of masonry and were initiated an Entered Apprentice. Bathed in the light of masonry, you were presented by the Worshipful Master the working tools of an Entered Apprentice. It is not without signi-

ficance that the first tool presented to you was the 24-inch gauge. And then came his explanation mossed with the wisdom of the ages: "The 24 inch gauge is an instrument made use of by operative masons to measure and lay out their works. But we as Free and Accepted Masons are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of dividing our time. It being divided into 24 equal parts is emblematic of the 24 hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three parts, whereby we find a part for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, a part for our usual vocations and a part for refreshment and repose." Our first working tool teaches us both the meaning and meaninglessness of time. It is meaningful when spent with sapience, meaningless when spent with senselessness. We are, therefore, to watch time with an eagle eye for in the prose of

From the Archives

. . . if the bells of freedom started to ring in this country, it is because of masons who defied all the sticks and stone of persecution.

Shakespeare, we may not hear the inaudible and noiseless foot of time as it passes by.

Our obligation to time compels us to re-examine the role of masonry as it enters its 75th year in our shore. Like any inspiring institution, Philippine masonry has its friends as well as its foes. Its foes assail masonry with a favor that transcends the borderland of fanaticism. They deny its goodness, just as they downgrade the goodwill of its votaries. Indeed they would begrudge masonry of any contribution in the making of our nation. These caustic critics conveniently forget that history is the torch of truth even as they history to prevent virtuous action from being forgotten. . . " A page of history is worth more than a volume of hysterics and our history bears the indelible truth that if the bells of freedom started to ring in this country it is because of masons who defied all the sticks and stones of persecutions. MW Teodoro Kalaw has preserved for posterity this historical reality. He wrote:

"Rizal, Del Pilar, Lopez Jaena, and others founded in Europe a Masonic organization in order to maintain unity among the Fili-

pinos and, thus united, call the attention of the world to the oppression of which their country was the victim, and demand urgent reforms. In order to maintain closer and secret relations with the patriots in the Philippines, the local Masonry was organized, subject to that of Madrid. The idea was that Freemasonry must be the *brain* to direct the Filipinos and *think for them*. There being no liberty to assemble and speak freely, the Lodges served as a place of assembly and a tribune. Soon they became the gathering places of the most progressive Filipinos who, being members of the heroic middle class, fostered the movement at the risk of their lives and property. Among those patriots, two are especially prominent who had nothing in common except their obscure descent. The first was a moral and intellectual leader of the first magnitude, a thoughtful and clam youth, a wise and deep thinker: Apolinario Mabini. The second was an ardent and bold youth of sound principles but radical procedure: Andres Bonifacio. They believed in the ideal which he pursued; but they could not approve his violent methods. Thus Bonifacio founded another specie of Freemasonry, with degrees, initiations, and pass-words, and in it he cultivated his desperation and radicalism. Thus *originated* the Kati-

From the Archives

punan which precipitated the country into the revolution. And as the government, confused it with real Freemasonry, many Masonic leaders died at the hands of firing squads or in exile without having seen the result of their labors.

But later, when the Filipinos, for a brief space, enjoyed self-government, whom did they place at the head of their civil and military government? The president of the republic was Emilio Aguinaldo, a member of Magdalo Lodge. The prime minister was Apolinario Mabini, orator of Balagtas Lodge. The secretaries of war were Balde-
mero Aguinaldo, of Pilar Lodge, and Ambrosio Flores of Bathala Lodge. The Secretary of Commerce and Industry was Gracio Gonzaga, of Minerva Lodge. The Director of War was Antonio Luna, of Solidaridad Lodge of Madrid. Among the most noted generals were Vicente Lukban, of Bicol Lodge, and Mariano Llanera, of the triangle Centeno. The president of the diplomatic committee abroad was Galicano Apacible, of Solidaridad Lodge, Madrid, and the following Masonic leaders of that period were diplomatic representatives in various parts of the world: Mariano Ponce, Rafael del Pan, Juan Luna, Ramon Abarda, Antonio Regidor, Sixto Lopez, Vergel de Dios, and Manuel Artigas. The grandest docu-

ment produced by the Philippine Revolution, according to the foremost American authority in the premises, James Leroy, was Mabini's Decalogue, a profoundly Masonic work. The most important and most discussed chapter of the Malolos Constitution, that on religious liberty, represented a victory of the Masons. And the triangle appearing on the Philippine flag, the loftiest symbolism of the struggles of the Filipino people, was put there according to President Aguinaldo, as a homage to Freemasonry. When a general of the American army wrote to a prominent Filipino, asking from where Mabini got his ideas, seeing that he had never been out of the Islands, the Filipino replied, in a document which is still preserved at Washington: "General, Mabini got them from Freemasonry, and nowhere else."

Unquestionably, therefore, the political convulsion in 1896 bears the Masonic signature. Last February 1986 the country again underwent a radical political upheaval. A twenty year regime was booted out of office thru a revolution, launched by love, powered by patience and upheld by prayer. While the principal dramatis personae of this revolution did not emerge from the quarries of the Craft, nonetheless it is fair to state that the stance of the greater number of the brethren was involve-

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"This is the battle that is waged in the breast of every man, the battle in which masonry seeks the expulsion of evil from the minds of man and the enthronement of righteousness in his heart."

ment rather than indifferentism. Indeed, before opposition to the former regime became a fad and a fetish, the fraternity can boast of members who were among the first to mount resistance. And out in Edsa where human barricade stopped the roar of tanks and the bursts of cannon balls, the altar of sacrifice was not lacking in the body and spirit of masons. The role of our brethren in Edsa may not be heralded by the pomp of propaganda but it is nonetheless etched and treasured in the heart of every Filipino. This heroism should not and cannot be blotted out either thru organized occlusion or obscurantism. Otherwise, it will be extremely difficult not to yield to Napoleon's derision of history as nothing but a fable agreed upon.

But while masons won the 1896 revolution, while masons also fought in the February 1986 Edsa revolution, still and all masonry has yet to win its final battle. Masonry is enmeshed in a crucial battle where there is no peace talk, where there is no ceasefire, where there is no end except the end of time. This is the battle that is waged in

the breast of every man, the battle in which masonry seeks the expulsion of evil from the minds of man and the enthronement of righteousness in his heart. This is the battle that masons fight with the square of morality, the level of equality and with the plumb of rectitude. Albert Pyke tells us that the fight to cleanse the heart of man of the sediments of selfishness has been lost even by the most famous of men. I quote his catalogue of victims:

"This is that battle of life which is waged in the breast of every individual. Than this, no more important battle is ever fought. Alexander conquered the world and wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. This animal nature conquered Alexander and caused him to die in a drunken revelry in the streets of Babylon. Caesar, fired by love of country, led the Roman legions through a thousand battles to a thousand victories; love of material self induced him to commit the fatal act of placing on his own brow and crown of the Roman government and thus caused his sudden downfall. Napoleon unthroned kings and emperors of Europe and made them captives at his will. His selfish nature held Napoleon captive at its will, swept him behind his appointed bounds and thus caused

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him to be banished to a lonely island.

x x x

Men everywhere overcome the obstacles to what they consider success, then yielding to the demands of their lower nature utterly fail to fulfill any useful mission in life and die unwept, unhonored, unsung.

I like to underscore the importance of this war waged in the breast of man in scarlet red because until it is won, masons have to continue fighting battles after battles, battles that will go beyond our diamond jubilee year, nay beyond our respective lifetimes. It is not without reason that our catechism teaches us that we were first prepared to be masons in our hearts. It is also not without reason that our heart was the one violently attacked by Jubelo to wrench away its fidelity to our timeless tenets.

The heart is the uncontroverted seat of our emotions. Jesus Christ Himself called for its purification and in His Sermon on the Mount. He blessed the pure in heart. Masons cannot miss the importance of an immaculate heart. Our principal tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth cannot emanate from a heart that has not been dredged of its dregs and dross. And our country today needs brotherly love, relief and truth if it hopes to be a haven to our people.

A serious syncretic study of our major problems show that they are polarization of the people, poverty and our distortions of truth. These are serious problems, ticking away alike bombs and which could well blow the country to smithereens unless smothered. Take for instance the splits and the schisms in our society. Their clear etiology is politics and appetite for power. For so long a time we have been poisoned by the pollution of politics, the kind of politics where according to Disraeli, nothing is contemptible. It is the kind of politics that is self seeking, with all its vice and viciousness of division. How different is it from the masonic ideal of politics, the politics of who best can serve and best agree. Who best can serve and best agree defines the parameters of our politics. Its essence represents the distillation of the wisdom of the greatest of religions and of religious teachers. Who best can serve and best agree is a refrain of the counsel of Confucius for us not to be concerned because we are not in office but in making ourselves qualified for office; not to be concerned that we are unknown but with being worthy of reputation. It is a piece of Taoism which teaches us that he who conquers others is strong but he who conquers himself is mightier. And of course, it is grooved to Christ's exhortation: If any man desire to be first, he should be last of all and servant of all. The Bible commentator Barclay says that this

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“ . . . if the dew of harmony continues to cement us as a brotherhood of men, it is because of our adherence to the politics of who best can serve and best agree.

doctrine made Jesus the greatest revolutionist of all time. I quote him:

This doctrine reveals Jesus as the greatest revolutionist. For here is one of the great over-turnings in all history. If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all. This is the world turned upside down. All our common measurements of importance and greatness are pronounced obsolete. The boast of heralphy and the pomp of power are irrelevant x x x He halted the whole human parade and puts it into reverse — the servant at the head and all the pompous kings who even reigned at the rear.

It cannot be gainsaid that if the dew of harmony continues to cement us as brotherhood of men, it is because of our adherence to the politics of who best can serve and best agree. Masons should propagate this politics for it can cement all fissures in our body politic. Needless to state, now more than ever let us not prostitute our masonic politics of who best can serve and best agree. It is an expression of brotherly love, and

brotherly love is a cornerstone of our Craft which we cannot afford to erode without endangering our whole edifice.

Or take the problem of poverty that besets the country. The number of Filipinos who fall and crawl below the poverty line continues to increase and at a bewildering velocity. The problem of poverty has a multiplier effect. It constitutes the cause of illiteracy of many of our citizenry. And thus know nothing citizenry has been and will always be our weight of woe. They are most vulnerable to the deception of forces that worship the cult of godlessness and preach violence to achieve change in our society. Poverty also mothers corruption both in our public and private sectors. Corruption continues to seduce some of our people because of the pull of poverty. What hurts is that poverty reigns in our country, although we live in a land of abundance and we are surrounded by a sea of sufficiency. Quite clearly poverty then hounds our people because of the greed of many and the generosity of but a few. How true is the observation that the lust of avarice has so totally seized upon mankind that their wealth seems rather to possess them than they possess their wealth. This lust of avarice cannot seek shelter in the heart of a true mason. The masonic tenet of charity and relief is the antithesis of avarice. A masonic scholar explains our duty of charity in the following wise:

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It is the Mason's part to protect the disadvantage against rapacity and craft; to succor and comfort the poor and be the guardian, under God of His innocent and helpless wards; to value; friends more than riches and gratitude more than money; xxx to be liberal but only that which is his own; to be generous but only when he has been just; to give not only until it hurts but until it satisfies.

It is therefore clear that if this country intends to wipe out poverty it might as well inculcate in its people the masonic tenet of charity and relief.

I can go on and on reciting the country's problems and how they can be repudiated by masonic tenets but I will not wear your patience thin. And so let me just wind up by emphasizing that as we celebrate our 75th year, let us hold fast to our masonic con-

victions. They are timely and timeless. The Jubelos, the Jubelas and the Jubelums will always taunt, harass and persecute our rank. A true mason will often times be misunderstood, sometimes be threatened physically and spiritually and a few times be persecuted to death for his beliefs. But a true mason should not barter away his conscientious convictions. His convictions should not be changed by the corruptions of comfort. Neither should his convictions be dictated by the demands of the majority or by the catcalls of the minority. A true mason clings to his conviction because in the best of his God given light, it is the truth or the nearest approximation thereof. Let us then cling to our conviction and as we joyously celebrate our diamond anniversary, let us always remember that masonry has never failed man, it is men who fail masonry.

From the Archives**ILL. PUNO, GRAND CROSS AWARDEE, DELIVERS MAIN MESSAGE IN 48TH ANNUAL SESSION OF PHILIPPINE SCOTTISH RITE MASONS**

Most Wor. and Ill. Reynato S. Puno, 33^o, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F & AM of the Philippines and Past Sovereign Grand Commander and Active Member of the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Republic of the Philippines, was awarded the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor in solemn ceremonies held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on March 14, 1998.

Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, 33^o, Sovereign Grand Commander, assisted by Ill. Alberto Reyes and Ill. Agerico Amagna, presided over the awarding ceremonies. All attendees—other members of the Supreme Council, officers of the Grand Lodge, other Scottish Rite Masons, and several ladies of Masons—were of the consensus that Ill. Puno was well worthy of the highest award that can be earned by a Scottish Rite Mason in this jurisdiction.

EXPRESSION OF AMBIVALENT FEELINGS

The youngest-ever Grand Cross Awardee started his speech of acceptance by expressing profound gratitude to the Supreme Council, especially Sovereign Grand Commander Bunda.

"I am scared of accepting honors," he confessed, *"for honors create a delicate trust and carry moral obligations. The trust of tonight's award is to scatter the light of Scottish Rite Freemasonry by reflecting it on your daily life. This is a difficult trust, which I can hope to fulfill only with God's grace."*

RW LOCSIN RESCUED HIM FROM INDECISION

Ill. Puno was the one who suggested the theme of the 48th Annual Session, namely, "1898: Legacy for a Masonic Philippines," but when he considered several topics in preparation to writing the main message in the Session, none excited his adrenalin.

"Rt. W. Henry Locsin may not know it," he revealed, *"but he rescued me from my indecision."*

He then explained that two weeks before, Rt. W. Locsin called him up to brief him about his preparations for our April Annual Communication. In the course of their conversation, Rt. W. Locsin informed him that last February 4, he received a letter from Mrs. Grace S. Brosas, Program Director, Private Sector Affairs Committee of the Philippine Centennial Commission. Mrs. Brosas informed Rt. W. Locsin that the Masons' participation in the centennial celebration of our independence would be "...as attendees instead of direct participants."

Rt. W. Locsin was frothing in the mouth when Ill. Puno asked him how he

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responded. He said he sent the following letter of protest to Mrs. Brosas.

...We are requesting merely a place in the centennial parade commensurate with the dominant intellectual role played by Masonry in the commemorated event—the declaration of Philippine Independence and the struggle that led to it...

Without Masonry, there would have been no revolution and no independence... If Masonry is not allowed representation in the celebration, we cannot imagine what should be allowed. ...Masonry was proscribed by the Japanese as it was persecuted by the Spaniards. The symbols—triangle, sun and stars—of the very flag we now salute are those of Masonry.

We hope your committee will reconsider its decision to exclude the dominant influence on historic events at the turn of the century and allow the Free Masons of the Philippines to assume in their commemoration the important part they deserve.

Rt. W. Locsin sent another letter to Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor, Chairperson, 1998 Centennial Parade, which reads in part as follows:

...I specifically asked if the Masonic fraternity could, at its own expense, contribute a float to the centennial parade since it is Masonry that inspired the revolution, dictated the emblems, and continued to inform the independence movement of the Philippines until the United States granted it in 1946. The historical case for the preeminent role of Masonry is known to everybody but the most ignorant...

I hope you will help in making

the centennial officials see what everybody does—that Masonry...was responsible for the independence whose centennial the country is set to honor.

Commented Ill: Puno:

"The temper flare of Rt. W. Locsin compelled our centennial officials to see the light. They agreed to allow the Grand Lodge to participate in the centennial opening with a float, which will depict the Propaganda Movement.

"I have taken pains to narrate this incident to brightline the sad fact that our people, even the intellectual elite, appear to underplay, if not negate, the stellar role of Masons in our 1896 struggle for independence."

TWO GREAT EVENTS IN OUR HISTORY

Ill. Puno described 1896 and 1986 as two great events in our history, but chasmic in significance. Said he:

"What people power brought down in EDSA 1986 was an authoritarian regime of 14 years. What the Masons brought down in 1896 was a dictatorship of more than 300 years. What people power ended in 1986 was a homegrown authoritarianism. What the Masons terminated in 1896 was the strongest, the most dangerous dictatorship ever known to mankind—the dictatorship that proceeds from the union of church and state. Yet, the contribution of Masonry to the history of this country is written in the wind while the contributions of others are memorialized in marble."

RESURGENCE OF SPITE AGAINST THE CRAFT

Continued the Grand Cross Awardee:

"It is bad enough that Masonry is being buried in the dustbin of history. What is worse is that Masonry is once again being badmouthed as the epitome of evil. The telltale signs are all over our landscape. There is the sudden

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resurgence of anti-Masonic literature. There is the vigorous drive to show that the leading heroes of our 1896 revolution renounced their belief in Masonry before they crossed the Great Beyond. In the last meeting of the Grand Lodge Board for General Purposes, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, replayed to us a tape where we heard a past DDGM spreading lies against Masonry from pulpit to pulpit.

"A lot of brethren have asked me to respond to the resurgence of spite against the Craft. It is truly a cause of concern that there appears a cultivated effort to pit against each other Masonry and the majority church. Tonight, I wish to contribute my humble thoughts on this growing problem. My simple thesis is that all attempts to bring down the wrath of the majority church against Masonry will fail, for Masonry is not anti-religion. It is specially not against the majority church, for our best members come from the majority church. We had proven this thesis before, and we are ready to prove it again and again."

EVIDENCE OF RECENT HISTORY

To prove his "simple thesis," Ill. Puno took his auditors back to recent history since "a page of history is worth a volume of logic."

MW QUASHA AND CARDINAL BEA In 1959, MW William H. Quasha, PGM, went to the Vatican City to try to get the majority church to reconsider its condemnation of Freemasonry in the Philippines. MW Quasha conferred several times with His Eminence, Agustin Cardinal Bea, then the President of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. MW Quasha relayed the desire of Filipino Masons for a harmonious relationship with the majority church. This move is well documented by several pro memoria letters of MW Quasha addressed to Cardinal Bea....

MW QUASHA'S PRO MEMORIA LETTER OF MARCH 18, 1963

This is a Pro Memoria covering the subject of our delightful discussion which was attended by His Excellency Benigno Toda y Toledo, Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See, and Fr. Stefano Schmidt, S.J., Your Eminence's Secretary.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines is most desirous of establishing harmonious relations with the Roman Catholic Church and toward this and would appreciate a reexamination of the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church to Masonry in our jurisdiction.

We believe that the world urgently requires the cooperative efforts of all people who believe in one God Almighty, Father of all men, Maker of heaven and earth, and that in the furtherance of His will, we must find bases for bridging the hiatus which now exists between the Roman Catholic Church and Freemasonry in our jurisdiction.

Seeing Cardinal Bea's delight in his efforts, MW Quasha ecstatically wrote the letter given below.

MW QUASHA'S LETTER OF MARCH 13, 1968

I was pleased to receive the letter from Fr. Schmidt dated March 4, 1968 to the effect that you would be willing to see me when I come to Rome next May.

In yesterday's and today's newspapers a UPI report emanating from Vatican City states that "The Vatican has virtually scrapped an old church law excommunicating Catholics who join the Order of Freemasons...Catholics now are free to join the Masons in the United States, Britain and most other countries of the world. But the European Grand Orient Lodge

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form of Masonry, established primarily in Italy and France, is still considered anti-Catholic or atheistic....”

That this has come to pass makes me very happy indeed. When I first had the honor of having an audience with you on January 31, 1963, you estimated it would take about five years to settle this matter. It turned out to be almost exactly five years.

This action on the part of His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, I sincerely believe, will herald an entirely new era of harmony and of ecumenicity amongst those who believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of men. It also affords me great satisfaction that our efforts have contributed to such a monumental result.

MW WILMARTH'S FOLLOW-UP INITIATIVE.

MW Raymond E. Wilmarth, upon assumption of the Grand Oriental Chair in 1967, endeavored to follow up his worthy predecessor's initiative. He recommended the creation of a committee that would coordinate our activities with the Catholic Church.

MW Kalaw and the CBCP. MW Teodoro Kalaw, Jr.'s effort to bridge the gap between Philippine Freemasonry and the Catholic Church. In his May 3, 1968 letter to Msgr. Benjamin L. Marino, MW Kalaw proposed a dialogue between officials of Freemasonry and the Catholic Church. Msgr. Marino forwarded the letter of MW Kalaw to the late Rufino Cardinal Santos, who in turn referred it to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for appropriate action.

The CBCP, through its then Secretary General, Bishop Mariano G. Gaviola, S.J., wrote MW Kalaw an encouraging letter, a part of which is reproduced below.

CBCP'S LETTER

June 5, 1968

Dear Mr. Kalaw:

I am pleased to inform you that at the recent meeting of the Administrative Board of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Most Reverend Members were happy to endorse your proposal. For this purpose, the undersigned was instructed to form our own group composed of the following: Bishop Cornelius de Wit, Member of the Episcopal Commission on Ecumenism, Rev. Fr. Pedro Salgado, O.P., and Rev. Fr. Vicente A. San Juan, S.J.

We kindly propose that our first meeting be held on June 22, 1968, at 6:30 p.m., at the place of your choice, for your convenience....

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Sgd) MARIANO G. GAVIOLA, S.J.

Titular Bishop of Girba

Secretary General

Member, Secretariat for
Promoting Christian Unity

Upon receipt of Bishop Gaviola's letter, the Grand Lodge formed its own panel, which was composed of stalwarts of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. MW Wilmarth, PGM, was chair of the panel, with the following as members: Ill. Conrado Benitez, 33°, Ill. Teofilo Abejo, 33°, Ill. Macario Navia, 33°, and Ill. Aurelio Corcuera, 33°. Later Ill. Domingo Bascara, 33°, replaced Ill. Benitez.

Pointed out the Grand Cross Awardee: "The two panels met regularly, once or twice a month, for about two

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years. In these meetings, Philippine Masonry and its interstices were probed by the majority church. We revealed everything to the majority church. In an unprecedented move which some brethren protested, we even provided them with a clear text of our Monitor.”

Questions propounded by the Catholic panel of experts. The Catholic panel of experts propounded to its Masonic counterpart such questions as the following:

1. Is Freemasonry anti-Catholic?
2. Do Freemasons in the Philippines believe in God and the immortality of the soul?
3. Does Freemasonry oppose the teachings of the Catholic Church and its religious instructions in the schools?
4. What about the Masonic oath? It is immoral?

The Catholic panel's report and recommendation. Ill. Puno remarked that after dialoguing with its Masonic counterpart for approximately two years, the Catholic panel submitted a report and recommendation favorable to Philippine Masonry.

CATHOLIC PANEL'S CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE CBCP

The Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines have in writing given in to all the demands presented by the Catholic panel, —that they would not oppose religious instructions in schools as provided for by law, nor try to separate Catholic members from the religion of their choice, nor teach anything contrary to the official teachings of the Church. In fact, they said they are more than willing to cooperate with the Roman Catholic Church, especially in its social endeavors.

It is the Catholic panel's belief that Freemasonry as such is

compatible with Catholicism. It is only when the leaders interpret it badly that Freemasonry becomes anti-religious and anti-Catholic. Otherwise, it can coexist with the Catholic religion.

Freemasonry's intrinsic compatibility with Catholicism rests on the following fact: in religious matters, Freemasonry requires three things from its members, namely, belief in God, the immortality of the soul and the moral life. Now, there is certainly nothing wrong in these. The error comes when the leaders twist these to their own purposes, proclaiming them to be the only worthwhile religious truths. In this way, Freemasonry becomes either naturalistic, believing only in these truths that can be known by natural reason, or indifferentist, considering all religions to be equal, as long as they accept the above truths.

The Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines is not of the Grand Orient type of lodges, lodges that are known for their anti-clericalism. Much of the anti-clericalism the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines had manifested in the past was, in our opinion, due more to the state of friction that existed between Masonry and the Catholic Church, especially with the excommunication matter, than to any other thing. These lodges are more for fraternal and social purposes.

Times have altered, people have changed. The Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines want a new era of mutual cooperation. It would be unkind to accuse them of ulterior motives.

The Catholic panel does believe that a change of the old condemnatory attitude toward the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines be adopted. It thinks it is good and opportune that the Catholic Hierarchy of the Philippines requests the Vatican for the lifting of excommunication from Filipino Catholic members of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

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Remarked the Grand Cross Awardee: "The recommendation of the Catholic experts had to hurdle the approval of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. In the Bishops' annual meeting held on January 19 to 25, 1970 the recommendation of the Catholic experts was endorsed to the Episcopal Commission of the Doctrine of the Faith for further study. Again, after a most exacting historical and theological study, the Episcopal Commission of the Doctrine of the Faith agreed with the recommendation of the Catholic experts. The Commission's conformity cleared the last impediment for the imprimatur of the CBCP. On March 31, 1970, Archbishop Teopisto Alberto, then the President of the CBCP, wrote an unprecedented letter to Rev. Carmine Rocco, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, where the CBCP formally petitioned the Holy See to exempt the provision of Canon 2335 of the Code of Canon Law all Catholics 'who in the judgment of their Local Ordinaries are members in good faith of the Grand Lodge of the Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines.' As there was no immediate reply, Bishop Mariano G. Gaviola, Titular Bishop of Girba, made a follow-up letter to the Most Rev. Bruno Torpigliani, who in the meanwhile became the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines."

TORPIGLIANI'S REPLY TO BISHOP GAVIOLA AUGUST 7, 1975

This Nunciature immediately forwarded your request to the Holy See and in reply, His Eminence Eracio Cardinal Seper with letter No. 272/74 of July 25, 1975 states the following:

In accordance with the circular dated July 18, 1974 which recalls a strict interpretation of Canon 2335, the excommunication

applies only to the persons who are members of associations that militate against the church. It is on the basis of this principle that the position of the members of the different groups must be judged in each particular case.

How does one interpret this reply? Ill. Puno cited the article of Fr. Florencio Testera, O.P., "The Catholic Church and Philippine Masonry," which appeared in the *Boletin Ecclesiastica de Filipinas*, Vol. LIX, Nov.-Dec. 1983. Fr. Testera, as was pointed out by Ill. Puno, made this interpretation:

"Obviously, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, by declaring to take a definite stand on a local issue, told our bishops that they are the ones in a position to determine whether Philippine Masonry is anti-Catholic or not."

New Code of Canon Law. Continued the Grand Cross Awardee: "All these developments were capped by the promulgation of a new Code of Canon Law in 1983. The previous Canon No. 2335, which provides 'Those who join a Masonic or other sect and conspire against the Church and lawful civil authority are subject to the major canonical penalty,' was deleted from the new Code of Canon Law. The New Code simply provides in Canon No. 1374 that 'whoever accepts membership in an association hostile to the Church shall be liable to a just penalty; he who promotes or directs such an association shall be punished with an interdict.' "

Ill. Puno then cited Fr. Testera's opinion on the significance of the change in the New Code of Canon Law, as follows:

"The term 'Masonry' is altogether dropped from the New Code. Masons,

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as well as members of other organizations hostile to the church, no longer incur an automatic excommunication. This does not mean, however, that all Masons must be admitted into the Church unconditionally. A Mason can still be subjected to certain penalties once it is proven beyond doubt that he has accepted membership in a lodge which is truly hostile to the Church."

Effect of the New Code of Canon Law. Stated Ill. Puno: "The New Code of Canon Law accelerated the new wind of ecumenism blowing from the direction of the Vatican. It offered fresh hope that the misunderstanding that has separated the majority church from other churches and institutions like Masonry would soon vanish. For a number of years, Freemasonry in the Philippines benefited from this thawing of hostilities. Indeed, our relationship with the majority church warmed up. Church dignitaries graced Masonic gatherings. When (for instance) Ill. Macario Navia, a member of the Masonic panel, died, no less than Bishop Mariano Gaviola, Secretary General of the CBCP, repaired to the J. Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple to bless his earthly remains."

"Unfortunately," he added, "this happy state was not to perpetuate itself. Starting in 1983, we read news releases coming from Cardinal Joseph Ratziner, Prefect for the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, that Catholics who join Masonry commit 'serious sin' and may not receive the Eucharist. The situation got worse when the CBCP issued in 1990 certain guidelines defining the relationship of the church with the Craft. Since then, we are witness to the off-and-on criticism and condemnation of the Craft from certain sectors of the majority church. Abroad, especially in the southern United States, the criticism has been echoed by some mainline

Protestant religions and born-again preachers."

DEALING WITH RENEWED ATTACKS AGAINST THE CRAFT

Having been asked by a lot of brethren as to how to deal with such renewed attacks against the Craft which come from both main-stream and off-stream religions, the Grand Cross Awardee offered this wise counsel:

"We should deal with them with the lesson taught us in our 32nd degree—with love and with an understanding of the greatest latitude. Masonry holds no contention against any religion, and Masons are apostles of freedom of religion. Indeed, the strength of Masonry lies in its teachings taken mainly from the universal teachings of the major religions of the world. We are also committed to the dispersal of harmony among all men and this objective will elude us if we do not build bridges of understanding with our fellowmen, including our critics and detractors.

"Let us not be shackled by the fear that Philippine Masonry suffer an irreversible setback because of these recycled criticisms. These criticisms are not new. They are premised on age-old misconceptions about Masonry, which arose when organized ignorance ruled the hearts and minds of men. Superstitions and ignorance no longer hold sway over our our people. In this age of exploding knowledge, our people can easily discriminate between truth and falsehood. The CBCP has cleared Masonry from these misconceptions after a thorough examination of our philosophy and practices."

To substantiate his statement, the Grand Cross Awardee quoted a portion of an address His Eminence, Julio Cardinal Rosales had delivered before an assembly of Masons, which is given below.

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EXCERPTS FROM CARDINAL ROSALES' ADDRESS

But if you ask me now, wherein lies the basis for cordial relations and reconciliation, I believe it can be found in the changed attitudes and conditions in both Freemasonry and the Catholic Church in many parts of the world. For one thing, the irritants in the olden times that accounted so much for the antagonism between the two groups do not seem to exist at least these last years in our country. For, as we know, the Holy Fathers denounced Freemasonry on three principal grounds: its attacks on the Catholic Church, its subversive activities against legitimate civil authority, and its naturalism on religious beliefs. Permit me to cite some words from Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical on Freemasonry, *Humanum Genus*:

"Now the Masonic sect produces fruits that are pernicious and of the bitterest savor. For from what we have above most clearly shown, that which is their ultimate purpose forces itself into view—namely, the utter overthrow of that whole religious and political order of the world which the Christian teaching has produced, and the substitution of a new state of things in accordance with their ideas, of which the foundations and laws shall be drawn from mere Naturalism (No. 10).

"Nor do they think it enough to disregard the Church—the best of guides—unless they also injure it by their hostility. Indeed, with them it is lawful to attack with impunity the very foundations of the Catholic religion, in speech, in writing, and in teaching; and even the rites of the Church are not spared, and the offices with which it is divinely invested are not safe (No. 14).

"Having, by these artifices, insured their own safety and audacity, they have begun to exercise great weight in the government of States; but nevertheless they are prepared to shake the foundations of empires, to harass the rulers of the State, to accuse, and to cast them out, as often as they appear to govern otherwise than they themselves could have wished (No. 28)."

Leo XIII was talking about continental Freemasonry.

Now, are the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines the same as the Freemasonry of the earlier century denounced by the *Humanum Genus*? Is there no hope for rapport between Catholicism and Philippine Freemasonry, i.e., the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines?

Frankly speaking, I would not be here today, had I believed the cordial relations with the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines were impossible. The Catholic panel has assured us that much of those things that aroused so much Pope Leo's indignation are, to a large extent at least, nonexistent today in our country.

To say, for example, that the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines are subversives and seditious is of course absurd. The members of this association are distinguished Filipinos who have always been known for their law-abiding spirit. They have never been run after by the Philippine government for trying to overthrow the republic. In fact, very many hold high government positions, bolstering and strengthening the solidity of the nation.

To say, likewise, that the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines have no aim but that of attacking and annihilating, if possible, the Catholic Church—a thing bewailed by Pope Leo XIII—is, I believe, neither true now. For

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indeed who is the Mason today maliciously attacking the catholic Church? What one sees instead is the effort of Freemasonry towards friendship, initiating Masonic-Catholic dialogue, creating joint social projects, inviting even the highest Catholic leaders to its celebrations.

Again Leo XIII censured Freemasonry for naturalism, in its religious beliefs. Is this valid, too, for the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines?

There are religious truths which every Mason is bound to believe, namely, the existence of God, the necessity for a good moral life, the immortality of the soul, and reward for the good and punishment for the bad in an after-life.

Interpreted in one way, these truths can indeed form that naturalism in religion which Pope Leo lamented in his Encyclical. For there had in fact been Freemasons in the past who said that in all religious beliefs the above-mentioned truths are the only truths of religion worth caring for; for these are the truths in which all men agree. Freemasonry is to be esteemed and praised for teaching its members to refrain from quarreling among themselves about their particular beliefs. Freemasonry holds those beliefs of which there is no dispute. Why respect religions when what they do is simply to propose truths over which everybody quarrels and disputes? This kind of interpretation is of course unacceptable to Catholicism; for, among other things, it destroys revelation and the other supernatural truths that go with it.

Interpreted in another way, however, these truths could hold no obstacle for mutual understanding. For, in the first place, there really is nothing wrong in believing in the existence of God, good moral life, the immortality of the soul, the reward or punishment after death. It is good—nay, obligatory—to

believe these things. The error lies in the saying that they are the only truths worth believing....

III. Puno's Conclusions

On the basis of the historical background he had recounted, Ill. Puno submitted several conclusions, as follows:

"The message is clear, and the message is that Masonry can withstand the strictest of scrutiny, including the scrutiny of unbelievers. All that Masonry needs to fight falsehoods is a fair hearing for truth is on our side. Given a fair hearing, Filipino Freemasonry will acquit itself from every false charge in any forum. The CBCP cleared Masonry from these calumnies after two years of microscopic examination of our landmarks, laws, rules and rituals. There is no reason to change that well-considered judgment. Filipino Freemasonry cannot be good in 1896 and bad in 1998 when nothing has changed in Masonry.

"I like to think that Masonry is like tea—its best comes out in hot water. Harassments and persecutions will not toll the bell for Masonry. They will only weed out from our ranks the unworthy Masons—those who do not comprehend Masonry; those who understand Masonry but will compromise its teachings due to social, political or religious convenience; and those who are in Masonry for what they can get and not for what they can give for the good of their fellowmen.

"Like our senior brethren in the Craft, I like to resound the clarion call for a more honest-to-goodness Masonic education. I have always believed that unless we immerse ourselves in our landmarks, laws, ancient rules, rituals, traditions and practices, we will never be able to defend the Craft. Our best shield against libel and calumny is knowledge of Masonry; our best defense against falsehood is the offense provided

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by unarmed truth, but let us remember that truth will hold only he who actively seeks for the truth. Truth does not show itself to the slothful. Truth comes to the seeker. It is discovered. Seek and ye shall find. More than anytime, we should seek more light in Masonry.

"Let me end with the fearless statement that Freemasonry in the Philippines is here to stay. The foundation of this country was built by Masons and the mightiest of men

cannot obliterate the goodness of Masonry. Masonry has survived and will continue to succeed, for no institution that rests on the pillars of brotherly love, relief and truth will ever fall. There is only one thing that Masonry will not survive and that is the lack of Masonry among Masons. The future of Masonry lies in our own hands and not in the hands of others."

The Grand Cross Awardee having spoken, the assembly gave him a standing ovation.—e.F.R.eN

SELECTED SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS

*The Roman Catholic would find nothing incompatible in Masonry, which only asks for liberty, equality and fraternity for every individual of mankind.—ILL. MARCELO H. DEL PILAR

*A good Mason is made even more faithful to the tenets of his faith by his membership in the Lodge.—REV./DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEARLE

*Once a Catholic becomes a Mason, we only ask that, in addition to being a good Mason, he be a better Catholic, so that the world may know he has benefited from his Masonic way of life.—MW & ILL. RAYMOND E. WILMARTH, PGM & PSCC

*Our Masonic forebears did things together in sincere love and fellowship, worked together in unity, and showed pride in their Masonic membership. United in purpose and proud of being Master Masons, they responded to our country's destiny. They became a vital force in the upliftment of our country.—MW JPL ADJONG, PGM

*We must take the responsibility of living our Masonry and taking it out of the lodge room into our homes, into the community, into the workplace. We must dedicate ourselves to that purpose, and we must have a deep commitment to accomplishing it.—MW PABLO C. KO, JR., PGM

*The worldwide Masonic movement is an eloquent testimony to universal brotherhood which transcends barriers of geography, culture and race. Filipino Masons in particular are by themselves one unified force of committed and responsible citizens adding their just share to the cause of a united and progressive Philippines resting on solid ground.—PRES. FIDEL V. RAMOS

*While we refrain from contention and partisan politics, we Masons cannot become fence-sitters or mere observers of the social scene. Our commitment to the service of mankind cannot but compel us to join, as all organized groups do, to help combat the rampant evils of our time. We must, in other words, find our place in our society and be counted among the other elements therein in the solution of national problems.—MW & ILL. CONRADO BENITEZ, PGM & PSCC

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Keynote Address

TOMORROW IS TODAY

by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines



"1898. A century ago. A hundred years of history, of glorious past, of golden moments. The time when heroes walked our land. Rizal, the greatest of the Malayan race. Bonifacio, the fearless plebeian. Juan Luna, the renowned painter. Emilio Aguinaldo, great soldier-leader of the revolution. There were others whose heroism continues to glitter in the pages of our history.

"1898. Asia and Africa were in the clutches of colonial powers. They were properties of Spain. They were the possessions of Portugal. They were the colonies of the Netherlands. They were subject to the supremacy of the white race, the imperialists from old Europe.

"A tiny country, the Philippines, was the first to break the chain of colonialism in Asia and Africa. In Barasoain

I had a difficult time choosing what message to deliver in this 2009 Annual Communication. A good number of the brethren, however, requested me to discuss our state of affairs and its challenge to Masonry. For a start, let me share with you the oration delivered by my daughter sometime in 1998, entitled "Let the Revolution Begin." It reads:

Church, Filipinos proclaimed the first republic in Asia and Africa. They promulgated and signed the first democratic Constitution in the region. Our forefathers gave a big blow for freedom, the blow that would cause the disintegration of the Spanish Empire, whose dominance the world thought would never end.

"1998. A century hence. My eyes gaze at the Philippines – from the east, the west, the south, the north. And what do my eyes behold?

"I see a country whose virgin forests have vanished, whose lush vegetation has disappeared.

"I see a country whose people lose their lives to flood when the rain comes, who lose their homes to the rag-

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ing water that comes from its denuded mountains.

"I see a country whose oceans, whose rivers, whose lakes, whose streams are polluted by red tide.

"I see a country torn asunder by religion. Christians fighting the Muslims. A country divided by ideology, those for democracy at war against those for communism.

"I see a country ruined by incompetence, graft and corruption.

"I see a country where heinous crimes are common, where criminals are lords, where immorality is glossed over as it was in the notorious sin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"I see a country whose wealth is enjoyed only by a tiny minority, while the majority of its people suffer in the quicksand of poverty.

"I see a land where heroes walk no more.

"I see a people clamoring for change, a people sick of the status quo, a people tired of their powerlessness, a people who demand a new destiny, a people ready for a new revolution.

"I call for a new revolution that will revive the great qualities of the Filipino, qualities that made the Philippines the leader-nation in Asia.

"What are these defining qualities of the Filipino?

"The nationalism of Lapu-lapu, who would not allow his brown-skinned brothers to be pushed and pulled by

white-skinned colonialists.

"The courage of Bonifacio, who with a bolo fought the bullets of oppressors.

"The genius of Rizal, whose intellectual foresight saw through the future, whose vision guided the Filipino.

"The mind of Mabini, whose political philosophy guided the evolution of democracy in the region.

"The artistry of Juan Luna, whose paintings placed the Philippines in the world map of art.

"The leadership of Aguinaldo that would not melt down despite the overwhelming odds of the enemy.

"The love of country of Quezon, who would prefer a government run like hell by Filipinos rather the government run like heaven by foreigners.

"The faith in the Filipino of Ninoy Aquino, who never wavered in his creed that the Filipino is worth dying for.

"The new revolution calls for the rebirth of the Filipino, the new Filipino who can tell others: 'I am proud to be a Filipino, I am your equal, I am as good as, if not better than, the rest of mankind.'

"This new revolution will seek not a victory of arms, but a victory of our timeless values.

"This new revolution will require the death, the slaying of our sinful selves to give birth to our stainless

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souls.

"This new revolution will not be fought in the streets, but will be fought in our hearts.

"This new revolution will not be led by generals with the deadly arsenals of war, but will be led by all armed with the deadliest weapon – the truth of life.

"We will not fail, because we have the noblest of intention – the promotion of the welfare of the people.

"We will not fail, because we have the right vision of what ought to be the future of this country: a land where the powerless will not be defenseless, a land where the powerful cannot offend, a land where justice shall prevail.

"We will not fail, because our idealism will not allow the spirit that corrupts.

"We will not fail, because we cannot allow evil to prevail over righteousness in our land.

"We will not fail, because we cannot afford to fail.

"We will not fail, because God will be with us."

Many years after, I feel that the oratorical piece still speaks the truth and expresses our dream. For one, it laments in lush verbiage the slide of our country from the mountaintop to the footstool. For another, it speaks of a dependency of the most fearful variety – the restlessness of the people, especially the youth. History tells us that if there is any movement of the masses

that cannot fail, it is the uprising of the youth and the idealists, for it is an uprising usually directed by an unerring vision, propelled by pure hearts, and achieved by clean hands.

I continue to be inspired by that oratorical piece, because I see in between its lines the shadows and silhouettes of brother Masons: Bonifacio, the great plebeian; Rizal, the greatest of the Malayan race; Mabini, the sublime philosopher of democracy; Juan Luna, whose brush is world class; Aguinaldo, the revolutionary who fights with boldness and with brains; and Quezon, the fiery nationalist. I urge you to take a good, hard look at all these Masons. Yes, each one diffuses a different light. But while different, they have a common denominator: they are all Masons. In other words, each one of them is a star, but they all belong to the constellation of Masonry, the light that led our people to the gateway of freedom.

This morning, I do not want to talk of the past, for while Masonry has a past, it is not passé. It is not passé, for I firmly believe that **Masonry can provide the key to our progress as a people.** I have always maintained the view that what is bringing down the Filipinos to their knees is not the downfall of the peso, but the devaluation of our moral and spiritual values. And with the same unyielding firmness, I have always foisted the thesis that **one of the few institutions that can effectively inculcate moral and spiritual values to our people is Masonry.** The golden years of this country were reached when Masons fought for the people; and when their battles saw the triumph of such Masonic values as brotherly love, relief and truth. The golden years vanished into the air when these Masonic values be-

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came mere museum curiosities, when they became cheap subjects of declamation contests and nothing more. The lament that Masons are invisible in times of crisis shows that Masonry is not yet dismissed as an irrelevant relic. Regardless of contrary and the contrariety of views, I insist that Masons may err, but that does not make Masonry wrong. Masons may fail, but their failure is not the failure of Masonry. If Masons fail, it is because of lack of Masonry in them. If Masons do not make a mark, it is because they have lost the marks of Masonry.

In one Masonic gathering, I submitted the thesis that **at no other time in the life of our nation has there been an imperative need for Masons to follow the Masonic light.** I recalled the life of Hiram Abiff. The story of Hiram Abiff is significant, because it tells us how we lost the Light; it identifies to us the causes of darkness in our life. Let me quote the perorations of a Masonic scholar, viz:

This tragedy of Hiram Abiff... is not the record of any vulgar, brutal murder of an individual man. It is a parable of cosmic and universal loss; an allegory of the breakdown of a divine scheme. We are dealing with no calamity that occurred during the erection of a building in an eastern city, but with a moral disaster to universal humanity. Hiram is slain; in other words, the faculty of enlightened wisdom has been cut off from us.

It is not the death of the human body that is alluded to here. It is the death of the personality, of the self-centered ego, before the Spiritual Self can be born. This secret of spiritual birth is known to antiquity. Paul, the Apostle wrote: *"I die daily ... thou fool,*

that which thou sowest is not made alive, except it die." (1 Col. 15:31, 36).

If there is any principle that Masonry pounds on our head, it is that man is a different creature; that man has a higher nature; that, created in the image of God, man has a divine aspect; that man has the capacity to develop his moral nature. Above all, he can attain his objective to transform himself from a good man to a better man, but only with the help of the GAOTU. Our hope, therefore, to climb a higher ground and from that higher ground to disperse light in this world does not lie in ourselves, however wise we are; it does not lie in institutions, however venerable they are. Our hope lies above us; it lies in the letter G. Again, this explains why the first qualification of a Mason is belief in the Great Architect of the Universe. And as a man of the cloth pointed out, belief presupposes we have to listen to God. I remember one story about Joan of Arc, the patron saint of France. In her lifetime, Joan of Arc often said that it was God who told her what to do. Once she was asked in an interview why it seemed God only talked to her. She said: *"Your question is wrong. God talks to all of us but it is only I who listen."*

I invite you to think how pertinent the legend of Hiram Abiff is to our lives today. It is not true that men (Masons not excluded) falter in following the Light, because they have become indifferent to the demands for them to develop their nature; and so they succumb to the seduction of pleasure, the allure of power, the enticement of property, and retire to the safety of indifference. Dr. Margaret Mead, a famous anthropologist and author, bewailed modern man's worship of the Baals of pleasure, power and property. She

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observed that in the old days, people parted by bidding each other “*good bye*,” which is the short form of “*God be with you*.” Today, she observed, we part by advising each other to “*take it easy*.” A minister was correct in saying that the modern devil no longer says “*God is dead*,” for that is an indefensible proposition, but instead says: “*God is not yet coming, there is plenty of time, and so take it easy*.”

One reason why we refuse to walk the Light is that the fight between light and darkness is a long, unending struggle that demands extreme endurance. By no means is it an easy struggle, for as Masons, we are advised to fight life’s vices with virtue; we are asked to engage evil in actual battles and not to retreat in the barracks of life. To walk is to move, to act; hence, we cannot walk the Light by inaction.

Inaction. Let me submit that this is the one word that describes what has plagued Philippine Masonry since the last half of the 20th century. The question that has inconvenienced the fraternity for so long a time is why it appears to have lost its luster. For, quite sadly, Masonry today appears to have ceased to be a continuing source of heroes, after Masons spear-headed the revolution of 1898 against Spain that gave us our political independence. Quite understandably, our people have developed an ennui at our claim to greatness that has already been embalmed by time and is now of interest only to historians of the Old World. Whether we like it or not, we have to demonstrate that Masonry has more than anthropological value. And I respectfully submit that Masonry today carries the good potential to produce

leaders who can handhold our people to a new renaissance, a rebirth based on the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Unquestionably, our country is beset by a variety of problems more serious than those that confronted it during the time of Rizal and Bonifacio. Time constrains a more authoritative discussion of these problems, which have reduced us to a basket case in Asia. But in simplistic terms, let us not delude ourselves in the romanticism that our people now live in complete freedom. **The truth that hurts is that the so-called sovereignty of our people is no more than a paper sovereignty. It is a sovereignty written in the Constitution, but not rooted in reality.** For where is the sovereignty of the people when its elections of public officials are farcical? Where is the sovereignty of the people when they are ruled by dynasties of politicians who are worse than the medieval monarchs? Where is the sovereignty of the people when they are controlled by vested business interests whose empires are run by relentless greed? Where is the sovereignty of the people when government barter away their interest in favor of foreign states and their multinationals?

A people that is poor, a people that is mired in poverty, a people that lives day to day on begging bowls will never be a free people. The strongest chain that manacles the hands of a people, the biggest prison house in the world, is poverty. If I relate all this, it is to lift the blinders from our eyes that hide the ugly reality that the Filipino today needs to be freed – freed from homegrown oppressors and freed from

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the assaults of foreign interest, especially assaults directed at his breadbasket.

Let me conclude by calling for an end to indifference, for putting a period to our apathy to the ills of our society. We cannot materialize as Masons when convenient and dematerialize when inconvenient. We cannot be part-time Masonic and part-time profane.

For if there is any principle to be imbibed in Masonry, it is unflinching steadfastness on our principles, which are rooted on morality. Hiram Abiff personified this virtue of uncompromising firmness. He practiced all Masonic virtues in his daily deeds – devotion to God, dedication to country, love of his fellowmen. He was one who truly climbed the high moral ground. Three ruffians tried to pull him down from that high moral ground. In other words, three ruffians tried to break the constancy of his conviction, tried to make him wear two kinds of faces; or, if you will, tried to make him straddle both moral and immoral grounds – the higher ground and the cursed ground. He refused even when he had to exchange his life for his refusal. His message to us in this modern time is that a true Mason cannot be a good and bad man at the same time.

Masonry tells us that morality cannot be permanently implanted in our lives except by its incessant practice in deeds. Yes, real Masonry is not found on the lips, but in the lives of its apostles. Masonry demands a devotion by deed and not a devotion to dead-letter laws. Again, in the words of Pyke, "*Masonry is action, not inertness. It requires its*

initiates to work actively and earnestly for the benefit of their brethren, their country and mankind... If we but eat and drink and sleep and let everything go on around us as it pleases; or if we live but to amass wealth or gain office or wear titles, we might as well not have lived at all ... Remember that life's length is not measured by its hours and days, but by that which we have done for our country and our citizenry."

To the Masons of yesteryears, we say: *Thank you for your legacies;* to the Masons to come, we say: *We will make ourselves worthy Masons;* to the present Masons, I say: *Today is our tomorrow, so let us make tomorrow our today.*

God bless us all!



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More Light in Masonry, More Light from Masons

MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM

I have been in masonry since 1964. In fact, last 2014, I received the golden apron from my lodge, Hiram Lodge No. 88, signifying 50 years of good standing membership. A few years from now, God willing, I will be given the blue cap in Scottish Rite masonry, symbolic of my 50 year membership in that appendant body. Truth to tell, I never thought I would be a member of any organization for such a great length of time. And little did I think I would, for sometime, be one of its leaders.

In gatherings of seniors, time is always spent on memories. With your kind dispensation, I like to take you back to year 1984 when the brethren gave me the privilege to sit in the Grand East. If there was one idea that preoccupied me before I wore the purple of the fraternity, it was the choice of the theme that would define my incumbency. I chose the theme, "More Light in Masonry, More Light from Masons," for I wanted to project the need for more knowledge, more wisdom, and more enlightenment in masonry on the part of masons. And after this enlightenment, I wanted to project the need for masons to scatter the virtues and values of ma-

sonry outside the lodge, to the open society, to the unbounded world at large. The logic is simple: masons must first study and know masonry with all their heart and soul and then disperse its light to mankind. Then and now, I cling to the belief that the biggest enemy of masonry, here and elsewhere is ignorance: ignorance by masons of masonry of its teachings, both esoteric and exoteric and ignorance by non-masons of the eternal truths of masonry.

Today, I still cleave to the view that ignorance of masonry by masons and non-masons is our number one enemy. I call your attention to the two most immediate problems that confront our masonry today. The first problem is that posed by the law signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte which absolutely prohibited hazing by any organization. If you will recall, the hazing conducted by a law fraternity in UST resulted in the brutal death of its neophyte. The death provoked a spiral of rage which compelled Congress to investigate. The result was the enactment of that law with its overarching definition of hazing. Unfortunately, the overarching definition of hazing will cover our rites and rituals, especially our

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raising ceremonial. And the law requires, among others, that before we can conduct our ceremonials, we should get a permission from the barangay captain who will designate barangay tanods to witness our rites and rituals. Doubtless, that will spell the end of masonry in the Philippines for the values of masonry which we communicate in secret will now be revealed to every Tom, Dick and Harry, and the mysticism of masonry will be no more. It is my submission that it is the dense ignorance of non-masons of the history and philosophy of masonry that wrongly caused our inclusion in the prohibited parameters of the said law. Anyway, MW Romeo Momo is moving heaven and earth to exclude us from the overstretched embrace of this prohibitory law.

My second short point is that more than ignorance of non-masons, it is the ignorance of masons about masonry that will be fatal to the survival of masonry in this century. No ifs and buts about it, we live at a time when everything is changing as a consequence of technological revolution. Author Tiun O'Reilly pointed out the mind boggling consequences of this revolution:

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AI and robotics are at the heart of a set of wicked problems that are setting off alarm bells among our business and labor lead-

ers, policy makers and academics. What happens to all those people who drive for a living when the cars start driving themselves? AIs are flying planes, advising doctors on the best treatments, writing sports and financial news, xxx telling human workers when to show up and when to go home xxx Computers used to work for humans; increasingly its now humans working for computers

xxx

He continued asking: What is the future of business when technology-enabled workers and market places, let people choose when and how much they want to work? What is the future of education when on demand learning outperforms traditional universities in keeping skills up to date? What is the future of media and public discourse when algorithms decide what we will watch and read making their choice based on what will make the most profit for their owners?

What is the future of the economy when more and more work can be done by intelligent machines instead of people or only done by the people in partnership with those machines?

Concluding, futurologist O'Reilly asked and I ask you to ponder these questions: Where is technology taking us? Is it going to fill us with astonishment or dismay?

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And most important, what is our role in deciding that future? How do we make choices today that will result in a world we want to live in?" (What is the Future and Why It's Up to Us, p. 4)

It is my submission, then and now, that masonry has an important role in deciding man's future. This is not the first time, masonry has played this critical role. If we jog our memory, we will remember that the industrial revolution likewise caused so much disruption in the lives of people and nations. The cause of disruption were the new machines that threatened to displace human labor even while they promised prosperity to the people. The fear then was that the machines and their promised prosperity would turn people to materialism and corrupt their spiritual and moral values. History tells us that the machines in the industrial revolution did not cause the collapse of the spirituality of man for man never substituted the machines as their gods. At the forefront of this struggle against materialism brought about by machines was masonry, then an ultra-strong moral force in Europe. With its compendium of moral truths and spiritual teachings, masonry guided mankind in the proper use of machines to bring progress to the people, especially man's fight for equality between the have nots and the have it all. Needless to state,

at this time, when we see technological disruptions everywhere, it is the duty of masonry, thru its timely and timeless teachings, to preserve the moral clarity of our people between truth and the so called alternative truth. But we can discharge this all important and sacred task only and only if we continue immersing ourselves, especially the young masons, on our teachings that have survived the test of time and the challenge of false philosophies. Let us not fear the technological revolution that will bring forth Artificial Intelligence, machines with intelligence. AI can never produce machines with high morals or machines with souls. It is masonry with the grace of the Grand Architect of the Universe that can produce men with morals for masonry is a system of morality woven from the unchanging truths of antiquity.

In fine, masons who are ignorant of masonry cannot lead the fight of masonry against any disruption that may weaken the moral values and spiritual foundation of people. In 1984, when I became Grand Master, I chose the theme, "More Light in Masonry, More Light from Masons." I like to think that it is still a valid theme considering the disruptions, beneficial and otherwise, coming from technology and the internet of things.

A pleasant evening to all!

Centennial Commemoration of Three Lodges

By **WB Geoffrey Barrientos, PDDGM**
Managing Editor

The year 1925 marked an important chapter in Philippine Masonry. During this time, three lodges were constituted under the leadership of Grand Master MW Christian W. Rosenstock through special communications of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. Service Lodge No. 95 was constituted on February 14 in Manila, followed by Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97 on April 4 in Noveleta, Cavite, and Isagani Lodge No. 96 on April 18 in Paniqui, Tarlac.

In 2025, these lodges marked their centennial. Under the present leadership of Grand Master MW Raul E. Canon Jr., their next hundred-year journey reflects continuous Masonic work, service, and brotherhood.

Historical and Present-Day Sketches

Service Lodge No. 95

Service Lodge No. 95 was organized by brethren in military service and was constituted on February 14, 1925. Its early membership came largely from Fort William McKinley, Nichols Field, and the U.S. Navy Yard in Cavite. Despite the distance, members made strong efforts to attend meetings in Manila.

The Second World War greatly reduced its membership, but the lodge was restored after the war through the dedication of its members. It later produced two Grand Masters and was recognized as an outstanding lodge.

In recent years, Service Lodge No. 95 has continued to meet at the Plaridel Masonic Temple and has remained active in charitable work. It has supported programs for the elderly, victims of calamities, and those in need, staying true to its name of “Service.”



Isagani Lodge No. 96

Isagani Lodge No. 96 was constituted on April 18, 1925, in Paniqui, Tarlac. It was named after a character in El Filibusterismo, reflecting the ideals of Filipino identity and enlightenment.

The lodge later transferred to Tarlac town, where it built its temple and continued its growth. Like many lodges, it stopped during the war but resumed its work after liberation. Over the years, it rebuilt its temple, strengthened its membership, and remained active in community service.

In recent years, Isagani Lodge has continued to serve the people of Tarlac through scholarship programs, medical missions, and disaster response. It has remained an active and respected lodge in Central Luzon, with a long tradition of producing community leaders.



Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97

Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97, meaning “new light,” was constituted on April 4, 1925, in Noveleta, Cavite. It began as the Noveleta Trowel Club and was formed by brethren who wanted to establish a regular lodge.

From a small group of founders, the lodge steadily grew in membership and influence. It suffered losses during the Second World War but resumed its work in 1945 and continued to expand in the years that followed. It also helped organize another lodge and produced leaders who served the Grand Lodge.

In recent years, Bagong Ilaw Lodge has remained active in Cavite. It has continued its community programs such as medical missions and civic activities, and has remained committed to spreading Masonic light in its locality through active membership and service.

**Closing**

After one hundred years, Service Lodge No. 95, Isagani Lodge No. 96, and Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97 have continued their labors in the Craft. Their history has shown strength during difficult times and steady growth through the years.

From the _____ **Managing Editor's** _____ *DESK*

To our beloved Brethren,

As this Masonic year draws to a close, so too does our humble service as the Editorial Board of The Cable Tow. With grateful hearts, we lay down our working tools, mindful of the trust that was placed upon us and the journey we were privileged to undertake.

This past year has been one of light, labor, and brotherhood. Each page we prepared was guided by our shared desire to inform, to uplift, and to strengthen the ties that bind us as Masons. Whatever good was accomplished in these pages is owed not to us alone, but to the many Brethren and contributors who gave their time, their thoughts, and their support so freely. You have been our strength behind every page and our partners in this work.

We extend our sincere thanks to Most Worshipful Brother Raul E. Canon Jr., Grand Master, for the trust and confidence he bestowed upon us to carry the Cable Tow during his term. His steady leadership and vision guided us to do our work with purpose and care. We also offer our heartfelt congratulations to him for a successful term. Indeed, as he reminded us, “bawat isa sa masoneriya ay mahalaga.”

To every Brother who read, wrote, shared, and encouraged - maraming salamat! You made this year meaningful. You made the Cable Tow a living voice of our Craft.

As we pass this responsibility to the next Editorial Board, we do so with full confidence that they will continue the work with the same dedication and commitment. May they find the same joy in service, and may the Cable Tow continue to be a faithful bearer of Masonic information.

We leave you with gratitude in our hearts and the hope that, in some small way, we have served the Craft well.

Fraternally yours,

WB Geoffrey Barrientos, PDDGM

BLA

mahalaga

**Grand Master
MW Raul E. Canon Jr.**

