

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GRAND LECTURER

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and
Accepted Masons of the Philippines
1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila

**SGL Directive 2018 -
January 29, 2018**

ATTENTION: ALL JGLs, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,

SUBJECT : MASONIC EDUCATION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018

TOPIC/S: MATTERS APPROVED DURING THE SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Under our Masonic law, there are two (2) ways to call for a Special Communication. According to the Constitution specifically Section 2 Special Communications Article IV Communications, Part I Constitution, Special Communications may be (1) **called by the Grand Master** whenever such shall promote the welfare of the fraternity and (2) They shall **also be called by the Grand Master upon an application in writing by the Masters of at least one-third of the chartered lodges**, setting forth the causes which demand them.

The law requires that there should be an application in writing by the Masters of at least one-third of the chartered lodges, the resolution from the floor for a Special Communication to tackle the unfinished business of Ancome 2017 or the 4 Edicts of MW Rentoy which was approved in Ancom Tagaytay is not one of the 2 ways to call for a Special Communication.

Nevertheless, the Grand Master honored that call for a Special Communication and issued Edict Nos. 295, 295-A and 295-B calling for a Special Communication pursuant to the (1) approved resolution during the Annual Communication AND (2) the call of the Grand Master under Section 2, Article IV, Part I of the Constitution. Henceforth, there shall be 2 parts in this Special Communication.

Under the Constitution, every call for a Special Communication shall designate its object so far as is proper to be written. Edict Nos. 295, 295-A and 295-B specified the objectives of the Special Communication.

With Edict Nos. 295, 295-A and 295-B, the Objectives of the Special Communication were therefore as follows:

**Part I: Pursuant to the approved Resolution during the Annual
Communication:**

- a. Deliberate and vote upon the unfinished business of ANCOM 2017;

**Part II: Upon the call of the Grand Master pursuant to Sec. 2, Article IV,
Part I of the Constitution:**

- b. Reading and approval of the Minutes of the Annual Communication of 2017;
- c. Integration with our existing Masonic law book all Edicts approved beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as presently contained in the Masonic Law Book, Centennial Edition, covering Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV thereof;
- d. Deliberate and vote upon the Edicts amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances issued by the Grand Master before the Special Communication; and
- e. Partial Grand Master's Report containing all other Edicts, Circulars, Judicial Pronouncements, Administrative Orders issued and such other actions undertaken by the Grand Master before the Special Communication.

No other business shall be transacted at the Special Communication other than for this purpose.

During the Special Communication on 19 December 2017, MW Reynato S. Puno explained that a Special Communication and an Annual Communication are practically the same. The only difference between the two is that in a Special Communication, the agenda or the objectives are defined or specific while in the Annual Communication the agenda is the structured agenda for an ANCOM.

In the Special Communication that recently took place, the objectives were properly laid down in the edicts of the Grand Master. Thus, according to MW Puno, specific matters approved during the Special Communication no longer need the approval of the brethren during the ANCOM because the approval of matters during the Special Communication has the effect of approval by the brethren in an ANCOM.

During the Special Communication, Edict No. 276 (Rentoy) Requiring members in good standing to have attended an aggregate of six Stated Meetings in the year immediately preceding the balloting of petitioners for degrees or affiliation and lodge election of officers to be able to participate in said exercise. (Six-Attendance Rule) was the only edict under Part I the unfinished business of ANCOM 2017 which was approved. With the approval of the said edict, the same is effective immediately. The three (3) other edicts of MW Rentoy were not favoured by the brethren.

The Integration with our existing Masonic law book of all Edicts approved beginning the term of MW Gabionza in order to update the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, as presently contained in the Masonic Law Book, Centennial Edition, covering Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV thereof under Part II of the Special Communication was likewise approved. Hence, a new version of the Masonic Law Book containing the approved edicts will soon be printed.

The Edicts of the Grand Master that were amendatory of the Constitution and/or Ordinances issued by the Grand Master before the Special Communication were likewise approved. MW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr. manifested therein that the integration of the edicts with the Masonic Law Book shall no longer be submitted for further approval. However, the final version should first be presented to the Brethren before the actual integration thereof is to be done.

The Partial Grand Master's Report containing all other Edicts, Circulars, Judicial Pronouncements, Administrative Orders issued and such other actions undertaken by the Grand Master before the Special Communication was likewise approved.

With the approval thereof, the matters that took place during the Special Communication will be included in the Minutes of the Special Communication to be read and approved during the ANCOM in Davao. The Grand Master will still present the remaining portion of his report together with that of other Grand Lodge Officers mandated to report during the ANCOM in 2017.

The Special Communication on 19 December 2017 proceeded smoothly, swiftly and orderly and was concluded with peace and harmony prevailed. The objective of the Grand Master to have a peaceful and orderly communication was attained and hopefully to continue during the Annual Communication in Davao and the succeeding ANCOMs.

Masonic History for the month of February:

- February 6, 1964 - Death of the first Philippine President, Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo.
- February 7, 1945 - General and Bro. Douglas MacArthur and his forces entered the city of Manila.
- February 15, 1889 - Bro. Graciano Lopez Jaena established La Solidaridad, the organ of the Philippine Propaganda Movement.
- February 19, 1886 - Birth of Bro. Jose Abad Santos.
- February 26, 1903 - Bro. Apolinario Mabini returned to Manila from Guam after receiving amnesty from US authorities.



VW MARCUS ANTONIUS T. ANDAYA
Senior Grand Lecturer