

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 2017 -06
July 25, 2017

ATTENTION: ALL JGLs, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,

**SUBJECT : MASONIC EDUCATION FOR THE MONTH OF
AUGUST 2017**

- TOPICS:**
- 1) EDICT NO. 300 MORATORIUM IN THE ISSUANCE OF DISPENSATION TO FORM NEW LODGES USING PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE, SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC TEMPLE, CAPITOL MASONIC TEMPLE OR JACOBO-ZOBEL MASONIC TEMPLE;
 - 2) EDICT NO. 301 PROVIDING THE PROCEDURES ON AFFILIATIONS FOR MASONS INITIATED, PASSED AND RAISED BY A LODGE U.D. BUT WAS NOT GRANTED A CHARTER;
 - 3) EDICT NO. 302 ALLOWING LODGES TO ACQUIRE/BUILD THEIR OWN MASONIC TEMPLES AND USE THE SAME AS PERMANENT PLACE OF MEETINGS OUTSIDE MASONIC DISTRICT

1. **MORATORIUM IN THE ISSUANCE OF DISPENSATION TO FORM NEW LODGES USING PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE, SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC TEMPLE, CAPITOL MASONIC TEMPLE OR JACOBO-ZOBEL MASONIC TEMPLE;**

Lodges from different Masonic Districts from NCR use the following Masonic Temples:

Plaridel Masonic Temple	- 1440 San Marcelino St, Ermita Manila
Scottish Rite Masonic Temple	- 1828 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila
Capitol Masonic Temple	- 1 Makatarungan St., Diliman, Q.C.
Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple	- San Antonio Village, Makati City

These four (4) Masonic Temples all in Metro Manila are increasingly becoming too crowded with Chartered Lodges holding their respective meetings therein thereby making it very difficult for new lodges to get a fixed day or a spot to hold their meetings thereat. There is no more room for the chartering of new lodges if these new lodges will also use any of the aforesaid Masonic Temples.

As of this day, the following number of lodges use the following Masonic Temples:

Plaridel Masonic Temple	-	30 Lodges
Scottish Rite Masonic Temple	-	8 Lodges
Capitol Masonic Temple	-	15 Lodges
Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple	-	11 Lodges

Because of the numerous lodges using each temple, the facilities such as halls, chairs, tables and other furniture therein including the toilets, elevator, etc become deteriorated due to lack of sense of preservation and commitment from the lodges to maintain the same. While it is true that rental fees are being collected by the Grand Lodge from the users of the halls, however the same is not enough for the maintenance thereof. Unlike Lodges mostly in the Provinces who have their own masonic temples, there is no such thing as so called "Malasakit" and "hindi nakikisukob lamang bagkus may sariling bahay".

It has therefore become impractical, unreasonable and unnecessary for new lodges to be formed if new lodges will just use the same temples for their stated meetings and other masonic affairs at "makikigamit lang din" of these temples.

The Grand Master sees therefore the need to hold off the formation of new lodges if lodges to be formed will also use the four (4) Masonic Temples. He likewise desires to encourage Lodges using the four (4) temples and those to be formed in the future to have their own masonic temples just like lodges in the Provinces. Thus, he issued Edict No. 300 as a Moratorium in the issuance of dispensation to form a new lodge suspending indefinitely the formation of lodges that will use as its meeting place the Plaridel Masonic Temple, Scottish Rite Temple, Capitol Masonic Temple or Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple until manifest propriety and necessity become apparent in the formation of new lodges;

Under the Edict, the petition for dispensation to form a new lodge will only be granted IF the proposed lodge will NOT use any of the aforementioned Masonic Temples and must comply with the additional condition constituting as paragraph f under Section 2, Part II Ordinances Article I Organization of Lodge which states that:

“It must be accompanied by an undertaking that it will acquire or construct its own permanent lodge or masonic temple in an identified location within a period of three (3) years from the date of its Charter. In case of non-compliance with the undertaking, the Grand Lodge may review, recommend and if necessary take appropriate actions thereto.”

This Edict does NOT suspend the formation of new lodges in other parts of the country even in NCR provided they will not use any of the four (4) masonic temples.

II. PROVIDING THE PROCEDURES ON AFFILIATIONS FOR MASONS INITIATED, PASSED AND RAISED BY A LODGE U.D. BUT WAS NOT GRANTED A CHARTER;

Our Masonic Law Book does not provide for procedures to be undertaken by Master Masons, Fellow Craft Masons and Entered Apprentice Masons initiated, passed and raised, respectively from Lodges under dispensation when not granted their Charters.

In the past, for Master Masons raised by Lodges U.D and thereafter not granted charters in an ANCOM, by implication the provisions on procedures on affiliations are applied in order to continue their journey in Masonry. With regard to FCMs and EAMs, the said procedures cannot be applied or inapplicable and the degrees conferred upon them are not recognized when the Lodge U.D. is not granted a charter. These types of Masons go back to square one should they wish to continue the journey in Masonry.

Records show that there is now an increase in the number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree Masons from Lodges U.D. that were not given or granted Charters who wish to continue their degrees or pursue their journey in Freemasonry. Edict 294 (Gazmin) gives such members the status of regularly demitted Masons who shall be entitled to be issued a certification of that fact, or in the form of Certificate of Demit or Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Grand Secretary for purposes of petitioning for admission in a chartered lodge. However, the same does not provide the mechanics thereof.

Thus, this Edict provides guidelines and policies which coincide with our masonic constitution, laws and regulations and landmarks to ensure proper care and guidance to Masons trapped in this kind of situation regarding admission to a Chartered lodge or affiliation with Chartered lodges. After all, they are all Masons already.

Unlike before, now even the newly initiated and/or passed brethren just like those newly obligated brethren who have not yet made the required proficiency examination when the Lodge U.D was considered defunct, may obtain the necessary examination (proficiency) through the Grand Master or his duly appointed representative at the Grand Lodge or at the jurisdiction of the duly appointed representative of the Grand Master where the defunct lodge was located.

After the proficiency, how will then they affiliate?

After passing the required proficiency examination, the Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellow Craft Mason or the newly raised Master Mason of the defunct lodge shall apply for affiliation with a Chartered lodge within twelve (12) months thereafter in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinances on affiliations and is required to pay the corresponding affiliation fee. In case of non-affiliation without a valid reason within the said period, the FCMs and EAMs may be dropped from the rolls. On the other hand, the newly raised Master Mason of the defunct lodge who fails to affiliate without a valid reason for the same period of time shall be deemed unworthy of Masonic consideration and not entitled to any of the rights, privileges and charities of the Craft until such time he has affiliated with a Chartered lodge and in case he affiliates, he is further required to pay his dues from the time he was considered a non-affiliated Master Mason.

To which Lodge will they affiliate with?

The order of preference of lodges when affiliating is as follows:

1. First is the sponsoring lodge, if any, of the Lodge U.D. is enjoined to adopt all Masons Initiated, Passed and/or Raised by the defunct lodge, subject to the applicable provisions of the Ordinances on affiliations;
2. In the absence of the sponsoring lodge, the said Mason/s, may apply for affiliation with any of the Chartered lodges under the jurisdiction of Masonic District where the defunct lodge belongs or is situated. The applicable provisions on affiliations shall likewise apply; and

3. If none of the abovementioned is available, the said Masons may opt to choose any Chartered Lodge where he may deem fit to continue his degrees in Masonry, subject to the regulations governing residency.

In all cases, the regulations governing proficiency examinations and tried and proven should be strictly implemented.

III. **ALLOWING LODGES TO ACQUIRE/BUILD THEIR OWN MASONIC TEMPLES AND USE THE SAME AS PERMANENT PLACE OF MEETINGS OUTSIDE MASONIC DISTRICT**

This Edict is related to earlier Edict No. 300 on Moratorium in the issuance of dispensation to form new lodges. This is the edict that encourages Chartered lodges using the Plaridel Masonic Temple, Scottish Rite Temple, Capitol Masonic Temple and Jacobo-Zobel Masonic Temple to emulate Masonic lodges from the Provinces and to aspire to acquire and build their own temples to use as their permanent masonic lodges.

In order for Chartered Lodges including Lodges U.D. to be able to fulfill the undertaking or aspiration to acquire or construct their own permanent lodges or masonic temples to use as their place of meetings, Lodges **at their option**, are encouraged and if they so desire, allowed to acquire or construct Masonic Temples **even outside** of their Masonic Districts or original areas of jurisdiction. But they shall remain to be within their original Districts as provided for under the Charter and shall remain and continue to be within the supervision of the District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs) therein.

But in order to protect existing Lodges within the jurisdiction, Lodges under this Edict are prohibited from accepting petitions or affiliations of those who are not residents as defined under the Masonic Law Book within the original areas of jurisdiction of the lodges constructing masonic temples outside their jurisdictions. In other words, lodges constructing masonic temples outside their jurisdictions can only accept petitions or affiliations of residents within their original areas of jurisdiction under the original Charter.

This Edict shall have the effect of amending the Charter and/or By-laws on the place of stated meeting to another place as and by way of an exception to par e Section 2 of Article IV, Prohibitions on a Lodge, Part II Ordinances.

There is no need for any lodge resolution for the change of place of stated meeting. Lodges with Masonic Temples pursuant to this Edict shall be provided by the Grand Lodge a new Charter at no cost to the Lodges. The old Charter need not be surrendered to the Grand Lodge to form part of the memorabilia of the Lodge.

MASONIC HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2017:

- August 12, 2000 - The old Plaridel Temple in Manila was razed by fire. Precious artifacts, books, and records were reduced to ashes.
- August 17, 1944 - Philippine President, Bro, Jose Laurel, decreed the end of the Japanese-sponsored Philippine Republic.
- August 19, 1878 - Birth of Bro. Manuel Quezon, first President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.
- August 23, 1896 - Filipino rebels, led by Bro. Andres Bonifacio, tore their Cedula at Pugad Lawin. The "Cry of Balintawak" marked the official declaration of the Revolution.
- August 26, 1896 - The flag of the Katipunan was unfurled by Bro. Andres Bonifacio at Balintawak.
- August 30, 1850 - Birth of Bro. Marcelo del Pilar, a writer, journalist, satirist, and revolutionary leader. He was the editor of La Solidaridad and is considered today as the Father of Philippine Masonry. He co-founded Lodge Revolucion in Barcelona and revived Lodge Solaridaridad, where he became its Worshipful Master, and with Bro. Jose Rizal as Orator. He was given 33rd degree by the Gran Oriente Espanol,


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