



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

PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE

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MW ABRAHAM "BAMBOL" N. TOLENTINO

Grand Master

DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM

Grand Secretary

JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT No. 02. - MW TOLENTINO

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, MASTERS,
WARDENS AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
SUBORDINATE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION

SUBJECT : SETTING ASIDE THE DECISION DECLARING ALL THE
DEGREES CONFERRED UPON PETITIONER/CANDIDATE
JOCEL C. BAAC AS NULL AND VOID

WHEREAS, MW Peter Lim Lo Suy issued a letter dated December 4, 2009 addressed to Officers and Members of Bernardo A. Carpio Lodge No. 359, notifying them of his (MW Lim Lo Suy) decision to declare all the degrees conferred upon petitioner/candidate Joel C. Baac as null and void;

WHEREAS, it appears that the report of the Grand Master, MW Peter Lim Lo Suy, during the 2010 Annual Communication does not include the aforesaid decision;

WHEREAS, Petitioner/candidate Joel C. Baac in his letter dated 01 July 2017 addressed to the Grand Lodge inquired about his status on Masonry;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Jurisprudence has rendered its opinion on the propriety of the nullification of all the degrees in Masonry of Petitioner/candidate Joel C. Baac, the pertinent portions thereof are hereby quoted as follows:

"The records of Joel Baac, as furnished to this Committee reveal no other reason for the nullification of his degrees other than the alleged insubordination and/or disobedience of then Worshipful Master to the directive of the Grand Master to hold in abeyance any and all actions regarding the advancement of petitioner (Joel Baac) to freemasonry, and not due to his non-compliance with the requirements for petitioning. Thus, even on the assumption that lodge officer/s have indeed committed disobedience/insubordination to the Grand Master, the same will not negate the fact that Joel Baac, is qualified to file his petition in any of the lodges in Quezon City, as well as in any of the lodges in Kalinga, where he both maintain residences. For it is not unusual for a person to have more than one residence.

"By your Grip, we are here to serve, and not be served even beyond the Cabletow."

In view of the foregoing, in the absence of other valid ground/s existing at the time of his application/petition that disqualifies Jocel C. Baac in receiving his degrees in masonry, it is only just for the Grand Lodge to recognize the degrees previously conferred upon him, subject to the payment of his dues from the time of his raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason until the present.

Finally, this Committee is of the opinion that the Grand Master, as the shepherd of the Grand Lodge and Steward of the Craft has the unstated power to rectify and correct any irregularity that may have transpired in the Masonic journey of a candidate, like Bro. Jocel C. Baac, who does not appear to be disqualified and who has not committed any misrepresentation in filing his petition.

WHEREAS, the aforesaid recommendation of the Committee is hereby approved and implemented;

WHEREAS, Section 1 Article IX The Grand Master, Part I Constitution states that:

"Section 1. The Grand Master, between Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, shall exercise all its executive powers, except the granting of Charters, all its judicial powers, and such legislative powers as may provide needed legislation that shall be harmoniously complementary to this Constitution. His actions are effective immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby render this Judicial Pronouncement:

The Grand Lodge hereby recognizes the degrees previously conferred upon Petitioner/candidate Jocel C. Baac, subject to the payment of his dues from the time of his raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason up to the present.

This Pronouncement shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and action thereon duly recorded in the Minutes of the said Stated Meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in the City of Manila this 11th day of September 2017.



ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Grand Master

Attest:



DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Grand Secretary