



The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines

Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino St., Manila 1000 Philippines
Tel/Fax No.: (63) 02-400-1042 Website: www.yorkritephilippines.org
Email: ogs-ggram@yorkritephilippines.org



M.E. Manuel Liam C. Garcia
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

R.E. Evaristo A. Leviste, PGHP, KYGCH
Grand Secretary

CIRCULAR NO. 01-2022-GGRAM

TO: ALL SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

FROM: THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT: NOTICE ON THE LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION OF FACE-TO-FACE CONVOCATIONS, INSTALLATIONS, CONFERRALS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

DATE: 01 MARCH 2022

This has reference to Grand Chapter Circular No. 02-2020 last November of 2020 instructing all Chapters in the Jurisdiction to suspend temporarily all Convocations, Conferrals, Installations and other affairs and events until further notice.

Due to recent downgrading of the Alert Levels by the relevant government health agencies in several areas and localities around the country, and because of the relaxing of protocols attributed to the downgrading of the Alert Levels, certain mass activities and gatherings have been permitted by the authorities, provided certain guidelines are followed.

As a result, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines is lifting the suspension of face-to-face Convocations, Conferrals, installations and other affairs and events ordered through the November 2020 Grand Chapter Circular and will now allow and permit the resumption of face-to-face activities subject to certain rules and guidelines provided by the GLP in their Circular No. 24 and the latest Circular No. 27 (MW Paulino).

All Stated Meetings, Installations, Inductions, Conferrals, Activities and Events are permitted to resume subject to the compliance with the protocols stipulated in advisories issued by relevant government agencies like the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF), the Local Government Units (LGU), Department of Health (DOH) and Local Task Force for COVID-19. These would include restrictions on venue capacity. Please check your respective local protocols and restrictions with authorities before proceeding with your face-to-face gatherings.

The following guidelines are expected to be followed and adhered to when engaging in the aforementioned gatherings;

1. All attendees should be fully vaccinated and are required to present their vaccination cards upon arrival at the venue;
2. All attendees are required to undergo on-site rapid antigen testing (nasal or saliva) prior to the Stated Convocations, Installations and Conferrals;
3. No Stated Convocation, Installation and Conferral shall proceed without the presence of at least nine (9) Companions; All attendees should wear face masks and maintain physical distancing throughout the meeting or activity; Health and safety protocols prescribed by the IATF-EID, LGUs, and/or the COVID-19 Local Task Force, including restrictions on venue capacity, shall be strictly observed and complied with.

Constituent Chapters may conduct their face-to-face Installation of Officers only in a tyled setting; Only fifty percent (50%) of the venue shall be occupied; All attendees should wear face masks and maintain physical distancing throughout the installation ceremony. Companions and guests may attend the fellowship to be held after the installation ceremony preferably outdoor/open-air dining.

Jurisdictional Joint Conferrals for the moment are banned. Chapters are encouraged to confer on their own candidates. In case of difficulty in personnel, joint conferrals can be done with a maximum 3 Chapters only. The



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candidates for degrees and the personnel for the conferring team can only come from the 3 said chapters. One Chapter can be the host and the other chapters can also declare their respective Chapters open for conferral. Secretaries of each Chapter will prepare their own minutes, records, and fees applicable to their particular Chapter. Same as meetings and installations, only 50% of the venue shall be occupied. Only Conferring team and candidates allowed inside the Masonic Hall during conferral proper.

In the event that there are difficulties in meeting face-to-face, the constituent Chapters still have the option to meet officially through Zoom or any other electronic means as we have done in the past 2 years, conferrals are not allowed.


The Grand Chapter continues to wish everyone well, the safety of each Companion and their family members is still paramount as the pandemic has not yet ended.

For the guidance and compliance of all concerned.

Fraternally,


R.E. Evaristo A. Leviste, PGHP, KYGCH
Grand Secretary
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines

Attested by:


M.E. Manuel Liam C. Garcia
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
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