

July 4, 2009

Atty. Hermogenes P. Pobre
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Thru:
Dr. Cris J. Icbán, Jr.
Editor, Bannawag
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Dear Atty. Pobre,

This is to bring to your attention the sustained unethical conduct of one columnist of your magazine, Bannawag. This columnist is Ricarte Agnes.

For many months since March 2009, Ricarte Agnes has written and published defamatory and maligning write-ups against several Ilokano writers, many of these circulated in the Internet and published in websites that were too willing to accommodate his defaming deeds.

His write-ups have all been baseless and in total disregard of the facts brought into the open by the Ilokano Writers Association of the Philippines (or GUMIL Filipinas) as evidenced by the official statements of the Board of Directors they sent out to the public.

These unethical actions of Ricarte Agnes have caused the community of Ilokano writers so much anguish, pain, and embarrassment, with a number of these writers dishonored and defamed before the cyberspace public. These malicious and defaming write-ups he all caused to be uploaded at Iluko.com, with the assistance of the administrators of that website. Many of these are also posted in labanmannurat.proboards.com.

The same actions of Ricarte Agnes have terribly divided this community of Ilokano writers, a division that, if not checked in a timely way, will sunder what is left of the Ilokano writing community, many of whom are writers of Bannawag. We are aware of a tsunami effect: it will tremendously affect Bannawag in the end.

We understand full well that when this division continues, this will be injurious to the organizational, cultural, and economic interests of Bannawag, a major outlet for writing in Ilokano. It is the same magazine that is being patronized by this community of Ilokano writers now sundered by these maligning acts of Ricarte Agnes. His weekly presence in the Bannawag as a columnist has given off signals of the kind of false and empty clout he has.

It is for this reason that we the undersigned Ilokano writers wish you to know that his continued presence as a columnist of Bannawag is not to the best interest of your magazine.

We are attaching here in this letter an ongoing online petition requesting the Ilokano Writers Association of the Philippines (GUMIL Filipinas) to declare Ric Agnes persona non grata of the association to demonstrate how serious this issue of him defaming other writers.

We are also attaching a copy of the letter of the current GUMIL Filipinas president Ely Raquel reminding this Ric Agnes that he has to stop his acts of defaming and maligning. All these documents prove that your columnist Ric Agnes has crossed the un-crossable line in responsible practice of writing.

Thank you for the attention you will give this letter.

Very truly yours,

CONCERNED ILOKANO WRITERS

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