

June 12, 2009

Mrs Ely Madarang Raquel
President
GUMIL Filipinas

Cc: Mr. Ariel Tabag, Secretary General

Dear Mrs. Raquel,

I am appealing to your sense of moral and organization leadership and to your sense of decency to make it as part of your agenda in your next GF Board discussion about what to do with our fellow writers who know only the freedom to write including the freedom to defame and malign their fellow writers without any sense of responsibility. This abuse by some of our pretending writers must be addressed with firmness by your leadership.

I am going to be frank with you: I am a member of GUMIL and I am an adviser of one of the out-of-country chapters, and therefore, I have every right to demand that my right to my honor, dignity, and self-respect be respected by self-respecting members of our organization.

You know well the issues: that I manipulated the Pedro Bucaneg Awards Committee to accommodate me and that I influenced them to select me as a recipient of that award.

You were a member of the BOD at that time that these things were happening; the least that I ask from you—as a former BOD member and now as president—is speak up from the heart and from facts so that this vicious and ceaseless defaming and maligning of my person will stop.

If you were in my shoes, you would not want this to happen. All these, with our names being dragged before the gawking public, are the last things that we want as decent writers. I have suffered anxiety, sleeplessness, and untold psychological stress as a result of these, with Andy Barroga's Iluko.com being made as the sounding board for all these untold acts of defamation and maligning.

You know the facts well, Mrs. Raquel. Let these facts guide you on what moral course of action your GF leadership ought to take. If your leadership fails to do this, I will find an avenue for my honor and integrity as a writer to be protected. If GF cannot do the right thing for me, I will take it upon my hand to do the right thing for myself.

There are two things I ask you to do with courage and boldness and daring:

First, make GF as not a puppet leadership and not prone to the compadrazgo complex by breaking away from the inutile ties binding you to inutile irresponsibilities that puts the honor and integrity of others at stake; and

Second, lead GF back to greatness again by coming up with a vision of greatness of mind and intellect, and not the narrowness of trashy talks and unfounded allegations of members.

One thing that I do not understand from you is this: why is that you never spoke up pertaining to your being awarded with the Leona Florentino when in fact you are not yet 60 years following the idiotic logic of some of those who have the capacity to defame and malign others but never themselves that are worth more the defaming and maligning?

Let me remind you, Mrs. Raquel: that writing is not only churning out a column for the popular taste but churning out truths that we can always hold onto dearly.

I trust that in your next GF Board Meeting, which I hope you will hold it soon, you will take this matter up.

I deserve a day in court—that is the least that GF can do, even your eerie silence—because the people who have defamed and maligned and are continuing to do so have conveniently excluded you from the equation, even if, based on the illogic of their accusation, we are on the same boat—have made others interpret as your blessing and approval for that the others are doing.

Now, I ask: If GF and all of us members cannot even have the courage to say No to these verbal abuses, what can we say? What can we write about? What vision are we talking about in our writings? Pray, tell me, where are the GF writers in the face of these acts of continued defaming and maligning?

I deserve my honor and decency back—and I hope that GF will help me get that honor and decency back.

Frankly, I cannot understand the silence—the seeming acquiescence—of your leadership in the face of these embarrassments. Your breaking your silence might lead us to something redeeming.

Very truly yours,

Aurelio S. Agcaoili, PhD, aurelioagcaoili@yahoo.com
President, Nakem Conferences

June 29, 2009

Mrs Ely Raquel
President, GUMIL Filipinas

Thru Ariel Tabag
Secretary General

Dear Mrs. Raquel,

This is with reference to your GF letter of June 18 and which you kindly sent to "GUMIL Filipinas Members and Concerned Individuals".

While I do appreciate your breaking your silence as a board of the very organization that recognized my work, I am terribly disappointed by the insensitivy of the language of your letter.

Either that you do not know what you are saying--or you simply do not know what to say while you recognized at the same time your being cornered by your omission during this ritualistic defaming and maligning by a GF member and supported by his ilk.

To quote from your letter, and in reference to my letter to you:

"In reference to the e-mailed letter dated June 12, 2009 of Dr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili requesting the official stand of GUMIL Filipinas concerning the Pedro Bucaneg Award 2009, the present leadership wishes to announce that the said matter shall be discussed at the GF special meeting set on July 12, 2009 at Balay ti GUMIL, Suso Beach, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur. We shall keep you posted on this matter."

First off the bat, your mistake: "Dr Aurelio S. Agcaoili requesting the official stand of the GUMIL Filipinas concerning the Pedro Bucaneg Award 2009."

My answer: Please do not insult me further.

You have insulted me by your months of silence and by simply allowing the unethical and maligning acts of one member and other supporters to go on and on. I am not asking for your official stand.

I am asking for your moral insight and moral leadership by not allowing all of us to go so low like what is happening right now. That is the official stand that I want to know and your purported discussion of the PBA during your meeting. Discuss Leona Florentino Award too, to be fair. Why single me out?

By Parliamentary Procedure, which you should have known in the first place as directors, you should have affirmed the previous actions of the GF leadership. You should have simply said, in

an open letter, that "We affirm the decision of the previous leadership. Case closed."

What you did is to dilly-dally while your honoree is being ritualistically dishonored before the cyberspace public. Please do not tell me that you do not open emails, that you do not have internet, and you do not know the conniving acts of Iluko.com. That is not my problem; it is your problem.

But since you have witnessed--and you have records--that the processes and procedures were followed as testified by Mr. Prescy Bermudez, Rogies Baysa, Baldovino Vladez, and Mario Tejada, what more are you looking for?

One other insult: your letter spares again a certain Mrs. Raquel who I presume to be the same GF President--and who was a board member (?) by the way when awarded the Leona Florentino.

We had a precedent when Dr. Onofrecia Ibarra was nominated the year when she was board member; her nomination was withdrawn and then resubmitted when she was no longer in the board. This is to put a certain context to your future actions.

If you intend to take my case alone without your GF board being clear about your premises, I ask you to please review the issues that are really non-issues and from there do the moral thing.

Here, I wish that you have the courage of your words. I wish that you will discipline the abusers. Fair is fair.

You were presuming that I am asking you what is your position.

There is nothing in my letter, which you need to keep on re-reading to have some clarity, asking you precisely to do that.

In a more specific sense, I asked for your moral stand and position on the maligning and defaming acts of one member and his ilk, which fact you never--NEVER--mentioned in your letter.

Please read again.

Why, are you afraid to take a moral stand?

What are we writing for when we cannot make a moral stand in the face of all these defaming and maligning?

Your use of the "the said matter will be discussed" is not only insulting but opens up a floodgate of this current leadership's mistrust for the actions of the previous leadership.

I understand that some of you who are currently serving as directors were part of the previous one. For this reason, I do not know where the logic of this phrase is going.

In all my official position on this matter--published in my blog and in dadapilan.dom--I maintained that I do not have anything to do with your procedures and precesses.

Ask the awards committee.

Mr. Prescy Bermudez has said so.

So is past President Bal Valdez and former secretary-general Rogie Baysa.

So is the statement from Mario Tejado, a copy of which I sent to the current Sec-General Ariel Tabag.

What are you going to talk about when these facts are what they are: clear as daylight?

The second part of your letter is more insulting than the first part.

I quote from your letter: "Meanwhile, the present leadership upholds the previous statements issued by the past GF leadership (represented by former Pres. Baldovino Ab. Valdez and former Sec. Gen Rogie C. Baysa) concerning the conferment of the Pedro Bucaneg Award to Dr. Agcaoili until such time it deems otherwise."

Here, in this portion of your letter, are cues and clues of your inability to make a moral stand, so that while you do recognize the conferment of that recognition to me, you do recognize it until such time that it deems otherwise. You are saying that your recognition is contingent upon things--including perhaps your own thing.

Please do not insult me with this conditional, tentative statement.

Any idiot studying philosophy of language can catch the problem inherent in your statement.

Again, this is most insulting.

I did not expect that an august body such as the Board of Directors of GF will use words like those that are so demeaning, inappropriate, and so feudal. Scratch the words and you will see what I am saying.

"Until such time that it deems otherwise"? What do you mean? Do you mean what you have written? What you have written is exactly what you mean?

"Until such time that it deems otherwise"? Jesus the Christ! This is most absurd in your letter.

I particularly asked you to take a moral stand against those who have the capacity to malign and defame among the ranks of our membership.

Do that as your sworn duty--and do not talk about my case as if you do not know.

Please do not wait for me to beg you to do your moral duty to put an end to these abuses.

There is a Code of Ethics for writers, if I may be allowed to remind you.

To discipline abuses is your sworn duty. That is what you should do and do not be ignorant about that duty. Your ignorance will not exempt you from your moral culpability.

Personally, I thought that you truly honored me when you recognized what I have done for Ilokano Literature. What I have been getting from you is the opposite: acts that dishonor the recipient of your recognition. If this is not a contradiction, I do not know what it is.

On a last note, tell me of the previous Leona Florentino and Pedro Bucaneg Awardees what they have done and I will tell you what I have done.

You might realize that some of those you have honored really fall short of the honor and recognition and yet you kept mum--or the previous leadership and membership kept mum.

It is not your fault, historically.

But it is your moral duty now to check on these insults GF has heaped upon us members through the years.

To cite an example: **What has Gladys Menor done to deserve that honor? Who nominated her? You might realize that one of you is a party to this abracadabra.**

To cite another example: **What has Ric Agnes done to deserve the Pedro Bucaneg? Who nominated him? What are the circumstances of his nomination?**

I did not learn my literary history yesterday. I learned it earlier than some of your mediocre awardees.

Next time around, please be mindful that words are all we have. Do not insult me further by your unkind and unjust words.

If you do not do the moral thing--and because of this continuing dishonor heaped upon me and which you have failed to check not until you meet on July 12--I will certainly return the award to you.

Honestly, I am beginning to doubt whether your leadership is really sincere in recognizing my work.

In my returning that award, it gives you a clue on how deep is my disappointment for your continuing inaction and apathy.

I hope that I made myself very clear.

You must realize that it took me some time to be able to gather my thoughts and tell you what the real score is.

Your very sincerely,

Aurelio Solver Agcaoili
Nakem Conferences