

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF GUMIL Oahu HELD
AT 1810 N. KING ST., HONOLULU, HAWAII ON OCTOBER 13, 2009.

Present:

Rafael Alimbuyuguen	Florie Fermin
Rizal Fernandez	Dr. Estrella Pada Taong
Sandy Lasquero	Emelyn Damo
Beth Alimbuyuguen	Divina Menor
Nena Bueno	Israel Savellano
Mila Fernandez	Eddie Bueno
Josie Lasquero	Paul Taong
Silvino Bermisa, Jr.	

Presiding: Internal Vice President Rizal Fernandez

RESOLUTION No. 004, s.2009, DECLARING Mr. AURELIO S. AGCAOILI AS
PERSONA NON GRATA

WHEREAS, a verified information has been presented by GUMIL Oahu External Vice President Sandy Lasquero informing that he was able to read documents purportedly written by a staff member of the Ilokano Program of the University of Hawaii, Mr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili;

WHEREAS, among other things said documents which were published in the Internet and received and read by GUMIL Oahu members was signed not only by Mr. Agcaoili but also allegedly signed by several named petitioners listed by him demanding that Mr. Ricarte Agnes be declared *persona non grata* of the Ilokano writing community;⁸

WHEREAS, that another letter, dated July 4, 2009, was sent to Dr. Cris J. Icban, Jr., the Editor of Bannawag magazine by the same Mr. Agcaoili asking for the disciplining of Mr. Agnes, claiming that the latter has done “acts of defaming and maligning” Iloko writers, including him (Mr. Agcaoili), and as such, Mr. Agnes should be dismissed from Bannawag magazine as columnist;¹⁰

WHEREAS, that another letter, dated June 12, 2009, was sent to Mrs. Elizabeth M. Raquel, incumbent president of Ilokano Writers Association of the Philippines (GUMIL Filipinas) by the same Mr. Agcaoili asking for the disciplining of Mr. Agnes, claiming that the latter has done “acts of defaming and maligning” Iloko writers, including him (Mr. Agcaoili);¹²

WHEREAS, said Mr. Agcaoili likewise questioned the selection by GUMIL Filipinas of Ms. Gladys Menor as Leona Florentino awardee by asking: “What has she done to deserve that honor?”¹⁷

WHEREAS, the same Mr. Agcaoili also questioned why GUMIL Filipinas awarded Ricarte Agnes the Pedro Bucaneg title by asking: “what has Ricarte Agnes done to deserve the Pedro Bucaneg Award?”¹⁷

WHEREAS, Ms. Gladys Menor is the incumbent president of GUMIL Oahu while Mr. Ricarte Agnes is an adviser of said organization;¹⁹

WHEREAS, it could be recalled that Ms. Gladys Menor won the Leona Florentino Award in year 2005 because of her many worthwhile reading Iloko articles published in the Bannawag magazine and her leadership in strongly supporting the Ilokano Program at the University of Hawaii which was headed then by Ilokano & Philippine Theatre Program Coordinator Prescila “Precy” Espiritu, and for the hosting of the 1st GUMIL Filipinas International Conference in Honolulu on Nov. 15-17, 2002, to which Mr. Agcaoili was one of the attendees; and initiated the showing of several cultural presentation in the islands of Maui and Oahu which, to this date, is still ongoing;¹⁹

WHEREAS, it could not be denied that it was GUMIL Oahu through the strong leadership of Ms. Gladys Menor, and the late Lolinda Ramos, who lobbied for the appropriation of additional funds and one more additional teaching item for the Ilokano Program at the University of Hawaii (H.B. 1101) , and the allocation of scholarship funds from the United Filipino Council of Hawaii which was headed then by Don Guzman;²²⁻²⁷

WHEREAS, the same Gladys Menor who personally solicited funds from private individual like the families of Mrs. Dolores Ortal, the late Lolinda Ramos, Dr. Estrella Pada Taong, and from other individuals for the Ilokano Program at the University of Hawaii where Mr. Agcaoili is presently employed;²⁸

WHEREAS, these efforts to support the Iloko program at the University of Hawaii had been exerted by GUMIL Oahu while Mr. Agcaoili was outside the State of Hawaii because he was busy then managing/attending the moribund “The Weekly Inquirer”, a broad sheet newspaper, of which he serve as President and Editor-in-Chief, in Carson, California and therefore, Agcaoili was not aware of what was going on, hence his question: “What has Gladys Menor done to deserve that honor?”²⁹⁻³⁰

WHEREAS, the same Mr. Agcaoili is likewise seemingly not aware of the fact that Mr. Ricarte Agnes had won two (2) first prize (of which Mr. Agcaoili placed 2nd to Mr. Agnes in 1998) of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Award (equivalent to the coveted Pulitzer Prize in the U.S.), and had written a number of award-winning short stories, drama, novel, and bucanegan (poetic joust) which are presently being shown by GUMIL Oahu in Honolulu; ³²⁻³³

WHEREAS, the same Mr. Agcaoili was a member of the Board of Judges and one of the signatories when Mr. Agnes was selected as recipient of the Pedro Bucaneg Award in 2002, the very award he (Agcaoili) is presently questioning;³⁴

WHEREAS, despite these sweeping and unfounded accusations unkindly hurled by Mr. Agcaoili against Mr. Ricarte Agnes, the former has failed to this date, “to specify any writer maligned” by the latter and has not substantiated his so-called “defamatory and maligning” accusations;³⁵

WHEREAS, by the same reason, Mr. Agcaoili’s questioning of the Leona Florentino Award given to GUMIL Oahu President Gladys Menor is interpreted by GUMIL Oahu as an act of

ingratitude and disrespect to the present leadership of GUMIL Oahu and should be strongly condemned;

WHEREAS, Mr. Agcaoili's call for other Iloko writers to "declare Ricarte Agnes as *persona non grata* and to petition his dismissal as columnist of Bannawag magazine" is compared to the proverbial story "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" when actually, it is his shadow that he is seeing and, as such, should be considered without merit and therefore, a mere "*palabas*" or what one writer said, as "*pinnangasan*"!

WHEREAS, it is Mr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili who has the habit of demeaning and maligning people who speak of his ill acts and seemingly arrogance, and to people who refuse to submit themselves to his demands;³⁶⁻⁴¹

WHEREAS, it is Mr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili who has disregarded proper decorum and has been acting unprofessionally—making it appear that he has all the authority because of his position as a professor at the University of Hawaii;

WHEREAS, this unbecoming conduct of Mr. Agcaoili must be stopped by calling his attention, as one columnist of the Ilocos Times once said of him, admonishing *ad nauseam* that "he (Agcaoili) is one who alienates, and without remorse, the very people he should be locking arms with in the linguistic and cultural struggle for freedom, for autonomy, and for authenticity;"⁴³⁻⁴⁵

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Auditor Silvino "Jun" Bermisa and duly seconded by 2nd Vice President Sandy Lasquero, it was resolved that GUMIL Oahu through this Resolution formally declares Mr. Aurelio S. Agcaoili of the Ilokano Program of the University of Hawaii *persona non grata*;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this RESOLUTION be furnished the following named organizations and officers for their information, guidance and/or appropriate action.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED this 13th day of October, 2009 in the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

EMELYN DAMO
Secretary

ATTESTED:

RIZAL FERNANDEZ
1ST Vice President

Copy furnished:

President, GUMIL Filipinas
President, GUMIL Hawaii
President, GUMIL Maui

President, GUMIL Ilocos Norte
President, GUMIL Metro Manila
The Editor, Bannawag
The Editor, Ilocos Times
President, University of Hawaii (UH)
Department Head, Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature, UH
UH Board of Regents Judge (Ret.) Artemio Baxa
President, Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU)
Mr. Andres Tungpalan, MMSU Director for Administration