

The Online Petition Committee for Truth and Justice in Ilokano Literature
July 4, 2009

PETITION TO DECLARE RICARTE AGNES PERSONA NON GRATA OF THE ILOKANO WRITING COMMUNITY

This petition by the undersigned Ilokano writers states that **Ricarte Agnes be declared persona non grata** by all self-respecting and decent Ilokano writers, by the Ilokano writing community, and by the GUMIL Filipinas for his conduct unbecoming of an Ilokano writer who is respectful of truth, justice, and fairness and who is committed to respect the honor and integrity of other writers.

His sustained write-ups he electronically published in Iluko.com and his baseless and irresponsible open letters he circulated through the Internet and which he emailed to many Ilokano writers, are actions that are not only unethical but devoid of professionalism expected of every Ilokano writer.

These write-ups and open letters he made public contain defamatory and maligning statements against a number of Ilokano writers. His acts of defaming and maligning others have not only been willful but have been done in cahoots with other writers, many of whom hiding behind anonymous names.

Even after the leadership of GUMIL Filipinas has clarified in several instances that the statements of Ricarte Agnes are baseless and injurious to the integrity and honor of the writers he has been besmirching, he continued with his usual tactic of maligning and defaming; he never took into account the facts laid out by the GUMIL Filipinas but instead twisted his information to suit his purpose of sustaining his act of willfully defaming and maligning other writers.

As concerned Ilokano writers, we are committed to truth and justice and fairness.

As concerned Ilokano writers, we are alarmed by this impunity of a writer like Ricarte Agnes.

As concerned Ilokano writers, we are reminded that this imprudent act of a writer like Ricarte Agnes is not only irresponsible but also tactless and lacking in good taste.

As concerned Ilokano writers, we are committed to the fundamental respect we accord to our fellow writers and to protecting their integrity and honor.

This is the very reason why we find it unconscionable, why we find it unforgivable, and why we find it unkind and inconsiderate that we permit Ricarte Agnes to continue with this kind of an antic that is meant only to put down his fellow writers.

Such an antic is not only immoral but also immature—qualities of action and mind that have no place in responsible Ilokano writing.

Never has there been an episode in the history of Ilokano writing that an unethical conduct such as of Ricarte Agnes' has happened.

Because of the continued silence of many of the Ilokano writers, these appalling actions of this Ricarte Agnes have continued unchecked.

This is the reason why with this petition, we are breaking the silence that has gripped Ilokano writing for so long and which silence writers like Ricarte Agnes has exploited to the hilt to advance his self-serving and narrow interests.

As writers committed to justice and truth, and committed as well to the protection and respect of the dignity and honor of our fellow writers, we hereby request that Ricarte Agnes be meted out with the disciplinary action commensurate with his unethical conduct as a writer.

We ask that decent and self-respecting Ilokano writers declare Ricarte Agnes persona non grata of the Ilokano writing community.

And since he is a member of GUMIL Filipinas and many of us affixing our signature to this petition are also members of GUMIL Filipinas, we ask that this organization declare him persona non grata as well.

We find this disciplinary action not only fair but just even as we continue to check on other Ilokano writers who abuse their calling and work as writers.

To prove that we endorse this petition, we hereby affix our signature below.

THE CONCERNED ILOKANO WRITERS

Sincerely,

[The Undersigned](#)