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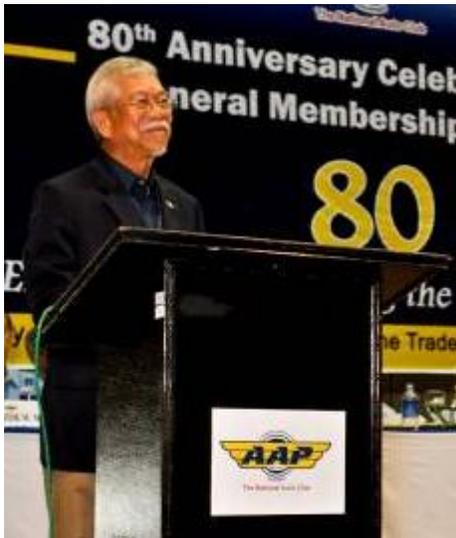
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AAP President Gus Lagman opens the plenary session of the 80th General Membership Meeting.

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) celebrated its 80th Anniversary and held its 80th general membership meeting last month at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) in Pasay City with the theme “80 Years of Serving the Motoring Public.” The PTTC was chosen as the venue of AAP’s 80th anniversary festivities as it has ample space for a banquet, an awards dinner and a car show. AAP organized a Concours d’Elegance, an exhibit of prized collector cars, on May 7 followed by the annual general membership meeting and the Philippine Motorsport Awards Night on May 9.

A total of 27 vintage and classic cars were displayed during the exhibit. Eight more cars; a Ford Model A (1930s), a Buick Eight (1940s), Ford Fairlane (1950’s), Volkswagen Beetle (1960s), Toyota Corona (1970s,) Mitsubishi Lancer (1980s), Nissan Sentra and Toyota Corolla (1990s) and Honda Civic (2000s) were placed in the lobby of the PTTC to represent the eight decades of AAP’s history from 1931 to 2011. The Chevrolet Cruze, winner of the 2010-2011 Philippine Car of the Year Award and COTY category winners were also displayed.

The Concours concluded with the distribution of awards to the owners of the most outstanding vehicles on display. Car tuner Boy Ochoa, Business Mirror motoring editor Popong Andolong and vintage car collector Cito Beltran formed the panel of judges and chose the winners on the following criteria; cleanliness, paint, interior, exterior and presentation. AAP Motorsport Committee chairman Mandy Eduque and AAP Government and Liaison Committee chairman David Arcenas presented the awards to the winners during the AAP Motorsport Awards Night.

Some 300 AAP members attended the 80th general membership meeting together with government officials such as Skyway O & M Corporation (SOMCO) Vice-President for Operations Ed Nepomuceno, Tollways Association of the Philippines (TAP) President Ramon

Borromeo, Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) Executive Director Alberto Suansing and Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Undersecretary Dante Velasco who was also the guest speaker.

Upon registration, AAP members were invited to sign the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 pledge and were given the Decade of Action tag, an AAP 80th anniversary pin, copies of AQ, AAP's quarterly magazine and a kit. The tag bears the Wear, Believe, Act slogan and was to be distributed in 100 countries on May 11, the date of the global launching of the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

AAP president Augusto Lagman called to order the plenary session and presented the highlights of the 2010 annual report. This was followed by an open forum where AAP members aired their concerns and suggestions to the AAP Board of Directors. The election of the Board of Directors for the year 2011-2012 was announced afterwards. All incumbent directors were re-elected together with a new director, Joe Ferreria, who succeeds the late General Angel Kanapi.

To commemorate its 80 years of service to motorists, AAP gave recognition to its loyal members by awarding them with Lifetime Memberships. The award entitles those whose age and number of years of AAP membership equal 100 to continued membership free from the payment of annual membership dues for the rest of their lives. The Lifetime Membership awardees are Dr. Alice D. Benedicto, Juanito L. Benedicto, Arturo H. Hidalgo, Edgar Khron Jr., Candelaria S. Gruet, Amado A. Castro, Jorge M. Paterno, Rolando Garcia and Renato Ira.

The event ended with the much-awaited raffle draw. An Apple iPad, Acer laptop computer, Zest Air round trip tickets to Boracay and Bohol, cellular phones, home appliances, and gift certificates were given to the lucky winners of raffle draw. Norman Alexis T. Laurel, who has been a member for 11 years, won the Apple iPad grand prize.



AAP Treasurer Jacinto Mantaring, AAP Director and Tourism Committee Chair Mina Gabor, AAP Vice President Johnny Angeles and AAP Motorsport Committee Chair Mandy Eduque at the ribbon cutting ceremony on the first day of AAP's 80th anniversary festivities.



DOTC Undersecretary Dante Velasco shows off the pledge he signed not to use a cell phone while driving.



The Decade of Action for Road Safety pledge was offered to AAP members for signing.

AAP launches the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 in the Philippines

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), as the chair of the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) spearheaded the official launching of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 on May 11, 2011 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle and Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters in the Philippines.



Tyrell Duncan of ADB Action Plan, AAP President Gus Lagman, WHO Country Representative Dr. Soe-Nyunt-U and DOTC Secretary Jose de Jesus (left to right, seated) listen to ADB VP for Finance and Administration Dr. Bindu Lohani (standing).

The Decade of Action was initiated by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and approved as a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 with the objective of cutting the number of road crashes globally and thereby save millions of lives from 2011 to 2020. It was launched on May 11, 2011 in 100 countries via media-oriented "rolling events" that began in the East and

travelled to the West in each of the world's 24 time zones.

Supported by various government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations that are members of the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership, the Decade of Action was launched with a series of activities in Manila. President Benigno S. Aquino III signed Presidential Proclamation No. 159 calling for support and adherence to the road safety initiatives of the Decade of Action. At the morning launching ceremony at the ADB, Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson read the presidential proclamation in the presence of Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose de Jesus, Rep. Roger Mercado, chairman of the House road safety committee, World Health Organization representative in the Philippines Dr. Soe Neunt-U, and AAP president Augusto Lagman.

In the afternoon, the road safety park exhibit at the Quezon Memorial Circle was opened followed by games and road safety lessons and the distribution of the Road Safety Tag to those who signed the Decade of Action Road Safety Pledge. The yellow diamond-shaped tag symbolizes the fight against the suffering, grief and injustice caused by road crashes. Endorsed by celebrities such as Leah Salonga, who is also the Goodwill Ambassador of the UN Food and

Agriculture Organization and Congressman and eight-division world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, the tag is expected to become a globally recognized icon, similar to the red ribbon associated with AIDS/HIV awareness.



Members of various public transport and motorcycle groups sign the tarpaulin depicting the Decade of Action for Road Safety tag.



At the Quezon Memorial Circle, PGRSP Executive Director Bert Suansing (2nd from the right) leads the Decade of Action for Road Safety parade, together with Pilipinas Shell Manager Boy Isidro (leftmost), Cynthia Reyes of AAP and Sustainable Development Manager Ronald Suarez .

AAP honors motorsport champions

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) honored the stars of six motorsport disciplines and 13 Karting class champions at the 16th Annual Motorsport Awards on May 9, 2011 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City after AAP's 80th anniversary celebration.

AAP President Augusto Lagman and AAP Motorsport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque presented trophies to the 2010 Driver of the Year for touring Joey Pery, karter Stefano Marcelo, drag racer Anthony Go, hillclimb champion Carlos Anton, slalom champion Patrick Mendiola, and 4X4 off-roader Harry Taring.

AAP also honored veteran race drivers and car manufacturers for supporting and promoting Philippine motorsport. Dante Silverio and the late Eddie Marcelo received AAP Hall of Fame awards for their many years of participation in auto racing. Marcelo's son John accepted the posthumous award. Meanwhile, Ford Group Philippines, Aeromed Ambulance Transport, and The Covenant Car Company, Inc (Chevrolet) received Plaques of Appreciation for their valuable support to the Philippine Production Car Championship (PPCC) Series. Menchie Ramirez, the widow of race driver Kookie Ramirez accepted a Plaque of Recognition on his behalf. During his lifetime, Kookie Ramirez was a formidable competitor in circuit racing and well-known for his dedicated to motorsport.

Awards were also given to the Class champions of the 2010 National Karting series, 2010 Asian Karting Open Championship (AKOC) and class champions from the 2010 PTCC and PPCC series, both of which are organized and promoted by the national auto club.

The evening's festivities ended with the Concept One Race of Champions Award. Tyson Sy took the top spot, followed by Georges Ramirez as 1st runner-up and Ivan Isada as 2nd runner-up. Kevin Limjoco claimed the Media Challenge championship trophy with Beeboy Bargas as 1st runner up and Ardie Lopez as 2nd runner up.

AAP as the only Philippine member of the Federation Internationale de' l Automobile (FIA), the Paris-based body that governs four-wheel motorsport worldwide, is the only auto club

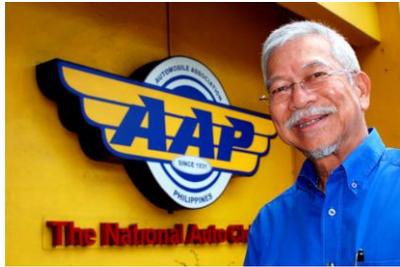
in the country authorized to sanction and organize motorsport events and issue competition licenses.



AAP President Gus Lagman (leftmost) with the 2010 Driver of the Year Awardees: Carlos Anton for hill climb, Stefano Marcelo for karting, Patrick Mendiola for slalom, Joey Perry for touring, and Harry Taring for 4 x 4 off road. Sammy Liuson of Concept One (2nd from the right) and AAP Motorsport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque (rightmost) presented the awards.

Making Motoring Fun: Suspend the “No Plate, No Travel” Policy

by Gus Lagman, AAP President



The National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTAF) implemented a nationwide crackdown on motor vehicles with no license plates. The NAKTAF Chief said that the “No Plate, No Travel” policy curbs criminality, particularly robbery and kidnap for ransom cases, since most criminals use stolen vehicles. The suspects remove the license plate to prevent being traced through the Land Transportation Office (LTO) registration records.

In Metro Manila, the law enforcers set up checkpoints at strategic locations and flagged down vehicles with no license plates, unauthorized plates, expired plates, and/or expired conduction stickers or fabricated plates. This was done to verify whether the vehicle in question was used in a crime. Vehicles without license plates were apprehended and impounded.

However, the “No plate, no travel” policy ended up impounding newly-purchased vehicles that had conduction stickers only because the new car buyers were waiting for the release of their license plates. The law stipulates that conduction stickers are valid for only seven working days after a new vehicle has been released to the buyer by the car dealer. Most new car buyers have to keep on using their conduction stickers for two or three months after purchase because of the delay in the release of new license plates by the LTO. This happens even though new car buyers pay promptly for their certificates for new LTO registration

The LTO blames the delay on car buyers who insist on certain number or letter combinations for their license plates. If such plates are not available, the LTO says, naturally they have to wait until the plates are made. On the other hand, some buyers who don’t request for specific number combinations still experience a delay in the issuance of their license plates.

The backlog at the LTO upsets new vehicle owners who complain, that they become the helpless prey of extorting policemen and law enforcers. My attention was brought anew to this problem by an AAP member who also wrote to the presidents of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) and the Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (AVID) about it.

AAP believes that car owners should not be made to suffer the consequences of the LTO’s failure to release their license plates on time. Why is it that new car buyers are forced to wait months on end for their license plates while at cities and ports outside the National Capital Region known to be the centers of car smuggling, license plates are readily available?

The LTO's motor vehicle license plate manufacturing and releasing procedure should undergo a thorough review with the cooperation of the Bureau of Customs. In the meantime, the Highway Patrol Group and other Philippine National Police (PNP) agents should stop enforcing the "No plate, no travel" policy. Perhaps, instead of conduction stickers, the LTO can go back to the practice of issuing dealer plates to car dealers. The latter, in turn, will give them to new car buyers to use while their regular license plates are being processed. Once the regular license plates are released, the new car owner is obliged to return the dealer plates to the dealer.

AAP welcomes new board member



JOE Ferreria

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) welcomes the newly elected member of the Board of Directors, Augustus J. V. Ferreria.

Joe Ferreria assumed the Membership Services and Marketing Committee which was previously chaired by Director David Arcenas. With the death of retired General Angel Kanapi, \ Arcenas assumed the chairmanship of the Government Liaison Committee. Arcenas will also represent AAP' in the Road Board vice AAP President Lagman, who was recently appointed a Commissioner of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Appointive government officials are not allowed to occupy more than one position in the government.

Director Ferreria began his career as a business writer in The Times Journal, a daily newspaper of Philippine Journalists Inc. He spent four years with Ayala Life Assurance Inc. as National Sales Director (2000 - 2004) and another four years as Chief Marketing Officer and Senior Executive Vice President of Generali Pilipinas. Earlier this year he was appointed a Business Consultant to AXA Life Philippines. With his vast experience in the insurance industry and in marketing, AAP believes that Ferreria will be instrumental in accelerating the organization's growth in the years ahead.

Through the guidance of its board of directors and the support of its members, AAP continues to live by its objectives, serving Filipino motorists and championing their interests.