



# Tumbleweeds



The official publication of the Tumbleweeds Viber Groups of the UP Los Baños Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority, College, Laguna, Philippines



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## TUMBLEWEEDS NEWSLETTER ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

by Leo Balagot '69a

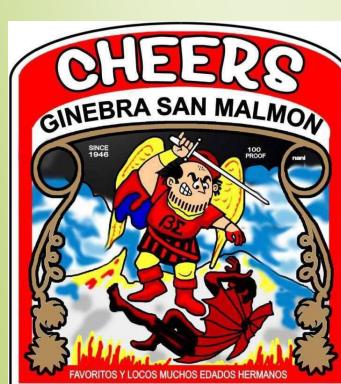
The Pandemic is not totally catastrophic in the sense that it gave us the environment to embark in new projects. Firstly, the situation encouraged us to revive the Betan Newsletter and secondly, gave us the opportunity to pursue a greater meaningful project- the Foundation Site Legacy Project.

With the drive to create, a distinct character trait of every Betan, ideas proliferated in my mind to produce something fruitful at the height of the pandemic and the result was the Tumbleweeds Newsletter which today is one year old.

Playing with my laptop to spend my idle time during this pandemic period, I produced a design that is now the template of our Tumbleweeds Newsletter.

Immediately, I sought volunteers and created the editorial team from among the brods and sisters who themselves are writers in the past in our Newsletters

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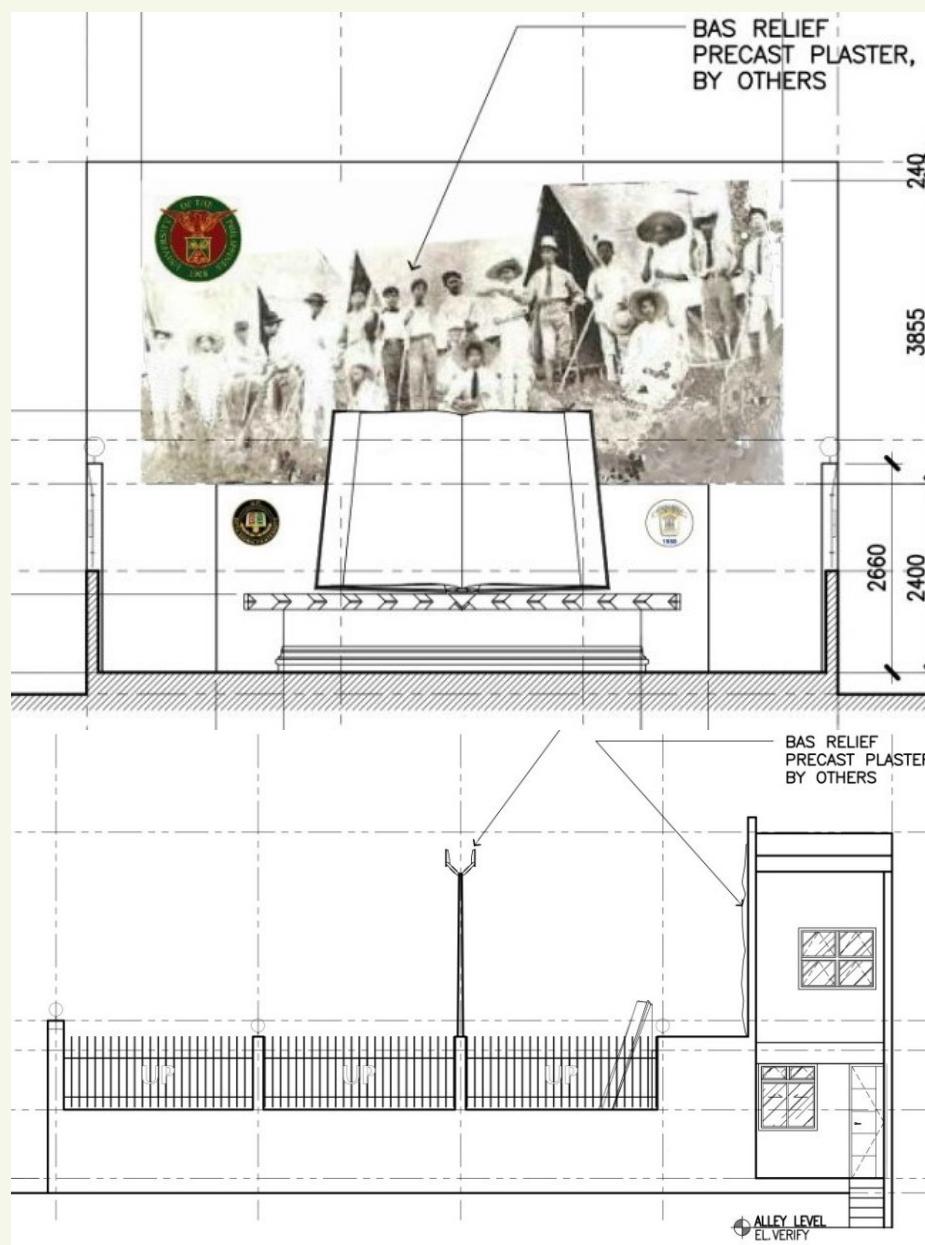
**NEWSLETTER ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

during their residency years. In a very short period of time we were able to publish the maiden issue of the Tumbleweeds Newsletter in April 1, 2021.

At the onset of this project, there was a problem of how the editorial team can work together so the Zoom Platform was the immediate solution. Every Sunday the team met to discuss the content of the newsletter but eventually, this weekly Sunday Zoom meetings (aka Tambayan) gave birth to a much bigger project- the monumental Foundation Site Legacy Project.

Enthusiasm grew for this new legacy project with unprecedented scale and to this date we were able to solicit funds from the brods and sisters worldwide the staggering amount of Php3M+.

Construction will soon commence and the Municipal government of Los Baños will provide the heavy equipment to demolish the old concrete structures and the plan is to rededicate the renovated site on Loyalty Day 2022.



New Design Concepts: Above– Stage view; Below– Side view showing CCTV Room and Security Quarters

## EDITORIAL

by Tony Frio '60

This Volume VII of our Tumbleweeds Newsletter marks our first anniversary as an online platform. It has kept the brods and the sisters more aware of each other after their college years. We see that this newsletter's founding and circulation in the internet has rekindled and strengthened the bond that has held us together as brothers and sisters of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority.

As we surf every morning we now have these members happily greeting us:

-Brod Toto Sarroza keeps tab of brods' birthdays and starts the day with wonderful birthday greetings, Wednesday prayers for the sick and those who passed away, and a GBUA and "Halong kita tanan" reminders.

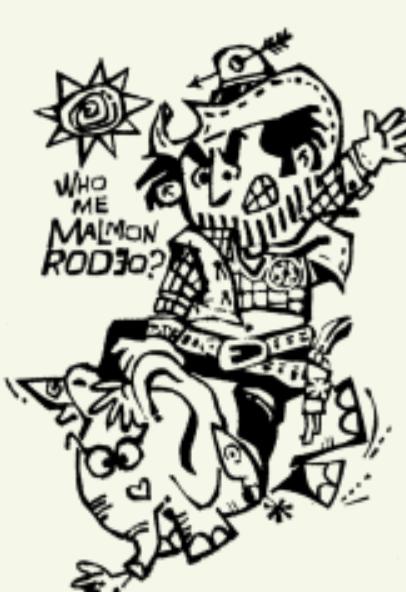
-Brod Kiko Reyes with his daily prayers, exhortations and blessings for the brods.

The brods' response to calls for financial assistance to brods who were infected with Covid 19 and to those suffering from other health issues.

Some brods who continue to ask for whereabouts of missing brods and who also provide information on those who seem to be missing from the Betan radar.

We can say that the best thing that this Newsletter has done for us is our response to the UPLB college of agriculture foundation marker. It has struck our heartstrings as Betans and as alumni

of the colleges of agriculture and forestry. To date we have a total pledged donations of P3,151,862 and a paid up collection of P2,731,862. Plans are afoot to start construction of the foundation marker, architectural and engineering designs are being reviewed and once these are finalized, an MOU for the project between UPLB and the frat and sorority will be signed.



## Technical Tip



### For cellphone users...

Rotate your phone to landscape position for a better view of the contents of this Newsletter.

## SIGMA BETA 90TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Weblink Credit: *Inquirer.net* Feb 11, 2022

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1550849/up-sigma-beta-sorority-turns-90>

MANILA, Philippines - The UP Sigma Beta, the first sorority organized in the University of the Philippines (UP) and in the Philippines, celebrates its 90th founding anniversary on Feb. 14.

"We are older than the women's suffrage movement in the Philippines. Our founding sisters started the sorority at a time when women were not even allowed to vote," said Fe Cruz-Tantiansu who serves as senior adviser of the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association Inc.

The UP Sigma Beta has various socio-civic commemorative activities lined up for the year in all UP campuses.

To celebrate its 90th anniversary, the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association will hold an anniversary dinner and Induction ceremony on March 17, 2022 at Club Filipino.

The 90th Grand Orchid Ball will be held at Okada Manila on Dec. 6, 2022.

For Sigma Betans in North America, you may contact Dr. Editha Orlino-Oliva (530-5243888).

For more information, please email: [upsbsaa@gmail.com](mailto:upsbsaa@gmail.com).

### EDITORIAL STAFF

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Maan Botengan, Tony Frio (ex-officio)

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## SIGMA BETA 90TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

*The UP Sigma Beta Sorority celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last February 14, 1922.*

**Special Reprint:** This article **Celebrating the First 80 Years (now 90 years)… Courage and Beauty, Wisdom and Grace** is reprinted from *UP Sigma Beta Sorority Celebrating the First 80 Years*, February 2012....By Desi Fermin-Tomas '69

### ***The Beginning***

On that fateful Tuesday afternoon on February 1, 1932, amidst flowers, seesaws and slides at the gardens of the Florida Dormitory, twelve University lady students, each unique in her own way – divergent in their choices (in fashion and interests), each with her own talent and beauty – but united by a common bond of friendship and service, got together to lay the foundation of what was to become the UP Sigma Beta Sorority.

Liwayway Gonzales, the host of the afternoon gathering, was joined by Pacita Pestano, Medin Garcia, Rosalinda Claudio, Nelly Burgos, Consuelo Salazar, Elvira Bocobo, Purificacion Sunico, Serafina Vinzons, Virginia Araullo, Remedios Trinidad and Filipinas Salvosa. These ladies who swore that from then on, they would be known as *Betans*, aimed to be (and became) an exclusive sorority composed of lady students with beauty, talent, charm, integrity, and interesting personalities.

They immediately buckled down to work to make their presence felt within the campus – participating heavily in campus activities and socio/civic projects. Recognizing their potential and the great role that they could have in the campus, on February 14, 1932, the University formally recognized the UP Sigma Beta Sorority as a duly constituted student organization.

As recalled by one of the founders, the late Consuelo Salazar-Perez, they tried hard to adhere to the sorority's preamble extolling beauty of character through value formation. According to her, the formation of the sorority was premised on the thought that "one's place and worth in society was to be earned, not given as a birthright as some rich girls thought". To be invited to the sorority was a great honor because one had to excel in one's discipline and must exhibit academic and civic leadership, she proudly added.

Pages of the *Philippinensis* and the *Philippine Collegian* immortalize the UP Sigma Beta Sorority as an active member of the UP Community, spearheading and leading various campus activities, socio/civic endeavors and cultural projects.

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## **SIGMA BETA 90TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY FEBRUARY 14, 2022**



### ***The Chapters***

As other campuses of the University of the Philippines were established, the sorority grew as well with the founding of chapters in each campus. The Sigma Beta Sorority in UP Los Baños was established on August 15, 1955, while the sorority's chapters in UP Visayas and UP Mindanao were organized on February 3, 1997 and October 26, 1997, respectively. The UP Baguio welcomed the UP Sigma Beta Sorority on September 11, 2004.

### ***The Alumnae Foundation***

For two sisters, graduation from the university need not mean complete separation from each other. Fired by a strong desire to reconnect and have the sisters reconnect with each other to be able to continue the sorority's noble aim to play an active role in the UP Community, Sisters Fina Dacasin-Parilla and Lucille Usison-Torres put their resources together to make a fond dream (not only theirs but other sisters' as well) finally come true.

With the support of sisters who enthusiastically responded, the dream hatched way back mid-80s became a reality as the UP Sigma Beta Alumnae Association was formalized in 1993. It was later incorporated as a foundation – the UP Sigma Beta Alumnae Foundation, Inc.

The succeeding years would see sisters from all batches meeting up not just to enjoy each other's company but more importantly to undertake projects that would keep the sorority's presence in the University felt, and to make a difference, no matter how slight, in the society we live in – donations of equipment, refurbishing/maintaining a library and reading centers, scholarship programs, supporting livelihood projects, and undertaking welfare and assistance projects.

### ***Looking to the Future***

As we celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> (now 90<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary, we remember the past – its glory and splendor – and we look forward to the future armed with courage and beauty of the heart, wisdom and grace from our Lord above, whose love and faithfulness made all the glory and splendor possible.

## THE UP SIGMA BETA SORORITY @ 90

by Abigail Reposo-Zurita '79

With the theme “Celebrating the Past, Inspiring the Future,” our beloved sorority, the UP Sigma Beta Sorority, celebrates its 90 years of existence and legacy with several activities lined up for 2022. “Cheers,” an annual gift giving event usually held in the first month of the year targeting select hospitals and beneficiaries in Metro Manila, is planned to be held across the UP chapters throughout the year. The first of the series took place on March 10, 2022 as part of the “World Kidney Day.” Dialysis patients of the Fe del Mundo Medical Center were the recipients of the “Cheers” comfort kits.

A simple anniversary dinner was held at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan City, Metro Manila, on March 17, 2022. The induction of officers and board of directors of the alumnae association and also the officers of the UP Sigma Beta Sorority, Los Banos Chapter, took place during the said event.

A set of guidelines for the scholarship program is scheduled to be released soon. The program aims to give support to cash-strapped UP students by providing for their semestral stipend. A series of webinars tackling women’s rights, gender and development and other issues of relevance to students, is also being planned to be conducted across UP campuses.

The culminating activity will be the holding of the Grand Orchid Ball on December 6, 2022 at the Okada Manila Entertainment City in Manila. Sorority sisters from all over the country and the world are expected to come together to celebrate and renew the ties that bind the beloved sisterhood.

### Sigma Beta Merchandise for pre-order



**SIGMA BETA JACKET**  
available in S, M, L  
PHP 1000.00  
(Free shipping  
nationwide  
+ free face mask)



**SIGMA BETA NECKLACE**  
PHP 899.00  
(Free shipping  
nationwide)



**ΣΒ UP Sigma Beta  
Sorority, 1932**  
8 in



**EB Car Stickers - PHP 99.00**

**EB Face Mask - PHP 150.00**

For more details, contact our FB page - UP Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños Chapter or contact Princess Reyes on Facebook. You may also reach us at 09166941840 / 09083112926.

## **TOYM and TOWN AWARD**

by Freddy Fajardo '64a

The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award in the Philippines formerly known as the The Outstanding Young Filipinos (TOYF) from 1996 to 1999, is an annual national recognition awarded to Filipinos between 18 and 40 years of age who have made significant contributions to their community in their field of expertise. The award is organized by the Junior Chamber International Philippines and co-sponsored by the TOYM Foundation, and the Gerry Roxas Foundation.

JCI Philippines, the chapter of the Junior Chamber International or the Jaycees in the Philippines established The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awards on October 15, 1959 during the group's 11<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Baguio. In 1984, JCI Philippines started giving women the recognition. From 1996 to 1999, the recognition was known as "The Outstanding Young Filipinos" (TOYF) award. The name was reverted to "The Outstanding Young Men" but women remained eligible for the award with the JCI contending that the word "men" does not "distinguish the difference in gender".

The basis and major consideration for election of a TOYM award is a nominee's exceptional achievement or contribution of considerable significance and importance in the service to his countrymen, community, and or his country and his profession, in the spirit of selfless giving in the interest of youth and nation building.

Year	Name/Batch	Chapter	Field
1960	Jose R. Deanon, Jr. '50	UPLB	Science
1962	Jose V. Abueva '50	UPD	Political Science
1964	Orlando J. Sacay '51	UPLB	Economics
	Ibarra S. Santos '52	UPLB	Technology
1965	Juanito L. Ordoveza '52	UPLB	Agriculture
1967	Feliciano B. Calora '52	UPLB	Entomology
1970	Renato M. Labadan '53	UPLB	Agricultural Science
1971	Mario M. Labadan '54	UPLB	Poultry Nutrition
1973	Joseph C. Madamba '52	UPLB	Animal Science
1977	Horacio R. Morales, Jr. '60	UPD	Public Administration
	Edgardo C. Quisumbing '56	UPLB	Agriculture
1978	Teodoro C. Rey '62	UPD	Rural Development
1984	Eufemio T. Rasco, Jr. '67	UPLB	Agriculture
1987	Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr. '72	UPLB	Forest Conservation
1996	Ramon JP. Paje '77	UPLB	Government Service

## **TOWN AWARD – Aurora G. del Rosario**



## **LORETO "ETO" OLIVA and the BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

by Ed Quisumbing '56

Loreto "Eto" Oliva, is a brother that deserves a special place in the annals of the U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity. He and I were part of the largest intake of wide eyed-students to enroll at the U.P. College of Agriculture in 1955. We joined the fraternity in 1956 as members of the Cream of the Crop batch. I graduated in 1959 while Eto decided to pursue 4 more years of education, graduating in 1963 with enough years that could have earned him a PhD degree. All through college, he was a happy go lucky student picking and choosing courses that he found interesting. I guess he found a lot of interesting subjects that's why it took him additional time to graduate. He was a very popular brod during "friendly confrontations" with rival organizations and fraternities. He was also feared as the "enforcer" of the U.P. Varsity basketball team during UAAP tournaments.

After graduation, he joined a USAID rural development project in Vietnam as an agricultural extension officer. During home leave every two years, he returned to the Philippines to visit Edith Orlino, a 15-year old lass he saw atop a guava tree while attending a fiesta celebration in the province. I don't know what Eto saw when he looked up the guava tree but it must have been something he could not forget. Unfortunately, that young lady was determined to become a doctor so she had no plans to fall in love and get distracted from her goal. Eto, however would not be deterred. His sincerity and persistence over nine years, not to mention his amazing dancing skills (this is according to Edith) eventually won Edith over. Eto also promised Edith's parents that he would support her in every way to realize her ambition to be a doctor. Edith and Eto got married 8 months later. So in the final years of medical school and during the period to prepare for the medical board exams, Eto dropped everything, took care of their newly born baby and managed their household so Edith can focus on finishing medical school and passing the board exams.

The family decided to immigrate to the United States so Edith can complete her internship and residency there. After completing both, Edith decided to go into private practice in Redding, California. When her practice started to grow, Edith requested Eto to resign from his office job and join the practice as the clinic's office administrator. This resulted in a complimentary arrangement that supported Edith's practice to expand and grow much larger and faster.

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**LORETO “ETO” OLIVA by Ed Quisumbing ‘56**

During the 1980s, more and more Betans began to settle in the Pacific Northwest. The majority were from U.P., the rest from other colleges. Brods in northern California organized the U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity.

North (UP North) with Louie Caballuna, Eric Punzalan and Eto Oliva as the first 3 GPs. At this time U.P. North was officially registered as a non-profit organization and continues as such, to date. During Eto's term as GP, he allowed brods who were not from UP to join UP North. While some brods questioned this move, they respected Eto so much that they kept silent and went along with him. The consequence of this decision was that many brothers outside of UP who became members of UP North also became eligible to vote during elections. This resulted in the election of Eking Agana, over Fred Aquino to succeed brod Eto. After brod Fred succeeded brod Iking as GP, he decided to address the issue of voting rights. It was eventually agreed that with regard to who are eligible to vote in the election of UP North officers, the constitution and by-laws (CBL) is clear that only members from UP were eligible.

One year after the formation of UP North, the U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity of Southern California (UP South) was organized in Los Angeles. This chapter quickly prospered and grew, and for many years thrived as a well ran organization. However, in recent years it has experienced turbulent times and a crisis of leadership. Some members have decided to transfer their membership to UP North. Fortunately, the situation appears to have been satisfactorily resolved after a serious period of internal introspection. The chapter is now viable again although its membership has suffered. I am confident that new leadership is now in place well on its way to bring back UP South to its former glory.

By this time, brods from other colleges had grown in number and decided to form a separate chapter – the Beta Sigma Fraternity of Northern California (NorCal) in the San Francisco Bay Area. Many also felt that there was no reason to remain as members of UP North if they had no voting rights. This decision was timely and resulted in the welcome growth of the fraternity. It is worth mentioning that the three chapters remain cordial and their members are welcome participants to social functions of the other chapter. After all, they are separate but - one Beta Sigma Fraternity.

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**LORETO “ETO” OLIVA by Ed Quisumbing ‘56**



Brod Eto

During the 1980's, brod Horacio "Boy" Morales and some other brods saw the potential of the Beta Sigma Fraternity, which now had thousands of members all over the Philippines and abroad, of playing a major role in national politics and make a significant contribution in national development. They had a vision of the fraternity expanding its activities beyond the traditional confines of college campuses and being proactive in promoting the programs that will improve the overall welfare of the Filipino people. They felt that this role could be best achieved by a unified, Beta Sigma Fraternity, organized under one national leadership umbrella.

It was during this time that brods abroad, coming from other chapters outside UP decided to form the Beta Sigma Fraternity of Northern California. This chapter spearheaded the organization of the Federation of Beta Sigma Fraternity in Northern America. Its members comprise Beta Sigma chapters from the USA and Canada. Currently it has 12 member-chapters, including UP South. The Federation election is hosted by the Beta Sigma Chapter of Canada every two years.

In 2001, UP brods in California formed the U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity International, Inc. (UPBSFII). The objective is to coordinate activities of UP betans and provide a website where brods can exchange ideas, and keep in touch with one another. UPBSFII comprise UP betans from the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world, including the Philippines, Australia, and the Middle East. Currently, brod Jaime Gonzalvo serves as GP.

In the Philippines, a national organization of the Beta Sigma Fraternity has been established with a Governing Council comprising the following members; i) National Assembly whose members are the geographic assemblies, e.g. CDO Assembly, Cebu Assembly, etc..., ii) U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity Central, comprising members from all UP campuses, iii) Beta Sigma Federation of North America, and iv) Beta Phil, the national organization of resident chapters, as a non-voting member. The GP of the Governing Council rotates among the GPs of the three voting members.

### THE WITTY PRESIDENT:

The late Zimbabwe ex-President ROBERT MUGABE (1924-2019) will be remembered for his great wit and his colourful language.



- 1) "When your clothes are made of cassava leaves, you don't take a goat as a friend."
- 2) "If you are ugly, you are ugly. Stop talking about inner beauty because men don't walk around with X-ray machines to see inner beauty."
- 3) "When one's goat gets missing, the aroma of a neighbour's soup gets suspicious."
- 4) "Treat every part of your towel nicely because the part that wipes your buttocks today will wipe your face tomorrow."
- 5) "Sometimes you look back at girls you spent money on, rather than send it to your mom, and you realise witchcraft is real."
- 6) "If President Barack Obama wants me to allow marriage for same-sex couples in my country (Zimbabwe), he must come here so that I marry him first."
- 7) "Cigarette is a pinch of tobacco rolled in a piece of paper with fire on one end and a fool on the other end."
- 8- Interviewer: "Mr President, when are you bidding the people of Zimbabwe farewell?"  
Robert Mugabe: "Where are they going?"
- 9) Racism will never end as long as white cars are still using black tires; If people still use black color for bad luck and white for peace; If people still wear white clothes to weddings and black clothes to funerals; As long as those who don't pay their bills are blacklisted and not 'whitelisted'... But I don't care as long as I still use the white tissue paper to wipe my ass! With that only, I will always be very fine.
- 10) No African girl will choose six pack over six cars.. So stop going to the gym and go to work!
- 11) "How do you convince the upcoming generations that education is the key to success when we are surrounded by poor

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**JOKES**

graduates and rich criminals?"

12) If Adam & Eve were Chinese we would have been in paradise because they would have ignored the apple and eaten the snake.



13) A person can love you and still cheat, just like we love God and still sin.

14) It's better to sit in a bar thinking about God than to sit in a church thinking about beer.

15) Being kissed does not mean you are loved, ask Jesus about Judas.

