

Are ghosts really haunting Malacañang?

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Malacañan Palace (Courtesy www.gov.ph)

MALACAÑANG Palace, with its grandiose structure, is believed to house not only the country's highest top official but also many supernatural forces.

Spine-tingling eerie stories – unwelcome presence of dead presidents and other elements – still dogged Malacañang Palace to date.

At least one of the Palace's current employees, Beldad Gantalo, could attest to the spooky tales in the President's official residence.

Working in Malacañang Palace for about 38 years now, Gantalo recounted sensing odd feeling and seeing a headless priest in Kalayaan Hall.

“When I was still in the office of Kalayaan [Hall], the candlestick was floating even though no one was touching it. Of course, you'd get scared. Then, the current of the wind would cause the curtain fly and there was the headless priest clad in white,” he told Sun.Star.

The Palace had been the residence of Spanish and American when it was built in 1750. It has then become the residence of Philippine presidents, with President Manuel Quezon being the first Filipino resident.

According to an article posted on the Malacañang website, the ghosts of former Presidents Quezon, Manuel Roxas and Ramon Magsaysay reportedly lurk in the Palace.

It also shared that the ghosts of children, World War II victims and an American chaplain allegedly killed by Japanese soldiers during the war who was known as “Father Brown” were said to be seen in the Palace’s premises.

The Palace is believed to have been used by the Japanese Army as its headquarters during the World War II.

A cigar-chomping kapre is also reportedly living in the famous haunted balete tree near the Palace’s state entrance.

These "ghosts" were the reasons why President Rodrigo Duterte initially declined to live in Malacañang Palace.

“I don’t want to sleep there [in the Presidential Palace],” the 71-year-old chief executive earlier said. “All ghosts in the Philippines are there. They are walking and having a conference there. They can live there if they want since we’re on a past tense. They’re still there and sometimes, they’ll hold a conference. Well, let them.”

But the incumbent president had no choice but to live there because of his hectic schedule.

‘Hurried footsteps, playful child in press office’

Not only the President’s office is haunted by several ghosts but also the press working area, where reporters covering the President are writing their stories.

Gantalao said that in the New Executive Building (NEB)--where the press office is located--is also a home of different ghosts.

He recounted that at the aftermath of a typhoon that hit the country in October 2013, he saw a floating, headless man wearing a brown soutane at the rear of the press office named “bat cave.”

Gantalao believed that the ghost moved in to the office because the balete tree had fallen due to the typhoon.

“I saw a headless man in the bat cave. I felt like I’m going to fall down because that was the first time I saw a ghost. My feeling at that time is I was pushed to topple, could hardly breathe, and had a goose bump,” Gantalao said.

“He was floating in the air that’s why I was really scared at that time. I was in tears because of fear,” he added.

Gantalao said a ghost of a child also loves to run and play in the NEB’s lobby every midnight.

He added that the elevator in the NEB will open as if someone – even though no one is there and only hurried footsteps are heard – would enter.

Gantalo said there are also times that you would feel the cold breeze of the wind, indicating that a ghost passes through your way. (**Sunnex**)

Ref.: <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/feature/2016/11/01/are-ghosts-really-haunting-malacanang-506758>

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