



Straight from Adolfo "Ado" Paglinawan

(Former Press Officer - Philippine Embassy, Washington, D.C)

Another moro-moro: GMA's 4th impeachment probe

WASHINGTON, D.C. Nov. 22 (PinoyGlobal) - Since filing, this impeachment case has long been dead in the water, with Matt Defensor as chairman of the committee.

His son, Mike, the former congressman before him, has been included by Linda Olaguer Montayre in her book *A Nation Unborn* as one with whom Gloria Arroyo has had a dalliance with. Who knows, Mike could still be one of the presidential boyfriends? So obviously, Matt went for his own economic solution rather than be a party pooper. His whole family is well taken care of financially by the godfather because they make the godmother happy, politically or otherwise.

I have known Matt since the late 60s when he began working with Malacanang. I hope I am not making an impression here that he is a monster. Far from that, he can be a best friend, but I can't just trust his politics. In fact this could have been his chance to move on the Senate, if he were less greedy and more patriotic, yet he knows that he is not really that politically viable. So he would decide to cash in while ahead.

It took his son Mike and then his daughter Maite, to first get elected to congress representing the third district of Quezon City (Cubao area) and establish a name recall before he could run and be elected himself when his son was recruited by Gloria to join her cabinet. Matt ran many times on his own before that and lost each time.

On record, his daughter Maite was one of the recipients of fertilizer funds from JocJoc Bolante, but in fairness to her, she has denied receiving any money from the former agriculture undersecretary. I have not bothered to investigate, but who in his right mind will even receive fertilizer funds for Cubao? Correct me if I am wrong but outside of pots, there is hardly any arable land in Quezon City's financial district.

Matt has to kill the impeachment motion at committee level because it would be more expensive for the First Kotong if this gets to the full House. Pro-administration congressmen are of course unhappy because that prevents another round of brown envelopes with cash in it freely circulating the halls of Congress. In a very real sense, Matt would nip the president's problem at its bud before it can cause another financial conflagration for the first gentleman.

But for the opposition and the disgruntled ones, this might just be the last opportunity to get rid of the most corrupt and incompetent president the country has ever had. With a fierce public opinion against the president still circulating, it is another national disappointment that it is farthest from becoming a touchdown.

So prove me wrong, but my gutfeel says Gloria will only exit Malacanang horizontally.

The only deterrent is that she has also emasculated the military and the police that are now in the tank with her when they are supposed to be the protector of the people. She has made many generals retire in great wealth, or assume plum positions in her government. Angie Reyes is in energy, Len Mendoza is in transportation and communication, Eddie Ermita is presidential spokesman, and of course Hermie Esperon is running circles with the Moros faking peace negotiations, and it will be too lengthy to run an inventory of generals in the sub-cabinet levels and those that have been given franchises by their mistahs. Collectively, these generals, her court cabinet, corrupt congressmen and hungry senators have enabled the toughest organized mafia to run our country.

Marcos used fear factor, Gloria unleashed the ugly power of money. Both kept power for a while

but were only successful in impoverishing the nation. We are now the 5th hungriest country in the world with 40% of our population experiencing hunger, yes hunger and not just poverty. What makes it an irony is Arroyo has not stopped fleecing government funds, farthest from feeding the nation but culling a war chest precisely to bribe the powerful and the rich just to survive politically.

Kawawa naman talaga ang Pinoy. The only safe place to experience equal opportunity is abroad. just like Jose Rizal, our forgotten national hero, we excel in exile but sort-of face execution when we come home to our motherland. It has not really been different since 1569, when Miguel Lopez de Legazpi hit Manila, except for the fact that this time the despots are no longer foreigners. #

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From: "Dcgrava@aol.com" <Dcgrava@aol.com>
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fwopinions@yahoogroups.com
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Arroyo allies go for the kill
House panel quickly junks 3 more impeach raps
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
Philippine Daily Inquirer
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MANILA, Philippines—The House committee on justice Wednesday cleared the way for formal deliberations on the fourth impeachment case against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in three years after quickly dismissing a motion for intervention and two other complaints.

Voting 35-4, the committee threw out after lengthy and heated debates a move by a group of bloggers headed by columnist Manuel Quezon III to strengthen the main complaint filed by businessman Jose “Joey” de Venecia III. The bloggers wanted to include as a ground for impeachment the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which the Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional last month. De Venecia said that by moving to get rid of his complaint quickly, the House wanted to focus on amending the Constitution to extend Ms Arroyo’s term, which expires in 2010.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/nation/view/20081120-173223/Arroyo-allies-go-for-the-kill>