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### ONE MAN'S VIEW

By Nonoy Mendoza

*What a joke! The 23 Philippine Senators elected to serve the Filipino people are quiet in the western front on the lavish US lobby deal worth \$50M - renewable in six months !*

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 29 (PGON) - *Pinoy Global Online News*, a global Filipino web site serving the global Filipinos, including in the Philippines, is calling loud and clear once again the attentions of the 23 Philippine elected senators elected to serve the Filipino people.

Except for Senator Mar Roxas who was branded as a propagandist for his presidential bid in 2010 elections as soon as he exposed the \$50M lobbyists contract, the rest of the Philippine senators are quiet and pretended knowing nothing of such happenings. Even the Senate President, Manny Villar, is refutedly not making any noise for what is obviously an insult to the Filipinos, and to him (Villar) personally..... \$50 million US dollars for a six months contract with option for renewal!

A laughing matter is the reactions of the Philippine Embassy's usual "chochowa" - not many since some of them are friends... who reacted like chickens who reacted like.... yes, chickens.

A few hours after the *Pinoy Global Online News (PGON)* blanketed the globe about the \$50M lobbyists contract, the Washington, D.C Philippine Embassy's web site that carried the news items earlier, and was reported to a Manila daily, disappeared with no one knowing where news item can be found. Lock. Stock. And barrel. All gone. Fil-Am media people who picked up the PGON news items, when they called the Philippine Embassy, they were informed that news was not correct. In the following evening in a Filipino evening "Simbang Gabi" mass held at a church in Virginia, a Philippine "consul" flatly stated that the news was not accurate, and that

the figure was "only \$500,000 not \$5M as reported by PGON". The poor guy did not even realized what he was trying to cover up was already acknowledged by Malacanang Palace as true. Malacanang Palace was even stating: "What's wrong with lobbying?"

For \$50M, the lobbyists, Covington and Burlin, LLP, a top US lobby group, were tasked to "promote the interests of the Republic of the Philippines with the US Congress and the US Government on a range of political, economic, and security issues and other tasks. The "PR-ly" penned contract with a six months renewal at the option of the appointing Head of the Procuring Entity, referring to Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa.

"Poor, innocent, Ambassador Willy C. Gaa. He is very "innocente guid, naman siya. " Ambassador was the same gentleman that almost lost his shirt in the Foreign Affairs when he was ordered by a superior to issue a Philippine passport to Danding Conjuangco against the order of then RP President Cory Aquino who did not want Cojuangco to go back to the Philippines," recalled a former RP Embassy employee on condition of anonymity.

Obviously, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has no confidence in any of the 23 elected Philippine Senators for being able to do the PR tasks as outlined in the agreement of the \$50M deal. For why would anyone in her/his right mind throw away and giveaway, TWO BILLION, ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS to a public relations lobbyists for a six months job which is not guaranteed ..... unless someone is looking for a jail time for bribery. #