



PRESS RELEASE

ONE MAN'S VIEW

By Nonoy Mendoza

For the 23 Elected Philippine Senators serving the Filipino people.... what are you going to do with the lavish US lobby deal worth \$50M in six months?

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 25 (PGON) - *Pinoy Global Online News*, a global Filipino web site serving the global Filipinos, including in the Philippines, is calling the attentions of the 23 Philippine elected senators now serving the Filipinos.

What does each Senator, including those senators close to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is doing concerning the now publicly known \$50M for US lobbyists in six months with renewable contract?

The global Filipinos need an explanation -- *NOW*. Not within a week from the 23 Philippine Senators. Their reactions as the elected representatives of the Filipinos are mandatory. This will give the Filipino people who voted them in as Philippine Senator whether they deserve the job, or they were just successful in "greasing" the votes that elected them into the office. The Filipino people, specially those of us living abroad, depend on the 23 Philippine Senators to be the vigilant guardians of the Filipino people, and at least, explain their stand on the issue.

Malacanang Palace Chief presidential legal counsel Sergio Apostol said that "there's nothing wrong with the hiring of a lobby group to push the interest of the Filipino people in Washington, adding that Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who was the first to raise a howl over the deal, was only making "an issue over it to get media mileage on his president in ambition in 2010."

Millions of Filipinos are suffering tremendously and are having difficulties of meeting their daily obligations. Yet the Arroyo Administration is willing to spend \$50 million US dollars, equivalent to TWO BILLION, ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS, renewable in six months for lobbying tasks, I am sure, could be handled by the Filipinos in the Philippines.... if not by the 23 Philippine Senators themselves! I am positive the tasks can be tackled by Pinoys.... *Just for the record, I am not interested.*

The Arroyo Administration, through undoubtedly the advise of Arroyo's Blundering Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Alberto Romulo, who still clings for his position in spite of being criticize as a "palpak" secretary, and has time and again proven to be President Arroyo's "pangdamay" and should have been replaced by seasoned diplomat, not by another political appointee --- has a major part in the \$50M US lobbyist episode - another chance for Romulo to be AMBOY.

The PGON - *Pinoy Global Online News* - which mainstains email addresses, is calling on all major 87 Philippine governors, countless Philippine City Mayors, at least 100 Philippine diplomats and heads, countless Philippine Congress people, global Filipino media people, and various Filipino global community leaders ---- to send email (filamimage@aol.com), and to give us their comments on the scandalous \$50M US lobby. #