



## *Razor's Edge*

By  
**Joe Mari Mercader**  
*Executive Editor*  
FILIPINO TIMES  
*New York-New Jersey*

**NEW YORK, August 04 (PinoyGlobal) -** The other day I was beside myself for a variety of reasons. One is the peddled rumor that Malacanang treats former President Fidel V. Ramos with kid gloves. I am entirely dismayed because Fidel cannot be a paragon of virtue or that integrity is his currency. With his own presidential tenure under fire for corruption too - for all we know he is as crooked as the tail of a pig, so why treat him with ultimate deference? Truth to tell he is no better than Pres. Arroyo who has been branded as the most corrupt president in Asia.

Condescending to FVR even though the latter lustily impugns Pres. Arroyo's honesty is the height of masochism. This does not make heads or tails unless the non-combative lady president is afflicted with the halitosis of cowardice proving that the innuendoes of Fidel are unassailably true. Seemingly his most gratifying passion is being GMA's worst nightmare. To him it is a race between obsession and catastrophe.

FVR is the last to deserve such respect when the same accusing finger he points at Gloria can be pointing at him too. The debris of issues about his corrupt administration and his unaccounted huge Centennial Celebration fund are but the tip of the iceberg of his checkered administration.

He must really have poor regard for his constituents to presume their memory is so warped that they forgot he sold historic Fort Bonifacio, in Paranaque, as hurriedly as Mandrake the Magician make things disappear before his spellbound audience. What he did was classic example of a chief of state's bankrupt sense for the historic value of said fort, and could only be explained by a deluge of kickbacks. Albeit this venality has not been established as a fact. But still the transaction is shrouded with dubious speculations.

This is why after his administration he turned into a political acrobat always flipping to the side of the ruling president to prevent exhuming the buried skeletons of his corrupt presidency. Filipinos have yet to hear how he spent the billions during his incumbency as president. Indeed, why should he enjoy immunity from making an accounting to them? Could it be his military clout as former chief of staff and Secretary of National Defense is being used to cover anybody toying with the notion of tinkering on his tenant status in Malacanang a few years back? If you ask me he doesn't have a moderate modicum of delicadeza!

The Palace's resignation of absorbing his insulting remarks about the SONA and other matters alien to good taste is unequivocal sign of guilt of her corruption. There is simply no reason to fear fighting her detractor - old man (Fidel) who tenaciously lives in the past. The final sign is when the Palace did not counterpunch when he concluded in a press interview in front of diplomats with the ominous message that she (Gloria) will not finish her term and that she cannot avoid prosecution through immunity. Was he bringing up the conviction of Erap to intimidate GMA with the same tart fate? not improbable knowing FVR's Machiavellian mind, more so because he envies and hates both. This probability is expected, but only if money will not spare her from writhing in agony in prison. But we know that justice can be bought in our country. Even political enemies take bribes and look away.

I have no special love for the lady president whom I consistently criticize for corruption. But I cannot also stop being contentious against people like

**Fidel Ramos who exploits the frailty of a puny little lady to exhibit his machismo.**

**Look at the man castigating Pres. Gloria Arroyo for corruption when he is Mr. Corruption himself. But that is old debris against him. What is exceedingly disgusting and puking, to boot, is his temerity of publicly declaring she will be prosecuted soon after she steps down as president.**

**I am “kilig” to the bone with this categorical forecast. Is he plotting a massive coup and after deposing her hang Gloria for corruption without the legal system impartially grinding in court? Only someone who heads the revolt could speak unequivocally about an event that portends of bloodshed. On this premise alone, the administration, or better yet the military should take action against him because his remarks betray such a plot or in the least, for instigating an uprising via oblique remarks. In either case he should be held liable because a coup is a serious crime.**

**What if anybody says the things Fidel said in front of diplomats and businessmen that the end is near for GMA and after ignominiously yanking her out in a coup hang her, do you think the government should treat that circus barker with kid gloves? Definitely, not! Surely, he will be railroaded to prison**

**and the key thrown in Pasig River. Then why is FVR not even warned to be prudent with his language about the President, especially in front of foreign dignitaries? What do we have here compartmentalized legal system where the elite can get away with murder and the common man is slit in the throat for the same violation? I don't think a travesty of this magnitude should be sanctioned in our legal system. The law is harsh but the law is the law and it should be observed to the hilt regardless of the people involved even if they are has-beens in public office.**

**Talking of honesty, how honest is a man who betrays his own benefactor, in this case, the late Dictator Marcos? FVR rolled all over his cousin's dictatorship enjoying benefits and high positions in the military, and who knows how much of his wealth came from his association with the late Marcos. If he is a man of integrity why did he exhaust his cousin's influence to be extended to the abnormal 13 times until we stopped counting many more extensions he had as chief of staff of the armed forces, leaving it only when he became persona non grata to his cousin Marcos and had no choice but join the people power of 1986 clearly not because of principles. More importantly how much did he make when he became president through corruption?#**