



## Razor's Edge

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### Impossible Dream: GMA Quits

**NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (PinoyGlobal) -**Since 1993 10 prime ministers of Japan have resigned without being pushed between the wall and the sword by the aggrieved citizens. Motto propio they did it giving premium to national welfare before personal and or political interest. The latest is Yasuo Fukuda who is barely a year in office. He resigned a few days ago. I might say he followed the example of his predecessor Shinzo Abe who was only one year prime minister when he stepped down after feeling inadequate to the daily challenges besetting his high office.

Most of Japan's prime ministers stepped down on the issue of scandal-tainted government. To paraphrase Bill Clinton, does this not sound familiar to us? To a Japanese leader country comes first before party. The underpinning reason behind Japan's crisis in leadership is because the economy is on the verge of falling apart if it is not prone on its face already. The nationalistic fervor of the prime ministers would get the best of them and they would resign rather than see the nation turned to pieces with hunger stalking the country.

This nobility finds no parallelism in our leaders who are obsessed with personal and political interests that preempt the country's welfare. And this is no hyperbole. The never-ending violent feuds between opposition and majority party leaders plus the scandals of corruption in the gamut of bureaucracies dominating the news relieves me of the responsibility of proving my assertions.

How much nationalism prevails in the hearts of Filipino politicians that move them to resign their influential positions in the government, I would say it hinges on zero level. Beginning with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who magnifies the obvious by vigorously warding off demands for her to step down because of the rampant

scandals in her administration confirms that our corrupt officials would rather die in office than relinquish it. Her tenacity of ignoring public clamor for her to leave and save the nation, is asking for the moon. She will govern if she has to by foul means, but step down – never!

Every presidential hopeful harboring the burning desire to replace her hope Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) will just bow out to give way for a freewheeling presidential derby in the coming national election less than two years from now. But I have serious misgivings if she will. From the looks of things that is an impossible dream. For one who is desperate to cling to power for fear of being railroaded to prison once she is no longer president, GMA will kick, claw or bite, to hung on till she breathes her last.

Gloria will legalize her being president for life if she has to chop the Constitution to smithereens. She would rather suffer public opprobrium doing all that than serve a life sentence for plunder. The president who will succeed her may not be as magnanimous as she was to her predecessor Pre. Joseph Erap Estrada.

Take your pick People Initiative or Charter change (Cha cha), which is the same dog with a different collar. Gloria will make her move from either prism. She **might change our political set up to a novel form of government to make it sound benign. But parliamentary, presidential or federal, they will just be deodorized government to cover up her deplorable rule. I have no special love for the opposition whom I believe is the same brand of politicians in the opposite side of the fence. But Gloria's removal either by people power or election is to impact the message never to trifle with the fountain of all laws (constitution), to which all citizens swear undying allegiance.**

If on a president's caprice he/she can just discard the fundamental law and remain in office until death by natural causes or old age catches up on him, we might just admit our country is authentic banana republic no better than a fledgling island inhabited by the likes of Conan the barbarian.

With the example of the prime ministers of Japan, we hope, Pres. Arroyo and her minions of appointees will respect the people's mantra for her to resign before weighing down the Philippines economically. For that matter the country already turned turtle ten times over under GMA and many more times under Corry, Ramos and Erap.

So much for that. On the boxing front the dream bout has finally been inked. Oscar de la Hoya and Manny Pacman Pacquiao will square it out in December 6. Oscar is the favorite at 8-6. De la Hoya's edge is his experience and height standing at 5' 10. Pacman is 5' 6 1/2. Golden Boy – Oscar de la Hoya has 5 championship titles on his ledger. Our pinoy champion is not out classed: he too has 5 championships on different categories and reigns on all of them today.

What irritates me about de la Hoya, as I am with our kababayans with swellheads, is that he is so cocky as if he is impregnable as a boxer. He thinks he is the living example of Adonis with the golden voice of Pat Boone when he sounds like a squeaking coloratura soprano or a cockroach being circumcised with an ax. He may be, but does he have to flaunt it to the annoyance of people who want to see a hero who is humble? He acts as if he can just flatten Pacman with a finger like Popeye does to Brutus after gulping a can of spinach, so much so that the long list of Mexican and Hispanic boxers whom Pacquiao put to sleep in the ring and bloodied their faces, cut their eyes and broke their noses, are

beside themselves ecstatic that Oscar will break the chain of jinx of Mexican boxers falling in the path of Manny Pacquiao like Autumn leaves.

Juan Marquez in particular, who is a dead ringer for Stan Laurel (Oliver Hardy's sidekick comedian), was seen smiling widely behind Oscar during the announcement of the bout looking like a gay in heat cheering for his idol. They all forget that Manny has also a brilliant record as a boxer and who is currently reigning on 5 different categories, which is a class unmatched in the annals of history even by world boxing standard - pound for pound. I suppose he did not come to them by kissing his opponents. They should give him the credit that he too can pull spectacular surprises in the ring. Knocking down the ancient pugilist Oscar is not far-fetched. De la Hoya has not slept in the ring for some time now, he needs that rest and Manny is just to adversary to accommodate him.

Oscar pray that you will not kiss the crushing left hook and straight jab of Manny Pacquiao in the ring because if you do your image as a great fighter will be seriously deflated along with your ego. Marquez, the poor sport vindictive twice loser to Pacquiao, should not smile widely with his protruding teeth until the fight is over. He might just die disappointed.

Manny, stay in the boxing ring not in the political area. You are great as a boxer but a babe to the wiles of politics where everybody takes advantage of you – including Pres. Arroyo. Na intendihan mo iyan? Salamat.#

Ed's note. If you miss getting a copy of Filipino Times, which is devoured by readers, go to [www.filamimage.com](http://www.filamimage.com) in the Internet and you can read Razor's Edge. Thanks.