



Razor's Edge

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Coming Soon: The Crowning Of Queen Gloria I

NEWYORK, Sept. 16 (PinoyGlobal) - At long last the puppets of President Arroyo in Congress have pulled the rabbit from the tall hat. Headed by Speaker Prospero Nograles congressmen are finalizing their sordid intention to revive the Charter change (Cha cha) to crown Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Queen Gloria I for life. Through resolution #737, or magic wand if you will, the principal author of which is Speaker Nograles, Gloria's ascension to the mystical throne has become a probability. The loaded resolution would obviate the rigamarole of endless electoral processes by crowning Madam Arroyo queen for life, no questions ask.

Even the Senate will be stonewalled from nitpicking and hairsplitting on the so-called merits and demerits of their sordid intentions because the senators will be sequestered by three-fourths votes of the congressmen to proceed without them. If approved the resolution would really pull the curtains down on theatrical elections and bring in the eternal repose of our democratic government.

And that would spell the end of democracy in the Philippines. Let us not kid ourselves, we are on that direction unless Nograles et al in Congress is stymied before they obliterate our democratic presidential system and transform it into a monarchy or into an authoritarian government. This can happen if we the people have become pathetic masochists as to allow the minions of Nograles to divest us of our inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and renounce our right to freely express ourselves without fear of reprisal enshrined in our Constitution's Bill of Rights.

I hasten to say that this can be achieved not without a costly price. This gross abuse of power is an

explosive issue. The people may not take it sitting down anymore they could erupt into violent defiance. And this is very likely. While man is wolf to man – reason can also bring him back to his senses and fight for what is decent, fair and just.

Take it from former Speaker Joe De Venecia who is now singing freely like a mortified mockingbird. His favorite song is about the Charter change, which he confirms was crafted for the sole benefit of GMA. "Cha-cha", he says, was conceived "to allow Mrs. Arroyo to stay in office beyond 2010 either as president or prime minister under a parliamentary system of government." Oddly enough, I solemnly believe him, although, his declaration is valueless because the ugly deception was obvious to the people even then, only they were full of trepidation to defy. Early on during his conjugal dictatorship with GMA the citizenry caught up quickly on the scheme to mangle the Constitution for their selfish political end. Let me put it bluntly, Juan de la Cruz read their wiles lustfully as he does pornographic magazine.

For whatever JDV's sour grapping is worth, it nevertheless serves as a guidepost for our people as to what is being brewed in Congress or if GMA will eventually be crowned Queen Gloria I for life by the House leadership.

This unseemly plot will be initiated by Speaker Prospero Nograles who got the message to comply with his commitment to amend the Constitution when the speakership was delivered to him by Pres. Arroyo in a silver platter months ago but has hibernated on his part of the bargain this long. The attempt to oust him two weeks ago was wake up call because it was spearheaded by no less

than Congressman Louie Villafuerte, a diehard tuta of Mrs. Arroyo. It was to jolt him to initiate the passage of the Charter change bill, which he kept in a suspended animation or hiatus since he elbowed JDV out of the speakers' chair early this year, and if I may repeat with the help of Pres. Arroyo who mobilized her puppets in the House for him.

Nograles is now brandishing resolution 737 like a berserk "huramintado", which proposes to amend Sections 2 and 3 of Article 12 of the Constitution. This is not the same as people's initiative that through the jargon of the verbose bill precluded Senate participation in the deliberations of the proposed Cha cha bill. It was argued then that if the "House could obtain a three-fourths vote of all House members before we can propose amendments to the Charter", then the measure could be approved without Senate participation. Fortunately, that attempt (people's initiative) was foiled in the bud. In fact, the Supreme Court did not mince words when it called the proposed measure a "grand deception" and a "gigantic fraud." Will it do the same if the Nograles bill is brought to the Supreme Court for consideration?

Speaker Nograles is so cocksure his insidious amendment will fly even in the highest court of the land that he dares all and sundry to take the House proposed Charter change to the Supreme Court for judicial scrutiny if it is in divergence with the Constitution. Why is he so full of bravo now? could it be because some SC justices would be inclined for the administration having been appointed by Pres. Arroyo lately? Just asking.

In any case, he was frivolously ambiguous or evasive when he was asked if his resolution would be sent to the Senate. He matter-of-factly said: "We need three-fourths vote of all House members before we can propose amendments to the Charter." But precisely that is the focal issue, the determining factor that will stonewall the Senate from participating in the amendment process and therefore its passage is in the bag because those three-fourths of Congress' consists of the tutas of GMA and they

are even more. So whom is he kidding? The bill will be approved not because of its merits but by dint of numbers.

Majority Floor Leader Arthur Defensor was brutally frank when he said the Nograles resolution "May or may not be sent to the Senate." "What we intend to do is that before we vote on the measure, we would invite senators to have a joint session with us specifically to consider this proposed amendment. And since senators have been refusing to sit down with us unless and until the issues of meeting and voting jointly or separately are resolved, some congressmen may opt to bring this matter to the Supreme Court," he concluded.

Countrymen, do we still need a picture to decipher where they are going and what is meant by the House leadership's insistence to do it alone without Senate cooperation? Getting the signatures of three-fourths of all members of the House in the resolution he introduced is a cinch. He can have it gratis et amore because the baton of Malacanang hangs on the heads of Gloria's tutas there. I can say this without fear of successful contradiction that resolution #737, which seeks to amend the Charter provision restricting foreign ownerships of land, is but a veneer to inject provisions that could breathe life into GMA's dying days as president. The resolution will surely be approved roughshod any objection from anybody, including the Senate.

So friends, ladies and gentlemen, henceforth prepare yourselves to be called subjects of Queen Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo I. Forget democracy. That would be a fiction after Nograles gets away with his convoluted, sordid mangling of the Charter. Then you can sing to your hearts' content, "Bye bye happiness, hello loneliness" until you croak. Or adopt Sinatra's farewell song: "And now the end is near," except that the difference is that the Ides' March coming for our democracy is already knocking at our doors.

Long live the Queen!

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