



Razor's Edge

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Ominous Scheme

"..... that Pres. Arroyo is implacably obsessed with power and will go to extremes to perpetuate as president...."

NEW YORK, N.Y., Feb. 22 (PinoyGlobal) - If the rumored scenario allegedly being crafted by the First Gentleman and former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco is not a ploy to dispel the suspicion that Pres. Arroyo is implacably obsessed with power and will go to extremes to perpetuate as president, then possibly she might yet step down in 2010, to the great relief of our sick nation.

What is really holding GMA from respecting the presidential term limit - that has caused a lot of speculation, dissention and angst among constituents - is the fear of inheriting the pungent fate that befell her predecessor, Joseph Erap Estrada, who languished years in prison for plunder.

Of course, Erap's plight is debatable. Being confined in a paradise-like estate in Tanay, Laguna, with no serious concept of deprivation except for the presence of guards, is no prison by any definition. So what is tormenting Gloria that she has to commit more crimes rather than relinquish presidential powers? Her seeming mortal fear of being jailed after her term is an unacceptable rationale because her apparent plan would be a brazen usurpation of the presidency - on a permanent basis, to boot.

Candidly, I would be ecstatic to be in Erap's situation for that is precisely my idea of a perfect retirement: peace and tranquility with no monthly house amortization to meet, no cellular, electric and gas bills to pay. And in the absence of those infernal bills, still I have the luxury of being guarded while I dream of women in bikinis, wow I love that.

But alas, fantasies only exist in a widower's fertile mind.

Under the auspices of that much bruted about formula allegedly initiated by the most unlikely bedfellows (First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Danding Cojuangco), the handlers of Senators Chiz Escudero and Loren Legarda are mulling over the scheme of launching the senators' presidential team, while keeping the public blind to the plot putting the appearance that they are earnest candidates against the president's token candidate. But the quid pro quo is for the Arroyos to be untouched when she returns to civilian life. It goes without saying their corporate monopolies will also be immune from government scrutiny and prosecution for palpable anomalies.

In plain language, the senators have to discard their principles for the accommodation of being financed by Malacanang that expectedly would exhaust all the sinister resources at its beck and call, including using the government to make them win. In short they must be "tutas" (puppies or robots) of the High Priestess, Madam Arroyo.

To a certain extent the unholy arrangement would unmask them (Escudero and Legarda) as pseudo-champions of the people as they portrayed themselves to be when they would vigorously expose the corrupt Arroyo administration. The oppressed citizenry mistakenly regarded their theatrics as fearless fight against wrongdoings in the government. But this unwholesome arrangement of becoming Gloria's penguins in Malacanang after her, speaks in no uncertain terms of the nation's bankruptcy of sincere leaders who will really establish a transparent government. That

illusion has puffed out in smoke.

Analogously speaking, the First Gentleman and Danding Cojuangco are wolves in human form for having practically cornered the basic needs of the masses, to wit - water, electricity and gas, not to mention banks and other sensitive businesses. That's the reason why they desperately merged forces to put up the Escudero-Legarda tandem to protect their monopoly of those basic necessities that victimizes the poor. It is the impoverished masses that are mercilessly strangulated by these unscrupulous moguls who capriciously hike the prices for the basic necessities enumerated above. If Juan de la Cruz still wants that kind of cruelty it is his funeral.

If Senators Escudero and Legarda believe they are the darlings of Juan de la Cruz, then why encourage Malacanang to underwrite their candidacies in exchange for being her marionettes in office? The fact alone that this is a tacit condition sine qua non they have to agree with, should tell of GMA's guilt of running a despicably graft-ridden government, for how else would she have amassed such a huge war chest? That should put them on guard against becoming unwitting tools of the wicked wiles, machinations and manipulations that have characterized her leadership.

Meanwhile, Sen. Manny Villar Jr., who is a formidable candidate for president, stood tall amidst the blizzard of malicious innuendoes and accusations grossly unrelated with the truth orchestrated by Malacanang. GMA's people expected that by harassing him - Manny would be liable to commit blunders that would jeopardize his political career. But he is unfazed, propelled by the cause of the humble Filipino. His empathy for the poor is born from his modest beginnings working in the market as a humble hand. By this token he is the most credible authentic lover of the masses who could empathize and resonate with their plight as well as their aspirations.

Manny's virtues are his strongest points in his quest for the presidency. He has his own money to spend without selling his soul to Danding or Mike Arroyo. Villar can harness honest teammates preferably Sen. Antonio Trillanes Jr. who is also a man of unwavering principles and integrity, which has endeared him with the masses. Like Villar, Trillanes is unarguably a sweetheart of the masses. The electorate seems sober enough to know that the chance to clean the government with a new broom is now, and the two are the new hope for a clean and honest government. They personify - CHANGE!

Therefore, a Villar-Trillanes tandem would be the strongest by far. No amount of extravagant hype by their opponents could undermine the great chances of a Villar-Trillanes team next year. This is the team that symbolizes the fight of Crusaders against infidels. Ruling out frauds, rigging and the usual machinations that Ms. Arroyo and her cohorts are wont to engage in, her political requiem is audible even now, way ahead of 2010 touchdown.

The rest is now in the hands of the electorate - for as Thomas Jefferson said in the Declaration of Independence: "Government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed," which means only the people can truly decide their own fate and destiny. That power rests solely in their conscience.

It would be plain rationalization for our people to say that they were helpless against the military and so they voted for Arroyo's puppet successor. This charade is totally unacceptable. Cory Aquino—a fragile housewife and widow - carried the torch that incinerated to ashes Marcos' dictatorship. Rallying behind her, our people daringly defied the ruthless soldiers and tanks of the late Gen. Fabian Ver, and won. Why can we not replicate that same courage and fight for the fortunes of generations yet to come? Posterity deserves a better destiny, which we recklessly squandered when we became pusillanimous with our individual rights.

We will prevail. We can remove GMA's graft-ridden administration through our ballots. We can do this by repudiating any presidential candidate of sponsored by Mike Arroyo and Danding Cojuangco, for they will only perpetuate tyranny, oppression, corruption and monopoly of the basic necessities that strike hard on the poor people.

It would be sheer madness if the two senators (Escudero and Legarda) would allow themselves to be used by someone so disgraced by graft and corruption as Madam Arroyo.

If corruption in the government persists with Mike and Danding breathing on the necks of Chiz and Loren after GMA exits, Ninoy Aquino will turn in his grave and parody Patrick Henry, "Give my people liberty or give them death, just spare them from Escudero and Legarda!"

It is however, our firm belief, based on the track record of Sen. Manny Villar, that he would be a good and humane president, and one who can clean up the government of scoundrels and scalawags.#