



# Razor's Edge

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## *GMA's Leave Order To Prosecutors Is Stillborn*

**NEW YORK, N.Y. Jan. 15 (PinoyGlobal)** - The slings and arrows flying between the *Department of Justice (DOJ)* and the *Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)* has compelled Pres. Arroyo to issue the halt order for those involved "to go on leave." This kettle calling the pot black battle started from the dropping of the drug pushing case involving children of social elite families in the now infamous case of the so-called "*Alabang Boys*." Reportedly, the PDEA has been drumming up rumors of P50-million bribe money being the reason for this gross travesty of justice. The innuendoes are just too obviously alluding to the DOJ prosecutors as the bribe takers who conveniently used the flimsy excuse of "insufficiency of evidence" to drop the "airtight" case. On the other hand, the prosecutors accused PDEA operatives as being mediocre for filing a defective case.

Does not the Arroyo administration have less unpalatable theatrics to deflect public attention to the worsening economic and political situation in the country that has been exacerbated by wanton corruption in all departments of the government, including the military and police, than to advertise that Philippine justice is auctioned to rich criminals and that its intelligence officers are incompetent, mediocre, bungling eager beavers?

According to the report filed by PDEA to DOJ, two of the social elite kids (from Alabang) were caught on the verge of selling drugs to a PDEA agent. A third one was arrested in his home away from the notorious venue of the drug pushers. The evidence against the last suspect to fall was obtained without a search warrant and it was not during the sting operation in Alabang but in the latter's house in Quezon City. On this crucial flaw hinged the

bone of contention upon which "technical defect" the prosecutors as well as the defense panel anchored their bitter feuding on the "technical defect" on how the evidence was obtained.

In a layman's point of view, the presidential order to go on leave was stillborn precisely because of the constellation of reasons that made the case defective in the eyes of the law. People say the order is just a ploy for the embattled Gloria to deflect public attention to her malignant governance that is plagued with all sorts of problems ranging from notorious deals, political unrest and many more issues for which reason she is toying with the notion of amending the fundamental law to linger in office till she will be in a stretcher because of old age, over a hundred. This scheme could very well culminate into a reality if she really hammers on Congress to amend the Constitution before the scheduled elections - regardless of the repercussions to the peace and tranquility of the nation.

If the amendment happens then she will be available for a second term next time the poll precincts open and that will not be long to wait. Given her machinations and cunning to outwit the nation and penchant to mangle the Constitution for her political expediences, it is highly probable she could outlive many more mandates without meaningful resistance, either from the people or the badly divided puny opposition.

On the surface the presidential order looks plausible because both the PDEA that initiated the sting to catch the untouchable scions of rich families with strong connections in the Arroyo government, and the Justice prosecutors, are locked in a tug of war. And this embarrassment is a no-no to the president who keenly

ogles for another term and thereafter to be in power until her last breath. This irritant conflict has in no uncertain terms stigmatized both offices with corruption and incompetence. Therefore, whatever they do is disgusting to the people. Their legalese verbiage looks good in form but integrity and efficiency-wise the stinking enchilada is anemic and even impotent.

Clearly, it is a no-win situation for the already beleaguered president who herself is perceived as embroiled in corruption issues too. Pontificating with this “go on leave” order does not become her anymore. Not while the justice system of the government has been placed in the unsavory perspective that it auctions “justice” to contentious parties involved in a criminal case, in the process indicting her governance as graft-ridden. Truth to tell the issue of corruption against her administration has become a cliché, a nauseating redundancy that the mention of it leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

Note that Pres. Arroyo is desperate to push through with the Charter change and has lost all sense of delicadeza. Mobilizing her minions in Congress to float the possible impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Ricardo Justice Puno, whom she feels is not in her wavelength on the Constituent Assembly (Con-ass), is the last straw. The scheme could assume the proportion of blackmail.

Without Justice Puno overseeing the highest tribunal of the land, the court of last resort against oppression and injustice, what is to foil her sinister perpetuity?

If this materializes she will usurp her seat of power without a hassle (a diabolical scheme by any yardstick). Blatant as this may seem her success on

removing roadblocks to her uninterrupted presidency is not far-fetched. Indeed, there is a possibility the blackmail of Puno by Congress, for whatever convoluted reasons might fly yet. Puno could be impeached by the tyranny of numbers in the House. Once this is accomplished, there is no stopping her: she could proceed to appoint justices to the Supreme Court, including a chief justice belonging to her cabal of sycophants. People believe the new batch will do her dirty job despite public contempt, as Rasputin brazenly played the role of manipulator on Alexandra, the doomed Empress of Russia, at the turn of the twentieth-century.

This “tempest in a tea cup” between DOJ and PDEA boils down to a flurry of innuendoes about P50-million pesos in bribe money changing hands for dropping the “cause celebre” case, is a very serious crime. It is doubly so because they are government prosecutors. In self-defense, the prosecutors in turn accuse PDEA of filing technically flawed cases that could not stand in court. Notwithstanding this, they say that out of 45 cases filed by PDEA that they prosecuted, only three were dropped. Meaning their batting average is par excellence. Maybe so, but what does that make of this battle of name-calling, a farce, and the government a Tower of Babel? What about Gloria’s stillborn order for them to go on leave, is it a deodorant for her malodorous governance too, or a ploy to distract the public from the real issue that in the Arroyo administration - MONEY TALKS?

Countrymen, you be the judge. I rest my case.

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