



Razor's Edge

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Drug Lord Anthony Ang Flew From Cuckoo's Nest Via P50-M Bribe

"The president and her underlings should stop the puking drama of feigning exasperation over Ang slipping out of the country in broad daylight with every investigating agency guarding him, because that pretension is "lumang tugtugin na" (old tune already). This overacting is simply bizarre! Truly, there's more than meets the eye about why the bird flew from the cuckoo's nest."

NEW YORK, NY March 24 (PinoyGlobal) - The O.A.(overacting)concern of public officials to Pres. Arroyo's mercurial outbursts when something goes wrong in their sphere of responsibility makes one feel like throwing up. We know damn well they are numb even to exposes about their wanton larcenous shenanigans, why should they be unsettled with the puny ire of a lame-duck president who may not even be around long enough to punish them?

Last week Mrs. Arroyo was fuming mad over the alleged "escape" or disappearance of drug lord Anthony Ang who reportedly smuggled "700 kilos of shabu at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority", and exited the country by greasing officials to look the other way, according to cynics. For all we know she was just putting up a show with all the trappings of a circus barker because right in her own backyard her Cabinet members are inept and dishonest, to say the least.

Assuming Ang bribed his way out of the country and not just hiding under the very noses of the authorities, why should it shock GMA? This is not our policemen's debut to crime. Besides, since when has Gloria become super sensitive to scandals when her Cabinet members are often dragged to court like common criminals or investigated in Congress for corruption? The irony of it all is that the investigators themselves do not really have unfettered access to integrity - the nerve of them to assume a sanctimonious air when collectively they parented the cesspool of

corruption in the Arroyo government along with her. After they are gone they will not even merit being a footnote in history.

One example of a Cabinet member whose "integrity" has gone awry is Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo. I hope he is his mother's only child in public office. The Editor's Guild of the Philippines charged him with corruption at the Sandiganbayan over the laminated passports' anomaly, and yet he struts with the hubris of someone immaculately clean, that's how callous he is. And so are many of his colleagues because their lady boss has made the late Dictator Marcos' corruption look like chicken feed.

The First Gentleman himself has been exposed so many times for venalities that it is no longer news to hear he is involved in anomalies. His and her (GMA) robust obsession for unexplained wealth should qualify them to replace Marcos in the Book of Guinness as the greatest thief in the world!

Dangerous Drugs Board rchairman Vicente Sotto III exuded apprehension when Pres. Arroyo blew her top because Ang, erstwhile factotum of former Pres. Estrada, literally vanished in thin air on his turf. Ang presumably "escaped" despite the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police closely bird-dogging him. It is bruited about that his escape was facilitated by a bribe of "at least P50-million."

Of course, this happens because leadership is by example. If the highest official of the land can be involved in corruption, fronting her husband for the dirty work, why should not subordinates accept bribes, especially when the amount is irresistibly inviting? With that kind of money anybody would only ask the cliché - from what floor of a skyscraper building will I jump or whom will I kill? In retrospect, even this is nothing to the extraordinary luck of former NBI Director Alfredo Lim, now Mayor of Manila, who won the first and succeeding major prize-winning Sweepstakes tickets almost immediately after then Pres. Aquino asked him to investigate alleged irregularities committed in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes. So why should Ang's escape be a major scandal?

The president and her underlings should stop the puking drama of feigning exasperation over Ang slipping out of the country in broad daylight with every investigating agency guarding him, because that pretension is "lumang tugtugin na" (old tune already). This overacting is simply bizarre! Truly, there's more than meets the eye about why the bird flew from the cuckoo's nest.

Regarding the brouhaha about the overflow of presidential candidates in the coming elections, which verily indicates how cheap the highest office of the land has become, is expected and many more are following including clowns and movie stars. Not only have presidents been incompetent, dishonest and misfits but also shameless so much so that now anybody believes he can be president. Before we know it ex-convicts will be running for president and indeed it has happened already: Erap is one.

Many seeking for the position could be inmates themselves if the law were indiscriminately applied, convicting them for assorted crimes they committed in the name of politics. Or in the case of an incumbent president for the crimes that he/she could be obliquely responsible under the principle of command responsibility, like the extra judicial killings of journalists and dissenters ascribed to the administration. Erap might yet cast his lot to be president the second time around. Although he can very much qualify despite being an ex-convict, having received full pardon from Pres. Arroyo herself.

Justifying the exodus of Cabinet members very soon, the president says they might resign to prepare running for president. That is a pretty good excuse to camouflage the fact that they don't want to linger around when the ax of justice strikes on the president and those who collaborated in her wicked governance. As for the sure victory of senators running for re-election I blame the public, who have no initiative to look beyond the horizon for honest aspirants among newcomers in politics. Obviously, it's bribe money guiding their choice when it should be the other way around, that these demagogues should be lackeys of the people.

When will they learn, when more victims are sacrificed on the altar of liberty to galvanize their struggle against abject poverty? Rotten politicians who have been in office steal the pittance people receive from them, why should the public be sanguinely grateful as to elect them again and again? No reason to sell their souls. Can they not sink in their thick skulls that they are just lambs led to be slaughtered? Or in the vernacular, *linoluto sila sa sariling langis* (being cooked with one's own oil).

Well, hadn't I said before that my Tagalog is as horrible as Pacquiao's English? There you are!