



Razor's Edge

By
Joe Mari Mercader
Executive Editor
FILIPINO TIMES
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GMA's Last Sona Will Unmask Her True Intention

"By proposing agendas in the Sona she will reveal her intent to usurp power. This could trigger the suspicion that Cha-cha would recycle her as head-of-state under the novel title of prime minister, and this prospect has severely weakened Philippine democracy both internally and in the outside world. "

NEW YORK, NY, April 15 (PinoyGlobal) - Don't look now but reading the lips of Speaker Prsospiero Nograles and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri brings to mind the expression that something is rotten in Denmark. By their own admission thirty percent of the members of Kampi and Lakas, the political parties of Pres. Arroyo, have jumped ship and many more will follow. Dreading to be caught in the turbulent political waters next year, they too want to survive the impending debacle of administration candidates in the coming election, by swimming with the current not against it.

Nograles and Zubiri unwittingly agree with former Pres. Estrada that Gloria's endorsement at this low point of her leadership is a kiss of death on the anointed. These acrobatic somersaults of party members, which only prove the fear of impending disaster that cannot be driven away with money, signals the end of GMA's perverse rule of institutionalized corruption and heartless killing of disenfranchised vocal citizens. I only hope we do not wake up to the grim reality that the downfall we expected of her despicable governance was just a myth born out of our desperate wish to see her exit the corridors of power and not a melodramatic climax for Gloria.

The handwriting on the wall of her imminent downfall is why her so-called "think tank" came up with the hoopla of merging the alleged biggest political parties in the country, Lakas and Kampi, directly under her baton. To me this

well-hyped union is a futile attempt to deodorize both parties that have gained notoriety as her political arms in Congress.

Meanwhile, insiders believe the merger will not fly because of the clashing political interests between local candidates of both parties. One or the other could be stopped from running next year by the new head honcho, which is already divisive. In any case, it will still be a confused group just the same in as much as free zones will have to be declared to pacify the feuding candidates of Kampi and Lakas. So for what use is that unified party?

No ifs or buts about it, the merger is really to junk the present system, and in lieu of it adopt a parliamentary government via the Charter change (Cha-cha) that will open the door for GMA to run again. With crooked politicians who can hide in the shadow of a corkscrew this is highly probable and so is GMA's gluing to power. Although in a worst-case scenario she can still declare a state of emergency and postpone the election until a new government is formalized via the constitutional amendment.

Rep. Villafuerte, her overheating follower, is actually provoking those opposed to a Constituent assembly to bring the matter to the Supreme Court for final decision. But why is he so cocky about this? Could it be possible that a majority of the justices are under the spell of Madam Arroyo?

In the meantime, Palace spokesman Lorelei Fajardo gave the grotesque rationale that the economic provisions to

be amended will be decided by the people. Tell that to the Marines, Lore. The masses will have no say on the matter, not anymore than I can dictate the economic fallout to simmer down. Remember the culture of money is dominant among our people. The whole scheme is rubbish! Her foot soldiers are just hiding behind the façade of confidence to hide the fact that Kampi and Lakas are terminally ill political parties, image wise.

Fajardo fired away a litany of asinine excuses taxing the mind, saying that, "The Palace cannot act as judge for the lawmakers on what provisions of the Constitution will be amended" ... "We will have to study, calculate our moves on the proposed Charter change" ... "That Malacanang cannot presume what provisions will be pushed for by the Congress", etc. Excuse me? Please, give our intelligence more credit than that. We know whatever Lola wants Lola gets. Gloria always prevails as she has with her generals, keka pa?

In retrospect I can vividly recall the late Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay Sr. in the 50s, carrying in his arms the mutilated body of labor leader Moises Padilla who was brutally maimed to a pulp until he died by Negros Occidental Governor Rafael Lacson's policemen. His crime was fighting the excesses of the provincial government, particularly against the downtrodden laborers.

If memory serves me right, he said "I am carrying the mortal remains of democracy in my arms," or something to that effect. The people were so aroused that almost all the candidates of the ruling Liberal Party were roundly defeated in the elections. Ramon Magsaysay was overwhelmingly elected president against Pres. Elpidio Quirino who was the collateral damage of Lacson's barbarism, having been the wind beneath his (Quirino's) political wings.

Meanwhile, it is the consensus that in her last State of the Nation Address (Sona) in July, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will desist from proposing long-range agendas because by then she will be a lame duck president and therefore, with zero credibility. It would indeed be a faux pa for her to come up with proposals that may take years to implement much less accomplish.

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intent to usurp power. This could trigger the suspicion that Cha-cha would recycle her as head-of-state under the novel title of prime minister, and this prospect has severely weakened Philippine democracy both internally and in the outside world.

The prudent thing to do in her Sona is bid farewell to the nation. In a manner of speaking her role after then will shrink to ceremonial duties. Unfortunately, declaring a state of emergency is more likely of her to do, more so if Cha-cha is repudiated by the people. Albeit, it will still be incumbent upon the chief executive to address, within the periphery of her ebbing mandate, any crisis that may arise then.

The raging hoopla engulfing the so-called biggest political parties in the country, the merger of Kampi and Lakas, belies the probability that she will ever step down from office. From her body language it can be gleaned that GMA regards the Constitution as a meaningless document she could discard on whim.

Reactivating Cha-cha in Congress will easily garner the votes needed to make her the authentic Cinderella of Philippine politics. Nograles' resolution already garnered 163 votes while Rep. Villafuerte's attracted 175 to convert Congress into a Constituent assembly (Con-ass). Getting the missing votes for a Constituent assembly is a piece of cake with the merger of both parties. What does it tell you that the Senate is excluded from the Con-ass, "lutong" Macao amendment?

If truly the intention of all concerned is to correct the supposed defective economic provisions, why can't they wait until after the elections, when motives would not becloud the issue/s? Excluding the senators from voting against or in favor of it is utterly in bad taste! As it is, conclusions can be unkind for both the ruling party and opposition: the latter for blindly blocking the attempted amendment for political reasons and not because it is basically incorrect.

It is consoling to note that in the final analysis the pangs of a remorseful conscience will sink deep on those who violate the fountain of all laws to suit their political and selfish ends. I am sure they have the stomach for it!