



# Razor's Edge

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## Taxation Without Representation Is Tyranny

*"The flaw of our puny democracy is that the super-rich buys the elections by overspending in the campaign with impunity. The second group, are scions of political dynasties who literally inherit their public offices via farcical elections (lutong Macao). The third batch, are the novice politicians composed of dumbbells from the movie world. "*

NEW YORK, NY, April 21 (*PinoyGlobal*) - Since comedians, actors and actresses burst into the political landscape of the country, the nation's destiny became bleak. The bottom line is that our people are to blame for being taxed without proper representation. This is because they elect nitwits who invariably end up as wallflowers in both Houses of Congress. Fascinated with their glamour, voters elect superstars without giving weight to qualifications. They may also have in mind that if the late actor Ronald Reagan became one of America's greatest presidents, so could any of our movie matinee idols they are enamored with.

Unfortunately, not all actors are like President Reagan whose greatness cannot be duplicated in the foreseeable future, even in America, least of all the Philippines. Erap is also an actor, but his brief presidential stint was way out of Reagan's league and no one of the visible presidential hopefuls has shown any sign of great possibilities, much less among silver screen superstars. They just do not belong to Reagan's class.

Our voters are in the habit of electing high school dropouts even for president. Contrariwise, in the era of illustrious political leaders like Quezon, Roxas, Garcia and the others of their caliber, ordinary citizens were awed with the responsibilities of a public office to even think of running let alone for president. Gone are those days. Marcos himself was one of the most intellectually prepared for the task but for his iron-fisted rule and wanton corruption. Those that followed were not well done for the job, hence half-baked, in a manner of speaking.

The legendary figures I mentioned above symbolized the dynamic leadership in our history. The few, whose peccadilloes made them vulnerable to vicious verbal attacks were better by far than the dumb ox elected by people nowadays.

Democracy operates on the principle of equal representation in the government. We send men and women to Congress to express the ideals, desires and sentiments of constituents in the laws they make. On the other hand, the chief executive is expected to steer the nation out of troubled waters. In turn citizens pay taxes. But if those representing them in Congress just clown around, idle time away - pa charming with their Engalog jargon (English-Tagalog), or and junket abroad on taxpayers' money, the smooth flow of government is undermined. With their antic people are literally left without representation in the legislature, validating in the process the expression - "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

With that in mind, can people really say the kenkoys (comedians) and silver screen idols they elect are dedicated, energetic and honest national leaders? Most if not all of our representatives to Congress including the president, have their selfish-political agendas to pursue with nothing in it for the general welfare seen in their rear view mirrors. For example, where are the panaceas for the multifarious crises buffeting the nation? Do our laws avert the economy from falling into chaos when they are busy attending to their respective vested interests? Despite administration propaganda of lies, that everything is rosy, the stark reality 2010 is that poverty continues to choke the common man.

Are Filipinos hopeless masochists allowing to be led by pathetic lamebrains? The electorate's collective stupidity is a bitter pill to swallow but we do, why? Since the late Rogelio de la Rosa became the first actor elected senator, the momentum of his colleagues in the silver screen aspiring for elective positions accelerated to alarming numbers. This has annoyed civic-minded citizens craving for public officials who can extenuate the suffering of the masses who have been demonized by adversities and chronic financial problems.

In fairness to Rogelio, he did his level best as a senator aside from carrying his demeanor with dignity in the Senate. As ambassador to Cambodia he did quite well and was loved in the diplomatic corps. In contrast the glamour boys and girls in politics today are detestably abrasive, cocky, corrupt and of course, shallow. What else did we expect from clowns in the first place?

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The actors and actresses that followed De La Rosa leave a lot to be desired. Senators Bong Revilla and Lito Lapid need nannies to coach them in English if and when they muster the audacity to stand up in the floor of the Senate. Compounding matters, Dolphy will complete the combo of jokers by joining them in the Senate. If they can be in Congress it stands to reason many beautiful people with empty coconut shells could also be elected in 2010.

Imagine them debating with the likes of Senators Miriam Santiago, Manny Villar Jr., Mar Roxas, and the other Senate luminaries, why, the scene would be for Ripley's Believe It Or Not. It will be the most laughable impromptu sitcom for the gallery. Figure it out if Pacquiao becomes a senator and debates with Lito Lapid or Bong Revilla, the barking of dogs will be more coherent. More importantly what will happen to English grammar and logic? If they were with us today, Shakespeare and Aristotle would

beg to be hanged just not to witness the massacre of the English language.

They would be better off doing the stunts they are good at of shooting while flying in midair as Lito does in the movies, or Bong jumping from the window of a bahay kubo shooting his targets accurately between the eyes in his action pictures, and Pacman living up to his moniker as "Mexicutioner" singing while slugging a Mexican boxer to sleep in the canvas. Their debate will provide a respite for the suffering people.

These movie icons and ring legend making a spectacle of themselves - will be the best argument to hurriedly amend the Constitution. It should include a provision banning clowns, boxers and beautiful people who are high school dropouts, from running for public office. Civil rights too have to be abolished to justify the ban. This is of course going from the sublime to the ludicrous.

You heard Manny Pacquiao exchange English words with seasoned American boxing commentators after his victorious fights. I could almost swear he left them confused: figuring out if a new language has been evolved to unite the world, invented by Pacman. Sad to say, because of the daily flatteries of politicians and psychopaths, he now believes he is multi-talented. For example, among other abilities, he also thinks he is a great singer, actor, diplomat on top of being a world boxing legend, which he is, and a hero to all of us.

Additionally, he can do a better job as a diplomat with his charisma in the world, than Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo. Berting is very much affected by prejudices, typical of those afflicted with the arrogance of power. Besides, Pacman is an authentic millionaire and does not have to be corrupt - unlike Romulo who is preoccupied answering corruption charges in the Sandiganbayan.

From the foregoing the electorate can now rectify the anomalous predicament in which the nation is caught - with clowns and empty coconut shells that they installed in public office. Come 2010 people should revise their criterion whom to elect based on reason not fancy.