



ONE MAN'S VIEW

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Same Dog, Different Collars

The CFC-GK split is a hoax. As such, expect no CFC homecoming on sight.

Third of a Series

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 15 (PinoyGlobal) -This is more than just a classic Freudian split by GK's Tony Meloto and faux fas by CFC Global's Joe Tale. It is a "con" job of the most virulent type because it is a malicious attempt to set up the Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines, and manipulate public perception.

Even just a cursory content analysis of the documents coming out CFC Global and Gawad Kalinga shows either Joe Tale of Couples for Christ Global Foundation is not telling the truth or Tony Meloto of Gawad Kalinga is lying.

On April 30, 2009, the CFC Global International Council came out with a declaration in its website www.cfcglobal.org entitled "Moving Forward and Letting Go".

In that document, Tale categorically says "CFC-IC has decided to let go of the governance and corporate structure of Gawad Kalinga Development Foundation Inc., and allow the immediate transition of GK leadership to such a distinct board."

The rationale for the "split" was even dramatized: "There has been honest divergence of opinions because of these fundamental differences. We have tried to resolve these differences in various ways especially in the last two years, including the attempt to strengthen oneness of leadership through the changes in the organizational structure. However, despite our common best efforts and intentions, unity continues to be elusive under the present structure."

Note the phrases (1) "let go of governance and corporate structure", (2) "distinct board, and lastly 3) fundamental



Frank Padilla

Nineteen days after, the Philippines Daily Inquirer quoted Tony Meloto reiterating "that there has been no split between the pro-poor housing advocacy group and the Couples for Christ International Council (CFC-IC.)"

In the official statement of Joe Tale, he said "GK is focused on nation building and on poverty alleviation that will necessitate that it mainstreams and partners with all sectors of society," even to the point of validating GK as a "nonreligious organization."

His rejoinder, however, says that Gawad Kalinga continues to seek the support of parishes and reports of a

split with the CFC lay ministry, which is recognized by Rome, would only sow confusion.

Then Meloto commits a classic Freudian slip. Wikipedia defines Freudian slip, or parapraxis, as an error in speech, memory, or physical action that is believed to be caused by the unconscious mind.

The GK head said “My covenant with Joe Tale is clear. There is no split – only greater solidarity between CFC and Gawad Kalinga for God, country and the poor.” A direct clarification in a simple declarative sentence, suffixed by the now familiar Meloto rhetorical savvy.

Three days after this Meloto *Freudian slip*, Joe Tale commits his own *faux pas*. The CFC Global international director came out with a memo saying CFC’s work with the poor will continue, “with GK as a major component,” and added that the name for CFC’s work with the poor shall be ANCOP”.

Boy!!! Do these two clowns think they can get away with this? I hope the Catholic bishops of the Philippines and the Vatican are not falling for this dog and pony show.

According to Wikipedia, *dog and pony show* was a colloquial term used in the United States in the late-19th and early-20th centuries to refer to small traveling circuses that toured through small towns and rural areas. The name is derived from the typical use of performing dogs and ponies as the main attractions of the events.

Very fitting indeed except that in this case of CFC Global and Gawad Kalinga, there remains to be only one dog, but with two collars.

This is public relations packaging at its worst and Tale and Meloto are not serving the public with their doublespeak. But why resort to duplicity?

I can only surmise that the underground politics is so severe, they just want to do what is politically correct at the expense of the truth.

CFC Global will have elections shortly, and being a survivor of the snakepit that is Malacanang, Joe Tale is minimizing any opposition to his reelection. The great divide that Gawad Kalinga created in what remains of CFC after CFC Founder Frank Padilla, left CFC Global and restored the original CFC corporation has watered down Tale’s moral ascendancy and support from Philippine bishops. (Padilla’s Couples for Christ Foundation Inc. was registered in 1984 and Tale’s CFC Global Mission in 1993.)

In aggravation, Tale’s yoke has been the pressure from the Church over CFC Global to let go of GK’s partnerships that are unacceptable to Catholic faith and doctrines, specifically accepting money from pharmaceuticals that manufacture and market abortifacients and contraceptives.

So CFC Global severs association with GK now saying they no longer control over GK, thus effectively removing Church authority over GK. The implication is that GK can now do what it wants, even continuing its funding from anti-life grantors.

So does CFC Global now come blameless and unaccountable for how GK behaves? Not even in my dreams, it doesn’t. In recent teleconference minutes released by CFC Global, it brazenly asserts “In fact, our letting go of the governance of GK is not a separation or breaking of relationships but rather a strengthening of relationships in a spirit of close collaboration.”

Can you really read the lips of these glib tongues? Either Tale and Meloto thinks the Philippine bishops are naive if not stupid, or is this just a supreme act of disrespect and insult.

The bishop, however are not biting the evil hook. The results are far what Meloto and Tale forecast. In fact the prelates are jumping off the erstwhile much-ballyhooed GK bandwagon. The first contradiction came from a known and staunch GK supporter – Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles.

Arguelles said “the decision of Couples for Christ International Council to relinquish control over Gawad Kalinga (GK) will open the pro-poor housing advocacy group to tie-up opportunities with institutions whose policies contradict the teachings of the Catholic Church.”

The prelate said “Let it be totally clear that GKs outside CFC direction is not allowed nor recognized by the Lipa archdiocese. Evidently, GKs in Batangas are prohibited to have anything to do with institutions whose policies contradict the Church’s teachings...”

Following the CFCIC-GK split, Gawad Kalinga also drew an even stronger rebuke from Archbishop Oscar Cruz who issued instructions to shun GK for receiving donations from advocates of population control – a policy opposed by the Catholic Church.

The Philippines Daily Inquirer said that the directive from the outspoken Lingayen-Dagupan prelate – the strongest on the issue from a ranking official of the Church hierarchy – was issued to parishes and chaplaincies in Pangasinan.”

In Iloilo, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, incumbent president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, has ordered the Archdiocese of Jaro to proceed on its own with the completion of houses after GK stopped construction midstream and just offered to return funds it received from the Church.

In Metro Manila, **Bishop Gabriel Reyes** cannot be happier that GK has unilaterally abandoned the Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila and the CFC International Village located in Remarville Subd., Brgy. Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City, following his resignation as spiritual director of CFC Global.

After all, GK's promises of health, education and livelihood opportunities to its residents following house construction and turn over, hardly materialize. And that gives me the conclusion that even the poorest of the poor has not been spared from CFC Global's half-truths.

On the Other Hand

CFCUSA, aligned with CFC Foundation for Family and Life (not CFC Global) is staging, in collaboration with twenty ecclesial movements and new communities in the Washington-Baltimore area, has organized one of the most deliberate assembly of Catholics in the country today.

The ProLife Summit is scheduled for July 3 at the BWI Airport Marriott. It will guest His Eminence **Justin Francis Cardinal Rigali**, archbishop of Philadelphia and chair of the prolife committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops; **David Bereit**, founder and national director of 40 Days for Life; and **Joseph Scheidler**, National Director of the Pro-Life Action League and acknowledged godfather of prolife activism.

CFC Founder Frank Padilla is arriving in town to preside over the Summit and the CFCFFL conference immediately following. It will be a great opportunity to interview him once again on how his consistent journey in renewing family and defending life has gone the extra mile since we two years ago. #30