



## Razor's Edge

By  
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### *Crowded Political Background*

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**NEW YORK, NY June 23 (PinoyGlobal)** - Let me begin by letting you in on a tidbit. When Sen. Manny Villar Jr. became our guest in the exclusive party Filipino Times gave in his honor at the mansion of Cora Rivera at Fort Liberte in New Jersey last June 8, I had occasion to have a tét a tét with the senator. I asked him if he heard that Speaker Nograles has resurrected the Charter change and is aggressively butting for its passage. Nograles as we all know is Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's alter ego and as such he will dig a sewer with his bare hands for her.

Villar's laconic remark was loaded with meaning: "That's big trouble!" I pursued "What will you do?" "That will not happen," he assured me.

From his tart remark I gathered that Cha cha could not fly before the turnover of the administration to the incoming president after the elections. All the decent elements in the country will rise up against any attempt to mutilate the Constitution. Nobody condones a woman's capriciousness to usurp power for the fancy of residing in the people's Palace uninterrupted, and dying there of old age.

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From Aparri to Jolo people will fight tooth and nail, hammer and tong to foil this macabre attempt to undermine their desire for a change in leadership to something less obscene. Thus all systems are grinding to conduct the elections peacefully, if that is possible, considering the demonic mentality of politicians to have the best of both worlds - retaining power and amassing unexplained wealth with impunity at any price, even if blood has to spill in the process.

The battleground has been defined on the political horizon. Candidates for every conceivable position are coming out in the open. Sen. Manny Villar Jr., who is a billionaire in his own right, has practically declared his presidential intention and he leads the pack as gleaned from the poll surveys. He has the good sense of tapping the group of Sen. Trillanes Jr. and Col. Danilo Lim Jr. who enjoy tremendous popularity with the masses. This is because of their demonstrated loyalty for the common cause of fighting GMA's corrupt-ridden governance for which they are languishing in jail for "subversion," complements of her military that viciously suppresses any dissent to her crooked government.

Villar offered the Nacionalista Party he heads to Trillanes and company. In turn the young senator endorsed

Col. Lim as Manny's vice presidential teammate and this is a huge boost to Villar's own popularity because the 11 million votes Trillanes got in the 2007 elections without campaigning and spending a cent (as he was in jail) will even double now that he has proven his willingness to suffer for the cause of the downtrodden.

Lim is not exactly a nonentity in politics himself. His charisma rose with that of Trillanes for standing roughshod against the threats of death and a long prison term for asking our corrupt president to step down in the name of national peace. Therefore, becoming vice president to Villar is an added asset for the latter.

Vice Pres. Noli de Castro consistently tailgates Villar in poll surveys but still he is very much behind. Possibly he could be Gloria's choice as heir to her throne. He is innocuous and will gladly oblige to extricate her from a possible life imprisonment for plunder when she leaves office.

The next contender is Sen. Mar Roxas. This young scion of the fabulous Roxas family, whose grandfather was the illustrious Pres. Manuel Acuna Roxas, is said to be a strong contender for the presidency too. His father was Sen. Gerry Roxas, a well-loved politician, who married into the opulent Araneta clan. His father-in-law, Don Amado Araneta, practically owns the entire business district of Cubao, in Quezon City, and the fabulous Araneta Coliseum, site of historic events in the country, aside from haciendas and real estate properties in many provinces.

Another formidable foe for Villar is Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. He is a brilliant young gentleman with disarming charisma that has tossed him to heights in the gamut of government. He comes from two extremely rich and powerful families. His mother is a Cojuangco (sister of Danding Cojuangco the business tycoon) and cousin of former Pres. Cory Cojuangco Aquino. His father is equally as rich as the Cojuangcos. Apart from his family Gilbert also has the support of business magnates Henry Sy and Lucio Tan.

With these families backing him plus Pres. Arroyo's possible financial and government support (which means blatant cheating using the Comelec and military) his victory is a cinch, if all systems will percolate as expected. On his own he has the credentials of being a brilliant graduate from the Ivy League Harvard University, prestigious for producing intellectual giants that once dictated the destiny of the world.

Of course, in the wings are Senators Loren Legarda and Chiz Escudero as well as the usual comedians and so-called religious leaders, not to mention the likes of Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla and Lito Lapid whose fanatic fans will go to any length to see them in the pedestal of power.

Oh, politics, what crimes are committed in your name!