



Razor's Edge

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Gloria's Invincibility : Mythical

"Running for Congress is unprecedented for a president - especially if it is to evade probable conviction for plunder. The genesis of this game plan was sparked by her enemies' nonstop threats of locking her behind bars together with the First Gentleman and two sons in Congress once the tide of power shifts to their side. But still this is no reason for her to trifle with the justice system. "

NEWYORK, NY June 30 (PinoyGlobal) - The mantra that Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is "invincible" in her bailiwick of Pampanga is a canard as well as a myth. Truth to tell - her so-called political invulnerability was tested in the 2007 elections. A virtual political tyro Fr. Eddie Panlilio won the governorship handily against Pres. Arroyo's comadre Lourdes Pineda notwithstanding his crippling financial handicap.

In retrospect, Pineda's candidacy was literally pulverized by the onslaught of Fr. Panlilio's votes in the polls despite the tons of jueting money (illegal gambling) she splurged in the elections and the president's open and unqualified support. Political gurus were speechless dazzled by the historic upset.

Presently, the hype for GMA's congressional bid, if what this brouhaha is all about, is deafening to brainwash local voters into railroading her to Congress via the 2nd district of Pampanga whose current congressman is her son Juan Miguel "Mickey" Arroyo. I don't have to stress that running for Congress against the popular UP Prof. Randy David is to shield her from being tried for corruption and position her for prime minister. These are relevant thoughts considering Speaker Nograles' unbending determination to amend the Constitution within the year making it possible for her to be first prime minister under the offing parliamentary

form of government.

Running for Congress is unprecedented for a president - especially if it is to evade probable conviction for plunder. The genesis of this game plan was sparked by her enemies' nonstop threats of locking her behind bars together with the First Gentleman and two sons in Congress once the tide of power shifts to their side. But still this is no reason for her to trifle with the justice system.

Mrs. Arroyo has no reason to panic with threats. In the first place she should bear in mind that in love, war, and politics hostilities and all kinds of hazards are inevitable. If truly she is innocence personified Hell's fire could cascade down on her and still she will be unscathed.

Only a guilty conscience shivers at the possibility of being charged for corruption when the balm against false accusations is untarnished integrity. Erap and Marcos did not escape the tentacles of justice and poignant people-ire, what makes her special to be treated gingerly? What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

The culprit behind the desperate predicament she is in is that maddening power bug that tries to defy the constitutional term limit imposed on elective officials starting with the president. People back home are puzzled and ask

if her ten years as president is not enough that she has to be prime minister yet?

Gloria should be happy that her junkets abroad totaling 130 days over five years cost Juan de la Cruz - way beyond the P3-billion budget for her local and foreign travels, were uncovered very much after the fact. The fly in the ointment in those foreign sorties is the large entourage that included family members, special friends and favored congressmen who shield her from possible impeachment in the House of Representatives.

Those monies could have been properly channeled to more important service oriented outlets, bewailed Sen. Chiz Escudero. For example, both The Heart Center and The Lung Center of the Philippines and The Philippine Children's Medical Center, to mention a few, are potential beneficiaries that are crying for immediate financial subsidies and assistance to survive. Patients could die for lack of medicines, and proper medical care.

In February alone she spent P123 million in just eight days tour of four nations in the Middle East via the U.S., with a 61-strong delegation, according to Escudero who got his figures from the Auditor General.

I literally marvel at the impotence of cabinet members, ambassadors and consul generals to do their chores and responsibilities that the president herself has to take the bull by horns and meander abroad supposedly to obtain contracts and deals for the government. This is preposterous! Absurd! God knows what ZTE-like contracts she signs every time she wings abroad, remembering that she went to China to figure in the notorious NBN-ZTE scandalous deal.

Coincidentally her recent US trip almost cost Ambassador Gaa his job for failing to get Gloria a one-on-one audience with Pres. Obama. Wala na man talagang magawa ang inutil nating ambassador, bakit pa parosan siya? Pardon my Visayan Taglis. Okay? Salamat!

The diaspora of Filipinos spreading in the vast expanse of the globe would be working in the country today if the government were less corrupt. More than that, families and loved ones would still be together and not severed beyond reconciliation had the administration been more effective and honest.

As it turns out couples and innocent children suffer the gnawing agony of being separated because the bread earner has to join the diaspora abroad. Truer than fiction, poverty stalks the country and God knows what calamities will continue to visit the nation due to uncontrolled venalities in the government of Pres. Arroyo. How dare she seeks to perpetuate in office!

Of all the presidents, Gloria enjoyed the most with relative immunity from the usual bullying of political adversaries because her squandering of taxpayers' money was dormant for a long time before it was made public by the Auditor General's office. Need I say more? I guess not.