



## *Razor's Edge*

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# *Political Decline Of GMA Is Public Knowledge*

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**NEW YORK, NY July 7 (PinoyGlobal)** - Trivia: Who says I cannot write about anything besides politics, has a blistered mind! I can even delve on banter. For example, when I was a teenager I did not use clichés when I wooed. I was aggressive in that I would hold the hand of my date and softly whisper to her "I wish I could be your teardrops for what more can anyone wish for than to be conceived in your heart, born in your tears, live on your cheeks and die on your lips?"

Predictably, that moment-to-moment love-drenched session ended up in a torrid lips-to-lips under the moonlight. Thereafter it was a symphony of romances, I went to other romantic adventures using the same line. Gotcha, ha, ha, ha! I'm only joking. Nothing like that ever happened: Those escapades I talked about were just fantasies, figments of my fertile imagination, hee, hee, hee! It's just my way of saying I am not a limited mind but an earnest columnist trying to share my views with those willing to hear.

Chauvinism aside (which I detest as much as I puke at social climbers whose faces best fit in the chamber of horrors where mine belongs too), the Filipino is a more aggressive lover than his American counterpart. Blonde

hair, blue-eyed lover boy woos a girl using the confused ballad of Sinatra: "Where do I begin?"

Put yourself in the shoes of a girl with the voluptuous body of Raquel Welch and the sensuous lips of Angelina Jolie looking forward to an erotic evening only to be asked for directions where to begin by this Romeo, how would you feel? Frustrated of course. You might even consider murder by strangulation because the romantic setting upon the seashore is not a nursery where you sing a lullaby to a baby. It's simply devastating for a ravishing teenager with the obscene anticipation of enjoying a moment of ecstasy with her lover. Instead she is greeted with this downer. Que barbaridad Don Juan!

We Pinoyos on the other hand, would tenderly massage the girl's hand and sing "Pag akin pinisil ang kamay mo giliw yay tanda ng ating pagmamahal" (when I press your hand sweetheart it is our pledge for eternal love).

So much for self deprecating trivia. Of late, the opposition has been hysterically harping on Pres. Arroyo's speedy decline in poll surveys. So what? Who doesn't know that?

Any Tom, Dick or Harry who believes otherwise is still living in the Stone Age. At this point, her unpopularity is the least of our concerns. Everybody knows she is a lame-duck president. In fact after the elections she will be transported back to plain housewife. So what's the big fuss about?

Thomas Paine once said: "These are the times that try men's souls." Now is that time, dear readers. We are suffocated by the sinister scheme of a woman who refuses to relinquish power amid public opprobrium (for her). Rather than uniting, instead the opposition party has a gridlock of presidential hopefuls over who will be standard-bearer. This bitter rivalry will be their undoing in the elections.

They should now choose the strongest candidate among them with good chances of winning and junk the dreamers whose inordinate ambition will only weigh down the party causing its defeat. How could they forget the insurmountable odds, logistics wise, they are faced with? Only in so doing could they be on track to victory uprooting the formidable Lakas-Kampi-CMD party. They must not relive their defeats recorded in the pages of history by refusing to recognize the vagaries of political realities confronting them today.

Alexandre Ledru-Rollin once said: "There go the people. I must follow them for I am their leader." To be brokers of hope is implausible when faced with a formidable foe. Martin Luther King Jr. cogently articulated that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. And he died doing just that. How many in the opposition are prepared to sacrifice life and limbs by putting national interest above theirs'?

The headhunters eager to chop GMA's leadership to pieces must bear in mind that she has no scruples to use all the resources within her power to derail the destiny of our beleaguered nation. Intransigence could be disastrous to the opposition. No one ought to govern who is not better than the governed.

Even at this late hour of her waning term there are talks of her declaring martial law to skip the constitutional mandate. Albeit Ronaldo Puno, one canine loyalist to GMA, douses this speculation saying "No-El" is pure hallucination of the president's enemies.

Meanwhile, Sen. Loren Legarda is sending the warning signals that retired Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane (former Secretary of National Defense) has been given two portfolios – Sec. of Public Works, and Local Governments (LG) "tem-

porarily" vacated by Puno. The LG department has jurisdiction over the police and local Commission on Elections officials. What does that tell you? With a rabid GMA military general like Ebdane orchestrating the elections and directing the police, the outcome of the elections is a foregone conclusion. It will be ominously one sided for Gloria's candidates, especially for her successor.

If you ask me, the real object of concern now is the automated elections because cheating would be likely to happen when for the first time the government will be using machines to tally election results. Tampering ballot boxes and "bawas-dagdag" will be commonplace with the people and the opposition blind as bats to the irregularities.

Automated elections as they do in the US has effectively marginalized if not totally eliminating cheating in the polls. But when the dynamics of operating the machines are unfamiliar to the people, particularly to safeguard their votes, the system becomes a colossal problem come 2010 elections.

With a docile Comelec to Pres. Arroyo the coming elections could be a farce riddled with frauds. Administration candidates may flatten opposition adversaries as easily as Pacman methodically smashed the bloated ego of Oscar De La Hoya humiliating him around the world as a passé, a decrepit old boxer hanging on old glories he can never recapture.

By the way, what is this brewing controversy over the alleged loss of a replicating machine/s exposed by TV comedian Edu Mansano? How accurate is his information? The crux of the issue is whether this "eye opener" is true, and what bearing will it have on the coming elections?

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Be that as it may, this anomaly is just mole in the mountain of funds that have not been accounted for by national and local agencies of the government. With tongue-in-cheeks administration spokespersons keep lying through their teeth that everything is above board in government transactions and funds are religiously accounted for. With what has transpired so far, how can our people believe that the coming

elections are going to be honest, fraud-free? The late Damian Sotto used to say, “Kung paniwalang kita, kabila pa ako ng ulol!”

Twenty years ago, Madam Arroyo was not a president. Perhaps she was not even a senator yet when she had breast implant. Quite true you don't begrudge someone going with the trend to look sexy with bulging boobs. What was had done on her breast when she was confined in the hospital recently is not our concern. But if she had her breast boosted again, we might ask - what for? That is not dignified for a president to do.

But of course, that is her private affair. We must respect it. Anyway she is stepping down after the elections, let her be.