



## Razor's Edge

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# Malacanang : What Unlawful Order ?

**NEW YORK, NY July 24 (PinoyGlobal)** - Former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz' speech before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines last week really ruffled the President's bloodhounds to go ballistic. On cue, they started shooting acid diatribes at Cruz. The venom spilled over to Congress. Gloria's puppets in both Houses joined the fray of vicious personal attacks that grate the ear on the embattled Cruz. ;

Yet, from what he said that stirred this hornets' nest it was apparent he only meant to discourage whatever dark intentions were being concocted by the Armed Forces on GMA's behalf. As we can glean from his manifest fear the probable plot is to extend her stay in power beyond constitutional limits.

Cruz called on the men in uniform "not to follow unlawful orders." Deputy presidential spokesman Anthony Golez immediately jumped into the ruckus and asked, "What unlawful orders was he referring to?" Why, are there hundreds, thousands perhaps Mr. Golez? What more unlawful order can there be than the IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW? With bonehead apologists like him, Ms Arroyo's political is kaput.

Cruz meticulously used the subjunctive word, 'might,' when he narrated: "recent developments showed Pres. Arroyo might impose martial rule and prevent the 2010 elections from pushing through." 'Might' was clearly intended to mean a probability not fact. Additionally, he said - "it would be a clear violation of the Constitution" and called on the soldiers to defy such illegal orders.

Right or wrong, he was on track, for an ounce of precaution is better than a pound of cure. Just a food for thought for Madam Arroyo's "defenders."

Indeed, given our sad experience with the late dictator Marcos who used the loophole in the Constitution to declare martial law in 1972 for no other purpose except to

glue himself in power, what else is there to do but prevent a deja vu of that day of infamy?

It can be safely presumed Cruz still has loyal men inside the AFP who could have told him about the feverish cloak and dagger preparations to abort the elections and overhaul the Constitution through a constituent assembly. This option is attractive to Gloria's cronies in Congress because it precludes the participation of senators who are vigorously opposed in amending the fundamental law, not just now anyway.

Avelino is not a child to make unsubstantiated allegations. His sources have to be certifiably credible. Anybody in his shoes would have the same conclusion after hearing from his grapevine in the Armed Forces about the possible scenarios that would ensure Mrs. Arroyo's perpetuation.

Ever heard the Russian adage, "believe but verify"? He must be divinely linked to this philosophy, which explains his bold speech before the Integrated Bar.

Buttressing Cruz's apprehension is no less than Gloria's trusted factotum, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales' and his rock n' rolling gigs. What he did demolishes any doubt as to her intention/s next year. For one thing he is brazenly pushing for the passage of the obnoxious Charter change. And with unmitigated chutzpah he calls what is patently martial law a "transition government" in which the president will preside over a junta composed of military people and her other alter egos. This barefaced sugarcoated label for something as offensive as martial law per se, is to mollify the nation. But no body is buying.

He also came up with something he calls "iron fist rule" in the belief that it will have a persuasive impact on our already confused Juan de la Cruz. He evidently parented

the so-called "transition council-led government" he keeps harping about. Unabashedly, he even told the docile media "this will draft a Constitution in October this year."

Sen. Zubiri derided Cruz as delving on wild hallucinations. This is the same Zubiri whose "victory" over Sen. Pimentel's son in 2007's elections, is questionable, because it was fraught with vote saving and padding. Another puppet of Gloria, Congressman Danilo Suarez, said - "If the Charter change pushes through, it is because our constituents want it, not because the President says so, as Cruz and his fellow critics want to make it appear."

I don't know about Suarez' constituents if they really share his sentiments regarding Cha cha. But what we know is that all surveys have categorically disavowed any attempt to mangle the Constitution. If there is a segment eager for it, it must be the size of a prickly heat invisible to the naked eye, except to the greedy eyes of her cronies who will gain immensely with her clinging to the high office indefinitely. Suarez is the most conspicuous of these brazen boneheads.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Victor Ibrado joined the melee citing military discipline as the factor that makes the AFP cohesive. Ibrado said, "upholding the Constitution is what ordinary soldiers are trained to do." Of course, this is so in principle, but between the doctrine and compliance, is a chasm. I would like to believe you general, but it seems to me it is you who orbit in the outer limits because the "trained" soldiers you vouchsafe to be steadfast to the Constitution also supported Marcos' martial law to the hilt.

General, if lying is mortal sin and God closes the door of the church you will not be able to find the front door for saying what you know to be palpable lie.

It did not cross the skies of my mind that listening to Gloria's desperate lapdogs defending her would cause petulant boredom. Arroyo's administration is knee deep in scandalous transactions involving no less than the First Gentleman and innuendoes that her two boys in Congress are not exactly beyond moral reproach. What makes her loyalists believe these charges are politically motivated when the facts are almost incontrovertible could be a case of patronizing the boss.

Among the President's vocal supporters it is Sen. Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile who explained the situation quite clearly. He said, "There is no need for the President to state she will step down. The Constitution says that at the end of noon of June 30, following the next elections, you step down. You cannot stay in the position more than one second," he concluded. We know that too. But does she agree with you, Johnny? More importantly, will she oblige to bow out when the time comes?

Does Enrile honestly believe President Arroyo will rush out of the Palace a second after her term expires on June 30, how naïve can he be? Quite frankly, Madam Arroyo is in a point of no return. She is in a saga akin to that of Julius Caesar when he crossed the Rubicon and said: "The die is cast." "I burned my bridges."

Talagang subong, subo na si Gloria. She is hanging in the precipice. To comply with the term limits of her office is political hara-kiri for her. If she does her life will slump into a nightmare like wall of prosecutions awaiting her at the other end.

Madam, life is full of tragedies: the wheel of fortune never stops spinning; sometimes you are on top the next minute you are in the exact opposite, under. Touché Madam!