



Razor's Edge

By
Joe Mari Mercader
Executive Editor
FILIPINO TIMES
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Potpourri Of Events

NEW YORK, NY Aug 21 (PinoyGlobal) - May I remind our faithful patrons to read Filamimage.com (Pinoy Global Online in the Internet) in case you miss getting a copy of *Filipino Times* from Fil-Am groceries and Filipino restaurants in the tri-state area: *Razor's Edge* is always there. You will also be delighted to read the latest news from the Philippines. Thank you very much.

Our country is confused today. Manny Pacquiao, whom Malacanang has designated ambassador to dance the Moro-Moro with the Muslim rebels in the rainforest of Mindanao, is barging into Congress next year as a regular member. With Pacman flying prominently in the political front people are bound to ask why not me too? Even Sabongueros (cockfight aficionados) are now agitating to have their own party-list in the House of Representatives.

The influx of every conceivable public sector getting into Congress added to the already large number of congressmen there will make the august chamber unwieldy, causing confusion and pandemonium. Won't that be unhealthy for the reputation of our Legislature?

Speaking of party-list, Speaker Prospero Nograles himself endorsed hiking their number and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is sympathetic with the proposal. This means more party-lists will be elected next year.

If the sabongueros are accredited, what will stop cocheros, burlesque dancers, D.I.s, (dancing instructors), starirays or MSMs (men who have sex with men), prostitutes, drug lords, jueteng operators, majongeros, gamblers, etc. from asking Comelec for the same recognition? In Congress

these vested interests and characters will be wearing the dubious façade of legitimacy.

There are 250 congressmen including the party-lists in Congress. What will happen if that number skyrockets to the ceiling? The budget will also rise to phenomenal dimensions proportionately, and unless reined in on time, the global economic meltdown may have more devastating effects on the Philippines than anywhere else in the world.

The added funding will be a huge nightmare to taxpayers. The Batasan building will have to rise by several floors, or be widened to accommodate everybody. More seats will have to be ordered, garage spaces constructed, new funds earmarked for salaries, emoluments, you name it and the list continues to climb.

In my educated opinion party-list is a superfluity because the regular congressmen make laws that cover the varied interests of constituents. Theoretically, laws echo the wishes of the people and are national in scope. It's bad enough that each congressman gets P70 million of pork barrel yearly, but if the population of Congress grows because of these party-lists, so will the pork barrel budget bloat too. Simply therefore, everybody's=20welfare is fully covered by our laws. So for crying out loud, what for are all these burdensome fixtures (party-lists) in Congress?

The infrastructure is another headache for Congress. I just hope this issue is resolved to the greater interest of the nation and not just of ambitious individuals and political parties whose selfish goal is to get hold of the reins of government one day.

Flipping the coin: making boxing idol Manny “Pacman” Pacquiao ambassador of good will to pacify the Muslim Islamic Liberation Front is stretching his “potential” beyond the realm of reality. How desperate can Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the military be to harness him for the job? In case they forget Pacman has his limitations too, just as I cannot sing Israel’s national anthem.

It would be better for Pacquiao to compete in the Dancing With The Stars than for him to negotiate peace with the MILF. Who knows he might gain added international fame if he wins dancing the Tinikling solo flight. Unfortunately, he has to dance the Argentinean Tango on top of eggshells with those desperate terrorists during the negotiations - if such a freak episode materializes.

Being a boxing icon does not make him an instant diplomat, much less an intellectual to outwit the murderous brigands who are astute in extortion. Has he ever tamed a salivating hungry lion ready to jump on nitwits with official trappings? As our ambassador to those deadly Muslim rebels he is would be in the same predicament. Those cutthroats and weaklings like Oscar De La Hoya, they fight to the finish.

With the Muslims’ love for money that they indiscriminately kidnap tourists of any race, Pacman runs the risk of being taken as a hostage for ransom. Candidly speaking, I don’t believe that Manny has no enemies. There are envious people who want his money. For one thing representing the notorious government of GMA is reason enough for the MILF to distrust him. The rebels have no qualms or conscience to bother them: they proceed on instinct like the wild animals that they are.

The MILF could blame him for the failings of the government and that could be a real danger when he goes in the jungle to meet the terrorists. They are already saying he is a great boxer. But they will not trust him to fulfill their demands and may find him to be more useful as a captive bargaining chip.

Manny could be the unwitting victim of their ire, taking the place of GMA and the military. If Pres. Arroyo is really a friend of Pacquiao she should discontinue this nonsense of making him negotiate with the Muslim separatists. It’s just too risky!

These people cannot be appeased with the handshake of a great boxer. Their “cause” transcends the fancy of being a

Pacquiao fanatic. No amount of pandering will make them soft-pedal on their extortions or quit their sinister trade altogether.

Finally, the rejection of Pres. Fidel V. Ramos on becoming chairman emeritus of Lakas-Kampi- CMD, which is a prestigious title, was purely to inflate his wilted ego. The lame excuse of denouncing its protracted merger with Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista Ng Pilipinas of Norberto Gonzales is sick theatrics, because he is passé and wants to upgrade his self-importance in this manner.

He was in oblivion so long that he desperately tries to retrieve the limelight he used to bask on as president. He simply refuses to accept the reality that he is ancient history, a treasure in the archives of his own deluded mind.

The temerity of the man to denounce the purported merger of Lakas-Kampi-CMD with Gonzales’ group as “having been done with undue haste and by dictation and not by consultation.” Bull!

Why doesn’t he realize that Lakas-Kampi is just pandering or patronizing an old age man overtaken by drowsy spells? These coalescing groups are overflowing with young blood eager to forge ahead without a daydreaming Rip Van Winkle weighing them down. They know they are faced with a formidable opposition and dynamic leaders. They cannot afford to be pulled down by a deadwood.

I notice FVR envies GMA because she not only out-distanced him in performance, but outwitted Fidel and other predecessors by overstaying in the high office (10 years by next year). And if she has her macabre desire of staying way beyond her term limit, Ramos may not survive his jealousy. He will have a seizure. Of course, Gloria will create an incendiary situation that can lead to serious repercussions on our tilting democracy if she proceeds with her diabolical plan.

From day one the decrepit ex-general hated Gloria. On every opportunity he belabored her in public, or lectured her making acid side remarks on top, and always had adverse judgmental opinions on most of her major decisions. This rejection of being chair emeritus for the ruling party is just one such chance to embarrass her, at the same time, resurrect his fallen image. But alas, Fidel is just cruising the skies of fantasy.