



## *Razor's Edge*

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# *Malacanang Whistles In The Dark At Aquino's Candidacy For Prez*

**NEW YORK, NY Sept. 9 (PinoyGlobal)** - If things shape up the way they look, then for once our people will enjoy a respite from the ordeal of choosing the lesser evil among crooked old fogies jockeying to be president of the country. The dawn of a new era of dynamism and idealism in a reformed government after 2010 is at hand, if young candidates for president are not intimidated by Jurassic politicians notorious for having evolved the culture of influence peddling, corruption and use of naked power as public servants.

Recent developments back home are quite inspiring. As I said last week, Senators Noynoy Aquino III and Mar Roxas will team up to form the dream tandem that the majority of Filipinos enthusiastically await. If the military does not interfere and the Commission on Elections impartially conducts the polls, then the Philippines is really bound for a change next year.

Senator Roxas asked the nation “to share the same outrage over the mess we are all in, the same way we share the solution: clean, honest, selfless public service.” Optimism propelled Mar to believe he can make the Liberal Party a bridge for the forces of change.

Meanwhile Noynoy has been taken to task by the demolition team of Malacanang for being “unreliable.” They accuse him of dilly-dallying to announce his intention to run for president.

This is odd. Of what concern is it to them that Noynoy is taking his “sweet” time to announce his intention in the

coming elections? Their annoyance is weird because the young senator’s indecision even tacitly bolsters the chances of the ruling party’s candidate. They should in fact encourage it to exasperate voters to junk him in the last hour. From the looks of it Malacanang is the one whistling in the dark to camouflage its apprehension that Noynoy will snatch the presidency from their standard-bearer. Otherwise, why resort to this psy-war gimmick to impair his strong chances of winning if he is not a potent threat to the presidency they covet?

Can they not put it in their thick skulls that Cory’s son is just studying on which symbolic date to declare his eagerly awaited candidacy: September 11 – natal day of the late dictator under whose reign of terror Noynoy’s father, Benigno Aquino Jr., was mercilessly shot in the footsteps of the airplane that brought him home; or September 21, that flashes back bitter memories of loved ones killed in the dark of night or jailed with no hope of getting out alive with the imposition of martial law.

Over and above that, like his religious mother, the young Aquino truly wants divine guidance before deciding to launch his candidacy for such high office, lest he violates it with incompetence and inadequate integrity. His political detractors are ridiculing his retreat to the Carmelite convent in Davao.

If other candidates like to rush the people to rally behind their candidacies, that is their unrivaled business, but they should leave Noynoy to make up his mind alone. The fact that even the League of Provinces of the Philippines called for an

urgent summit to devise strategies on how to deflate the magic of the Aquino name in the political arena, shows how insecure the ruling party is with the prospect of Noynoy running for president.

Even the splintered political minority groups are in a panic over the Aquino fever that has captivated the hearts of voters. The opposition is trying to deflect the tsunami of the Aquino name that will steamroller political enemies like debris on the wayside.

Malacanang said that Pres. Arroyo is beside herself with joy that 49 governors out of the 80 provincial heads signified solid support for Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, a man Gloria expects to protect her if he becomes president. She is entitled to that hope but it does not license her minions to belittle the chances of the young Aquino by slinging mud at the senator. It's not yet time to take off the gloves for a mano-a-mano, boys.

In this fight, the issues of youth and inexperience are irrelevant. We are in the threshold of enlightened freedom to elect the right candidates for public office. As I said many times - youth stands for idealism and energetic leadership. Gilbert Teodoro himself is qualified to be regarded viable presidential aspirant despite his advantage of being young. I have nothing against that. But the focal point for change in the government is leadership and integrity of which this administration is completely bankrupt.

If both Noynoy and Teodoro end up protagonists in the presidential contest the issues have to drastically revise to something more relevant and that would be leadership. But even that is not valid to ask just yet, suffice it that they have the knowledge. Their intelligence should buoy them from the slings and arrows the office of president is battered with daily.

Note, that once elected president all they have to do is choose cabinet members and bureaucrats wisely. They must be helpful in steering the ship of state and not let it sit still on troubled waters. Picking up the best people in their respective fields of endeavor should be done diligently avoiding the pitfalls of cronyism. More importantly, they should be men

with dazzling integrity, which combined with their expertise will ultimately usher in good government.

The president can appoint the best doctor for Health Secretary. He can appoint a reputed career engineer, not a common politician who has not even taken a simple course on math in college, for Public Works Secretary. A legal luminary among topnotch lawyers for Secretary of Justice, and so on down to bureaucrats who would head departments in the government.

Compare the president to a Toscanini, the famed maestro, conducting an awesome orchestra of great musicians. A president can set the ship of state on course to placid shores. Noynoy, with Roxas, can make that wish come true. With the exception of Noynoy's mother, we have longed for good governance since dictator Marcos was deposed - well now is the time!

These two scions of illustrious patriarchs enjoy unparalleled charisma and unblemished integrity and experience. Noynoy was 12 years in the Lower House of Congress and several years a senator. Mar Roxas was Trade Secretary, with an outstanding job performance. Then he was elected senator with flying colors where he has demonstrated total dedication for the cause of the people as Noynoy has.

I can almost predict them elbowing out candidates who have the brazen audacity to plague Juan de la Cruz with their malignant brand of leadership that has bedeviled our people for so long now, so much so that anomalies and scandalous deals do not sound as offensive anymore to the masses. The present crop of politicians has undermined the sanctity of public office, no ifs, ands or buts about it.

Aquino and Roxas are very much unlike those carriers of the pestilence of corruption who are cuddled by both the ruling and opposition parties, and whose malignant brand of influence will perpetuate an evil government. The Aquino/Roxas tandem won't. The question therefore is: will idealism and dynamism not just have a cameo role in the coming elections, but be locked in righteous combat with their protagonists?