



The Noble Wolf

Adolfo "Ado" Paglinawan

*Former Press Officer, Washington DC • Embassy of the Philippines
Former President - College Editors' Guild of the Philippines*

What Noynoy gave up for expediency and Why Villar is leading the polls

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 11 (PinoyGlobal)

Hi Ado,

Nick Perlas may have the best plan to change the Philippines but what good would it be if he doesn't have the means to get elected? With polls showing him from zero to .01% in popularity, what's his chance of winning? Heck, Gibo with his .02% has twice a better chance than Perlas.

Let us be realistic and get behind an opposition candidate who can beat Gloria's candidate. But let's look at each of these opposition candidates and see who could really make a true change in the country.

At this moment, I see Manny Villar, Erap Estrada, Chiz Escudero and Noynoy Aquino in the opposition against Teodoro, Fernando or De Castro as Gloria's manok. While Chiz declares himself to be in opposition to Gloria, his patron Danding Cojuangco is very tight with Mike Arroyo. In my recent articles, I postulated that Chiz could be Gloria's "secret candidate." Gloria knows that whoever is PALAKA's standard bearer (Teodoro, Fernando, De Castro or even Dick Gordon) would lose. She has to protect her economic interest in a post-Gloria government and by going in tandem with Danding to support Chiz would be her best option.

That leaves Villar, Estrada and Aquino as the true opposition candidates. But Villar would become another Gloria if he wins. And Erap would still be Erap. That leaves Aquino as the best opposition candidate to truly make a change. Is Aquino winnable? Of course, he is.

Best,
Perry

hiperry,

Arguendo, I have already explained why Noynoy is not winnable, but you have not cited a single reason why he is.

Note my friend that the very same people who are behind him now are the same ones who failed to produce Edsa Tres for the past five years that we have been cheering them. You have also missed the fact that the cortege of millions you saw during President Cory Aquino's burial did not go out there for Noynoy. That and the one you saw for Ninoy in 2003 are not transferrable by consanguinity.

And phooey for Noynoy and Liberal Party, the first thing they do after his announcement that he will run for president is to woo Erap Estrada to their side. This was only hours away after he said he is running for "pagbabago". This is traditional politics at its worst but that did not surprise me because I have the lowest of expectations from Noynoy because with all due respects no one can squeeze blood out of a turnip.

That's the difference between Noynoy Aquino and Nick Perlas. They are both not winnable in my book. But Noynoy is an empty shell with an unknown mind except to parrot his parents. Nick Perlas has the best concepts for a new politics. In fact what Noynoy and the Liberal party are doing is not engage in political change but feebly attempt to unite the opposition. Opposition to GMA? But none of GMA's potential candidates' trial balloons are prospering because hers is a kiss of death.

If you read Nick Perlas carefully at all, he said that this is not
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the way to the future of what is best for Philippine politics. We cannot now just unite against, but for something. Laban is history, the people are tired of merely opposing and that is what prevented Edsa Tres from consolidating.

Speaking more of an advocate than a candidate, Nick is using the presidential campaign as a soapbox. Not everyone, you know run to win, some run to highlight their causes. What the people on the ground are waiting for is not who (as Gloria has greatly frustrated them) but what ought to be done. In short the person who can best present how to get our almost a hundred million people out of the rut and onto a better life, will win in this elections.

You know of course that Manny Villar is not my personal preference for the presidency. But as an opinion writer, I have to recognize why is he leading in the polls.

Because the people are connecting with his ads on entrepreneurship translated in the vernacular as "sipag at tiyaga". He has harped on this message as early as when he was running to be a congressman, then for senator and now for president. He has communicated to his publics that the hope of every Filipino is in himself and that it is the fruit of hardwork and perseverance and not just through the promises of any willy-nilly politician.

And what is more important is he has made sense to the man on the street because they see evidence of what he is saying not as a sheer hand-me-down but from his very own life, how he rose from the struggles of his boyhood to earn an education to becoming one of the country's richest entrepreneurs; how he has woven this spirit and thinking in the thread of proposed legislations both as congressman and senator, and how now he intends to run them through a presidential platform.

So let us not shoot analysis from our hips. There are very real conditions happening out there in the ground among the grassroots that has slowly but surely obscured the power of GMA's money machine.

This early I see the patterns of the 1992 presidential elections repeating itself.

At the onset, this election started between Manny Villar and Gloria's candidate, Noli de Castro. Well from numero uno, Noli is now cuatro and Manny who has consistently occupied the second position is now way up first.

We will of course know before the end of the month whom Gloria will support, and yes she might pull the Chiz-rabbit from her hat as her dark horse as you said, and running side-

by-side another Danding Cojuangco protege Gilbert Teodoro or she can stick to good old Noli. But if she sees whomever she chooses cannot survive to the wire, her voracious appetite will withhold the money and Lakas-Kampi-CMD will fall like a house of cards in the same way it happened to Monching Mitra's Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in 1992.

Sure Noynoy just like Miriam Defensor can feign phantasm but and capitalize on makeovers. I will even grant that. But I feel Chiz Escudero, under Nationalist People's Coalition, just like his mentor Danding Cojuangco in 1992, will deal Manny Villar his toughest race to the wire.

People keep on including Erap into the picture. Read my lips - Erap is ineligible. Read the constitution and it is not hard to understand that he can only run and be elected for a single term. He was elected already in 1998. ergo he can no longer qualify. Whether he finished his term or not is a non-issue. He has to get a ruling from the Supreme Court which as you say often in your column is dominated by GMA forces. As this is a question of law, without that Supreme Court order all it takes is for Comelec only has to deny his certificate of candidacy.

Let us not be oblivious that Manny Villar is also known to be the dragon-slayer of Erap Estrada. When in 2001, Congress got the the minimum votes required by the Constitution, Villar as then Speaker of the House, endorsed the impeachment resolution against President Estrada to the Senate, in effect impeaching him. He could have dilly-dallied or succumbed to the majority seeking further debate on the matter, but he acted decisively. LET US NOT DENY VILLAR HIS PROPER PLACE IN HISTORY. It is definitely God's will that he was at the right place at the right time. That could have turned very differently if Joe de Venecia were speaker.

This demolishes your wild theory that "Villar would become another Gloria if he wins." The analogy is unfortunate because it reveals that your knowledge of the players in this elections, especially of Senator Villar, is cursory. I find it grossly unfair you did not even provide any basis of your conclusion.

Gloria Arroyo was born with a silver spoon in her mouth and she grew amid extravagance of affluence and power when her father was President of the Philippines. Manny, to say the list, had to shine shoes to earn his wherewithal and way to finish school.

She has contributed no merit to her own ascent to power, she only got power through her father's and mother's Forbes

Park circles that nurtured her for their own vested interests. And of course, her private life has been muddled by her dalliances with many men especially while married to Mike Arroyo.

She smuggled ukay-ukay when she was undersecretary to create wealth not for charity or business but to propel her plans to run for the Senate. As senator she ran for the president but sold out to Erap in exchange for the refund of her campaign expenses of P300 million agreeing to run in 1998 as his vice president. Too bad for Erap, she used the refund to buy demolition PR to chip away Erap's grasp of power.

But in and around the circumstances that deposed Erap, she absolutely had nothing to contribute whatsoever. By sheer coincidence Edsa Dos happened when she was vice president so in a very real sense the people gave her the presidency in a silver platter. At that time, she confessed to Marilen Dinglasan and Bing Rodrigo, her best friends and classmates as far back as Assumption grade school, that Edsa Dos was just timely because the only money they had in the bank was what was left of the P300 million Erap refunded them.

Three years after in 2004 she ran for president using stolen government funds as her war chest. Adding insult to national injury, she has not only squandered a genuine opportunity to turn the country around but up to this writing, she and her family is still mulcting every bit of our national treasure to buy expensive real estate from Spain to the San Francisco bayfront.

Manny's rise to fame is due precisely to the gospel he preaches - sipag at tiyaga. As he rose from the ranks his eventual success confluenced with the wealth of his wife's family turning everything to heavy gold at each turn. He is the proverbial rags to richness that the masa is secretly idolizing. That is why all he had to do is tell his story and now he is leading by 13 pts in the polls.

You cannot impute immorality that is Gloria's, on Manny's person just on what his political enemies say. Has the senate even investigated him for the so-called C-5 story or produced any smoking gun document for us to see? Has the committee on ethics even rebuked him for any wrongdoing or mispropriety? Nyet! Because this is pure hearsay brought into the attention of media by yet another presidential wannabe who is Gloria's classmate (Jambi Madrigal who has also announced her intentions to run for president). Has any case been filed in the Ombudsman or settled in any court of law with a guilty verdict? Naaah!

I know Manny Villar inside out, not from his mouth but from the testimony of those whose lives he has touched. His co-believers in a catholic christian community where he has been a member for more than 12 years admire him for integrity of his word, his coolness under fire, his humility especially when seeking advice of his peers, his generosity to the less fortunate but most of all his forward vision.

Unlike Gloria, he does not flaunt that God talks to him. But I see the hand of the Almighty working in his life. As Speaker confronted by Erap's impeachment I have already mentioned. But when he was replaced by Johnny Ponce Enrile as senate president, he did not fuel division but took it like a man without any rabble-rousing and he went back to simply being one of the members of the upper house. The transition was so smooth, it turned out to be a blessing enabling him to make an early jumpstart of his presidential campaign.

The best synergy Villar can put together is to get Dick Gordon and Nick Perlas to his side. The track record of Dick, molded by Nick's new politics with Manny's sipag at tiyaga as staple can serve the best stew for the filipino people to chew on 2010 and beyond.

Noynoy too can meanwhile rest on a coalition with Among Ed Panlilio and the noisy street parliamentarians. I sincerely doubt he can inspire the silent majority that is the thinking middle class.

There is no doubt that Noynoy can generate the excitement against GMA and as he says for reforms. But outside the restoration of democracy that was the centerpiece of Ninoy and Cory's achievement, at the end of the day, its transparently nebulous and unconvincing that Noynoy, with the less of who and what he is, can do anything more to add to where his parents failed.

Before I began this oped, I also got an email from Ang Kapatiran party that it never was in Governor Panlilio's coattails in the first place and they are not likely to buy into the Liberal Party's traditional wagon.

They are precisely united with like minds as Nick Perlas - seeking what Noynoy gave up for expediency - the true star of the new politics for a better Philippines.