



The Doctor Is In

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What An Ideal Presidential Candidate Should Be

NEW YORK, NY September 19 (PinoyGlobal) - An ideal presidential candidate should be able to firmly state that he will fight an all out war against corruption, from the lowest bureaucrat to the head of state; from a commoner to a prince. He should not owe favors to any special group or vested interests like politicians, businessmen and the military to enforce the rules and regulations without reservations. Conversely, he should not use this power against his political opponents who go against his convictions and principles.

Equal treatment or rendering unbiased punishment for corrupts people, whether he is a prince or a commoner is necessary so that we can move forward in the same progressive and successful way our neighboring nations have. It starts with the traffic policeman; government and BIR personnel, congressmen, governors or even the president himself, all should be subjected to the same rule of law.

Elected government officials should realize that power emanates from the people who in turn assign them to do their jobs. They should not complain if the people watch them closely or be removed from their positions when it is necessary. Only the people can decide their fate and not politicians who bribe people to get elected.

Last week the ex-president of Taiwan was sentenced for life for corruption charges of less than \$9 million. What happened to former President Joseph Estrada who was convicted by the Sandiganbayan for an \$80 million corruption

is a national disgrace. It would be a bigger shame if he we allow him to run again for president. I'd rather vote for a carabao than him, because I know a carabao is honest, loyal and hard working. Without corruption our country will be awesome. If only our infrastructure will be taken care of honestly, meaning the public funds are spent on projects earmarked for them, the Philippines would be like Hawaii with clean water, healthy climate, green mountains and beautiful people.

So, in choosing a presidential candidate our criteria should be that he must be as bold as that Taiwanese judge who convicted the ex-president of Taiwan, or the American judge who sentenced the fabulous business mogul Madoff to 150 years in prison. Our presidential candidates should also have independent minds willing to listen to the honest suggestions of others, which could only be done if they do not owe anybody a favor. And of course, he must also have a lion heart but with the moral fiber of Sister Teresa, to help the nation.

What we need from a good president is to provide us honest governance: by minimizing, if not totally halting corruption is the only way to achieve the status of successful nations like Taiwan, China and Japan.

The next criteria of a good presidential candidate, is that he or she should be a good economist or at least have a comprehensive knowledge of economics. On this aspect, credit goes to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who took up economics in the United States. Expectedly, she did well in improving the country's economic life.

A basis guidance that should be followed to improve

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the economy of the nation is to define the role of the government and private enterprise in relation to one another.

The relation should be symbiosis, which means each exists independently, yet work hand in hand with each other to achieve the common goal. A government is to govern and its duty is to set out guidelines and regulations pertaining to business.

A government's role is also to set up a good environment conducive to businessmen so they can do their job successfully. The government duty is to deal with big projects like roads, airports, seaports, water and sewer system, and electric supplies, railroad systems - things that cannot be handled by private enterprise.

Private enterprise on the other hand, is to pay taxes due to the government for infrastructure to provide stable power and water supply, maintain roads, airports and seaports to move their products.

Government role is to regulate these companies to take charge of the people's safety, and avoid pollution of our rivers, ground and air. Right now what we see is that a lot of private individuals are going into politics for business purposes. For example, Congressman Romauldez who is applying for a billion pesos loan for his own business he is a government official.

The late Pres. Marcos used have a share from any foreign company that wanted to have a business in our country: a piece of the cake on any business venture. The good presidential candidate should believe that a government official should never be involved in business or a private businessman should not be allowed to be in the government because there will be a conflict of interests. Imagine if Bill Gates runs for president so that his Microsoft business empire would become more profitable, or President Obama working for a giant pharmaceutical corporation to have an added income?

Productive economy could be achieved if the government and private enterprise stick to their respective roles. Consequently, in choosing your president, choose the one whom you think fits the criteria I described above. We might not see the result of good governance in our lifetime but we do this for posterity. Close your eyes and visualize a government without corruption – how beautiful would it be, isn't it?

A good presidential candidate is someone who believes that a healthy population is the strength of the nation, and therefore it should prioritize this goal. Aside from providing potable water and reliable sewer system we need doctors and nurses to take care of people even in far-flung areas. Doctors and nurses should be compensated appropriately to avoid brain drain. What is happening now is grim because we are losing a lot of specialists who leave the country to work as nurses in other countries. Some provincial hospitals are experiencing mortalities due to lack of doctors.

A good presidential candidate should believe in education. He should realize that the \$18 billion sent by overseas workers yearly is due to the education of ex-pats who work in different fields of endeavor all over the world. He good president must be willing to pay good salaries to teachers, build schools and buy textbooks.

A good presidential candidate should be an environmentalist who believes that a country needs clean air, land and sea, should believe that the rivers should be able to sustain life and people touch and swim on them just like the Hudson River in Manhattan.

To summarize, presidential candidates should first believe in good governance: productive economy, healthy nation, educated citizens and clean environment. These are the vital elements that comprise an efficiently run government.