



Razor's Edge

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The Gloves Are Off Ahead Of Season

NEWYORK, NY Sept. 19 (PinoyGlobal) - The last day for filing candidacies in the Philippines is November 30. From there to Election Day in May next year is the campaign period. Meanwhile, campaigning before November 30 is illegal according to the Supreme Court ruling upholding the Commission on Elections' rule of the thumb on this question. I would be begging the issue to say that this ruling is better observed in the breach than in the practice because many campaign-overactive candidates have violated it already.

Aspirants for elective positions, including those jockeying to be president, are already having a field day indirectly wooing constituents with all sorts of gimmicks. The rich candidates who are desperate on winning at all cost, have allegedly resorted to lending people money (P5,000) using the insidious cliché "pay me back whenever" - which simply means forget it, just remember me at the polls, suckers. Others use concessions to get unwavering loyalty in the form of votes come next year.

Rabid politicians resort to character assassination to downgrade prominent contenders, going as far as exhuming personal scandals and washing dirty linen in public to turn off their adversaries' supporters. Sen. Noyoy Aquino has not been spared this detestable dirtball rivalry of diatribes and personal issues. Since he announced running for president he has been subjected to intense personal attacks, which if we adhere to the old saying that a ripe fruit in the tree is stoned by those who want to get it down, then he is the strongest among those visible in the presidential derby. But because they cannot poke an accusing finger on him as being involved in any scandal that might smear his reputation, the young Aquino's potential enemies conjured and embellished to ad nauseam a tissue of stupid personal

issues against him. Their vitriol is unmatched.

Almost incredibly, those who want to demean his potential as a leader belabor him for not having a wife yet, that his sister Kris Aquino decides what shoes and clothes he wears, that he has no experience and that he is only a product of the people's sympathy for his beloved mother's recent death, (which they say will fizzle out months before the elections), and that his political life basks on his father's martyrdom and his mother's glory. But thus far the most poignant issues they have cast at him have turned out to be duds. The sneeze of an effeminate cat overheating for Sylvester the neighbor's cat generates more attention, out of people's curiosity at the prurience of such a gay feline.

Even the tenant-landlord problems of Hacienda Luisita owned by the Cojuangcos have been dumped on the garbage can of Noyoy when he had nothing to do with them. His only connection with Hacienda Luisita is that he is an Aquino. He had nothing to do with the reasons it was not land reformed.

On the premise that each one has his/her own individual mind, the law does not define the crime of the husband as being that of the wife too, and vice-versa. What more for a son, who has not run the family business, like Noyoy. Besides, as he admitted on TV the hacienda is a losing proposition and will soon be relinquished by the family. That should silence this issue once and for all.

On the matter of Kris taking care of her brother, it is no concern of outsiders because it does not affect his official functions. It is natural between siblings in a closely-knit Filipino family, who have been nurtured by their mother

to love each other, taking care of the one alone in life. Noynoy has no wife attending to his trivial chores. Why blame him if his sister Kris wants to play mother to him? Taking him to task for not having a wife is an unpardonable intrusion into his private life where nobody has any right to meddle. It is his sheer prerogative to enjoy a private life in a democratic society. This is so notwithstanding his being a politician.

To say that his phenomenal popularity with the electorate is superficial as it is anchored on people's fickle sympathy for his mother is an egregious fallacy! Just what time frame are we speaking about anyway? Is seven months so microscopic a period that it will warp our people's deep sympathy for the late Cory they loved so dearly? Absurd!

By the way, when was Ninoy Aquino murdered, wasn't it 1983? When was his fragile young widow Cory elected, was it not three years after his (Ninoy's) martyrdom? Before that Cory was just a plain housewife with no experience in politics except playing the role of sweet and devoted wife to her firebrand husband Ninoy, who was thickly into politics. Yet when he died, Cory was catapulted to the presidency against the ominous and awesome powers of a dictator who did not hesitate to use his extreme powers even against a lady opponent, but she nevertheless surmounted him in 1986.

How then, could seven months fog the surging

affection in the hearts of our oppressed countrymen for the Aquinos? Noynoy's enemies are just consoling themselves with the scenario of fiction when they know full well that the torch of the presidency will soon change hands to Noynoy in tandem with Sen. Mar Roxas, which by and large is a dynamic duo of change. Forget it daydreamers, your fantasy is a recipe for defeat, it's a trick the mind plays on a dying man.

If the sentiment for Ninoy lasted three years after his death to make his young, inexperienced and apolitical widow (Cory) president, does it not stand to reason that the same public sympathy for her passing will hold on to the finish line a few months from now, for her son Noynoy? The public is not as fickle as his adversaries want to believe. It is an insult to ascribe this nonsense to the people's undying sympathy for Cory and Ninoy, which has rolled over to their son. This very sympathy will see him through to victory on Election Day.

Our people may have their faults. "Being poor" is one of them, but spiritual and moral bankruptcy are not. They will vote Noynoy-Roxas come May next year even if it is out of love for Cory and Ninoy. The important thing is that the government will go into the hands of morally upright scions of illustrious parents, because the real issue in this election is INTEGRITY!

The above scenario is real, not fiction!