



Razor's Edge

By
Joe Mari Mercader
Executive Editor
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Bert Romulo : Chameleon For All Seasons

NEW YORK, NY Sept. 24 (PinoyGlobal) - The whole nation knows that Secretary Bert Romulo has been a crybaby to Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: he never stopped asking for appointments that has virtually made him a Jurassic fossil in the museum of Madam Arroyo's governance. The sad part is that he recompensed her with monumental ingratitude by turning into a chameleon in the most crucial struggle she faces in the months ahead. His announced support for opposition candidate Sen. Noyon Aquino comes as a mortal blow to her survival from political persecution after the elections.

Romulo's own son, Pasig Congressman Ramon Romulo, had more delicadeza, or decency if you will, saying that his father should resign because his announced support for the opposition presidential bet would make Pres. Arroyo "uncomfortable." Sen. Pres. Enrile too, said that cabinet officials, who will not support the party's candidates, should resign.

How did Bert expect to get away with his brazen turncoatism, is beyond me! With a single act of ingratitude he revealed his real color, a brazen opportunist and hypocrite to boot, by stabbing her in the back the Brutus way when he had the first chance.

Often like a doting mother, GMA appointed him with alacrity to positions of his choice such as to the Foreign Affairs, even when he was not qualified, to the chagrin of career diplomats.

When she regodoned him to the Foreign Affairs, diplomats were implacably furious having waited in the wings for so long to rise to that position. He exacerbated

their seething aggravation when he gate crash into the department. This spectacle was unsettling to their nerves. Gloria braved all that just to accommodate his obsession to be at Padre Faura.

What peeve career diplomats is that he was already offered to be ambassador to Washington D.C., which job is very prestigious, but he declined. Anyone of them would have given his or her right arm to be in it. Ambassador Willy Gaa grabbed it without blinking an eye and is trying hard to cling to it like an unwanted barnacle despite GMA's dissatisfaction with his performance.

For some reason Bert wanted the Foreign Affairs when he was relieved as Executive Secretary by Ermita, because his usefulness, if he ever was, already wore off. He started to look like a deteriorating fixture in the Palace. Expectedly, he was a sore thumb, an intruder in the Foreign Affairs and therefore he was contemptuously referred to as a square peg in a round hole in the department.

As Foreign Secretary he became so cocky - indiscriminately bullying everybody, including bona fide diplomats. And to think that he got the job because he cried to Madam Arroyo for it despite his mediocrity in foreign relations! It appears Madam Arroyo cannot help giving favorites the idea that they can have any cabinet post by just being obsequious to her, at which theatrics Romulo is adept at, and does so with unmitigated chutzpah.

Evidently, he ignores Lao-Tzu's lesson about the water that it does not aspire to dominate things it gets in contact with, and is so humbly lying in the lowest portion of the river when verily it can destroy steel or break a huge rock

by simply hugging it until it erodes to sand powder.

Not only is he still full of hubris, but he is even ungrateful to his benefactor whose freedom after she steps down next year hinges on the victory of her handpicked candidate for president. Romulo has turned into a virtual chameleon when the opportunity showed up.

Conveniently, Bert's jaded memory sizzled to life out of the blue for now he recalls his closeness with the Aquinos. He sees Sen. Aquino's star rising culminating in a landslide victory at the polls next year. Fine. But in so doing he obviously impacts the message that people no longer respect the president, which of course is a known fact.

He hopes that having declared his support for Noynoy he will again walk the corridors of power when the shift takes place. Seemingly, his attitude is that of the devil may care. In so far as Madam Arroyo's pet candidate Gilbert Teodoro is concerned, he can meander in the ether and she can languish in jail for all he cares. By this token he manifests unshakable blanket support for the Liberal Party standard-bearer and his running mate.

If that is not what I think it is – monumental ingratitude – then tell me what is treachery. Crisscrossing political loyalties is betrayal per se to his benefactor the president for it impacts that GMA's candidate is not a presidential timber. He invokes his "loyalty" for the late Cory, who like Gloria, kept him in her cabinet at the same time he ignores the favors he got from Madam Arroyo who gave him more. Isn't he obvious betraying GMA because her days are numbered?

Nevertheless, his support for Noynoy does not necessarily mean he influences a chunk of votes because he does not otherwise he would have been a candidate himself. Neither does he enhance, Noynoy's candidacy. I wish they would because I seriously want Cory's son to win. Without reservation I am convinced that he oozes with integrity. Most of the contenders with him have yet to display honesty without an iota of doubt. But Bert's endorsement has the wrong psychology on the voting public; it implies that her support for Secretary Teodoro for president is political hara-kiri for the latter.

Above all, it tacitly reveals that he knows Teodoro will only be saber rattling with no chance of winning in the elections; and therefore he is not worth wasting his vote on him.

However, I am just glad that as early or as late as now, Romulo already exhibited the chameleon that he is to his benefactor Pres. Arroyo, that his sense of gratitude is characterized by its obscene bankruptcy.

Let me reiterate that I am totally convinced Sen. Aquino is the next president of the Philippines by landslide with Sen. Mar Roxas as his vice president. The others will just be wasting their money because the tide for the Aquino-Roxas tandem has all the earmarks of winning hands down. Believe it or not, our people's loyalty and devotion for the Aquino family is that enduring, especially at the election precincts.