



The Doctor Is In

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Aquino Fever

NEW YORK, NY October 2 (PinoyGlobal) - During the time of the late Pres. Marcos the people united to elect a simple housewife to lead the country. This was the people's referendum against the dictatorial regime. I was there when Corazon Aquino declared civil disobedience against the government of Marcos at Luneta Park attended by three million people. I was there during the EDSA revolution facing the military tanks and tear gas. I was there during the elections guarding the ballots for Cory Aquino, watching closely where it goes to be sure it will not be lose in transit.

Now we have a second wave of Aquino fever. After Cory's death last month, the popularity of her only son, Noynoy, rose tremendously. I tried my best to be among the millions of people who emotionally support Noynoy for president, but my conscience dictates otherwise. He suffered a lot that cannot be denied. In fact, he was only 23 years old when his father Ninoy was assassinated. During the Honasan coup against his mother, his security guard was killed and he himself almost died from five bullets that hit him. Up to now, one bullet is still lodged in his neck.

He never got married because most probably since he is the only man in the family, he must have played the role of father taking care of his mother and three sisters. There is no doubt about his honesty and he is not extraordinarily weak like the other people in politics. These are qualities and virtues not many politicians possess. However, being a son of the president or having Aquino for last name on top of being honest and humble, in my opinion, is not enough to be president of the country.

Dr. Erie Agustin graduated in Medicine at the University of the East in 1980. From 1984-1988 he was a Rural Health Doctor in Pangasinan. He came to the US in 1988, and was an ER doctor at Wyckoff and Parkway Hospitals for many years. In 2003, he opened his own clinic which thrives until the present day.

Right now we don't have a dictator Marcos as our adversary and we are fighting the rampant graft and corruption of the present administration, which is not much of a difference. The way I see it, these very same people who belong to the Mafioso or tree of corruption are looking for a new ninong to continue undisturbed with the corrupt practices. They need a Noah who will look at the animals riding in his boat. Senators and congressmen who benefited from GMA's generosity are now his friends. Foreign Secretary Bert Romulo, a favorite lapdog of Gloria, is now swimming faster than Michael Phelps towards Noynoy's boat. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who is being implicated by Mancao in the Dacer killing, supports him now.

Sen. President Juan Ponce Enrile, notorious for illegal logging and denuding our forest, is showing his support for Noynoy by grilling Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr. And this is what I am scared of - that we will be back to square one if Noynoy becomes our president. I also need to see a strong leadership in him.

When he decided to run for president he wanted a million signatures and three days of retreat to decide to run. He is a very cautious person but sometimes a cautious person acts late. We need a dynamic and decisive individual with an independent mind.

Our country is tired of politicians being elected for their popularity. Children of politicians, actors, media men and sportsmen were elected before and experience has showed that they were not best suited for the elective positions they landed. Now let us look at the other presidential candidates to gauge their qualifications.

Let us start with Sen. Manny Villar Jr. Manny is a self made man. He can relate with the poor people because he

started as one, his parents were seafood vendors, not president of the Philippines. He became Speaker of the House and Senate President during his 20 years in politics and the only other gentleman who was able to achieve that feat was Sen. Jose P. Laurel Sr. Although his integrity is questioned in the C-5 deal, his accusers Senators Panfilo Lacson and Jamby Madrigal have retracted their accusations. What a waste of government funds and time to investigate an accusation that was politically motivated from the outset.

Villar is an economist and his vision is to set up the Philippines as a place to work so that our people will not have to travel abroad looking for jobs. He said that children will not be worried anymore in seeing their parents only during special occasions like weddings, death in the family, and graduations because they are working abroad. He also gave small loans to poor people for which his critics castigated him in the media, but none of the poor people criticized him.

I believe in small loans because I myself was able to barrow P2,000 during my medical days. I used the money to printing T-shirts and buy and sell textbooks to my classmates. My cousin sick of U.S. life went back to the Philippines with \$300. With Sears catalogue and from Marcy's a sewing machine pattern, he was able to create a thriving business. He is now the number one producer of blazers in the country.

A nurse who could not make it to America is now making nurses' caps and supplies all over the world. Villar himself started with only P10,000 buying second hand gravel and sands truck was able to establish a billion dollar real estate in the Philippines. He wanted the Filipino to be an entrepreneur just like the Chinese and the Japanese and not just a regular employee.

He is also a green person. One of his obsessions is to provide cleaner water and preserve our forests. He does not talk much; he speaks in a low and apolitical manner. But he easily connects with simple people. I believe that he will be the best person to lead this country.

In my next column I will do the same of giving the qualities and virtues of Sen. Chiz Escudero, Metro Manila administrator Bayani Fernando and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro.