



Razor's Edge

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Is Martial Law Bubbling Again Back Home?

NEW YORK, N.Y., Jan. 28 (PinoyGlobal) - With the fast-paced political developments in the country anything can happen yet. Kampi, a strong political party supporting Pres. Arroyo, has just announced that some of its members have already joined opposition parties. Other members of Kampi openly declared their favorite presidential candidates that did not include Madam Arroyo in the remote possibility of her running under a new form of government. These defections forced the embattled president to take drastic measures for self-preservation because her enemies keep threatening to punish her for “crimes” against the people. This vicious offensive has literally put her between the wall and sword leaving her no choice but to declare martial law.

It is always imprudent to telegraph your punches. If I were in her place, I would really declare martial law. Why doesn't the opposition keep their intention to themselves until they have the power?

Which validates our fears of what she might do. True to form, martial law is craning its monstrous neck as gleaned from her recent actions of packing the government with military people, which unequivocally will bring back to life the harrowing rule of the gun under the dreadful dictatorship of Marcos. Arroyo's governance marches on with the cadence of the spate of appointments being forked over to former generals and an admiral by our lame duck president, giving the fear that martial law is under study. These power hungry zeal of ex-generals do not even deserve to be footnotes in our political landscape.

Gloria should be mulling over ways and means to avert the harrowing effects of the global economic meltdown causing cataclysmic consequences in its wake on our already

poverty-stricken masses. It would not be amiss to conjure that our people will be so poor they may end up without clothes on their backs for poverty is the worst form of tyranny.

Should that happen, if our hero Lapu Lapu (who slew the first foreign invader Magellan six centuries ago in our shores) were alive today, he would have been the best-dressed Filipino in his G-strings now.

Needless to say our hapless people are appalled beyond words with this endless appointment of ex-generals to civilian positions, which militarizes the government. With the blast of trumpets these diehard Gloria “loyalists” eagerly made a beeline to Malacanang to be anointed by the president. Most of them have been assigned to juicy positions where the cesspool of corruption guarantees untold ill-gotten wealth in exchange for their blind support.

With these generals in place her majesty could mangle the Constitution unhindered by violent defiance from the people, and thus assume permanent residency in Malacanang. Such a macabre plan triggered Sen. Mar Roxas to sound the alarm alerting Juan de la Cruz of the impending disaster waiting to happen.

This time GMA surpassed herself by completely ignoring the sensibilities of the public that is aghast with her sinister goal of militarizing the civilian government.

At the rate she hands over appointments to has-been generals, it is as if she is giving them pancakes to gobble up like drunken sailors gulp beer on the high seas. Alluding to this the young Roxas is quoted as saying “President Arroyo will be compromising the civilian nature of the government.” He verbalized his fear in this wise

“We already saw that during the Marcos era when military people dominated his inner circle.” Keenly, he observed what she is doing has the makings of martial law. And why not when aside from all the hundreds of military officers manning civilian offices already, she is coming up with a bigger batch of old fogies from the military and navy?

Gen. Eddie Ermita, who is an expert on leapfrogging from one president to another, is now at a spitting distance with his boss, working with her in Malacanang. That is what I call “insurance.” His firm hold on her diapers is for Ripley’s, just as the gluing of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo to Gloria’s coattails is shameless. In the case of Romulo without Pres. Arroyo he would be in the streets waiting for another sucker president to appoint him. The man is a confirmed parasite!

Then of course, retired Gen. Angelo Reyes is one of her loyal lapdogs now. In retrospect he betrayed ex-Pres. Joseph “Erap” Estrada by giving his unqualified support as chief of staff, at the height of the pandemonium of Edsa II, to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she eagerly stepped into the shoes of her boss in absentia. Angelo does not even have a modicum of scruples because he owed his position to Estrada who appointed him.

Under Gloria he became the Secretary of Interior and later moved to another department where he is hibernating now. Again like Ermita, he has never been out of power since Prez Arroyo assumed office. There is also Public Works Secretary Alejandro Mendoza. This is the Mendoza mentioned by Joey de Venecia III as being around during the miasmatic ZTE deal in China that had to be aborted because the stench it emitted hit the stratosphere.

The palpable reason why she is coughing out appointments to ex-generals and a vice admiral is to insulate her from possible violence erupting if she ignores the mandate to step down after her term expires.

The very latest appointments are those of retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as Presidential Management Staff head, and retired police chief Gen. Avelino Razon as adviser on the peace process. Another converted Gloria loyalist is ex-Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan whose appointment as head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) is a matter of days.

Another officer who has recently been appointed is retired Vice Admiral Tirso Danga. He will be chief of NPO. This is the very Danga who wiretapped the cellular phone of then Comelec Commissioner Garciliano in the 2004 elections. What transpired from the calls he received included the infamous “Hello, Garci” call from GMA in which they talked about her winning over Fernando Poe Jr. before the actual polls. True to form she won by the majority she wanted to win (1,000,000 votes). When this exploded in the media Gloria was greatly embarrassed because the people identified her voice on radio when it was exposed on the behest of the opposition. The whistleblower was the now retired Sgt. Vidal Doble who was under Admiral Danga at the time and knew first hand of his machination.

Undaunted by the scandal, Pres. Arroyo still had the presence of mind to immediately designate Danga assistant to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. As such he would be unreachable by the tentacles of the Senate investigating committee because Danga would be mantled by the protection of Presidential Memorandum Circular #108 that prohibits ranking officials of her administration from answering questions without her explicit permission. To me this move makes Madam Arroyo guilty of cheating in the elections because she had no reason to shield Danga, who hurt her image seriously by what he did simply because he was not appointed to a position he wanted before the wiretapping took place. If that is not a rat, and she a party to undermine the Senate investigation on the frauds during said elections, then I am on the wrong planet.

In light of the litany of these traumatic developments, which should be evident to even a simpleton, do I have to draw a picture yet about what all this razzle-dazzle and mad scramble to appoint retired military and police generals and a confirmed unscrupulous admiral is leading to? I am sure that by now you share the trepidations of Sen. Mar Roxas, not for his political peril but that of the nation. The question is what should the people do given these infallible signs of probable martial law and GMA’s perpetuation?

The answer is not anarchy or rebellion. It is very simple—be vigilant in the coming elections, MAKE YOUR BALLOT COUNT! Only in pursuing this objective can democracy be restored in the nation, but the price is to be dedicated in bird-dogging your votes. No need of bloodletting. Make your votes count. OKAY?#