



## Razor's Edge

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### *Villar in Deep Trouble*

**NEWYORK, NY Jan. 11 (PinoyGlobal)** - In 4 months our people will elect the next president. But the Senate committee investigating the alleged involvement of presidential candidate Sen. Manny Villar Jr. regarding the anomalous C-5 insertion continues to move like a snail in resolving the issue. Sen. Pres. Enrile said it is soon coming. But when, is the question. People want concrete results to base their choice of president in the polls. Without a conviction or proof they could be trashing an innocent candidate to limbo or electing a scalawag as president with great potential for corruption. Either way, the public loses.

It is said a fish is caught by its mouth. Villar himself provides the reason that he will be the worst head of state, if elected, because he proudly claims of spending billions in his campaign as if money went out of fashion. If this were true, then he could very well be the most corrupt president who will make Marcos and GMA look like saints beside him. For Sen. Loren Legarda to get cross-eyed and disoriented by becoming his vice presidential candidate should tell a lot. Did she really receive P1-billion for her nod as bruited about shortly before becoming Manny's VP, which would confirm his modus operandi of shanghaiing known personalities to boost his sagging candidacy? For lack of INTEGRITY he lets his money talk the talk.

Being an astute businessman, if we are to believe his propaganda, he will not only recover his "hard" earned billions but haul a huge interest on top of them once he is in Malacanang. This prospect is horrifying considering that the nation is already supine on its back while poverty stalks all levels of society. Wielding absolute power for a full term of 6 years would be economic hara-kiri for our people if they vote for him.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who earnestly hopes to get at the bottom of this mess, not to bash his adversary but to provide him the opportunity to clear his name, dared Villar to answer his alleged involvement in the raging C-5 controversy. He asked Manny why he illegally inserted P200 million on the said project. In the case filed with the ethics committee, Sen. Jamby Madrigal underscored that the smuggled amount made on his behest benefits the properties in the vicinity belonging to him, which is clearly a conflict of interests.

But instead of complying with the challenge of Noynoy out of respect for the citizenry he hypocritically professes to love in his speeches, Villar just pooh-poohed the dare giving people the impression that he already acts high and mighty as if he is the president whom nobody should question. He forgets that voters have the right to know the truth if he does not want to give importance to the young Aquino. His reaction betrays the typical lame excuse of a culprit, if you ask me.

Adding insult to injury he insolently said he will not dignify the Senate, which he scornfully called a "kangaroo court." If that were so, what does that make of him who is part and parcel of the very kangaroo court (Senate) he so contemptuously disparages - a scoundrel? What a fraud!

Delicadeza behooves him to present his side instead of evading the issue and trashing the Senate as a body. The gravity of this matter transcends politics because if convicted in court he could get a long jail term for plunder. By snubbing the committee of the whole conducting the investigation he leaves it with no choice but to find him guilty if the members cannot study his answers and cross-examine him.

Sen. President Enrile who replaced Villar in the top Senate post, suggested for the embattled senator to bring the ethics committee to court to ascertain if investigating him for what he did is legally incorrect. His consistent indifference to cooperate with the Senate leaves a lot to be desired, to say the least. Is that the mark of leadership and sportsmanship he will carry to the presidency? How could the electorate support his aspiration for the highest office when he does not honor them with the truth?

Enrile even thinks of making an ocular inspection of the project to verify the veracity of the allegations against Villar, which he should do too. However, Sen. Lacson who first exposed the anomaly hastened to say Villar's visit "will have no bearing unless he participates in the Senate proceedings."

He may not realize that he (Manny) is in deep water. It's amazing he still he has the audacity to keep singing the monotone "what you see is what you get." What a ham! He does not realize that what people see is a potential corrupt national leader surpassing his crooked predecessors. Hopefully, the findings of the committee will come before the elections for voters to be guided accordingly whom to choose for the next president of the Philippines.

Last Saturday in a debate stage-managed by an elite group in Alabang, Villar showed his true colors by sarcastically bewailing that he was unfortunate for not being born to a martyred father, president mother and movie superstar sister, alluding to Noynoy who is blessed to have this great family background. I did not know that having illustrious parents is mortal sin in politics!

When asked if as president he will try to recover his billions, his answer was typical and evasive—"wala na po iyan." Are we to presume that he throws away billions without feeling the drain in the midst of this harrowing depression? I know Bill Gates is a super billionaire (in dollars) but he is very prudent with his expenses and does not brag about his donations around the world to uplift the living standard of the poor as well as provide for their education. I know Villar's wealth is not even a dot in the ocean of Bill Gates' phenomenal treasury, but his ego towers over Gates' modesty!

Expectedly, Manny harped on the over-abused absurdity about Noynoy's inexperience. Well, nobody denies that the

Tarlac lawmaker is camera shy and does not have the flare for lies and rhetoric to which Villar is an addict. But under no circumstances does it mean he is inferior timber for president. For one thing, he has the moral ascendancy that his adversary is conspicuously deficient of. Even now Villar is weighed down by charges of corruption. Is that his credential for national leadership?

Isn't it that a president is not alone in running the gamut of government without the help of a cabal of elite minds (cabinet) using their individual expertise that makes him a good president? So where does inexperience come in as a problem? More importantly he should have unwavering integrity. Does Villar have that? If he does why is he afraid to face his peers in the committee of the whole to give his side on the C-5 controversy?

In contrast the Tarlac solon was focused on his platform and not dirty politics that Villar is inured to. Noynoy talked of improving the "dismal teacher-to-children ratio, build more classrooms, provide better text books, upgrade the collection of taxes and zeroing on judicial reforms to enhance social justice.

Villar also criticized Aquino for having the Hyyatt 10 with him who were people of GMA. Noynoy said that it is not right that just because they were prominent in the past they are already sinful. He cited the Bible that "the sins of the father should not be visited upon the children." He received a tremendous applause from the audience.

It was obvious throughout the debate that people are tired of dirtball politics indulged in by notorious politicians. The callous ones deviate from the issue by resorting to personal attacks. In this regard Noynoy was obviously the favorite underdog candidate whom adversaries centered their tirades to smear him.

Notwithstanding their vicious maligning on the young Aquino, he nevertheless came out unscathed sustaining his lead in the presidential derby. Villar miserably tailgates Noynoy way behind while V-Day is 4 months from now. This proves that the electorate has matured and not swayed anymore by the theatrics of dirty tactics. They are uncompromising for a president with integrity and Noynoy fits their quest to a T.

Yes, the God fearing invariably prevails!