



Razor's Edge

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Villar Is Sinking Deeper Day by Day

NEWYORK, NY Jan. 26 (PinoyGlobal) - Sen. Manny Villar Jr. has sunk deeper in the quick sand he created (C-5 anomaly) that precipitated his summary removal as Senate President. The nightmare plaguing him is his own doing. His predicament could have been averted if instead of buttering the media he confronted the ethics committee to rebut the charges against him. His own NP senatorial candidate, Rep. Satur Ocampo, cogently stressed this point by imploring him to do so if he has not violated any law, which is a big IF.

Indeed, something must be egregiously wrong if one of his own deplores his refusal "to face the music" even if it means clearing his name. On the other hand, it does not help to speculate now that the verdict has been rendered by the ethics committee finding Villar guilty of illegally inserting funds on the controversial C-5 road project.

The more Villar evades the issue the more pronounced his guilt becomes. Using the scapegoat that the Senate is a kangaroo court that's why he refuses to submit to the investigation, hammered the last nail on his presidential aspiration. His intemperate language incurred him the ire of the public that hoped to see this issue resolved before the May elections.

Obviously, he never heard "that the safety of man is in the holding of his tongue." Cataloguing the Senate as kangaroo court sealed his grim fate in the polls to come. Even those who support him in the Senate would have heartily lambasted him if they were not recipients of his dole outs. I am inclined to believe that he agrees with Oscar Wilde that the worst thing than being talked about is not being talked about. But voters also repudiate the infamous in the electoral precincts, in case he forgets.

Another independent minded representative, Risa Hontiveros, walloped a more devastating challenge when in gist she said that Villar's claim to fight for our people falls flat on its nose when he cannot even defend his own name. Cowering from defending himself does not enhance his presidential ambition.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal who filed the case in the committee of the whole has also filed the criminal charge with the Sandiganbayan being the unique court handling corruption cases. In light of this, how could Villar put a straight face before the electorate with a tarnished reputation and possible conviction for plunder, a great debit for a presidential aspirant? Prudence dictates he should back off and save whatever is left of his war chest rather than lose face and money three months hence.

Exacerbating matters for him, his barking dogs in the Senate are not helping at all with the puny defense they put up in his behalf. Senate Minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. went ballistic on Sen. Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal. Rather than tackling the issue initiated by the lady senator in the committee, he took her to task instead, using sewer language only he relishes: he called her an "abused child." It is uncertain if he implied that she was sexually or physically abused. Typical of a coward Pimentel planted this ambiguity in our people's mind after having displayed his penchant to fight a lady in public using the vulgar language he is at home with.

In any case, it was beneath a gentleman to subject a lady with such debasing indignity. I am sure he would not dare say the same of gays or lesbians. He'll be skinned alive. He knew Sen. Madrigal is decent so he felt safe in a pile of dung, deriding her.

Of course, knowing Pimentel's propensity for corruption – Madrigal shouted back, "Corruption, corruption." I don't know if she was implying him to be guilty of corruption now or in the past or both ways. But with the way Villar squanders his money on so-called supporters it would not be amiss to construe that Pimentel is one of those beneficiaries who prostituted their principles and tongue for Villar.

Another Doberman of Villar, Sen. Alan Cayetano, lamely exclaimed in the midst of the brouhaha stirred by Pimentel, that the committee is "too politicized to issue an impartial judgment on a colleague," referring to his master Manny. This makes me wonder if Cayetano is naïve or still gropes in the dark not to know that the Senate itself is completely politicized, for that matter, the entire Congress is highly politicized. If it were not it would not be the forum of politicians, trapos included.

The reason he barks for Villar is because he is polarized to his politics and so are the rest of the mercenaries in the Senate politicized for the embattled senator. And this is not to say they are for him for the logistics of it, which would be more plausible considering that in politics your money supply must never dry up. And so they expect so much for lapping Villar's shoes.

Sen. Miriam Santiago who admits being a Villar supporter because of a favor she received in the past came up with the asinine excuse that the committee of the whole was twice foiled last week in presenting its findings on the C-5 scandal in the plenary session. She gloated saying that they were "requested", which I believed the right word was ordered, to boycott said plenary. For someone who enjoys the reputation of being brainy in the Senate, I am appalled this came from her.

Is it possible they have become robots or that their minds are numb, warped or what because of Villar's money that they don't function normally anymore? Have they no conviction of their own or principles to discern that it was wrong to snub

the plenary which could have brought to light the guilt or innocence of their boss?

She also elucidated that the committee cannot impose sanctions on the beleaguered senator because it is handicapped in numbers. To oust or suspend a guilty member the Senate has to have three fourths of the votes of the 23 members. Note that earlier Villar was able to have 11 senators, including Legarda who voted for his ouster as Senate President, clear him of his involvement on this anomaly when it was not yet decided by the ethics committee and they had no business preempting its function. Of course, the drama was a dud and a farce.

Villar however is not content in defying the committee. He is instigating the removal of Senate President Enrile for sponsoring his suspension or ouster from the Senate after finding him guilty as charged. He is vindictive after all. Is this the character of one who wants to be president? How will he decide things as president involving the fortunes of political adversaries - with hate, bias and prejudice? How different would he be to the late Dictator Marcos whose son, Bongbong, he personally sponsored as a senatorial candidate in his own Nacionalista Party?

This is no time for conjectures or taking chances dear voters. Come 2010 you will be course the destiny of our motherland – vote with integrity and moral courage. Vote for someone who could face the consequences of his decision if it serves the greater interest of our people and not that of an elite clique or cabal of cronies.

Already we have seen what Manny Villar is like and it is not inspiring. Only masochists would vote for him at this point. There are good people to choose from; Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Gilbert Teodoro Jr. Both are idealists and learned. More importantly, they are God fearing. Choose the best for the good of our children and our children's children and of course, the nation in general. But vote right for heaven sake!