



## *Razor's Edge*

By  
**Joe Mari Mercader**  
*Executive Editor*  
FILIPINO TIMES  
*New York-New Jersey*

*Joe Mari Mercader . . .*

# *Pushing Ninety Is Senility in Progress, Mr. Ramos*

**NEW YORK, NY April 14 (PinoyGlobal)** -I am happy because I am not impressed with money nor am I fascinated by societal shindigs or awed by big names in politics. My abhorrence for such stiff life is phenomenal; I puke at its hypocrisy. I always fought corrupt administrations essentially because unscrupulous public officials use the resources of the government without qualms. Sometimes they use it on journalists to slant the issues to boost their political fortunes.

This is the modus operandi of Sen. Manny Villar, who shows contempt for kababayans by buying their principles and convictions to waltz his way to victory. Fortunately, his ploy has ricocheted because the electorate has grown utterly disgusted with the idea. "Money should not be made the criterion in these elections," they say.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III persistently dominates the surveys and there is no way Gloria's secret candidate (Villar) could reverse the trend toward a potential landslide victory for Noynoy. The electorate wants to make it clear that values are still paramount to them. And of course, the integrity of Noynoy steamrollers Villar's shuttered virtues due to his shenanigans and wonton land grabbing in connivance with the register of deeds. The most devastating issue against him is his pact with the Arroyos as their secret candidate for president. On this Villar's aspiration is doomed.

I have been labeled as a muckraker for saying my piece unmindful of the consequences. In my profession accolades could be disastrous: I need flexibility with my freedom of

speech or I shall be an impotent columnist. What stymies people from rising above the crippling crisis besetting the nation, is because they do not exercise the right of suffrage courageously to curtail the pervasive evil seizing the country: voters are intimidated or bought. Election after election they catapult trapos (notorious politicians) to office by dignifying the endorsement of wilted political leaders. Unless they jettison this prejudice by voting for honest men the nation will forever be under a crooked president not to mention economically strapped.

Lamentably, people still cling to the words of washout political figures who are pathetically nearing senility. If isn't nauseating ego that drives former Pres. Fidel Ramos to "pa porma" (getting into the center of any situation) what is he doing endorsing candidates whose "qualities" are visible only to him?

He already had six years of the presidency must he steal the thunder from the next generation? Who is he to moralize when as president he spent millions junketing to 32 countries leaving our national coffers bone dry? This is apart from keeping the people in the dark where the billions for the Philippine Centennial Celebration went? Must he endorse a candidate that only his jaded mind is enamored with and only because he wants titillate his ally former Speaker Joe De Venecia Jr (JDV).?

Despite pushing close to ninety when he should be smoking tobacco in his rocking chair, he endorsed Joey De Venecia III saying he is brave, intelligent and upright. How did he

arrive at such a conclusion when Joey is not exactly a paragon of virtue? The young De Venecia was in the thick of the anomalous ZTE-NBN deal that unmade then Comelec chairman Ben Abalos and even his own father, Joe De Venecia, was removed as head honcho of the House.

In retrospect, Joey “exposed” the deal only because he was double-crossed by the tandem of the First Gentleman and Abalos who overpriced the transaction by \$139 million, not out of principles, he wanted a share of the overprice. There was nothing heroic in his whistle blowing at the Senate hearing.

Indeed, if the \$130 million overprice was converted into pesos it amounted to billions and Joey could have gotten quite a heap notwithstanding his corporation’s meager capital if he was in the deal. Needless to say, his anemic corporation had no leg to stand on in the bidding. It was disqualified from the start for insufficient capitalization. His ace was the influence his father wielded in the government. The deal fizzled out anyway because it became too vulgar and too hot, it was universally notorious. All that bashing in the press and in the Senate was for nothing: the signed contract went down the drain.

Is that Fidel’s idea of the young De Venecia being upright? If he is spellbound by the “qualities” of Joey I am sure he has no rival. Suppose the anomalous deal went through and Joey got his fair share, would he have become whistleblower in the ZTE Senate investigation? There was nothing heroic in what he did. His primary concern was the dirty money he expected if he was in the transaction. He knew his father was holding the Dagger of Damocles over the Arroyos because he was privy to many rotten contracts entered into by the government, in which he could have been involved.

With this mind frame, Joey became unrealistically bold. Fortunately, the Arroyos were not intimidated. Instead, they retaliated by dethroning the older De Venecia. In a poetic justice; JDV was literally defanged.

Who will Fidel endorse next? What antics is he up to again? He does not realize that his saber rattling with madam Arroyo since she became president merely exposed his progressive senility - people don’t listen to him anymore. His voice became hoarse shouting invectives against the lady president with no effect. The citizenry gave him a deaf ear.

The credentials he attributed to the young De Venecia are propaganda lies to make the latter a senator. But voters might spurn him in the polls for being an opportunist: he exposed the anomalous deal because he was left out not out of deep-rooted conviction and uncompromising principles. Truth to tell he could have supported it if he was given a substantial sum of the loot (\$130 million overprice). If that is being upright what was the crime of Judas?

The political scene in the country is tumultuous already without Fidel Ramos stirring it any further. But he still wants to dictate people around when he should be retired and tired. Fidel, you are just mixed up. Rest in peace in your Tempur-pedic comfort bed: leave the battle to the younger generation. You had your time and you failed miserably! Okay?