



Razor's Edge

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In A Failed Elections Who Is To Blame?

NEW YORK, NY May 7 (PinoyGlobal) -The nation is watching with bathed breath Monday's elections. Will Pres. Arroyo and the Commission on Elections keep the process clean, peaceful and on schedule with no glitches and hitches? A postponement would be in violation of the Constitution that mandates elections to be held on the third Monday of the month.

Failed elections satisfy cynics and rabid dissenters, but not peaceful citizens. However, this is not remote to happen because of faulty Smarmatic-TIM machines. Remember the automated system is novel concept to us. Furthermore, the probability cannot be ruled out that the Commission on Elections will postpone the Monday polls if the machines are not corrected on time.

This possibility could cause chaos. The people will castigate Malacanang for not anticipating the problem with the Comelec. The glitches in the imported Smarmatic machines have to be promptly corrected to have credible elections. Presently, the machines have more defects than there are spots on a Dalmatian.

76,000 compact flash cards for the voting have yet to be replaced. But with only a few days left this is hard to accomplice even though the suppliers as well as the Comelec reassure it can be done. "Elections will proceed without hitches." That would be the day. Malacanang is just looking for any reason to justify military intervention to delay GMA's exit from power until she is safe with the election of her puppet (Money Villaroyo). Postponing the elections though, is a recipe for disaster.

Power is aphrodisiac to those who do not bend with the

wind as the trees do. Madam President, ego can be fatal. Look at the calamity plaguing Manny Villar; Erap has tied with him in the latest survey for second place.

The question is why are we experimenting with this untested automated system in a critical poll process like what we will have on Monday? America still uses the manual and yet she can afford to buy all the sophisticated election equipment if she wants to. Perhaps she has misgivings regarding the automated system's effectiveness.

It could have been better if the novel automated system was used not on a national election where so much is at stake. The machines should have been tested two years before a presidential election to insure accuracy and effectiveness and thus preempt losers the excuse of having been cheated.

It is mind-boggling that these safety precautions were not taken into account by the president and the Comelec after the ZTE-NBN fiasco. A simple test two years before election would have precluded the anxiety plaguing our voters today.

The appointment of Gen. Bangit as chief of staff is unsettling considering his canine loyalty for GMA, which is a cause for apprehension. He amply demonstrated this nauseating loyalty in the 2004 elections. Witnesses say he brought huge boxes of money to buy votes in Mindanao aside from other chores he performed to insure her victory over movie icon Fernando Poe Jr.

Against this backdrop does it not stand to reason that Gen. Bangit will again implement a scenario crafted by her to ensure the election of her anointed presidential candidate?

A Malacanang source floated the possibility of three scenarios. 1) The compact flash cards will correctly read, count and tally the ballots cast by voters in which there will be no problem. 2) Revert to manual voting if the problem is not resolved. 3) Postpone for 15 days giving Comelec time to prepare.

This revelation by a faceless source is a subtle way of testing the grounds for possible frauds and rigging instigated by the Palace.

And in a worst-case scenario, the military will intervene and that is almost sure with the malfunctioning Smarmatic machines and the automated system. This doesn't sound right having in mind the chief of staff is a loyal Arroyo factotum. But only the events will teach us in its hour.

Monday is D-Day let us give it a chance to happen before we condemn the goddess at Mount Olympus.