



## *Razor's Edge*

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# *By the Grace of God We Have a New President*

**NEWYORK, NY May 12 (PinoyGlobal)** - After 10 long years of President Arroyo's misrule, the heir to the glorious name of his legendary parents (Pres. Cory Aquino, restorer of Philippine democracy, and martyred father Ninoy); Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III has swept to victory by garnering the awesome volume of more than 12 million votes.

His victory has redefined the political landscape of the country and is expected to usher the desired government of the people, by the people and for the people. There will be no such thing as to the victor goes the spoils. The nonsense of "Kamaganak Inc." and "utang na loob" that soiled the leadership of previous presidents should be verboten today as it is our abominable past.

Noynoy's impressive victory eradicated the ruinous system of political warlords and demagogues via the Smartmatic machines. Sure the automated system is far from perfect as former Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod impartially observed on television, but it is better than what we had, which was susceptible to rigging.

The May 10 election was a fresh air breezing by our beleaguered country under Pres. Arroyo. The Comelec itself is happy with the PCOS machines. The outcome could have been worse with the old system.

Before going any further however, I would like to give credit to President Arroyo for going against her unadulterated passion to stay in power. She could have subverted the sovereign will of our electorate, but did not. Although she

really had no choice, the world was watching. Nevertheless, she made a liar of detractors and critics who unleashed a well of sinister speculations that she would go to any length to make her anointed win at all cost. He would be her safety net in case the threat of livid oppositionists is pursued to send her and her husband to jail.

I do not exempt myself from the guilt of being one of those blinded with prejudice to whatever she does or says. Well, she has proven me and the rest of us wrong by her final gesture of allowing the smooth flow of elections without road blocks from her minions and stepping down in June 30. Astute as she is, Gloria is going back to power through the revolving door of politics. She ran for Congress in route to the speakership purposely to attain her final goal of being the first prime minister under a parliamentary system once the Charter change is consummated spearheaded by her.

The usual rigging and terrorism that were often ascribed to her in the past were perceptively subdued in last Monday's elections. But my misgivings of her stems from her body language that made me obsessively skeptical about her sincerity to provide free, fair and honest elections. Since she broke her solemn promise not to run for president and did exactly the opposite my tolerance for a modicum of backtracking on one's word of honor snapped abruptly. Since then I never took her words as gospel truth even if she swore by a stack of Bibles.

Madam Arroyo not only reneged on her commitment, but openly cheated with unbridled, nay, shameless audacity to win against the late Fernando Poe Jr. who was unbeatable

given his iconic image as a movie idol. This could be gleaned in the now infamous “Hello, Garci” scandal. On those issues, I believe my wrinkled trust regarding her sincerity is well founded.

Now we have evolved into a democracy that may be with us for as long as our people are steadfast with their principles. That is if they don’t backslide to the loathsome politics of terrorism, cheating and frauds, trapos and demagogues are honed to.

The shift to the automated system is a blessing because if the old way of counting was applied the results in the elections may not be what we are seeing now. But let us not allow the worry of yesterday steal the joy of today for that is the only thing we have now. Let us relish the euphoria of our blissful innocence.

Noynoy was elected and that is what matters. It could have been worse if Villar or any other candidate for president took the high ground to victory. Perhaps the future would not be as bright as we expect it to be in the next six years.

The Smartmatic machines did a wonderful job and the proof of the pudding is in the eating. What we got is enough proof that we can live by it. These machines are going to stay and overstay in our electoral process.

There are many pluses that can be attributed to the automated system. First, they preempt Commission on Elections officials and employees from selling the results to the highest bidders among candidates. This is now remotely possible because the results are instant and not polluted by filthy intentions of venal people.

Second, the results are immediate with a minimal margin of error. As a matter of fact, compared to previous elections the 2010 polls is considered relatively peaceful and almost fraud-free except for some minor machine failures in some places. In the overall it was worth the try. Happily, we are set to a new era of less frauds and rigging that characterized previous elections.

Third, it vindicated Juan de la Cruz. He is not an ignoramus after all as demagogues and rabble rousers perceive them to be for their lack of education. Without extensive training on the use of these seemingly sophisticated machines, they coped with them quite brilliantly.

Fourth, Filipinos proved beyond doubt that they cannot be mesmerized by the glitter of money nor carried away by the constellation of superstars and celebrities endorsing candidates like Sen. Manny Villar Jr. who scandalously used them in his political rallies. Such names as Pacquiao, Willie Revillame and a galaxy of political big wheels endorsing him did not captivate votes for him. His candidacy was thrown to the garbage where it belonged in the first place. I hate to beat a fallen horse, but this is just a reminder to would be Villar copy cats in the future.

Fifth, the issue of integrity over the politics of corruption and wanton vote buying that stonewalled good candidates with no money from being elected, has been smashed beyond recognition with the overwhelming victory of Noynoy. He impacted on the electorate to live up to the ideal of honesty advocated by his great parents.

These and many more bonanzas are in the crystal ball of the Philippines’ future. Only his conduct as president could soil his parents’ good name and ruin the milestone of his decisive victory. The world expects him to live up to the promises of integrity and performance. He should avoid the pitfalls of repaying “supporters” who in all likelihood are opportunists and carpetbaggers. These denizens dismembered political lives of presidents who felt obliged to cronies and financiers than to the people that catapulted them to office in the hope of attaining economic and national stability.

Mr. President, beware the Greeks bearing gifts. There are people in the US who pretend to be Fil-Am leaders claiming to have sent you a few dollars during the campaign and think that your soul is sold to them already. They are talking of creating a gridlock in Malacanang to ask for positions and or business deals. That would be perpetuating the old system of corruption.

I hope you are not beholden to these cockroaches having seen their kind when your mother became president. Don't waste the milestone you achieved – spurn them as plague. These denizens file behind the skirts of a woman who claims to be your maker here in America. This woman is notorious for this antics.

This column at the Filipino Times and Pinoy Global Online ([filamimage.com](http://filamimage.com)), was the first to salvo Noynoy's presidential ambition and even suggested organizing a movement for his candidacy. It continued to support him up to the elections. But I clearly state that it was only to overthrow the decadent leadership of Pres. Arroyo, fraught as it is with corruption, extrajudicial killings and suppression of press freedom, and not for to be recognized much less expect any reward. I am happy with my columns at Filipino Times and Global Pinoy Online that allows me to serve our people here and back home.

Lastly, the new era has to prove its invulnerability to the corrosive politics that held our people hostage in the past to its macabre whims. The ball is now in Noynoy's hands; he must live up to our aspirations and hope for change.

God bless the new president!