



Razor's Edge

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“Hocus PCOS” is in the Eyes of the Beholder

NEW YORK, NY May 17 (PinoyGlobal) - In any contest, be they card games or elections, the losers are loudest in crying they were cheated. These poor sports are like jailbirds who never admit their crimes. Stung by the pangs of defeat, former Pres. Joseph “Erap” Estrada and senatorial candidate Francisco “Kit” Tatad, like decrepit old knights in politics, hysterically denounce that the recently concluded poll process was marred with frauds, which only they could see while the nation is in the dark. Joining the chorus is Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) campaign manager, Ambassador Ernesto Maceda.

The trio vociferates of massive irregularities alleging that the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines were patently tampered for the “desired results.” More importantly, PMP candidates did not benefit from the pre-programmed CF (compact flash) cards that were fed to the computers.

It is academic that in making serious charges the burden of proof rests on the shoulders of the beholder or accusers, if you will. They have to prove the malfunction of some PCOS machines were not instances of fluke or snafu but deliberate; and who were behind the frauds. I don't know if these people ever thought that someone could also come back at them saying that the only irrefutable fact in this brouhaha is the sexual résumé of Erap and not the so-called “marred” CF cards.

The losers' acerbic cacophony can be easily demolished because Erap himself got millions of votes more than the extravagant NP presidential candidate Sen. Manny Villar Jr. In all the surveys before the polls Erap was constantly kissing Villar's behind until he landed second to the phenomenally popular Sen. Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, in

the final count. Noynoy's 13,840,271 million votes that made his adversaries look like turtles in a marathon race with Speedy Gonzales, is so conclusive that leaves no room for doubt or malicious speculations, about his victory. Erap placing second was truly a surprise! Was all their impressive showing result of machinations too?

Since they vigorously condemn the election results, don't they also believe that PMP candidate Jojo Binay who dominates the vice presidential derby by hundreds of thousands to his closest rival, the charismatic Liberal Party candidate Sen. Mar Roxas, to be legitimate? If they don't then Binay's votes are also a product of the election sting they hallucinate about, for what is good for the geese is good for the gander.

If truly the elections were fraught with rampant cheating then all of the candidates are parties to the fraud because they also got millions of votes. Although, Noynoy's impressive victory does not foment doubt. Besides, the young Aquino is a total stranger to the craft of rigging elections, much less vote buying, which has directly caused Money Villaroyo's defeat.

Tatad calls the machines that gave us relatively clean elections “Hocus PCOS” and asked that all the flash cards are surrendered by the Commission on Elections “for inspection and review of the source codes” used in the machines. Furthermore, he denounced the CF cards were pre-programmed to reflect “the desired results instead of read results or real votes.”

His ambivalence on what problem to address first is confusing: he and Maceda said that the Comelec replaced CF cards that demonized some machines with glitches, in three

days. But in the same breath they claim this is “logically improbable” because of the time constraint. Now what is this - damn if Comelec rectifies the problem and damn if it doesn't? Evidently, the “Hocus PCOS” Tatad is crying about is just in the eyes of the beholder.

This anachronism in today's time and age, personified by a poor loser, also wants to accuse certain Comelec officials “of violation of elections laws.” He said the Comelec, “failed to impose the fair elections act. It failed to give us free space and airtime in newspapers and television, as provided by law.”

He may have a point there. But isn't his observation way after the fact? He shoots first and give the reason later when the other way around should be the case. Isn't it weird his misgivings came when everything happened already?

Come to think of it, if truly he is that sensitive and particular about moral acts, why did he gloat reading on television the oppressive presidential decrees of the late dictator President Marcos at the height of martial law terrifying the nation no end? It reached a point when people feared to hear or see him on television as they were traumatized by his imperious nasal monotone recitation. Now he is non-stop moralizing about clean and honest elections. I beg your pardon, sir!

Look at the trio's lopsided if not stupid complain against the pre-programmed memory cards. Didn't they say the pre-programmed cards were peddled to them by some sources a week before the elections? By their own admission they declined to buy the loaded chips because they did not have the money to pay P30-50 million for each CF card. So, if they had the money their view of whole scheme would have been different. They would have actively participated in the massive irregularities. If that is integrity at work let me know what is abominable!

Did it not occur to Tatad the impressive showing of his presidential candidate Erap is manifestation of the elections being fair and clean considering that the previous ones were always attended by massive frauds, cheating and killings? Even before the elections, many candidates including the cacophonous trio were already condemning PCOS machines and asking for the arrest of Smartmatic officials without any proof of alleged pre-programmed PC cards with the desired results. Merely because there were glitches in some machines is no reason to conclude the rest are all fixed for illegal purposes.

If this is our way of attracting investors in the country, tell me of a recipe to scare away foreign capital. Could they not understand that nothing is perfect, even in cars there are lemons. If this is our mentality - asking for the impossible - then we should stop inviting investors in the country because there is no guarantee that their products are not malfunction-proof. Somehow there will always be glitches. Our draconian guide post is therefore palpably irresponsible for it leaves no room for unintended errors.

If truly there were sources selling CF cards before the elections why did they not denounce and identify the perpetrators instead of crying wolf after? And would it not also stand to reason that Money Villaroyo would have easily won with his expendable billions, which he could have used to buy all the millions of loaded computer chips?

If he could pay discredited politicians leeching him and celebrities to endorse his candidacy, why did he not buy all those infernal cards to win? But he lost because there never were such sources or pre-programmed cards except the malfunction of some machines. Not until they prove their accusations will I believe them.

And if the innuendo is that the Liberal Party was the sole beneficiary of the pre-programmed memory cards because Noynoy got the highest number of votes for president, indeed the trio is singing Blue Moon under a scorching sun. Noynoy did not have enough funds in his war chest to amass the millions for those cards costing P30-50 million each. So, aren't they barking at the wrong tree?

Accusations are easy to make. But proving them is another thing. In plain language, they are sour grapping, no ifs and or buts about it. Erap and Tatad have backgrounds that melt in the glare of light. Erap went to jail for plunder but for the magnanimous gesture of President Arroyo who gave him full pardon he would still be languishing in jail today.

Tatad was Marcos' fair-haired boy and he was ecstatic as such in his swivel chair in the Palace while the people groveled in poverty, hunger, oppression, torture and even murdered.

How dare the fancy slogans that cast aspersion on the integrity of the Comelec, Smartmatic and the winners in the last elections. Because they are the losers, they seek to have the election results turned upside-down. Isn't that provoking possible upheaval?

They are so myopic not to see that the 13 million votes of president-election Noynoy Aquino could not be the product of the costly CF memory cards but the love and loyalty of admirers who tenaciously believe in his capacity to lead a clean and honest government.

Change the election results and a bloody riot is bound to explode. The people will not allow their votes to be desecrated because some poor sports losing in the polls cannot accept the supreme will of our electorate. To barrow a cliché, the voice of the people is the voice of God!