

Keeping Things in Perspective: Political Corruption and the Presidentiables

Second of two parts
By: Thinking Pinoy

Bye Padaca, Hello Dy
In 2010, Roxas and LP originally supported Grace Padaca, a 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service for “empowering Isabela voters to reclaim their democratic right to elect leaders of their own choosing, and to contribute as full partners in their own development”

However, LP’s stance changed after events demonstrated how powerful the Dys are.

Padaca recently questioned the LP’s way of allying with those who are not presumed to be practicing the reform agenda or the “Tuwid na Daan” anti-corruption slogan of the administration [Inquirer].
“My only question is the ease by which they could ally with people who are not known to be Daang Matuwid. ‘Yun lang ang question ko. Presidential candidate Mar Roxas has been openly naman going quite often to Isabela with the Dys na ang kanyang kasama. Hindi ko alam kung mababago pa ‘yun,” Padaca said.

Verdict:
• Abuses political power for private enrichment? In this issue, not necessarily.
• Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? Yes.

2.2 Criminal Cronies
Roxas actively defends campaign donor Eric Gutierrez, owner of SR Metals Inc, an Agusan del Norte miner that exceeds legal mining quotas, destroys the environment, illegally displaces (and allegedly murders) lumads, among other violations. By the way, LP Spokesman Edgar Erice was SR Metals’ incorporator and president in the late 2000s.

Gutierrez did not just lease planes to Roxas’ 2016 campaign, he is also a known long-time LP ally. He supported PNoy’s candidacy in 2010, hired former cabinet secretary Ricky Carandang as press chief of one of his companies, and he even lent the helicopter used to film VP Binay’s alleged Batangas farm.

To add insult to injury, Pnoy even awarded Gutierrez an environment award just two months ago in Malacanang. In response to all these criticisms, Roxas said “[Eric] is my friend, what’s wrong with that?” [Philstar]

Verdict:
• Abuses political power for private enrichment? Not necessarily.
• Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? Yes.

2.3 Patronage Politics
Political patronage is the dispensation of valued benefits by a patron to a client in exchange for political loyalty. In Mar’s case, I can cite at least two concrete and blood-curdling examples.
First, Korina and DA handouts. Roxas allowed his wife, Korina Sanchez-Roxas, to be the face that gives out publicly-funded Department of Agriculture handouts. This is despite the fact that Sanchez-Roxas is not even a government employee, and despite the fact that even Roxas, her own husband, is not even a government employee anymore. Asked about this, Roxas replied, “What’s the

issue?” [Philstar]
Second, Roxas and his 4Ps TV commercial. In this ad, Roxas asked, “Paano na...kung hindi natin itutuloy ang Daang Matuwid?” Roxas clearly implies that the government’s conditional cash transfer program will end if LP loses the presidency, despite the fact that all three other major candidates are amenable to its continuation. More than just patronage politics, this is blatant deceit.
Lying for the sake of winning, that’s political corruption. Roxas even supports and trains his own online army of trolls called “Mar Online Warriors” to skew public opinion in his favor by spamming online fora and social media sites with pro-Roxas content.

Verdict:
• Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
• Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? Yes.

3.0 Grace Poe-Llamanzares
Grace Poe’s resume is razor-thin and it has, at first, proved to be an advantage for her. With just a few years into public service, Grace Poe has fewer opportunities to commit politically corrupt acts. However, as the campaign season moved along, the public discovered that it was in for a surprise.

3.1. FPJ Legacy a.k.a. Personality Politics
A lot of my childhood friends in my Bulacan hometown are crazy about FPJ movies. After all, who wouldn’t be fascinated by a single man who’s able to mow down entire armies with nothing but his bare fist?
He was so popular that he was able to get away with having Sharon Cuneta as a leading lady (with matching kissing scene), despite the latter being 26 years his junior. Despite the fact, the masses liked that

movie so much, there was even a sequel! That’s how influential FPJ is among the masses. That can be considered power over the polity, i.e. political power.
And Grace Poe capitalized on it.

In her proclamation rally, she famously said, “Ipagpapatuloy ko ang sinimulan ng aking ama,” even if everyone knows that her father hasn’t done anything politically significant outside the movies, aside from running for president in 2004.
Given this, does Poe hold a belief that just because his father was allegedly cheated in the 2004 Elections, the presidency automatically becomes her birthright?

But I am digressing. It’s pretty obvious that Poe preys on the part of the masses who mistake FPJ’s movie personas as reality. This is all despite his

father’s heritage having nothing to do with her qualifications to become president. It’s just sad.

Verdict:
• Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
• Abuses political power to enhance hold on power? Yes.

3.2 Historical Revisionism on Coco Levy Fund Scam
Grace Poe appears to be vehemently against corrupt public officials. For example, she’s known to be a vocal critic of VP Jejomar Binay, whom she openly castigated on national TV. In the March 2016 Presidential Debates, Poe openly told Binay, “Nanatili ka nga sa bansa pero ikaw naman ay nangulimbat.” [Philstar]
Poe’s anti-corruption rhetoric, however, changes when she talks about her campaign donor Danding Cojuangco.
Danding Cojuangco is widely known as the poster boy for the Coco Levy Scam, the biggest public funds heist in the last 100 years. Cojuangco amassed at least \$2.61 billion [in 2016 dollars] in corporate assets through illegal monopolies and massive fraud [LA Times], that’s at least 12 times bigger than Janet Napoles’ Php 10b PDAF Scam.
Poe insists on the belief that the government has already sequestered these assets, but the recovered asset are, at best, worth only P73 billion [BusinessMirror]. Poe’s insistence on this narrative is hard to explain, especially since she’s surrounded by mentors, such as Ateneo Law Dean Tony La Vina, who belongs to the well-read academic elite], and coco farmer group COIR has openly criticized her statements two weeks ago.
What does Poe stand to gain from her selective memory? The Presidency.

Verdict:
• Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
• Abuses political power to gain, maintain, or enhance hold on power? Yes.

3.3 Political Indebtedness
But it gets worse. In reference to the Coco Levy Fund Scam, Poe

Cont. on page 6

Tried and Tested Servant Leader

Re-elect

2 Sa Balota

■ INTEGRITY ■ HARDWORK
■ CHARACTER ■ HONESTY
■ STRONG LEADERSHIP ■ HUMILITY
■ EXPERIENCE
■ COMPETENCE

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NIC ALIPING

iBOTO? Nagpayaman daw?

Hindi siya nagpayaman. Ano ba naman ang ekta-ek-taryang property sa Mt. Cabuyao na ito, eh family resort naman ito. Pampamilya kung бага! At bilyon naman ang nagawa niyang pera (para sa Baguio)!

How would you describe Baguio's Congressman?

1. Irresponsible
2. Untrustworthy
3. Disrespectful
4. Hypocrite
5. Above the law
6. Shameless
7. Arrogant
8. A Liar
9. Unethical
10. Dishonorable

Answer: ALL OF THE ABOVE !!!

Kayo naman talaga, siya ay taong may isang salita! His word is good enough kumbaga, at magaling bumoka! No, no, no, 'di siya balasubas, never, promise!

Ang PROTEKTOR NG MGA SKWATER sa Baguio ay isa ding skwater!!!!

ALIPING SALARIN NG BAYAN

- Ang kinatatayuan ng bahay ng SALARIN NG BAYAN ay bahagi ng isang watershed sa 173 Crystal Cave, Bakakeng Central, City Assessors Office ARP # 01-05006-020201 PIN 102-05-008-04-0223-8054
- Skwatter din ang mga kanagangah niya na kanyang pinoprotektahan na nagpatayo ng kanilang bahay sa nasabing lugar, ang mga loteng ito ay inilukol para sa isang public school. KAPAL!!!!
- Natatandaan na ang SALARIN NG BAYAN ang protector ng mga skwatter sa Urso! watershed.
- Eto pa ang mahigit kumulang na 4 hectares na Nature Park sa Sto. Tomas na kanyang pagmamayari ay nakuha sa panloloko niya sa isang kilyecto niya na child molester at trafficker
- Siya din ay abogado ng mga SHABU AT DRUG PUSHER dito sa Baguio!!!!
- Sa din siyang MADISYONG SUGAROL!!!!
- Ang alay ng salarin ng bayan sa siyudad natin ay BISYO hindi SERBISYO!!!!

siva ay maka urban poor! Eh ano ngayon kung watershed ang kinatatayuan ng bahay niya sa Crystal Cave, eh watershed din naman yung resort niya sa Mt. Cabuyao ah! Maghanap din kayo ng watershed niyo!

Building an "Ego-Park" on a Forrest Reserve can be achieved:

- * Without an Excavation Permit,
- * Without a Tree Cutting Permit,
- * Without an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC),
- * Without a License to cut, gather & collect Timber & other Forest Products,
- * Without a License to occupy & destroy A Forrest Reserve, and
- * Without a License to contaminate and pollute vital water sources.

Higit sa lahat, siya ay maka-kalikasan!

Sobra na talaga kayo! Tutubo rin naman ang mga punong 'yan! Ang springs, lilinaw din naman 'yan, isa pa, marami namang tubig ang Baguio ah!

iBOTO! ang nararapat!

A public service announcement.

Keeping Things in Perspective.. from page 6

Margarita Village property is now called House of Hope Davao. [KidsOfHope.org]

Verdict:

- Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
- Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? No.

4.3 The P46 million Special Education Fund

VP Binay's camp accused Duterte of "technical malversation" after Duterte allegedly misused the Php 46 million Special Education Fund for Davao City. Instead of using the SEF for "improving school facilities, printing and acquiring books and other school materials, paying salaries of public school teachers, granting scholarships, and promoting physical education."

Duterte used the SEF for funding student-athletes and their coaches: fuel for various vehicles, insurance premiums for vehicles, accident insurance for coaches and students, grocery items, medical supplies, and payment for electricity, water, and telephone bills. The money basically went to promoting students' physical education.

Verdict:

- Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
- Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? No.

Now, let's go to the more prominent issues.

4.4 The Cursing and the Womanizing

Duterte has a penchant for cursing [Philstar], and he openly admits to womanizing [Rappler]. If I had a foul-mouthed, philandering father, I would be pissed. However, keeping things in perspective, let's ask the following questions:

- Does the cursing or the womanizing make him rich? No. Quite the opposite, actually.
- Does it help him maintain or gain political power? No. Quite the opposite, actually.

That is, in the context of the two-fold standards for political corruption, the cursing and the womanizing are irrelevant. I hate to sound redundant but excuse me for inserting the next part...

Verdict:

- Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
- Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? No.

4.5 Extra-judicial Killings

Alleged extra-judicial killings is probably the biggest criticism of Duterte's style of governance. While Duterte argued that he merely discards the "maximum tolerance" policy when negotiating with criminals, Duterte's critics insist that he just flat out kills criminals the first moment he lays eyes on them.

Now, I will not go into the nuances of this issue. Instead, for the sake of argument, let us assume that he indeed kills criminals without letting them go through the snail-paced judicial system.

Let us, again, ask this question:

- Does Duterte-style extrajudicial killing make Duterte rich? No.
- Does Duterte-style extrajudicial killing help Duterte gain public office? No.

It's worthy to note that historically, the only serious Davao-based political camp against Duterte is that of former House Speaker Prospero Nograles, a staunch PGMA ally accused of gaining ill-gotten wealth [PCIJ]. If Duterte actually murdered Nograles, then that would be political corruption. But he did not. In fact, Nograles even supports Duterte in his presidential bid [Inquirer].

Again, let's evaluate the situation.

Verdict:

- Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
- Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? No.

Conclusion

The table on the right shows the issues hurled against each candidate, along with the corresponding verdicts:

Political integrity is like putok sa kili-kili: either you have it, or you don't. There is no middle ground. Of course, there are many other variables

City eyes alternative night market venues

BAGUIO CITY - Night market vendors affected by the ongoing Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) road works along Harrison Road will temporarily be transferred to alternative sites at the Ganza parking lot at Burnham Park and along Perfecto St.



BAGUIO IS TOP TEN NEXT WAVE CITY AGAIN: City Planning and Development Officer Evelyn Cayat hands over the award for Baguio being one of the top ten Next Wave Cities in the country as a top location for information technology and business process management to Mayor Mauricio Domogan during City Hall flag raising ceremony. The city has been a consistent winner since the biennial assessment was started in 2009 by the DOST with the Information Technology and Business Process of the Philippines and the Information and Communications Technology./By Bong Cayabyab

Authority (BCMA) last week directed offices to prepare the temporary relocation sites including the lighting system to be installed by the city engineer's office.

Domogan emphasized to the vendors that they will be allowed to use the Ganza area and Perfecto St.; however, they should only be operating at 9PM and strictly follow the same rules and regulations set by the city.

"We need your cooperation and understanding for the temporary inconvenience caused by the on-going projects of the DPWH because this is also for the betterment of the city of Baguio," stressed the mayor.

According to DPWH-CAR regional director Alexander Castañeda, close to a billion peso worth of infrastructure projects was approved for the city wherein P319-M was allotted for 39 roads and bridges, P200-M for four flood control drainage works and P142.5-M for local infrastructure projects.

These projects are set for completion within this year including those projects not yet awarded to contractors, added Castañeda.

He said there are 81 projects set for implementation within this year with 59 already awarded before the election ban took effect last March 25. Also, of the 81 projects, the DPWH-Cordillera will implement eight projects with a funding of P256.6 million.

The projects include the construction of rain water collection facilities along Kennon Rd, Magsaysay Ave, Quirino Highway, Kayang, Abanao St, and Harrison Rd./Jho Arranz

Subok Na!

IPAGPATULOY ANG TAPAT NA SERBISYO TUNGO SA PAG-ASENSO

PLEASE RE-ELECT

Leandro Bagto As-il Jr.

VANGOT COUNCILOR

45 SA BALOTA

Political ad for Engr. Leandro Yangot, by Dr. Lina Rose Bagto Yangot, Baguio City

BLISTT Outer Road... from page

the least space and Itogon as the largest among the six.

A resolution of support from affected municipalities is recommended, after dialogues as coordinated with the NCI). An inventory and monitoring for trees to be felled once the project starts should also be conducted, it was known.

The outer circumferential ring is complemented by the inner circumferential road, including the well-paved Tawang to Ambiong, and Shilan to Beckel, all in La Trinidad. Other roads are also interlinked with the route, skipping the busy roads of La Trinidad and Baguio City/Julie G. Fianza

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Cayetano to Bongbong: Where were you when we fought corruption?

"Senator Marcos. Nasaan ka kapag korapsyon ang pinag-uusapan?"

Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said this as he slammed his rival, Senator Bongbong Marcos, on issues about corruption during the PiliPinas 2016 Vice Presidential Debate hosted by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on April 10.

During the first part of the debate, candidates were asked to explain their stand on the issue of corruption and how they intend to solve the problem.

Cayetano, for his part, took a swipe at Marcos for claiming that he and his family had never been involved in any corruption anomaly. He then raised issues about the plunder allegations that the family faced during the Martial Law Era as well as Senator Marcos' alleged involvement in the infamous pork barrel scandal.

"Tingnan niyo po ang interview ng nanay ni Senator Bongbong, sinabi niya they practically own the Philippines. I-search niyo po sa Google ang PCGG recovered money," Cayetano stressed. "\$1 billion ang pinaglalabanan pa rin ng gobyerno at Marcos family," he added.

"Buong buhay natin may corruption, unless we change the

Ownership of Baguio Convention Center better for local organizers

BAGUIO CITY – The acquisition of the Baguio Convention Center by the city government from the State-run Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has made local event organizing one of the lucrative businesses in the city considering that transactions for the use of the facility had become easier and accessible.

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan cited the city government more or less P316 million to acquire the Baguio Convention Center from the GSIS to allow the local government to own a convention facility that could be used in the conduct of various local, regional, national and even international gatherings.

Part of the funds used by the city in the acquisition of the convention center was its accumulated share from the 25 percent share of the city from the lease rentals of the Camp John Hay (CJH) which was lodged with the State-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

"We will continue to introduce the needed developments to our convention facility so that we will be able to cater to the requirements of the grow3ing number of event organizers wanting to avail of the use of the system. Only a Duterte-Cayetano leadership can bring real change," Cayetano ended./Office of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano

center for their scheduled activities," Domogan stressed.

It can be recalled that the city government, GSIS and BCDA signed a tripartite agreement sometime in February 2004 for the acquisition of the Baguio Converter by the city from the GSIS using the city' accumulated share from the privatization of CJH wherein the city is entitled to a 25 percent share from the annual lease rental of the former American rest and recreation center in the city.

However, the previous administrations of the city failed to work on the tripartite agreement that resulted to the surge in the city's obligation to over P300 million until the same was fully settled when Mayor Domogan came back as the local chief executive in 2010.

Various event organizers have an easier time booking their scheduled activities in the Baguio Convention Center because they now deal with the city government unlike before that they have to work with the rigors of transacting with the GSIS just to use the facility for their lined up events for the year.

Moreover, organizers can also easily request for a significant reduction in the rentals of the facility as it passes through the city council compared to the previous transactions that such similar requests pass through the GSIS central office.

According to the mayor,

among the initial improvements to be done using the P40 million earmarked by the city under its budget this year includes the improvement of its drainage system, electrical system and its landscaping so that more organizers will be enticed to hold their scheduled activities in the city.

He cited the city government and the GSIS are currently working out the overlapping survey results so that the occupied portion of the facility and its parking area will be ceded to the city to facilitate the issuance of the title in the name of the local government. /Dexter A. See

P7 billion monorail ad hoc body formed

BAGUIO CITY – The Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC-CAR) Wednesday approved a resolution creating an ad hoc committee for the proposed Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) system or monorail project in Baguio City and La Trinidad, Benguet to ascertain the conduct of a full-blown feasibility study which is a requirements of potential investors.

It can be recalled that the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), ion its bid to address the need for environmentally sustainable transport technologies that could ease air pollution and traffic congestion, developed the AGT, which is an electric train and fully automated, driverless transit system, which helps curb the serious negative effects of climate change.

The DOST-CAR and the Metals Industry Research and

Cont. on page 7

34 BOBBY ORTEGA

BALIK SA KONSEHO "MARKANG BUNGO" FOR PEACE AND ORDER

WALANG PERSONALAN TRABAHO LANG

Political Ad for Roberto "Bobby" Ortega. Paid for by Len Ortega, San Fernando, La Union.

Re-elect FAUSTINO OLOWAN

31 sa balota

for Councilor BAGUIO CITY

Pol. Ad for Faustino Olowan. Paid for by Faustino Olowan, Baguio City Hall, Baguio City.

VOTE!

42

ATTY. KAP. ERIC OSBOKEN UEDA

UEDA WIDA COUNCILOR

Political Ad for Atty. Eric Ueda. Paid for by Atty. Meshack Macwes, General Luna, Baguio City.

The Intricate Grace Poe-Danding Cojuangco Connection

Despite Danding Cojuangco's support, Grace Poe always reminds the public that she will never be beholden to Danding's interests. With an image as clean as her mom's Champion detergent, Poe's supporters seemingly believe her. After all, her core platform is compassionate governance, right?

But let's ask the question: just how connected is Grace Poe to Danding Cojuangco?

Brief Background on Danding's Connections

Before we go into the details, let me give you the key people and organizations in Danding's circle:

San Miguel Corporation

For much of recent history, Danding Cojuangco lorded over San Miguel Corporation, owing to his controlling shares of the company, purchased using ill-gotten wealth from Coco Levy Funds. Over the past couple of decades, Danding and SMC have become synonymous. Danding is SMC's chairman.

Ramon Ang

Ramon Ang, Danding's former mechanic who's now a billionaire (TY Danding), is SMC's vice-chairman [Bloomberg]. Widely considered as Danding's lap dog, he bought Cojuangco's coco levy-funded SMC shares [Rappler]. Basically, Ramon Ang is Danding's proxy, allowing Danding to engage in legal-corporate affairs with fewer hindrances.

Roberto Ongpin

Another Danding associate, Roberto Ongpin was late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' trade minister. He owns real estate giant Alphaland [Inquirer]. He was a major enabler of Danding's rise to power in the 70s and 80s. Ongpin's Top-frontier holdings bought 15% of SMC from Danding [Inquirer]

The Connections

Now, it's time to list down the people and the companies that connect SMC with Grace Poe. Let's go.

First, Poe borrows planes from San Miguel Corporation for her campaign [Interaksyon].

Second, Poe's husband, Teodoro Misael Llamanzares, held several key positions in SMC [BilangPilipino]:

- IT consultant (Sept. 2013 to Aug. 2015)
- Chief information officer (May 2012 to Sept. 2013)
- IT planning manager (Sept. 2010 to May 2012)
- Operations and business development manager (July 2006 to September 2010)

Third, Poe eyes coup plotter Col. Ariel Querubin (Ret.) as "crime czar" [Rappler]. Querubin is SMC's internal security consultant [Journal].

Fourth, Poe enjoys the support of the Nationalist People's Coalition, whose founder and chairman emeritus is Danding Cojuangco [Inquirer].

Fifth, Poe is endorsed by her godfather, convicted plunderer and ex-Pres. Erap Estrada [Philstar]. Danding Cojuangco bankrolled Estrada's 1998 presidential campaign [PCIJ]. Estrada also ran as Danding's VP when Danding ran for president in the 1992 national elections [PCIJ]. Estrada is also Poe's wedding sponsor [Philstar]. Estrada was convicted of plunder but was released via a presidential pardon from Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, through the recommendation of then-Senator Manuel 'Mar' Roxas II [GMANews].

Sixth, Atty. Alex Poblador, Poe's chief legal counsel for her Supreme Court disqualification cases [CNN], is a director of San Miguel Corporation [SMC].

Seventh, Poe's father Fernando Poe Jr had very close ties with SMC, being the chief endorser of San Miguel Pale Pilsen throughout his life [SMC]. Some would argue that this is a petty thing, pero hanapbuhay yan, malaking pera pinag-uusapan dito.

Eight, Late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Danding's benefactor, is a "ninong sa kasal" (wedding sponsor) of Poe's parents FPJ and Susan Rocas [Manila Times].

Ninth, Danding Cojuangco's wife Gretchen, and SMC Chief Ramon Ang are wedding sponsors of Chiz Escudero and wife Heart Evangelista (a.k.a. Love Marie Ongpauco). Escudero is Poe's vice presidential bet [Inquirer].

Tenth, Grace Poe's close friend is high school classmate and Alphaland VP for Marketing Joanna Ongpin-Duarte [Inquirer]. Joanna is niece to Marcos Crony, Cojuangco business associate, and Alphaland Chairman Roberto Ongpin [Alphaland].

Eleventh, One of Poe's major campaign donors is Thomas Tan Ang, SMC director [Bilang-Pilipino], relative of SMC's Ramon Ang.

Twelfth, Grace Poe's former spokesperson Rex Gatchalian a stalwart of Danding's NPC [Rappler].

Thirteenth, Grace Poe's sister Lovi Poe is an endorser for Red Horse Beer, another SMC brand [Philstar]. Again, some would argue that this is a petty thing, pero hanapbuhay yan, hanapbuhay ang pinag-uusapan dito.

Fourteenth and most importantly, Poe herself owns SMC stocks per her 2014 SALN

Cont. on page 7



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Filipinos favor authoritarianism

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind..." (Ecclesiastes 2:26, the Holy Bible).

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BHUTANESE PEOPLE SUFFERS DROP IN "HAPPINESS RATING": One startling revelation that surfaced when I was lecturing on people's organizations in the Philippines, and on our own experience on government corruption, among political leaders of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan on Friday, April 08, 2016, was the sudden and dramatic drop in "happiness rating" for Bhutan citizens right after it converted from absolute monarchy to a democratic form of government.

Before Bhutan's transformation from monarchy (a government ruled by a king) to democracy (or the rule of the majority of the people, a system of government adopted from western countries) after their king gave up all his powers in 2006, the Bhutanese people were ranked number one in the "happiness rating" in Asia, and number 6 in the whole world.

In 2016 however, or after about ten years of democracy, Bhutan's rating slipped, and it is now ranked number 86 or so. This drop in "happiness rating" couldn't be explained by the political leaders of Bhutan who listened to my five-hour lecture at the Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila on Friday, saying they are still studying the reasons for this development.

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DEMOCRACY FAILS TO WORK IN BHUTAN? My view is that, people in Bhutan were certainly happier when they were ruled by a king who had absolute power, because that is the nature they have been accustomed to for a long time. It might be that, through time, the Bhutanese king managed to make the lives of his citizens successful and prosperous, making them happy and contented.

It is also possible that Bhutan citizens were not ready for a democratic system of government, where government power is exercised by someone who is elected by the people, either directly or through their representatives. In Bhutan, the government leader at this point is a prime minister elected from its parliament which has two houses whose members, in turn, are elected by the people.

Of course, ten years is a short period of time during which a democratic system of government could work well and succeed, especially for a people who had long been under a monarchy. I think however that this democratic system, which encourages and allows political squabbles and wrangling and the concomitant rise of political patronage and therefore, graft and corruption at the highest levels, is found distasteful by Bhutanese citizens.

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FILIPINOS FAVOR AUTHORITARIANISM: I told the Bhutanese political leaders who attended the lecture sponsored by the Industrial Advancement Academy of the Philippines (a non-governmental educational institution in Intramuros, Manila and led by two fellow Rotarians, Jimmy Lim and Aries Balanay) that even in the Philippines, there is a tendency towards authoritarianism among our people.

I explained that this could be the reason why many Filipinos are raring to vote for a presidential candidate who publicly expresses authoritarian leanings and advocates strong arm tactics---like executions of criminals and grafters---in solving crimes, and for a vice presidential candidate whose father assumed power all by himself and ruled the country for 20 years with an iron hand.

The prevailing sentiment here is that, Filipinos are already fed up with the incapacity of government leaders to deliver on their election promises to give a better life for the poor and the marginalized, under a supposedly democratic set up of government, so that they are now inclined to side with candidates who offer shortcut but effective solutions to national problems.

---ooo---

PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tangang Daan" (The Sole Way): a Bible study and prayer session online could now be heard, 24 HOURS a day, in the Philippines and the world at www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan or www.facebook.com/ANDKNK (and look for "Ang Tangang Daan" broadcasts). Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

BLISTT outer road ring talks on

BAGUIO CITY – Plans for the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itoigon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay (BLISTT) outer circumferential road are being finalized through a feasibility study.

The problems seen include road-right-of-way (RROW) procurement from private lot owners and "unique construction issues," it was known during a meeting at the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA-CAR) hall recently.

Authorities present during the meeting are NEDA-CAR regional director Milagros Rimando, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH-CAR) representative Danilo Dequito, and BLISTT executives.

The proposed outer circumferential road ring of about 80 kilometers costs an estimated P2.4B, with some portions of national, provincial and barangay roads. The project is envisioned to bring further improvement and progress for the BLISTT area.

Motorists could then reach adjacent municipalities without tra-

versing the central business district, or could go from a part of Benguet to the lowlands.

The outer circumferential road runs through Monglo-Kamog-Balluay junction (Sablan)-Asin-Tuel-Ambongdolan junction (through Acop-Kapangan road) -Sayatan junction-Ambassador junction (through Baguio-Bontoc road)-Labey (Tublay) - (through Ambuklao access road) – Dalupirip (through the Baguio-Nueva Vizcaya road) – Guisset junction – Tinongdan junction – Twin river – Poblacion – Carantes junction - Balatoc – (Itoigon) – Loakan junction– Camp 7 – Balakbak (through Marcos highway, Baguio City) - Taloy Norte – Asin – Nangalisan (Tuba) back to Monglo, Sablan.

Economic growth through the improvement of manufacturing, business, housing facilities and infrastructure along the route is seen. Mining and agricultural products' easy access to the market is also expected.

BETA

Apr 07, 2016

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Business Interests

In her 2014 SALN, Poe did not declare any business interest but in her list of personal properties, she cited being a stockholder of the following:

- 226 Wilson Development Corp.
- FPJ Productions, Inc.
- JSP Realty and Development Corp.
- AB Design Studio and Trading Corp.
- Chambrant L. Holdings Corp.
- Filinvest Land Inc.
- San Miguel Corporation A
- Sunlife Property Balanced Fund
- The Health Cube Rehabilitation and Wellness Center

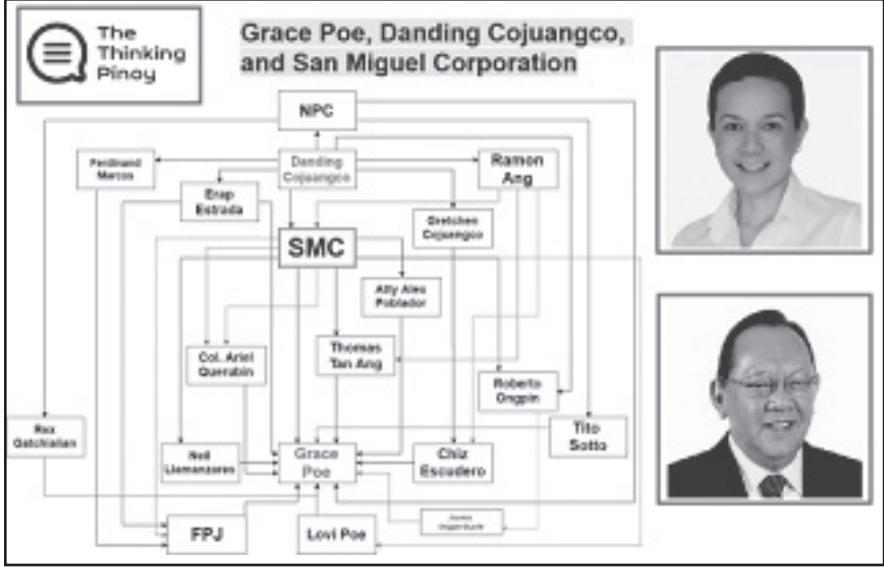
IND Independent

COMPARE TO OTHER CANDIDATES >

Poe's stockholdings, which includes San Miguel Corporation

Let's Recap:

The diagram below shows all these connections, which are so numerous that Thinking Pinoy almost ran out of space to squeeze in the connector lines.



A chart showing some of Grace Poe's personal and business connections with Danding Cojuangco and SMC.

Basically, we have shown that Danding and San Miguel Corporation are not just campaign donors to Grace Poe. Instead, Danding and SMC are so deeply embedded in her personal and professional life that's it really hard to isolate her history from the plunderer Danding's.

How can Grace Poe convince us that she won't grant anyone any special favor, when it's clear that her life revolves around Danding?

So now, are we still surprised about why she defends him?/thinkingpinoy.net

conduct of consultations among the concerned sectors and explore for funding sources for the full-blown feasibility study.

Based on the initial pre-feasibility study results, the Baguio line of the monorial project, which has a total length of around 5.2 kilometers, costs at least P4 billion while the La Trinidad line of the project which is around 2.1 kilometers long will have a total cost of P3 billion./Dexter A. See

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FAIR AND SQUARE

from page 5

irregularly allowed to be filed by then Regional Director Alfredo Mondiguing without moratorium exemption --- acts showing that they were not condoning violations of the moratorium which was a policy adopted by the City to control pervasive congestion especially in the Central Business District of the city.

On this issue hence, I have to drop the name of Mayor Domogan from my list of candidates eyeing for the Mayorship of the city. Reason is that, if in the last many years of being Mayor and Congressman he was unable to provide us his constituents a congestion free travel within the city, what guarantee do we have that he can decongest traffic in Baguio City in three years if at all he again becomes Mayor of the city? Probably, almost nil.

If so, don't you think we now need a compelling change in leadership to successfully address this one grave issue? As for me, I do.

PALSIIT

from page 5

daytoy ti agdadata a kinapudno: adu ti masisirap ti kuarta iti panawen ti panagpipili. Ket, dayta a kuarta ti nasileng a mangsisirap iti maysa a tao. Mangitunda daytoy iti panag-balin ti maysa a tao a kas busek. Kastoy ti kuna ni Jesus: “Saan a mabalin nga idalan ti maysa a busek ti padana a busek. No kasta ti maaramid, matnagdanto a dua iti abut. Busek ti mangidalan no alilawenna ti idalanna, ul-ulboden-na wenno iyakarna ti alipusposna. Di bumurong a maiyabut-to ti idalanna. Ngem, saan laeng a ti idalanna ti maiyabut.”

Saantayo ngarud nga agimbubusek iti agdadata a kinapudno. Adda iti dakulaptayo amin ti pudno a panag-dur-as/panagsayaat ti sistema-politika ti pagiliantayo a Filipinas. Ken, uray pay maysaka a busek, adda insagut ti Dios a panunot ken puso a mangamiris no ania ti nasayaat ken dakes. Irugi iti panagpipili. Saantay' nga allukoyen ken sulisogen dagiti umili babaen ti pirak wenno kari. Karaman iti pammutbuteng. Adda daytay kun kunada a 3 G's – Guns, Goons and Golds! Sapay koma ta saanto unayen nga agraira. Saan latta ngamin mailibak iti kaadda latta ti masasao a private armed groups dagiti politikotayo.

Gumawgawawatayo amin iti sapisap a panagbalbaliw wenno panagdur-as ti sistema-politikatayo ditoy Filipinas. Maysa a naatap nga arapaap ti pananggun-odtayo ti nabal-ligian a gagem ti panagpili iti maikanatad nga agserbi ken kangrunaan a mangsaluad iti pamunganayen linteg ti pagil-iantayo a Filipinas, kakabsat. No patientayo a na-Diosan ken naespirituan ti tao no surotenna ti diktar ti konsensiana iti panagpili, saan kadi a maibilang met no kua a na-Diosan dagiti agpaidasig no aramatenda laeng dagiti nadalus ken nadayaw a wagas ti panagawis ken panagkampania ken, awan sabali a panggep ken tarigagayanda no di ti agserbi iti sapisap? Ti pakaidayawan ti Dios, isu ti pagimbagan dagiti annakna. Agkararagtayo amin iti nadalus ken natalna iti mapasungadan a panagpipili.

Vox populi, vox Dei (The Voice of the people, is the voice of God).

Netizens, Social Media...

from page 1

obtained were as follows:

- Round 1 – 47.17%
- Round 2 – 50.78%
- Round 3 – 47.62%
- Round 4 – 41.12%
- Round 5 – 54.88%
- Round 6 – 41.57%
- Round 7 – 51.3%

“Editors’ pick”

Cayetano was also picked by Rappler's editors as the overall winner of the debate, citing his consistency in talking about his platform of government with Duterte, as well as his clear

message of political will and leadership.

Cayetano leads CNN online polls

The Senate leader also took the lead in CNN Philippines' online polls. During the debate, the news outlet asked online readers who their VP bet is. Cayetano was the top choice, garnering 41 percent of the votes.

In a separate statement, Duterte congratulated his running mate, describing him as the clear winner in the debate. “Alan was able to show the political will, courage, and strength of character that we are offering to the Filipino people. He was able to distinguish himself from the others and put forward our bold solutions to end the country's disorder and realize meaningful change. His performance affirmed my decision to pick him as my running mate. He will truly fight for the people,” Duterte said. This was echoed by Atty. Paola Alvarez, spokesperson of PDP-Laban, Duterte's political party. “Sinusuportahan talaga namin si Sen. Alan bilang ka-tandem ni Mayor Duterte. Lubhang nagustuhan namin ang kanyang debate performance. Naipakita niya kung ano talaga ang agenda ng tambalang Duterte-Cayetano. Pinamalalas talaga niya ang tapang ng loob at political will na kailangan sa ating mga mamumuno,” Alvarez said.

Cayetano is running with Duterte under a comprehensive platform of government, which aims to end the country's disorder caused by crime, illegal drugs, and corruption./

Office of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano

Keeping Things in Perspective... from page 2

said, “Ang importante, hindi napunta sa balsa ko yan.” But Danding's SMC provided her campaign planes [Rappler], Danding's NPC provided her political machinery [Philstar]. Danding's SMC provided her legal counsel, Atty. Alex Poblador, in her Supreme Court DQ cases. Col. Ariel Querubin, whom she plans to appoint as “crime czar” is SMC's internal security consultant. And to top it all off, Danding's SMC even employs Grace Poe's husband, Teodoro “Neil” Llamanzares [Rappler].

With Danding's San Miguel Corporation so deeply embedded into her political and personal life, how can she say that she accepts Danding's ill-gotten money and, in the same breath, say her loyalty is with the people who Danding f*cked over?

Verdict:

- Abuses political power for private enrichment? Yes, look at Neil, the husband.
- Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? Yes.

4.0 Rodrigo “Rody” Duterte

Duterte has faced several political corruption accusations. Let's list them one by one. The list is quite long.

4.1 Too Many Contractual Workers

COA cited Duterte's hiring of 6,000 contractual workers and 5,000 job orders in 2014, worth Php 708 million, with the agency pointing out Davao's lack of clear policy in hiring people fosters patronage. COA was also concerned that there were no documents to prove that the non-regulars were actually rendering work. Their functions and duties were not specified in their contracts. [Rappler] In response, Duterte said he would even hire 3 times more contractual employees to keep Davao safe [Inquirer]. “The P708 million (that the COA questioned) is part of the city's operation expense, I'm spending it on contractual workers from garbage collectors to drivers, to intelligence operatives roaming around the city,” Duterte said.

“You don't expect plantilla workers to collect garbage, don't you?” he asked. “And garbage collectors are working in the city on three shifts. The SCAAs (Special Civilian Active Auxiliary), the soldiers roaming around Davao, I'm paying them. They're part of the intelligence apparatus roaming the city.”

Now, the question remains: is 11,000 a reasonable number? TP did some research.

Quezon City has 5800 contractual employees excluding job orders, roughly equal to Davao City's. While Quezon City has a

population that's twice of Davao City's, Davao City's land area is 14 times that of Quezon City. Add the fact that Davao is surrounded by insurgents, rebels, and terrorists, I think the number is not out-of-this-world.

Moreover, I can see that Duterte – even in his everyday away-from-the-camera life – wears simple clothes, drives a simple car, and lives a simple life. He does not give his children allowances, with his youngest Sebastian claiming that he even has to sell trash (a junk shop, probably) to earn a living [SunStar].

Sebastian's story is in stark contrast with Jean, Janet Napoles' daughter, who lives in a swanky L.A. apartment and rides a limousine everywhere [Inquirer]. His story also in stark contrast with Grace Poe's son, who was seen wearing obscenely expensive Nike Limited Edition Mag 10 “Back-to-the-Future” shoes [Interaksyon], that go for over \$10,000 (Php 450,000) a pair [Market Rates at eBay].

Regardless, let's go back to the quintessential question: Did he use this power for self-enrichment or to maintain hold on power? No, not really.

Verdict:

- Abuses political power for private enrichment? No.
- Abuses political power to maintain hold on power? No.

4.2 The Missing Mansion

Among all presidential candidates, Duterte's SALN stands out because he declared a measly Php 23 million net worth [MindaNews]. That's light-years behind Binay's 60 million, Poe's 89.5 million, and Roxas' 202 million [Manila Bulletin].

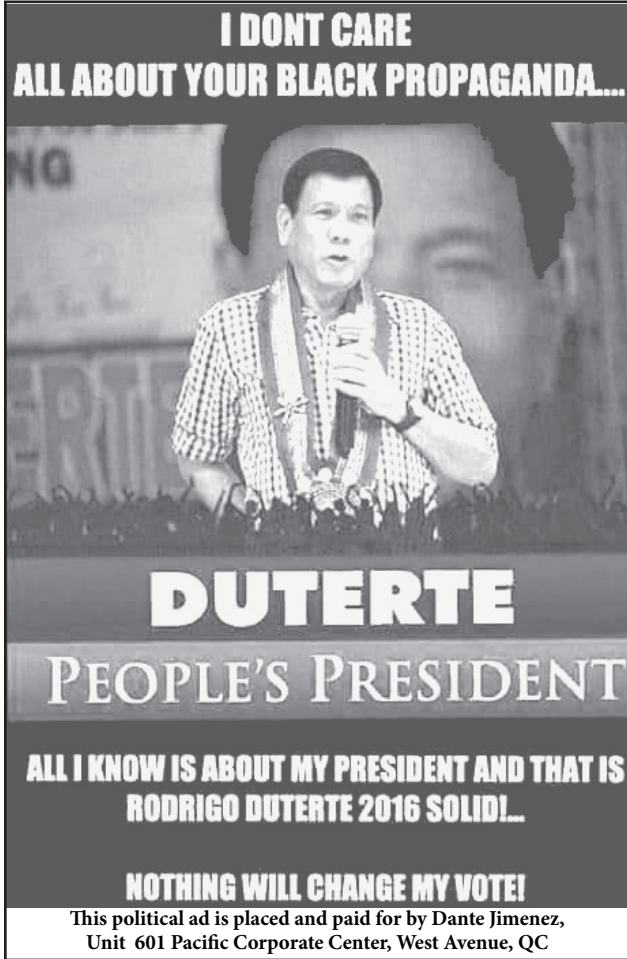
For someone who has served as Davao City's de facto royalty for the past three decades, Php 23 million is a disturbingly small amount. This is why a few camps, including Thinking Pinoy, investigated his background to look for undeclared assets, similar to what people did to impeached SC Chief Justice Renato Corona.

These investigations led to a certain mansion in Margarita Village, Davao City. Duterte was asked about this hidden wealth on his weekly TV show “Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa” aired on ABS-CBN Davao [Durian Post].

Duterte said the house has been donated to the government-owned Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) and is now being used as temporary home of the stricken children and family members caring for them. The house is administered by the non-profit House of Hope

In 2011, Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and friends converted a three room home at Margarita Village to house two survivors who are now High School scholars of the Vice Mayor. One of the rooms is used by teenage patients who are on active cancer treatment. This

Cont. on page 8



MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Aliping, D'-one-and-onli; Go & Vergara mahina sila!

BY: NESTOR “PAKEN” CASTRO



A king ipapaliwanag kung bakit ko nasabi na walang binatbat ang mga katunggali ni Cong. Aliping na sina Go at Vergara. Basahin ang mga accomplishments nitong si first timer and neophyte Congressman Aliping.

1. First time congressman pa lang mayroon ng ekta-ektaryang lupain na kanyang dine-develop as a private resort sa isang WATERSHED sa bundok ng Mount Sto. Tomas Tuba, Benguet. Si Go ba at si Vergara mayroon nun?

2. First time congressman pa lang mayroon ng MANSYON sa Quezon City. Si Go ba at si Vergara mayroon nun?

3. First time congressman pa lang mayroon ng malaking bahay –MANSYON na kanyang iniskwatan ang lupa sa Crystal Cave na isang tunay na government property dala nang ito ay Crystal Cave Reservation (4.5 hectares, Proclamation No. 16 dated April 27, 1922). Si Go ba at Vergara may lupain at bahay na iniskwatan sa Crystal Cave?

4. First time congressman pa lang may matinding kaso sa Ombudsman dala ng pag-demanda sa kanya ng Department of Justice (DOJ) sa kanyang pagka-sangkot sa pagputol ng humigit-kumulang na 1,000 plus na puno. Si Go ba at si Vergara may kaso sa Ombudsman sa krimen laban sa kalikasan?

5. First time congressman pa lang mayroon ng na-issue sa kanya na Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO) na regalo sa kanya ng Korte Suprema para maawa siya sa kalikasan. Si Go ba at si Vergara na-isyuhan na ng TEPO?

6. First time congressman pa lang naka-kalap na ng bilyon pisong pondo dala ng siya ay kasamahan ni Pangulong PNOY sa LP, mga proyekto na sigurado natin na walang bahid ng KORAPSYON???. Si Go ba at si Vergara kaya kumalap ng BILYON PISONG PONDO?

7. Si Aliping hindi pa Congressman, nag wild west sa Bakakeng at pinaputok ang kanyang paltog para pakita na tunay na lalaki talaga siya at 'wag natin kakalimutan ang ipinakita niyang tunay na PAGMAMAHAL sa mga PRO-FESSIONAL BIG TIME SQUATTERS noong taong 2009 sa ISINASAGAWANG OFFICIAL AND VALID DEMOLITION SA BUSOL WATERSHED ng kanyang hinabol at hampasin si Engr. Nazita Banez, at pati na ang mga pulis ay napatigil dala ng mga aksyon ni Macho Man Attorney City Councilor Aliping. Si Go ba at si Vergara kayang umasta ng ganyan?

8. Sa kasalukuyan, Campaign Headquarters pa lang A1-team- ALIPING, nasa isang 1,100 sqm property na sa kasalukuyan ay hindi ko pa tiyak kung nabili na ito ni Aliping o kung ano ang usapan sa may-ari ng lupain (Gamphel Realty-kagalang galang na contractor Gamaliel Flores), ngunit atin itongaalamin. O, tingnan naman ninyo ang mga Campaign Headquarters ni Go at Vergara parang lungga ng AWW-AWW doggie-dogie –Dog house! Mga walang binatbat!

9. Ito talagang si General Manager ng Baguio Water District (BWD) kung bakit pina-sampahan pa ng reklamo itong si Aliping sa Pollution Adjudication Board for violation of the Clean Water Act of 2004 dahil sa pag-kontamina daw ng tatlong springs sa Camp 6, Tuba mula daw sa earth moving and tree cutting sa resort ni Aliping. Ano ka ba naman GM Royeca, para na kontamina lang naman ang mga springs na tumutulong sa supply ng tubig sa Baguio, eh bakit habang buhay bang makokontamina ang mga springs? Eh liliinaw rin naman 'yan, total naman maraming tubig sa siyudad ng Baguio at hindi naman kinakapos ang tubig sa Baguio. Ikaw talaga GM Royeca, pinupolitika mo si kaawa-awang Aliping ha?! O si Go ba at si Vergara may reklamo-kaso sa Pollution Adjudication Board for violation of the Clean Water Act of 2004?

Wala talaga kayo.

PALSIIT

Saan nga Ay-ayam ti Panagpipili

BY: LEONARDO R. AGUNOY



Wen, daytoy a topik, namunganay iti panangpasungad-tayo manen ti aggiddan a lokal ken nailian a panagpip-ili itoy a tawen ti 2016. Makuna a naisangsangayan gapu iti kinaruay dagiti agpaidasig. Iti laengen biang ti para presidente ken bise presidente. Naruayda. Ngem, adu latta ti ibilang ti COMELEC a kas itta wenno sunget. Isu a pagammuan, saanen a mairaman ti nagan dagitoy iti balota a maiprinta. Wen, adunto ti masasao a nuisance candidate! Ket, rumsuanto met ti arimbangaw dagitoy a kandidato – iti man langalang wenno naruay a reklamo kadagiti maseknan nga opisina ti gobierno.

Vox populi, vox Dei (The Voice of the people, is the voice of God). No patientayo a kasta, ipakitatayo man ngarud ti kinasagrado ti timektayo kas umili. Inton panagpipili, aramatentayo ti sentido kumuntayo. Ket, babaen ti diktar ti nadalus a panagpuspuso ken konsensiatayo, saantayo koma a paiturturong iti pagayatan ti sabali.

Nagdur-asen, kuna ti dadduma a managpaliw, iti pagsasaadanen ti politika ti pagiliantayo, agsipud ta nalukatan ti naruay a ruangan ti gundaway ti agkalikagum nga umili nga agpaidasig kadagiti mapilida a pagpaitanduduan. Kunak daytoy, agsipud ta saanen a kasla idi a saan a nasursurok ngem dua ti political party a pagtaudan dagiti agbabalubal. Adda itan ti masasao a multi-political party system. Nawayan dagiti politico a mangbuangay iti kabukbukodanda a political party. No awan laeng mauray ti kandidato a mangawat/mangampon kadakuada a partidong, agkalkallautangda lattan. No agbit-lanto metten, kunananton a ti pudpudno a partidona, isu dagiti umili!

Iladawak man ti klase ti politikatayo ditoy pagiliantayo, kakabsat – kasla naisaang a banga nga agal-alingasawen ti bara ken klase ti malutluto iti uneg daytoy. Iti ababa a pannao, agal-alingasawen ti naruay a pammadpadakes iti kontra ken kontra ti tunggal maysa. Adda payen dagiti agipakpakat iti masasao a bellow the belt assassination! No ania daytoy? Madadaeltayo amin. Aglalo no makiraguptayo iti kasta a klase ti political technique!

Ipasirko man, kakabsat, ti nabagas a pannirigan wenno mensahe daydi Claro M. Mecto: agpannuray ti kinasayaat ti kunstitusion kadagiti tao a mangipatpatungpal itoy. Wen, ket, no pudno man, sapay koma ta addaan iti duri dagiti sumarsurno pay a lokal ken national leader-tayo, kakabsat. Saan koma ngarud a barengbarengen dagiti politikotayo ti kinasagrado ti kalintegantayo nga umili a mangitandudo iti pagtalkantayo a saad iti pagtakeman!

No apay a masaok daytoy? Ngamin, ibilang ti dadduma a ti panagpipili, ket, maysa nga ay-ayam. Kas mapaliw, adu manen ti panglakagan dagiti agpaidasig: adda manganak iti kasar, bunia; agisagut ti ania man kadagiti nadumaduma a gunglo dagiti umili. Umadu dagiti personalized calendar dagiti politico nga ibunongda kadagiti umili.

Adda makitak a maysa a pamuspusan, nupay nagasgas-en daytoy gapu ta madagdagullit. Ngem, kas managsirmata nga umili ken kameng ti media, adda maaramidan ti timek a maibunannag kadagiti umili (sapay koma ta imdengnan ken aramidenda itan ti maitutop). Itan ti kasasayaatan a gundaway. Kayattayo a mapasayaat ti sistema-politikatayo. Kayattayo a masukatan dagiti rinuker nga agtuturaytayo. Yantangay, naisaad kadagiti dakulaptayo nga umili iti bileg a mangitandu-dokadagiti patientayo a mapagtalkan a mangidaulo kadatayo ken ammotayo dagiti rinuker nga agtuturay iti pagiliantayo, panawenen tapno pagkaysaentayo ti bilegtayo a mangpat-apuak kadakuada iti takem a pagsasaadanda. Anagentayo ti nasagraduan iti kuna ni Jesus: “Saan nga agbunga ti nsayaat a kayo iti dakes; kasta met a saan nga agbunga ti dakes a kayo iti nasayaat. Ta mailasin ti kayo babaen ti bungana. Awan mapuros nga igos kadagiti sisiitan, wenno maburas nga ubas kadagiti kalkalunay.”

Nasakit man nga awaten, ngem Cont. on page 6

FAIR AND SQUARE

For A Change:

On the Issue of Traffic Congestion (Part 2)

BY: ATTY. JAMES S. VALEROS



On many occasions in the years past, the last one being during the transport dialogue between various operators and LTRFB Chairman, Atty. Winston Ginez held in Baguio City on 9 March 2016, Mayor Mauricio Domogan had been quoted to have said that there is no moratorium in the issuance of new franchises in Baguio City.

Truth to tell, Atty. Brenda Poklay of DOTC-CAR in her defense of her case pending before the Civil Service Commission-CAR argued that she did not violate the moratorium in the grant of PUV franchises because there is no moratorium in the city to speak of in the first place--- the Honorable Mayor Domogan said so according to her.

Quite puzzling statements from both since they knew that the LTRFB en banc has issued several moratorium circulars as early as in 1996 one of which was recommended no less by the City during Mayor Domogan's time, that is, he himself signed and approved City Council Resolution Nr. 292, S. of 1998 which became the basis of LTRFB en banc for issuing M.C. No. 98-026 declaring a moratorium not only in Baguio City but the whole area of BLIST.

The point here is that if the City executive does not believe truly in the moratorium prescribed by the LTRFB, though earlier recommended and embraced by him, what would prevent LTRFB Regional Directors in this region from issuing thousands of taxi franchises for Baguio City, as actually they did? And, what would encourage or compel the PNP law enforcers and the so-called DOTC Flying Squad to implement the moratorium and apprehend violators? We may not be conscious about it but actually, the inefficiencies of traffic enforcers all these years heavily account for the crippling conditions of traffic in our midst.

No wonder, during his terms and tenures as Mayor and Congressman of Baguio which is a span of no less than 14 years, we did not see him raise strong formal protest against LTRFB Directors issuing new franchises in violation of their own moratorium under Memo Circular Nos. 96-002, 98-026, and 2003-028, not to mention the moratorium mandated by the DOTC Secretary through his Department Orders and Memoranda. In fact, he did not even question the RMC (Route Measured Capacity) Certification issued in many jeepney routes touching Baguio City by UnderSecretary Ricardo Alfonso who was not authorized to issue such RMC Certifications for, only the Department Secretary can issue such certifications needed to exempt applicants from the moratorium.

Mayor Domogan was even instrumental in the grant of franchises in 2006 to many jeepney operators on the route: Baguio City – Gold Creek and Vice Versa filed by Itogon applicants who were not even his constituents, in violation of the moratorium. Worse, he even endorsed favorably their applications to the Board en banc even in the absence of road leading to Gold Creek as against the certification of the Municipal Engineer that there was truly no road leading to the place, be it municipal or barangay road. Obviously, this smacks of political accommodation at the expense of public interest.

All these tend to show that the Honorable Mayor through the more than 14 years (not counting his Councilorship years) he was holding on to the mantle of leadership of the city, did not show serious concerns on whether his performance of duties and functions would result in the worsening of traffic in the city or not. Unfortunately, it did.

At least in the case of Engr. Bernie Vergara when he was the Mayor of the city from 2001 to 2004, he was with us together with Atty. Mandapat who was councilor then, of the late Councilor Delfin Balajadia who was Chair of the PUTTL in the Council and Councilor Richard Cariño, in contesting the franchise applications

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