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# Opposition bets not giving way to Noynoy

by AUREA CALICA  
Philstar.com

MANILA – Leading opposition presidential aspirants are not uniting behind Sen. Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, despite his growing popularity after the death of his mother former President Corazon Aquino last month.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., the Nacionalista Party’s standard-bearer, said everybody has the right to run for president and what happened to the Liberal Party is an issue that LP members would have to resolve among themselves.

LP president and Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who was the party’s initial standard-bearer, announced



Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

last Tuesday that he would give way to Senator Aquino to keep the party united behind the son of the late President Aquino.

“Sa aking palagay lahat naman may karapatang tumakbo sa pagkapangulo at maski naman anak ka ng mahirap may karapatan ka din, anak ka ng president may karapatan ka din, kaya lang hindi naman tama na anak ka lang ng president na may pagkakataon, dapat naman yung anak ng mahirap ay mabigyan din ng pagkakataon naman at ngayon nga ang nagkakagusto lang ay anak ng mga may apelyido (in my opinion everybody has the right to run for president, even the children of the poor or son of a president, but it is not right that only the son of a president has the opportunity... the son of the poor should also have the same opportunity as one with pedigree),” Villar told radio dzRH.

Villar clarified that did not mean he was not honoring the memory of President Aquino.

“I respect the late President Cory Aquino. She was a friend and she was able to help me, too. I acknowledge (her contributions) and I am saddened by her death. I admire (Aquino’s father, the late senator and national hero Benigno) Ninoy Aquino (Jr.) and former President Corazon Aquino for what they have done when they were still alive,” Villar said.

It is now possible for NP and LP to be the two main contending parties in the 2010 elections, as it was during pre-marital law

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Stephen H. Mattern is a cum laude graduate of Southwestern University School of Law, where he served as an editor of the prestigious Southwestern University Law Review.

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