

Ping crime writer, wiretapper, killer...

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 chief, according to Jinggoy.
 He also quoted the July 11, 2008, testimony given by Dacer's daughter Sabina Reyes in court in which she recalled two or more incidents when her father told his children that "if something bad happens to (him), Lacson would be behind it."
 "All these indicate the culpability of Mr. Lacson which he is now extricating himself and implicating President Estrada to draw attention from him," Jinggoy said.
Police aides
 Further hinting that Lacson was involved in the murders, Jinggoy mentioned Lacson's confession the other day that he had been supporting the family of his former police aides.
 Jinggoy said that it was Lacson who ordered his men to

flee the country and that he did not inform his father about this, making his father unable to help them.
 If his father was involved, shouldn't he support the former police officers financially? Jinggoy asked.
 "Why did Mr. Lacson take this alternative instead of letting them stay here and answer the charges against them?" Estrada said.
 Jinggoy pointed out that although his father was deposed from power, he chose to stay in the Philippines to answer the charges made against him.
 "Why did Mr. Lacson asked his three subordinates instead to leave the country? Is it because he knew that he would be implicated?" he asked.
Missing casino worker
 Jinggoy also questioned how

Lacson knew details of the disappearance and murder of casino worker Edgar Bentain, noting that before the senator's revelation, Bentain was considered a missing person.
 Bentain went missing in January 1999. He was the source of a videotape that showed then Vice President Estrada playing high-stakes baccarat at Heritage Hotel with his friend Atong Ang in 1998.
 "It was only after Mr. Lacson's speech that the whole nation came to know that Mr. Bentain was abducted somewhere on Roxas Boulevard and killed somewhere in Laguna," Jinggoy said.
 He also chided Lacson for not identifying the persons behind Bentain's murder after the latter claimed that a police officer went to report to a house on Polk Street in Greenhills about accomplishing the mission to kill the casino worker.
 The deposed President resides at No. 1 Polk St. in Greenhills, San Juan City.
No motive
 Jinggoy asked why Lacson did not investigate the case when he

was then the chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, who eventually became PNP chief.
 He said his father had no motive of having Bentain killed because Estrada "overwhelmingly" won the presidency in 1998 "despite that propaganda against him."
 "What motive would President Estrada have to order the abduction and killing of Mr. Bentain six months into his presidency?" he asked.
Kit Mateo
 It was at this point that Jinggoy played a video clip of Francisco "Kit" Mateo, a former policeman who had served as an informant of Lacson.
 Mateo pointed to Lacson as the one responsible for the killing of police Capt. Jimmy Victorino and of two female relatives (a 20-year-old woman and an 8-year-old child) of Joey de Leon, the slain Red Scorpion Group leader. Mateo later recanted his statements.
 Jinggoy then mentioned the fact that the Senate of the 9th Congress had recommended murder or homicide charges filed against Lacson and other officers for the *Kuratong Baleleng* rubout. Members of the gang

had been engaged in kidnapping and bank robbery.
 Jinggoy accused Lacson of smearing his father's name by using the Bentain case when the latter had not offered any solid evidence to connect his father to Bentain's disappearance.
 "It is for this reason that I now recall the *Kuratong Baleleng* and other cases because there are solid statements, investigations and recommendations," he said.
 Jinggoy said the Bentain family was disappointed because Lacson had failed to deliver "but instead use the chamber as a platform to malign President Es-

trada."
Go to court
 Jinggoy reiterated his call for Lacson to go to court with his allegations.
 "He should now stop using the hallowed halls of this august body as his venue to besmirch the reputation of President Estrada," he said.
 Jinggoy said he and his father have nothing to hide.
 "As no less than our Senate President has said, we are not perfect, we may have our flaws but certainly we are not criminals, and much less killers," he said. ■

NP laughs off 'Re-Villar-me'...

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 be interrupted by a live feed of the transfer of former President Corazon Aquino's remains from the La Salle Greenhills gym in San Juan City to Manila Cathedral in Intramuros.
Weighing his options
 Revillame himself is still "studying and weighing" his options in politics.
 "Pinag-aaralan ko pa at pinag-iisipan," he told the *Inquirer* Tuesday in a text message.
 When Revillame showed up on Monday at the "Wowowee" studio in the ABS-CBN compound, he said in Filipino: "Many people are asking if I will run, so I'll say this ... I will run." And then he jogged on stage briefly before resuming his hosting chore.

He refused to grant interviews to journalists who visited the studio. Through his show's executive producers, he said he would schedule a press conference to answer questions on his political plans. ■

2010 bets...

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 and a captivator to inspire unity, trust and optimism among the people.
 Zata added a good candidate should be a "mobilizer of concerned government and non-government and private sectors to achieve objectives and build consensus."
 PMAP had interviewed past presidents and other officials from the executive, legislative and judicial branches, as well as representatives from the media to identify critical incidents that the president must successfully deal with in order to lead the country. ■

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