

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

'Let's stop the politics...

PAGE A1 ◀

improvement in the RP-US security cooperation and support for Filipino forces and the faster facilitation of the benefits of Filipino World War II veterans.

Teodoro also reported that the security arrangement between the US and the Philippines involves heightened US support for the local military against local and foreign terrorists as well as against rogue elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We have to put a stop to the politics of vengeance. It is one of the biggest obstacles in national unity, growth and political stability," Teodoro said as the discussion veered towards politics. He was game as he answered questions from the local media.

He said that if and when he gets elected, he said he would immediately hit the ground running and work on solving some of the country's most basic problems such as peace and order, law enforcement and economy.

But before he can do that, he needs to go through his party's nomination process.

The three-way fight to become Lakas-Kampi-CMD's official standard-bearer also includes Vice President Noli de Castro and Chairman Bayani Fernando of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

"The Filipino should look at himself now as needing a lot of improvement in all facets of life," Teodoro said.

When asked on what his priorities would be if he wins in 2010, he replied that he will convene a Constitutional Convention immediately to erase any doubts about its motives.

This constitutional convention will overhaul the 1987 Charter, and will pave the way for a unicameral

system led by a directly elected president. Term limits will be lifted for all except the president.

"I am the only one talking about structural change. We really have to restructure our society," Teodoro said.

"Good governance is not only a function of putting good men in government. The structures must be attuned to the needs of the country. That is the most pressing need today," he explained.

Should he win, Teodoro said that he is also training his sight on the possibility of opening up the economy for more foreign investments to come in.

Recent surveys suggest that Teodoro has been lagging and in some, he's dead last.

Asked for his comments regarding this matter, he paused and said, "Champion *ako sa kulelat*."

Turning serious, Teodoro said that surveys "are a matter of concern."

"Probably I have to take several faster steps. I admit that it's an uphill climb in this big fight because ratings sometimes do count. I haven't yet, gone on full steam," he explained.

Noynoy

Teodoro also welcomed the news that his cousin, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, has announced his intention to run as president next year.

"It's great. It gives people more choices," he said.

Both Aquino and Teodoro are natives of Tarlac province where they both started and nurtured their political careers.

"*Ang amin kay Noynoy* [Aquino's nickname] ...we remain cousins and we remain good friends. That will not change and we will not allow this contest to ruin it." ■

Lucky no. 7 for Pacquiao

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJP/Press

LOS ANGELES—Manny Pacquiao is looking to make history again.

After becoming the first Filipino and Asian to capture five and six world titles in six different weight divisions, Pacquiao has his eyes set on lucky number 7.

But he has to go through his toughest challenge yet—a welterweight championship match against Puerto Rican sensation Miguel Cotto (34-1 27 KOs).

Pacquiao (49-3-2 37 KOs) has captured titles in flyweight, junior featherweight, featherweight, junior lightweight, lightweight, and most recently, junior welterweight when he defeated Ricky Hatton last May.

"Getting the seventh title is very important for me," said Pacquiao during a press conference at the Beverly Hills Hotel on September 14. "I want to make history and I want to make the people in the Philippines proud."

For the first time in his career, Pacquiao will be fighting in a welterweight match at 145 pounds. Cotto is naturally a big-

ger man and it was evident when the two stood next to each other during photo ops.

Cotto, already three weeks into his training camp, said he and his trainers are planning to study Pacquiao and capitalize from the Filipinos mistakes.

Pacquiao has a tendency to be reckless at times and often, the Filipinos speed and power cover the mistakes inside the ring.

"I'm going to be the man that beats Manny Pacquiao," said Cotto. "I'm going to train hard for this fight and Manny's camp knows what Miguel Cotto is capable of doing inside the ring."

There had been doubts about whether the 28-year-old Cotto is the same fighter he was before the brutal defeat against Antonio Margarito. Prior to being knocked out by Margarito, Cotto seemed an unflappable boxer with a mixture of strength and resilience.

"I'm here to prove my doubters my wrong," added Cotto. "I know I'm better than Manny."

The main issue Cotto has heading into this bout is whether he will be able to make the 145-

pound weight limit. However, he sees no difficulty in making the weight. He said the last match against Joshua Clottey he weighed in at 146 pounds and still had a day to lose an extra pound if needed.

Pacquiao said he knows he's going to be the smaller man again in this bout with Cotto. It was the same story when he faced David Diaz, Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton. But in all those matches, the small Filipino won.

"Yes, he is a bit bigger but I'm just focused on my training," said Pacquiao. "I'm going to use my speed to beat him."

Pacquiao left for the Philippines on September 15. For the next five weeks, he and trainer Freddie Roach will train in Baguio City before heading back to the Wildcard Boxing Club to conclude the eight-week training camp.

When asked about the upcoming bout between Juan Manuel Marquez and Floyd Mayweather Jr., Pacquiao did not want to look ahead.

With the Marquez vs. May-

weather Jr. bout happening this weekend, many boxing pundits and fans expect the winner of that match to face the winner between Pacquiao and Cotto.

Pacquiao said he expects Mayweather to beat Marquez because "he has the speed and size to do it."

Marquez vs. Mayweather

Monday, Sept. 14, was a busy day for boxing writers. Prior to the Cotto-Pacquiao press conference, Juan Manuel Marquez and Floyd Mayweather Jr. held one of their final public workouts in front of the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood before heading into their match this Saturday, Sept. 19 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Marquez knows that in order to get what he wants he has to beat the man standing in his way.

He won't admit it for the record but Marquez wants desperately to face Manny Pacquiao. But in order to do that the Mexican Numero Uno needs to beat the former pound-4-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"My mind is only on this fight," said Marquez. "My mind is only on Mayweather. I'm not thinking of Pacquiao right now, I'm not thinking of my next fight."

Marquez said that this is the biggest fight of his career. ■

NY lifestyle of general's...

PAGE A1 ◀

but spending his nights in a Gucci jacket and YSL boots.

Davis' article, written last Sept. 16 with New York's Fashion Week looming, describes Garcia as "perched on a sleek white Armani Casa chair in his apartment in the modern, gilded Trump Plaza at 502 Park Avenue"

while "decked in head-to-toe designer: A supple caramel leather Alessandro dell'Acqua jacket, Alexander McQueen jeans, a thin white LNA tee shirt and YSL boots. His wrists are adorned with a big Cartier gold and silver Tank watch, a Cartier Love bracelet, a white enamel Hermes bangle and a \$1,000 large gold

plated spiked Hermes cuff called the Collier de Chien."

Designer dog's bed

Even the bed for his dog "Cartier" is designer, a mohair bed done by Gucci.

But also part of the accessories "he'd rather not be wearing" is an electronic monitoring house arrest ankle bracelet the size of a pack of cigarettes that monitors his movements.

"The ankle bracelet limits

Garcia's fashion choices. 'I can't even wear my knee high croc boots by Sergio Rossi for the fall,' he (Garcia) laments," the article said.

Garcia was arrested on March 6, by US immigration authorities as part of a criminal investigation into the dealings of his father, who is accused of amassing illegally around P300 million of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' funds. ■

Bloomberg: Progress over...

PAGE A1 ◀



Incumbent Mayor Michael Bloomberg discusses his political views with his supporters. AJP/Press photo by Momar G. Visaya

The audience responded with cheers, and shouts of 'four more years'.

"Another thing that I like about Bloomberg is the way his programs are focused to help immigrants. Without him and his efforts, I wouldn't have been able to buy my own place," Harlem resident Marjorie Quiguyan said.

Bloomberg challenged his supporters not to go back to what he called "politics as usual" but instead move to progress.

This call was made more evident by the word "progress" emblazoned in capital letters across the stage, and through the thousands of placards distributed to the audience members.

"We can't forget that it was 'politics as usual' that inflicted so much pain on our middle class by ruining the public school system, letting crime get out of control, allowing our subways to break down and our parks to suffer," he said.

The mayor also took pride in the progress his administration made in the school system by fixing the Board of Education and through opening hundreds of new small schools. With those steps, he said that graduation rates and test scores are at record highs.

Responding to his critics, Bloomberg said that he doesn't care about what special interests

want.

"I don't take a dime of their money. I work for a dollar a year and I work for you and you alone. I don't care what the party bosses want. I didn't come from a political machine. I don't care what the polls say," he said.

Bloomberg also lined up the issues that he intends to focus more if he gets reelected: from stopping the gun runners who arm criminals to turning the city green and protecting the environment; from fighting poverty and helping New Yorkers live healthier lives to passing marriage equality and creating more jobs.

Elsa Bautista-Olcan, a Filipina-American who came to New York 24 years ago, believes that Bloomberg is the best mayor she has seen in all the years she has been here.

"He is very honest, sincere and very rich," she said.

For another Filipina supporter, it is all about Bloomberg's commitment.

"I like that he is getting only a dollar a year for doing this. This means that he really likes to work for the people and for the city," Lorna Quiguyan said.

Bloomberg is running against City Controller William Thompson, who won over his primary opponent Tuesday night. ■

Lacson: I don't want...

PAGE A1 ◀

with in the floor," he said.

"They won't find anything derogatory against me as far as public service [is concerned]," he said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, meanwhile, said statements against Estrada, including that of businessman Alfonso Yuchengco, should be brought to court.

Yuchengco confirmed Lacson's allegations that Estrada had used physical threats and intimidation to force him to sell his Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. shares to now PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan in 1998.

"They have to file it before the prosecuting office of the govern-

ment and present their evidence," Enrile said.

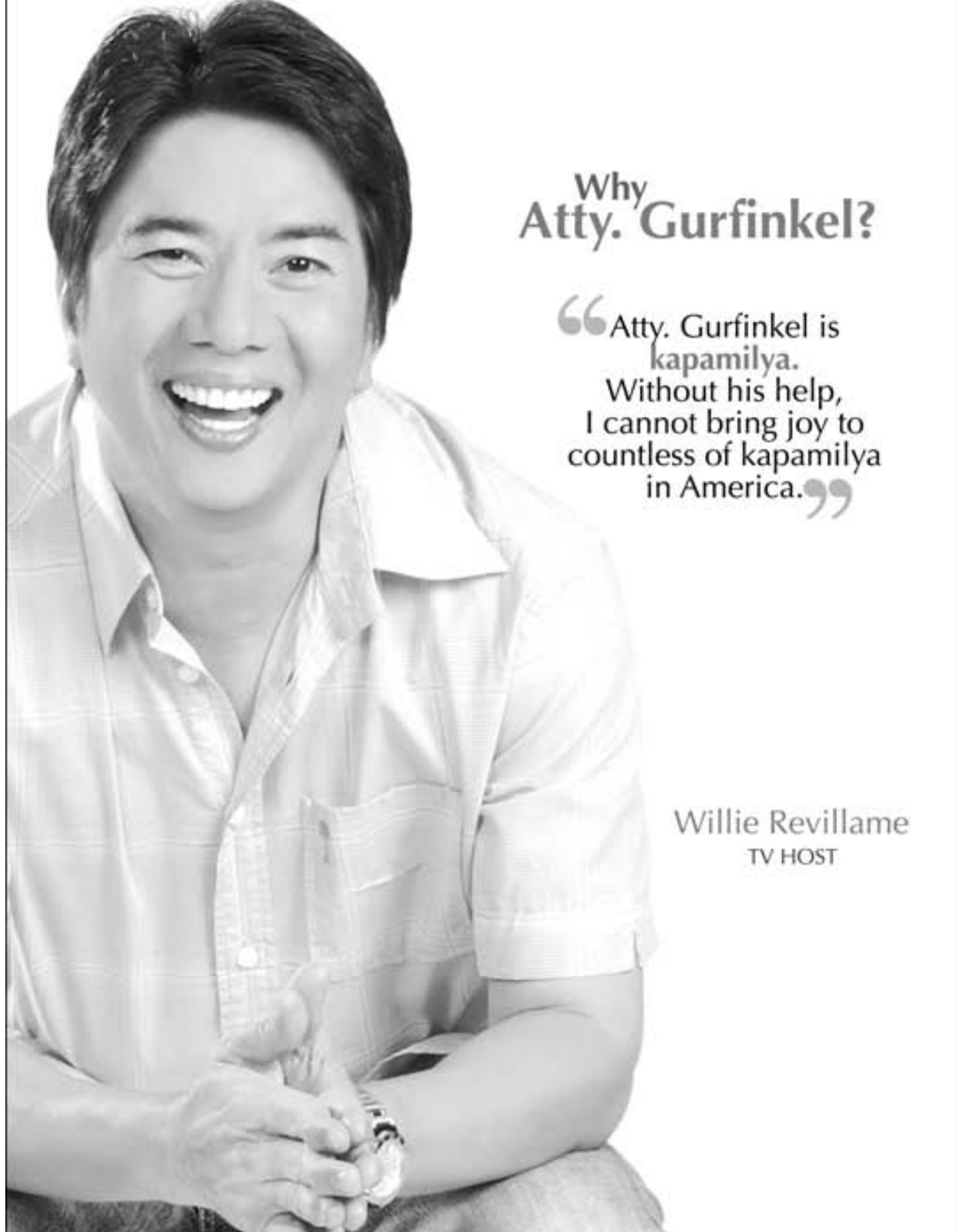
Mere allegations

Otherwise, those statements are "mere allegations," he said.

"They become evidence if they are declared under oath before an investigating body," Enrile said.

The president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines urged Lacson to take his issues against Estrada to court and spare the Senate the indignity of their squabble.

"I think it's not an ordinary squabble. But it won't be solved [in the Senate] because they can only engage in a discussion there," said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo. ■



Why Atty. Gurfinkel?

"Atty. Gurfinkel is kapamilya. Without his help, I cannot bring joy to countless of kapamilya in America."

Willie Revillame
TV HOST

To schedule a phone or in-person consultation, call

Toll free 1 (866) 487-3465

1 (866) GURFINKEL

MICHAEL
GURFINKEL
LAW OFFICES

A Full Service Immigration Law Firm

www.gurfinkel.com

LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO • NEW YORK • PHILIPPINES

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different. The information contained herein, including testimonials, "Success Stories" or endorsements are of general nature, and not intended to apply to any particular case, and do not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established hereby.