

Bongbong to run for senator

by JESS DIAZ
Philstar.com

ILOCOS Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said he is planning to run for senator in the May 2010 elections.

"I'm contemplating on running for the Senate," he told reporters seeking comment on his mother's statement that she wants him to run for president.

He said he has been in talks with the Nacionalista Party of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. for possible inclusion in its senatorial ticket.

He said it was just natural for his mother, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, to wish the best

for her children.

Besides Villar, the camp of former President Joseph Estrada wants to draft Rep. Marcos in its senatorial slate if the ousted leader seeks the presidency again.

Rep. Jonathan de la Cruz of the party-list group Abakada-Guro, a close friend of Rep. Marcos, said the Ilocos lawmaker has told him he is planning to run for senator.

The only son of the late President Marcos is just on his first term as representative of his province's second district. He replaced his sister Imee, who served for nine years before taking a break from politics. ■

Bro. Ed will still run for president in 2010

by DONA PAZZIBUGAN
Inquirer.net

JESUS is Lord Church evangelical leader Eduardo "Brother Eddie" Villanueva said Thursday, Sept. 3, that he will not withdraw his presidential bid even if erstwhile aspirant Senator Manuel Roxas II has given way to partymate, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Villanueva formed the Bangon Pilipinas political party as his platform when he first ran for president in 2004. Last August 21, the death anniversary of Aquino's father, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino

Jr., Villanueva announced a second presidential try.

"The only way to achieve Bangon Pilipinas's vision of a new Philippines and platform of righteous governance is to stay on in the race," Villanueva said in a statement.

"Bangon Pilipinas respects the decision of Senator Mar Roxas to give way to his fellow Liberal to take on the torch of the Party's leadership for the 2010 elections. But the Liberal Party's move does not influence Bangon Pilipinas's own plans," he added.

Villanueva said Bangon

Pilipinas calls for effective change. "A bigger and more crucial question confronting the entire nation ... is whether we are willing to change, to go back to God's values, ways, and precepts and principles concerning the blessing of a nation," he said.

He added that the "task of transforming the nation is not fulfilled simply by the changing of personalities of candidates for president."

Due to the recent developments in the political landscape, Villanueva said their party "is now more

challenged as it pushes for a different kind of platform grounded on genuine love for God and country."

"All parties offering a platform most responsive to the pressing needs of the country should be able to go through the electoral process by presenting such platform to the Filipino people, participating in debates on issues, going to the campaign trail, and ultimately, allowing the people to choose the best candidate based on the dictates of their conscience," he said. ■

SAYS ARROYO AIDE

VP also not eager for presidency

by TJ BURGONIO
Inquirer.net

SENATOR Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III isn't the only reluctant presidential candidate. Vice President Noli De Castro is too.

The fact that De Castro has not declared his plan until now is proof that he's not "too eager" for the presidency, Gabriel Claudio, presidential political adviser, said on Thursday, Sept. 3.

De Castro, however, is expected to announce anytime now whether he will run for President in the 2010 elections.

"VP Noli de Castro has maintained respectable survey ratings in spite of the fact that he has not declared his plan. He's not too eager—at least na atat, to use the expression—for the presidency," Claudio said in an interview over the government-run National Broadcasting Network-4.

The merged Lakas Kampi CMD, headed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has been wooing De Castro to be its standard bearer in May 2010, but he has not made any commitment.

Aquino, 49, has had strong reservations about running for President until calls that he do so started to snowball. He now appears closer to being drafted as the standard bearer of the Liberal Party.

After Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II announced that he was making way for Aquino's candidacy, Aquino on Wednesday, Sept. 2, declared he would go on a spiritual retreat to pray for discernment. But party officials admitted his tandem with Roxas was a done deal.

Claudio, secretary general of the administration coalition, said party officials understood well why De Castro has taken this long to decide whether to seek the highest post in the land.

"Vice President Noli de Castro is doing his own discernment, his own careful consideration of the entire situation, and we will give that to him," he said.

Claudio reiterated that De Castro has his own "sense of exquisite timing" that worked for him when he ran for the Senate, and later on, for Vice President in 2004.

"He has his own political instincts that have served him well in the past. This timing is very important," Claudio added.

But that period of discernment for De Castro would end soon.

"We expect his decision on at least joining the party and the [consultation and selection] process anytime now," Claudio said later in a text message to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

According to Claudio, De Castro's decision "would be clear" before September 15.

"Many of our partymates are encouraged by his acknowledgment of Lakas Kampi CMD as the strongest political machinery for the 2010 election if he decides to run," he said when asked about the slightest hint from De Castro that he's keen on running, and under the coalition. ■

'Brother Mike may not run for president'

by EVELYN MACAIRAN
Philstar.com

NOVALICHES Emeritus Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. claimed that El Shaddai leader Bro. Mariano "Mike" Velarde might not continue with his plan to run for president in the 2010 elections because of the lack of any sign of support from his church members.

Bacani, Velarde's spiritual adviser, said that the El Shaddai leader has been consulting with his members, but it seemed that they do not agree that he should enter politics.

In an interview with the Church-run Radio Veritas, Bacani said: "I don't think that Bro. Mike would run. I think that he is not getting positive responses. The members want him to just stay with the mission."

Bacani said Velarde has not yet mentioned any concrete plan to run for president. "I think he sensed the sentiments of the people."

He added that while they respect his decision, "We at the El Shaddai... talked to him and told him that we do not want

him to run and he accepted wholeheartedly our opinion."

He also said that religious leaders entering politics is an indication that the people are looking for good candidates who could help the country.

Bacani clarified that Velarde's case was different from that of priest turned Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, who has been suspended from performing the sacraments while he is holding a position in government.

Velarde is a layman while Panlilio is a priest.

"The case of Governor Panlilio is a special case. I do not support and I do not think that he would continue to run for president while remaining as a priest. I don't think that it is advisable for him to run for president, it would be good for him to withdraw," he added.

Meantime, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged his PDP-Laban partymate Sen. Jamby Madrigal to look for another party if she intends to pursue her presidential candidacy. ■

'Nothing more to say on ZTE'

by PAOLO ROMERO
Philstar.com

PRESIDENT Arroyo and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo have nothing more to say regarding the scrapped \$329-million national broadband network (NBN) contract with ZTE Corp. of China as the Senate resumes hearings today on the botched deal, officials said.

Deputy presidential spokesman Anthony Golez issued the statement as Sen. Richard Gordon, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, called on the First Couple to shed light on their role in the deal that Mrs. Arroyo ordered cancelled in October 2007.

"First of all, there is nothing

more the President and the First Gentleman will explain because, as a matter of fact, the President canceled this contract," Golez told a news briefing.

He said while he respects the independence of the Senate and the call of Gordon, nothing new is expected to come out of the inquiry as the issue had been exhaustively tackled in 2007.

"With regard to the merits of the case, I think it has been exhaustively answered. The questions were exhaustively answered already. In 2007, this (hearings) already came out and it was called a telenovela. For every telenovela, usually there is a break and there is season two. The problem

with this season 2, if the story remains the same, it is called a replay," Golez said.

He, however, could not comment on Gordon's statement that the First Couple should clarify their reported golf game with ZTE officials in China.

He said Mrs. Arroyo, by nature of her position, meets with many people. He said if there would be malice imputed in the golf game, the conclusion would be that the First Couple was involved in the alleged anomaly.

Explain golf game in China

Gordon earlier said the First Couple must explain their presence at the ZTE main office in China at the height of the controversy surrounding the

contract in 2006, adding that the President and her husband should be cited for impropriety or possible violation of ethical conduct.

Gordon said the Arroyos went to the Shenzhen Golf Club in China, even played golf and had lunch with ZTE officials on Nov. 2, 2006. A scandal erupted later, with reports alleging that the award of the NBN contract was being rigged to favor several individuals, Gordon said.

Gordon said the President should explain her meeting with ZTE officials at a time when there were supposed efforts by the camps of the son of former House speaker Jose de Venecia and former Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos to corner the multimillion-dollar deal. ■

Classified Ads • Jobs & Career • Business • Personal • Services • Storage & Heavy Equipment

Tel. (213) 250-9797 • Fax. (213) 481-0854

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a retail outlet or store location?

MoneyGram International cordially seeking agents:

- Increase your revenue and store foot traffic
- No extra investment required
- Easy to operate

If you are interested, please contact

East Coast: Jay Yu
718.713.9010

West Coast: Ted Lee
714.672.0255

MoneyGram
International Money Transfer

FOR SALE

TAAL VIEW HEIGHTS

View of Tagaytay

FOR SALE

750 sqm lot in Prime location. Great view. Close to the City but nestled to the rolling hills of Tagaytay. **Best for retirement, investment or vacation house. Price is negotiable**

In Full Swing

With fully operational amenities and facilities, Taal View Heights Country Club in Taal View Heights is very much ready to cater to your real and recreational needs. With so many things to do, you would definitely love to stay awhile. We have opened 10 Single Rooms, 10 Double/Twin-Sharing Rooms and 4 Deluxe Family rooms that can accommodate up to 5 persons. These are ideal for those who want a short vacation or group outings. See services are also available upon request.

Viewing Club membership, Golf and swimming, Meet with family and friends at the Club House, Interior view of a Deluxe Suite, A swimming pool for the kids area, Enjoy a hearty meal at the Club Restaurant, Have your own private meeting at the Executive Lounge, Play the game at the Basketball Court.

At Taal View Heights, your property will be part of a master-planned community with tasteful Filipiniana architecture

VISIT WWW.TAALVIEWHEIGHTS.COM
Email: angelkeeper12@yahoo.com or call 909.627.9045
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 626.373.4189

FA SO

The first Filipino-American Symphony Orchestra (FASO) in Southern California is in search of talented musicians of all nationalities!

Come join us and learn about Filipino culture, meet new people and play your hearts out! Auditions by appointment only. Requirements may include a prepared solo, orchestral excerpt and sight-reading. Send bio/resume to filamsymphony@gmail.com.

THE ASIAN JOURNAL PRESENTS THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ABOUT FASO

Established in Los Angeles County, which has the largest concentration of Filipinos outside of the Philippines, FASO is the first Filipino American orchestra of its kind. It aims to be a place where Filipino musicians can celebrate not only the standard classical repertoire, but also the rich heritage of original Filipino orchestral music. FASO not only introduces Filipino talent, but, true to the Filipino spirit, empowers other nationalities by being inclusive to all musical styles and performers.

AUDITION INQUIRIES

For further information, contact Maestro Robert Shroder at 818-395-8936 or email filamsymphony@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

Do you want to boost your income? Join the dynamic LBC TEAM today!

Become one of LBC's Wholesale or Pick-Up Contractors

BENEFITS:

- Unlimited Income Potential
- Increase traffic in your stores
- No investment/capital outlay required
- Marketing support from LBC

For more information, contact James B. Taylor at (800) 338-5424 x 3040 or email at james@lbcusa.net

EXPERIENCED COOKS & CHEFS

FREE Transportation to North Carolina and FREE Housing Provided

Joel's Asian Grill & Sushi
CHINESE, JAPANESE, THAI, PINOY & OTHER ASIAN CUISINE

LAKE NORMAN, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
joeljose@aol.com - email
(704) 402-3548
Family Owned And Operated
www.joelsgill.com

Performance Strong. Results Delivered.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • NORTHERN CALIFORNIA • LAS VEGAS • NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY

ASIAN JOURNAL