

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

Santiago to Teodoro: Drop Puno

by MAILA AGER
Inquirer.net

DEFENSE Secretary Gilbert Teodoro would be better off without teaming up with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Wednesday, Sept. 16, pointing out Puno's stained record in previous presidential campaigns.

Teodoro would be better off without Puno, she said citing the interior secretary's record in previous presidential campaigns.

"A (Teodoro-Puno tandem) I'm afraid will be less than overwhelming. Let's just say, it's an underwhelming tandem," Santiago said.

"Well you know, Mr. Puno has been associated with so many presidential campaigns and not necessarily in a good light," she added.

Puno allegedly rigged the presidential elections in 1992 that saw President Fidel Ramos winning over the then very popular Santiago.

Santiago said the tandem would benefit Puno more than Teodoro.

Puno was also involved in the presidential campaigns of former President Joseph Estrada and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. ■

Now it's sympathy for Estrada from Lacson

by MAILA AGER
Inquirer.net

SENATOR Panfilo "Ping" Lacson has expressed sympathy for former president Joseph Estrada and others, who might be indicted by the revelation of his former aide.

Lacson was referring to former Superintendent Glenn Dumlao's claim in an interview pointing to Estrada as the one who ordered the assassination of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

"If that's a preview of what he [Dumlao] intends to say in his affidavit or his testimony, then I welcome it, personally," he told reporters on Thursday, Sept. 17, despite the expose against his former boss.

"But of course I feel bad for the former president and all those who may be indicted or may be affected by the revelation of Supt. Dumlao. My heart also goes out kay Supt. Dumlao kasi nakita ko yung burden na dinadala niya [because I saw the burden he has been carrying]. He was crying when he was being interviewed. And it's very obvious gusto niya ilabas din ang kung anuman ang dinadala niya sa sarili niya [that he wants to bring out whatever it was he



Sen. Lacson and Former Pres. Estrada was carrying], said Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police whom Estrada appointed during his term.

Lacson denied Estrada's claim that his supposed involvement in the killings of Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito. His last conversation with Dumlao, the senator said, was in 2004 when Dumlao was still in the United States.

Lacson said he did not talk or meet with his former aide since



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the latter returned to the Philippines.

"Siguro ang mindset niya [Estrada] parating pelikula kaya sinasabing scripted. Di naman artista si Dumlao, paano siya susunod sa script [Maybe his mindest has always been like in a film that's why he would always say scripted. Dumlao is not an actor so how will he follow the script?]" he said.

"And you be the judge. When you saw him [Dumlao] habang

nagsasalita pwede ninyo tingnan sa demeanor ng tao kung may sinusunod na script, or kung seryoso at sinero ang sinasabi [while he was talking, you can look at the demeanor of the person if he is following a script or if he what he is saying is serious and sincere]. Ako [As for me] I felt bad, even if that is exculpatory para sa akin [for me]. Still, talagang [really] I was affected by his revelation." ■

Noynoy on cousin: He has more hair

by AUREA CALICA
Philstar.com

SENATOR Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is ready to slug it out with his cousin, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, in next year's presidential race, conceding that Teodoro already has a two-point edge over him—more hair and a wife.

Teodoro was chosen as the standard bearer in 2010 of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

Aquino and Teodoro are second cousins, their mothers Corazon and Mercedes being first cousins in the Cojuangco family. Mercedes is the youngest sister of business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Aquino, standard bearer of the Liberal Party, said Teodoro was "a worthy opponent" that would "mount a campaign with decency and honor."

"I wish him well," Aquino said, even as he admitted that he was not really close to Teodoro.

In Congress, when both served as lawmakers for three terms, they had always been on opposite sides of the political fence.

Aquino said they never agreed on issues but respected each other's positions.

"(Our differences) never became personal. Maybe, we both were trying to understand where



Philstar.com photo

we were coming from, our backgrounds are different," Aquino said.

"We never attended the same schools, I am older than him. He has more hair than me, that's one point. He has gotten married also, so that's two points for him now," Aquino said in jest.

But he said with a competent relative running, he could foresee a campaign that is not shallow and debates that are elevated to higher ground.

"Just like what my father, the late senator and national hero, Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino Jr., always used to say, everyone should be running scared so as not to be complacent," he said. ■

Villar camp says Noynoy is peaking too early

by CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
Inquirer.net

SENATOR Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III may be the "flavor of the month" but is he ready for the long haul?

The camp of Sen. Manuel Villar downplayed Aquino's strong showing in recent surveys of presidential candidates, saying he could be "peaking too early" with eight months still to go before the 2010 presidential election.

"The fight for the presidency is not a sprint," said Gilbert Remulla, spokesperson of Villar's Nacionalista Party. "It's a 10-kilometer race, an endurance test, an iron man competition. You have to prepare for the long haul."

Describing Aquino as the

"flavor of the month," Remulla said, "Many other events will surely overtake the present happening."

A Social Weather Stations survey conducted on Sept. 5-6 in four areas in Luzon showed Aquino obtaining 50 percent of the vote compared to Villar's 14 percent.

Aquino has said that seven or eight other surveys indicated similar results.

Remulla said Aquino's high ratings were but "a snapshot of this moment in time. It may be a different snapshot one or two months from now."

Remulla, however, admitted that Aquino's entry in the presidential race and his strong survey showing would force the Villar camp to "tweak our plans some more."

"Everything at this point should be taken seriously but also in context," he said. "For a while, we were comfortable being number one. It's interesting to see what's happening now."

Aquino, a three-term congressman before becoming a senator, got a fresh look from the public after death of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, last month.

Having martyred former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. for a father also helped. Both parents are national heroes for their wavering stand and ultimate sacrifice against the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s and '80s.

For Villar, a consistent survey leader until Aquino came along, Remulla said that early

preparations, a smooth political machine and a clear program of government would work to his advantage.

Remulla said many local government executives belonging to the administration coalition, particularly in Bohol, Capiz, Iloilo and Negros, had been switching allegiance to the NP since April.

He said the Partido Magdalo of his family in Cavite formally joined forces with the NP. The local party represents 300 provincial leaders, including 13 incumbent mayors.

"We deem Senator Villar as the sole unifying factor whose leadership can reach out to various sectors in a bid to propel the country to a higher ground," said Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla, Gilbert's brother. ■

Ayala Foundation USA presents

Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy: Filipino American Profiles of Success

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2009
Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Location: Marriott Los Angeles Downtown
Address: 333 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

SPEAKERS:

Dado Banatao is the managing partner of Tallwood Venture Capital, a firm focusing on semiconductor and semiconductor related technologies. He is credited with developing several key semiconductor technologies and is regarded as a Silicon Valley visionary.

Winston Damarillo, CEO and Founder of Simula Labs (www.simulalabs.com), a Marina Del Rey-based firm that is developing companies based on open source software. Winston is the founder of Gluecode, which was purchased by IBM last year, and a former venture capitalist at Intel Capital.

Sheila Marcelo is a seasoned entrepreneur whose passion for business and family led to the founding of Care.com. She also served as an executive at several successful consumer internet companies including: Upromise and TheLadders.com.

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Do you suffer from GOUT ATTACKS?

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- Be 18-80 years of age,
- Have a history of gout and are at risk of gout flare,
- Be able to or are already receiving treatment with urate-lowering therapy (such as allopurinol), AND
- Not currently be experiencing a gout flare.

The investigator will work with you to determine whether you qualify for the study, using a more comprehensive list of criteria. Qualified participants will receive study medicine as well as study-related medical evaluations at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may also be available.

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