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Crispin Caday Lozano, Esq., is an active member of the State Bar of California since 1999. He graduated Juris Doctor (Law Degree) from Western State University School of Law in Fullerton, CA. He is a licensed Real Estate Broker # 01297744 since Oct. 2001. He is also a Certified Public Accountant and a Bachelor of Business Administration Cum Laude graduate. All legal services are performed under the supervision of an active member of the State Bar of California.

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# DATELINE PHILIPPINES

## Lacson drops bomb on Estrada 'Arm-twisting, smuggling, jueteng'

by CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO  
Inquirer.net

WITH election fever gripping the country, Sen. Panfilo Lacson Monday claimed last Sept. 14 that deposed President Joseph Estrada had bullied Alfonso Yuchengco into selling his stake in Philippine Long Distance Co. (PLDT) to the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Lacson said he would not be doing his duty as an elected official if he did not expose the character of Estrada, an actor who plans to run for president next year.

In a privilege speech titled *Ang Dalawang Mukha ng Sining (Two Faces of the Arts)*, Lacson, the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) during the Estrada administration, said that the former President also:

- May have something to do with the December 2000 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

- Intervened in the release of smuggled chicken and rice.
- Allowed "jueteng" operations to flourish and even accepted payola from Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

Lacson said "only the higher interest of nation and people, and the highest call of conscience" were impelling him to speak out.

"God save the Philippines from Joseph Ejercito alias Joseph Estrada," said Lacson, who is supporting the presidential bid of Sen. Benigno "Noy" Aquino III.

Lacson underscored the need for the "straight and proper to prevail."

He said Estrada had arm-twisted Yuchengco into selling his PLDT shares in August 1998 to Pangilinan's group, the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co., which eventually gained control of the telecommunications firm.

#### Sinister behavior

The transaction showed Estrada's "other sinister behavioral patterns" that Lacson said "must be told to the Filipino people."

"In August 2008, in the early part of Mr. Estrada's abbreviated presidency, Mr. Alfonso Yuchengco was pressured to sign the conveyance of his 7.75 per-



Former Pres. Joseph Estrada cent PTIC (Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp.) holdings, equivalent to 18,720 shares to Metro Pacific, represented by Manuel Pangilinan," Lacson said.

He said these PTIC holdings corresponded to 2,017,650 PLDT common shares. PTIC at the time holds the biggest single block at 21 percent of the telephone giant. [Before the deal with Yuchengco, First Pacific had finalized the sales agreement on only 47 percent of PTIC—44 percent from the Cojuangco family and 3 percent from Antonio Meer. First Pacific could not touch the balance of 46 percent of PTIC shares because these were owned by the formerly sequestered Prime Holdings Inc., a shell company owned by the Marcoses, which was being recovered by the government.]

Lacson said he learned later that Yuchengco was "pressed to sign a waiver of his right of first refusal over the PTIC shares of the Cojuangco-Meer group."

#### Trumped-up drug charges

The senator said he learned years later that Estrada, then two months into his administration, had used the PNP to harass Yuchengco's son Tito "with threat of arrest on some trumped-up drug charges to force his father, Mr. Yuchengco, to sell."

Lacson said he learned that the Yuchengcos were angry at him in the mistaken belief that Estrada had ordered him to harass them so that the patriarch would sell his shares.

The senator said he was not aware of what had happened un-



Sen. Panfilo Lacson til later. "And if for example, Mr. Estrada would order me to do such thing, I am certain I will not follow him," Lacson said.

#### Corporate genius

"The bigger and more important question remains—What was the deal in pesos and centavos between Mr. Estrada and Mr. Pangilinan, if any? Or should we rather ask, 'How much was involved?'" he said.

Estrada's friend Mark Jimenez reportedly brokered the \$750-million PLDT takeover and got a \$50-million commission for it. Jimenez denied getting such amount.

Lacson also assailed Estrada for implicating him in the Dacer-Corbito murders and turned the tables on him.

Pointing out that Estrada had claimed he never dealt with officials other than the heads of agencies during his presidency, Lacson said this was not true.

"Yet, on so many occasions, I have personal knowledge on this, during his presidency, he was giving orders and instructions deep into the layers of the entire government bureaucracy, the PNP and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force," Lacson said.

#### Oplan Delta

The senator made the statement as he lashed out at Estrada for accusing him of "supervising" recent testimony on an alleged operation called Oplan Delta, which was aimed at neutralizing Dacer.

Lacson denied he knew about the operation, saying he only

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