

# Panlilio prefers going back to priesthood

by DING CERVANTES  
Philstar.com

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Gov. Eddie Panlilio said that going back to priesthood is his “preference” after his gubernatorial term ends next year. He has not yet closed doors on proposals for him to run for senator under the Liberal Party (LP).

Panlilio made this clarification after his critics circulated that he had announced a categorical return to priesthood.

Reelection, however, no longer seems an option for Panlilio after this city’s Mayor Oscar Rodriguez announced recently his plans to run for governor. Panlilio earlier said he would instead support Rodriguez’s gubernatorial bid.

Local newspapers headlined recently Rodriguez’s gubernatorial plans, saying he would consider running under the LP should his Lakas-CMD party not name him as official candidate. Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, a member of the Kampi party who earlier publicly declared his support for the presidential bid of Sen. Noyon Aquino, as well as Sen. Lito Lapid, also of

Lakas-CMD, already announced their plans to run for governor.

In an earlier interview, Panlilio said that LP president Franklin Drilon had offered him



and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca slates in LP’s senatorial slate.

This, even as lawyer George Garcia, legal counsel for former provincial board member Lilia Pineda, said in a telephone interview that his client’s electoral protest against Panlilio will not be rendered moot and academic once she files candidacy for any political post in next year’s elections.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) set Nov. 30 as deadline for the filing of certificates

of candidacy to make way for preparations for computerized polls.

The second division of the Comelec is now attending to Pineda’s case after a recount of gubernatorial votes cast in this province in 2007 was finished by 21 committees last month. There are reports that Mrs. Pineda will run for either governor or mayor of Lubao, President Arroyo’s hometown in Pampanga.

“The case of Mrs. Pineda is different from the cases of Sen. Miriam Santiago against former president Fidel Ramos and the case of Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro. The cases of the latter two were rendered moot after they ran for a political office, won and were proclaimed,” he said, noting that Mrs. Pineda has not been proclaimed winner in any political post.

Garcia said that while the Comelec’s second division has yet to rule on Pineda’s case, he expected that the case will finally end up before the Supreme Court regardless of who would be favored by the Comelec’s decision.

# Actor-politicians face poll ban over movies

by KRISTINE L. ALAVE  
Inquirer.net

ACTOR-POLITICIANS might be barred from showing their movies or television shows during the campaign period after they have filed their certificates of candidacies for the 2010 polls.

Commission on Elections spokesman James Jimenez said the poll body has been looking at the possibility of banning actor-politicians from appearing in movies or television shows during the campaign period, the same way as TV and radio broadcasters, film, and print workers take a

leave of absence from their jobs when they run for public office.

The reason for this is to prevent one sector—in this case showbiz personalities—from having an undue built-in advantage over non-showbiz politicians.

Commissioner Gregorio Larrosa said he would not rule out the possibility of banning actor-politicians from appearing in movies or television shows during the campaign period, the same way as TV and radio broadcasters, film, and print workers take a leave of absence from their jobs when they run for public office.

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# Comelec rejects ‘sabungeros’

by SHEILA CRISOSTOMO  
Philstar.com

THE hopes of an alliance of cockfighting aficionados to be represented in Congress have been dashed as the second division of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) rejected the application for accreditation of Alyansa Sabungero.

In a resolution, the second division headed by Commissioner Nicodem Ferrer ruled that the petition of Alyansa Sabungero was “not verified and does not conform with Section 5 of Republic Act 7941” or the party-list law.

Under the law, “any organized group of persons may register as a party, organization or coalition for purposes of the party-list system by filing with the Comelec not later than 90 days before the election a petition verified by its president or secretary stating its desire to participate in the party-list system.”

The verification should include the group’s constitution and by-

laws, platform of government, list of officers, agreement and other relevant information.

But in a motion for reconsideration filed with the Comelec, Alyansa Sabungero founder Nid Anima said the poll body’s “adverse resolution... has been done without due process...”

“Alyansa Sabungero never having been called to a hearing and thus, never given its proverbial day (in) court,” he noted.

Anima added that it was an “oversight on the part of Alyansa Sabungero to skip on things it thinks as obvious” as he mentioned requirements for putting up a party-list organization.

These requirements include nationwide coverage, non-affiliation with any religious sect or denomination, adherence to law and being non-recipient of foreign funding.

Aside from filing a motion for reconsideration, the group had also lodged a supplemental petition that seeks to “correct the infirmities in its original petition.”



# Glorietta blast victims’ kin protest mall’s rehabilitation

‘Destruction of evidence’

by ALLISON LOPEZ  
Inquirer.net



Firemen and rescuers rush to the scene after the bomb blast in Glorietta 2.

MEMBERS of an anticrime group and relatives of some of the victims who were killed in the explosion that rocked Glorietta 2 in Makati City two years ago protested Monday, Oct. 19 the rehabilitation of the mall, saying evidence was being “destroyed.”

Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) founder Dante Jimenez said he was surprised that construction work was ongoing at the blast site when a criminal case filed against several persons believed to have caused the explosion was still pending at the Department of Justice (DoJ).

“We will question the reconstruction of this edifice. All I know is that evidence should not be touched,” he said.

Relatives of the 11 people who were killed in the explosion which—according to authorities—was caused by a gas leak, gathered at the blast site Monday to mark the second anniversary of the Oct. 19 incident.

### Appeal to DoJ

They lit candles and offered prayers to their loved ones as they also called on the DoJ to speed up the resolution of the case.

The justice department earlier filed charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries against eight officers and staff members of Ayala Land lessor Makati Supermarket Corp. (MSC), Marchem Industrial Sales & Services and Metaline although it cleared Ayala Land officials of any liability.

MSC was responsible for overseeing the repairs being conducted in the basement where the explosion occurred.

On the other hand, Marchem conducted electrical work in the basement while Metaline was responsible for pipe work.

Based on the findings of a DoJ panel, a buildup of methane gas and diesel fumes in the mall’s

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