

Ping crime writer, wiretapper, killer – Jinggoy

by CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO
Inquirer.net

MANILA – Sen. Panfilo Lacson was not only the “best crime writer” but also a wiretapper and killer, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada Wednesday said in a privilege speech aimed at countering the charges Lacson had hurled against him and his father.

Jinggoy Wednesday cited the *Kuratong Baleleng* rubout and other cases involving Lacson when he was a police official in an attempt to portray the latter as the real bad guy and not him and his father, former President Joseph Estrada.

“Let our people be the judge,” Jinggoy said, asserting that he and his father were “not criminals, and much less killers.”

Saying this would be his “last” privilege speech on the matter and refusing again to address Lacson as a senator, Jinggoy twitted the latter for delivering “fiction part one” and “fiction part two,” in reference to the latter’s two privilege speeches.

“President Estrada may be a Famas Hall of Fame as five-time best actor. Mr. Lacson, however, has now earned the reputation

as the best writer of crime stories where he excels best,” he said.

Jinggoy said the latest allegations Lacson hurled against him and his father were nothing but “tall-tale stories filled with blind items” as he lashed out at the “three mini stories” the former police chief delivered the other day in a privilege speech.

Noting that Lacson’s mini stories were supposed to be taken from telephone conversations, Jinggoy said that if these were so, the former “must have illegally obtained these through wiretapping.”

“These are stuff that only a diabolical mind such as Mr. Lacson can be capable of doing,” he said.

Without naming names, Lacson had spoken about a conversation between two persons, both in the United States at the time in which Voice No. 1 (supposedly Jinggoy) asked Voice No. 2 (supposedly Atong Ang, a gambling buddy of Estrada) in 2006 not to implicate him or his mother.

Voice No. 2 was about to be extradited to testify in a plunder case at the Sandiganbayan involving a longtime friend and

former president, according to Lacson.

Voice No. 1 asked Voice No. 2 to just implicate his father (supposedly Estrada) because he could defend himself.

“Jueteng” payola
Lacson also related a conversation between a son of a President asking a “jueteng” operator to give the share of his brother’s cut in the illegal number game to him lest the latter use it to buy drugs.

Lacson also spoke about a person asking a Cabinet member to give him a project after losing P10 million in gambling.

“If I am being alluded (to) in these stories about jueteng payola, I deny these accusations,” Jinggoy said, reminding Lacson he had been acquitted from the jueteng charges filed against him in 1999.

Dacer-Corbato murders
Pointing out that Lacson and not his father was involved in

the 2000 murder of publicist Salvador “Bubby” Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, Jinggoy quoted excerpts from a Sept. 3, 2009, testimony given by Lacson’s former police aide Cezar Mancao II.

Mancao said he overheard Lacson, then the head of the Philippine National Police, order the killing of former police official Reynaldo Berroya and Dacer, according to Jinggoy.

As if to show Lacson had the

motive for killing Dacer, Jinggoy quoted a letter that Dacer wrote former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte on July 27, 1999, in which he said Lacson “concocted and spread lies” to implicate him in destabilization plots against the then Estrada administration.

Dacer also wrote Estrada on Oct. 8, 1999, this time signifying his opposition to the appointment then of Lacson as PNP

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VFA talks should be after elections – Teodoro

by KATHERINE EVANGELISTA
Inquirer.net

MANILA – The renegotiation of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States must be studied first and talks regarding this should be done after the elections so as not to taint the issue with political matters, said Defense secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Jr.

In a telephone interview with reporters Thursday, Teodoro said that he has not read the Senate Resolution 1356 but never the less said that the matter would be “politicized” if discussed at this time.

“I think this should be studied well first, what are its positive and negative benefits and maybe it should be discussed at a time when it will not be highly politicized,” Teodoro said in Filipino.

“Emotions and political sentiment will get in the way. This is an international relationship issue so it should be for the good of national interest,” he added.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) Secretary General Renato Reyes applauded the Senate for passing the resolution saying that the resolutions “sharply exposed the lopsidedness of the agreement and how it has trampled on our sovereignty for the last 10 years.”

“If the executive does not heed the senate call to junk the VFA, then we urge the senators to take the issue to the Supreme Court,” Reyes added.

Senate Resolution 1356 was passed Wednesday after Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee on the VFA delivered a speech where she said that the VFA is not only “void for vagueness” but also “a failure.” ■

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