

Readers' Views

Jail has 40 prisoners due for Muntinlupa Budget P600T is ready

Attn: Gov. Macias, please ship them out before May 10!

Atty: Francisco Dy Yap
2nd Floor, Gemini Building
Real St.
Dumaguete City

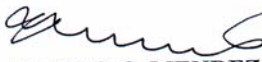
Dear Atty. Yap:

Thanks for your letter dated February 25, 2010 showing your deep concern over the delay of the transfer of the convicted inmates in NODRC, this province, to the National Bilibid Prison in Manila.

In your letter, you cited budgetary constraints for traveling allowance as the cause of the delay. For your information and guidance, per our 2010 annual budget of the province, there is an appropriation of P660,000.00 for Traveling Allowance-Local in the Office of the Governor where the NODRC belongs. This office has no knowledge as to why the NODRC has not transferred their inmates to the National Bilibid Prison.

I would rather advise you to direct your query to the Office of the Governor who has the right information on the matter.

Very truly yours,



DANILO C. MENENDEZ
Provincial Treasurer

Atty. Francisco Yap
2nd Floor, Gemini Building
Real Street, Dumaguete City

Dear Sir:

This has reference to your letter request dated February 22, 2010 inquiring as to the status of the service of sentence of one convicted prisoner Justo Paras of why he remains at the Center in spite of his being a national prisoner.

Please be informed that the standing policy of this office include among others the preference of transmitting insular/national prisoners to the National Penitentiaries based on priorities of dates of their conviction.

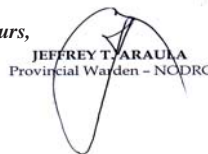
Please take note also that because of budgetary constraints of traveling allowances appropriated by the Provincial Government for inmates, we still have forty (40) convicted national prisoners inside the Center waiting for their schedule for transfer to National Bilibid Prison. From January 2010 to the present, we have officially transmitted five (5) prisoners and we are still processing the transmittal of the next batch of national prisoners scheduled for transfer.

National prisoner, Justo Paras, is listed as number thirty-seventh (37th) according to priorities. It is our prime duty and obligation that convicted national prisoners be transmitted the soonest to NBP, Manila as mandated by commitment order issued by the Court.

We assure you that in due time and when his turn comes, the office will immediately transmit the body of convicted national prisoner, Justo Paras, to NBP, Manila.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



JEFFREY T. ARAULA
Provincial Warden - NODRC

Privatize ... From page 2

operatives, then it should have averted the crisis and encourage the establishment of power plants that offer competitive and sufficient supply of electricity.

Payuyo added that many Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have had experiences during the Ramos administration when the government refused to buy the power they generated primarily because the latter failed to accurately estimate the power requirements of the country and instead blamed the IPPs causing them to lose faith in the industry.

Payuyo blamed officials of the Department of Energy, National Power Corporation, PSALM and the National Grid Corporation for the painfully slow implementation of the provisions of the EPIRA law which provide for the privatization of all organizations involved in the production and distribution of energy as they are only concerned of losing their jobs.

"Electric cooperatives should also be privatized or fully owned by the end users like the Negros Oriental Electric Cooperative 2, which has survived over the last 30 years while serving some 89,000 consumers," Payuyo said.

There are currently 119 electric consumers in the country today but only 12 have so

Paper hats ... (Mercado) From page 7

Lella de Lima. Feet-dragging by the newly-bemedaled officers in presenting detainees to the Court adds insult to injury, she said.

"Inexcusable," snapped presidential candidate Gilberto Teodoro. Tampering with a basic libertarian document like the privilege of the writ, "set dangerous precedents" for future habeas corpus orders, fumed Associate Justice Normandie Pizarro.

Did the military thumb its nose again at the Judiciary? Would a lowly colonel "dirty finger" a High Court order on his own? Inquirer asked. "Were you born yesterday?"

The Court is still to issue its resolution on charges of sabotaging the writ of habeas corpus, illegal arrest and detention. Courtesy, let alone common sense, dictated that. Ibrado should have tamped down his itch to pin medals, at least until after the Courts ruled. The constitutional axiom of civilian supremacy over the military, at the very least, includes that was Ibrado less than bright then? "Half of generals

far registered with the Cooperative Development Authority, which marks the commitment of these 12 coops to allow the people true ownership of their electric cooperatives.

Payuyo, who was cited nationally for his outstanding stint as General Manager of the Palawan Electric Cooperative, visited the city, Wednesday, to drum up support for APEC's reelection bid for seats in the House of Representatives in the May 10 elections. (By Demis Rey Demecillo)

are dumb," US President Harry Truman once snapped over nuking Chinese troops in Korean War debates. "But that's not a crime. Otherwise, half of them would be in jail."

Ibrado dismissed torture charges as baseless. "Prove them," he snorted, admittedly with panache of caudillos in Latin American juntas. But does this signal of a more worrisome trend? Are we seeing resurgent and arrogant impunity?

Atrophied constitutional reflexes, as we learned during the Marcos dictatorship, will metastasize into jackboot disdain for human liberties. Distorted mind-sets, on Military Commission No. 2, sentenced former senator Benigno Aquino Jr. to death by musketry, even when civilian courts were operating.

Look also at Burma's brutal junta. In Thailand, liberties took a beating after Prapahullajom Khao (Bangkok's version of the PMA) officers' beat down dissenters.

President Manuel Quezon was "wary of military involvement in politics," Alfred McCoy recalls in the Yale University study: "Closer Than Brothers." In 1936, Quezon set up Philippine Military in the pattern of the US' West Point, Britain's Sandhurst and France's St. Cyr.

PMA would "establish a corps of professional officers and thus deny control over the nation's arsenals to political elites, whether nationalist attorneys from University of the Philippines or corporate executives from Ateneo."

What does the track record show?

PMA's first graduates fought in World War II and hewed to the constitutional chain of command. But Marcos uncorked the genie's bottle.

No PMA class was more brutalized than Class '71. "Among [its] 85 graduates, at least five, practiced torture, six were murdered. They were the ultimate creatures of martial law." Lacson and Colonel, now Senator, Gringo Honasan, are stars of this class.

Ten generals and two civilians made up the "Rolex 12". They helped Matros clamp on martial law. Do Juan Ponce Enrile and Eduardo Cojuangco burnish their gift Rolexes today, given the disastrous results of their collaboration?

Military politicking left an AFP that is today the wimp of Asean armed forces. "Creeping militarization" of the bureaucracy accelerated during President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's watch.

Ms Arroyo was weakened by the "Hello Garci" scandal. To buttress her shaky tenure, she increasingly curried favor of the generals.

"She owes her political survival to the military," an Agence France Presse quoted a diplomat after the aborted Peninsula Hotel revolt in November 2007. "She knows it. The military knows it. And there is little that she can do about."

This presidential diminution underpins the brazen Camp Nakar medal ceremonies. Are the generals signaling us, yet again: Democracy grows from the barrel of a gun?

This creed bastardizes Mao Zedong's axiom. Now, more than ever, the democratic institutions that People Power restored must hold. The alternative is more stark than just "paper hats and wooden swords."

(Email:juanmercado@gmail.com)

Dodo goes ... (From page 1)

This came close to the heels when political greats in the province are also allied with Villar like Meniong Teves (Lakas) kingmaker of the province; and gubernatorial NP official bet Jose Petit Baldado, who is the official NP (Villar) standard bearer in Negros Oriental and running against Macias one-on-one for the capitol throne.

Macias confirmed to the CHRONICLE yesterday in Bais after the funeral rites of BM Melimore Saycon that:

"There is a negotiation between NP (of Villar) and NPC (of Cojuangco) my party to possibly merge and become the dominant opposition party vis a vis the LP. This means full party representation in the precincts. I will abide by the party's decision. He admits that Villar has been calling him on the phone, too."

Macias continued: "In the first district Josy L is for NoyNoy and Jing P is for Gibo, so I was asked to carry Villar there; in the second district, George Ais for Gibo and Tata V is for NoyNoy, so I was asked to carry Villar in the second district; in the third district, Henry Teves is for Gibo and like Meniong T, I am also free to carry Villar there. All these because my party NPC is now talking with Villar. I am a party loyalist of Danding Cojuangco."

Political observers believe that Villar, the astute politician, will welcome anyone who will carry him in Negros Oriental and is expected to have enough logistics to support both Macias and Baldado for the governorship. Baldado is the NP official candidate for governor.

TUTING: ERAP'S GUEST BET.....

As this developed, Dumaguetenos were surprised to see City Mayor Tuting Perdiges come up the stage of Erap Estrada's PMP rally at the Perdiges home court in Quezon Park last Tuesday. Perdiges gave the former president a resounding welcome but quickly said, he did not endorse Erap. Perdiges told that CHRONICLE that he was on stage with Erap "in his capacity as city mayor, welcoming a former president," without admitting the implications of his body language.

This even as Perdiges wore on stage the yellow and blue jersey indicating that he

PNP probes ... (From page 16)

the case by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Re-electionist Governor Emilio Dodo Macias II vehemently denies ever linking his close political rival Vice-governor Jose "Petit" Baldado to the reported abduction of a 14-year old son of Baldado's estranged political ally.

Baldado branded the accusation as politically motivated and insisted that he was in Dumaguete at the time when the said incident occurred. Macias and Baldado are squaring off in the coming May 10 elections for the governorship.

1st District ... From page 16

Aquino-Roxas tandem. The complete LP line-up of candidates for mayor in the first district are: Guihulngan Mayor Ernesto Reyes, La Libertad Mayor Lawrence Limkaichong, Attorney Winbo Sameon of Tayasan, Dennis Amancio of Ayungon, Bindoy's Bonjong Dy and Manjuyod Vice-mayor Maning Sy. (With Neil Rio)

was a NoyNoy man. Yet in appreciation, Perdiges said that Erap included him as guest candidate of PMP, without elaborating on the details.

True enough, Perdiges again was seen and heard on stage endorsing NoyNoy's presidency the following day, meaning, Perdiges also displayed his consistent independent stance, endorsing those who need his help, and those who can also help his quest for the vice governorship.

Perdiges told the CHRONICLE that he is pro NoyNoy, and his body language, indicates that he indeed is a free man, an independent candidate and would gladly endorse those who will also support him. He said that this his way of projecting an independent candidate who cannot to be tied down to any political party restrictions.

PETTIT'S OFFICIAL NP'

Meanwhile, vice gov Petit Baldado who is running for governor is the official Nacionalista party candidate in Negros Oriental. Baldado was personally sworn in by Sen Manny Villar himself here.

There were invitations for Baldado to go NoyNoy, but he declined saying that his principle is to keep his word of honor to Villar. Baldado was the only (Manjuyod) mayor who was not replaced with an OIC by Pres Cory Aquino in the aftermath of the People's Revolution here in 1986.

Only lately, Mrs. Cynthia Villar questioned why Bladado was getting a NoyNoy man as his vice governor. Villar wanted Perdiges to be sworn as NP vice governor bet, but Perdiges did not show up. Later Perdiges confirmed that he is supporting NoyNoy.

Political observers say:

That with Villar supporting two of the top gubernatorial bets, Villar stands to be the gainer while Baldado and Macias will have to make use of Villar's logistical support to maneuver their own way to victory.

In this manner, Villar stands to gain politically here, while Macias and Baldado will have to contend that only one of them will win as governor.

Military ... (From page 1)

at the helm of political power and leadership.

After June 30, if no national leader is proclaimed due to failure of elections, Drilon said the volatile situation is ripe for military adventurists to take over the government.

There is also no successor to the throne in Malacanang because all the terms of offices of vice president, senate president and speaker of the house positions will be vacant, including that of the chief justice if no one is appointed at this time.

SOLUTION:

Drilon said, the solution should be for the Senate by three fourths vote, call a special session and elect an interim president who will temporarily take over the presidency as caretaker in case of failure of election, until a duly elected president shall have been elected and qualified.

The senator-caretaker president should have a term of office that ends in 2013 and not in 2010. And among the possibilities are:

SENATORS: Angara, Zubiri, Joker Arroyo, Roxas, Aquino, Trillanes, Cayetano, Escudero, Honasan, Legarda, Lacson, and Kiko Pangilinan.