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**By Jesse Jose**

***A Cup O' Kapeng Barako***

Y es, it's *Lutong Makaw!*

I really believe that the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona is, to the letter, a *Lutong Makaw*. Yes, obvious *na* obvious: *Lutong Makaw!*

It's a comical and farcical show. Corona was already proven guilty, convicted and impeached, long before this impeachment trial began. So, *okey ngarud*, he's a thief! But come on now, who isn't a thief among those senator-judges who convicted him as a thief?

*Ang mga magnanakaw galit sa kapwa magnanakaw, lalu na sa isang magnanakaw na mas maraming nanakaw.*

Corona, the Chief Thief *daw* of the Philippine Supreme Court, has billions (sic) of dollars and pesos in his stash, and the rest of the thieves didn't like that, so they went after him, found him guilty and convicted him of STEALING MORE than they did, and impeached him as "chief of thieves."

The culture among thieves is: One for you, one for me. Never, one for you and two for me. Otherwise, the one who cheats and uses this kind of math, gets ganged up. And that's what happened to the Chief Thief.

Because he couldn't do the math as practiced by thieves, they stoned him!  
*Susmayusep!*

So really, what was accomplished in this circus-like trial was the conviction of a thief, by a bunch of fellow thieves.

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Another thing: It was so OBVIOUS that that those senator-judges, who voted yes to convict Corona are all *tutas* of Philippine President Benigno Aquino Jr, aka, P-Noy, the nemesis of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, aka, Ate Glo.

And, as we all know, President Noynoy is the son of late Philippine President Corazon Aquino and the late Senator Benigno Aquino. Whereas, Ate Glo is the daughter of the late Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal. The Aquinos and the Macapagals had been at war for decades. And it inflamed President Noynoy to no end when Ate Glo appointed Corona, who's a close ally, as Chief Justice, when she stepped down as president of the Motherland. Some kind of a "midnight" appointment *daw, kaya hindi* legal.

*Bago nangyari 'to*, Ate Glo wanted to stay in power a little bit longer. She went to America to ask President BHO, but BHO said, "No, time to go, let President Noynoy sit on the throne *na*." As we all know, America rules and calls the shots as to who would sit next on the throne of Malacanang

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Palace

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And in the Philippines, whoever is enthroned becomes the absolute power, the mighty KingKong or in the case of Ate Glo, the mighty KingKang. On paper, there are three separate branches of the government: Executive, Legislative, Judicial. *Sa papel lang*, because in reality, the Executive branch is the honcho of the two branches. It happened during the time of Apo Marcos. It happened during the time of Tabako and Ate Glo. And it's happening right now in the regime of President Noynoy.

*Kung sino ang nakaupo, doon namumupo.* That's the UNWRITTEN law in the Philippines.

**CULPABLE VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION:** But seriously now, may I say something about the definition of impeachment? I am not a lawyer or a Constitutionalist, but I know a little bit about the Constitution. Many years ago, when I was in college taking up Journalism at UST in Manila, our professor in Political Science lectured and discussed the subject of impeachment.

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Here's what I remember:

A high official of the land may be removed from office or "IMPEACHED ONLY for and conviction of culpable violation of of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, and other high crimes or betrayal of public trust."

And that the conviction and the impeachment of these high officials should be based on nothing else than high crimes. And that the betrayal of public trust should imply DELIBERATE INTENT.

According to one of Corona's defense team, Dennis Manalo (I like this guy. He spoke clearly. He was coherent. He was concise. And, he was convincing), "for Corona to adopt a view of favoring ABSOLUTE CONFIDENTIALITY of foreign deposits ... there is no showing that the non-inclusion of certain bank accounts was tainted with any malice or fault."

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In other words ... Corona's misdeed, was merely his "failure to declare \$2.4 million in foreign currency deposits." And that, the defense argued, aren't grounds for impeachment. That's true.

In other words ... "what is, is IS ..." Y'all follow, Dear Readers? "I did not have sex with that woman...." That's true. And that's because there was no penetration at all. In the legal world ... if there's no penetration, there's no consummated sex. For that kind of argument, as we all know, Slick Willy escaped his own impeachment of the US Senate.

But this impeachment trial of Corona was held by members of the Philippine Senate, consisting mostly of *tutas* of President Noynoy ... and several movie actors, unschooled in law and in the lawmaking process. Corona didn't stand a chance.

As one Filipino journalist wrote, "the Senate did not stick to the fair interpretation of fundamental laws. It based its decision on the calling of the masses that have a misguided perception of the issue."

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The issue, he said, has been "trivialized and sensationalized by the media, influencing people who are not well-versed with the proceedings."

And the problem, he added, was that the senator-judges considered matters that will also "affect their political careers in the future." And may I add, their political standing with the current kingpin, President Noynoy.

Therefore, and no doubt about it, it was *Lutong Makaw*, made only in the Philippines

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**JJ**

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