

Written by Bobby M. Reyes

Monday, 05 April 2010 09:17 - Last Updated Monday, 05 April 2010 11:59

When our Los Angeles, California-based coalition decided to back up Philippine presidential candidate Manny Villar on Dec. 30, 2009 (when he was more-than 21-points down in most Philippine survey polls), his nephew, Paul Villar, told us that his uncle's campaign color is orange. After the Rizal Day festivities at the Filipino-American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) held that day, my friends and I decided to give meaning to the color orange.

This writer said that it was not enough for the Villar volunteers to wear orange shirts. The chosen color has to carry a message, if not a symbol, which would add significance to the presidential bid of Mr. Villar.

I remembered as a serious student of Philippine history the "War Plan 'Orange'" that then Gen. Douglas MacArthur used in the Philippine theatre during World War II. Yes, I said that Mr. Villar has chosen a color that can be used to rally the people in a war that the Office of the President can spearhead against poverty, ignorance, corruption and other social cancers.

Editor's Notes: To the uninitiated, here is a background material: "War Plan Orange (commonly known as Plan Orange or just Orange) refers to a series of

[States](#)

[Joint Army and Navy Board](#)

war plans for dealing with a possible war with

Japan

during the

[United](#)

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[years between the First and Second World Wars](#)

. The plans were begun informally in 1919 and formally adopted by the Joint Army and Navy Board beginning in 1924." For more details, please click on this link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Plan_Orange

Then I remembered that our coalition had already sent a draft of what we called a "Covenant with the Overseas Filipinos" that we suggested a President-elect Villar should sign, so that he could rally the Overseas-Philippine Nation (OPN) to contribute more to nation-building. Among the suggestions in the proposed "Covenant" with Mr. Villar is our offer to raise funds on a year-round basis for the Presidential Calamity Fund that several Philippine Presidents used to divert to non-calamity activities such as foreign trips or state visits to other countries.

It was easy, therefore, to convert ORANGE into an acronym for "Overseas Relief and Assistance to Non-governmental Entities." Yes, replace the term, Non-governmental Organizations (NGO), with "NGE."

This writer broached the "ORANGE" idea at the February and March 2010 meetings of the Tropang Villar-USA that Princess Robertson and Paul "Butch" Emata formed. I discussed also the ' ORANGE" concept during the Sixth Philippine Presidents' Day at the Kapistahan Restaurant at the Luzon Plaza in Los Angeles, California, on March 17, 2010

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. Yes, the Villar volunteers and campaigners liked the idea of continuing the movement for change under a Manny Villar Administration.

We will publicize the operational details of the Project "ORANGE" as soon as Manny Villar is declared the President-elect. Perhaps the ORANGE Brigades from the United States

and other foreign countries can help tremendously a President Villar's coming war against poverty, ignorance, corruption and other social cancers that afflict the homeland.

Hopefully the "Project ORANGE" can push also the "Filipino Outreach by Overseas Donors (FOOD)" Initiative, as described in this "Food Section." There are lots of things to do in the homeland and hopefully, the Project ORANGE will be the first step in, and by, a Villar presidency. # # #

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