

By Ado Paglinawan

“Crisis of Sovereignty” Series (Part 11)

The Philippines inaugurates its first “Digital President,” installed into office by Smartmatic.

Homobono Adaza, Mentong Laurel and I filed on June 29, 2010, a case in the Supreme Court for the annulment of the 2010 election.

Millions of our people flocked to the polls last May 10 to express their sovereignty through the ballot. Spending more than seven-billion of taxpayers’ money in order to acquire an Automated Election System, the occasion presented a historic opportunity for our government to gift us, the people with truly a fast, accurate and honest way of determining the outcome of our vote after more than fifty years of contentious experience in manual count.

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However, the very instrumentality mandated by the Constitution to enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of the election, the Commission on Election unilaterally removed key and essential safeguards enacted by Congress and sanctioned by the Supreme Court, to guarantee the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot that the same Constitution requires.

The executive arm of the Government, specifically the President and the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, violated the independence of the Comelec by manipulating the Automated Election System to favor their chosen beneficiaries.

The outgoing President could have been repentant of the scandal that has stuck to her since 2004 when she was caught in a taped phone conversation with a Comelec commissioner rigging her election to a full six-year term. Instead, she proved consistent to the malevolent ways that have characterized her last six years of corrupt misrule and brazen display of arrogance and immunity.

It was well within the powers of the legislative branch to stop this senseless attack to the sovereignty of the Filipino people by the Comelec and the executive branch. Instead, it looked the other way to abet the crime lending its authority to legitimize a fraudulent practice.

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Acting as National Board of Canvassers, the joint session of Congress accepted unofficial returns, unsigned by the Board of Election Inspectors, and proceeded to count them and subsequently proclaim a president and a vice president, again in violation of law.

Concerned citizens filed a Petition for Prohibition of the Congress to continue acting as the National Board of Canvassers but the Supreme Court ignored it. So we filed for nullification of the 2010 election, but as we speak, the same is pending, due action by the judicial branch.

The Failure of the Filipino Fourth Estate

Philippine mainstream media, the so-called Fourth Estate, instead of reporting and commenting on this rape of the people’s sovereignty, glossed over the issue in favor of painting a celebratory atmosphere to welcome an incoming illegitimate regime. What were gross incursions and aspersions into the sovereignty of our State by foreign embassies were interpreted as recognition by the community of nations. Instead of exposing lawlessness, the media and the Embassy Row have covered it up and glorified it.

In its totality, this presents not only a picture of an election that has failed from the very beginning, but equally a government that has miserably failed to uphold and protect it. This is a failure of election aggravated by the failure of government.

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This collapse of our electoral and government processes now threatens to subject us not only to a constitutional crisis, but more insidiously to the clear-and-imminent danger of anarchy as all sitting officials' terms ended June 30, and there exists no legally-and-duly elected replacements, from the President down to the local officials.

This inauguration of Noynoy Aquino and Jejomar Binay is, therefore, pyrrhic in nature, as they were illegally elected.

Our Constitution in Article 2 Section 4 stipulates that the prime duty of government is to serve and protect the people. But when the same government has subverted the will of the people it has equally sworn to serve and protect, I see no other recourse within the purview of our Constitution, than the Armed Forces of the Philippines, rising to fulfill its designated role in the preceding Article 2 Section 3 to be the protector of the people and the State, and securing the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

In a very-real sense, the newly-inaugurated “Digital President” becomes fair game to either a reversal of the Supreme Court or a takeover by whom the Constitution itself has designated as the protector of the people.

Ibagsak ang pekeng rehimen!

Mabuhay ang 'sovereignty' ng mamamayang Pilipino!

(To be continued . . .)

{xtypo_quote} Caution: The views and opinions expressed in this series by Ado Paglinawan and his associates such as Homobono Adaza, Mentong Laurel and Company do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the editorial staff, webmaster and writers of this website.
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