

{xtypo_quote} There is an alleged plot to oust House Speaker Prospero Nograles for endorsing a Constitutional Convention (Con-Con). He clarified ... that a Constitutional Assembly (Con-Ass) remains the first option ... to pursue charter change (cha-cha). Mr. Nograles, who was my classmate at the Ateneo College of Law should have used more politically-correct terms than 'Con-Con' or 'Con-Ass' – Bobby Reyes {/xtypo_quote}

Part Three of [Kissing Babies, Instead of Kissing Asses](#)

On Dec. 6, 2008, I wrote in Part Two of this series, the lead paragraph of which I quoted at the start of this instant article.

To read Part II in its entirety, please click on this link: [Why Speaker Nograles Should Avoid the Term “Con-Ass” and Just Practice the Art of Kissing Babies](#)

Just today, March 28, 2009 (Manila time), Senator Nene Pimentel issued a press release that “criticized Speaker Nograles for succumbing to Palace pressure.”

The press release from the Office of Senator Pimentel is reproduced in its entirety at the end of this article.

If indeed it is true that Speaker Nograles wants the House of Representatives to “unilaterally amend the Philippine Constitution” but “limit the amendments to the economic provisions of the Constitution,” then perhaps he should return his diploma to the Ateneo de Manila College of Law.

Even a first-year law student knows that it is legally impossible for one house of Congress to amend by itself the Constitution. And even a pre-law student knows that a Constitutional Assembly – without the participation of the Philippine Senate as a separate body – cannot make valid its unilateral act of amending merely the economic provisions of the Constitution.

Perhaps Speaker Nograles is simply joking, as he used to do so during our law-school days at Padre Faura.

Is Speaker Nograles pulling the leg of President Arroyo and her equally-gullible sons?

Let me repeat again what I said in Part One of this series: “Life is all about ass. People are either covering it, laughing it off, kicking it, kissing it, busting it, trying to get a piece of it, behaving like one; or worse, you live with one.”

I am confident that Speaker Nograles will follow my advice and concentrate instead in the art of kissing babies because that is what politicians do.

*** Here is the said press release from Senator Pimentel:**□

QUOTE. Speaker Nograles Criticized for Succumbing to Palace Pressure

Dateline Manila, March 28, 2009

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. (PDP-Laban) today expressed disappointment over the decision of Speaker Prospero Nograles to back the approval of an administration-sponsored resolution that will enable the House of Representatives to unilaterally amend the Constitution and adopt a unicameral parliamentary system of government even without the participation of the Senate.

Senator Pimentel said Speaker Nograles is deceiving himself by saying that he will stick to his proposal to limit the amendments the economic provisions of the Constitution and there will be no extension of terms of incumbent elective officials.

“The hidden agenda of the administration is to keep President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in power beyond 2010 either by lifting the term limits or by adopting a parliamentary system. It would be the height of naïveté if Speaker Nograles does not know that,” he said.

“I am very much disappointed because he seems to waver in his opposition to it now. Is the speakership more important to him than the public welfare?”

Earlier, congressional allies of the President reportedly threatened to remove Mr. Nograles from the speakership for his slow action on the proposals to amend the Constitution.

But Mr. Nograles said he would rather lose the speakership than be forced to drop his stand that the amendments should be limited to the economic provisions.

Mr. Pimentel also accused the Arroyo administration of political hypocrisy and deceit of the highest order by continuously denying that it has a hand in the Charter Change initiative.

Written by Bobby Reyes

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He said the administration's claim is belied by the fact that no less than presidential son Mikey Arroyo, congressman of Pampanga, has spearheaded the campaign to gather the signatures of House members to the amendment resolution.

Senator Pimentel said Mrs. Arroyo has also enticed congressmen to sign the resolution by offering pork barrel allocations and other benefits to those who would do so. UNQUOTE. # # #

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