

Written by Bobby M. Reyes

Saturday, 06 November 2010 13:09 - Last Updated Sunday, 07 November 2010 10:32

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{xtypo\_quote}Diplomatic Avenue is probably one of the biggest streets in America (an old Erap joke in South  
ern California  
now recycled into a Pacquiao gag) {/xtypo\_quote}

The above quotation, albeit a fictional one, is one of the jokes being attributed to Filipino boxing megastar Manny Pacquiao, who was elected also as a member of the Philippine House of Representatives on May 10, 2010. Yes, the yarn comes from the phrase, “Exhausting diplomatic avenues . . .”

While Filipinos, especially Overseas Filipinos, are having fun at the supposed ways Mr. Pacquiao mangles the King’s language, his recent adventure – or rather misadventure – in Las Vegas

, Nevada

, illustrates the point that he should stick to boxing and not even to politics.

Journalist Joseph G. Lariosa, the dean of Filipino correspondents in America, filed recently this

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news story about Mr. Pacquiao, who apparently fought for political empowerment in Nevada

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“According to an account of Renato Avenido, who owns the [www.usnewsลาสvegas.com](http://www.usnewsลาสvegas.com) , Manny spoke glowingly of Senator Reid because he (Manny) ‘believes he (Reid) is a “good leader” and a strong supporter of Filipino causes.’

“Mr. Avenido told this reporter that Manny spoke for about 15 to 20 minutes, appealing to his boxing fans, notably Filipino and Hispanic Americans, to go out and vote for Senator Reid at Orr Middle School at 1562 E. Katie Avenue in Las Vegas that was ‘jam-packed by supporters (of about "a thousand") of the veteran US lawmaker and fans of the world boxing champion’.”

Readers can read Mr. Lariosa’s article in its entirety by clicking on this hyperlink,

[Manny Pacquiao Shares His Secrets in Politics, Backs Winner](#)

Probably it is beyond Mr. Pacquiao’s and his Team-Pacquiao members’ and his advisers’ and/or promoters’ comprehension that the Filipino boxer is a foreigner insofar as American politics is concerned. And as a foreigner, Manny Pacquiao has no business in campaigning

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and/or endorsing an American candidate for a public office in the United States. Especially since Mr. Pacquiao is a Filipino elected congressman, he has no right at all to interfere in the domestic affairs of a foreign country.

Even if one subscribes to the joke that Mr. Pacquiao cannot Reid, oops, read or write, he has to ask simply even the members of the Filipino-American Fourth Estate if it was okay for him to endorse Sen. Harry Reid and campaign for him. Or Mr. Pacquiao could have asked the opinion of the trained diplomats at the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, California, since he is a Filipino elected official.

The moral of this story is that people, especially public officials, must follow the right protocol when they travel abroad. The second lesson is that boxers must fight with their fists and not with their mouths because more often than not, they often suffer from a proverbial case of foot-in-mouth disease.

OK, *ngrarud*? # # #

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