

This writer sent to President Gloria M. Arroyo some of the basic components of the proposed platforms of government and economics that several Overseas-Filipino political organizations have agreed to adopt for the 2010 elections. The proposed platforms were sent through Philippine Press Sec. Jesus Dureza. The proposed projects were e-mailed to Secretary Dureza, with copies to several Filipino diplomats and to Joseph G. Lariosa, the Chicago-based correspondent of Manila Bulletin. Mr. Lariosa facilitated the dialogue with Secretary Dureza. The e-mails were sent before Secretary Dureza hosted a fellowship night for the Filipino-American press of Southern California. It was also billed as a press conference, which was held Wednesday night at the Max's Restaurant in Glendale, California.

The pre-Thanksgiving fellowship-and press-conference event was probably an offshoot of a boycott started by this writer and supported by several fellow journalists against the scheduled reception at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 21, 2008, for President Arroyo, which initially did not feature a press conference. The schedule was changed to allow a press conference at 4:00 p.m. with Secretary Dureza but the presidential party had to make an unscheduled landing in Japan for a medical emergency for the First Gentleman. The November 21st event, or should we say "non-event," is told by Joseph G. Lariosa in this article, [Ambassador Gaa Subs for PGMA at Los Angeles Reception](#)

After the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles finalized the event for Secretary Dureza, this writer sent him three more e-mails, which actually contained questions addressed to the Philippine President. Mr. Dureza also said in his speech at the Max's Restaurant that the President wanted really to hear feedbacks from the Filipino-American press. Well, this writer probably sent to the Philippine President the most feedback and concrete proposals to attain some apolitical socioeconomic objectives.

Written by Bobby Reyes

Saturday, 29 November 2008 03:10 - Last Updated Monday, 01 December 2008 02:37

Secretary Dureza and this writer exchanged pleasantries during the said event at the Max's Restaurant. He said also that he received the e-mails that I sent and he would reply appropriately. I told him that he could reply at his convenience. I reiterated to Secretary Dureza the final paragraph of our last e-mail: "We -- at the OFW-led political movement -- can work with the Arroyo Administration to further improve the socioeconomic conditions of our homeland. Or we can continue to take adversarial positions."

Here are the e-mailed messages, as spinned off into separate articles:

[The I2D2 and New EEA Proposals Sent Again to PGMA](#)

[More Proposals – From Voter’s Registration by Mail to Party-List Solons for OFWs – Sent to PGMA](#)

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The first e-mail was sent on Nov. 21, 2008, through the courtesy of Joseph G. Lariosa, who contacted Secretary Dureza by e-mail and provided this writer with a copy.

QUOTE:

Dear Joseph and Secretary Dureza:

Thank you for providing me with a CC of your e-mail to Secretary Dureza, who is scheduled to meet with about 35 Filipino journalists and publishers on Nov. 25, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. for dinner-press conference at Max's Restaurant in Glendale, CA.

Editor's Note: The meeting was eventually scheduled for Nov. 26th, same time, same venue.

I was invited by the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles to the said meeting with Secretary Dureza. I hope to send by e-mail in advance some questions to him that he may or may not answer in public and/or online. In particular, I want to get some answers on a scoop that I wrote about the purchase of 10 cargo-screening devices by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) that was facilitated by the First Gentleman. The units were overpriced by \$7.0-million each, plus a 20% commission on the actual price of \$3.0-million per unit. Details are in this

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article, [The Arroyo Administration's "Incredible Bulk"](#). The deal involves an overprice of \$70-million plus commissions of \$6-million. To date, the PPA and the Office of the President have chosen to ignore the report.

If you cannot access the hyperlink, please copy and paste to your browser this URL <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/content/view/3071/90/>

Thank you very much for your attention,

Very respectfully yours,

Bobby M. Reyes

Editor

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PS: Here is the list of hyperlinks about the articles that we have published about the visit of Her Excellency, President Gloria M. Arroyo, to Los Angeles today:

[AJLPP and ANSWER-Los Angeles Join the Nov. 21st Rally-Picket Against President Arroyo @ LAX Sheraton](#)

[Arroyo Supporters Try to Intimidate Demonstrators But All-Systems Go for Biggest Anti-GMA Protest](#)

[President Arroyo's Party Plans to Solicit Fil-Ams' Signatures for Petition for Her to Stay in Power](#)

[PESANTE-USA to Welcome President Arroyo in Los Angeles as Number-One Violator of Human Rights](#)

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[An Open Letter to Consul General Aragon Over President Arroyo's Failure to Hold Press Conferences](#)

[President Arroyo Will Learn Finally the Overseas-Filipino Earth, Wind and Flair](#)

['A Night with the Philippine President'](#) by Joseph G. Lariosa

[GABNet Condemns Repeated President Arroyo's Foreign Trips and Calls for Massive Rally Against Her](#)

[Boycott-GMA Drive Generates Massive Support As Activists Confirm Protest Rally at GMA Reception](#)

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[PGMA Asked to Give "State of the Nation's Corruption Address" \(SONCA\) During Her USA Trip](#)

[President Arroyo Does Not Really Get It \(She Comes Back to the USA Begging Again\)](#)

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Here is the original e-mail that Mr. Lariosa sent to Secretary Dureza with copy to this writer:

In a message dated 11/21/2008 6:34:04 A.M. Pacific Standard Time, lariosa_jos@sbcglobal.net writes:

Dear Secretary Dureza:

Here's a link to a column I wrote about the Chicago visit of President Arroyo. It was used by Mabuhay Radio, an online news magazine based in Los Angeles: <http://www.mabuhayradio.com/content/view/3270/90/>

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(Snipped)

Joseph

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Second E-mail Sent to Secretary Dureza on Nov. 24, 2008:

The Honorable Press Sec. Jesus Dureza

Please disregard the matter about the alleged scandal in the Philippine Ports Authority, as mentioned in the said e-mail. I have endorsed the matter to the Hon. Senator Nene Pimentel, who may move for an investigation of my allegation by the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee. I will not mention the topic during your press conference with the Filipino-American press on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2008.

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I will send instead to you in a separate e-mail follow-questions about our 2003 proposals on the settling of the foreign loans of the Philippines and a revival of the "Emergency Employment Administration" of then President Diosdado Macapagal.

Thank you for the attention.

Very respectfully yours,

Bobby M. Reyes

Editor

www.mabuhayradio.com

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A third e-mail was sent to Secretary Dureza also on Nov. 24, 2008, as contained in this article:

[The I2D2 and New EEA Proposals Sent Again to PGMA](#)

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A fourth e-mail was sent in the morning of Nov. 26, 2008, as reproduced in this separate article:

[More Proposals – From Voter's Registration by Mail to Party-List Solons for OFWs – Sent to PGMA](#)

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So, it is now only a question of waiting for the reply from the Office of the President to any of the above questions and proposals.

Abangan . . . (Please just wait . . .) # # #

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