

# Solon takes jeep to work

by LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ  
Inquirer.net

HE takes the jeepney on his way to work; has only three pieces of *barong tagalog* recently bought in Divisoria that he wears during sessions; and transacts business in a makeshift office outside the gate of the Batasan Pambansa complex where farmers are camping out.

In a Congress where scions of prominent families claim to represent the *balut* vendor, Joel Maglunsod, the newly-installed representative of the partylist Anakpawis, appears to be the real marginalized and underrepresented.

After alighting from a jeepney and passing by his "office" at the farmers' camp-out, he went straight to the entrance of the South Gate when he was stopped by the guards and was told to step aside.

"*Nakabarong naman ako pero hindi ko pala suot iyong pin ko. Hindi siguro ako nakilala* I was in my *barong* but I was not wearing my pin. Maybe they didn't

recognize me!" the 52-year-old labor leader told reporters in an interview.

He said he was allowed to proceed by the apogetic guards when he showed them his pin, worn by congressmen, to distinguish them from the employees.

Maglunsod was one of the 32 party list representatives allowed by the Supreme Court two weeks ago to assume post in the chamber. He joins Rafael Mariano in the Anakpawis party list in the chamber.

A veteran of the labor movement and of street protests being a former leader of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), Maglunsod now takes his advocacy to the halls of Congress through legislation.

He said he would push for the legislation of the P125 a day wage increase for workers and a P3,000 salary increase for teachers. The passage of the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARF) would also be one of his advocacies, he added.

Maglunsod said he would file a resolution to give displaced workers P10,000 a month for six months in financial assistance to help them tide over the crisis.

Nothing should change about his lifestyle and advocacy as far as Maglunsod is concerned, even if he is now a member of the House of Representatives.

Maglunsod said the House has not yet issued funds for their daily operation, and that he has yet to complete his staff. Gabriela party list has "loaned" a "bodyguard" to him for security.

"*Kaya ngayon, dalawa na kaming sumasakay sa jeep* [So there's tow of us riding the jeep now]," he said. If he can make it to schedule, he also hitches a ride with the House bus service with the other employees.

"*Mahal mag-taxi, tsaka sanay naman tayo sa ganito* It's expensive to take the taxi, and I'm used to this!," he said. ■

# Cayabyab: I warned Martin about anthem style

VIGAN CITY—If only Martin Nievera listened to the advice of maestro Ryan Cayabyab, he would not be embroiled in national controversy.

The renowned musician said here that he warned Nievera not to change the melody of the National Anthem at the opening of Pacquiao-Hatton bout in Las Vegas last May 2.

"Martin, *papatayin ka ng tao. Huwag mong papalitan yung huling part kasi delikado ka*. (Martin, you will be crucified for that. Don't change the last part or you'll be in trouble)," Cayabyab recalled telling Nievera.

Cayabyab was in Vigan City on as judge in the *Ilocandia Singing Idol* upon invitation of Ilocos Sur Board Member Zuriel Zaragoza who put up the provincewide singing contest.

He said Nievera sent him a copy of his nontraditional rendition of the *Lupang Hinirang* five days before the fight.

Cayabyab, who's fondly called by his friends and singers as Mr C, said that the country's concert king first confided to him about his plan to jazz up the national anthem during *ASAP*, ABS-CBN's Sunday noon variety show.

He urged Nievera to sing *Lupang Hinirang* the regular way because other Filipinos would



Martin Nievera

join him in singing.

Nievera, however, told Cayabyab that he would push through with his plan because he's "doing it for the country."

Still, Cayabyab insisted that he should not change the last part.

He said Nievera delivered "a very good performance" but lamented that the rendition violated the Flag and Heraldic Code (Republic Act. No. 8491).

He said he reminded Nievera that he would be fined P5,000 if he changed the melody.

Cayabyab said he would be open to join the debate on how the National Anthem be sung.

"As a musician, I will stick to the original because that is how the composer meant it to be," he said. (Inquirer.net)

# Lacson, minority senators clash over rules

PAGE A16 ◀

counsel is not balanced in his dealing with the case at hand, if you perceive a connection, which may not be true, with the Ethics committee of the Senate."

Mendoza was put on the spot yesterday when Nacionalista spokesman and former Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla questioned his credibility.

Remulla said in a statement

that the legal counsel of the Ethics committee and the Committee of the Whole should be above suspicion and "not some lackey of Lacson."

Remulla accused Mendoza of being partisan because he was one of the lawyers in the Kuratong Baleleng case which had Lacson as one of the major respondents. ■

# NPC choice: Escudero or Legarda; Teodoro out

PAGE A17 ◀

Manuel "Mar" Roxas II.

Legarda was the running mate of the late opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 presidential election. But the popular tandem lost the vote to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and De Castro.

"We in the opposition can't run together," Legarda said. "Five of us can't run against each other.

That would be foolish and disastrous for the political opposition. And if we want to serve our people, we have to give way to whoever has the vision, competence, integrity and 'winnability.'"

Legarda has joined Estrada in some of his out-of-town sorties. She said the ousted leader had yet to make up his mind on making a second run for the presidency. ■



## SUPER SPECIAL SALE

# \$999

## PHILIPPINE AIRLINES STIMULUS PACKAGE

Hotel Accommodations  
3Days/2nights Twin Sharing  
Daily Breakfast / One Way  
Airport Transfer to Hotel

Round Trip, Taxes Included  
(May 1- June 10 Departures) Ticket Deadline: May 31, 2009

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>Korean Airlines \$ 745</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Taxes Included Travel dates: May 4 – May 23; Aug 11 – Nov 6 (3 months stay)</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>EVA Air \$ 809</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Taxes Included Travel dates: May 1 – May 20 (3 months stay)</p>
---	---

## LAX-MANILA-LAX

CALL OUR TRAVEL EXPERT NOW

# 1-800-351-0535



# METRO BANK

# BDO REMIT

Bring this flyer and avail of our \*FREE PADALA to the Philippines promo.

# Libreng Padala sa Pinas!

(\*This promo is for first time sender.  
DOLLAR TO PESO TRANSACTION ONLY.  
BDO Accounts only. Limited time only.



# 1-800-285-2797

1011 E. Edna Place, Covina, CA 91724

# 'Ako Mismo' online drive questioned

by DAXIM LUCAS  
Inquirer.net

IS the "Ako Mismo" movement an insidious plot to collect voter information that could be used in next year's presidential election?

The prospect of a "Big Brother" gathering demographic data for a political campaign was raised on May 7 by voter education advocate Jaime Garchitorena, who questioned the way the movement funded by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Smart Foundation was gathering and handling information on its members.

"It's all very cloak-and-dagger, the way they operate," Garchitorena said, adding that there was nothing that would prevent the wireless unit of telecommunications giant Smart Communications Inc. from accessing the data.

"It looks like a phishing site," he said, referring to the practice of overtly gathering personal information on people through online means, to be eventually used for possible clandestine and illegal purposes.

No less than PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan has admitted to supporting the Ako Mismo movement. But he stressed that this had nothing to do with rumors that he was eyeing a run for the presidency in 2010.

'Disturbing things'

In an e-mail that started circulating on May 5, Garchitorena—a member of the group YouthVotePhilippines—said he discovered "some disturbing things" upon examining the Ako Mismo website.

"To all those that signed up with Ako Mismo, you are now part of Smart's network for potential campaigns in 2010," he wrote. "In all my years of signing up for information, I have never had a site require so much information as required fields."

According to Garchitorena, the details required for membership are such that it will be possible to track down and contact any member at any time, should the movement wish to do so. ■



# Palparan vows to revive Anti-Subversion Law

by PERSEUS ECHEMINADA  
Philstar.com

CONTROVERSIAL party-list Rep. Jovito Palparan of Bantay vowed last May 7 to pursue the revival of the Anti-Subversion Law at the House of Representatives as part of his crusade against communist rebels and their front organizations that he claimed are seeking to overthrow the government.

Palparan, a retired Army general who is vilified by left-leaning groups, told reporters at the weekly news forum *Daungan sa Balita* in Danarra Hotel, Quezon City, that the revival of the anti-subversion measure aims to expose members of the House of Representatives who are supporting armed rebellion in the countryside.

"If it's proven that they are supporting armed rebellion then they have no business in Congress," he said.

Palparan said he would introduce a measure to prevent lawmakers from diverting their pork barrel funds to armed groups who are fighting to topple the government.

He said the communists are using deception and propaganda to promote their ideology with the objective of destroying the democratic processes in the country.

Palparan, dubbed "The Butcher" by left-leaning groups that accuse of him of being the leader of the military group involved in the killings of activists, clarified that he has nothing personal against leftist congressmen but he will give them a "good fight" through debates in the session hall.

He said the revival of the anti-subversion law is the continuation of his fight against the communist New People's Army (NPA) from the countryside to the halls of Congress.

Palparan said he would seek the help of the President to certify as urgent his bill to insure the passage of the law.

He belittled the efforts of leftist congressmen to discredit him, saying that the people will judge if he really deserves the title of butcher.

Aside from pursuing the revival of the anti-subversion law, Palparan will also seek a measure that will allow *barangay tanods* (community watchmen) and civilian volunteers in remote areas to get government-issued firearms so they can defend themselves against communist rebels who are preying on them.

He said rebels usually target tanods and other volunteers in the countryside. ■