

Gibo upstages Noli, gets much louder applause

by CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, MICHAEL LIM UBAC
Inquirer.net

THE more popular aspirant was not exactly the more applauded at the formal merger last May 28 of the two ruling parties.

Judging by how he was welcomed, Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro all but upstaged Vice President Noli de Castro, the leading man in all surveys of possible presidential candidates. Teodoro received much louder applause, with some of his supporters howling, while De Castro got a relatively subdued reception from members of the new Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

The two men were special guests at the merger ceremony held at Manila Hotel—an initial venue for party officials to scrutinize them.

The as yet party-less Teodoro said he was "overwhelmed" by the "warm welcome" he received from the new administration coalition, whose nomination he is seeking for the 2010 presidential election.

He pointed out that De Castro's consistent strong showing in the surveys "could change overnight." "My chances are very good, very good," he said after the merger was officially sealed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Teodoro arrived at the hotel with Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri and Manuel Lapid in tow, and was repeatedly applauded throughout the hour-long affair.

At one point, Ms Arroyo approached Teodoro and shook his hand.

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's political adviser, said Teodoro had "endeared" himself to many Lakas-Kampi-CMD members for announcing that he would run for president only if he were chosen as the coalition's standard-bearer.

Claudio also said he could already hear the sound of "victory drums."

Ramos scenario

Teodoro had earlier said that he was seeking the nomination for the presidency, "and nothing else." But officials of the administration had said it was considering a De Castro-Teodoro team-up, and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, a close ally of Ms Arroyo, had announced his intention to seek the vice presidency as De Castro's running mate.

The situation has given rise to a possible scenario of Teodoro doing what then Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos did in 1992—bolt the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino party of the then Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, who was proclaimed standard-bearer, and join another party, Lakas-Tao, which became the vehicle for his winning the presidency.

Asked by the Inquirer if he would "do a Ramos," Teodoro said: "If that means ... being a good President, yes, I will do a Ramos."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, then the Armed Forces vice chief of staff, joined the then Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr. in forming

Lakas-Tao, the forerunner of Lakas-CMD, to back Ramos' candidacy.

Asked Thursday, May 28 who would benefit from the Ramos political template, Ermita said it would be "whoever is pushed by the merged party."

He merely smiled when asked if he was referring to Teodoro.

'I have what it takes'

Teodoro said he would have "quit a long time ago" if he were bothered by De Castro's performance in the surveys.

"I understand that some leaders of the party are anxious about my survey ratings," he said in a statement. "This is a concern that I am addressing. I am running for president not on sheer popularity but on the basis of my conviction that I have what it takes to be the next leader of the country."

Asked why he should be chosen standard-bearer, and not De Castro, Teodoro replied: "I have a vision of healing political wounds. I can get along with anybody. I can be an agent of unity. I have a proven track record, proven competence particularly in the very important area of security."

The idea that he slide down as De Castro's running mate in 2010 did not sit well with Teodoro.

"I've already said I want to be nominated as president, and that's what my supporters here want," he said. "It's useless to talk about options right now."

National convention

Teodoro said he was making himself available to the administration as its possible presidential candidate.

But first things first: He suggested that the Lakas-Kampi-CMD hold a national convention.

"One man, one vote," he said, adding that he would submit to the party's selection process as long as all party members would participate.

"There should be a national convention so that all members of the administration coalition will have an opinion, not just a few men," he said.

He added that party leaders should adopt "acceptable and democratic" methods in choosing the administration's standard-bearer.

Noncommittal Noli

But while Teodoro was categorical in his aspiration, De Castro remained noncommittal on his political plans.

The Vice President told said that the talk about his political plans and possible team-ups for 2010 was premature.

He said he wanted to focus on his tasks as Vice President, as housing chief, as the President's adviser on overseas Filipino workers, and as chair of the Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment.

"I know many await word on my political plans," De Castro said in a statement. "I am studying my options and I believe there is a proper time to make known my decision for 2010." ■


PACIFIC STATES UNIVERSITY
 Since 1928

You can be a CPA in a year with our accelerated program!





ENROLL NOW

Spring II Quarter begins on June 6, 2009

ACCOUNTING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Advantages of the PSU Accounting Program

- The California Board of Accountancy recognizes PSU course credits for candidates to sit for the Uniform CPA Exam.
- Courses are accredited by ACICS (Accrediting Council for Independent College and Schools), approved by the United States Department of Education.
- PSU enrolls non-immigrant alien students (F-1) as authorized under Federal Law.
- Well-educated and experienced faculty members, currently licensed CPAs, educate students to become professional accountants.
- Students with non-accounting majors can prepare themselves for the Uniform CPA Exam in a year at PSU.
- PSU will help students complete all educational requirements and will assist in preparing the application procedure for the exam.

PSU Instruction and Facility Advantages

- Students can retake accounting courses without additional charge.
- PSU offers orientation the first day of class.
- PSU makes available study rooms.
- PSU offers evening and weekend class.

ORIENTATION

PSU will held Orientation and Open classes on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at PSU Campus.
 Time: 12:00PM • Room: C-21

8 WEEKS PER SESSION
JUNE/ JULY SESSION
(June 6 - August 1)

If you need more information, please contact Ms. Seohee Yang (Program Advisor)
Tel: 323.731.2383
Fax: 323.731.7276
 1516 S. Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90006
www.psuca.edu



Nakaka-sira ng ulo.



Having your car damaged can leave you devastated. Having your home destroyed is even worse. With our award winning 24/7 HelpPoint® claims service, you can rest assured that one of our highly trained professionals will be there to help you take care of your claim every step of the way. And with our special V.I.P. – Value Insurance Package, one of our agents can show you coverage options, so you can identify the proper coverage you need and show you how much you can save when you have your auto, home and life insurance with Farmers®.

24/7 HelpPoint Features:

Auto

- We help you through the claims process every step of the way.
- We help you arrange towing (if needed).
- We help you secure a rental vehicle (if needed).
- We help you schedule a repair date that is convenient for you.

Home

- We help you through the claims process every step of the way.
- We help you with alternative living arrangements (if needed).
- We assist you in getting emergency residential repairs.
- We review your next steps and questions.



FARMERS

farmers.com

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

Speak to a Farmers agent today. Call 1-800-327-6377.