

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

UNO spokesman quits, joins Villar party

by THEA ALBERTO
Inquirer.net

MANILA – The spokesman of the United Opposition (UNO) has bolted the coalition and joined the Nacionalista Party (NP) as he threw his support for NP Presi-

dent Manuel Villar's presidential bid in 2010.

Lawyer Adel Tamano, who intends to run for Senator in 2010, took his oath before Villar on Thursday.

"My father, the late Senator Tamano is a founder of Nacional-

ista Party. To honor his memory I joined the party" said Tamano.

"I think Manny Villar is the man to beat... the biggest reason is this man was able to rise from poverty, the country's biggest problem. And it will take someone who has experience and who

can find solutions for poverty," he added.

Villar said Tamano would be a great asset to the NP. He said the NP was open to other candidates who wanted to join the party.

He said many mayors joined the NP last month.

Tamano said former president Joseph Estrada and UNO president Jejomar Binay accepted his decision to transfer to Villar's party.

"Nagpaalam ako ng maayos kay Erap II bade Estrada goodbye and we talked for three

hours. He respected my decision," he said.

"Now I can speak as Adel Tamano and not just a spokesman" he added.

Earlier in the day, Binay said he was saddened by Tamano's decision. ■

Campaign' spending to boost RP economy – BSP

by MICHELLE REMO
Inquirer.net

MANILA – The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the disappointing growth of the economy in the first quarter was not an indication of how it would perform in the full year.

BSP officials said on Thursday there were many stimulus factors like election spending in the months ahead that could help beef up growth.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said any year preceding an election year usually benefited from higher spending, as political parties and election candidates spent on campaign materials and advertisements.

"The elections next year have a positive impact on the economy because of spending for election materials, advertisements, etc. These activities tend to support the economy," Tetangco said.

Even if the economy was beefed up by election spending, Tetangco said, impact would not create worrisome inflationary pressures.

"Inflation may inch up but only minimally," Tetangco said. He noted inflationary pressures would be created especially if money from abroad would come into the country.

But analysts saw no excessive inflationary pressures at the moment, and said that the economic slowdown was actually dampening the increase in consumer prices.

The BSP expects inflation to average at 3.4 percent this year, well within the official target of between 2.5 and 4.5 percent.

There is usually a tradeoff between economic growth and inflation, as faster expansion of the economy tends to increase consumer and investment demand, and thus accelerate increase in prices. It is the BSP's role to strike a balance between the two-- to help achieve a tolerable level of inflation while supporting growth of the economy.

According to government estimates, about a 0.5 percentage point is added to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) every time there is an election.

Analysts said the increment to GDP this year and the next might even be higher than 0.5 percentage point because many candidates were expected to run for president.

GDP, the common measure of an economy, is the value of products produced and services rendered within an economy in a given period.

Last year, the economy grew 4.6 percent. Although slower than the 7.2 percent recorded in 2007, last year's growth was described as respectable given that some neighboring countries already contracted. Anemic demand from the United States and Europe, which are driving the global turmoil, have caused exports from developing nations to fall steeply.

For this year, the government officially targeted for the economy to grow between 3.1 and 4.1 percent. However, there are speculations that the government might revise the target following the mea-

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About the Speaker:

Gali Koren, Esq. received her Juris Doctor degree, Magna cum laude from Western State University. She holds a Masters in Intl. Law, Major in Immigration Law from the University of San Diego. She is a member of the State Bar of California and is authorized to represent clients on immigration matters in all 50 states of the U.S. She practices exclusively immigration law and has helped thousands of clients, particularly healthcare professionals pursue and achieve their goals in the U.S.

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