

# Wanted: Food tester for Mancao

by JEANNETTE ANDRADE  
*Inquirer.net*

MANILA – An ex-police official and key witness in a double murder case has asked for a food tester against possible poisoning by people who would not want him to testify, an official of the National Bureau of Investigation disclosed.

Cezar Mancao II, ex-senior superintendent, made the request to the NBI on top of the “intense” security that the agency had given to him, which included deployment of bomb-sniffing dogs and the drafting of a master list of “acceptable” visitors, said lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI deputy director for regional operations services (DDROS).

But Esmeralda pointed out that the food tester would be “equipment.”

The NBI-DDROS further said, “He [Mancao]

has a master list of relatives and friends and even public officials whom he wants to see. Only those who are in the list are allowed to visit him.”

“Even if they are high officials of the NBI and government if they are not in the list, then they will be barred from visiting him,” said Esmeralda.

The security setup at the bureau has been laid out in which the 5th floor was made completely inaccessible to the public.

Mancao is expected to stand trial as an accused this month before the Manila regional trial court Branch 18 for the 2000 Dacer-Corbito double murders until he officially turns state witness.

The former police official has vowed to tell all and has expressed willingness to disclose names of the people behind the killing. ■

# 7 senators: no to constituent assembly

MANILA – Seven senators have filed a resolution opposing any move to amend the Constitution through a Constituent assembly.

In the resolution, Senators Benigno Aquino III, Loren Legarda, Manuel Roxas, Panfilo Lacson, Rodolfo Biazon, Pia Cayetano, and Francis Escudero said convening a constituent assembly

without the Senate’s approval was “unconstitutional.”

“Any revisions should be done with the approval by 3/4s of the Senate voting separately,” according to the resolution, which was read by a young student to the crowd that attended an anti-Charter change rally in Makati City on Wednesday evening.

“Any amendments to the Con-

stitution done unilaterally without the approval by 3/4s of the Senate is unconstitutional,” the resolution stated.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s allies in the House of Representatives approved last week a resolution convening a constituent assembly, even without the approval of the Senate. (*Inquirer.net*)



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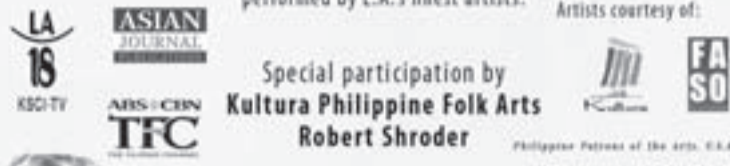
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