



MANCAO ARRAIGNMENT. Former Police Superintendent Cezar Mancao II is escorted by NBI agents as they make their way to the RTC branch 18 for his arraignment on the Dacer-Corbido double murders in Manila. Inquirer.net Photo by Edwin Bacasmas

Mancao fails to enter plea on Dacer case

by TETCH TORRES
Inquirer.net

MANILA – Former police official Cezar Mancao failed to enter a plea during his scheduled arraignment on the double murder of publicist Salvador “Bubby” Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito before a Manila regional trial court Wednesday after the court re-set the proceeding to June 30.

Mancao told the court that he is not yet ready to enter a plea.

Judge Myra Garcia Fernandez of Manila RTC Branch 18 instead gave the Department of Justice, which is holding Mancao for the possibility of turning state witness against the masterminds in the double murder, 10 days to respond to a

motion of other accused to transfer Mancao to the city jail.

The motion was made by lawyer Dante David in behalf of 21 (not three as earlier reported) other accused who were arrested and detained on the same charges.

David questioned the DoJ’s defense of Mancao, who he pointed out is not yet a state witness. He argued that this means the DoJ must prosecute Mancao, not stand up for his defense.

“The court has not yet discharged him as state witness. The duty of the DOJ is still to prosecute him,” David said.

The DoJ, through State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez, told the court that Mancao cannot be transferred to the Manila City Jail due to threats to his life. ■

Ramos to Arroyo: Make your 2010...

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in particular her select circle of Congressional cronies and family advisers, with titillations about con-ass and her future role as a Pampanga Representative come 01 July 2010,” he said in his speech.

Ramos’s remarks came a day after Arroyo’s son and Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo expressed his willingness to give way for his mom if she decides to seek a congressional seat next year.

His statement also came amid the persistent push by the President’s allies in the House to convene Congress into a constituent assembly (con-ass) to propose amendments to the 1987 Consti-

tution even without the Senate.

Ramos warned Arroyo of the people’s manifestations of “discontent,” anger, and “outrage.”

“Today, with 2010 fast approaching, our people are again clamoring for good governance under the law from those we elected to lead us,” said the former leader.

“The street protests by cause-oriented groups and ordinary Filipinos plus their manifestations of discontent, anger, and outrage towards the PGMA administration must be seen as people’s hunger for freedom from poverty, deprivation, and bad governance,” he said.

As President and commander-

in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Arroyo should lead in the mobilization of human resources and other equally valuable assets “to maximize such a relentless and total effort in order to achieve the desired outcomes. In other words, the President should not become so inutile as a controversial and unfocused leader, to the extent of being seen as the core of our problems,” Ramos said.

The former president who also attempted to tinker with the Constitution as a means to perpetuate himself in power said it is not too late yet for the President to “transform, transcend, and transfigure” so that she becomes an object of admiration, instead of “vilification.” ■

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