

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

Estrada denies hand in Dacer-Corbito slays

by MAILA AGER
Inquirer.net

MANILA — “Hearsays,” a “demolition” job, and another “diversionary tactic” were how former president Joseph Estrada described his alleged involvement in the murder of publicist Salvador “Bubby” Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Estrada was reacting to former Senior Superintendent Cesar Mancao’s alleged testimony in court that he ordered the killings in 2000.

“These are very simple hearsays and at the same time, a demolition squad that they are doing and I believe that it’s another diversion tactic to forget the \$20,000 dinner,” he said at a regular forum in the Senate on Thursday.

“They are all baseless. Mancao even admitted that he never talked to me. The truth of the matter, I didn’t know him,” he said.

Estrada reiterated that Dacer was his good friend and he has no reason to order his assassination.

“As far as I’m concerned, *wala sa lahi namin yan ha. Unang una, si Mr. Dacer* is a very very close friend of mine, *kumpare ko ng dalawang beses*. Mayor *pa lang ako ay barkada ko na siya at inaanak ko yung anak niya sa binyag* [It’s not in our blood. First of all, Mr. Dacer is a very close friend of mine. We have been friends since I was mayor, and his children were my godchildren],” he said.

“Before *nangyari sa kanya yun, nandun siya sa Malacanang kasama yung mga inaanak ko. Nagmeryenda pa kami dun so anong motibo para ako ma link dito sa slaying of my kumpare Bubby Dacer? Anong dahilan, anong motibo* [Before that happened to him, he was in Malacanang with my godchildren. We had snacks there, so what could be the motive for linking me to the killing of my friend Bubby? What’s the reason? What’s the motive?]”

“*Wala namang ginagawa sa akin. Maski mga reporter na kung anu-anong sinusulat laban sa akin, tinatawanan ko lang e lalo eto na wala namang ginagawa sa akin, walang sinusulat sa akin. So anong motibo? Bakit*

ako mag-uutos ng ganun [He has not done anything wrong to me. Even reporters who’ve written lies about me I just laugh off, more so him who has not done anything to me, written anything wrong to me. So what’s the motive? Why would I order this?]” he pointed out.

To further prove his innocence, the former leader even

suggested that the hearing of the case be done in Plaza Miranda in Manila.

Estrada, who declared his intention to run for president in 2010, also suspected that the revival of this issue against him had something to do with his good standing in various presidential surveys.

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