

## Manila judge advises Mike to settle case vs Lozada

by SANDY ARANETA  
Philstar.com

THE Manila Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC) Branch 26 judge currently handling the perjury case against national broadband network scam whistleblower Rodolfo Lozada Jr. has advised the complainant, former presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor, to settle the case amicably, an ABS-CBN website report said last May 5.

"Defensor has admitted on TV that this perjury case he is pursuing against Lozada is very bad for his political career. I fully agree with him," Judge Jorge Emmanuel Lorredo, presiding judge of the MTC Branch 26 of Manila, said in a five-page order issued on Monday, May 6 according to the news report.

"Furthermore, I say that it may

be very bad for his health and his family as well. If he gets sick like Mike Arroyo, would that not be bad for him and his family?" the report further said.

It said that the judge's five-page order was supposed to be about the schedule of Lozada's arraignment on May 7.

The court also scheduled earlier a May 8 hearing on the petition of seven senators who want to take custody of Lozada.

The judge had dismissed the perjury case against Lozada but he was ordered to issue a warrant of arrest against him after a Manila Regional Trial Court judge reversed Lorredo's ruling dismissing the case.

The news report said Lorredo had narrated how Defensor might suffer the same fate as First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, whose

health allegedly deteriorated at the time he filed more than a dozen cases against people who accused him of corruption.

"There are those who say that the serious heart disease is some kind of punishment for Atty. Mike Arroyo. I do not know if this is true, for I do not really know how our Lord works, for He does work in mysterious ways," ABS-CBN quoted Lorredo as saying in his order.

Lorredo also said that of all the presidents he has known, only President Arroyo's spouse became sickly.

"He has a serious heart disease. He even tries to make us believe that he is in no condition to attend Senate probes," Lorredo had said in his order.

Lorredo also said in his order "my words are designed to

penetrate Defensor's mind and heart" so that the former chief presidential aide "would be able to think clearly so that on May 7, 2009, there could already be peace between him and Lozada," the website report said.

The judge also told Defensor that Lozada being protected by the Church "must mean something."

Lorredo also assured Defensor of a fair handling of the case.

He assured him that he will allow the prosecution team to present all evidence that will prove Lozada committed perjury when he allegedly made conflicting statements before the Court of Appeals and the Senate.

He said he will also allow Lozada's camp to destroy all the arguments presented by Defensor's camp.

Jun Lozada



► PAGE A10

## Finally, House musters quorum

by JESS DIAZ  
Philstar.com

AFTER days of trying, the House of Representatives finally managed last May 5 to gather enough warm bodies to muster a quorum for its session.

A 5pm roll call showed that 178 of the 266 members of the chamber were present.

More than 80 were absent, including about 50 who watched the Pacquiao-Hatton fight in Las Vegas, Nevada last weekend and who are still in the United States, and those accompanying President Arroyo on her visit to Egypt and Syria.

Shortly after the presiding officer, Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, declared the presence of a quorum, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla rose to complain that the early birds among congressmen always have to wait for one hour or longer for their colleagues to arrive.

He said the rules of the House provide that sessions should start at 4pm with the singing of the national anthem, followed by a short prayer and then the roll call.

"In other Congresses in which I was a mem-

ber, we started work at 4pm as required by the rules. Here, we waste at least one hour to have a quorum. Let's change our rules so we won't be wasting precious time," he said.

Padilla is one of the few House members who make it a point to be in the session hall at 4 p.m. and to sit it out until adjournment time. Another is Edno Josen of Nueva Ecija.

Like Padilla, Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III suggested that the rules be revised.

"I am suggesting that the quorum requirement be changed from 50 percent of all members plus to 50 members plus one so we won't have quorum problems," he said.

Majority Leader Arthur Defensor agreed with Padilla that in previous Congresses, plenary session started on time.

"But that was because the minority allowed us to start on time, except in a few instances. In the present Congress, the minority insists that we muster a quorum before we tackle business," he said.

Defensor said since the start of the 14th

Congress, sessions always opened at 4 p.m. with the singing of the national anthem, followed by a prayer and then a break of one hour or longer.

"This has happened consistently. That's why I am recommending to the Speaker that we take a second look at this practice," he said.

Paranaque Rep. Roilo Golez, who is a deputy minority leader, protested the tone of Defensor's statement about the minority insisting on the presence of a quorum.

"This is not an imposition on the majority. This is a requirement of the rules," he said.

Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said the House would not be discussing quorum-related issues had it implemented the electronic and biometric roll call and voting project of former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and Speaker Prospero Nograles.

Defensor said a technical committee is now fine-tuning the system "and we hope to start using it when we begin our (third regular) session in July." ■

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTRY OF CLARK (HACC)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS [RFP]

### For FEE ACCOUNTANT

RFP #: 9118-0100

The Housing Authority of the County of Clark (HACC) is requesting sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms and/or individuals capable and ready to enter into a contract agreement to provide Fee Accountant services. These services must be provided at HACC. Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience as a Certified Public Accountant providing these services to properties similar to the HACC's portfolio.

Interpretation and Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing by **May 15, 2009**. Sealed responses to this solicitation will be received by HACC until **2:30 PM** local time on **May 22, 2009**. No late bids will be accepted.

Respondents to this solicitation must have documented experience of comparable work similar to the property listed above. Minority- and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

All RFP documents are available on the HACC website at [www.haccnv.org](http://www.haccnv.org) in Portable Document Format (PDF), or to pick up a copy call to schedule a pick up date prior to coming to HACC. For more information contact the Contracts Department at (702) 451-8041 Ext. 1424 for a RFP package.

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