

# More queries on P11-B poll bid answered

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- Once the machine has read and scanned 1,007 ballots allocated for one precinct (1,000 from voters clustered in a precinct plus seven for the BEI members), the unit must refuse to accept additional ballots and a message on the unit screen should indicate such.
- The machine must have error recovery features, such as full system recovery without data loss from an unexpected system shutdown. This includes the ability to continue where the system left off after system re-start, with appropriate instruction to the user.
- The bidder must include an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) for each canvassing unit.
- Alternative power sources should be made available for all units in case power failure occurs.
- The machine needs to have multiple data storage devices to function as backup in case of transmission issues. The vendor can include in its unit any removable data storage device, provided it is closed from further write operations.
- The electronic transmission service has to be above 99 percent of the time. For areas without power and telecommunications facilities, the winning bidder has to provide for these required facilities and include them in the proposal. Communications coverage should be 100 percent.
- The data from the machines such as election results, must have three transmissions: to the server for city or municipal board of canvassers for canvassing; to the server for central server for backup and monitoring purposes; and to the server for the Kapisanan ng Brodkaster ng Pilipinas—to be made accessible to an accredited citizen's arms and political parties—as mandated by Republic Act 9369 or the poll automation law. ■

# Estrada predicts defection of Arroyo allies

by JEANNETTE ANDRADE  
Inquirer.net

FORMER president Joseph Estrada predicted last April 13 a "mass defection" from the administration to the opposition fold in the months leading to the 2010 national and local election.

Speaking at the *Kapihan sa Manila* news forum, Estrada disclosed that more than 20 personalities—including Cabinet secretaries, congressmen, and senators—expressed interest in running for public office under the opposition slate, as early as January this year.

Estrada refused to disclose their names but he said Vice President Noli de Castro was not "yet" among them.

"In fairness to Kabayan I De Castro, he has not yet talked with us," he said.

De Castro has been consistently topping surveys on possible presidential candidates. He is also reportedly being eyed by the administration bloc as its standard bearer.

Asked what initial reasons the "defectors" have been giving, the former leader said smiling, "I cannot divulge their reasons right now."

Estrada assured that the opposition would look into the backgrounds of the prospective defectors to determine their sincerity in supporting the pro-poor program of the opposition.

Former senator Ernesto Maceda expressed certainty that the administration would be fielding more than one candidate for the presidency. "I am 90 percent sure there will be more than one candidate. Other administration candidates will run since no one is rating that high [in the surveys]. It is possible that President Macapagal-Arroyo will bet on two horses."

He pointed out, however, that just as in the last elections, an endorsement by the President would be a "kiss of death" because administration candidates would be obligated to defend her acts and decisions and would have to assure the continuity of

her policies.

Estrada acknowledged that Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro would be the strongest administration bet, pointing out that "Vice President Noli de Castro has not shown any effort in declaring himself as a candidate for the administration."

He added, "We do not know yet his position if he will be running in the opposition side."

As for the moral force organized by Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno, he Estrada said, "I commend them for forming the group. But anybody can claim to be moral, even GMA [Arroyo]."

Should he decide to run to unite the opposition ranks, Estrada stressed that his legal team saw no legal obstacles for his candidacy. Under the Constitution, a president can only run for one term and cannot seek another term.

Estrada said the opposition would be meeting in June to decide on a sole presidential candidate for next year's elections. ■



Former President Joseph Estrada

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April 17, 2009	May 09 - May 14, 2009
April 24, 2009	May 16 - May 21, 2009
May 1, 2009	May 23 - May 28, 2009
May 8, 2009	May 30 - June 4, 2009
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