

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Pacquiao forms own political party

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Many of his supporters have urged Pacquiao to stay away from politics and save himself from the taint often attached to politicians. "People's Champ" was the moniker given Pacquiao by the House in a resolution last year. Poll commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said Pacquiao's petition for accreditation was filed by his party's counsel, Minveles Beloncio-Gulle, last December and heard by the Comelec last week. Ferrer refused to say when the commission would rule on the petition. "One of us asked the counsel, 'Is this Manny Pacquiao, the boxer?'"

She said, "Yes, sir," Ferrer said.

Go easy
A senior Comelec official present at the hearing said it appeared Pacquiao's registration documents were in order and there seemed no apparent reason for the poll body to nix his petition.

Some lawmakers are also urging Pacquiao to think twice before entering the political ring next year.

"One or two more big fights and running for politics would be OK. He should make the most of [boxing] while he is in his peak, make all the records and break the legends first," House Speaker Prospero Nograles said in a text message from the United States.

Bayan party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said it was up to Pacquiao to decide whether he should turn his back on boxing or dive into politics, either as a congressman or mayor in Sarangani.

Casiño said his only advice to Pacquiao was to train for the rigors of politics, especially lawmaking, with the same dedication he gave in training for his fights because public office required a serious effort.

Up to the people
Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said it was up to the people whether they would like Pacquiao to continue building his legend as a boxer or become a political leader. Golez doubted if he could remain a top boxer while being also a politician.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said Pacquiao should just turn his fame into making himself a statesman for Filipinos worldwide, and his boxing skills into becoming a mentor to aspiring Filipino boxers. ■

It's Pacquiao's time!

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before knocking down the British fighter with a right hook to the chin midway through the first round. With the Filipino crowd on its feet, British fans were in disbelief.

Pacquiao pounced on Hatton again a few moments later. This time, Pacquiao landed a flurry of punches before a left straight to the head of Hatton fell the Englishman.

Pacquiao finished off Hatton in the subsequent round.

Pacquiao landed a left hook on the chin and below Hatton's earlobe, a textbook knockout punch. Hatton was out before he fell to the canvas.

Referee Kenny Bayless immediately waved the fight over with one second remaining in round two.

"I was just doing my job in the ring and doing my best to make the people happy," said Pacquiao. "There's nothing personal I was just doing my job this was a big for

me as the De La Hoya victory."

Hatton was not made available for comment after the fight.

The British boxer was rushed to the hospital for precautionary measures, according to Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer.

"Ricky is desperately sorry to all his fans," said Garret Williams, the CEO of Hatton Promotions. "He got caught with a great shot. Congratulations to Manny Pacquiao. He is the best fighter, possibly of all time there's no shame in losing to somebody like that."

"I thought Ricky would get him," said Floyd Mayweather Sr., after the match. "I don't want to get into it more than that."

Before the match, Roach predicted a Pacquiao knockout in three, he'll settle for two.

"Manny is unbelievable," said Roach at the post-fight press conference. "I'm the best trainer in the world because I have the best fighter in the world."

Roach said that Hatton was very predictable.

"Every time he throws the left hook and cocks it, he is wide open for the right hook from the south-paw stance," Roach explained. "We worked on that every day in the gym and it just worked beautifully."

"I knew it was over," added Roach. "Ricky fights the same way over and over. He doesn't have the ability to adjust. I watched the tapes over and over the last few months. I know him as well as I know my fighters."

The win catapults Pacquiao in the boxing history books.

Pacquiao becomes the first Asian to capture six world titles in six different weight division—flyweight, junior featherweight, featherweight, junior lightweight, lightweight and now, junior welterweight.

He also joins Oscar De La Hoya as the only boxers to captures sixth different title belt in a different weight division.

The Hatton victory is Pacquiao's fourth win in a row in a different division.

The win improves Pacquiao's record to 49-3-2, 37 KOs. Hatton's record falls to 45-2-32 KOs. ■

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