

# Palace: GMA to reappoint bypassed Cabinet members

Malacañang officials confirmed last June 10 that President Arroyo would reappoint the Cabinet members who were bypassed by the Commission on Appointments.

Secretary to the Cabinet Silvestre Bello III said that the re-appointment papers for Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Socio-economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto and Civil Service Commission chairman Ricardo Saludo should be expected from the President anytime soon.

Bello said the officials who

were bypassed by the CA continue to have the trust and confidence of the President.

Reyes in particular has been bypassed several times in the past and for different positions in the Cabinet.

"The fact that he has been re-appointed as Secretary of Energy is a manifestation of the trust and confidence in the integrity, competence and work of Secretary Reyes," he added.

Bello said that the Palace respects the independence of the Commission on Appointments as a constitutional body.

However, he emphasized that the President has the prerogative and power to appoint whoever she wants in her Cabinet.

Reyes was heavily criticized as energy secretary because of his lack of experience in this field.

The same was true when he was environment secretary, which he also served without the blessings of the CA.

In his current portfolio, Reyes was criticized for the fluctuating prices of oil in the country and the lack of supply of liquefied petroleum gas at one point. (Philstar.com)

# Fernando vows to block De Castro, Teodoro

## As Lakas-Kampi standard bearers

by ALLISON LOPEZ  
Inquirer.net

A FIERY Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando vowed to prevent the selection of Vice President Noli de Castro and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, as the standard bearers of the merged Lakas-Kampi because they were party "outsiders."

"Definitely I will block the entry of De Castro and Teodoro to the party because I am of the belief that party members should be the top priority in the search for a presidential candidate, not party outsiders," he said in a statement last June 8.

De Castro and Teodoro, he claimed, lacked the "loyalty requirement" and should serve the party first before expecting to be chosen.

In the same breath, the MMDA chief told Sen. Miguel Zubiri to "shut up" and stop making unnecessary remarks over the selection of the Lakas party's standard bearer for the 2010 presidential elections.

Fernando said Zubiri was not in the position to give him any advice on how he should manage his bid to run for president.

"He should shut up. He should not be giving any comments or advice," said the MMDA

chief, who reacted to the senator's earlier statement that he should campaign with party leaders if he wanted to be drafted by the party as its standard bearer in next year's elections.

He added that Zubiri, the former secretary-general of Lakas-CMD before it merged with Kampi, had betrayed the party by endorsing De Castro and Teodoro even if they were not members of the merged parties.

Although he felt Zubiri practically stabbed him on the back with his statements, Fernando said he was still confident that he would be chosen by his partymates over the two outsiders in the upcoming selection process.

"Hindi na siya dapat nag-advise pa, sinirniya ang tiwala sa kanya ng kapartido (He shouldn't have talked at all, he just destroyed his partymates' trust in him)," he said.

The MMDA chair who ranked low in surveys insisted that he was determined to run for president.

"It has never entered my mind that I will not be chosen by the party. I am expecting that I will be chosen as the standard bearer because Lakas has no other party member who will run (for president)," he said. ■

# More bets expected to quit 2010 derby

## 3 senators say only 3-5 will run for president

by CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO  
Inquirer.net

TWO or three more presidential aspirants will follow the lead of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in quitting the race, three senators said last June 7.

"My fearless forecast is that only two or three of them will remain standing," said Sen. Edgardo Angara, a former Senate president.

The rest will either slide down and become vice presidential candidates or will run for the Senate, he said.

dent in May 2010 not only because of limited resources but also because of coalitions and mergers, she said.

Asked how serious she was about seeking the presidency, Legarda, whose rating in the Pulse Asia survey dropped five points to 7 percent in May from 12 percent in February, said she would soon make an announcement on her plans.

Legarda earlier said she

would run for president next year.

**Romance**

In a separate phone interview, Roxas said he was "very serious" in seeking the presidency and in serving the people.

Roxas acknowledged that his romance with Sanchez was a factor in the boost he got from the Pulse Asia survey.

He has been spending heavily on TV ads. ■

Senators Loren Legarda and Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said that in the end, the list of presidential candidates would be trimmed to three or five.

There are now at least 10 presidential aspirants. They include Senators Manuel Villar Jr., Legarda, Roxas, Francis Escudero and Richard Gordon, Vice President Noli de Castro, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Former President Joseph Estrada and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay are also considered presidential hopefuls.

**Unrealistic**

Legarda said the present list of presidential hopefuls was "unrealistic."

Other personalities will drop the idea of running for presi-

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May 29, 2009	June 13 - June 18, 2009
June 5, 2009	June 20 - June 25, 2009
June 12, 2009	June 27 - July 2, 2009
June 19, 2009	July 4 - July 9, 2009
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BAYATAYA CARGO	\$45	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
HULOG MO CARGO	\$38	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO

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