

## 'One-stop-shop' site for 2010 bets launched

by ALLISON LOPEZ  
Inquirer.net

PRESIDENTIAL aspirants with Facebook accounts? Forget it. This "one-stop-shop" website for those aiming to run for President has it all.

Backed by the Commission on Elections, the country's first socio-political networking site was launched in Makati City last June 23 and would be aiming to create a more informed Filipino electorate for the 2010 elections.

Politicalarena.com, run by a non-partisan technology provider 88DB.com, is an interactive site which allows users to view the profiles, pictures, videos and stands on issues of about 20 "perceived" presidential candidates, or make their voices heard by joining forums.

It targets more than 20 million Internet users in the coun-

try, as well as Filipino voters all over the world who "bemoan the lack of web presence."

"Things are changing now. It's not just the actual voting and counting. We have to automate everything. We have to modernize everything. The Internet is a very attractive platform due to its expansive space. All the candidates will be in one virtual landscape," said Comelec spokesman James Jimenez.

The site is divided into 11 sections: Home, Candidates, Issues, News, Videos, Photos, Calendar, Announcements, Election 101, Forum and About Us.

Each "perceived" presidential candidate—that is, those who make it to the surveys—will be given a web page with a standard layout to ensure "equal footing." ■

## Estrada urged to drop 2010 bid

Solon says talks underway

by JONAS CABILES SOLTES  
Inquirer.net

NAGA CITY—Efforts are underway to convince deposed President Joseph Estrada to drop his bid to reclaim his post and instead help unite the opposition, Bayan Muna partylist Representative Teodoro Casiño said on Tuesday, June 23.

"He has been told that unifying the opposition is a more effective way to make sure that the 2010 election would remove President Arroyo from power compared to him running again for the presidency," Casiño said.

Casiño did not say who among the opposition have been with Estrada camp and how the former president reacted.

The Bayan Muna lawmaker said Estrada's chances

of winning were not as high compared to his 1998 win, wherein he was elected president with the largest plurality of votes.

"There is a clamor for change. People are looking for new leader," Casiño said.

Casiño also said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be prosecuted for various offenses after the end of her term in 2010 rather than let her off the hook "for the sake of the healing process."

Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo said that efforts of the Arroyo administration "to repair whatever they have destroyed" by term extension were absurd. Robredo is reportedly running for a Senate seat under the Liberal Party. ■



Former President Joseph Estrada

## FVR: GMA must transform herself, reveal 2010 plans

by MARVIN SY & RUDY SANTOS  
Philstar.com

AFTER telling President Arroyo not to delude the nation with "titillations" of a Senate-less constituent assembly, former President Fidel Ramos exhorted

her last June 23 to "transform herself" and reveal her plans for 2010.

"I said if she can transform herself and the nation and there is still time for it, then she might leave an acceptable legacy for succeeding generations and leaders," Ramos said.

He also reiterated his call for the President to be clear about her plans for the 2010 elections.

"In general, the President, when it comes to governance,

politics, plans for coming big political events like elections, may be private for a while, but once the cat is out of the bag, it is the responsibility of the President both as chief executive, commander-in-chief of the armed services as well as chairman of the ruling political party to disclose or reveal what these plans are because it's not just her, not just her family, not just her party that is involved, it's the nation as a whole, it's the 91 million Filipi-

nos that have to understand what this is all about," Ramos said.

"As we're seeing now, the speculation, which was initiated by certain members of the House of Representatives and muddled by some spokespeople of the President, has become a big controversial issue because of her alleged plan to run in the second district of Pampanga as a member of the House of Representatives, while still concurrently maintaining the Office of

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Former President Fidel Ramos the President," Ramos pointed out.

He cited the case of Bangladesh where incumbent officials, including the prime minister, have to resign 90 days before a general or parliamentary election to make way for a caretaker government, usually headed by a retired chief justice of their supreme court. ■



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