

Adel, Gilbert take potshots at Chiz

by DELON PORCALLA
Philstar.com

MANILA—Election season is here, and the gloves are coming off.

This early, Nacionalista Party (NP) spokespersons are taking potshots at Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero of the Nationalist People’s Coalition (NPC).

Lawyer Adel Tamano said Escudero would surely lose in the May 2010 presidential elections if poverty were the barometer, since his home province of Sorsogon remains one of the poorest in the country.

Tamano said that Sorsogon should have been the “showcase” of the opposition senator.

“Chiz is a friend, but I think anybody who aspires to be president must be able to show that he has done something for the people. I think it’s fair to ask: What have you done for your district?” he asked. “He needs to show that he has proven something,” he added.

Tamano, who belongs to the NP senatorial slate of projected standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar, also cited the long period of time in which Escudero could have best helped his province, since he served as Sorsogon congressman for three terms or nine years until 2007, when he became senator.

“Chiz is very intelligent and articulate, but people will ask: What achievements has he done to deserve our support? He spent nine years as a congressman, it’s better if we have a basis to show how your district developed,” he added.

Tamano’s fellow NP senatorial candidate, former Cavite representative Gilbert Remulla, echoed the same sentiments.

The relationship between Escudero and Remulla, former colleagues in Congress, went sour in May 2007.

Escudero, who will be turning 40 on Oct. 10 and therefore qualified to run for president, is among the frontrunners in the surveys, ranking third in the June 19-22 survey of Social Weather Stations.

According to his website (www.chizescudero.com), the former congressman said one of the laws he helped pass was Republic Act 8980, entitled “An Act Promulgating a Comprehensive Policy and a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development.”

House records showed that in the nine years Escudero spent as congressman of the first district of Sorsogon, he helped pass eight laws – four broadcasting franchise laws, two local measures including Sorsogon cityhood, one renaming the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) to DepEd and the last regulating the practice of veterinary medicine.

His father, Salvador III, a veterinarian by profession, has since taken his congressional seat back, following the election of his son to the Senate in 2007. ■

Lacson mulls vice presidential bid

MANILA—After withdrawing his presidential bid, Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson is now considering to run for vice president.

Lacson said at least two potential presidential bets have been talking to him though no formal offer yet had been made. He refused to identify the two.

“No formal offer. Let’s say you are one of those being considered,” Lacson told reporters.

Asked if he was considering the idea of joining the May 2010 race, Lacson said, “Not seriously, but I’m open to the idea.”

Initially, the senator wanted to run for president in 2010. But citing a lack of fund to bankroll his campaign, Lacson withdrew his presidential bid.

Running for vice president is less expensive than campaigning for the presidency, he said. This way also, Lacson said he was hoping he could still pursue his visions for the country. (Inquirer.net)

Noynoy’s girlfriend may not seek congressional post in 2010

by JERRY BOTIAL
Philstar.com

MANILA—The girlfriend of Sen. Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III may not seek a congressional post in next year’s elections, her handlers said.

Valenzuela City councilor Shalani Soledad, apple of the senator’s eye, is reportedly being groomed to represent the city’s second district in the House of Representatives.

But her aide said she would not run for Congress next year but rather seek re-election as councilor.

“If our wishes were to prevail, she will not run for Congress in 2010,” said a longtime aide of Soledad, who requested not to be named.

The source hastened to add that, among a few other things, this was only possible in the face of “the people’s clearly evident strong clamor for her to run for Congress.”

Soledad is keeping her options open and has not officially confirmed the rumors.

Sources close to her said “she is not yet ready (to run for Congress) and may go for a third term

as councilor of Valenzuela.”

Soledad, with Vice Mayor Eric Martinez, ex-professional basketball player and councilor Gerald Esplana and first cousin Karuhatan Barangay kagawad Martell Soledad, was formerly allied with former mayor and congressman Emmanuel “Bobbit” Carlos (Lakas), but in March this year they joined the camp of incumbent City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian (NPC).

Gatchalian has been very vocal about supporting Soledad in a run for Congress.

Observers say the push for

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