

BY Atty. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you'..." (Jeremiah 32:17, the Holy Bible).

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DEFLATING NUMBER OF VICTIMS, OFFICIAL PNOY POLICY? The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) must now be totally amused at the December 11, 2014 report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on the number of people who died from Typhoon Ruby. Why? Because NDRRMC's most recent report said that it has now recorded at least 18 casualties from the typhoon, a number very close to the PNRC figure of 21 or so fatalities.

This will show that the PNRC was correct, after all, when it announced that it counted 21 or so people who died from Ruby. The NDRRMC actually jeered at the PNRC report, saying that that report was unverified and so did not represent the truth. Now, it is clear that the PNRC is more truthful than the NDRRMC when it comes to reporting death and destruction from typhoons.

The question in many people's mind is this: why is the NDRRMC trying to deflate the number of fatalities arising from natural calamities? Is this deflating of the number of victims from tragedies now the official policy of the Aquino government, considering that it was President Aquino himself who tried to pull heaven and earth to hide the real number of those who died from Yolanda in 2013? Oh well!

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MIRACLE FROM GOD NEEDED FOR ROXAS PREXY RUN: The recent Pulse Asia survey on our countrymen's preferences on who they would vote as the next president, if elections were held today, should not, as Caloocan City Rep. Edgar Erice said, be considered as the final choice of Filipinos. I agree with Erice that between now and 2016 is still a mighty long time where perceptions and choices could change, either for the worse or for the better, of course.

And yes, the 2016 presumptive presidential candidate of the Liberal Party (LP) where Erice belongs, Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar Roxas, may still recover from bad ratings, and overcome what is now a very clear dislike of Filipino voters for him. But, at the rate things are happening now with the LP and with Roxas himself, a miracle is needed for Roxas to turn around this dislike of Filipinos for him.

What sort of miracle does Roxas need to overcome his bad ratings? A miracle from God no less, because, if we read the Bible which is God's Word, it is clear that "nothing is too hard for God" (see Genesis 18:14, Jeremiah 31:17 and 27), and that "nothing is impossible with God" (see Luke 1:37). The only problem here for Roxas, of course, is finding God's will for him, and obeying that will carefully and sincerely!

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GUIDELINES FROM GOD ON PEOPLE WANTING TO BECOME LEADERS: What is God's will for those who would like to be installed as officials? Through His Bible, God laid down his will for those wanting to be officials, in effect giving out guidelines for installing them. The first guideline is taken from Genesis 41:38 of the Bible, where the Pharaoh of Egypt was inspired to install a man in whom the Spirit of God dwells, to save his country from destruction as a result of a seven-year famine that Joseph, son of Jacob, warned about.

The second guideline is from Exodus 18:21, where Jethro was telling his son-in-law Moses about who he should install as leaders of the people. Jethro told Moses he must chose the people who are capable, "men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain."

The third guideline comes from Mark 10:43-44, where Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, was

telling John and James, the sons of Zebedee, what a leader should do, according to the will of the Father. Jesus said: "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all..." Roxas must find a way to comply with all of these guidelines, I suppose, to turn around his bad ratings.

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