

Sound Snipings

BY Jimmy Cabato

Another miscalculation this time, but not one that is irreparable. Returned to Zambo last night confident this corner will be easier to key-pound on. But no, when I opened my working computer to start work, it would not open. Co-PCU user changed its password without informing me and it took some two hours for him to respond to my calls and text msgs. It's way past 11 am, and am only starting to write. Whew ..!

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Allow me first to please to speak of our hassle-free movement in Manila to thank those who helped us during our 6-day stay there.

First and foremost, it is our Chairman Mongguez through son Polpol who contacted two of their suppliers in Manila.

They are Indian-turned Filipinos Hareh Keswani and Bhagwan Sagduro. For the first three straight days, it was their driver, Vito who serviced us day in and day out, including that memorable Batangas visit with Vilma Santos-Recto.

To Hareh and Bhagwan, muchas gracias.

And what was somewhat touching is that driver Vito reacted to one of my posts on fb and was the first to thank me and my family for the sorties. Definitely, I responded, and this is his reply, "sir salamat din sau sana pag balik nyo ng mynila mkasama q kau olit. khit sa mga sandali lang okina s akin un. advance merry Christmas sa yong lahat. maraming salamat olit sau sir jimmy."

(Thank you to you, too. Hopefully when you get back to Manila, I will be able to be with you again, Even if only for a while, will be ok for me. Advance merry Christmas to you all. Thank you very much again, sir jimmy.) He wrote under the name, AJ Altar)

My family and I were indeed touched. Vito, kami dapat magpasalamat sa inyo dyan, pati pa mga bosing mo (Vito, it is us who ought to thank you and your bosses.)

And for the remaining three days, those who serviced us alternately and at one time together, were Atty. Joe Tan and family, as well as my nephew Roger Cabato.

Joe Tan, wife's brother-in-law - to me, a "concuño", English counterpart not known to me — is at present BIR Regional Director of Region 5, based in Caloocan City, with its environs as his dominion.

Roger is the nationwide Sales Manager of Philippine Foremost Flour Corporation, based in Manila.

While Joe took us around Metro Manila, Roger drove us up to the Enchanted Kingdom in Laguna and on to Tagaytay, with a stop-over in the scenic carpa-laden Nuvali.

To Joe and family, my nephew Roger, of whom I am very proud of, muchisimas gracias.

In the beginning here, it was "First and foremost" now it is above all, to our Chairman Mongguez, the man waving the baton, "Kamsia". (As according to my Barangay Captain-son and council aspirant Jaime "Boday" that is the Chinese-sounding word for "Thank you".)

Boday even egged me on to surf the net. I then ventured into it. But for a two-worded phrase of "Thank you", this was what appeared, and I am simply copy-pasting it, Whew ..! Such a tall order from this Jaime "Boday".

Whatever, the intention stays, that is to express gratitude to our cabinet chairman.

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Vice President and UNA presidential bet Jejomar Binay scores round 1 victory in what his camp has been branding as an administration- backed demolition job on him, starting early then as the “crowd favorite.”

This arose when the Anti-Money Laundering Council tried but failed to secure an order to freeze a bank account of Vice President Jejomar Binay, supposedly to stop its dissipation, which according to the Binay camp is a move meant to harass the latter.

“The court did not grant AMLC’s petition and was instead ordered to comment on the motion of the vice president,” Spokesman Rico Quicho, said.

Accordingly, the manipulation only shows that the case being presented by AMLC has no legal basis to stand on.

Essentially, Binay counsel Claro Certeza said, a forfeiture case could not be filed against public officials like Binay within a year before the 2016 national elections based on Republic Act 1379.

Simply put, as that dictum needs not be interpreted by a lawyer or any well-studied individual, the AMLC attempt is easily seen as purely meant to discredit Binay; so, surmises this corner. Say you?

Further, Quicho said that, after claiming that the Vice President had billions deposited in 242 accounts, the AMLC had asked the Manila Regional Trial Court to freeze only one account with a deposit of P1.7 million, an admission that it had no solid evidence against Binay.

Basically laid down, Quicho added, “the AMLC had allowed itself to be part of a demolition team formed to discredit the vice president and prevent him from continuing his fight for the poor Filipinos ignored by the present administration.” (MS)

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The endorsement of President Benigno Aquino III for any candidate is a kiss of death.

Poor Aquino-backed Presidential bet, Mar Roxas.

Such is the revelation resultant of the latest Social Weather Stations pre-election survey

Aquino, who supports Liberal Party standard bearer Manuel Roxas II, received a net figure of -6 percent nationwide when respondents were asked how they would react to his endorsement.

Per SWS findings, Aquino scored -26 percent in Metro Manila and -10 percent in Luzon, but got a positive net effect of 4 percent in the Visayas and 3 percent in Mindanao.

Further, Aquino’s endorsement also fared poorly among all economic classes except for the poorest, where it had a 2 percent effect. Among the highest-income group, his endorsement had a -22 percent score.

The survey, however, was commissioned by an ally of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who has filed his CoC for president in 2016.

And that is the same survey of 1,200 respondents conducted during the last week of November

that showed Duterte as the top choice for president with 38 percent, ahead of Senator Grace Poe and Vice President Jejomar Binay, who both had 21 percent.

Roxas, the administration candidate, poorly placed fourth with 15 percent while Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago got 4 percent.

Only 1 percent of the voters were undecided.

Senator Francis Escudero led vice presidential hopefuls in a six-way race with 30 percent, followed by Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at a close 24 percent while Duterte's running mate, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano got 21 percent.

Administration candidate Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo also poorly ranked fourth at 12 percent.

The survey was conducted before Duterte delivered his proclamation speech in which he cursed the Pope for causing traffic during his visit to Manila in January.

It bears watching if such an outburst has at all dented the popularity of the fiery Duterte.

In whatever case, let us really keep watch. Remember, the survey was commissioned by a Duterte backer. Were the results truly reflective of the people's choice? Only time will tell.