

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

BY Atty. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths..." (2 Timothy 4:3-4, the Holy Bible).

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REY VALERA'S "SA AKING PANAHON": This was first written in 2013, and I am revising it a little so it can be a fitting reminder for the elections in May 2016: "It's a pity I didn't become aware much earlier of a song entitled "Sa Aking Panahon", which was composed and sung by Filipino balladist Rey Valera, a singer known for his romantic hits in the vernacular language.

"Had I become aware much earlier of the song which, in Valera's own words, could not be played on radio because of its content, I could have reproduced its lyrics here in this column to serve as an additional reminder for voters this coming May09, 2016 elections.

"But, `Sa Aking Panahon' is timeless. Indeed, Valera's no-holds-barred lyrics constitute a stinging rebuke of our times and of our generation, giving lie to the government's claims of economic take-off, and rebuking the godlessness of our officials in government and of our own people who have no god anymore but money, and who have descended to unfathomable depths of immorality and lack of hope in the country.

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“THIS IS MY COUNTRY, THIS IS MY TIME”: “It is a song which uncannily echoes 2 Timothy 3:1-5 of the Holy Bible, which says: `But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.’

“For whatever it is worth, here is the song, loosely translated from Filipino to English: `My country is loved by nature, where the sun always shines. In my time, vegetables are dipped in formalin, where kidnapping has become a source of income. Our morality has gone down so low so that we can now rape even children.

“ `This is my country now, and this is my time. If you will remember us someday, this is my time. Pinatubo has become famous, and it drove the Americans away. That notwithstanding, we still think of Americans and of G.I. Joes, and it is to America that we go after graduating from our studies. This is because we know that our country has no hope.

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“IF ONLY THERE ARE MORE WHO TRULY BELIEVE GOD”: `We have heard of the word `unity’ before, but we do not know what to do with it, and what it really means. This is my country now, and this is my time. If you will remember us someday, this is our time.

“ `In my time, it is an ordinary thing to be going to Saudi, and when we return home, we have goodies like TV, and blue seal (cigarettes) for the gang, yet, just after a few weeks here, we resort to selling things again (to make both ends meet once more).

“ `We have enriched other nations even as we left our own families. Had there been more who truly believe in God among those in government, and money is no longer the god of many, there may yet be hope. This is my country now, this is my time. If you will reminisce about us, this is our time. If, hopefully, you (the youth) will remember us, this is our time’...”

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PLEASE WATCH OR LISTEN: “Tambalang Batas at Somintac”, a news-commentary radio program, aired at DZEC 1062 kHz and other Radyo Agila provincial stations, at <http://www.eaglebroadcasting.net/radyoagila> and at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (type DZEC Radyo Agila Tambalang Batas at Somintac 1062 Live), 6 to 7 in the morning, Philippine time. Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com).