



“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

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POLITICS BREED DIRTY GENERATIONS

By: Ben Emata

The Philippines appears to have taken a wrong direction in its growth forward after the lapse of more than half a century since the United States of America granted it its Independence on July 4, 1946.

Our forefathers died fighting for justice and democracy during the reign of the Spaniards until the day we were under the hands of the Americans. We fought for independence and identity under the sun and we had it in a silver platter. Thanks to Uncle Sam.

Looking at the situation today, the only concrete achievement we have is the population, which incredibly exploded wildly. It is very difficult to comprehend but it seems nothing solid had been arrived at except perhaps the ugly kind of politics we have and its effects that it has been giving to the Filipinos.

Our generations have been in complete disarray owing to the dirty movements of Philippine politics. We produced so many ugly politicians who have done nothing except to enrich themselves. And it is the rich that rule it out in our system of government. The poor but deserving Filipinos stay out looking inside in our political system.

The country had a very clean system of government immediately after the Americans pulled down its flag from our flagpole on July 4, 1946. Because of the excellence in the way our past leaders handled this country, the nation stood proudly in the regatta of Asian affairs. It was highly respectable and leading in economy and nearly all matters in the region. Filipinos did not have to leave for other countries to look for jobs. We survived independently and every Filipino was proud to be one.

It was a nation filled with pride and honors and one of the wealthiest in Asia. It was sailing so smoothly that countries around it could not believe their eyes. The economy was terrific and a thing every one of us could be proud of. It was a master in agriculture, education, employment, import and export, manufacturing and nearly all kinds of industry.

The situation was such that the Philippines was much better than Japan, Taiwan, Honkong, Singapore, Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc. If I had to describe the



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country in today’s language, it was the best cream in Asia. It was superior. Everything was here from top education, lifestyle and advancement and the like. That was during the era of Presidents Quezon, Laurel, Roxas, Osmena, Quirino, and Magsaysay.

Corruption was nothing even in the imagination of any Filipino. Politicians were brilliant, honest and hardworking. Everybody had the opportunity and can become a leader on an equal footing. We had so many good names in the national leadership. They were simply good people sincere and dedicated to serve. They were knowledgeable of their job. There were the names of Camilo Osias, Quintin Paredes, Lorenzo Tanada, Jose Laurel, Claro Recto, Eulogio Rodriguez, Sergio Osmena, Emmanuel Pelaez, Camilo Cabili, Filemon Sotto, Tecla San Andres Zega, Pacita Madrigal-Warns, Ambrosio Padilla, the Tolentinos, and many more.

Sessions in Congress are tainted with honor and respect. Intelligent debates and arguments at times become hot but always there never was name calling on any matter. There was no personal assault on persons, no political armies, no hatred and killings among them. Life was safe.

Media coverage in government service was as clean as crystal water. Journalists were greatly respected and recognized by their work and achievement. The notorious *envelopmental journalism* was never a word in those times. Writers become famous by their work and principle they stand.

It was inherent in every Filipino and a matter of habit that honesty and dedication to duty were observed anywhere in the three branches of the government. The executive department was never heard of any thing foul until new leadership takes place; the judiciary had always been excellent in its performance; the legislative was manned by sincere and hardworking politicians who never cast a cloud of doubt every time until new members take over.

The military observed strict discipline at all times and every man and woman therein was a pride of strength and honors. There was dignity in every man in uniform. The police have always been a symbol of integrity and discipline. It was patterned clearly from the American system where respect and disciplined are the top issues of the day.



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After six decades, the scenario was a mess. Chair and table went upside down. The government failed to provide its taxpayers with social services. It cannot give free medical and dental services to even the indigent families. No free medicines to the poor much less free doctors' services. A lot of Filipinos men, women and children, have gone to their graves without getting medical help.

It lacks the facilities to give basic education to young children. Secondary school is not accessible to youngsters. Many young kids are left behind for lack of teachers, books and school buildings. Illiteracy is even more now than ever.

There is utterly lack of support in agriculture resulting in the importation of rice and nearly every basic food that the Filipinos need. The land area of the country never changed ever since, so was the development of agriculture. But the number of people depending to our agricultural items had multiplied so many times. The resultant is the bad effects of the law on supply and demand.

Everything in the three branches of the government had lagged behind and could not cope with to the cadence of daily life. It is like others have to live and others must also die. The great difference is we embarked in a more modern way of living thus we lag behind even more in modern science and technology. We lack the industry with which to accommodate our college graduates resulting in the rise of unemployment for the last many years.

And it is amazing that while the country has impoverished itself and it has produced a lot of poor individuals, our politicians have displayed their wealth many of which could not be explained. Dirty politics is shining everyday and is giving our coming generation the hell of time.

Meantime, new leaders crop up from nowhere and skilled with the kind of dirty politics that have been established for years. Many think corruption is a way of life and therefore, it is normal for any politician to steal or whatever. Of course, we still have honest and hardworking but their voice could hardly be heard. It is now the voice in the wilderness.

But civilization is just one-way - - moving forward. So the country moves towards the future and toward insurmountable uncertainties. Before we wake up in the early morning, we might discover our population has gone up even faster and soon we shall join the contest. Right now we are number one in corruption. (BEN EMATA)