



“The pen is mightier than the sword.”

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THE FEELING OF GUILT

By: Ben Emata

The battles in the May 14 elections are still raging in some areas particularly in Maguindanao. According to published reports, the result in those areas will spell who is who in the 11th and 12th places for the final senatorial slate. At stake are some 289,028 votes.

Right now the candidates who appeared elected, on top of the ten senators recently proclaimed, are Trillianes and Pimentel for the 11th and 12th places respectively. But anyone of these two can go down to 13th place when Maguindanao votes are considered. This gives the 13th placer, Miguel Zubiri, who is following so closely, a chance to go up to 11th or 12th and one of them Trillianes or Pimentel goes down to the 13th.

To settle the controversy, the Commission on Elections has declared a failure of elections in the areas, which means special polls could be held in the coming days. Pimentel, however, who believes votes should be nullified instead, is contesting the move of the Commission.

Although slowly, the smokes of battles are disappearing, and it is now clear how our very own candidate, Koko Pimentel, is gasping for air, fighting inch for inch, to be in the list of elected senators.

Koko Pimentel, the brilliant *Kagay-anon* who is going up the ladder, according to a local writer, Primo Montebon, would walk like his father, Nene, in the corridor of power. He was utterly overlooked by his *kabayans*.



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He is full of dreams. Descendant of a very nice family and upbringing, Koko would be a very good timber for the presidency someday. Mindanao never had one because we were never united ever since. We can never make a mistake in his person. He is a man we can watch with pride and honor.

Koko was making a debut in the national leadership but many were stunned to notice he was miserably rejected by *Kagay-anons* for the simple reason that he belongs to the other side of politics.

Incredibly, he landed 6th place only in the city of his dream. The local electorates apparently did not realize he was in the national level of contest and, therefore, should forget local affiliations and leaning. Cagayan de Oro has about 230,000 votes and had we installed him in the 1st place, he should be safe now in the 11th place and good as elected. Mindanao would have once more a strong and dependable leader like Maning Pelaez and Nene Pimentel.

As the battle for the 12th slot is continuing, many were disturbed and seemingly awakened from a serious blunder. They expressed a feeling of guilt deep in their hearts. It turned out a lot of *Kagay-anons* have regretted for failing to vote for him. The spirit of local politics played so much role as much as when he run for city mayor in the local polls.

The province of Misamis Oriental had produced good leaders in the past but none ever matched the achievements of Vice President Maning Pelaez. Mindanao never had a president of the Republic because of lack of unity among its people. Most of our brilliant and promising leaders in the past struggled for supremacy that eventually put them all to failure. Each one blindly wanted to be the caretaker of Malacanang; they cannot sit down somewhere and discuss matters, much less agree or disagree. Sure enough the causes, among the



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evils, are lusts, jealousy and selfishness. And history just put them as too aggressive and ambitious politicians who fade away before their time really come.

As the days drag on with the canvassing, frustrations among local residents dramatically and emotionally accelerated. Many are now praying Koko would come out in the 11th place and Zubiri in the 12th. The latter is from Bukidnon and with the two *Mindanaoans* in the Senate, a lot of things can take place for Mindanao more particularly in our region. (BEN EMATA)