



ni LADISLAO BELLA SUBANG

Inuit Man Ay May Puwang
Din Sa Alinmang Lipunang

IKINAGALAK NG mga magasaksa sa bansa ang utos kamakailan ng Presidente sa Court of Agrarian Relation, na idaos sa mga baryo ang pagdinig at paglilitas sa mga magasakang nasasakdal dahil sa lupa. Ang layon ng liderato ay mapabilis ang paggagawad ng katarungan at mabawasan pati ang mga alalahanin ng pamilya ng nasasakdal. Lalong nagalak ang mga magabukid nang ihayag ng Presidente na bibigyan niya ng aksiyon ang rekomendasyon ng Free Farmers na pagkalooban ng tunay na kalayaan ang mga magasakang Pilipino, pati ang pagtitirwal sa mga hukom ng CAR, na nakikipaglutungan sa mga mayari ng lupa sa kapinsalaan ng mga magasaksa. Sa habang na ito ni Presidente Marcos ay isang katotohanan ang massalamin ng lahat - na talagang kaibigan ng mga magasaksa at mangagawa ang puno ng Republika ng Pilipinas. Ngayon, ang tanging hinuhintay ng Presidente ay tulong ng publiko sa lahat ng programa nitong sa kayausan, katalimagan at pagpapatalag ng ekonomiya, laluna ang tulong ng mga kabataan.

SIMBULO at inspirasyon ng mga kababaihan ng Filipino ang First Lady, Ginang Imelda Romualdez-Marcos. Simbulo rin siya ng lahing kayumanggi sa bagong panahon. Ito ang bigay-katuturan ni Luis C. Diaz, isang mataas na opisyal ng Second Bulacan Development Bank sa Meycauayan, sa larawan at katauhan ng First Lady, base sa tingnulong na maselelang misyon sa ibang bansa, at bilang espesyal na sugo ng Presidente, na naipagtagumpay na lahat. Sa lokal na pagasakit, ang mga kilusang pangkawanggawa, mga kilusang bayan na laging ang masa ang nagtatamasa ng mga bunga, ay isang tagumpay na maisasama sa istorya ng Pilipinas. "Ngayong tanggapin niya ang pagiging gobernador ng Metro Manila",

sabi ni Ginoong Diaz, "ay tintiyak ko, na ang pinagsakitan ng maraming nagdaang kehubitbo ng mga siyudad at bayang saklaw ng Metro Manila, ay magkaronon ng kaganapan. Sa pagkakaatong ito ay mangungusap ang kahulugan ng bayanihan o pagtutulongan."

Isang malungkot na rebelasyon ang aking tinanagpag kamakailan. Na, marami sa mga magasaksa sa Northern at Central Luzon na nakautang sa programa ng Masagana 99, ang nakademanda at inuusig ng Gobyerno dahil sa hindi pagbabayad kahit maraming taon na ang nagdaranan. Narito ang isang angulo ng katotohanan sa pagkakaatung ng mga magasaksa. Ang iba ay hindi magasaksa, ngunit nakautang, magasakang nakautang, ngunit hindi nakababayad... at ang iba ay dahil sa "Lucky 9", isang uri ng sugal na sinasabing isyung bumikitna sa mga magasaksa. Ito ang isang "tip" na kailangang gawing angulo sa hindi pagbabayad ng mga maykapanangyarihan sa mga muling nakababayad na magasaksa. Ngunit kung talagang ang dahilang hindi pagbabayad ay ang hindi pagpansal sa kagawagan ng bagyo at baha, biyan na sila ng maraming pagkakaatong. At sa mga nagbabaya

naman, kailangan ay ibilanggo at bewian ng karapatan sa pagmamasyari o pamunuwisan ng lupa.

ISANG uri ng sakit ang nagiging tatak ng mga nagiging bilanggo... sakit na pinandirihan at ayaw pagtiwalaan. Ngunit sila'y tao ring katulad natin nagkakaasala at nagisiisi pagkapatos. Isang eksperto sa kriminalidad, si Komisyonado Teodoro C. Nasived ng National Police Commission, ang nagbati sa akin ng ganito: "Dapat na tulungan sa pagbabagumbuhay ang mga naging bilanggo." Tama. Karamihan sa kanila ay may pamilya na dapat na buhayin. Ngunit dahil sa naging bilanggo sila'y walang ibig na magbigay ng trabaho upang kumita ng marangal. Napapanahon nang dapat na reormihin ang ugaling ito ng Sinauna. Kapag ang kaniyang pagbabagumbuhay at paglitika ay hindi natin kilindila, pinahalgahan at tinanagpag, ang ibig sabihin ay itinatulak natin sila upang maging masama ulit. At kapag nagkagayon, ang pangarap ni Presidente Marcos na pagpapairal ng kayausan at katalimagan sa lahat ng dako ng bansa ay hindi matatupad. Maituturing pa ring tayoy kalaban ng mga nagpapakabit. Alalahanin natin si Maria Magdalena. Bakit siya naging Santa? □

The truth behind the purge

by TEODORO F. VALENCIA

THAT COMPUTER which was supposed to say who was to be dismissed or forced into retirement in the on-going government clean-up failed. The computer, after all, is just a processing factory.

You get what you feed into the robot thinker. It does not think like humans but it adds, subtracts and divide perfectly. You feed it garbage, and you get garbage even the product is deodorize.

Now, we're looking for scape-goats. The people who were entrusted the job of implementing the President's LOI 309 to rid the government of corrupt and undesirable employees goofed.

The error started with the lists prepared by heads of offices. This, in turn, we attributed to a communications gap. They did not know by what standards they were to go in the preparation of those lists.

Charges were lumped regardless of their nature and motivations. The computer, as we know, cannot evaluate.

Not all government personnel who had been previously charged or are facing charges deserve to be dismissed. Some such employees are among the best—that's why they are charged.

Minor charges, no matter how many, do not call for dismissals. Many charges are without basis or, even if true, do not constitute misbehavior.

You all know that often, when an employee is exonerated, he is commended by the investigating panel. The people who fed the computers made no distinctions among light charges, heavy charges, charges generated by active pursuit of duties, etc., etc.

Many agencies were reluctant to submit names of employees with pending charges, but they were told to do so: mechanically obeying, they lumped all those with charges.

The instructions were explicit that the names of these government personnel were to be included—the form was prepared for them just to fill.

Many who submitted names tried to categorize charges saying, for instance, that the employees had already been exonerated of those charges. But the computer, which did the rest of the job, was not programmed to take these factors into consideration. The lists, therefore, turned out to be completely mechanical.

The names of officials and employees purged did not all come from the official lists required in LOI 309. Many names were supplied via telephone, via anonymous letters and telegrams.

To fit the operations of the computer, a points system was adopted to evaluate and give relative

weight to various sources. Thus, an actual administrative charge was given 10 points, a telephone call was given five points, a telegram was given four points and an anonymous letter 2.5 points, etc.

After an employee accumulated a certain fixed number of points, he was earmarked for "slaughter." Now, the victims know how they were decapitated. The names announced by President Marcos at the Quirino Grandstand Sept. 19, 1975, came from that computer. Necessarily, there were spectacular hits and spectacular misses.

They could have done better if they had not relied on the computer. But they did this to make it appear impersonal. So nobody was hurt.

But the end-result was worse—too many innocent people were slaughtered, in a manner of speaking.

Since that dramatic announcement of Sept. 19, 1975, many who were among those "purged" have returned to their old jobs. They were innocent from the start.

The effect has been negative for the President—it now appears that they are being returned surreptitiously when, as a matter of fact, they are being vindicated. No announcement is being made to hide the original mistake. The effect is far from what had been anticipated.

We've learned a lot from the mistakes of that infernal computer. One, that the computer can't really think—can't evaluate and is incapable of an opinion; two, that when the unit is clamor for weeding out the bad eggs in government, people will not stand for injustice.

The strong public opinion against the manner the computer worked was fanned by the scattered examples (all over the country) of men of integrity and honesty who were included among those fired for graft, corruption or dishonesty.

A few mistakes negated the overall plan. The government cleanup drive has been slowed down.

We learned, too, that some people who are doing their jobs with courage are the ones who get the most number of anonymous denunciations, ugly rumors, administrative charges.

Even the bosses of the upright employees often don't like them, especially if these bosses are crooked. If such employees were ever included among those fed to the computer for evaluation, they would be the first to go.

That computer fiasco was unfortunate but some good happened because of it. Now, we shall be more careful. Now, we will no longer entrust to a robot the job of evaluating public service efficiency and honesty. □

— Larry Alcalá

Not So Funny

