

Kiko Pangilinan, Bam Aquino are now rabid supporters of PBBM

By Mabuhay C. Bangko

It was almost completely unnoticed. Last week, while everybody's attention was focused on the unsuccessful attempt to arrest Senator Bato de la Rosa at the Senate, the arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada for plunder raps, and the ongoing intramurals rocking the Senate, Liberal Party (LP) Senators Kiko Pangilinan and Bam Aquino have become rabid supporters of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (PBBM).

The two remnants of the once dead LP whose political campaign advertisements for the Senate in 2025 were focused on the proposition that everything about PBBM is evil, are now yes men of PBBM.

This is confirmed by the front page newspaper and online news outlet photographs showing them in cahoots with the pro-administration group of senators led by Senator Sherwin Gatchalian. The Gatchalian camp has identified itself as the opponents of the senators who are allied with Vice President Sara Duterte, the strongest contender for the presidency in 2028.

Pangilinan's and Aquino's political turn-around is also confirmed by the change in the tone of their speeches in the Senate. The two used to blame all the woes of the nation on PBBM. Now, they have nothing critical to say against him. In fact, their standing side-by-side with the pro-PBBM senators confirm that they know which side of their political *pan de sal* has the butter.

In short, the behavior of Pangilinan and Aquino reveal that they are traditional politicians of the lowest order. They will always join the side which suits their personal political agenda, that is, to condemn the political opposition led by VP Sara and, in the process, be in the good side of the administration of PBBM.

Political observers, however, maintain that Pangilinan and Aquino want the administration of PBBM to focus all its political arsenal against VP Sara, lest that arsenal be aimed at them instead. During that period, the LP will exploit the fighting and eventually offer itself as "the better alternative" to either VP Sara or an anointed pro-PBBM candidate for president in the coming 2028 elections.

Besides, Pangilinan has an obvious ax to grind against VP Sara. He lost miserably to her in their vice presidential race back in 2022. Why the VP Sara camp isn't asking for Pangilinan to inhibit himself in the vice president's forthcoming impeachment trial in the Senate is a mystery.

In short, Pangilinan and Aquino are now rabid supporters of PBBM in their shared effort to discredit VP Sara, so that when they eventually disassociate themselves from their strategic alliance with PBBM in 2027, the LP will have a stronger chance to stay resurrected from their previous political death.

PBBM's close advisers should be wary of Pangilinan and Aquino. They are obviously fair political weather "friends" of the worst possible kind. ■