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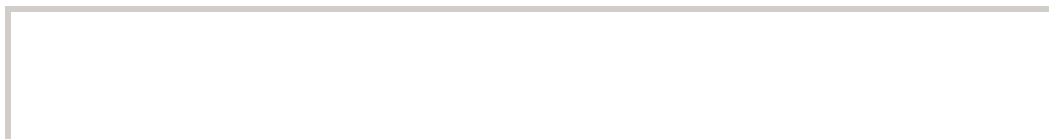
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I didn't chicken out, says Angara on abortive bid

By **Ferdie G. Domingo** | Posted on Jan. 03, 2013 at 12:01am | 1,081 views

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Senator Edgardo Angara has clarified that he didn't chicken out of the gubernatorial race in his province amid claims of his detractors that he was afraid to lose.

In a media briefing, Angara said he was sure he would be elected governor but did not want to be an absentee official.

"Firstly, if I went on with my gubernatorial bid, I would surely have won. For me to rule as a good governor, I have to stay in Aurora and will be tied up here and would be unable to fulfill my international commitments," he said.

Angara made the clarification amid the avalanche of reactions from a social networking site claiming that he was afraid of losing in a face-off with incumbent Vice Gov. Gerardo Noveras.

Members of the Aurora Family Community, a vocal critic of the Angaras, said the senator is making his supposed international commitments as a "convenient excuse" to back out of the race where they believe he is at risk of losing.

Political observers also gave Noveras more than an even chance of winning over Angara in the David-versus-Goliath match not only because of the vice governor's populist image and because of the solid Ilocano votes.

At least 60 percent of the voting population in the province belongs to Ilocanos who consider Noveras as their favorite son.

But Angara said he had no doubt he would win. Then, in an obvious dig at Noveras, he said: "Ang totoong mabait ay 'yung nakakatulong sa kapwa (One who is really kind is one who is able to help his fellowmen)."

He however reiterated that he had two major international commitments, first as elected member of the International Executive Board of Christian Democrats International or Centrist Democratic International and as sponsoring head this month of the Anti-Corruption Conference of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption.

Angara said he is the CDI's Vice President for Asia Pacific and he will be hosting an Executive Meeting in Manila either in May or June.

He said he expected 450 members of parliament all over the world as well as non-government organizations involved in anti-corruption programs to attend the conference.

"This is the only international body based in Canada that is focused on anti-corruption measures. Right now, I am the Vice Chairman of this and I just got back from Mexico and I have been asked by the Executive Board if I'm prepared and willing to assume the leadership of this international anti-corruption body immediately after the Manila Conference," he said.

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It makes a lot of sense. I don't think he chickened out at all. Why would he? He is the most loved politician in his province and he's done so much for it as well, he would definitely win if he wanted to, but he just can't take that responsibility anymore. Which is very admirable also that he's willing to give way.
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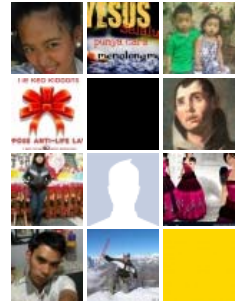
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