

omm
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Well, talk about burning your bridges behind you! Not only does Froilan's firing his department heads seem pointless, since they will be expected to submit their letters of resignation in another six weeks or so in any case. But it's also seems pretty dumb, not to mention rash.

What if the Democrats were to win their case against Teno, and Froilan re-instated as governor?

That's a theoretical question, of course, but especially here - where anything can happen - it's not a good idea to leave one's self no path back to where one was, so to speak. Have Froilan's cabinet members really served him so badly that he wouldn't take, or want, any one of them back?

And that's what Froilan is doing by firing department heads. He's burning his bridges behind him, making it impossible for him to go back to before, even should he want to. It's true that he's said he wouldn't take office again, even if the Democrats won their case, but it's hard to believe that he really means it. So why is he going out of his way to ensure his self-destruction?

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This whole business of courtesy resignations, as it is observed here, strikes me as odd to begin with. As I understand it, the whole point of a courtesy resignation is to make it easier, less complicated, for an incoming governor - or president - to let go officials appointed by the previous administration so that he is then free to appoint officials of his own choosing without the hassle of first having to get rid of those already in the appointed positions. The appointed officials are saying, courteously, "Here's my resignation in case you want to replace me."

In the CNMI, instead, it has become practice for the appointed officials to submit their so-called courtesy resignations to the outgoing governor. This makes no sense whatsoever. It doesn't offer the outgoing governor any courtesy to speak of, and it places the incoming governor under severe pressure to have all his or her replacements arranged the minute he or she takes office.

Should the incoming governor want to retain the incumbent official, he or she is then placed in the awkward and embarrassing position of having to say, "I know you've submitted your resignation to my predecessor. But I'd like you to recall your resignation, because I'd like you to stay in your position (for the time being, or for the near term, or for whatever.....)."

It's probably too late to make any changes in the procedure this time around, but it sure would be nice if next time around, the powers that be arranged for courtesy resignations to be practiced as they were meant to be.

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