

THERE'S a nice ring to it: President Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao.

"One day, he'll be president," predicted Freddie Roach, coach of the oft-described best boxer in the planet.

Roach was not being flippant and not alone in foretelling the boxer's political future.

Already, at 32, he has won a seat in his second bid for Congress from Sarangani in Mindanao.

He takes his job as a neophyte public servant seriously, authoring a bill, for example, for a hospital in his home province and serving as a member of various House committees.

Pacquiao moved to have Roach made a Filipino citizen, which was unanimously approved by the House, where he is held in high regard by his colleagues from all parties and is in fact idolized by his fellow lawmakers.

To all Filipinos, he is considered the "Pambansang Kamao," or "People's Champ," for his fistic achievements, chalking up eight world titles in eight boxing weights.

On May 7, he is likely to wrap up a ninth world title when he fights former welterweight champ "Sugar" Shane Mosley at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In the course of his U.S. promo tour, he and his wife Jinkee met President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, D.C., where the pair posed for a photo showing them in a boxing stance, according to Pacquiao's publicist.

President Pacquiao

Written by Editor-in-chief
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A search for that photo was unsuccessful; it was probably not released to the news media.

The two talked briefly on their common interests, boxing, basketball and probably politics.

Pacquiao did not say if Obama gave him political advice.

Pacquiao invited the U.S. leader to see his May 7 bout, but the latter declined and said he'd watch it on pay-per-view.

Interestingly, Obama said he'd visit Pacquiao in the Philippines, but did not say when.

If he does, it would be a state visit, which would require a return visit by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III.

Obama and Aquino met on the sideline at last September's meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo met Obama last year on a working visit to Washington.

Pacquiao felt honored by meeting Obama, and rightly so.

He is the first reigning boxing king to be invited to the White House.

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For now, the presidency can wait.

If it's in the cards, it will happen when it happens.

He is not about to hang up his gloves just yet.

After all, there is this unsettled business...with Floyd Mayweather.