

Just doing media's job

Written by Editor-in-chief
Saturday, 19 March 2011 12:27

IT'S out of character for President Benigno Aquino to badmouth the Philippine media outside the country, in Singapore of all places.

Or did he do that purposely, knowing that in that prosperous city-state the local and international media are restrained from criticizing the government or its officials?

Did he wish that the Philippine media follow their Singaporean counterparts and keep their mouths shut and not report official misconduct or outright wrongdoing in the Aquino Administration?

Fat chance. Mr. President, the 100-day honeymoon period with a "friendly media" is long over and you and your government are fair game, as it should be.

Unfortunately, even your "love life" (or lack of it) is grist for the media mill because what the president does or does not do, in public or out of it, is of public interest, including what doctors call as a bad habit of puffing up a cigarette.

It's worst in the U.S. where President Barack Obama's citizenship (he's an American) is a talk show staple, his large ears, and being lefty.

Yet he takes it all in stride.

Even Obama's rabid supporters now assert there is no more hope for audacity, in a swipe at his best-selling book, "Audacity for Hope."

While gunning for the presidency, both Aquino and Obama were "darlings of the press," which presumably helped them get elected, to the detriment of their respective rivals.

Just doing media's job

Written by Editor-in-chief
Saturday, 19 March 2011 12:27

After the euphoria had died down, their popularity nosedived, through a series of fumbles and missteps.

The once friendly and adoring journalists and pundits turned critical and sometimes hostile.

President Noynoy grouses that Manila newspapers compete to print only negative news stories; that positive news gets buried inside their pages.

He's offbase, and he knows it.

The press prints the day's top stories as they happen, not just make them up.

Hence, the disaster that struck Japan made headlines around the world.

Before that, it was the unrest in Egypt followed by Libya.

Besides, what good has P-Noy really done so far to grab public attention?

This one does not count: Cutting ceremonial ribbon at the opening of a shopping mall in Makati.