

2015 begins with nat'l political story

Sunday, 04 January 2015 14:54

Written by MANUEL L. CABALLERO



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (left) with Paul Verzosa, president of the Federation of Philippine Societies of New Jersey. (Filipino Reporter file photo)

THE next presidential election in the United States will be held on Nov. 8, 2016.

That is around 22 months from today.

After that election, President Barack Obama will step down from the most powerful political office in the world.

He will revert back to his role as a citizen.

The new USA chief executive who will be elected on Nov. 8, 2016 will assume the presidency.

And who is that?

The *Asbury Park Press* of New Jersey says it could be the popular former First Lady, Sen. and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The popularity of Mrs. Clinton, even if she has not announced yet that she will run for the presidency, has not gone down.

This space has similarly predicted about eight months ago that Mrs. Clinton could be the next president of the United States.

The story had it that the two potential candidates who will fight it out in 2016 will be former Sen. Clinton and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Neither Gov. Christie has announced that he would run.





Then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham shares a toast in Manila with President Benigno Aquino III in a Malacañang file photo.

It may be recalled that Gov. Christie's popularity plummeted when the George Washington Bridge traffic story came out in the media earlier this year.

The story reflected badly on the governor's survey results.

The issue involved honesty.

Whether Mr. Christie was telling the truth or not that he had no knowledge of the supposedly deliberate entanglements of traffic at the GWB.

For months, and understandably so, the governor refused to talk about his political plans.

Now, the respected *Asbury Park Press* in South Jersey reported:

"One of the main premises of a putative Chris Christie presidential bid is that the New Jersey governor would put states in play that Republicans haven't contested in a long time. If the Republicans have any shot at the presidency, they need to expand the playing field because the national map is so favorable to Democrats:

"But a poll out of Christie's home state shows that he would lose to Hillary Clinton in his home state by 10 points.

"Rutgers-Eagleton poll shows Clinton leading Christie 49-39. The gap grows even wider when respondents were asked if they view Clinton or Christie favorably. The former New York senator leads by 12, 56-44.

"Neither Clinton nor Christie has officially announced a run for the White House.

"Since cruising to re-election last year Christie, has experienced his share of problems, many self-inflicted, most notably l'affaire du bridge. They seem to have taken their toll (pardon the pun). A majority of New Jersey voters think Christie will run for president (63 percent) and is more interested in helping his presidential candidacy than helping the state he's governing (55 percent).

"New Jersey has voted Democratic in the presidential election every year since 1992, and Barack Obama carried the Garden State by 17 points in 2012. If Christie can't be counted on to win his own state, how will he convince primary voters to make him the nominee?"

In New Jersey, winnability is the main key to getting the support of one's political party.

In the Philippines, popularity and money are the two main keys to victory, with weight placed more on money.

According to Wikipedia, the election of the President and the Vice President of the United States is an indirect vote in which citizens cast ballots for a slate of members of the U.S. Electoral College; these electors in turn directly elect the President and Vice President.

Presidential elections occur every four years on the first Tuesday of November coinciding with the general elections of various other federal, state and local races.

The most recent was the 2012 election, held on Nov. 6.

The next election will be the 2016 election, which will be held on Nov. 8, 2016.

The free encyclopedia explains further that the process is regulated by a combination of both federal and state laws.

Each state is allocated a number of Electoral College electors equal to the number of its senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress.

Additionally, Washington, D.C. is given a number of electors equal to the number held by the smallest state. U.S. territories are not represented in the Electoral College.

Under the U.S. Constitution, each state legislature is allowed to designate a way of choosing electors.

Thus, the popular vote on Election Day is conducted by the various states and not directly by the federal government.

Once chosen, the electors can vote for anyone, but — with rare exceptions like an unpledged elector or faithless elector — they vote for their designated candidates and their votes are certified by Congress, who is the final judge of electors, in early January.

The nomination process, including the primary elections and the nominating conventions, was never specified in the Constitution, and was instead developed by the states and the political parties.

This too is also an indirect election process, where voters cast ballots for a slate of delegates to a political party's nominating convention, who then in turn elect their party's presidential nominee.

ATTY. ARVIN AMATORIO

The two Filipino-Americans who were elected to their respective councils will be officially be sworn into office.

Atty. Arvin Amatorio of Bergenfield took his oath on Jan. 1, 2015.

Jonathan Wong of Mahwah will be sworn on Jan. 8, 2015.

mcaball241@aol.com

JONATHAN WONG

Add comment



