



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives
QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA

HON. CHERRY D. UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

10 February 2009

MS. MALOU C. MANGAHAS
Executive Director
Philippine Center for Investigative
Journalism
3F Criselda II Building
107 Scout De Guia Quezon City

Dear Ms. Mangahas:

I am writing to you in connection with the article written by Ms. Karol Anne Ilagan entitled "Who are the Contractors in Congress?" which appeared in the February 2, 2009 issue of your newspaper. I would like to correct the wrong impression which the said article creates upon the business activities, interest, and reputation of Congresswoman Umali and her spouse Aurelio Umali.

The article brings out an incorrect notion that the Spouses Umali, as owners of "Mariposa Ventures Builders, Inc.", are actively engaged in the construction business and worse, that they have undue interest in government construction contracts. Sadly, the said article unduly maligned and put in question the integrity and character of the spouses Umali, without prior and proper verification of the actual business activities of the said "Mariposa Ventures Builders, Inc".

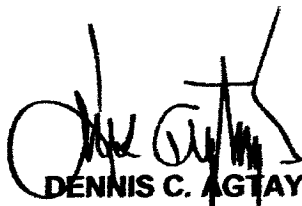
The Spouses Umali acquired interests in the "Mariposa Ventures Builders, Inc" as a means to become beneficial owners of certain real properties owned by the said

corporation and not to purposely engage in the construction business. **In fact, from the time they became interest holders of the corporation, the said corporation was NEVER INVOLVED in any construction venture much less, in any government construction contract.** Likewise, even in their personal capacity, the Spouses Umali was never a proprietor of any construction business.

I hope you will give us a chance to clear our names in this matter, and to correct the mistake of Ms. Karol Anne Ilagan in her aforesaid article, and to somehow, redeem the reputation of the Spouses Umali which the article has unfairly soiled.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis C. Agtay', written over a printed name.

DENNIS C. AGTAY
Chief of Staff
Office of Rep. Czarina D. Umali
Third District, Nueva Ecija