

Pamatong files impeach rap vs GMA but House rejects case

By DELON PORCALLA

Perennial nuisance presidential candidate Elly Pamatong, who earned the moniker "Spike Boy" when he admitted scattering spikes along major thoroughfares that punctured the tires of motorists, is at it again. This time he has filed an impeachment complaint against President Arroyo.

Pamatong's aide Marlou Jonathan Planos filed at around 10 a.m. yesterday the impeachment complaint at the office of House of Representatives secretary-general Marilyn Yap. Pamatong claimed he had been receiving death threats from unidentified groups.

The latest impeachment complaint against Mrs. Arroyo was filed even though the one-year ban on a new impeachment has yet to expire in October this year. The five-page document cited Mrs. Arroyo's alleged "violation of her constitutional duty to act with utmost integrity and loyalty to the republic, utmost responsibility and patriotism and utmost efficiency and justice."

Speaker Prospero Nograles said the House couldn't entertain Pamatong's complaint because no congressman endorsed it.

"We cannot receive it as filed because there is no resolution of endorsement of any member," he said in a text message. The Speaker said this is the second impeachment complaint that Pamatong filed.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Edno Josen said Pamatong is a media hound that only wants to bar the filing of a legitimate and substantial complaint against Mrs. Arroyo.

"To me, it seems to be a preemptive measure. It's gimmick and propaganda. The question there is: How much?"

Administration lawmakers earlier branded as "ridiculous and pure naïveté" the proposal of Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño who claimed that Mrs. Arroyo is once again eligible for impeachment because of the runaway prices of oil.

"This is a ridiculous proposition. With the oil and food crisis that the country is facing, an impeachment revival is no answer to the problem," said Marikina Rep. Marcelino Teodoro.

Valenzuela Rep. Magtangol Guni-

gundo I said Casiño is naïve to issue the statement, knowing that an impeachment complaint has no chance and there is still the one-year ban on filing a new complaint.

Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga said "the al-

leged poor satisfaction ratings and fuel and food crisis under the Constitution are not proper grounds for impeachment. Moreover, I doubt very much the alleged SWS survey."

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco said a new impeachment complaint against Mrs. Arroyo would be a waste of time and effort. "The President's critics should just wait for the next elections so they can field whoever they want to be her successor," he said.