

The Philippine Election 2010

by Rodolfo Severino

Channel News Asia Interview



The head of the ASEAN Studies Centre, Rodolfo Severino, who is Filipino, was interviewed on Channel New Asia last night on some issues related to the Philippine elections. Responding to questions by TV host Timothy Go, Severino expressed the belief that the elections would take place as scheduled on 10 May. He observed that the prominence of dynasties in Philippine politics reflected the feudal nature of Philippine society, but Filipinos were taking two steps forward and one step back in overcoming this political malady, citing the victory of reformer Grace Padaca over a long-established warlord family in the northeastern province of Isabela, only to be deposed by legal maneuvering. He also explained how the party-list system, intended to give under-represented groups greater participation in the House of Representatives, had been emasculated by Congress and was being co-opted by traditional politicians.