



The Philippines boxing star and senator Manny Pacquiao is running for president, announcing his candidacy for next year's elections.

Pacquiao presents a potential threat to President Rodrigo Duterte's plans, as the race for the president **takes shape**.

A group of the ruling PDP-Laban party nominated Pacquiao in a video-streamed national convention. Analysts see Pacquiao's presidential **bid** as a threat to Duterte's candidate in 2022. The boxer could split the vote in the southern island where both of them come from, opening the door for opposition people. In a survey in June, Pacquiao ranked fifth among 15 possible presidential candidates.

The Filipino boxer has been a senator since 2016, and he once was a loyal ally to Duterte, defending the president's deadly drug war. However, recently, he criticized the government for **alleged** corruption and its opinion on the South China Sea.

**Difficult words:** **take shape** (to begin a process), **bid** (an attempt to do something), **alleged** (something that people say is true).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *take shape*, *bid* and *alleged*
2. What is the Philippines boxing star and senator, Manny Pacquiao, running for in the next elections?
3. Why do analysts believe that Pacquiao would be a potential threat to Duterte?
4. Why did Pacquiao criticize Duterte despite being a loyal ally in the past?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do you think the Philippines boxing star and senator has a good chance of winning?
2. In your country, do sportsmen ever run for higher political positions?
3. Do politicians in your country criticize one other? For what issues are they being criticized?
4. What has been the worst political controversy in your country that you've heard of?