

Philippine Executive Secretary Ermita says:

El Shaddai leader did not make statement threatening administration

MANILA, Dec. 3 (PinoyGlobal) - Malacañang said today that media reports quoting El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde as threatening to mobilize members of his congregation to protest against Charter change were “highly speculative.”

In his weekly press conference in Malacañang this afternoon, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Velarde, who is one of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s spiritual advisers, is a responsible person who would not make such statements against the government.

“Bro. Mike Velarde is a very responsible person and I don’t think he made that statement to threaten the administration,” Ermita said.

He pointed out that Velarde was merely expressing his thoughts on the proposal to amend the Constitution and that there was no cause for alarm.

“(It was) nothing more than their personal impression about the subject matter of Cha-cha and should not be a cause for anybody, most especially for the administration, to feel threatened at all,” Ermita said.

He doubted the veracity of news reports attributed to the EL Shaddai. “It’s just the by-line of some people to make it appear that indeed they are giving a ‘warning’ but those are just personal impressions of people that we should not be too concerned about.”



EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

Deputy Spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo echoed Ermita’s sentiments, saying, “Charter change is a matter presently better addressed to Congress – the Executive Department cannot interfere with the Legislative.”

Fajardo said the President has always pointed out that she will follow the rule of law and the Constitution.

She added that any changes in the term of office of elective officials will only “happen if the people will allow it in a plebiscite — the people will always be supreme in any decision with regards to Charter change.”

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