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Wait for 2010, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo tells detractors

MANILA, March 04, (PinoyGlobal) - Amid calls by her detractors to resign, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared anew today that she will step down only when her term ends in 2010.

“Until that day, I will continue to push for reforms so I can hand over a strong nation to the next leader,” she said in Filipino. The President made the statement before signing into law the Civil Aviation Authority Act (CAAA) of the Philippines of 2008, in simple rites held at the Rizal Hall of Malacanang.

“I will be true to the Constitution and to myself who has been mandated to leave the post when my term ends in 2010,” she said.

The President assured her audience that included Vice President Noli de Castro, legislators and the diplomatic community, that “in the Philippines, there is and there shall continue to be due process, rule of law, and utmost respect for the Constitution. This is my pledge to you as your President and commander-in-chief.”

She added that she agrees with her critics that the law and the country should be above politics and personal popularity.

She pointed out that she would “adhere to the law because this was what every elected official has promised to do even if my critics refuse to understand and give political color to it.”

“That is why we uphold the principle of due process in investigating and adjudicating criminal allegations against any citizen, whatever the political cost. No one’s rights must be sacrificed just to spare government from the ire of protesters and the fire of politicians,” the President said.

After the CAAA signing ceremonies, a Cabinet meeting was held at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room to discuss the International Law of the Sea and the Philippine claim over resource areas within the country’s territory, including the Spratley group of islands.

“Through this claim, we shall advance the rights and interests of our nation in harnessing these rich resources,” the President said.

She also thanked former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza for extending his “unrivaled expertise to help strengthen the Philippine claim on this very valuable portion of our national patrimony.” #

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