

Press Statement

# A Call for An End to Elite Rule

Friday 8 July 2005, by [Laban ng Masa](#) (Date first published: 8 July 2005).

The resignation of the majority of the Cabinet Secretaries is accompanied with reports that a US-brokered negotiated settlement is underway among big players of the elite involving the succession of Noli De Castro to the Presidency.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is desperately fighting back with her own concessions — a revamp of the Cabinet, Charter Change and promises of other political reforms — but is thus far failing to stem the rapid loss of support for her administration.

The Laban ng Masa rejects the Noli take-over as a solution to the current political crisis. It is a political maneuver designed to keep elite rule firmly entrenched. What is at question is not simply the leadership of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo but more fundamentally the bankrupt politics and anti-people neoliberal economic programs that her government insists on preserving and pursuing. A Noli take-over does not promise anything different, it will be merely a cosmetic change to try to diffuse the popular unrest now threatening to spill over onto the streets.

Arguments for Noli's take-over as constitutional rings hollow and hypocritical as De Castro himself is a beneficiary of GMA's massive cheating in the last elections. For this reason alone, if he has any shred of decency, he too must step down.

De Castro's track record as an envelopmental journalist and short stint at Senator with no real credentials or evidence of competence has shown him to be simply an all too willing pawn of elite interests, especially the Lopez oligarchy. In the years that he has been senator and vice-president of the Republic, nothing of significance has issued from his mind or mouth. A Noli take-over will not only be a betrayal of the aspirations of Filipino citizens for meaningful political change, it will be a grave insult to the nation.

We call on all patriotic and democratic citizens to unite and fight for the ouster of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Noli De Castro. We call on the rest of the executive branch to resign. We reiterate our call for a transition revolutionary government towards genuine political and economic reforms and an end to elite rule.

Reference: Prof. Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo