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BAGONG ALYANSANG MAKABAYAN – Southern California

Filipino Americans Demand End to Government Corruption and GMA's Ouster

Los Angeles – In coordination with the over 10,000 strong mobilization in Makati, Philippines, an ethnically diverse crowd of Filipino Americans and their supporters rallied outside of the Philippine Consulate yesterday demanding the ouster of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) in light of the recent exposé of the ZTE-NBN scam.

Against the backdrop of a giant poster likening the Arroyo family to the Sopranos, they chanted “No Government Corruption!” and “Step Down Gloria!”

Terrie Cervas, BAYAN USA – Southern California Regional Representative, explained the sentiment of Filipinos in the US and in the Philippines, *“The ZTE-NBN scandal is just another example of the ongoing corruption and abuses by GMA regime. The people have had enough and from all sectors of society they are mobilizing and will continue to do so until GMA steps down.”*

BAYAN Philippines noted that the Arroyo regime and its spin doctors are desperate to counter the massive flow of people to the streets through its vicious orchestrated efforts to discredit and harass Lozada and his family; revive charter change (cha-cha) through the local government units; and inventing destabilization plans, including a new assassination plot on Arroyo by terrorists.

“The people can't hope for anything from the political system we have now. But Lozada gave us the hope that there can be change. Change should come from the people's initiative--they should make programs, unite themselves, and make their own system,” stated Pastor Roy Padilla of the United Methodist Church

Citing the demands of the day, Apollo Victoria of cultural organization Habi Arts, addressed the public, *“In order for justice to prevail, we demand the resignation of GMA and push for a government that places its priority to serve the people and not the wallets of corrupt individuals.”*

Speakers from Tulong sa Bayan, International Action Center, Libros Revolucion, and South Central Coalition also gave solidarity statements paralleling the struggle in the Philippines to other parts of the world. ###