

'Overt acts' seen in Joma's statements vs GMA — Gonzalez

Die hard Palace defender Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales yesterday claimed he is seeing "red" figuratively once more as a leftist leader gave his statement via Internet over their stand on President Arroyo's governance.

Such claim was in relation to the leftist group after threatening to fire off criminal charges against left-leaning lawmakers for supposed misuse of public funds to bankroll anti-government protests against beleaguered the President.

Speaking to reporters, Gonzalez said the government is contemplating on the possible response against Prof. Jose Maria Sison, the exiled Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF).

This is after Sison posted an online message published in the Web site <http://home.wanadoo.nl/n df/ s t a t e m e n t s / 2 0 0 5 / s t a t e m e n t 0 0 4 4 . h t m l> calling for overt acts for the President's ouster.

Based on a portion of the July 28 NDF message called on "the broad united front and mass movement" to stay in the course of arousing and mobilizing millions of Filipino all over the country and raise the level of mass actions to a new and higher level until Mrs. Arroyo digests the message that "her regime must end or else."

"The broad masses of the Filipino people can overthrow the Arroyo regime by asserting and exercising their democratic rights. The best sight we would like to see is countless people occupying all the streets leading to the Presidential Palace from as far as several kilometers away," Sison said in the statement.

Gonzalez said, "We are studying our options. The government has been offering them peace, but they only proved that they are not negotiating in good faith".

The Justice chief confirmed that Sison's supposed directives published in the Internet had been raised and deliberated upon by the Palace's security council.

Sison added the Filipinos are currently so incensed by what he termed as "the high crimes" of the Arroyos.

"If their demands and grievances continue to be unresolved,

we can expect spontaneous elements among the masses, especially the most oppressed and deprived, to start breaking the glass windows of the multinational firms and the pro-Arroyo big companies, landlords and corrupt bureaucrats. We can also expect some of those in the middle class to start parking their cars at well-selected choke points and paralyzing every day the road traffic to and from the presidential palace." Sison warned.

He noted they are hoping Mrs. Arroyo be ousted or to resign as soon as possible so that formal peace talks can be resumed with the succeeding regime.

But if the present administration manages to somehow prolong its life beyond 2005, Sison said, the NDF estimates that conditions would become exceedingly favorable for armed revolution.

He added, "This would be due to the deepening and aggravation of the crises of the ruling system through the continuance of a hated regime that is without moral authority and legitimacy whatsoever.

The opposition and cause-oriented groups ostensibly linked with the NDF mustered 30,000 protesters at Ayala, Makati City on July 8, where 70,000 to 80,000 participated at the same place on July 13.

Recently, at least 80,000 to 100,000 at Commonwealth Avenue joined the rally on July 25 During the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona).

Sison also accused Mrs. Arroyo of making misrepresentations in her Sona about the country's economy.

"President Arroyo insulted the suffering Filipino people by claiming that the growth rate of the depressed semi-feudal Philippine economy for 2004 (6.1 percent) is more than 240 percent higher than the average growth rate of the highly industrialized Group of 7 countries," Sison pointed out.

Much of Arroyo's woes started with the resignation of eleven members of the economic officers of the Cabinet led by former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who subsequently called on her to relinquish her post.

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