

Lakas-Kampi shortlist out on July 31

Senators warn against...

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trated, or falsely spread (rumors that) the machines have broken down, there are no results and then there are mass actions, and then they send out the military, and they say the government will not function anymore because this Congress has not been elected, I declare a revolutionary government," he said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said he could not trust Adaza's standards if he was using Arroyo as the ideal.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also said, "President Arroyo would be a fool if she does as suggested," referring to the declaration of a revolutionary government.

Adaza said Mrs. Arroyo can make drastic and much needed changes in the country if she would declare a revolutionary government, convene either a constituent assembly or constitutional convention to change the Constitution, postpone the 2010 elections and establish a federal government. (Philstar.com)

by LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
Inquirer.net



ALL OR NOTHING. No substitute to victory in the May 2010 election, says officials of the Lakas-Kampi as they do the thumbs up sign after a meeting in Quezon City. From left, Rep. Jose Antonio Il, spokesperson; Rep. Jose Solis, senior deputy secretary general; Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, vice chairman; Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, president; and political adviser Gabriel Claudio, secretary general. Inquirer.net Photo by Lira Fernandez

MANILA – The administration party Lakas-Kampi-CMD will reveal its shortlist of presidential candidates and other bets for the national level on July 31, party officials announced on Wednesday.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio, the secretary general of the party, said that the party was also expected to issue criteria for firming up its choice of standard bearer and other candidates.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Lakas-Kampi-CMD president, said that the party was not limiting its choice for presidential candidate from its members but also from those "who for their own reason might want to declare alliance" with the administration party.

Asked in a news conference if this meant that Vice President Noli de Castro should join the party by July 31, Ermita said the party was not imposing anything on De Castro, who has yet to declare his bid, but is being eyed as one of the party's contenders.

The national executive committee held its first meeting in Quezon City to draw up guidelines on the selection of its candidates and on the setting up of its chapters nationwide.

Lakas-Kampi has also set up a reconciliation and consolidation committee to resolve conflicts in the local level.

Ermita said that the meet-

ing of the executive committee should stop talks that the party was suffering "hemorrhage" from members who were allegedly planning to defect to other political parties.

In a separate interview, the President's son, Pampanga Representative Juan Miguel Arroyo said party members agreed that there must be "discipline" within their ranks, especially in choosing and supporting the

party's standard-bearer.

"We must have discipline among our ranks, we must support the presidential candidate of choice of the party, we must stop liaisoning with presidential wannabes within our party

in a deep sense, of course we will be cordial to them, we will be diplomatic but will not commit, so we are waiting for the endorsement of our political party and we will support that," he told reporters. ■

Solon on Charter...

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leagues could not do it

"We are not that callous and I don't think that occasion will be taken advantage of," he said. "We would like the senators to participate, we invite them, we welcome them, if they do not participate, we will not insist, that is as simple as that."

Bernas said that there was no "justiciable" issue yet that would make the Supreme Court intervene on HR 1109 and decide whether voting should be done jointly or separately.

The passage of the resolution or its transmission to the Senate

does not create a controversy if the upper chamber freezes it, he said.

"When will there be a controversy? If the Senate agrees with the House and together they schedule a plebiscite, then you will have a justiciable issue already," Bernas said.

Until this happens, the constitutional expert said the high tribunal's hand should not be forced on the con ass issue.

"The Supreme Court is not an institutional yaya (nanny) who allays fears of officials who do not know what to do," he said. ■

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