

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

GMA: Divided we fail, together we prevail

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The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCI), which hosted the event at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, expressed support for Charter change last June 10.

said that the "Filipino-Chinese community supports the move to amend the Constitution to ensure progress of our community." Members of the opposition have planned a series of demonstrations against the efforts of the House of Representatives to amend the Constitution.

The protest actions were in response to the decision of the allies of the President in the House to pass Resolution 1109, which would convene Congress into a constituent assembly (con-ass) to amend the Constitution.

Charter amendments. Ermita said that there are provisions in the Constitution that have to be amended, such as the economic provisions, in order to ensure sustainable development in the country.

nizations have denounced the moves of the House as a "blatant disregard of the Filipino people's will." The Action for Economic Reforms (AER), Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), Makati Business Club (MBC) and the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) have issued a statement saying that "by this action of pro-administration congresspersons, any remaining doubts about the determination of the Arroyo administration and its allies in the House to manipulate our democratic processes and

institutions to prolong their hold on power have been erased." Mrs. Arroyo herself has not given any clear indication since her State of the Nation address that she supports the moves of her allies in the House. On the other hand, she has not opposed or rejected these efforts.

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Malacañang has kept its distance from the moves of the House, although the administration has not rejected the idea of amending the Constitution, particularly the economic provisions as proposed by Speaker Prospero Nograles.

"The protests came about with Resolution 1109. I wish that the people would understand that with all the methods of amending the Constitution, in the end, all of these would still have to be approved by the people through a plebiscite," Ermita said in Filipino.

"We are talking about things that are not yet final," he added. A number of business orga-

als, perhaps saving millions of dollars a year in textbook purchases. "California is home to software giants, bioscience research pioneers and first-class university systems known around the world. But our students still learn from instructional materials in formats made possible by Gutenberg's printing press," Schwarzenegger wrote in a recent op-ed in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Schwarzenegger seeks online revolution in schools

by JULIET WILLIAMS
AP Writer
SACRAMENTO—In the state that gave the world Facebook,

Google and the iPod, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says forcing California's students to rely on printed textbooks is so yesterday.

The governor recently launched an initiative to see if the state's six million public school students can use more online learning materi-

als, perhaps saving millions of dollars a year in textbook purchases. "California is home to software giants, bioscience research pioneers and first-class university systems known around the world. But our students still learn from instructional materials in formats made possible by Gutenberg's printing press," Schwarzenegger wrote in a recent op-ed in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

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