Acceptance speech of Lakas-Kampi-CMD presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro

Lakas-Kampi-CMD National Convention

PICC, Nov. 19, 2009

(excludes extemporaneous part)

A SMART GOVERNMENT PURSUING A RIGHTS-BASED DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FOUR POVERTIES- POVERTY OF MIND, POVERTY OF ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY OF POCKET AND THE POVERTY OF RELATIONS.

 I thank the convention for nominating me to bear the standard of this party, Lakas-Kampi-Christian-Muslim-Democrats, and the change to serve our people for the position of President of this country in the coming elections of 2010.

 It is important that I start by reiterating that this party was built in 1992 on, the principles and values inherent in the political philosophy of Christian Democracy and Muslim democracy, and on the ideals of liberty and freedom manifested by the martyrdom of Jose Rizal and many martyrs of the Philippine Revolution, and which 90 years later was continued in the people power of the peaceful EDSA revolution of 1986, when finally we gained our full political liberties.

 The center of our politics is the Filipino as a human being- in his humanity, in his dignity, in his nobility. Our engagement in politics is to serve the people in the context of a peaceful Filipino society built on the rule of law that enables every citizen to pursue his dreams and renders to each citizen what is his due. Justice is the cornerstone of a progressive society and the state shall pursue a rights-based development. Sustainable development can only commence and only continue unless it is based on the rights of citizens and the dignity of persons.

We shall protect the life of each and every citizen. This respect for life shall be from the moment of conception to the moment of death. The protection of life is guaranteed by our constitution, and on this principle, there is no compromise. The human rights of each Filipino citizen shall be guaranteed and promoted at home and protected abroad.

We will uphold the family as our basic social unit since it is the receptacle of our racial memory and the repository of our values and principles. The right of parents to bring up their children cannot be violated since the children are the coming generations and on their will rests the structuring of the future of our country and of civilization.

We give substance to this commitment by nurturing families in the exercise of their right to have a roof over their head, the right to have food on its table, the right to send their children to school the right of the parents to a decent livelihood so that they may provide for their children in their present needs and in the future, and the right of every family to enjoy a quality of life commensurate to their dignity. Thus, every Filipino has a right to be fully employed, because it is in work that a person finds his fulfillment as a human being and gains the means to secure his dignity.

And to assure our citizens the exercise of their human rights, together, as a nation, we shall address the four faces of poverty: poverty of the mind, poverty of the pocket, poverty of the environment, and poverty of relationships.

In confronting the poverty of the mind, we shall endeavor to raise our economy to a higher level of productivity and prosperity. Education and health are the principal instruments so that those below the poverty line shall be raised above it. Education and health are fundamental rights of citizens, thus constitute a duty of the state. Like the IRA for the LGUs, poor families shall have a direct share of the annual national income to ensure that their children complete basic education. Access to tertiary education shall be universal and the state shall institute innovative financial arrangements to enable each home to have a college diploma, and in every family, a college graduate. Indigent families shall be automatically and universally covered by state health insurance and shall pay no excess fees for their healthcare and hospitalization.

 We shall educate more citizens to become entrepreneurs so that their enterprises shall provide the engine for productivity in our economy. We shall enable small businesses access to capital and credit so that profitable enterprises may provide opportunities for livelihood for the population.

 We shall upscale infrastructure to stimulate the economy and to consolidate our physically fragmented domestic market base, thus, create more economies of scale and promote competition by lowering the costs of distribution and production which should attract more investments. For a good start, we shall modernize the infrastructure for land, sea and air transport. Both our highways on land and highways on the seas should be safe and secure for commerce and travel. Our railway system should provide a physical backbone to our main islands of Luzon, Cebu and Mindanao, and simultaneously linking more islands by bridges making possible seamless travel from the north of Luzon, through the Visayas and on to the south of Mindanao .

We shall further reduce our dependence on imported energy and contribute to the global reduction in emissions by optimizing the opportunities in green energy- renewable and indigenous.

A key plank of our party platform is development of a social market economy by expanding the frontier of public-private partnerships. The private sector is an engine of economic growth. Foreign investments serve merely as a source of supplemental capital and access to markets and complementary technology. On the whole, the state shall use a critical balance of competition and regulation to promote long term national welfare.

In addressing the poverty of environment, we shall endeavor to protect whatever resources we have, both on land, on sea and in the air. Our resources are finite and we must nurture for our current needs and consciously regenerate them for future generations.

In addressing the poverty of the relations, we shall endeavor to spur and sustain civic spirit in our neighborhoods and communities, our workplaces and enterprises, our societies and institutions, to strengthen the relationships between persons and people. We shall promote arts and culture and sports to build our social capital. Every citizen has a responsibility and a duty towards their neighbors and the next generation shall be one of these neighbors.

We reiterate our commitment to strengthening the four pillars of our society. These pillars are: maka-Diyos, maka-tao, maka-bayan and maka-kalikasan.

With the EDSA revolution, we have won our political liberties. These we should protect and strengthen. We won these after a century of struggle and we vow we shall not lose them.

Many in our society feel that our form of governance is no longer adequate to answer the problems we face. The call for charter change has become louder and louder. In addressing this concern, we shall endeavor to seek legislation calling for a constitutional convention at the earliest possible time so that the people themselves, through their delegates may decide one way or the other how to confront this legitimate concern.

In the meantime, a smart government shall pursue higher economic growth utilizing the weapons of institutional innovations, indigenous knowledge and information technology with bias for execution through local governments and basic communities and forging strategic alliances with the private sector.

Now, we are in the arena where we must gain our full economic liberties and social liberties. The struggle for these will require of each one of us commitment and sacrifice. It will demand of us the need to save rather than to spend. It will demand of us a work ethic that will bring us to prosperity.

It will demand of us positive attitudes towards life because our destiny is to conquer, and conquer we shall.

All citizens should strive for excellence in whatever they do. We call on our scientists to help us advance in this march towards excellence. We call on our artists in the field of the arts to help us advance towards excellence. We call on our organized religious institutions, on our educational institutions of higher learning, on our social and business organizations to help us advance towards excellence. Excellence will be the key to our winning our struggles for economic and social liberties.

I therefore ask each member of our party to bring this message to our people. We stand for life, liberty and prosperity. We stand for shared sacrifice. We stand for excellence. Tell them that we shall manage our future. Tell them that victory for the Filipino people is the destiny of our party. Tell them that the future is here and now.

 In Bicol, Gibo means work. Tell them that the cry of our nation is: “Gibo now! Gibo now!” Gibo now!”