



LAKAS
KAMPI
CMD

PRESS RELEASE

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PUNO CONFIDENT LAKAS-KAMPI SLATE WILL SWEEP 2010 POLLS

Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronnie Puno has predicted that the national and local candidates of the merged political powerhouse Lakas-Kampi CMD will sweep the May 2010 elections and steer the country to continued economic growth into the next decade.

Puno said that while there are many problems ahead that need to be resolved, he is confident that the unified political grouping will be able to thresh these out and emerge as a tough one to beat in next year's elections.

"There are more things that unite us than divide us. There are more dreams that bring us together than take us apart," Puno said during the ceremonies at the Manila Hotel marking the formal merger of the two parties last Thursday. "Come 2010, we will all realize and recognize what we have all done here today and in 2010, Lakas-Kampi-CMD is going to win the electoral contest and lead this country into the next decade."

"Today we must lose the little things that make life difficult for us. . . We must open our minds, listen to others, sacrifice some of our own interests in order to preserve the larger interests," Puno noted.

Puno, who was Kampi chairman prior to its merger with Lakas, declared three days ago that he would seek the nomination of the merged party as the administration's vice-presidential candidate in the 2010 national elections under the unified Lakas-KAMPI CMD banner.

Puno's announcement before the National Council of the Kabalikang Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) last Tuesday was met with loud applause and overwhelming support from its members, prompting Rep. Rodolfo Antonino to call for a vote of acclamation in support of the DILG chief's bid.

But Puno himself had stopped Antonino from proceeding with such a motion, saying that he does not want to preempt the future decisions of the incoming Lakas-KAMPI CMD party and would abide by whatever choices it would make with regard to its national candidates in the 2010 polls.

Moreover, Puno had pointed out that the merged party had just adopted a joint resolution committing its members to abide by, and support the, unified party's choice and selection of national candidates in the May 2010 synchronized polls.

Thus, he said, he would have to submit himself to the nomination process to be adopted by Lakas-Kampi and "like a good soldier" abide by whatever decision is reached by the party.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who will sit as chairman of the merged party, presided over the ceremonies officially sealing the merger between Lakas and Kampi.

The constitution and bylaws of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD were presented to the President, who was empowered, through a joint resolution unanimously adopted by the new party, to appoint the interim members of its National Executive Committee.

Two other joint resolutions were also unanimously approved by the members of the new Lakas-Kampi CMD—one ratifying its new set of Constitution and bylaws and the other commending the President for "successfully steering the country towards economic recovery and resiliency amid the global economic crisis and expressing strong support for her continuing efforts to achieve sustained economic empowerment and national development."