

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should stop her and her lapdogs' incompetent-and-laughable attempt to extend her presidency by gutting the Philippine Constitution. The ill-advised effort to turn the House of Representatives into a constitutional assembly by her congressional minions is DOA (dead on arrival) at the Court of Public Opinion (CPO). No administrative and/or judicial CPR can persuade the CPO to accept the shift to a parliamentary form of government or extend the terms of all elected officials in the country.

If I were an adviser to Mrs. Arroyo, I will give her this unsolicited advice: Drop all pretenses of amending the Constitution and just field First Gentleman Arroyo as a candidate for the May 2010 presidential elections.

I know Mike Arroyo during our days at the Ateneo de Manila College of Law. Although he was a mere acquaintance and not a friend of mine, Mike Arroyo is not a dummy. He has brains although apparently he used his talents not necessarily for the public good. This was the reason I called him the country's "Incredible Bulk."

\* Editor's Note: To read about Mike Arroyo's sobriquet, please click on this [hyperlink](#),

## [The Arroyo Administration's "Incredible Bulk"](#)

There is a good precedence for letting Mike Arroyo seek the presidency in a no-holds-barred and brutal but relatively-clean election. Incumbent Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner was a former First Lady. She was elected to the presidency in 2007 and succeeded her husband, Nestor Kirchner, who was the President from 2003-2007. Like First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Cristina Kirchner is also a lawyer.

Mike Arroyo, as a presidential candidate, will have no problem winning the nomination of his wife's political coalition, which is at her beck and call, if not subject to her whim and caprice. The First Gentleman can even organize a new political party and name it the "Party of the Investors, Developers, Allies and Lackeys" (PIDAL)."

Perhaps it is time for the Arroyo Couple to be honest for once to the people. If they really want to stay in power, then by all means let Mike Arroyo run. At least, Mike Arroyo has no legal impediment to seek the presidency. The First Gentleman's candidacy will be the ultimate political equivalent of the litmus test of whether Mrs. Arroyo has done a good job as the country's ruler. If she really believes that the people love her and like her performance, then who can beat Mike Arroyo in May 2010?

By the way, former President Nestor Kirchner lost a high-profile congressional race in Buenos Aires in the recent midterm election. This means that voters do not want their former President to run for Congress after the term of office ends. This was similar to then former Vice President Richard Nixon running for the governorship of California after he lost the presidency to John F. Kennedy. Mr. Nixon lost badly in his gubernatorial bid.

Perhaps Mrs. Arroyo should remember the fate of Nestor Kirchner if and when she seeks the congressional seat in her home province of Pampanga. In the final analysis, the Filipino may just say to Mrs. Arroyo, "Don't cry for me, La Gloria." Or she can emulate then President Dick Nixon and tell the people in a televised address, "I am not a crook." # # #

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