



# GLORIA STEP DOWN MOVEMENT

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## **The People's Agenda for the Transition**

GSM National Launch, September 3, 2005

Quezon City Sports Club

We, the people, reaffirm our adherence to the principles of sovereignty, freedom, social justice and democracy. It is at this time of severe crisis that we are challenged to take decisive action in confronting the current ills facing our country.

**1. Unite to oust the Arroyo regime and set up a democratic transition council to pave the way for a new government that can unite the people, uphold their interests and promote their welfare, and thereby enjoy their trust, confidence and support.**

- Arouse, organize and mobilize the broad masses of the people in protest actions, people's strikes, civil disobedience and other forms of mass actions to expose, isolate and oust the US-backed Arroyo regime.
- Build the broadest united front of all forces working to oust the Arroyo regime and establish a new government of national unity, renewal and progress.
- Uphold and defend the people's sovereignty, especially their inherent right to take direct democratic action to remove a regime that has lost its legitimacy, moral ascendancy and the people's trust and confidence.

**2. Set up the transition council consisting of representatives of the various forces that worked for the ouster of the Arroyo regime, especially the representatives of the toiling masses and other democratic sectors and including representatives from women, the Moro, Cordillera, Lumads, and other indigenous peoples. Initiate electoral reforms and pave the way for the holding of credible elections within a reasonable transition period.**

**3. Investigate and prosecute Arroyo and other high public officials who are party to the betrayal of public trust, bribery, graft and corruption and other high crimes against the Filipino people. Render justice, including a swift and fair trial, on all outstanding cases of plunder and graft and corruption involving current and previous high public officials.**

**4. Undertake measures to provide immediate economic relief and rehabilitation while laying the groundwork for a strong, self-reliant economy.**

- Institute a pro-people fiscal policy. Scrap measures that place onerous burdens on the toiling people such as the Expanded VAT.
- Place a cap on debt repayments and renegotiate terms of previous debts up to and including debt cancellation and repudiation.
- Stop runaway price increases of all basic commodities and services, especially fuel, water and electrical power. Scrap the onerous Purchased Power Agreement or PPA. Ensure consumer protection. Advance a national and rational drug policy.
- Stop the expulsion, dispossession, eviction of peasants and indigenous peoples from their lands by whatever means. Stop land-use conversion and crop-conversion of prime agricultural lands devoted to food production, especially staple food.
- Institute a P125 across-the-board daily wage increase nationwide for all private sector workers. Grant a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase and full benefits for public school teachers, health workers and all other state employees. Repeal laws that violate the workers' security of tenure. Put a stop to the practice of contractualization.
- Prioritize the provision of such basic social services as education, housing, health and social welfare versus appropriations for debt servicing and for the military, paramilitary and police forces.
- Stop the wanton demolition of urban poor homes and ensure that their basic needs such as housing, jobs and livelihood are met.

- Immediately take positive action on outstanding labor strikes, ensuring that workers demands are satisfactorily addressed.

**5. Uphold economic sovereignty & protect the national patrimony.**

- Stop and reverse measures such as the Mining Act, Oil deregulation Law, EPIRA, etc. Push for a policy of energy self-reliance wherein energy resources are controlled by the Filipino people.
- Stop and reverse the neoliberal policy framework of liberalization, deregulation and privatization.
- Protect and support local producers, the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, against unfair foreign competition. Rehabilitation and strengthening of domestic industry.

**6. Carry out national industrialization to ensure a self-reliant economy, provide decent jobs and the basic consumer needs, and ensure all-round socio-economic growth and development. Carry out genuine land reform by giving land to the tillers as a matter of social justice and to provide the foundation for national industrialization.**

**7. Uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity.**

- Pursue an independent foreign policy consistent with national interest and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other nations.
- Stop all-out and blind support for the US “war on terror”.
- Stop Joint RP-US Military Exercises and repeal the VFA and MLSA

**8. Work for a just and lasting peace by instituting the necessary basic political, social and economic reforms. Resume formal peace talks between the GRP and NDFP without preconditions and in accordance with previous bilateral agreements. Pursue the peace process with the MILF.**

**9. Uphold the people’s democratic rights – civil, political, social, economic – and render justice to the victims of human rights violations.**

- Stop the curtailment of the people’s freedom of speech, assembly and association.
- Stop the militarization of the countryside.
- Release all political prisoners
- Indemnify victims of human rights violations, starting with the victims under the Marcos dictatorship.
- Uphold media freedom and protect journalists. Protect human rights advocates
- Identify arrest and prosecute perpetrators of political killings, involuntary disappearances and mass displacement of civilian populations.
- Scrap the Anti-terrorism bills, the national identification system and all other all repressive laws, decrees and general orders.

**10. Advance a nationalist and pro-people culture that will promote national unity and progressive ideals.**

**11. Promote women’s rights and empowerment through their active participation in the transition council and in other areas of reform. Work towards the elimination of discrimination against women. Protect the rights of children.**

**12. Develop a pro-people ecological policy. Scrap mining act, cancel timber licensing agreements. Prohibit the entry of US weapons of mass destruction in Phil territory, cleanup of US bases toxic waste.**