

# Palace denies GMA link to Cha-cha moves

By MARVIN SY

Malacañang branded yesterday as political black propaganda reports that President Arroyo is behind the efforts of the House of Representatives to amend the Constitution.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde denied that Malacañang had anything to do with the Charter change (Cha-cha) initiative as the President is focused only on the economy and the welfare of the people.

"We do not discuss or pay any attention to the issue of Cha-cha because President Arroyo is focused on the important matters at hand – the creation of more jobs and addressing the challenges on the economy especially with the global economic crisis," Remonde said in Filipino.

He said even legislators identified as being behind the efforts to amend the Constitution, are conceding that there is not enough time left to get Charter change moving since the elections would be held in little over a year.

Remonde pointed out that Mrs. Arroyo has signed the P11.3-billion supplemental budget for the automation of the 2010 elections, which clearly demonstrates the commitment of the administration to have elections next year.

A search committee has also been created to screen the administration's candidates, from president down to local government executives.