

GMA to preside over historic joint Lakas-Kampi meeting

MACTAN, Cebu – President Arroyo will preside over the first-ever joint meeting of the Lakas Christian and Muslim Democrats and the Kabalikang Malayang Pilipino later this month to finalize the merger of the two parties and boost the administration's chances in the 2010 elections, officials said yesterday.

Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio told a news briefing here that also to be finalized during the meeting would be the new

name of the merged party.

Claudio, who does the spadework for the unification efforts, said the proposed name is Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

"We have been able to craft and adopt the new constitution of the merged party. We hope that it would lead to ratification," Claudio said.

He said the ratification could happen in July that would be immediately followed by the election of new officers.

Mrs. Arroyo chairs both parties. — Paolo Romero