

GMA starts rehearsing for SONA

By PAOLO ROMERO

President Arroyo has begun rehearsing for her final State of the Nation Address (SONA), described by Malacañang officials as a report on her administration's achievements since she assumed office in 2001 and a message to her successor.

Deputy Presidential Spokesman for Economic Affairs Gary Olivar said Mrs. Arroyo read the first draft of her SONA during their Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

While it may detail her accomplishments in the last nine years, the SONA would not be lengthy as Mrs. Arroyo "does not believe in loose language," Olivar said.

"It (SONA) will be as usual a great document from the President," Olivar told a news briefing.

"There will be a discussion

on what has been achieved in the past year and also the entire term of the President as we all know this will be her last SONA."

Among the major issues in her address would be her advocacies on social protection, energy, infrastructure, "the continuing search for peace and order, the need to strengthen our political system and democratic institutions," Olivar said.

"She will talk about her vision for our country and how she has pursued this vision," he said.

Olivar said Mrs. Arroyo might again use Power Point or audio-visual presentations to make her SONA more understandable.

He said the SONA would be an outcome "of a democratic process."