

May 11, 2006

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES**

<i>Jimmy T. Yaokasin, Jr. (Chairman)</i>	<i>Office of the President</i>
<i>Rolando Andaya</i>	<i>Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM)</i>
<i>Karina Constantino-David</i>	<i>Chairperson, Civil Service Commission (CSC)</i>
<i>Francisco T. Duque III</i>	<i>Secretary, Department of Health (DOH)</i>
<i>Angelo T. Reyes</i>	<i>Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</i>
<i>Margarito B. Teves</i>	<i>Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF)</i>
<i>Domingo F. Panganiban</i>	<i>Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA)</i>
<i>Datu Nasser C. Pangandaman, Alhaj</i>	<i>Acting Secretary, Department of Land Reform (DLR)</i>
<i>Fe A. Hidalgo</i>	<i>Officer-in-Charge, Department of Education (DepEd)</i>
<i>Romulo L. Neri</i>	<i>Director General, National Economic and Development Authority, (NEDA)</i>
<i>Eduardo T. Gonzalez</i>	<i>President, Development Academy of the Philippines</i>

Dear **Members of the Board**

Thank you for the invitation for us to be interviewed as candidates for the position of President of the Academy.

It is public knowledge that President Arroyo has formally expressed her desire that a particular candidate be named by the Board as President of the Academy.

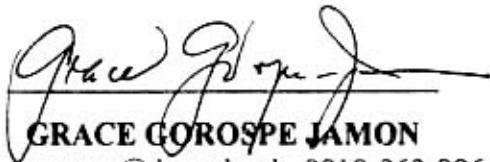
It is also public knowledge that Chair Jimmy Yaokasin of the Board has actively solicited from the members of the Board, on behalf of the President and under direct orders from Secretary Ermita, votes for the said candidate. He, in fact, has received statements of votes for the said candidate, in advance of the Board Meeting to elect the DAP president.

In view of these circumstances, the selection of the next DAP President appears to be a foregone conclusion. It is not clear what legitimate purpose the interviews with other candidates like us would serve. We certainly would not want to be mere props for going through the "motion of a process pursuant to the requirements of the Civil Service Commission (CSC)" as the Chair puts it in his vote solicitation letters to the members of the board.

However, out of respect for you, our colleagues in the public service, we will make ourselves available for the interview (1) if President Arroyo withdraws her expression of desire for a particular candidate to be elected President of DAP and (2) if you, in your individual capacities, will assure us (via text message, email, letter, or phone call, anytime before the scheduled interview) that you have an open mind on the matter of the selection of the next DAP President, and will be able to vote on the basis of the merits of the candidates as evaluated on your selection criteria.

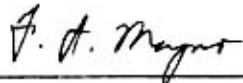
We hope that the President can withdraw her letter and that you can make this assurance, as we stand ready to participate in a crucial, solemn process. We will, however, understand it if, on your part, you cannot truthfully make such assurances. In which case, please understand why we cannot allow ourselves to be naïve sacrificial lambs on the altar of a "presidential desire."

Very truly yours,



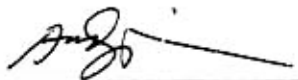
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