

# Speech on “EO 467” and alleged plan of Malacañang to declare a state of national emergency

Wednesday 1 March 2006, by [HONTIVEROS Risa](#) (Date first published: 10 October 2005).

Ginoong Speaker at ginagalang na mga kapwa kongresista, there have been disturbing reports over the weekend about the alleged plan by Malacañang to declare a national emergency and impose virtual Martial Law through an executive order. The reports were in fact disturbingly detailed - that through Executive Order 467, whose release would be preceded by bombings in Metro Manila, Malacañang would bestow upon itself emergency powers to deepen its crackdown against anti-GMA forces. The plan by Malacanang is reportedly supported by certain military and police officers and members of the Cabinet, which include, among others, Dir. Gen. Lumibao, Gen. Esperon, Gen. Larry Mendoza, Gen. Ebdane, Gen. Wycoco, Sec. Raul Gonzales, and Sec. Bert Gonzales. According to these reports, EO 467 would ‘reiterate’ the President’s constitutional authority over the military and the police.

These allegations finally reached the media and were first released by a national newspaper last Sunday, October 9, 2005. The article in The Daily Tribune stated that the release of the EO would be scheduled during the congressional recess, so that even if the Constitution requires congressional approval for the declaration of a national emergency, resumption of session within the limited period of 48 hours as prescribed by the Constitution would be difficult, or almost impossible. In the meantime, under this alleged plan, Malacanang should have enough time to arrest its opponents, confiscate certain businesses, and order the AFP and PNP to fulfill its partisan interests.

Press Sec. Bunye already denied these allegations, Mr. Speaker, calling EO 467 a pure rumor aimed at instilling fear in the public. He said that these things only exist in the minds of rumor mongers, but cryptically added that the detractors of Malacañang, specifically those who oppose the anti-terror bill, should instead look at it as a pro-active measure that will give the government the necessary means to protect itself. Protect itself from whom? Those who are in the streets to demand the truth? Those who, as described by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago’s “intelligence report”, are part of a conspiracy plot to physically remove President GMA from Malacañang? Incidentally, Sec. Bunye was a tad too dismissive, quite different from how he and other Cabinet members reacted to Sen. Defensor-Santiago’s “intelligence reports.”

But the President’s men are not speaking with one voice. As has just come out of [www.inq7.net](http://www.inq7.net), Sec. Raul Gonzales has admitted that the administration is poised to declare a state of national emergency to take over vital industries, saying its is justified under Article 12, Section 17 of the Constitution. AKBAYAN calls for a congressional investigation of this imminent take-over of vital industries.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Records Division of the Office of the President, there is indeed an EO 467 but it deals with a different matter altogether. Yet this information and Sec. Bunye’s reaction seem to be insufficient to dispel the perception that Malacañang is bent on declaring a national emergency. Sec. Bunye denied the existence of EO 467, but he failed to categorically deny if the government is planning to declare a national emergency. After all, it could be EO 468 or 469 or 480,

for that matter. After all, Malacañang is already imposing draconian measures through executive decisions, from the CPR to the EO 464 to the Philippine Army's reported shoot-to-kill orders against recruiters for destabilization, and these rightly remind many of how the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos suppressed democracy for more than two decades.

Mr. Speaker, is President GMA planning to declare a National Emergency on her own? We in AKBAYAN dare the government to give an explicit answer to this question. Section 18, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution explicitly gives Congress the sole power to revoke a declaration of Martial Law . We call on the leadership of Congress to assure the public now that, should this situation arise, it will rise to the occasion with integrity and independence to join the people in saying "Never Again."

Marami pong salamat, Ginoong Speaker at mga ginagalang na kongresista.