

# MANIFESTO

## LAKAS NG SAMBAYANAN [CORY AQUINO'S PEOPLE'S POWER (CAPP)]

Lakas ng Sambayanan (Cory Aquino People's Power) is a coordinated movement of cause oriented organizations and alliances which were active in the campaign for President Aquino, watched the polls, initiated protest demonstrations post February 7 and participated in the historic barricades of February. It counts among its membership major alliances such as *Bandila* (Bansang Nagkakaisa sa Diwa at Layunin), Independent Caucus, Families for Justice and Peace, Women's Solidarity in the Philippines and Coalition for the Advancement of People's Movement (CAPM). Also in its roster are major sectoral organizations representing the basic sectors: workers, farmers, youth/students, women, cultural communities, religious, professionals, fisherfolks, urban poor and special sectors e.g. disabled. As a coordinated movement, Lakas seeks to harness the same invincible people's power, which succeeded in ensuring victory for the people's non-violent revolution, towards forwarding a social revolution for national interests and the interests of the majority of the Filipino people under a regime of genuine popular democracy.

The movement is spearheading the catalyzing of more autonomous people's organizations, assisting in the formation of speedy consultative mechanisms with the government and launching protest actions where the institutions of dictatorship still remain. It acts also as a watchdog-vigilante on the ministry level to ensure that the citizenry's interests are always upheld. The movement affirms its support for the Aquino government's resolve in pursuing genuine pro-people programs.

At present, the Lakas ng Sambayanan has as its spokespersons Emmanuel Soriano (*Bandila*) and Randolph David (IC) and Edmundo Garcia (KAAKBAY) as its Secretary General.

### *Rationale*

The power of the people put an end to dictatorial rule.

Corazon Aquino was installed President by the sovereign will of the people expressed through the electoral verdict of 7 February and the Popular Revolution which defended the clear mandate she had won.

The Philippine experience is unprecedented, unedited, yet unfinished.

For certain sectors, the long popular struggle against injustice, foreign intervention and authoritarian rule began even before martial law was imposed.

During martial rule, pressure politics and the parliament of the streets played decisive roles in encouraging the people's will to resist.

Popular resistance became massive and the march to freedom more determined after the assassination of Senator Benigno Aquino on 21 August 1983.

The Popular Revolution of February 1986 was an unarmed resistance of the people in defense of their candidate's victory in an election where the people's vigilant participation was opposed by massive fraud and terrorism, in defiance of the dictatorship and in pursuit of the task of dismantling authoritarian structures.

The decisive factors in this Popular Revolution were the power of the people, the power of faith and the unwavering leadership of Corazon Aquino who led a non-violent protest campaign and resolutely resisted US pressures for accommodation and compromise.

Two significant factors sustained and strengthened the defense of the people's unarmed resistance.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference post-election statement, with which other faiths, Christian and non-Christian alike, concurred, affirmed that the Marcos government no longer had any "moral basis", indicated the path of "non-violent struggle for justice", and thereby galvanized the collective courage of the people and placed the power of faith at their service.

The Reform AFP Movement, by the rebellion it initiated from within the military, paralyzed the repressive forces of the regime and led to the recognition of the sovereign will of the people - a people who without arms defended an initially besieged RAM and later demoralized and disarmed the assault troops of the discredited Marcos regime.

The Popular Revolution involved the seizure of state power by the people; it was essentially a political act. However, it remains unfinished. To become a social revolution, social relations and social structures need to be transformed. Remnants of the old authoritarian order need to be dismantled to pave the way for the creation of a new social order. To deepen democracy and create a just society, the participation of the people must be effectively encouraged and harnessed.

To accomplish these tasks, the people's power must now be systematically articulated and translated into a cohesive, organized and sustained force which will promote popular democracy, national sovereignty, justice and equity.

The logic of the majority must prevail and the interests of the working classes must be advanced.

President Aquino's government, installed by extra-constitutional means and meta-legal processes, must rebuild