

THE REPUBLIC

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Editorial

WHEN martial law was proclaimed three years ago, it seemed that the cancer of corruption within the government has been severed by the massive overhaul of public agencies by President Marcos. But like unwanted weeds, corruption and inefficiency in the public service have proved resilient.

During the celebration of the third anniversary of the New Society last September 19, President Marcos announced a massive cleanup of the government with his firing of more than 2,000 officials, including several Cabinet members. The President said that the progress of the New Society has been tarnished by the rise of a "new government elite"

that has shaken the people's faith in the government.

What lessons can we learn from the remedy? First, we can never be complacent for the country's development we aspire for is always a continuing struggle. Next, we must keep an eye on ourselves. Corruption and inefficiency thrive only when others keep their eyes shut. Fair warnings and vigilance will go a long way in preventing the misguided government employee from seeking quick profits at government's expense. Perhaps, the President can propose a code of ethics for all government employees to continuously guide them in the performance of their duties.

PANANAW

LADISLAW SUBANG

Babati ang Wikang Pilipino sa saklong na ito na taglay ang maasanghang na pagpuna sa mga gawang hindi mabuti, subalit may nakalanan namang laurel sa mga mamamayan, kasama ang mga nageserbiyo sa Gobyerno, na mangunguna sa mga kilusang magagamit na huwaran sa itinitindig na Bagong Lipunan.

Gumawa na ng aksiyon ang Presidente. Ibanase niya sa gusto ng mga mamamayan. Pinatalos na ang mga hindi karapatdapat sa Gobyerno. Ukol dito, naghihintay rin ang Gobyerno ng tulong ng publiko. Lumantad sila at sabihin kung sino ang mga dapat nang alisin, ngunit kailangang may matitibay na kadalihan... na base sa katatungan

Kailangan ng bansa ang sapat na panustos upang maagapayan ang papalaking populasyon... kaya kailangan ang malaki at patuloy na produksiyon. Kailangan ang malawak na lupang magagawang sakahan... ng maraming industriya at pagawaan... pagpapauland ng teknolohiya sa lahat ng larangan ng ekonomiya. Kailangan din ang epektibong pamamahala, laluna sa programa ng family planning. Ang ibig sabihin, ang lahat ng babae at lalaki na may karapatan nang "gumawa" ng mga pangadagag sa populasyon ay dapat munang magkaroon ng kamalayan sa pangani na sisipat sa paglaki ng populasyon... alang-alang sa pag-sasakit ng Gobyerno sa kaunlarang pambansa... ngunit hindi sa kaunlaran ng populasyon.

Napapanahon ang panawagan kamakailan ni Mahistrado Felix B. Makasiar ng Korte Suprema sa mga huwes sa Nueva Ecija. Maglinis ng mga kahon at huwag patagalin ang pagpapasiya sa maraming asuntong na sangkot ang mga dukhang mamamayan. Ang pag-

balam sa alinmang usapin ay pagbalam sa pagpapakilos ng katatungan. Alam kong sa maraming hukuman sa buong bansa ay inaamag ang maraming usapin. Hindi na uyo ngason sa Bagong Lipunan ang palakasan. Aksiyon at katatungan ang kailangan ng mga mamamayan... at sa madaing panahon.

Marami na ang kabutihang nagagawa ng reporma sa bagong lipunan. Ang hindi lamang nagkakaron ng epektibong resulta ay ang ugali ng maraming kabataang lalaki, karamihan ay estudyante, sa mga sasakbigang pampasahero. Nagtutulug-tulugang sila sa pagbibigay ng kanilang upuan sa mga babae, laluna sa matatanda. Sa bagong lipunan, ang kagandahang asal na minana sa ating mga ninuno ay hinubuhay. Ngunit mayroon pa ring lubig na panahon ng makapangyarihang pulitiko. Hindi ba ito isang matinding sumpal sa kagandahang-asal na itinitindig sa kasalukuyang panahon?

Nakasabay kong magkape kamakailan ang isang may katanangan nang lalaking balik-bayan. Nanunuluyan siya sa isang malaking otel sa Sta. Cruz, Maynila, ngunit sa isang tersera klaseng restawran nagkape nang umagang yaon. Nabatid ko sa aming balitaan, na kinusa niya iyon upang alamin ang kumakalat na balita sa San Francisco, California, na mataas ang halaga ng pagkain sa Maynila. Ngayon ay batid na niya ang katotohanan. Sa pagbabalik niya sa Estados Unidos ay pabubulanan niya ang pinakakalat na balita ng ilang Pilipino roon na magulo at magastos ang dumalaw sa Pilipinas. Alam ba niyo ang kanyang kitain? Isang pritong itlog, isang pingang sinangag at isang tasang kape sa halagang P2. Sa "States," ang P2 ay hindi pa makakabili ng "soft drinks."

Another Cup Teodoro F. Valencia

Who is 'Malakas' now?

The word is out. The President means business this time. He has stopped waiting for his men to change. He's changing them. This time, the changes will be all-embracing. With public support, he can go on cleaning up the government. Without public support, this will look like a purge—that's an ugly word. Fortunately, public reaction has been nothing less than joy.

There's nothing unusual about the extent of the cleanup drive. The only thing that has elicited praise is that it ever happened. People had been waiting for these changes to take place, separately or slowly. But not altogether in one blow. News that there will be more is welcome too.

Of course, there will be errors of judgement. Some injustices will happen. That can't be helped. Out of 2,000, perhaps even 20 would be unfairly treated. Some mechanism must be found to find out the errors and to have them corrected. These errors detract from the merit of the main action. The idea is to deal justice, not injustice.

The retirement of so many of the unretireable, untouchable and reputedly *malakas* was a shock to many, a pleasant surprise to even more. In a way, we have been given a preview of what kind of changes we may expect when the President starts to touch the military and the local officialdom. The same stern measure of acceptability is surely going to be applied. How else can he do it?

Why don't we go down the line and revamp the Barangays? As in the national scene, there will be the need to force into the service the people who would not otherwise volunteer. "No time," most of the deserving would say. Then, we have pleaded with them, failing in which, we must compel them to serve. There's no other way if we must achieve in shorter time the objectives of the new society.

One way to assure responsibility for dishonesty in office is to make the bureau or department head responsible for anything that happens in his domain. Give the office head the freedom to spend funds but give him the primary responsibility. The trouble with our auditing system today, our procurement system too, is that the head of the office is never responsible. Or nobody is ever responsible. Too many technicalities to free everybody from responsibility, yet the funds are gone and there's nothing to show. The safeguards have been reversed—they're now safeguards against prosecution.

It might help improve the public service if the President will now spell out what kind of performance he expects those who will stay in office must do. They are a nervous lot. If they knew what to do, what is expected of them, they'll feel better. For instance, the President might tell them to be more civil to the public who do business with them, to act like servants of the people instead of new masters, to try and be useful instead of waiting for orders. It's the President who must tell them. Yes, tell them what they already know, what they have known for years.

Not So Funny Larry Alcala

