

Labor Day Statement
DEMOCRITO T. MENDOZA
President, TUCP and Chair, LSM
May 1, 2001; Manila

The worse seems to be over. The democratic forces appear to be winning the struggle.

Madame President, the people who helped install your administration are here today. We are committed to protect the gains of EDSA II. No matter what it takes.

LSM and TUCP understand the government's actions in Mendiola and elsewhere. The rallies and the illegal actions are destroying the economy, the country, and our democracy.

They are undermining the fight against poverty. *Ang mga maliliit at mahihirap ang tunay na tinatamaan.*

We support government, and hope that, with these forceful actions, we also increase our sensitivity to the legitimate demands.

We can identify with calls to address long-festering issues on poverty, and people empowerment.

Having said these, justice should take its course. The former president should defend himself before the courts and before the people.

We must move forward. Let the wheels of justice grind. However painfully.

Madame President: we expect a lot from your administration.

Labor should be given its due: good jobs, decent wages, job security, faster labor justice, social benefits. The repeal of DOLE Department Order No0-10.

The many contributions of workers to nation-building and the protection of democracy should be appreciated.

Workers, formal or informal, public or private, must be assured their basic needs. They should be helped to improve their skills. They should share more in the gains of the economy.

Please make organizing easier and faster. So we can increase the ranks of the democratic forces faster.

We pledge:

Continued vigilance, for workers. For country. For democracy.