

# GMA leaving for 7-day trip to Switzerland, Dubai

President Arroyo flies tomorrow to Switzerland and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and leave behind talks of another attempt to destabilize the government.

During her seven-day trip, Mrs. Arroyo will speak before

the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and lead an investment roadshow in Dubai.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the WEF is expected to draw 2,500 participants

By PAOLO ROMERO

from 88 countries, including 27 heads of state or government, 113 Cabinet members, along with business leaders, religious leaders, media leaders and heads of non-government organizations.

"Davos would be another opportunity for the President to share experiences and to collaborate more closely with new leaders and thinkers on a multitude of global challenges we face today," he said.

After Davos, Mrs. Arroyo will attend a summit on entrepreneurship in Zurich, he added.

Bunye said Mrs. Arroyo will meet with business leaders in Dubai, which is becoming the

Turn to Page 6

# GMA leaving From Page 1

trade hub of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

"We will inform them (investors) the Philippines is one of the best value for investments," he said.

A business delegation will accompany Mrs. Arroyo to Dubai, he added.

Bunye said Mrs. Arroyo has made clear from Day One of her administration that international relations would be the centerpiece of her administration's political and economic reform agenda.

"Indeed, active global engagement is important for broadening and deepening our ties, forging security alliances, encouraging investments

and protecting our valued overseas Filipino workers," he said.

In her speech at the annual *vin d'honneur* at Malacañang last week, Mrs. Arroyo said she is determined to pursue a strong foreign policy.

Last year, Mrs. Arroyo visited the United States, China, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, India and Australia, Spain, the Vatican, the United Kingdom, Portugal, France, Kuwait and Africa as part of efforts to forge security alliances, encourage investments, and protect the interest of OFWs.

"For the Philippines to succeed, we must aggressively engage the world. We continue this engagement in 2007 as we have done throughout my presidency," she said.

"We will continue it in 2008. We need the world and we like to think the world needs us – our hardworking people, our ideal geographic location and our reliability as a friend and ally."