

GMA's health: Public has a right to know

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The public is entitled to know the real state of the President's health.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday that President Arroyo's health is everybody's concern and should not be kept secret from the public.

"The public is entitled to know the health condition of the President. She is the only

President we have," he said.

Enrile said the Constitution requires the public disclosure of the President's health and medical condition.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, president of the United Opposition, also said the law is clear on disclosure of the state of the President's health.

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"The law does not give a President the discretion to choose what information about (her) health condition should be disclosed to the public and which should be kept secret," Binay said.

Binay stressed the health of the President is a very important concern of the nation.

"The public needs to be assured that (the) President's decision is not affected or impaired by his medical condition," he said.

Malacañang had said Mrs. Arroyo decided to have herself confined at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Muntinlupa immediately upon her arrival from abroad "to set an example for public officials."

The Department of Health (DOH) earlier lifted the self-quarantine requirement for those arriving from abroad, a policy it enforced to address the A(H1N1) virus scare.

"Malacañang used a valid public health concern – the A(H1N1) virus – to camouflage the real reason for Mrs. Arroyo's decision to have herself confined at Asian Hospital. And now that they have been found lying, they are trying to divert the issue by invoking her privacy," Binay said.

Enrile, on the other hand, advised the public to allow the doctors to deal with the President's health problems.