

EDITORIAL

## Fight the pro-imperialist "chacha" of the US-Marcos regime

**B**ased on the end-goal of "changing the economic provisions" to give foreign capitalists greater freedom to possess and plunder the country's wealth and amass super profits, the hands of US imperialism is clearly behind the current push of the US-Marcos regime to change the reactionary 1987 constitution.

Hundreds of millions of pesos were poured by the ruling regime to coordinate the mobilization of Marcos' men in congress, senate and local governments. The two separate initiatives in the Lower House and the Senate have the same goal, despite differences between some politicians regarding the method and scope of the constitutional amendments.

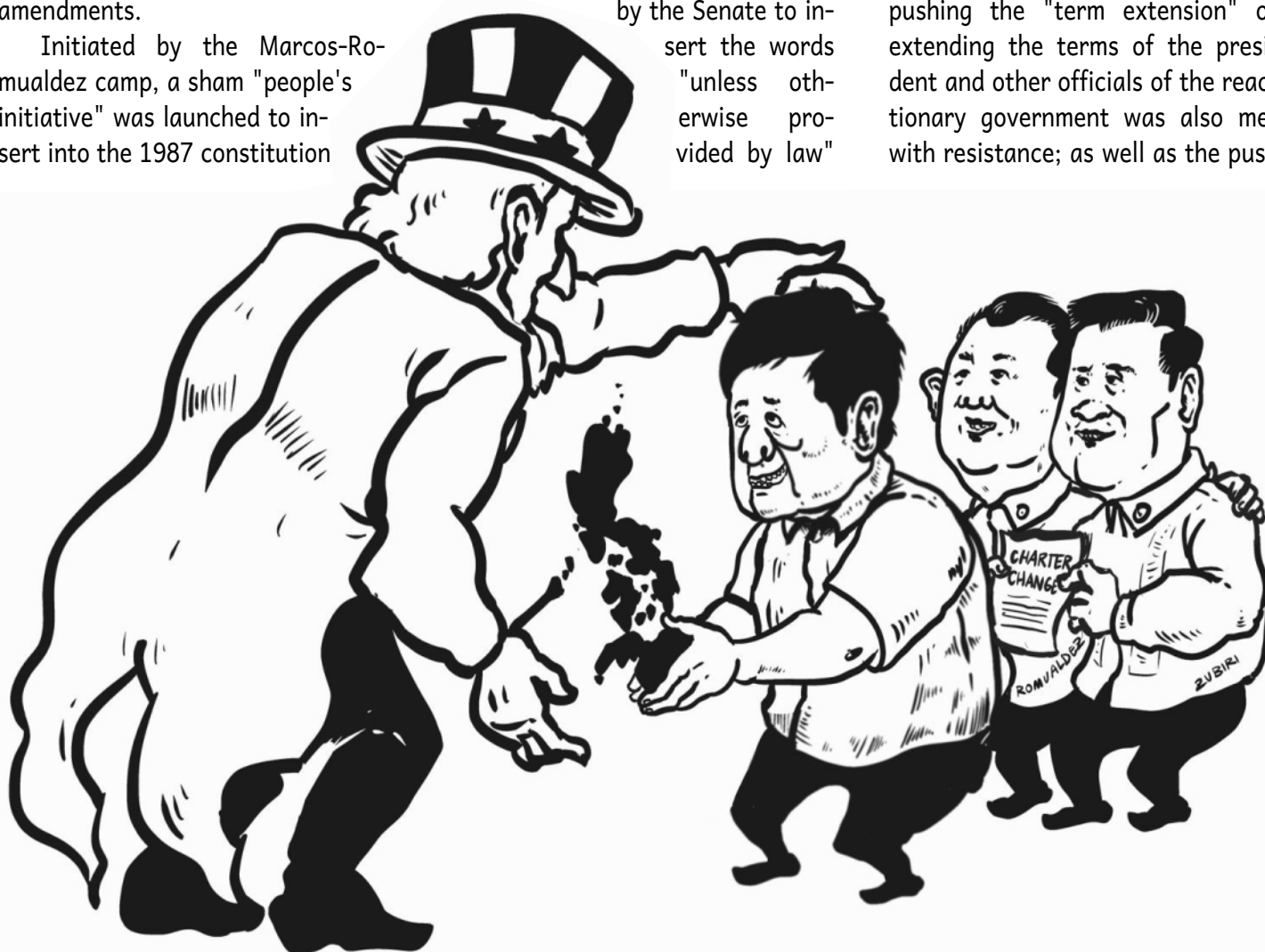
Initiated by the Marcos-Romualdez camp, a sham "people's initiative" was launched to insert into the 1987 constitution

the provision for joint voting by the Upper and Lower Houses of Congress (as opposed to voting separately) in adopting proposals for constitutional amendment. It clearly aims to give the Lower House the controlling power to easily change the constitution.

On the other hand, a Resolution of Both Houses is now being pushed by the Senate to insert the words "unless otherwise provided by law"

in some key provisions. It aims to empower the reactionary congress to simply enact legislation to allow foreign ownership or control of land, public services, education, mass media and advertising.

The resistance of various forces and sectors spread like wildfire when the news broke of the push for "chacha." The "people's initiative" was met with widespread criticism when it stank after it was revealed that signatures were paid for with ₱100, or was obtained in exchange for the promise of aid or threats to deny it. The prospect of pushing the "term extension" or extending the terms of the president and other officials of the reactionary government was also met with resistance; as well as the push



for neoliberal amendments that will completely kill the economic independence of the Philippines.

As the constitution of the semi-colonial and semifeudal ruling system, the 1987 Constitution is reactionary and serves the interests of the oppressive and exploitative ruling classes. Since it was developed and adopted after the EDSA uprising in 1986 and in the face of the rising wave of the democratic mass movement, the ruling state was compelled to accept democratic and patriotic embellishments, including declaring a policy to preserve the national patrimony, promotion of democratic rights, setting limits on the term of the president and other officials and on imposing martial law, prohibiting foreign military bases and nuclear weapons, and others.

However, for more than three and a half decades, past reactionary governments did not allow themselves to be restrained by the 1987 Constitution. Its provisions were circumvented or outrightly violated through various laws and policies which indiscriminately trampled on democratic rights, opened various areas of the economy to foreign

capitalist control and domination, granted extraterritorial rights to American troops, and increased the power of political dynasties.

The purpose of the "chacha" plan, which has been attempted by previous governments, is to completely remove the patriotic and democratic embellishments from the 1987 constitution. This plan is anti-people, anti-poor, anti-national and anti-democratic, and will serve the interests of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. Marcos specifically aims to erase the anti-Marcos legacy in the 1987 constitution. In the face of the severe social and economic crisis, oppression and repression, the US-Marcos regime's "chacha" scheme is certain to bring only more suffering to the Filipino people.

The people must vigorously fight the "chacha" because it will further worsen the backward system dependent on foreign investment and imports, which drives up commodity prices, suppresses wages, and promotes corruption by political dynasties. This will permanently cripple the economy and take away the country's ability to stand on its own two feet, and completely

turn the country into a launching pad for US wars of aggression.


The push of "chacha" opens a new field of resistance for the Filipino people to advance their patriotic and democratic interests. The national-democratic forces must thoroughly engage in this battle to unite and mobilize the largest number of people to frustrate the dark scheme of the US-Marcos regime.

A broad and intensive campaign of education, propaganda and mass agitation should be carried out in communities, factories, schools, markets, churches and so on. Exert all possible efforts to reach millions of citizens through various forms of mass propaganda (written statements, mass discussions, assemblies, cultural performances and so on). Promote a comprehensive antifascist, anti-imperialist and antifeudal position against the "chacha." Expose the roots of the crisis in the economy and people's livelihood. Expose how the country is tied to the political and economic interests of the US, and how the lack of independence is now allowing the country to be dragged into the rivalry and strife between the imperialist powers.

The opportunity must be seized to expand and strengthen mass organizations and unions. At the same time, different forms, levels and breadth of anti-"chacha" alliances (against one or several aspects of it) must be formed to win over a wide range of middle forces, including the millions who took part in the 2022 mass actions against the Marcos-Duterte clique.

The determined and militant resistance of the Filipino people will stop the anti-people and pro-imperialist "chacha." The fight to oppose Marcos' plot to remove the anti-dictatorship legacy of the 1987 Constitution adds historical significance to the upcoming commemoration of the anniversary of the EDSA uprising on February 25, and will serve as an ideal opportunity to rally the people against the US-regime Marcos.

AB




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# Production further slumps, unemployment balloons

Mass layoffs and factory closures marked the Philippine economy in 2023. Tens of thousands of jobs were lost en masse as foreign companies moved their operations overseas. The most striking examples are the mass layoffs in Mactan Export Processing Zone, including 10,000 layoffs from Sports Center International, a Taiwanese company, which supplies clothing to large American and European companies. There were also layoffs at semiconductor companies, such as Nexperia, a Dutch company, which closed a department to save on production costs and target the local labor union.

According to a study by Ibon Foundation, up to 1.4 million people lost their jobs in November 2023. This is a third of the total employment in the manufacturing subsector in November 2022. Currently, 2.9 million are employed in the subsector, almost just as many as in 2003 (2.8 million). Current manufacturing employment numbers are at a 20-year low.

The first three quarters of 2023 saw the lowest growth rate of the manufacturing sector in the last 75 years. During that period, the sector was only 17.6% of the total gross domestic product (GDP) in

2023, the lowest level since the 16.3% recorded in 1949. (In 2000, manufacturing was 25% of GDP; and 20% in 2013.)

Manufacturing "grew" by only 0.3% even in the last quarter of 2023, despite capitalists' hopes that the subsector would be "stimulated". Manufacturing is expected to plunge steadily in the first quarter of 2024, driven by a typical post-holiday consumption slowdown, high inflation and high loan interest rates. The same is expected for the whole of 2024 due to high prices of basic commodities, raw materials and production costs.

## No basic industries

From the outset, foreign capital, mainly of the US, overpowered and stunted emerging industries in the Philippines in the early part of the 20th century. Researches say the growth of Filipino industries has been stunted since the 1960s. This has kept Philippine production backward, agrarian and non-industrialized.

Declarations of the reactionary state that the Philippines will "industrialize" in the first decade of the 2000 century, such as the US-Ramos regime's "Philippines 2000" slogan, are all hollow and deceptions. Successive regimes implemented all-out neoliberal measures (liberalization, deregulation and privatization) in accordance with the framework of imperialist "globalization" purportedly to "develop" the Philippines. The reverse happened with industry slipping down steadily in over three decades. (See chart). Its share in total employment also did not rise above 15%.

The largest part of manufacturing, in terms of value, is focused on semiprocessing products (assembly and manual inspection) for export. This is part of an international assembly line, in the so-called "global value chain" of monopoly capitalists. Hectares upon hectares of land of labor enclaves (export processing zones or EPZs) were specifically set aside for them where they enjoy benefits and incentives. Recently, they also received further favors with the law exempting them from tax (CREATE law) and policies that provide "ease of doing business."

Foreign companies in these enclaves are not connected, upstream or downstream, with the local economy, other than employing cheap and docile labor power and skills of Filipino workers.

*"Production further..." continue on page 4*



The fight against fake modernization continues

THOUSANDS OF DRIVERS, operators and their families once again marched on January 16 in Manila to defend their livelihood and demand the return of their 5-year franchise. They gathered in Quezon City then conducted a caravan towards Mendiola in Manila but were blocked by police in España, Manila. They held a program here until the next morning.

Before this, they staged a picket at the House of Representatives in Quezon City on January 10 coinciding with the committee hearing on transportation regarding the call to scrap the US-Marcos regime's fake modernization.

In the said hearing, patriotic congressmen grilled the officials of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) who insisted on the forced consolidation of franchises. It was revealed that a large number of jeepneys did not consolidate, contrary to the agency's claims. Many routes have also not been fixed, which is required for consolidation.

In the Senate and Congress, there emerged calls to suspend the forced consolidation until the many issues raised by drivers and operators are resolved. There were also calls to investigate allegations of corruption committed by LTFRB officials who colluded with the former Duterte regime in the purchase of whole foreign "modern vehicles" to replace traditional jeepneys, which are partly locally manufactured.

Meanwhile, youths protested at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) office at Ortigas Center in Mandaluyong City on January 19 to condemn the bank's role in the sham transportation modernization. The agency peddles imported "modern jeeps" under the guise of fighting "climate change." On January 19, the same excuse was used by the Office of the Solicitor General in response to Piston's petition against the forced consolidation of individual franchises.

NPA-Mabate harasses 96th IB

A UNIT OF the New People's Army (NPA)-Masbate hit the 96th IB troopers operating in Sitio Lantawan, Barangay Gangao, Baleno, Masbate on January 13. The said military unit was shook and immediately hid their casualties to cover up their losses.

According to Ka Luz del Mar, spokesperson of NPA-Mabate, the armed offensive is part of their efforts to obtain justice for the victims of military abuses and defend the people against the ongoing military rule in the province.

Among those referred to by Ka Luz include the 24 victims of political killings in Masbate under the US-Marcos regime. Residents are also very indignant at the persistent encampment of counter-insurgency units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in schools in the province.

Prostitution also became rampant in the areas where military camps were built.

In addition, the military unit is also involved in instigating drinking inside and outside their camp and when they get drunk, they fire guns and cause distress among residents. Residents have also complained of prostitution within the military camp itself.

"Production further..." from page 3

Foreign capitalists take advantage of slave-like wages (especially since the implementation of wage regionalization in 1997) and laws allowing contractualization.

They take full advantage of the no-union and no strike policy in the name of "industrial peace," and in recent years, the NTF-Elcaclel armed repression by fascist military and police.

Foreign capitalists are not obligated to keep or revolve their superprofits within the Philippines. They are also free to move their operations in and out

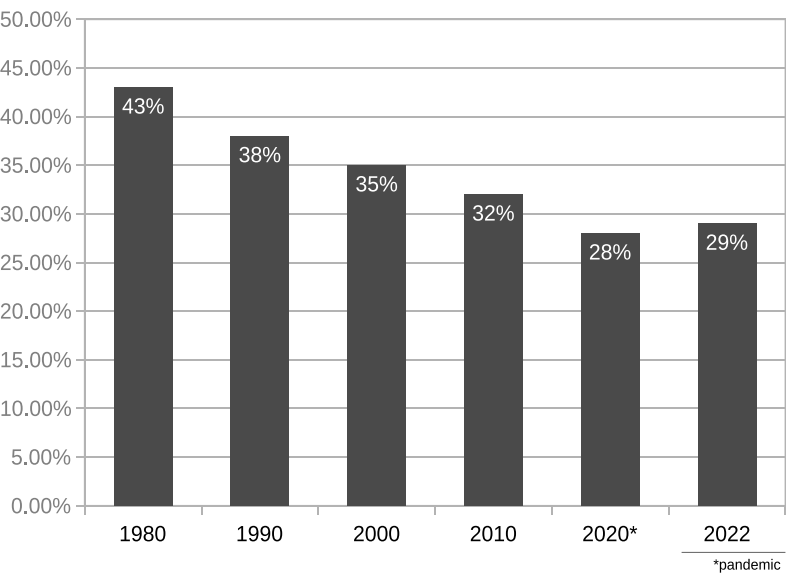
of the country without transferring knowledge or technology that can be used by Filipino capitalists.

In the past four decades, many

large companies entered the country, took advantage of cheap labor, benefited from incentives, made hundreds of millions of dollars, but

eventually left to move their operations to other underdeveloped countries. Examples of these are companies like Intel Corporation, which operated for 35 years in the country, Hanjin (12 years) and Shell/Chevron (21 years). Then, as now, these companies brought no industrial development, and left leaving nothing but thousands of unemployed workers.

Chart: Industry share in GDP



# The NPA will outlast the US-Marcos regime

People were incredulous over Ferdinand Marcos Jr's recent declaration that the New People's Army (NPA) no longer has an "active guerrilla front" nationwide. Even the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was forced to contradict it, although said that the supposedly 11 guerrilla fronts are "weakened". According to AFP, the NPA only has 1,500 Red fighters by the end of 2023.

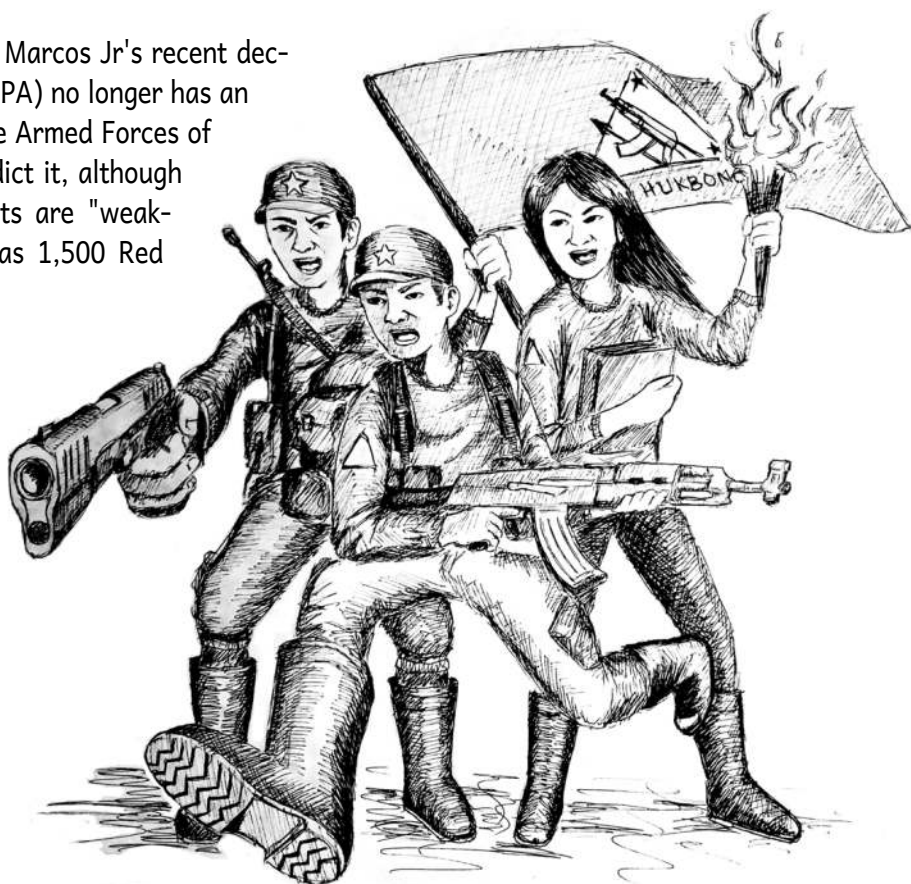
The statements of Marcos and the AFP serve the purpose of enticing foreign capitalists. They make it appear that the NPA is non-existent or weak to give large foreign companies all the opportunity to plunder the country's land and natural resources.

## Pouring funds and forces

The regime's own actions belie their statements. Despite repeated declarations of a "paradigm shift" by the AFP, a large part of its battalions remain deployed in NPA territories. No military forces have been shifted to prepare for the much touted "external defense."

Around 60,000-70,000 military and police combat troops (or 150 battalions of AFP and PNP counterinsurgency units) remain arrayed against the people's army across the country. There are also the 50,000-strong paramilitary force and the construction of military camps in hundreds of barangays across the country. If the regime's numbers of "remaining" Red fighters are true, the ratio of soldiers, police and paramilitaries to Red fighters will be 80:1.

Marcos also inflated the AFP budget by almost 40% from ₱203.4 billion last year to ₱282.7 billion this year. This includes the last-minute insertion of ₱6.17 billion by the bicameral committee of the Senate and Congress. Much of the military's funding are for buying US-supplied jet fighters and drones used for the frenzied and decadent war of aerial bombing, artillery and all-out military operations in the countryside. The National Task Force-Elcac also received ₱3.18 billion.



In fact, focused military operations continue and are relentless, squandering large funds in many regions of the country. In Southern Mindanao, 19 battalions remain deployed under the control of the 10th ID despite the region being declared "insurgency-free" for more than a year. The regime also maintains and funds about 400 CAFGU detachments and 13 paramilitary forces in the region.

In Eastern Visayas, the 8th ID itself announced that it will continue to mobilize 14 battalions (or equivalent to 5,600 soldiers) throughout the region to "pursue" the alleged 119 remaining Red fighters in the provinces here. The division commander also said he will use all military weapons to already "annihilate" the people's army.

In Cagayan Valley, the 5th ID sent 100 new soldiers on January 16 to "completely eliminate insurgency throughout the division's jurisdiction." This is contrary to the 5th ID commander's boast last December 2023 that the people's army is "no longer capable" of launching politico-military work in the region and that they foresee "complete victory"

against the NPA early in the year.

## Just struggle

In fact, the NPA operates in 14 regional commands each having its own number of guerrilla fronts.

The Red army is far from defeated despite the setbacks it suffered in recent years due to internal weaknesses. Since the struggle is just and the NPA represents the aspirations of the farmers and workers who make up the vast majority of the Filipino people, it is bound to persist and move forward.

The NPA continues to carry out guerrilla maneuvers to break out from the AFP's encirclement, steadily build a wider mass base and expand its guerrilla fronts. It will continue to launch tactical offensives to hit the enemy's weak points where they are least expecting it.

The NPA vow to outlast Marcos, just as it outlasted his father and all US-backed governments in the past 35 years which all boasted of crushing the NPA. Under the guidance of the Party, the NPA has learned its lessons and is determined to frustrate the brutal offensives of the AFP.

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# Conflicts among the ruling factions leading towards violent clash

It was confirmed that International Criminal Court (ICC) personnel arrived in the Philippines to investigate the crimes against humanity case filed against Rodrigo Duterte and his accomplices. According to the lawyers of the victims, the investigation against Duterte is complete. The investigation into other named accomplices, including his daughter and current vice-president Sara Duterte, is also almost complete. It is probable that the court will issue an arrest warrant this year.

The court quietly conducted the investigation despite earlier repeated statements by the Marcos regime that it would not allow the ICC to enter the country. Earlier, the regime said it would "study" a resolution in Congress aimed at clarifying the status of the Philippines after it withdrew membership from the court in 2018.

These are part of Marcos' steps to undermine the political and economic power of the Duterte clique, completely dissolving the alliance they formed during the last election. These are related to the US-Marcos regime's initiatives to counter and push back China's influence in the Philippines, in accordance with US dictates.

Since the end of its term, the Duterte clique has been relentlessly maneuvering to preserve its own political and economic interests. In the face of its dwindling power, it made numerous political maneuvers and

schemes, including the plan to oust Ferdinand Marcos Jr. from power.

Duterte is mobilizing the generals he has enriched during his term to urge their men to "withdraw support" from the ruling faction.

In the last months of 2023, rumors circulated about the Duterte group's preparation for a destabilization plan to oust Marcos from power through a coup. Officials close to Gloria Arroyo's camp were also involved in the call to "withdraw support" from Marcos. There is information that the Duterte group allocated one billion pesos for this plan. Its main operator is former Col. Nicanor Faeldon, an official assigned by Duterte to the Bureau of Customs.

The Marcos clique actively thwarted these plans by further bribing the mercenary military to buy the loyalty of the generals. It withdrew plans to collect pension contributions, and set longer terms

for appointed military chiefs to accommodate the generals' desire to alternate among powerful positions and receive larger retirement bonuses. In collusion with the US, Marcos consolidated his hold on the military by pouring funds for the "modernization" of the AFP and the "repair" of facilities and camps. Such preparation also serves the permanent basing of US troops and military equipment in the country.

At the behest of the US, the Marcos regime revived the Counter-intelligence Group (CIG) within the AFP on January 11. The CIG was a special unit set up in 1989 to counter coups launched against Corazon Aquino. According to the AFP, in addition to countering destabilization plans, it will also act against "infiltration, espionage and sabotage."

Marcos is constantly putting pressure and depriving the Dutertes and Arroyo of power using Congress led by his cousin Martin Romualdez. At the same time, Marcos cancelled the large infrastructure contracts which the Duterte regime forged with the Chinese government and businesses.

The open rivalry between the Marcos, Arroyo and Duterte factions shows that the conflicts between the ruling factions have become irreconcilable. Sooner or later, the clash of these groups will lead to armed conflict. This reflects the depth of the economic and political crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system resulting in the shrinking of the loot to be shared among greedy for wealth and power-hungry factions.





# The miserable situation of Misamis Oriental coconut farmers

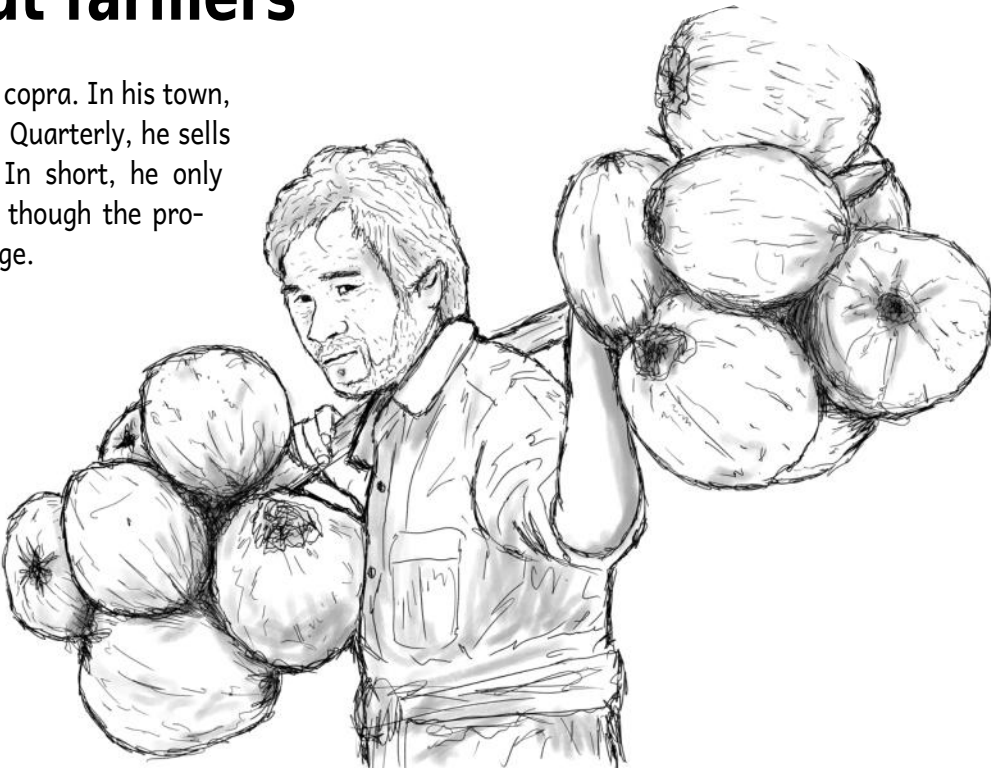
Tatay Gil makes a living by selling copra. In his town, copra sells for only ₱25 per kilo. Quarterly, he sells only 300 kilos of copra to buyers. In short, he only earns ₱7,500. This is very low even though the processing company is close to their village.

Misamis Oriental province is known as the leading source of coconut in the whole of Mindanao. Companies that process it in the region include the subsidiary of the giant multinational company Wilmar International in Gingoog City; Pilipinas Kao, a subsidiary of the Japanese company Kao Corporation, in Jasaan town; Fiesta Brand in Medina owned by the Campos family (NutriAsia); and Cagayan de Oro Oil held by United Coconut Planters Bank. These mostly foreign companies monopolize the coconut industry, from buying copra to processing it into finished products.

In Tatay Gil's case, he only earns ₱83 a day. This is very little compared to the ₱134 bare minimum needed to support his family, including his elderly parents who depend on him. His income is so low that there is almost nothing left to buy viands. He faces the big problem of where to get funds when his parents get sick. To increase his income, Tatay Gil does not rely only on selling copra. He also sells coffee and bamboo to help with expenses.

Even more wretched is the situation of Tatay Magno who sells whole coconuts. In three months, he harvests only 100 pieces. He de-husks them before weighing them. A hundred pieces weigh only up to 60 kilos. Selling for ₱5 per kilo, Tatay Magno earns only ₱300 every three months or ₱3 per day.

Because income from selling coconuts is not enough, Tatay Magno also sells lawi (reed material for making house brooms). Every month, Tatay Magno and his wife save 50



kilos of lawi which they sell for ₱60 per kilo. From this they earn ₱2,900 (minus ₱100 for fare) per month or ₱97 per day.

The bare minimum daily needs of Tatay Magno, his wife and their two grandchildren who are studying in elementary school costs ₱251. Due to the very cheap selling price of their product and meager income, the couple are deep in debt from the store to keep up with their daily needs.

Tatay Gil and Tatay Magno are just two among the farmers who suffer from the drastic fall in the price of coconuts in the province. This is despite the increasing demand for coconut in the global market. Coconut and its oil-based products include coco-chemicals, laundry and bath soaps, shampoo, baby oil, pomade, compact disks, refined coco oil, dessicated coconut and coconut milk products. Coconut farmers receive no subsidy when coconut selling prices plummet. Thus, they need to get various jobs also paying very low wages.

### Ordeal made worse by corruption

The families of Tatay Gil, Tatay

Magno and thousands of others in Misamis Oriental have been coconut farm workers for decades. They are among the small coconut farmers who suffered from the onerous coco levy during the US-Marcos Sr. dictatorship under the 1972-1986 martial law. Until now, the funds which belong to them and which they have long been fighting for have not been returned to them. Instead, the funds are now in the hands of the US-Marcos regime.

A few days before stepping down, Rodrigo Duterte virtually gifted the coco levy fund to Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when he issued the order that allowed the Department of Agriculture to use the fund to "develop" the coconut sector. By virtue of Executive Order No. 172, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan was laid out under the department. Not surprisingly, Marcos Jr. immediately took over the department when he came to power in 2022. He stayed in the DA for one year without improving the livelihood of coconut farmers, and instead worsening their suffering.

AB

250

killed  
daily by  
Israel

in its more than three-month  
genocidal campaign against Palestine.

This is the highest number of deaths in major  
armed conflicts in the past few years.

Source: Oxfam

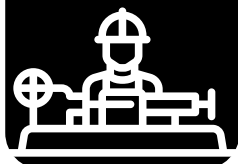
₱54/kilo

the current average price of local  
regular milled rice in December  
2023, compared to its price of  
₱38/kilo throughout 2022.

Imported rice is even higher at **₱62/  
kilo**, contrary to claims by the  
reactionary state that importation will  
bring down prices.

Source: Bantay Bigas, January 15, 2024

8%



or more is the true unemployment  
rate in the Philippines. This means  
more than 4 million are outright  
unemployed.

In addition, there are **35-50 million**  
who are employed but in informal or  
very low-wage jobs.

Source: Ibon Foundation

\$869  
BILLION

the combined wealth of the  
world's five richest  
individuals in 2023, more  
than double the \$405 billion  
they recorded in 2020.



Meanwhile, more than 5 billion people  
became poorer in 2020.

Source: Oxfam International

₱500-₱5,000



will be deducted by PhilHealth for  
overseas Filipino workers and Filipino  
migrants who earn **₱10,000-₱100,000**  
after Marcos Jr. imposed the agency's fee  
increase from 4% to 5%.

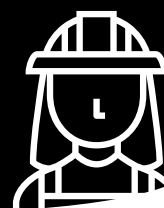
This was condemned by Migrante International as  
Philhealth is useless when they get sick in another country.

39 million  
gallons

or 147,630,994.2 liters of oil was  
transferred by the US military  
from its military base in Pearl  
Harbor, Hawaii to Subic Bay  
Freeport this January.

Subic is not among the publicized  
"EDCA sites," even though the US has  
long been using it.

930,000  
WORKERS



mostly women were  
dropped from the labor  
force count in November  
2023, allegedly for  
choosing to "do  
household work."

They account for a large  
portion of the total of 1.6  
million dropped that month.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



# 62nd IB military abuses in Central Negros continues

Units of the 62nd IB carried out a series of murders, attempted murders, harassment and other human rights violations on Negros island in recent weeks.

Soldiers abducted, tortured then killed two civilians in Barangay Sag-ang, La Castellana, Negros Occidental on the morning of January 17. To cover up their heinous crime, the soldiers made it appear that Boy Baloy, 60 years old, and Bernard Torres, 50, were killed in the military's modus of fake encounter.

Baloy and Torres were picked up from their residence, taken away outside the community, subjected to intense interrogation, beaten and tortured, then shot by the butchers. Baloy is a member of Kaisahan sa Gamay'ng Mag-uuma sa Oriental Negros (KAUGMAON-Guihulngan Chapter), while Torres is a habal-habal driver and a member of the Undoc-Piston-Guihulngan Chapter. Since 2017, the two

have repeatedly suffered intimidation and harassment by state forces and agents.

The two were not Red fighters, according to the New People's Army (NPA)-Central Negros.

**Attempted murder.** Soldiers shot at farmer Cerilo Bagnoran Jr while riding his motorcycle and traveling in Crossing Cordova, Barangay Manghanoy, La Castellana on January 14. Bagnora was on his way home when three elements of the 62nd IB Charlie Company flagged him down at Crossing Cordova before opening fire.

Before the attempted killing of Bagnoran, he was being sought after by men who identified themselves as police on January 7 in his village. On January 8, 24 62nd IB soldiers operating at Sitio Man-

dayao-4, Barangay Kamandag, La Castellana were asking for him.

**Intimidation.** The Carreon family in Sitio Bonbon, Barangay Hinakpan, Guihulngan City was not spared from the state's brutality and terrorism. About 40 troopers of the 62nd IB forcibly entered and ransacked the family's house on the morning of January 14. The soldiers illegally ransacked the family's belongings and searched for the house owner Bimbo Carreon. The military attack caused fear among the family, especially the children.

Meanwhile, in Cavite, farmers of Lupang Ramos in Dasmariñas were subjected to grave threats on January 15. Five Philippine Army Scout Ranger elements entered the said community in a military truck and opened fire on the residents. Farmers here have been fighting for their right to 372 hectares of land since 2014.

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## International groups condemn aerial bombing in Bukidnon

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) and Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle condemned the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the bombing of a New People's Army (NPA) camp in Malaybalay City on December 25, 2023. The groups said the bombing, which used excessive or disproportionate force against the small and poorly-defended NPA camp, is against international humanitarian law (IHL).

They said such bombing is "inherently indiscriminate", endangers the lives and livelihoods of civilians and causes extensive destruction to the environment. It disrupted peace, brought widespread fear, panic and trauma among residents in nearby communities and destroyed forest resources that serve as source of food and livelihood. The disproportionate force also inflicted unnecessary harm and suffering to Red fighters.

Meanwhile, 14 youth groups from the Philippines, India, Myan-

mar, Palestine, West Papua, the US and Canada came together to call for an end to the bombings in Palestine, India, Myanmar and the Philippines. They say the imperialists and their accomplices are using brazen bombing, strafing and shelling against civilians under the guise of "crushing" armed movements that prevail in the countries mentioned.

Youths condemned the killing of more than 24,000 Palestinians in Gaza by Zionist Israeli bombing.



More than 70% of the victims were women, children and teenagers. They also denounced the aerial drone attacks in Bastar, Chattisgarh and Telengana in India and the ongoing bombing campaign of the Marcos regime in the Philippines. In Myanmar, groups condemned at least 643 airstrikes launched by the military junta that seized state power in 2021.

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## Revolutionary groups put up streamers and posters in Rizal and Manila

REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS in Metro Manila and in the adjacent province of Rizal carried out *oplan sabit* and *oplan dikit* (streamer and poster operations) to celebrate the anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the revolutionary movement.

In Rizal, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-Rizal hang streamers on January 9 in Antipolo City to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Party and the first anniversary of the death of Comrade Jose Maria Sison. They hung two large streamers in the city market where many people pass by.

On EDSA Avenue in Metro Manila, members of the Artist and Writer of Sambayanan (Armas)-Balangay Marlon Caacbay posted artwork and painted on walls last week to celebrate the 37th anniversary of Armas. The group highlighted their support for the people's war in the country to overthrow imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. The group also denounced the existing bourgeois-decadent culture rotting the country's art and literature.

## 6-month old infant, victim of counterinsurgency campaign in India

INDIAN REACTIONARY STATE forces killed a 6-month-old baby in Mutvendi, Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh state on January 1. State forces say there was an "encounter" with Maoist guerrillas when the child was killed, a claim residents refute.

According to witnesses, Massi Vadde was breastfeeding her 6-month-old baby when Indian security forces opened fire in a forested area of Mutvendi. The bullet went through Massi Vadde's hand killing her baby.

The Communist Party of India (Maoist) West Bastar Division has also clarified that no encounter took place that day. According to CPI (Maoist) divisional secretary Mohan, the community was attacked because of their opposition to militarization and resistance to corporate dispossession of their land.

The police are from Kavadgaon (near Mutvendi). This is one of the three police camps in Bijapur district newly built in December 2023.

The terrorist attack by the state forces on Indians, particularly on the Adivasi or indigenous people of India, is part of the ongoing Operation SAMADHAN-Prahar, the India government's counterinsurgency campaign. Its implementation began on 2017 to crush the CPI (Maoist) and its armed forces, and is being used to target the unarmed struggle of the Indian people.

In the last five years of its operation, the state built at least 195 paramilitary camps. These camps are built with the collusion of big corporations and the fascist regime to oust and suppress the democratic resistance of the Adivasi and the Indian people.

In a related news, Indian youth and teachers of Delhi University protested at their campus in Delhi, India on January 10 to condemn and demand an end to Operation SAMADHAN-Prahar.

**Oppose reclamation.** Fishermen and environmentalists protested on January 19 at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon City to reiterate their demand to stop reclamation projects in the country. It was timed with the 5th anniversary of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

**Free Mary Jane Veloso.** Mary Jane Veloso's relatives and supporters protested in Mendiola, Manila on January 10 to demand the Marcos regime to ask Indonesia to release Veloso after nearly 14 years of imprisonment. Veloso has been imprisoned in Indonesia since 2010 when she became a victim of human and drug trafficking. The picket coincided with Veloso's birthday and Indonesian President Joko Widodo's visit to the Philippines.

**Mass layoff of Filipino migrant workers in New Zealand, resisted.** Workers gathered in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in New Zealand on January 19 to demand ELE and the Philippine government to immediately give them their unpaid wages and the aid they deserve. More than 1,000 workers, including 495 Filipino workers, lost their jobs when ELE Holdings Ltd in New Zealand declared bankruptcy four days before Christmas in December 2023. ELE Holdings is a group of five companies that include a large manpower agency that employs temporary migrant workers.

**Stop mining in Homonhon and Manicani.** Residents of Eastern Samar, led by the Save Homonhon Movement, mounted another protest rally last January 20 in Guiuan town to demand a stop to destructive mining in the islands of Homonhon and Manicani. Religious groups and parishes of the Catholic church in the province participated.