

EDITORIAL

## US war of disinformation pushes the Philippines to war

**I**t is crystal clear that US imperialism is no friend of the Filipino people. This was undoubtedly proven by how the US military's exposed clandestine campaign targeted Filipinos during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. The evil intent of the US was to poison the minds of Filipinos with disinformation about the Sinovac vaccine from China, to question its safety or efficacy, in order to favor US-made vaccines like Pfizer and Moderna. The US disinformation campaign seriously endangered Philippine public health, and is believed to have been a factor in the slow progress in the country's immunization efforts.

The said disinformation campaign was led and funded by the US Pentagon or Department of Defense. It started under the former Trump administration, and continued in the early months of the current Biden administration. The US invested heavily in deploying soldiers and other personnel to create and operate hundreds of fake social media accounts to influence Filipinos with the slogan "China is the virus".

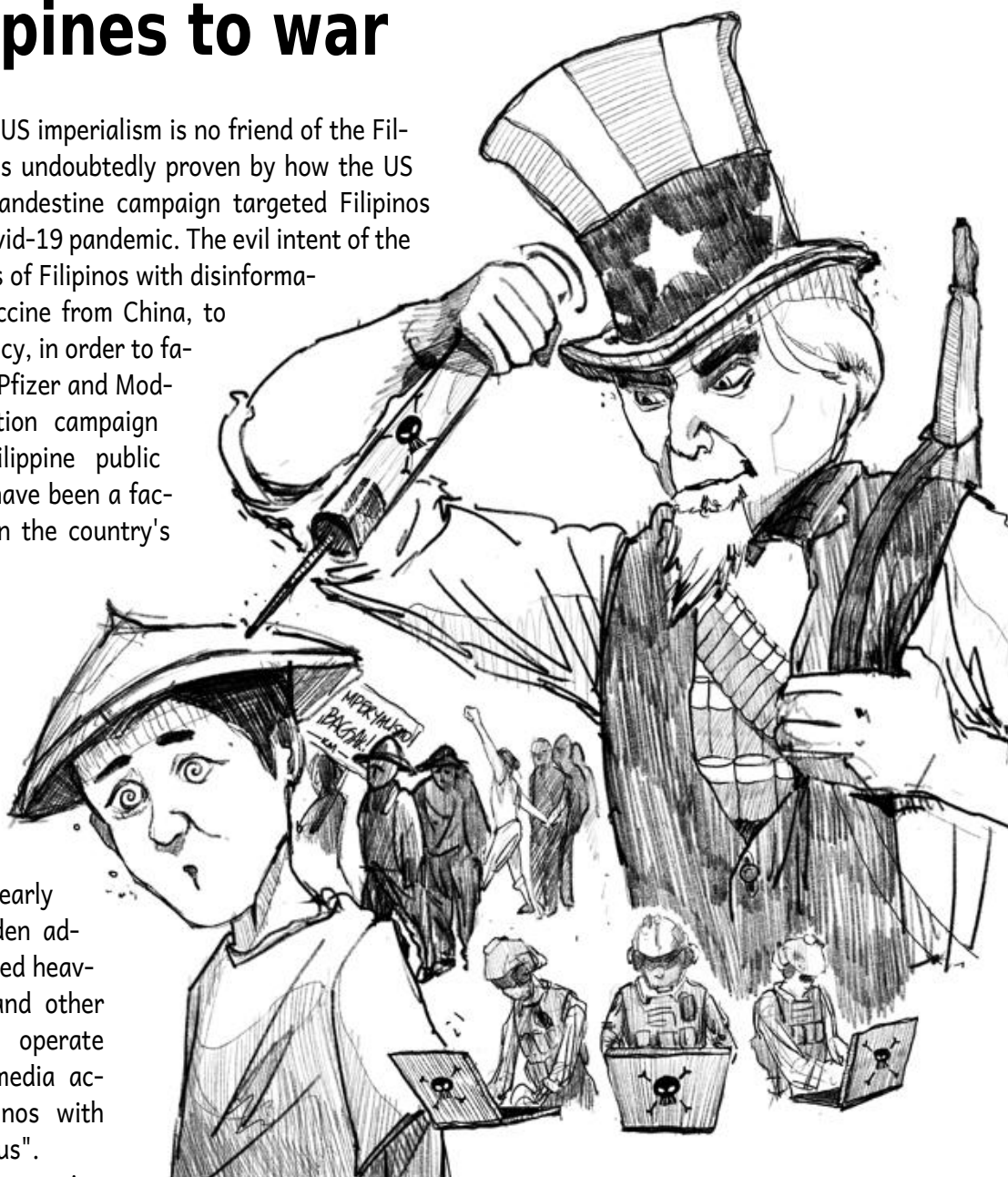
This disinformation campaign was carried out by the US military in accordance with the "active combat" doctrine, that guides the US in its competition and conflict with its imperialist rivals, China and Russia. The US uses its military forces in "active combat" despite the absence of direct armed conflict. This is done in conjunction with economic pressure (such as sanctions or investment and trade restrictions), as well as the active use of military force to

counter the growing power and influence of its rivals.

Such a disinformation campaign or information war is still being waged today by US imperialism in the Philippines. It targets the minds of Filipinos to portray the US as their "friend, partner and ally", and China as their "enemy". Together with its puppets in the Marcos government, as well as some senators and congressmen, US-funded "think

tanks" and influenced people in the bourgeois media, the minds of the Filipinos are being shaped to make them accept the presence and dominance of American troops in and around the country.

They promote the perverted notion that the US is a "big brother" that will "defend" the "helpless" Filipinos, which contradicts the fact that US imperialism has twice waged war against the Philippines



to take away the freedom won by Filipinos in their revolutionary struggles, first against Spanish colonialism, and second, against the Japanese occupation. It is now being claimed that, under the Mutual Defense Treaty, the US will "help" the Philippines against China, when in reality, the US will not act without prioritizing its own interests. The US is using its military agreements with the Philippines to use the country as a large military base to launch war provocations against China.

The US and the Marcos regime are now fanning Sinophobia, promoting hysteria, suspicion, fear or anger against China and all Chinese in the Philippines. Despite the lack of concrete evidence, they spread speculations about Chinese spies, infiltration and secret groups of Chinese soldiers in the Philippines. Marcos himself leads the pack, re-

peatedly insinuating that China is a major "external threat" to the Philippines over maritime disputes. While stories of "China's invasion plans" are being woven, US military forces reign supreme and openly use the country's land, air and seas for war exercises and preparations.

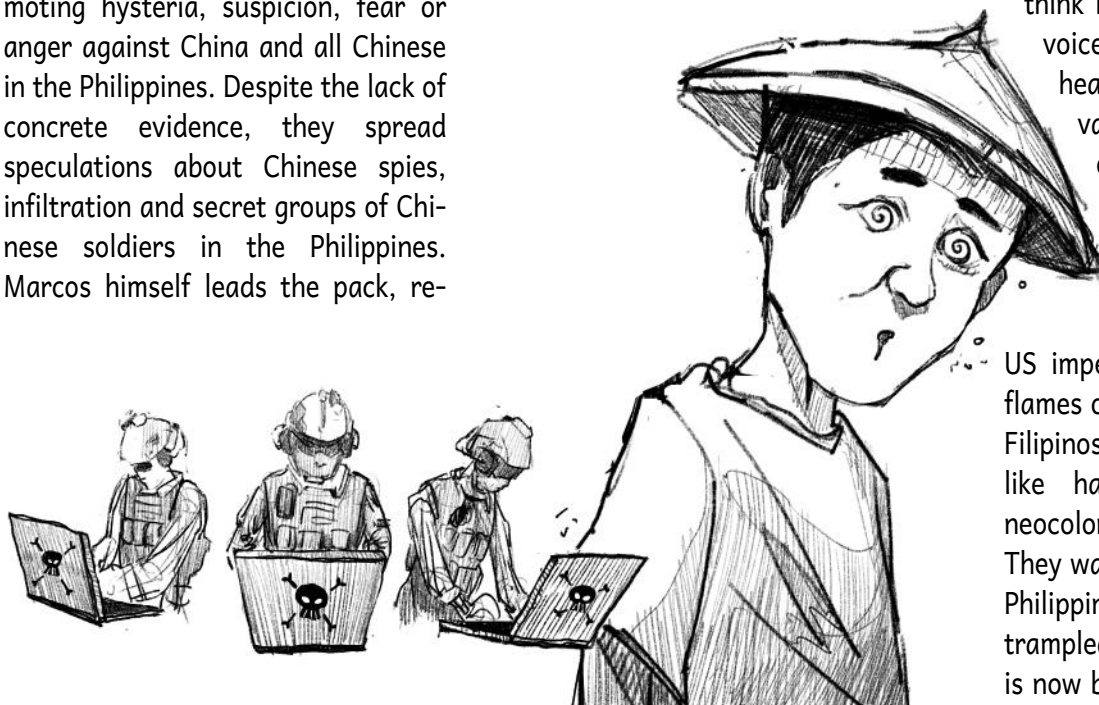
In collusion with the US, the AFP and the Philippine Coast Guard have repeatedly brought in construction materials to its "supply mission" on the Ayungin Shoal, which they know will irate China as this violates its previous agreements with the Philippines. The US and the

Marcos regime are deliberately obstructing the path of dialogue or negotiation, which should be the way to peacefully resolve maritime disputes. Following the relentless provocations of the US-Marcos regime, China has become aggressive and hostile in dealing with the Philippines, and in its refusal to recognize the rights of the Philippines as affirmed by the international tribunal in 2016.

The US imperialism is relentless, persistent and pours unlimited resources to dominate all fields of the information war, to make Filipinos think like slaves and traitors. The voice of US imperialism can be heard daily speaking through various forms and personas on social media, in the news, from the very mouths of Marcos and his government officials.

The devious aim of US imperialism is to extinguish all flames of patriotism in the hearts of Filipinos and make the people feel like happy prisoners under its neocolonial rule in the Philippines. They want the people to accept how Philippine sovereignty is being trampled upon, and how the country is now being used by the US to provoke an armed conflict with China. They want Filipinos to close their eyes to the obvious fact that the country is now an instrument of US geopolitical strategy, aimed at imposing hegemony in various parts of the world and subjugating any opposing country or force.

The Filipino people must be vigilant, expose and reject the disinformation war being waged by the US and Marcos regime to control or influence their thinking, psychology and emotions. There is no other more effective way other than to conduct a study movement to learn from history, not from the bourgeois or US point-of-view, but from the perspective of the masses in resistance, to awaken and heighten the people's patriotic spirit, as they march along the path of struggle for genuine national freedom. AB



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANG</b> <i>Bayan</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vol LV No. 12   Hunyo 21, 2024</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray, and English. Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center; text-decoration: underline;">Contents</h2> <p><b>Editorial:</b> US war of disinformation pushes the Philippines to war 1</p> <p>NPA-Western Samar snipes soldiers 3</p> <p>NPA-Negros responds to Mt. Kanlaon victims 3</p> <p>Rallies commemorate bogus independence day 3</p> <p>US, a threat to Philippine sovereignty 3</p> <p>Masses' unwavering support for the revolution 4</p> <p>Rectification movement in Negros 5</p> <p>Divorced, but still united 6</p> <p>In short 7</p> <p>Toiling masses carry the burden caused by El Niño 8</p> <p>Hacienda Roxas: Proof of CARP's rottenness 9</p> <p>Peasants protest on CARP's 36th year 9</p> <p>Military kills 16-year-old student 10</p> <p>Protests 10</p>
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<p> <a href="mailto:ang.bayan@cpp.ph">ang.bayan@cpp.ph</a></p>	

## **NPA-Western Samar snipes soldiers setting up camp in community**

SNIPERS OF THE New People's Army (NPA)-Western Samar (Arnulfo Ortiz Command) fired upon soldiers of the 87th IB encamped in Sitio San Pedro, Barangay Poblacion 3, San Jose de Buan, Samar on June 9. The soldiers were erecting a fence in the sitio to enclose the area for their planned detachment

The sniping killed Corporal Marvin Calvin-tos of the 87th IB. Red fighters opened fire on the soldiers injuring a number of them.

In retaliation, soldiers targeted civilian communities. They fired artillery shells at mountains and farmfields near the said sitio, terrorizing the farmers. Most of the farmers were not able to work on their farms. Others were forced to evacuate for fear of being hit by the shelling.

San Pedro has been militarized since 2024. A long list of human rights violations have been recorded in the area.

## **Rallies commemorate bogus independence day**

HERE AND ABROAD, national-democratic groups protested to condemn the continued US imperialist neocolonial rule in the country on June 12, the day of the country's false independence.

They marched towards the US embassy on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and called on the Filipino people to expose and oppose US imperialism and fight for genuine freedom and democracy in the Philippines.

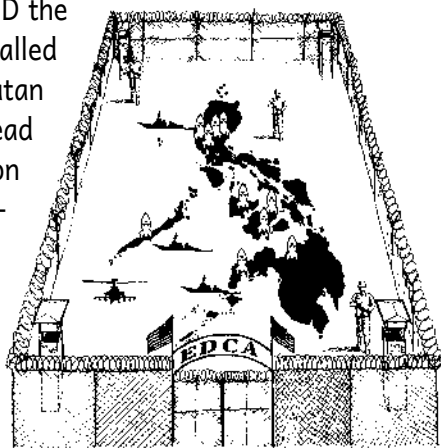
Meanwhile, democratic organizations from Southern Tagalog held a caravan in the towns of Cavite, including Kawit where the false independence of the Philippines was declared. In Cebu City, Bayan-Central Visayas also held a demonstration on Colon Street.

Various activities and actions were launched in San Francisco and Los Angeles in California, in Washington, Chicago and Oregon.

Meanwhile, chapters of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines from different regions and its allied organizations issued statements regarding the bogus independence day. They said attaining genuine freedom for the Philippines can only be achieved through the victory of the people's democratic revolution.

## **US military bases and war games are threats to Philippine sovereignty**

THE COMMUNITIES AROUND the US military bases, or so-called "EDCA sites" and Balikatan 2024 venues saw widespread negligence, disinformation and repression by the reactionary government and US military. This is the conclusion of a fact-finding mission conducted by Bayan-USA and PINAS Peace mission in Central Luzon, Ilocos Norte and Marawi City. They publicized the results of their 3-week investigation on June 12.



Among the delegation's findings were US stockpiling of suspected military equipment outside designated "EDCA sites" and American soldiers' exploitation of the Cagayan people's resources; collusion between private companies and the military; lack of notification to the Balikatan venues of Ilocos and Cagayan communities which traumatized and terrorized the civilian population; and militarization, harassment and Red-tagging against communities who were only defending their livelihoods. In Marawi City, local officials reported the disinformation regarding the military base and "economic zone" being built near ground zero using EDCA funds.

The delegation said all these are a threat to the freedom of Filipinos. The Marcos regime, as well as the US government under Joseph Biden, must be held accountable for the damage its militarism brings to the poorest sectors.

## **NPA-Negros responds to the victims of Mt. Kanlaon eruption**

UNITS AND COMMANDS under the New People's Army (NPA)-Negros Island (Apolinario Gatmaitan Command) were mobilized to support and help the Negrosanon masses affected by the Mt. Kanlaon eruption. It erupted on June 3 and communities in Central Negros experienced lahar torrents from the volcano on June 6 as a result of heavy rains that mixed with volcanic ash.

The Kanlaon Volcano eruption doubled the suffering of the Negrosanon people as they have yet to recover from the drought during El Niño.

Reports said as many as 15,511 families (nearly 50,000 people) in 23 barangays were affected by the volcanic eruption on June 18. The damage to the agricultural sector is estimated to reach ₱10 million.

Instead of concrete and legitimate assistance, the Marcos Jr regime merely carried out performative acts of giving unsustainable aid for politicking and military propaganda. Amid the calamity, the 303rd IBde declared that it would not relax its combat operations in the affected communities. On several occasions, the military even used "assistance and aid distribution" for counterinsurgency campaigns and forced the "surrender" of civilians.

# Unwavering support for the revolution of the masses of Samar

Generations may have passed, but the support of the peasant masses of Samar for the New People's Army (NPA) remain unwavering. This was the message of the revolutionary masses in the province when they had an opportunity to meet the NPA after some time.

"Our parents raised me and my siblings having the high respect for comrades," said Ka Amboy in a simple but meaningful celebration of the NPA's 55th anniversary on March 29. Despite being unacquainted with most of the new fighters who came to them, he immediately became familiar and comfortable with the comrades. "I remember my father's words, that wherever we go and meet the NPA, they are ours, because they fight for poor people like us."

Ka Amboy always reminds his barriofolk that they achieved economic victories and measly benefits from the government because of the revolutionary movement. They confidently said that many people still support, cherish and join hands with the NPA in their village because of this.

Another farmer thanked the mostly young fighters. "You are continuing the struggle which my

brother died for," said Ka Ambon. His brother was martyred in a battle in 1987. He himself wanted to join the NPA but had many small children at the time. "Now, I can't anymore because of my age and rheumatism," he said. "I thank you for persevering. I may not be with you, but whenever you need me, my family and I are here to help." He is also ready to support any of his grandchildren who would join the people's army.

The barriofolk thanked the NPA's help in their farms. "Even when we weren't there and without our knowledge, you continue to help us in the farm," said Ka Huling. "We really thank you. Honestly, it is here with you that I felt the true joy of service. So I'm really happy when I'm with you. We really love you."

The masses said they almost fell for the military's claim that the people's army had been driven away from their area since no NPA unit

had visited them for a while. "When we heard comrades are here, our hopes were reignited," said Ka Bin-ing, who attended the gathering. But she said they were also cautious as they may just be masquerading as Red fighters. She was relieved when she mingled with the fighters.

"I know that the NPA will always be with us until we've won victory," she said.

She said she never betrayed comrades. "I have not changed, despite the enemy's prolonged stay, I did not surrender," she said. "I kept secret what I know, until now."

Apart from emotional words, the masses offered songs and other cultural performances, which entertained and raised the morale of the comrades. The comrades also thanked the residents for their brave and warm welcome and for keeping their presence and movements unknown to the military. While the masses and the people's army are gathered in the area, at least 40 columns were conducting military operations in the barangays covered by the towns of San Jose de Buan, Gandara, San Jorge, Catbalogan, Motiong, Jiabong and Paranas in Samar and the villages of Can-avid and Dolores in Eastern Samar. About 80 barrios are under RCSP operations.

In that gathering, the Red commanders, fighters and revolutionary masses collectively affirmed their dedication and determination to advance the revolutionary struggle. Armed with the lessons of the past, they are determined to overcome the identified weaknesses and make every effort to respond to the call to set the armed struggle ablaze and advance with greater strength.

AB



# Rectification movement in Negros amid intense military operations

Amid uninterrupted military terrorism and fascist repression in Negros, Party cadres and members in the island ardently carry out the Central Committee's call in December 2023 to launch the rectification movement.

Revolution, the theoretical journal of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and the writings of Comrade Jose Maria Sison were used as practical references in gatherings, meetings, assessments, analyses and summings-up of inter-related revolutionary activities in all guerrilla fronts on the island. The entire revolutionary movement on the island achieved positive results from this. Identifying the weaknesses from the collective analysis of practical matters and revolutionary work was accelerated, especially weaknesses in the armed struggle that had a negative impact on overall progress.

In the first quarter of 2024, the Party in Negros reviewed the 22-year comprehensive summing-up of its revolutionary experience in the region from the Second Great Rectification Movement started up to 2016. This became the basis for the comprehensive summing up of the Party in the island for its ideological, political and organizational work for the year 2017-2022, and for identifying and rectifying various forms of errors and weaknesses.

In implementing the rectification movement, responsible Party cadres were assigned as instructors in the study movement. Amid heavy enemy attacks on guerrilla bases, collective studying of Party documents about the first and second rectification movements were continuously conducted. The active participation of students from



younger and older cadres and members further vitalized the studies within New People's Army units up to the local Party units. They collectively studied the Central Committee and Negros Island Regional Committee statements on the Party's 55th anniversary.

A concentrated session in the Party's Basic Course was also launched for NPA activists and new recruits. In the study of Imperialism, emphasis was given on the current crisis resulting in widespread wars instigated by the imperialist-US in its allied countries, especially in the intense US-China rivalry and its concrete impact on the Filipino people. In addition, the Party's one-year program in each guerrilla front was assessed. Criticisms and self-criticisms, as well as individual assessments were conducted within the NPA.

Ka Marga said "in the revolution, we must be resolute in studying the basic principles, persevere in analyzing the objective situation and, above all, aiming for a breakthrough in the strengthening of tactical offensives to seize weapons from enemy."

Ka Dayan, one of the instructors, said facilitating the studies further enhanced her knowledge of

the Party's basic principles. While Ka Victor, one of the senior cadres of the Party from the IDKP, said the rectification campaign made him recall events in the history of the Party and the revolution.

"We are urged by challenging times and contradictions. Don't be afraid. Genuine freedom is not a mere figment of our imagination, but can be achieved by arousing, organizing and mobilizing the masses to resist!" said Ka Yan, one of the younger student cadres.

The Party in Negros island also calls on all NPA units to persevere with recovery, consolidation and expansion work. We need to reach places we have long neglected, especially those places we have yet to reach. Party committees were also tasked to guide the dedicated advancement of the masses in anti-feudal and anti-fascist campaigns in the countryside and link and elevate it to the level of anti-imperialist and anti-fascist campaigns in the cities for them to achieve their democratic interests.

Above all, we must conduct successful tactical offensives and seize weapons from the fascist enemy using correct guerrilla warfare tactics, techniques and actions. **AB**

# Divorced, but still united

The issue of divorce came up again recently after Congress approved a bill legalizing it in the Philippines. Unlike annulment and legal separation, the legal option of divorce is to dissolve the marriage, reverting the couple to "single" status and allowing them to marry someone else.

Divorce is already legal worldwide, except for the Philippines and the Vatican City. Divorce is widely recognized as a right of women to obtain justice, especially in cases of domestic violence, marriage between minors and financial slavery. It gives women the legal option to leave oppressive and repressive unions, gain financial independence and challenge the patriarchal order which consider them property of their spouses.

Although not legally accepted, separation in the Philippines is a common reality or objective condition among the people. This is because social rotteness prevails creating the conditions for marital separation.

The arguments against divorce are utterly weak, if not ridiculous. In many countries, religion did not hinder recognition of the need to legislate it to guide separations and ensure the rights and well-being of all involved.

Within the revolutionary movement, divorce is recognized as a right under the guidelines governing marriage. These principles cover relationships between men and women, and between same-sex individuals. This recognition stems from the dialectical materialist view that things change, including



the relationship within a marriage. It also recognizes the existing fact of oppressive, unfair and abusive relationships, as well as the possibility that love and trust are lost between spouses.

Revolutionaries establish and develop relationships as partners or married couples on the foundation of class love and sex love. Before proceeding into marriage, each partner is required to ponder and seriously prepare for married life and revolutionary family formation. When it leads to divorce, it goes through a process where the petition for dissolution of marriage is presented to the units, and collectively reviewed and decided.

Divorce is granted in cases involving one side becoming a traitor or rabid counter-revolutionary; adultery, bigamy, or cruelty or attempt on the life of the spouse; failure to perform marital duties within five years due to enemy capture or permanent physical disability (if agreed upon by the spouses); if one of the spouses voluntarily abandons his responsibility for two

years or loses contact for five years; if the couple has irreconcilable differences resulting in the breakdown of the relationship, and the relationship becomes a burden on the couple and their work in the Party.

In cases of serious violations, such as gross infidelity, bigamy, cruelty or attempts on the life of the spouse, the Party imposes severe sanctions, including expulsion of the offender from the organization.

The collectives of divorcing couples ensure that their children are provided with moral, emotional, psychological and financial support--in accordance with existing policies.

As revolutionaries, married couples hold on to class love even when the love between them has disappeared. They stand as models as they continue to act and assume their duties in the Party and the revolution. Those subject to disciplinary action are guided by the Party to fully rectify and remould themselves. AB

**18%** or 2 million Filipino children, age 5 and below,



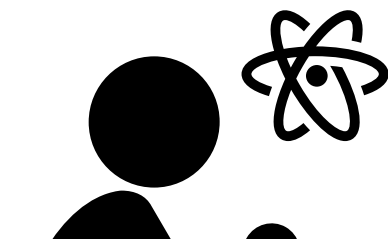
are "severely malnourished" or eat only two of the eight food groups needed for proper growth.

**Failed (5)**

the Philippines' grade in promoting workers' rights.

For the eighth year, it remains one of the 10 worst places for workers.

Source: *Global Rights Index 2024*, International Trade Union Confederation



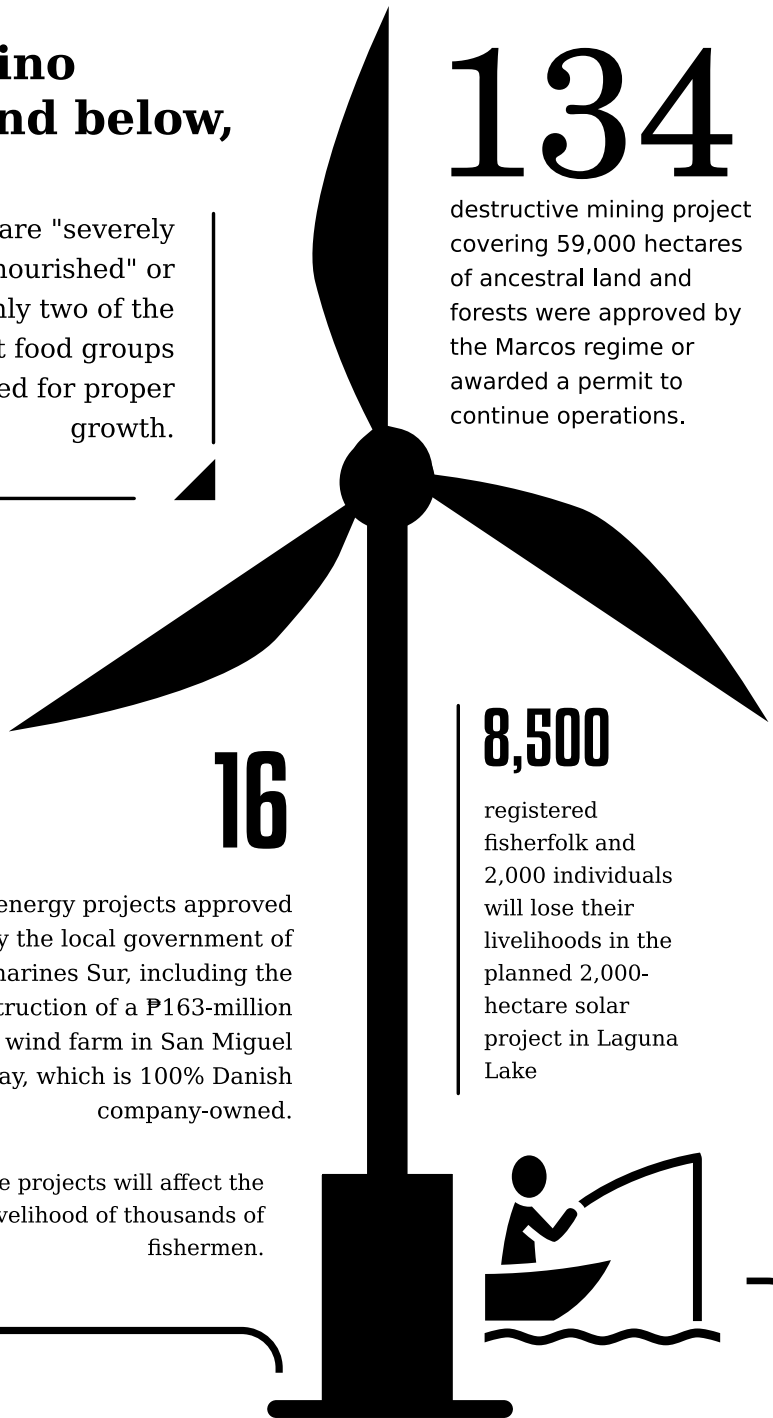
**86%**

of Filipino "knowledge workers" (IT workers, academics, scientists, engineers and other professionals) use AI (artificial intelligence), higher than the international average of 75%

Source: *2024 Work Trend Index*

**134**

destructive mining project covering 59,000 hectares of ancestral land and forests were approved by the Marcos regime or awarded a permit to continue operations.



**16**

wind energy projects approved by the local government of Camarines Sur, including the construction of a ₱163-million offshore wind farm in San Miguel Bay, which is 100% Danish company-owned.

These projects will affect the livelihood of thousands of fishermen.

**8,500**

registered fisherfolk and 2,000 individuals will lose their livelihoods in the planned 2,000-hectare solar project in Laguna Lake



**₱23 BILLION**

needed to finish the new Senate building being built in Taguig City. The cost has greatly ballooned from the project's initial ₱8.9 billion cost.

**U/OS 2024**

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# Toiling masses carry the burden caused by El Niño and climate change

**E**l Niño has ended and the rainy season has started, but the toiling masses, especially farmers and fisherfolk, still bear the burden of the destruction of their livelihoods by the drought intensified by climate change. The Marcos regime's response to the nearly one-year drought is grossly insufficient and hypocritical.

In the most recent conservative data of the Department of Agriculture, the total cost of damage to the agriculture sector is at least ₱9.89 billion, of which ₱57.72 million is in the fisheries sector. In total, up to 1.5 million families were affected by the widespread drought that ravaged 7,184 barangays in 15 regions. The severity of the disaster prompted placing 432 cities and towns under a state of calamity.

## Damage in Ilocos

Since 2020, the fall in the yield and income of farmers in Ilocos have worsened due to insufficient irrigation, continuous increase in production costs, unsuitable high-yielding rice seed varieties, disasters and pests, and lack of government subsidies. Drought exacerbates these problems.

Most farms in the region rely on rain. The drought brought down the

harvest of the farmers by 50% to 80%. Vast farms were no longer tilled for the year's second cycle of rice planting, and no longer planted with summer products such as watermelon and onions.

Corn harvest decreased by up to 50% (from 4-5 tons to 2-3.5 tons per hectare) due to their stunting and aridity. There is also considerable damage and decline in the quality of tobacco. Based on the data obtained from 49 farmers in five barangays who only grow rice, 12.31 hectares or 67% of their farms were destroyed and they lost ₱644,645 in income.

Among fisherfolk, the catch from coastal fishing dropped by up to 99%. From the previous 500-kilo catch, they sometimes bring home less than five kilos. Because of this, many fisherfolk rarely or never fish because of excessive losses. Rivers, creeks and hectares of fish pens are

also dry.

Farmers shouldered the additional cost of crude oil, fuel and electricity whose prices continuously increased. Water pumps using crude oil and electricity were used more extensively and more frequently, from once to three times per week. Fisherfolk also used more fuel because they had to travel farther to fish.

The majority of the poor Ilocano masses suffer from thirst because springs have dried up. Most communities do not have proper and free clean potable water services. They endure fetching water from distant, but dirty wells. Others just bought expensive water costing ₱60/drum-₱80/drum.

## Corruption and fascism in Cagayan

Meager as it already is, the funds allocated by the state to support the disaster of El Niño were not spared from corruption. In Cagayan Valley, it was the unspent 2023 typhoon Egay funds that were largely distributed to farmers and fisherfolk.

Seed distribution was also an utter failure because these did not sprout in dry soil. The government's touted cash-for-work programs were even problematic. In addition to the gross insufficiency and having only a few "beneficiaries", the compensation granted to the beneficiaries was extremely late. Also condemnable is the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation's disapproval of the application of 9,000 farmers seeking crop guarantees.

The Marcos regime even allocated more funds and time to intensify the counterinsurgency war and repression campaign in the regions. With its military forces, it even used aid distribution to disseminate lies and psywar among the people.





# Hacienda Roxas: Proof of CARP's rottenness

Ferdinand Marcos Jr insists farmers are benefiting from the bogus Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) under his regime. In recent months, he has been going around the country to conduct ceremonies of distributing Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOA). These are hollow spectacles because the truth is the country's farmlands remain in the hands of a few landlords.

The case of the 7,000-hectare Hacienda Roxas in Nasugbu, Batangas proves this. It is divided into three parcels: Hacienda Palico, Hacienda Banilad, and Hacienda Kaylaway, which cover different barrios.

In the 1980s, a mass struggle led by workers in Central Azucarera de Don Pedro workers, farm workers, and land tenants within the hacienda erupted in Hacienda Roxas. They formed the *Damayan ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Roxas-National Federation of Sugar Workers (DAMBA-NFSW)* and *Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Hacienda Roxas Inc. (KAMAHARI)* to lead the fight for fair wages, humane working conditions and other



rights.

When the Filipino people overthrew the Marcos Sr dictatorship and replaced it with the Aquino I regime, 2,941 hectares of the hacienda were placed under the CARP. When certification were granted to farmers in 1988, the collusion between the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Roxas and Company Inc (RCI), and opportunist former DAMBA-NFSW leader Roy Mahinay and his wife Atty. Nenita Mahinay, took advantage of CARP's many loopholes to prevent land distribution.

The Mahinay couple treacher-

ously sold-out the peasants' fight and sided with the landlord RCI. After several decades of promises, the DAR issued a Consolidated Order in December 2023 stating the supposed withdrawal of RCI and farmers from all previous petitions. Accordingly, the matter of land ownership was left to the court. In fact, the farmers did not agree to this and the only person who schemed was Attorney Mahinay based on the landlord RCI's dictates.

At the DAR's behest, the false "50-50 win-win solution" recommended by the Supreme Court based on the request of the RCI will be followed. Previous "mother CLOAs" will be canceled and thousands of farmers will be required to resubmit papers before being issued individual CLOAs.

With one stroke, the landlords' single stroke, said CLOAs will be immediately revoked and the land will be immediately seized from the farmers. In fact, no land distribution has occurred during CARP's 36-year existence in the hacienda. Farmers were left with nothing but a piece of paper and not the full ownership of the land they till. AB

## Peasants protest on CARP's 36th year

ON JUNE 10, progressive organizations of farmers, fisherfolk and land rights advocates led by *Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas* protested before the DAR in Quezon City in conjunction with the 36th year of CARP. They condemned the rottenness of the longest, most expensive, and most repressive "land reform."

Farmers from Bulacan who were victims of the bogus CARP participated in the protest. Some of them are from the towns of San Mateo and Norzagaray who were evicted from their farmland in 2018. Also present were farmers from San Jose del Monte City who are being robbed of their land by landlords and big developers who converted the use of farmland.

# Military kills 16-year-old student in Sultan Kudarat

The 7th IB shot and killed 16-year-old student Eusibio Cranzo, also known as Kuni Cuba, on June 9 in Sityo Kiluding, Barangay Kiadsam, Sen. Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat. He was returning home with his brother and two friends when the murder happened.

Reports said Cranzo's group chanced upon an operating unit of the 7th IB, when they were fired upon. Cranzo was immediately hit, while his three companions scampered to the adjacent cornfield. The soldiers falsely claimed having confiscated a Garand rifle from the victim and accused him of being a member of the New People's Army.

Meanwhile, other cases of human rights violations have been recorded in recent weeks.

**Bombing.** An estimated 2,700 people were affected by the aerial bombing of the 54th IB under the 503rd IBde in Barangay Maling, Balbalan, Kalinga on June 7. Residents observed two helicopters circling and dropping bombs.

In Nueva Vizcaya, the 7th ID bombed Barangay Abuyo, Alfonso Castañeda eight times on June 20 in the early morning. Two attack helicopters also fired successively, while the AFP also used drones.

**Arrest.** Edison Yu was detained for ten days after he was arrested by the police on June 8 near the Israeli embassy in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City. Yu was supposed to participate in the protest against Israel's genocide when he was arrested.

In Kalinga, the 54th IB arrested a certain Gap-idan Claver Bawit whom it accused of being an NPA fighter in Barangay Balantoy, Balbalan on June 6.

**Harassment.** In Bulacan, the 80th IB and police raided the house of peasant leader Ronnie Manalo in Barangay San Roque, San Jose del Monte City on June 18, while no one was there. Police claimed having retrieved firearms, grenades and other paraphernalia from the house. On the same day, soldiers went to the house of peasant leader Cecilia Rapiz in Barangay Paradise 3 in that city.

In Rizal, soldiers repeatedly harassed 80-year-old fisherfolk-leader Romy Antazo. In May, he was picked up by four soldiers and forcibly taken to the municipal hall for a "dialogue."

In Negros Occidental, 94th IB soldiers and paramilitaries illegally broke in and ransacked seven houses in Sitio Cabagal, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City on June 7. The soldiers also harassed Evelyn Manait, a member of Ituman-Bukidnon, in Barangay Amontay, Binalbagan on June 13.

In the first week of June, state forces "visited" Mafel Macalanda and Lina Ladino, indigenous leaders in Cagayan Valley, at their homes in Baguio City and Cagayan to threaten them with arrest.



**Protest against genocide of Palestinians.** Various groups and sectors marched and protested on June 8 before the Israeli embassy in Taguig City in Metro Manila to condemn the Zionist state for its continuing genocide against Palestinians. They marked the 8th month, from October 7, 2023, when the US-supported Israel intensified its attacks and bombing of the Gaza Strip in Palestine. As of June 17, Israel has killed 37,347 people in Gaza.

**Fisherfolk denounces China's "trespass rule" in WPS.** Fisherfolk and other democratic organizations protested before the Chinese consulate in Makati City on June 14 to call on China to rescind its "trespass rule" or threat of arresting "foreigners" entering its "territory" in the South China Sea. The Chinese Coast Guard has been enforcing this since June 15. According to the order, China will detain those arrested for 30 to 60 days.

**Caravan against Benguet big mines.** Hundreds of residents of Itogon, Benguet staged a caravan on June 13 to the Benguet Provincial Capitol to demand a halt to the expansion of large mining company Itogon-Suyoc Resources, Inc. and Benguet Corporation, Inc.

**Anti-demolition protest in Quezon City and Mandaue City.** Residents of King Christian St in Barangay Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City held a protest on June 15 to oppose the demolition of their community. Urban poor residents also protested on June 14 inside the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) against the impending demolition of their homes in Mandaue City, Cebu.

**Oppressive jeepney phaseout.** Jeepney drivers and operators protested again on June 10, as the LTFRB and LTO threatened to intensify their crackdown on plying jeepneys that did not undergo the forced consolidation. Hundreds of drivers held protests in Metro Manila and Iloilo City. Meanwhile, Manibela held a three-day strike from June 10 to June 12. Piston members marched on June 7 to Mendiola in celebration of the federation's 43rd anniversary. They demanded the Marcos regime to scrap the PUVMP which is killing their livelihood.

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