



EDITORIAL:

Marcos-Duterte rift cracks open only to reveal rotten PH politics

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Marcos-Duterte rift cracks open only to reveal rotten PH politics

The widening rift between the so-called Marcos-Duterte Uniteam slate not only represents the growing divide within the ruling class, but also exposes the rotten state of Philippine politics.

Sara Duterte's resignation as Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) and as vice-chairperson of the National Task Forces to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) signals a new development in the ongoing political bull fight between the Marcos and Duterte camps. A week after she made her announcement, Sara Duterte also broke the news of former president Rodrigo Duterte, Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte, and Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte all planning to run for senatorial posts in 2025.


Knowing they are at a political disadvantage, Duterte's withdrawal from key posts within the Marcos Jr. cabinet can be seen as a tactical retreat amid news of the Marcos family's efforts to build a "united front" against a possible Duterte resurgence. Just a few days after news of the Dutertes' intent to run for senate, former senator Antonio Trillanes announced "exploratory talks" to forge a "united opposition" against the Dutertes.

In many ways, Sara Duterte's decision to step down was meant to preserve her political capital and avoid further reputational damage. During her tenure, Sara Duterte militarized the DepEd by appointing two former military generals with virtually no background on education as DepEd undersecretaries, and actively pushing for mandatory reserve military training in schools.

Under her watch, the DepEd was allocated P150 million in confidential funds in 2023, an unprecedented amount for an agency whose mandate is not remotely related to intelligence gathering nor national security. Her poor performance as education secretary also does not help. After a year in office, the classroom crisis only worsened as the national shortage increased to 159,000 classrooms.

Furthermore, her part in the NTF-Elcac's much-criticized 'counterinsurgency' measures and anti-peace posturing has certainly cast her a bad light in the international community. It can be recalled how various United Nations experts have recently called for the abolition of the NTF-Elcac and called out the agency for its harmful red-tagging practice.

The Duterte camp's response appears to be a recognition of these shifting political alignments, their increasing isolation in the global stage and the reputational damage they have incurred due to massive corruption. But regardless of how much she tries to distance herself from the Marcos stench, Sara Duterte can no longer repair her family's pungent reputation.

Certainly, the ongoing Marcos-Duterte political circus cannot fool the Filipino people. If anything, their open infighting reveals not only the decaying state of Philippine reactionary politics, but the fact that Marcos and Duterte are just two halves of the same rotten apple. 

US continues to unleash psywar to poison minds of the Filipino people

US imperialism continues to wage disinformation and psychological warfare in the Philippines to portray the US as their "friend, partner and ally", and its many enemies and imperialist rivals such as China, as enemies of the Filipino people.

"The US imperialists want the Filipino people to consider China as their enemy and obscure the fact that US imperialism is the primary national oppressor of the Philippines," the CPP said.

According to the CPP, this psywar campaign is being orchestrated and funded by the US State Department and Pentagon, in collaboration with officials and agents of the Marcos government, to foment anti-Chinese hysteria and Sinophobia among Filipinos and make Filipinos accept the presence and dominance of American troops in the country.

The CPP referred to the recent Reuters investigation which exposed a US Pentagon-funded campaign to spread misinformation and cast doubt on the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine Sinovac.

"Hundreds of social media accounts were used by the US to influence Filipinos to favor vaccines made by US companies such as Pfizer and Moderna. This willful campaign of misinformation endangered public health and the lives of Filipinos amid the pandemic," stressed the CPP.

Ang Bayan, the CPP official publication, in its latest editorial, also stressed that 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, it said, uses its military forces in "active combat" despite the absence of direct armed conflict in



image: philippinerevolution.nu

conjunction with economic pressure, as well as the active use of military force to counter the growing power and influence of its rivals.

The CPP called on the Filipino people to repudiate this US-orchestrated anti-Chinese hysteria and reject the scheme to stoke war and demand that diplomacy, legal action and negotiations be carried out more robustly in line with the 2016 arbitral ruling along the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS). The CPP called for dismantling Chinese military facilities in the West Philippine Sea, the withdrawal of all US naval forces, as well as all US military bases in the Philippines.

In another statement, the CPP exposed and denounced former US air force colonel, Raymond M. Powell, as an active psywar operative, interventionist, warmonger and American agent-provocateur. The CPP said that Colonel Powell is funded and endorsed by the US military and has been playing an active role in the US “Indo-Pacific strategy,” that aims to contain China’s growth as an economic and military power.

According to the CPP, Powell heads the Myoushu and Sealight projects at Stanford University, which has been actively providing “information operations” support to the so-called “supply missions” of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine Coast Guard.

“These naval and maritime operations challenge China’s “gray-zone tactics” and push it to its limits. This is part of the overall US military scheme to make China “own the starting pistol”, the CPP said.

CPP declares solidarity with Indian people’s resistance vs operation Kagaar

In a statement issued 17, July, 2024, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declared 20 June to 20 July as a Month of Solidarity with the Indian people in their fight against the terrorism of the Modi regime instigated by the monopolist capitalist companies and imperialist powers.

The CPP called upon all revolutionary forces and the Filipino people to express in various ways their support for the Indian people’s struggle.

The Modi regime in India recently have deployed thousands of military, police and mercenary forces in Central India in its Operation Kagaar to suppress the Adivasis (indigenous masses), activists and anyone who dares to speak out against state oppression throughout the country.

The operation which is a part of the larger ‘counterinsurgency’ campaign Operation SAMADHAN-Prahar also targets the revolutionary leaders of the Communist Party of India (Maoist). The operation violates international humanitarian laws, the rules of war and special protections for vulnerable sectors in areas of armed conflict.

From January to May this year, at least 130 civilians and revolutionaries were extrajudicially killed under this operation, according to the CPP.

The CPP likened the suppression campaign in India to the intensified suppression currently being experienced by the Filipino people under the US-Marcos fascist regime. It is characterized by




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the heightened use of widespread bombing and targeting of civilian communities.

Militarization in India and the Philippines has served to pave the way for the entry of large-scale mining operations, destructive dams and foreign corporations.

Modi and Marcos collude with each other. Last April 19, the first batch of BrahMos missile weapon systems arrived in the Philippines from India costing \$375 million or P18.9 billion, paid for with public funds. The taxes of the Filipino people are used to satiate the big capitalist arms producers in India and to support the regime that oppresses the Indian people.

The CPP concludes, “Amid a world being shaken by wars ignited, instigated or supported by imperialists, it is imperative that the people of India and the Filipino people unite to advance their struggle for national freedom and democracy. The liberation of their countries from imperialist oppression and domination would serve as an invaluable contribution to the global struggle against imperialism and for freedom and socialism.” 

Groups welcome acquittal of former Senator De Lima, victim of political persecution



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Various groups welcomed the acquittal of former Senator Leila De Lima after the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court dismissed illegal drugs case charged against her by the former Duterte regime.

This case was the third and last case filed against her. She was declared not guilty on her first case on 2021, and the second on May 2023. She was allowed to post bail on November 2023. She was detained for a total of more than seven years.

While supporters of de Lima are happy with the no guilty verdict on her last case, they called for accountability of those who filed these cases. De Lima contemplates on filing charges against the former President Duterte for his crimes in his “war on drugs”.

In a statement, human rights group KARAPATAN said that the court’s decision showed that the charges against de Lima are baseless.

“Former President Rodrigo Duterte along with those who conspired to bring such patently false charges

against de Lima should be held accountable,” said Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay.

“We congratulate Sen. Leila de Lima et al on their release, after more than 7 years of unjust imprisonment. This positive court decision is proof not only of Senator de Lima’s innocence, but also of the tireless efforts of all freedom-loving Filipinos calling for their release,” said Gabriela’s Secretary General Clarice Palce.

Fides Lim, spokesperson of KAPATID, the support group of political prisoners, said that the wrongful detention of de Lima for nearly seven years “would not have happened had the Department of Justice upheld the rule of law from the beginning and rejected the filing of false cases against the fiercest critic of former President Duterte and his failed drug war.”

Lim reiterated her group’s call for the release of other political prisoners. Kapatid said there are 777 more political prisoners who also face baseless charges such as illegal possession of firearms and explosives which in fact, Lim said, were planted to deny them the right to bail.

Meanwhile, militant group Bayan Muna urged Ms. De Lima to campaign for the release of other political prisoners charged under Mr. Duterte’s government.

Her voice would be influential in calling for the government to release other political prisoners, Bayan Muna Executive Vice President Carlos Isagani T. Zarate said in a statement. 