

EDITORIAL

End corruption and crime of the bureaucrat capitalist system

The conflict between the Marcos and Duterte rival reactionary factions is stark, fierce, and unrelenting. Their hostilities arise from their mutual insatiable greed for wealth and power. These contradictions are rapidly coming to a head due to Marcos's desire to hasten efforts to completely crush Duterte's capability to return to power and thwart his rival's attempts to reclaim their economic and political interests.

This conflict will escalate further with the approach of the 2025 midterm elections. Expect these clashes to be a mere prelude to the outbreak of larger and more violent confrontations. The stability of the ruling Marcos regime can be shaken, but it will also lead to its greater consolidation and monopolization of political power. This will also be accompanied by the expansion and strengthening of a broader democratic movement that will challenge Marcos' fascist rule.

Congressional hearings are exposing how the ruling system has decayed with Duterte's blatant misuse of power to plunder, expand his wealth and criminal empire, as well as indulge in luxury and decadence. These detail the direct role of Duterte and his closest accomplices in the killings of tens of thousands under Oplan Tokhang and the sham "war on drugs," as well as in the bloody campaign of fascist repression. The people's clamor for justice is intensifying, demanding the ac-

countability, arrest, and prosecution of Duterte and his accomplices in crime and corruption.

While public attention is focused on congressional hearings implicating Duterte, the ruling Marcos faction continues its bureaucrat capitalist wealth accumulation and consolidation of political power. Since taking office in Malacañang, at least five major corruption cases against the Marcoses (amounting to over ₱202 billion) have been dismissed by the courts (with only a minor case involving the 57-hectare Paoay estate claimed by the Marcoses recently overturned by the Supreme Court). Marcos is also busy revising history to cover up the corruption, fascism, and crimes during his father's dictatorship (1972-1986).

Marcos took away from Duterte (and from China) anomalous government contracts for several major in-



frastructure projects and transferred these to his favored companies (supported by loans from the US, Japan, and the World Bank). Marcos allocated ₱550 billion of public funds to the Maharlika Investment Fund to funnel this into the businesses of his cronies, such as Ramon Ang, Enrique Razon, Manny Pangilinan, the Aboitiz group, and others. For 2025, at least ₱10 billion has been allotted to Marcos' "confidential and intelligence funds" for his personal and political gain. Despite its pressing needs and facing large debts, the PhilHealth was ordered by Marcos to remit its "unused" ₱20 billion funds.

Conspiring with syndicates, Marcos, his wife Liza Araneta, and the Romualdez family now control the supply of rice and sugar, as well as onions and other agricultural products. They use this control to manipulate prices and maximize profits. The sale of illegal drugs in the Philippines is currently under the control of Marcos's operatives.

Marcos shamelessly enjoys a lavish lifestyle using public funds, including one billion pesos squandered this year for his jetsetting. He was caught using a helicopter to avoid traffic to attend a concert. He was gifted with a \$1 million private con-

cert by Duran Duran for his birthday, which not only violates the law but also shows Marcos's gross contempt for the daily suffering and hardships of the masses.

Marcos appointed loyalists in military and police positions. Under his orders, state forces have carried out relentless armed suppression and violation of human rights across the country. Killings, torture, and abductions continue. There are nearly 800 political detainees. Hundreds of rural villages are under military rule to suppress the resistance of the masses.

The Marcos regime is currently the most concentrated expression of the bureaucrat capitalist, fascist, and neocolonial state. It serves the interests of foreign monopoly capitalists



and the ruling classes of big bourgeois compradors and big landlords, and the interests of the ruling dynasties.

The broad masses of the Filipino people are being oppressed under the bureaucrat capitalist state. Marcos continues to implement the neoliberal policies of liberalization, privatization, and deregulation. They are burdened with excessive taxes and fees, yet they receive almost no health, education, housing, or other public services which the state should ensure are free. The masses' living standards are plummeting in the face of high prices, low wages, unemployment, and the dispossession of land and livelihood.

The situation is clear evidence of the deepening crisis of the ruling system dominated by bureaucrat capitalists who wallow in corruption and criminality—Duterte then, Marcos now, and all reactionary regimes since US imperialism established its neocolonial state. In the struggle and rivalry among insatiable factions for wealth and power, the rotten system is laid bare to its core.

The Filipino people are determined to defend their rights and fight against the US-Marcos bureaucrat capitalist regime. The masses must be aroused, organized, and mobilized, and a broadest united front established to bring together all anti-fascist and anti-corruption forces. The organized strength of the basic classes and sectors is at the core and forefront of the broad struggle against the Marcos fascist and puppet regime.

To fully advance and succeed, the struggle against the bureaucrat capitalist regime must be linked to the struggle for national democracy. Along with imperialism and feudalism, this can only be fully eliminated by ending the semicolonial and semifeudal system. To realize this aspiration, it is necessary to take the revolutionary path, primarily by advancing the armed struggle to achieve the strategic aim of establishing a genuinely democratic people's government.

AB



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NPA-Sorsogon ambushes 22nd IB

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command) ambushed 22nd IB personnel traveling along Sitio Sabang, Barangay Calpi, Bulan, Sorsogon on September 6, killing Cpl. Rodel Felismino and wounding Pfc Jamil Forte, both under the 22nd IB unit based in Barangay Calmayon, Juban.

The NPA-Sorsogon's action is in response to the clamor of the people in different barrios of Magallanes, Bulan, Irosin and Juban who are harassed and suppressed by soldiers during military operations. This is the Red Army's way of paying tribute to the heroism of Arnel "Ka Mando" Estiller and other revolutionary martyrs.

Revolutionary punishment. The NPA-Masbate (Jose Rapsing Command) reported exacting revolutionary justice on September 10 against an active CAFGU member CAA Rodel Monsalod in Barangay Cadulawan, Cataingan. Monsalod served as guide in the 2nd IB's operations and campaign of killing civilians. He was also a paid thug of Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho.

In Negros Oriental, the NPA-Central Negros (Leonardo Panaligan Command) meted revolutionary punishment against Jonil Sevilla, an active military intelligence asset from Sitio Kabulay, Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City on August 30, in line with the decision of pertinent democratic organs of the people's government. The armed action was carried out in Sitio Cambairan in the same barangay.

Counter-encirclement. At least 10 troopers of the 2nd IB were killed as the NPA-Masbate countered a raid by military troopers in Sitio Calanay, Barangay Banco, Palanas on September 15. Red fighters detonated a bomb that resulted in the military casualties. The comrades were able to safely maneuver without casualties on their side.

Correspondence

Negros farmworkers achieve wage increases

Sugarcane farmworkers in Barangay Kahil (not its real name) in the southern part of Negros won an increase in their daily wages after collectively confronting two landlords last June. Ang Paghimakas, the newspaper of the revolutionary movement in Negros, reported that wages were raised from ₱200-₱220 to ₱250, while payment for two passes of plowing was raised from ₱700 to ₱1,300 per hectare.

Nineteen households or 44 farmworkers from five sitios benefited from this. They won this victory amid much intensified military operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ang Paghimakas said the antifeudal struggle in Barangay Kahil is already second organized resistance of the peasant masses during tiempo muerto or "dead season" which refers to the months between sugarcane planting cycles. The first wave was carried out in May.

Farmer's picket. The peasants of Negros Occidental gathered and protested last August 29 before the provincial capitol in Bacolod City to demand the release of government funds to help them ride over tiempo muerto. The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Negros and National Federation of Sugar Workers led the action.



They called on the Provincial Council to issue a resolution declaring continuous support for farmworkers who annually suffer hardship and hunger during the tiempo muerto. The peasants earlier submitted a letter to the vice governor on August 20 seeking a dialogue.

On August 20, peasants also held a picket and dialogue at the Department of Agriculture Region VI in Bacolod City. They submitted a letter as early as June to the agency to demand livelihood support.

Tribute to 3 Cagayan Valley martyrs

THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT honored the three Red fighters and Party cadres in Cagayan Valley who were martyred on September 11 in Barangay Baliuag, Peñablanca, Cagayan. They were identified as Ariel Arbitrario (Ka Karl), Danielle Marie Pelagio (Ka Seed) and Erin Sagsagat (Ka Jorly).

Ka Karl was an NDFP consultant for peace negotiations. A native of Davao City, he served the people of Mindanao for decades before his transfer to Cagayan Valley in August 2018, where he was eventually appointed to its secretariat.

Based on preliminary information, Ka Karl is believed to have been subjected to severe torture and interrogation before finally being murdered. His remains were not released until a few days later, giving his family a hardtime retrieving it.

Ka Seed, 22, came from Manila and was a PUP student. Ka Jorly, who joined the NPA in 1980, hails from a poor peasant family in Zinundungan Vally in Rizal, Cagayan.

Exploitative 'piece-rate' system in soap factory

The weekly take-home pay of workers like Mae depends on the amount of soap they produce. She and her co-workers work under this so-called "piece-rate" system. This violates their rights as workers to a fixed 8-hour paid workday.

In their factory, workers are usually paid ₱27 per 100 pieces of soap (or ₱0.27 per piece). As consolation, greedy capitalists recently raised it to ₱31 per 100 pieces or ₱0.31 per piece.

They will further apportion this to team workers. "If there are five of us in the team, for example, the ₱31 we earn...is equivalent to ₱6.20 per worker," said Mae in an interview with *Malayang Pilipina*, the newspaper of the *Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Mak-ibaka)*.

She said one kind of soap that they mold, refine and package is usually sold for ₱38 in the market. For each soap, she receives only ₱0.04 which is almost 1,000 times lower than its market price.

Mae has been working in this factory for sixteen years. She is nearly a senior citizen. Despite having worked for almost two decades she remains a "piece rate" worker.

"At first I just persevered until it took this long. I'm pursuing my SSS so I can avail whatever pension I can get because I'm turning 60 in

three years. And if I stop, what employment can I find?" she said.

Her daily wage does not exceed ₱1,000. Compulsory charges for SSS, Pag-IBIG and PhilHealth are deducted. Sometimes she only gets to work two or three times a week in the factory.

Mae said their family usually spends ₱400 just for food and transportation, not yet covering fees for electricity, water, house rent and other expenses. "I spend ₱100 just for my daily fare, including food...the ₱250 I earn for 4 hours of work is not really enough anymore," she shared.

Gross working conditions further exploit them. They are required to wear hairnets, aprons, and face masks which result in breathing difficulties amid the extreme heat. Add to this the strong scents of soap. They are also prohibited from eating or drinking water at their stations.

Moreover, the capitalist is further reducing the number of workers, which was first implemented during the height of the pandemic. Five years have passed, but the

capitalist has yet to hire more workers. The amount of soap produced by their group of 16 piece-rate workers is equivalent to what 80 workers used to make.

As consolation to long-staying piece-rate workers, they sometimes are considered "regular" piece-rate.

Mae is aware of the complex difference between the conditions of piece workers and that of regular workers—from wages and benefits, to being subjected to inhumane labor conditions. She said, "In fact, we are at the losing end because manual piece-rate work is heavier compared to regulars who work with machines."

The separation pay given to piece-rate workers is also very low, where they are given only ₱1,000 for every year they worked in the factory.

Amid several levels of exploitation, Mae said workers face the fear of unionizing and taking action. "Our fight now is for regularization. The problem is that they don't want to join organizations yet and fear fighting 'the factory,'" she said.

Nevertheless, Mae perseveres in explaining their rights to her fellow workers, and thinks of various ways to gradually break the fear her fellow workers feel and bring this to the path of struggle. As a *Makibaka* member in the community, her collective is consciously planning to organize the workers not only in their factory but also in its proximity.

They formed an alliance of urban workers pushing for wage increases. They continue efforts to push the emergence of unions and many other community and factory workers' organizations.

She is optimistic that workers will very soon be mobilized within their factories to demand the rights for regularization and a living wage.



From Malayang Pilipina, August 2024.

In retrospect:

Youth's struggle for democratic rights during martial law

When the US-Marcos dictatorship imposed martial law in September 1972, the regime outrightly banned student councils, organizations, fraternities and publications in universities and schools. This is part of the overall suppression of the democratic rights of the youth and the entire people.

Marcos considered all groups of students and youth a threat to his military rule. He sent scores of agents to universities to pose as students, teachers or employees to spy on and identify those critical of his regime.

The dictatorship openly controlled the administrations of the universities. It also repeatedly attempted to break the emerging unity of the youth through brutal arrests, intimidation and the militarization of universities.

Despite these, the spirit of resistance of the youth and students remained undefeated. They worked hard to raise awareness, organize and mobilize fellow youth for their democratic rights.

They first challenged the dictatorship with silent marches, flash protests, petitioning, leaflet circulation, posters and graffiti calls and other creative means to raise the awareness of the broad masses regarding the situation under the regime. Publications on campus also served as a medium for calls to action and struggle of students and the Filipino masses. Eventually, these would give rise to a massive protest movement.

Rally of 200,000 young students

Five years after the declaration of martial law, the Marcos dictatorship was shook by large rallies of young students asserting their

democratic rights. This led to a massive rally in July 1977 where nearly 200,000 students from 10 colleges and universities joined. They boycotted their classes at the University of the Philippines, Araneta University Foundation, University of the East, Adamson University, Trinity College, Philippine College of Commerce, University of Santo Tomas, Philippine Women's University, Feati University and Philippine College of Criminology.

They rallied under the Student Alliance Against Tuition Fee Increases. It asserted seven main demands, including the removal of all troops and agents of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines from the campuses; reinstatement

of student councils under martial law; and a stop to tuition fee increases.

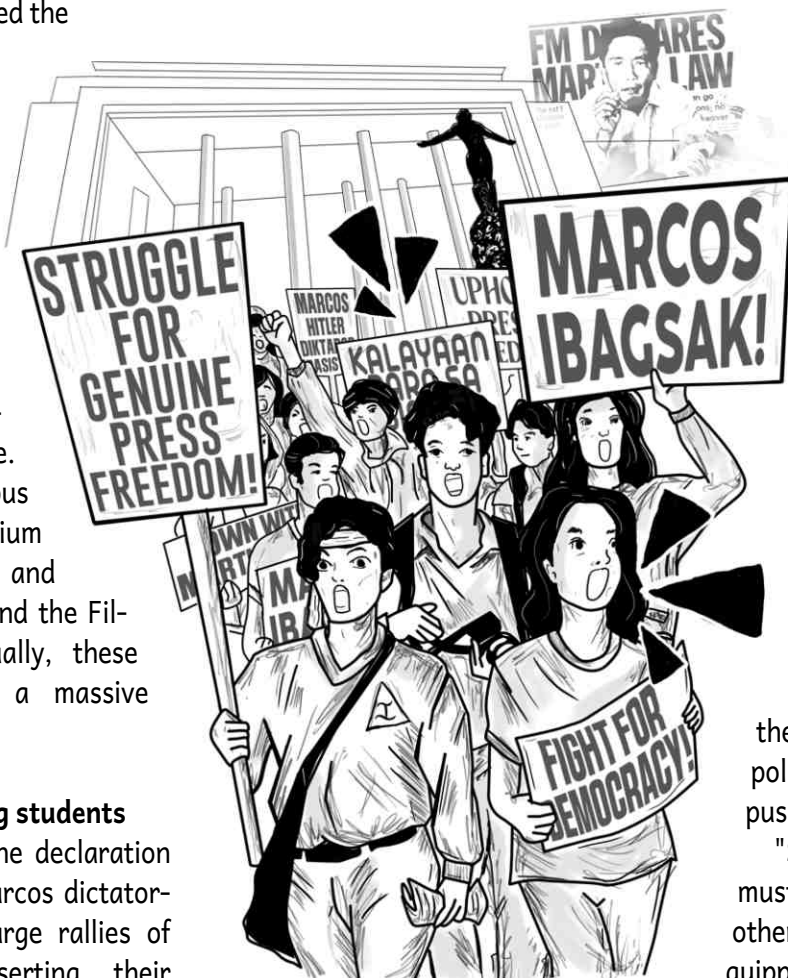
The extent of the action forced the Marcos dictatorship to stop the plan to raise the tuition fee of private schools for the following semester. This inspired the youth movement to further strengthen its efforts to push the Marcos dictatorship to recognize their democratic rights. In the following year, various universities gradually achieved the return of student councils and the revival of campus newspapers.

Unrelenting struggle

Several decades after Marcos Sr's ouster, it is important to hold on to the democratic rights won by the student movements during martial law. This includes actively establishing councils and operating campus newspapers. This becomes even more important amid continuous imperialist cultural and ideological offensives which promotes individualism and liberalism to disunite and divide young students and take away their power as a social and historical force.

Students have long used their councils and campus newspaper as source of strength and voice against oppressive campus administrations. This is especially crucial presently amid the need to thwart the attacks of the Marcos regime, particularly the National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac, and the restoration of military and police agents and forces on campuses.

"Students and these institutions must protect and support each other," a campus journalist quipped.



San Miguel mining in South Cotabato despite opposition and risk

Since 2022, large machineries of Daguma Agro Minerals Inc and Bonanza Energy Resources Inc, companies of San Miguel Energy Corporation (SEMC), have been constantly mining coal in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu in South Cotabato. Mining continues despite resistance of residents, church people, environmental groups and even the provincial government. The once verdant farms are now black soil shrouded in suffocating smoke and dust.



From morning to night, big trucks come and go bringing mined coal to the pier in Kalaong, Maitum, Sarangani. Residents said the coal being amassed is meant for the SMEC power plant in Davao. It also supplies to the coal plant in Maasim, Sarangani owned by the Alcantaras, a partner of the Japanese company Toyota Tsusho Corporation.

SMEC seized 17,000-hectares of forest and agricultural land in the Daguma Mountain Range. A large section forms part of the ancestral land of the Dulangan-Manobo and the T'boli tribe. There are also many settlers here who hail from Panay. Colluding with the provincial council of South Cotabato (except for the former governor), SMEC peddled mining as a "bearer of development" for Barangay Ned. The company paved roads and installed electricity supposedly for the people's use. It also promised to hire residents as mine workers.

But when the mine opened, SMEC began evicting residents around it. Many of them were forced to sell their land to the company because the local government compelled them to leave the danger zone

created by the mine. SMEC bought their farms at very low prices (₱80,000-₱100,000 per hectare).

The company harasses farmers who refuse to sell their land. On April 30, Ricks Mosquero and his wife, Meljean, and Helberth Mosquero and his wife, Analie, were arrested, charged and imprisoned by the guards at Sitio Aboy in Barangay Ned. The four were forced to pass through the front side of the mine because the land they used to cross to go to their farm collapsed.

Mining causes pollution, water contamination and destruction of water source in Daguma. Residents fear the mine will poison the Kabulnan and Allah rivers that flow into the Liguasan Marsh, a vast marshland that serves as an important fishing area. The Allah River, on the other hand, is the main source of irrigation for the vast rice fields in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

SMEC claims using "side-stripping" mining method. But experts say this method is not much different from the destructive open-pit mining that has been banned in

South Cotabato since 2010. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau reported on 2019 that coal mining in porous soil like Barangay Ned will result in landslides and collapse of communities due to possible underground holes.

In fact, shortly after the mine began operations, provincial agencies have already reported sinkholes in Barangay Ned. In March 2022, Barangay Ned also suffered a flash flood and a landslide that killed one and displaced 300 residents. In September of the same year, another landslide occurred that displaced 117 families.

For a long time, SMEC's operations was put on hold due to the strong opposition of the people of Barangay Ned. The military besieged the barangay. This led to the massacre of eight Lumads on December 3, 2017. On that day, soldiers killed Tboli-Dulangan Manobo leader Datu Victor Danyan, his two sons Victor Jr and Artemio and Pato Celardo, Samuel Angkoy, To Diamante, Bobot Lagase, and Mateng Bantel. No justice has yet to be served. AB

Residents and groups oppose SMC's expansion of coal-powered plant in Zambales

FROM MINDANAO TO Luzon, San Miguel Corporation (SMC) of the big bourgeois Ramon Ang, plunders the country's natural resources relentlessly, destroying the environment and the people's livelihood.

In Zambales, residents, environmental groups and church people oppose the plan of San Miguel Global Power (SMGP), a subsidiary of SMC, to expand its Masinloc Power Plant in Masinloc, Zambales. They also condemned Zambales governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr, a retired general, for endorsing the plan. Ebdane was former Philippine National Police chief, secretary of the Department of Defense, and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Residents oppose the construction of two additional coal-powered plant units. They are calling for the immediate closure of the plant.

In their counter-petition, residents said they were evicted from their homes and sources of livelihood in communities around the plant. They also suffered from health problems, and harassment and intimidation against opposition. The waters in Masinloc Bay have also been polluted.

The Concerned Citizens of Zambales study found that coal ash from Masinloc destroyed mango production, a major livelihood in the province. It also damaged farms in northern Zambales. If the plant continues expanding, it will cause more extensive damage to farms and pollute the air of the province.

The groups also condemned Standard Chartered, a UK-based multinational bank, for financing the project. The plant has also received funding from the World Bank's International Finance Corporation.

In the Philippines, coal-powered plants produce 54.7% of the energy sector's greenhouse gas emissions.



Drivers protest in Catarman. Three hundred tricycle drivers plying the University of Eastern Philippines-Catarman route gathered last September 8 to express their opposition to cooperative's imminent takeover of their route. This attack on their livelihood was caused by the PUVMP (PTMP) which offered various routes of small drivers and operators to large corporate "modern jeep" companies.

Eyes On Set Network launched. Film and television workers, professionals, media students, and labor rights advocates formed the Eyes on Set Network to monitor the enforcement of the Eddie Garcia Law and to push for living wages and humane working hours in the industry of film and television. The network was officially launched at a rally on September 11 in Quezon City.

Demand to stop quarrying in Rizal. On September 11, environmental groups and fisherfolk affected by typhoon Enteng's flooding of Rizal trooped to the DENR. They called for the immediate cancellation of all permits for quarrying and mining in the province. They said extreme deforestation caused by quarrying and mining is one of the major reasons for the rapid rise of rivers and widespread flooding on September 2.



Union formed in Golden Zone Garments. After several months of efforts, the Golden Zone daily rank-and-file workers in Laguna established and registered the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Golden Zone Garments and Accessories Inc on August 12. The workers face issues of low wages, forced overtime, lack of transportation allowance and poor safety and health regulations.

The union also filed a case with the National Conciliation and Mediation Board against the management's repression and coercing workers to dissociate from the union. The first hearing was held on September 11.

Recognize workers' rights, amid transfer of icing factory. Workers of Philippine Gum Paste Inc (PGPI), an icing factory (for cakes), in Cubao, Quezon City continue to demand their rights after the management ignored their grievances over the transfer of its factory to Candelaria, Quezon. They complained against forcibly being transferred to a new factory with threats of dismissal.

Fight for CBA in Daiwa! More than 100 workers of Daiwa-Seiko Philippines protested outside its factory in the Laguna International Industrial Park in Biñan, Laguna last September 18 to fight for their collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The Malayang Unyon ng Daiwa-Seiko Philippines (MUDSP) said the management is delaying their CBA.

2 abducted; 9 arrested in recent weeks

The Marcos regime unleashed brutality and violence in recent weeks. Two young organizers were abducted in Isabela, six driver-leaders and operators arrested in Bacolod City and three students in Quezon City and repeated cases of harassment in Cavite.

Abduction. In Isabela, state forces abducted Vladimir Maro and Andy Magno in the town of San Pablo, Isabela on September 11. Maro is an organizer of Migrante Youth and a migrant workers' rights advocate. Magno, on the other hand, is a member of Minggan-University of the Philippines (UP) Manila, an organization that promotes environmental protection. He graduated with a degree on Development Studies from the university.

On September 15, relatives and lawyers located Maro detained at the police station in Peñablanca. He was charged with two counts of attempted murder and accused of "terrorism."

Arrest. The Marcos regime's police and armed forces used water-cannon and violently dispersed protesting jeepney drivers and operators in Bacolod City on September 18. To express their grievances against the jeepney phaseout, they staged a picket before a hotel on Lacson Street where government agencies were holding the Public Transport Modernization Program (PTMP) Summit.

Police arrested several leaders of Undoc-Piston, KNETCO-Piston, and Bacod-Manibela. These include Lilian Sembrano, Rudy Cathedral, Eric Bendoy, Shallemar Leutner, Melchor Omangyon, and Rodolfo Gardoce.

On September 19, police in plainclothes arrested three Polytechnic University of the Philippines students in Quiapo, Manila while painting graffiti to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the first US-Marcos regime's martial law and dictatorship.

Harassment. One September 9, state forces set up checkpoints at the entry to the Lupang Ramos in Dasmariñas City. The following day, 50 military and police forcibly entered the community on the pretext of inspecting cases of African Swine Fever. The community was again raided on September 17.

On September 9, four police cars parked for several hours before Lupang Tartaria. It was accompanied by a 6x6 truck of soldiers with three roof-mounted guns, and three V150 military tanks. AB

Farmers suffer low corn farmgate price during harvest season

Farmgate prices of corn are already rapidly falling, and it's not even yet the peak of the harvest season!" This is a major concern for farmers who grow yellow corn in Cagayan Valley with the approach of harvest.

In a report released by the Danggayan Cagayan Valley (Alliance of Farmers in the Cagayan Valley), the price of regular corn in Lasam, Cagayan is now only ₱7/kilo; ₱10/kilo in San Mariano, Ilagan, Roxas and ₱10.50 in San Guillermo. In Gattaran, regular corn costs ₱11.50/kilo, while "good & dry" (with low moisture content) is priced at only ₱15-17.50/kilo.

In Cotabato, as well as in Bukidnon and Maguindanao, corn prices are set at ₱17/kilo (from ₱25/kilo before the harvest season). In Zamboanga, corn prices are at ₱17 to ₱19 per kilo from ₱20/kilo. Elsewhere in BARMM, prices fell to ₱16 from ₱26-₱27 prior to the harvest. Farmers expect prices to plummet further at the height of the

harvest.

"We survived the army worm infestation, high winds, floods and the recent El Niño, but we can't survive the cheap price of corn," farmers complained. They condemned traders for pushing down prices during the harvest season. They said traders seem to be asking for their produce for free.

Low farmgate prices are an extremely heavy burden for farmers to bear, especially amid unrelenting increases in production costs. They need to invest at least ₱64,000 per hectare, which they usually borrow at very high interest rates of 30-40%.

"Almost 80% of our expenses are spent on seeds, fertilizers and labor," Danggayan said. "The

lenders are the same people who buy our corn at prices and classifications they set. The good & dry corn they buy from us at ₱16/kilo is sold for ₱50/kilo to the big feed plants in Bulacan and Manila. Where is justice in all this?"

Corn is the second most widely grown crop in the Philippines. More than 500,000 farming families grow corn on nearly 2.5 million hectares. Yellow corn comprises 72% of what they grow and is used as feed for swine, chickens and fish. Cagayan Valley (Isabela) and Northern Mindanao (Bukidnon) are the largest corn producers.

Apart from yellow corn, farmers also grow white corn, which is used as an ingredient in corn starch, *binatog* (a local steamed corn kernel snack), and *kornik* (a crunchy corn kernel snack). It is also ground and serves as a rice substitute. AB

**1.02
MILLION**

youth unemployed in July 2024, comprising 43% of the total 2.4 million unemployed. They number highest in NCR.



**₱8.4
BILLION**

slashed from the ₱11.8 billion budget requested by the **Polytechnic University of the Philippines**, with the Marcos regime retaining only ₱3.39 billion in its budget proposal.



2nd

among the provinces with the most Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (30) is Rizal.

Deforestation and destruction of rivers are among the causes of widespread flooding on September 2 during **Typhoon Enteng**.

₱950



the new airport terminal fee (from ₱450) after the Marcos regime sold the **NAIA** operations to San Miguel Corporation

40.28%

increase in the Philippines' debt payment by July (₱1.36 trillion), from ₱972.28 billion in July 2023.



AMADO V. HERNANDEZ

anti-imperialist poet, novelist, labor leader and journalist who was born on **September 14, 1903**. His most famous works include the poem Kung Tuyo na ang Luha mo, Aking Bayan and the novel Ibong Mandaragit

₱4.56 billion

confidential and intelligence funds earmarked for Ferdinand Marcos Jr, totaling almost half of the

₱10.506 billion

budget of his office.



cases of arson in the coastal communities of Cavite since 2017 to evict residents and pave the way for the reclamation project in the area.

Military detachments dot Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur

Fascist military, police and paramilitary forces relentlessly sow terror and violate the rights of minorities and the downtrodden masses in the barangays and communities of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur.

Since 2018, the 3rd Special Forces Battalion (SFB) and their lackey CAFGU units forcibly established an additional 15 detachments in Andap Valley Complex (AVC) communities in Surigao del Sur. Four of these communities are in Barangay Diatagon in Lianga.

Meanwhile, the 75th IB established a total of 11 detachments--three in Barangay Mahaba in Marihatag, two each in the barangays of Buhisan and Hanipaan in San Agustin town, two in Barangay Bolhoon, one in Barangay Libas in San Miguel, and one in Barangay Carasan in Tago.

The 3rd SFB built four detachments at the border of Surigao del Sur and Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. Two of these are in Barangay Mabuhay, and one each in the barangays of Libertad and San Lorenzo.

Long list of atrocities

The 3rd SFB already has detachments in several barangays in AVC

since 2016. Residents from a group of barrios recorded 361 victims of human rights violations committed by the battalion. These include two cases of physical assault, 33 cases of illegal arrest and detention, 42 forced surrenders, 24 instances of filing of fabricated charges and 106 forced evacuations from communities.

Curfews have been imposed on these villages, people coming and leaving the community are forced to sign logbooks while farming time is limited. Soldiers set up flash checkpoints to take pictures of drivers, their passengers and cargo. Store owners are interrogated and compelled them to limit the amount of food supplies they purchase. Soldiers conduct a census whenever detachments change officers. They threaten those they accuse of maintaining links with the New People's Army.

Soldiers also engage in decadent activities such as drinking and public disturbance when they get drunk.

They "befriend" and flirt with residents, even married women and minors. A girl was threatened when she refused courtship. Some who became pregnant, including minors, are simply abandoned when the involved soldiers are transferred to another detachment. They target the children of recognized leaders of indigenous communities.

In a cluster of adjacent barangays within Prosperidad, 111 cases of human rights violations were recorded in 2022-2023. The cases mainly involve intimidation and threats (55), forced evacuation and dislocation (16), surveillance (15), food blockade (7), coercion (6), interrogation (4), arrest and detention (2), planting evidence (2) and filing fabricated charges (3). The illegal search of an elderly couple's house and the beating of their mentally disabled young son in Barangay San Lorenzo were also reported.

Civilians, including barangay officials red-tagged by the NTF-ELCAC, are repeatedly threatened and coerced. Many have been forced to sign papers in exchange for promised benefits from E-CLIP. In one barangay, a resident with a mental disability was driven to suicide due to the trauma caused by incessant summoning and interrogation of his parents by soldiers.

The most recent incident was the repeated shelling by the SAF and 3rd SFB from Barangay Libertad, Prosperidad in August 2024. This terrorized residents, especially children, nursing mothers and the elderly. It affected 1,000 families in neighboring barangays of San Lorenzo, Mabuhay and Libertad. Residents in nearby barangays along the road such as Barangay Aspetia, Magsaysay, Los Arcos and San Martin in the same town were also affected.

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