



COMPATRIOTS



ISULONG
ANG
DIGMANG BAYAN
- COMPATRIOTS

LONG LIVE
THE
PEOPLE'S
WAR
COMPATRIOTS

SERVE
THE
PEOPLE
- COMPATRIOTS

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet was produced by the Liberation International editorial team in close cooperation with Compatriots-NDFP.

We endeavored to publish this booklet with the hope of assisting organizers to advance Compatriots-NDFP as the revolutionary organization of overseas Filipinos. This is a tool for collective study and practice which is meant to be used, enriched, and further developed by comrades engaged in organizing. It aims to help forge unity among Filipino migrants, raise their political consciousness, and strengthen their capacity for sustained organizing rooted in the needs and aspirations of the masses.

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SAGOT SA
IMPERYALISTANG
GERA!



DIGMANG
BAYAN!



COMPATRIOTS-NDP

Foreword

Across borders and oceans, Filipino migrants carry with them not only their skills and labor, but also their history, their aspirations, and their unyielding connection to the homeland. Dispersed across the globe, they confront conditions of exploitation, discrimination, and displacement. Yet within these conditions also lie their immense potential for collective strength and organized resistance.

This booklet is published to provide practical information and to serve as a political guide for revolutionary organizers of Compatriots-NDFP, the underground revolutionary movement of Filipinos overseas and affiliated with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Contained in this booklet are the founding documents of Compatriots-NDFP, its constitution and its program as well as a select few stories of Filipino migrant struggles across the globe. It also includes the 12-point program of the NDFP which stands as the Filipino people's rallying demands for a just and democratic society. It is intended to assist in the vital task of expanding and consolidating the revolutionary mass movement, strengthening our ranks so that more can meaningfully contribute to the advance of the Philippine revolution.

To organize our compatriots abroad is to transform scattered individuals into a conscious and revolutionary force and movement. It requires patience, discipline, and a deep understanding of the concrete conditions faced by our kababayans overseas. This booklet offers tools meant to guide organizers sustaining mass work rooted in the daily lives and struggles of Filipino migrants.

Though far from the Philippines, the struggle of Filipino migrants is inseparable from the struggle for national liberation and genuine democracy. The hardships faced abroad are direct consequences of a failed system that denies our people land, jobs, and dignity at home. In this sense, organizing among our compatriots abroad is about linking their concrete struggles to the historic mission of ending exploitation and oppression in the Philippines through national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective.

May this booklet serve as a living tool that grows through practice, reflection, and collective effort. As organizers, we carry the responsibility of nurturing this

movement, ensuring that wherever Filipino migrants may be, they remain steadfast participants in the long and ongoing struggle for genuine peace, democracy and liberation in the Philippines and for global unities of all workers and the toiling masses against imperialism and all reaction.

Mario Liwanag, Chairperson

Compatriots-NDFP

CONCEPT AND PROGRAM

March 4, 2025

I. Nature and Characteristics of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP

COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is the revolutionary mass organization of overseas Filipinos for their thorough and systematic participation in advancing the Philippine national democratic revolution.

COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is the revolutionary mass organization that stands and speaks for the patriotic and democratic aims and aspirations of all Filipino compatriots abroad. It is an allied member organization of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The NDFP is the most consolidated united front of all progressive and democratic forces that advance the national democratic revolution to victory.

COMPATRIOTS-NDFP recognizes the class leadership of the proletariat in the new democratic revolution through the Communist Party of the Philippines (MLM).

The COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is committed to arouse, organize and mobilize all democratic classes and sectors of Filipinos abroad, primarily those from the working class, for the victory of the Philippine national democratic revolution towards its socialist future.

II. Analysis and Stand of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP

The crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system of Philippine society brought about by US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism is the principal and fundamental cause of forced migration and the massive export of Filipino masses to work abroad.

Overseas Filipinos come from democratic classes of workers, peasants and the petty-bourgeoisie. Once abroad, the majority of our overseas compatriots become de-skilled workers who experience intense exploitation and oppression.

Thus, it is their objective interest to overthrow US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism - the basic problems of Philippine society that generates massive poverty and maldevelopment that victimize the majority of the Filipino people. Our compatriots abroad are thus an integral part of the national democratic revolution.

The Filipino people's democratic revolution is the answer to forced migration and labor export of the Filipino people!

III. General and Particular Program of Action of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP

The general task is to arouse, organize and mobilize the vast masses of the compatriots for the national democratic revolution. The particular tasks are the following:

1. Promote and fight for the economic, democratic and political interests and struggles of overseas compatriots.
2. Promote the economic welfare and democratic aspirations of the Filipino people. Promote and participate in the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, anti-bureaucrat capitalist and anti-fascist struggle of the Filipino people. Expose and fight against counter-revolutionary tactics and all reaction.
3. Build the chapters of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and expand its membership.
4. Consolidate revolutionary mass activists by raising their political consciousness and leadership ability.
5. Draw in tens of thousands of overseas Filipinos to join the revolutionary movement.
6. Promote the NDFP and contribute to its strengthening and the promotion of our people's war.
7. Promote the program of the National Democratic Revolution to all Filipino migrants, as well as to organizations, parties and individuals of host peoples and gather their moral, political and material support.
8. Promote and advance revolutionary studies and dissemination of the reading of revolutionary and proletarian theories and experiences. Launch regular assessments, timely summing-up and CSC to continue to raise the revolutionary consciousness of its members.
9. Launch a strong propaganda movement to expose and oppose US imperialism and its puppet state. Expose International Humanitarian Law violations against the rural masses.
10. Support the armed struggle by launching the Cherish the NPA Campaign, promoting protracted people's war, conducting exposures and TODs, recruiting full-timers to do revolutionary work in the countryside, contributing their intellect and skill, to develop resources and gather financial and material support and other needs for the armed revolution.

11. Develop solidarity relationships and cooperation with progressive, anti-imperialist movements, liberation movements of other nations, and countries asserting independence and socialism against imperialism. Actively support all peoples of various nationalities in host countries in their struggles for democratic development.

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, members of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP, as the revolutionary organization of overseas Filipinos are fully participating and promoting the Philippine national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective.

We believe that through the national democratic revolution, the semi-colonial and semi-feudal system will end. Only the national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective will ensure the national and social liberation of the Filipino people.

We believe that imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism are the basic problems of Philippine society. Their existence is the root of the massive and forced migration and commodification of overseas Filipinos and their families.

We believe that the national democratic revolution with the socialist perspective led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (MLM) will advance the decisive liberation of the Filipino people. We believe that we are an integral part of the Philippine revolution which is part of the world proletarian revolution.

Article I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. Overseas compatriots, including seafarers, suffer from exploitation and oppression. We also include the returning migrants and those under processing for migration also suffer from exploitation and oppression.

Section 2. The struggle of overseas countrymen, returning migrants, aspirations to work abroad, and would be migrants are integrated and inextricably linked to the struggle of the Filipino people against imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism.

Section 3. The overthrow of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism will end the semi-colonial and semi-feudal system. It will also end the massive and systematic forced migration and commodification of overseas compatriots and returning migrants, including all forms of trafficking, legal and illegal.

Section 4. The struggle for the liberation of overseas compatriots and returning migrants does not end with the acquisition of national independence and democracy but in the continuing socialist construction of society and onwards until all forms of

exploitation and oppression are ended. To this end, the COMPATS-NDFP has the responsibility to mobilize not only the political contribution, but also material contributions for the revolutionary struggle of the people in the Philippines.

Section 5. Under the severe and chronic crisis of Philippine society, the Filipino people need to take up arms. The armed struggle is the main form of the struggle that will advance and ensure success in the liberation of the Filipino people, including the overseas compatriots and returning migrants, in particular. The ruling class of compradors and landlords together with US imperialism will viciously suppress the struggle for true freedom and democracy through violence. It is only right that armed struggle will end their rule as well.

Section 6. The revolutionary movement of overseas Filipinos will advance the struggle, promote the interests, support and preserve the victories of the movement during the period of struggle until complete victory and until we build a free, prosperous, progressive socially just Philippines.

Section 7. The COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is a member of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. The COMPATRIOTS-NDFP promotes the principles, goals, programs and duties of the front and promotes the interests of the sectors and classes within it. The COMPATRIOTS-NDFP cooperates with individuals and/or member revolutionary organizations of the Front, especially develop close cooperation of the sectors of the overseas with their corresponding revolutionary organizations back in the Philippines.

Section 8. The COMPATRIOTS-NDFP unites and cooperates with individuals, groups, revolutionary organizations and national liberation movements in various countries for the fight against imperialism and all kinds of reaction. The COMPATRIOTS NDFP also strengthens unity and support for the Philippine revolution by the people of the world.

Article II

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF COMPATRIOTS-NDFP

Section 1. Arouse, organize, and mobilize overseas Filipinos, especially workers, and returning migrants to participate in the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and anti-fascist struggle.

Section 2. Advance the national democratic revolution that will destroy and end the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, liberate the Filipino

people, and lay the foundation for a truly free, progressive and democratic Philippines where forced migration and commodification of Filipino people does not exist.

Section 3. Promote and campaign for the participation of overseas Filipinos and returning migrants primarily in the revolutionary armed struggle in the countryside, and enliven their participation in the revolutionary mass movement in the cities.

Section 4. Mobilize overseas compatriots and returning migrants to perform work in various fields of the NDFP program such as economic, social, politics, culture, military, etc. Promote the establishment of the people's democratic government and ensure the participation and representation of overseas compatriots, and returning migrants at all levels of government.

Section 5. Fight for the rights and well-being of overseas compatriots and returning migrants. Attend to the particular interests of seafarers, women, youth, the undocumented and trafficked and all other precarious workers and sectors.

Section 6. Link and develop solidarity relationships and cooperation for mutual reciprocal solidarity to fight US imperialism, and in particular, promote our country's national democratic revolution and people's war.

Article III NAME AND SYMBOL

Section 1. The organization will be called COMPATRIOTS-NDFP, the revolutionary organization of overseas Filipinos.

Section 2. The symbol of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is red with golden letters in the middle.

Section 3. The official color of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is red as a sign of its revolutionary character and purpose.

Article IV MEMBERSHIP AND PLEDGE

Section 1. Any overseas Filipino or returning migrant, coming from any democratic class, regardless of any religious beliefs and sexual orientation, age 13 and older, adhering to the Aims, Program and Constitution of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP,

and recommended by two COMPATRIOTS-NDFP members in good standing, can be accepted as a member.

Section 2. Each member of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP will be sworn to a Pledge. The Pledge of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is:

“I, comrade _____, wholeheartedly agree with the Constitution and Program of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP. I am prepared to be bound under this organization, as well as its decisions and policies. I will fulfill all the duties and responsibilities that I have been assigned.

I will act to the best of my ability to join the struggle to free the Filipino people from exploitation and oppression in society. I will develop my revolutionary consciousness, and defend the interests of the Filipino masses, along with the interests of overseas compatriots, returning migrants.

I will join and promote the struggle of the Filipino people, including that of overseas Filipinos and returning migrants. I will overcome obstacles, keep the honor and prestige of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP, and will protect its security and that of my companions.

I will develop my ability in all areas of revolutionary struggle to advance the people’s democratic revolution with a socialist perspective until victory.

Article V
MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Each member has the following rights:

- a. Be part of a unit or collective of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and participate in decision-making and tasks.
- b. Attend revolutionary studies and training that are important in their participation in the organization.
- c. Freely discuss policies and attend meetings.
- d. Recommend a member of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP.
- e. Give suggestions, statements, and grievances to the unit they belong to.

- f. Elect and be elected in positions.
- g. Criticize any group, unit and organ through the unit they belong to.
- h. Appeal any decision on the higher units of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP up to the Global Council or Global Congress.
- i. Learn the decisions or policies within the organization that have a direct impact on them.
- j. Freely file resignation as a member of the organization. The resignation will be fully explained to its involved collective or unit and higher organs;

Section 2. Each member has the following duties:

- a. Follow the Constitution of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP, implement the program, policies and decisions of the Global Congress, Council and the organs he belongs to.
- b. Promote and defend the interests of overseas Filipinos, returning migrants, and the entire exploited and oppressed Filipino people.
- c. Strengthen unity within the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP
- d. Be part of the unit or collective and perform work within it.
- e. Propagate the orientation of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP anywhere or any arena of struggle.
- f. Attend meetings and studies.
- g. Protect the security of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and its members.
- h. Responsibly attend to tasks and correct mistakes and weaknesses for the development of the tasks.
- i. Recommend and recruit members of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and assist in developing them within the organization.
- j. Gather political, material, financial and other support for the people's war and the revolutionary struggle.
- k. Regularly pay membership dues, as set by the Global Council

Article VI **ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND POLICY**

Section 1. Collective work and the Principle of Democratic Centralism

As a mass organization, its members will apply the principle of collective cooperation, learning, and decision-making.

Its strength and life of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP is rooted in the mass membership and the rest of the masses. Its principle and operation is developed through the practice of democracy among the masses and the development of collective leadership and a leadership that is based on democracy.

Section. Criticism and Self-Criticism

Each member will practice criticism and self-criticism to improve ways of work, overcome weaknesses and correct mistakes. Thus, the unity and quality of each member and the entire organization will be enhanced.

Section 3. Violations on Policies

Every member of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP, regardless of position, who does not fulfill the duty, violates the decision or policy of the organization, or does not respect the rights of fellow members of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP will be criticized.

Serious violations based on a thorough evaluation will be given a corresponding disciplinary action from warning, stern warnings, demotion/suspension and expulsion from COMPATRIOTS-NDFP.

Section 4. Election of Leaders

The leaders of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP will be elected at each level. Elections should be held in person.

**Article VII
STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. General framework

- a. On the international scope, there will be a Global Congress, Global Council, and Global Executive Committee
- b. At the regional level, there will be a regional conference, regional council, and regional executive committee.
- c. At the country, city or state and district level, there will be a Country, City, State or District conference, council and executive committee.

Section 2. Composition and Authority

- a. The Global Congress is the highest policy making body of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP. It will be called every three years, unless the security situation requires postponement. It will be composed of elected delegates from all regional and country chapters all over. It will choose the Global Council from different units or organs of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP. It will amend the Constitution and Program of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and it will also elect the Global Executive Committee.
- b. The Global Council will oversee the work of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP between the Congress and enforce Congress's policies and decisions on the global scope. It will be called once a year. It will be composed of the Global Executive Committee and representatives of the global regional organizations of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP as determined by the Congress.
- c. The number of global regional representatives will be decided during global congress and the number of its representation per global region and/or country will depend on the volume of their mass base in their respective global region and/or country.
- d. The Global Executive Committee is the leader of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP between the meetings of the Global Council and Congress. It will stand as a standing committee and administer the implementation of decisions, policies and programs of action adopted by the Global Council and Global Congress. It will be composed of three (3) officers elected during the Global Congress.
- e. Similar outlines of the lower level will oversee the work of the COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and enforce Global Congress's policies and decisions at the regional level, country, province or state, district, municipality and cities.
- f. The chapter of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP will be formed by at least 10 revolutionary members. The chapter can be formed at any level - workplace, community, school, office and more.
- g. Members of Compatriots can create sectoral organizations as part of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP and under the organizational demcen processes of COMPATRIOTS. They can take the name of the NDFP sectoral allied organization and they remain organic component of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP. Therefore, COMPATRIOTS will create chapters as needed that take the sectoral identity and name such as KM Overseas, Makibaka Overseas, CNL Overseas, etc. These chapters are secondarily affiliate members of their home front counterparts.

Article VIII
THE GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Global Chairperson

Section 1. The Global Chairperson shall be elected by the Global Congress for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms, each term lasting three (3) years, and shall have the following main functions:

- a. To act as the official representative and spokesperson of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP;
- b. To preside over the Global Congress, meetings of the Global Council and the Global Executive Committee;
- c. To draft the report, assessment and summing-up of the Global Council; and
- d. To give special attention to problems encountered by the organization.

Global Vice-Chairperson

Section 2. The Global Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Global Congress for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms, each term lasting three (3) years and shall have the following functions:

- a. To act in place of the Chairperson in the event of the latter's absence or incapacity; and
- b. To perform such other functions as may be given to him/her by the Global Council and Global Executive Committee.

Section 3. In the event of the Global Chairperson's resignation, removal or any incapacitation to further perform his/ her duties, the Global Vice-Chairperson shall assume the office of the Global Chairperson until a new Global Chairperson shall have been elected by the Global Congress.

Global Secretary General

Section 4: The Global Secretary General shall be elected by the Global Congress

for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms, each term lasting three (3) years, and shall have the following functions;

- a. a. To head the Global Secretariat and to administer the day-to-day work of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP;
- b. To supervise and coordinate the work of the staff units/committees;
- c. To prepare the guide for organizational work.
- d. To ensure the implementation of the program for the development of members and the organization;
- e. To prepare the quantitative assessment of the organization;
- f. To be in charge of the communication system and the security of the organization;
- g. To be responsible for the safekeeping of all official records; and
- h. To undertake whatever special task may be given by the Global Council.

Article IX

THE CHAPTER AS THE BASIC ORGANIZATION

Section 1. A Chapter shall have a minimum of 10 members. It may be organized in any area of concentration where overseas compatriots reside or work.

Section 2. A Chapter shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. To ensure the implementation of COMPATRIOTS-NDFP policies and programs;
- b. To nurture collective life, collective leadership and revolutionary discipline;
- c. To consolidate the reports of the Chapter and to ensure smooth coordination with the higher unit;
- d. To ensure the implementation of the national education program in the Chapter, and to monitor the education needs of its members and make appropriate recommendations to the higher unit;
- e. To perform the Chapter's political tasks of arousing, organizing and mobilizing overseas compatriots for the NDR.

Section 3. A Chapter shall have the following officers: The Chairperson, Organizational Officer and Education Officer.

Article X
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution can be amended or modified by the Global Congress by voting a simple majority of its membership (or 50% and one of the Global Congress) after thorough discussion. Amendments shall take effect immediately.

Article XI
VALIDITY OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution has been adopted and will take effect starting March 4, 2025.

The 12-point program of the NDFP

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines is committed to the Filipino people's revolutionary struggle for the completion of the national democratic revolution through people's war. This national democratic revolution is of a new type because it is led by the working class and has a socialist perspective.

The NDFP seeks to promote the unity, cooperation and coordination of all patriotic and progressive classes, sectors and forces in order to fight for national liberation and democracy and overthrow the oppressive and exploitative ruling system. In promoting national unity, the NDFP pursues the revolutionary class line in the united front. This requires the activation and strengthening of the working class leadership, the basic worker-peasant alliance, the basic forces of the revolution which include the urban petty bourgeoisie and the positive forces of the revolution.

At the moment, the NDFP is the formal united front of the organizations of the basic forces of the revolution, i.e., working class, peasantry and urban petty bourgeoisie. The allied organizations within the NDFP make agreements among themselves according to the principle of consultations and consensus. They enjoy independence and initiative, with due respect to such relations as may obtain between any of them. In this regard, the New People's Army is under the absolute leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The principal way to strengthen the NDFP is for all the allied organizations within the NDFP fold to strengthen themselves through mass work in their respective spheres. Consequently, the consultative conferences and leading councils of the NDFP can have powerful support at various levels. Further on, the leading councils can form staff committees through the executive committees in order to perform important work. The NDFP is ever ready and willing to cooperate with all patriotic and progressive forces and individuals that are outside of the NDFP in order to broaden and strengthen national unity and advance the national democratic revolution.

The National Democratic Front hereby declares its 12-point Program. We offer it to the Filipino people, to be their guide and rallying point, as they fight for an independent, democratic, just, prosperous and progressive future.





Unite the people for the overthrow
of the semicolonial and semifeudal
system through a people's war and
for the completion of the national
democratic revolution.



*Pagkaisahin ang sambayanan
para sa tungkuling ibagsak ang
malakolonyal at malapyudal na
sistema sa pamamagitan ng digmang
bayan at kumpletuhin ang pambansa-
demokratikong rebolusyon.*



2

**Establish
a People's Democratic Republic
and a democratic coalition
government.**



*Hawanin ang landas para sa
pagtatatag ng demokratikong
republikang bayan at ng
demokratikong gubyernong
koalisyon.*



3

**Build the people's army and a people's
defense system.**



*Palakasin ang hukbong bayan
at sistemang pandepensa ng
mamamayan.*





**Uphold and promote the people's
democratic rights.**



*Ipagtibay at itaguyod ang
demokratikong mga karapatan ng
mamamayan.*



5

**Terminate all unequal relations
with the United States and other
foreign entities.**



*Wakasan ang lahat ng di-pantay na
relasyon sa United States at ibang
dayuhang mga entidad.*



6

Implement genuine agrarian reform, promote agricultural cooperation, raise rural production and employment through modernization of agriculture and rural industrialization and ensure agricultural sustainability.



Ipatupad ang tunay na programa sa agraryong reporma, itaguyod ang kooperasyong pang-agrikultura, paunlarin ang produksyon at empleyong rural sa pamamagitan ng modernisasyon sa agrikultura at industriyalisasyong rural, at tiyakin ang sustenabilidad pang-agrikultura.





Break the US–big comprador–landlord dominance over the economy, carry out national industrialization and build an independent and self-reliant economy.



Lansagin ang pangingibabaw ng US at ibang mga imperyalista at malalaking komprador-panginoong maylupa sa ekonomya; ipatupad ang programa sa pambansang industriyalisasyon, at tiyakin ang independyente at umaasa sa sariling ekonomya.



8

**Adopt a comprehensive and
progressive social policy.**



*Ipatupad ang isang komprehensibo
at progresibong programang
panlipunan.*

9

**Promote a national and progressive
people's culture.**



*Itaguyod at paunlarin ang pambansa,
siyentipiko at pangmasang kultura.*

10

Uphold the rights of the Bangsa Moro and the Cordillera peoples and other indigenous peoples to self-determination and democracy.



Pagtibayin ang mga karapatan ng mamamayang Bangsa Moro, mga mamamayang Cordillera at ibang mga pambansang minorya sa pagpapasya sa-sarili at demokrasya.





**Advance the revolutionary
emancipation of women in all spheres.**



*Isulong ang rebolusyonaryong
pagpapalaya sa kababaihan sa lahat ng
larangan.*



12

**Adopt an active, independent and
peaceful foreign policy.**



***Ipagtibay ang aktibo, independyente at
mapayapang patakarang panlabas.***

Notes for the revolutionary organizer

Mass work begins with the simple, but profound truth that the masses are the makers of history. As revolutionary organizers, we must always bear in mind that the masses have limitless creative power waiting to be unleashed into a revolutionary force capable of bringing about societal change. Below are a collection of quotations and notes from great revolutionary teachers that provide us with important lessons to improve our mass work.

“We should pay close attention to the well being of the masses, from the problems of land and labour to those of fuel, rice, cooking oil and salt.... All such problems concerning the well being of the masses should be placed on our agenda. We should discuss them, adopt and carry out decisions and check up on the results. We should help the masses to realize that we represent their interests and that our lives are intimately bound up with theirs.”

- Mao Zedong, Be Concerned with the Well-being of the Masses,
Pay Attention to Methods of Work, January 27, 1934

“The bourgeoisie incites the workers of one nation against those of another in the endeavour to keep them disunited. Class-conscious workers, realising that the break-down of all the national barriers by capitalism is inevitable and progressive, are trying to help to enlighten and organise their fellow-workers from the backward countries.”

- V.I. Lenin, Capitalism and Workers' Immigration, October 29, 1913

“To be a truly political force advancing the politics of change and reforms, [we] should always be close to the people, especially to the toiling masses of workers and peasants, learning from them, trusting them and relying on them. By following such mass line, you can learn how best to engage in political education, increase your organized strength and mobilize the masses for denouncing the oppressive and exploitative character and policies of the reactionary government and demanding immediate basic social, economic, political and cultural reforms in the direction of fundamental social transformation.”

- Jose Maria Sison, Consolidate the People’s Gains, April 16, 2009

“Livelihood-related economic struggles have great potential for reinvigorating the mass movements today as it did during the Great Depression of the 1930s. They can certainly be maximized for arousing, organizing and mobilizing people to confront the global economic crisis through militant mass struggle.”

- Jose Maria Sison, A Call to Campaign for Livelihoods and Social Justice, August 11, 2009

“There is an urgent need to arouse the people with the facts and ideas about the real roots of the crisis and with their own immediate needs and demands for fundamental change, to organize them in every possible and necessary way as resolute and militant forces against the ramparts of imperialism and reaction and to mobilize them in their millions, including the spontaneous and still unorganized masses, in order to sweep away the obstacles to fundamental social change.”

- Jose Maria Sison, Celebrate the People’s Struggle, October 16, 2010

Life of a revolutionary compatriot

Ricardo Lozano

The struggle of Filipino migrants, despite being away from their homeland, remain rooted in the Philippine struggle for national and social liberation. Cognizant of the semi-feudal and semi-colonial conditions back home that forced them to work abroad, Filipino migrants can be organized as a formidable force of the revolution.

Statistics from the International Labour Organization (ILO) suggest there are over 10 million Filipinos living abroad globally. This is on top of thousands of Filipinos who have immigrated abroad, those who remain undocumented as well as refugees in various parts of the world. These comprise the Filipino diaspora, tied by their common stories of sacrifice, hope, and revolution. As they navigate the complexities of adjusting to a different life abroad subjected to intense exploitation and oppression, they recognize that their freedom can only be won by taking part in the national democratic struggle for liberation.

We interviewed members of Compatriots, the revolutionary organization of Filipino migrants and their families, and an allied organization of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), to find out more about their daily struggles, the challenges they face in organizing compatriot masses and what it's like to live as a revolutionary compatriot.

Fertile ground for organizing

Filipino migrants are exposed to various forms of exploitation, oppression, racism, and discrimination. This common thread that ties compatriots together make the ground fertile to organize them in their millions for the national democratic revolution.

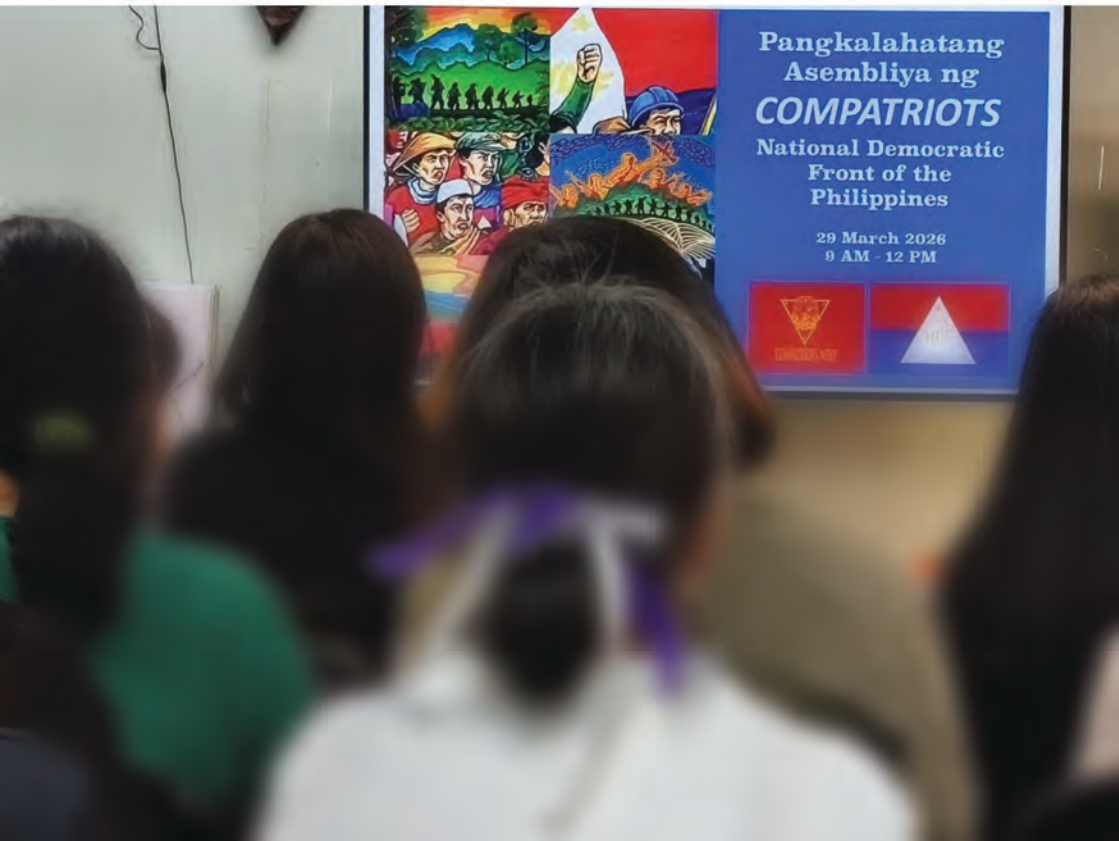
“As class conscious revolutionary forces, we organize migrants by first making them understand and realize how they are exploited and capitalized upon both by big businesses through wage depression, and the Philippine government by raking in billions from their remittances only to pay off international debt,” tells Jenny, a part-time migrant worker and revolutionary migrant organizer.

“We can also organize them by helping them with their immediate needs. In many cases, we are able to organize migrants who are rescued from situations of abuse or other forms of modern-day slavery,” Jenny adds. According to some estimates,

around 49.6 million people live in conditions of modern slavery – in forced labor and forced marriage situations majority of whom are migrant women.

“The moment they understand their situation and the moment they realize that the only way to change things is by taking part in the struggle for national democratic revolution, Filipino migrants can become a strong core of revolutionary strength,” explains Jenny. Organized Filipino migrants play a key role in shaping international public opinion in support of the Philippine revolution. In their thousands, they can either pressure political actors abroad to take action on human rights violations committed by the Philippine government, or also generate substantial moral and material support for the revolution.

Filipino migrants abroad can come from various class origins – from peasants who are forced to sell their land and eventually sell their labor power in another country, petitbourgeois professionals who are underpaid for their work in the Philippines, or workers who risk everything for a better life in a foreign land – these make up the wide range of forces that can be organized for the liberation of Philippine society.



Challenges faced by revolutionary compatriots

But “organizing work among Filipino compatriots isn’t always easy,” says Dina, also a member of Compatriots and works as a household cleaner in Europe. “Organizing work among migrants, like in other sectors, is also fraught with challenges much of which has to do with the very limited time they can spare to be with us in meetings or participate in educational discussions and other activities,” admits Dina. Most Filipino migrants, especially undocumented migrants, take on two or three jobs jumping to clean from one household to babysit in another according to Dina.

Dina wakes up early and begins her day navigating the intricate web of odd jobs that sustain her livelihood and her family back home. With a worn-out backpack slung over her shoulder, she moves from one house to another, always on the lookout for a day’s wage. Calloused from countless tasks, Dina’s hands tell the tale of labor and sacrifice. Despite her busy schedule, she still finds time to do mass work and organize among the ranks of Filipino migrant workers.

“Many of the masses we have organized have proven that it is possible to participate in political actions despite balancing time for economic work. The moment they see the organization alive and functioning, they become inspired to be part of it and give more time for political action,” Dina explains.

“Individualist tendencies tend to exacerbate especially for migrant workers here in advanced capitalist countries,” says Dina. She argues that the work available for migrant workers are mostly in the service industry or so-called “black jobs” that often rely greatly on the individual efforts and hardships – from cleaning houses, babysitting, waitressing, and other house-based chores.

“This becomes a challenge for migrant organizers in terms of developing their social consciousness and a collective way of life,” adds Dina. “Nevertheless, we are able to overcome these challenges through pain-staking ideological work. By giving out educational discussions to raise their consciousness and allow them to break through the individualist mindset with which they have been trained for a long time,” she explains.

“As a revolutionary compatriot, you must also be always on guard against your own individualist tendencies – to situate yourself as a revolutionary, and not a mere Kababayan. This means you must be able to apply revolutionary ideas to the current situation faced by migrant workers abroad and organize them for the cause of revolution in the homeland,” said Dina.

Life full of sacrifices

“The life of a revolutionary compatriot is a life full of sacrifices. Imagine having all the opportunity to earn more money so you can send more back to your family at home but giving that up so that you can spend more time doing political work,” said Jenny.

Jenny recalls how she would sometimes have to give up a gig just to respond to urgent migrant concerns; how despite not knowing how to replace the lost income, she takes comfort in knowing the masses will support her and provide for her needs. “Despite being away from the Philippines, the spirit of Bayanihan prevails among our Filipino compatriots. Whenever someone needs a place to stay, some food to eat, or even just company, our migrants are always ready to help out,” she adds.

Jenny wakes up at five in the morning to prepare for her first job as a part-time warehouse staffer. She leaves work around 12 noon for a quick break and travel to the next village to clean a household or two where she earns 15 euros per hour of cleaning. She spends the remaining part of her day to meet up with other Filipino migrants to hold educational discussions or participate in political actions. In her free time and especially during weekends, she would spend most of her day in social gatherings of traditional migrant organizations to expand her network for organizing.

“It was difficult at first to adjust to living abroad, away from family. I had to learn a new language, adjust to a new culture, and jump from one job to another just to survive,” explains Jenny. “It was also challenging to find the right balance between economic work to earn just enough for me and my family back home to survive and find enough time to do the work I set out to do – which is to organize other migrants for the Filipino revolution,” she added.

“But these are sacrifices that I’m willing and prepared to take. Situating oneself in the Filipino revolution is possible despite being thousands of miles away from the civil war at home,” Jenny said.

Indeed, the life of a revolutionary compatriot is not a walk in the park. It requires constant self-remolding in the face of bourgeois influences especially in advanced capitalist countries where the temptation to prioritize economic work is strongest. But amid the constant uncertainty and relentless hardships, our revolutionary compatriots find solace in the camaraderie of their fellow migrant workers whom they arouse, organize and mobilize. Their day unfolds as an inspiring illustration of simple living and arduous struggle.

Despedida ni Nadine

A.S. Lakambini

Ngayon ang huling araw ni Nadine sa kanyang Dutch host family. Bukas na ang alis niya papuntang Norway. Panibagong bansa, panibagong host family, panibagong pagsisimula.

Ang bilis lang ng panahon. Isang taon na pala si Nadine sa amo niya. Tapos na ang kontrata niya kaya lilipat naman siya sa ibang bansa sa Europa kung saan may au pair program din. Nanghihinayang nga raw siya at isang taon lang ang kontrata niya. Ang ganda pa naman daw sa Holland at may mga kaibigan na siya. Kahit gusto pa niyang magtagal, takot daw siya mag-TNT. Wala raw kasi siyang lakas ng loob tulad ng ibang kapwa Pilipino na hindi na umaalis ng bansa kahit tapos na ang kontrata o pasó na ang tourist visa. Mahirap na raw baka mahuli siya at ma-blacklist ng limang taon. Marami pa raw siyang pangarap.

Hindi man malakas ang loob ni Nadine mag-TNT, malakas naman ang loob niya mag-au pair sa kabila ng pagbabawal ng gobyerno. Noong umalis siya kasama ang apat pang ka-batch niya sa agency, walong taon nang naka-ban* ang pag-alis ng mga Pilipino bilang au pair dahil sa mga kaso ng pang-aabuso. Gayunpaman, hindi nito napipigilan ang marami na magtrabaho bilang au pair.

“Handa ka na? Mga gamit mo?” tanong ko. “Oo, okay na,” sagot niya. “Nakakatakot pero nakaka-excite din,” dugtong niya.

Sino ba naman ang hindi matatakot. Ni hindi pa nga niya natutunan kung paano ang magbilang sa wikang Dutch, lilipat na naman siya sa bansang hindi rin Ingles ang inang wika.

Tawanan, biruan, at kwentuhan ang umubos sa gabi ng despedida para sa kanya. Bakas sa mukha niya ang magkahalong saya at lungkot. Saya na muli makakapagtrabaho at kikita para ipadala sa pamilya at iipunin para sa pagpapamilya. Lungkot sa iiwang mga kaibigan at buhay na nag-uumpisa pa lang.

Para sa maraming kabataang Pilipina, trabaho ang pagiging au pair kahit pa nga cultural exchange program talaga ito. Kaya naman matapos ang kanilang kontrata sa isang bansa, lilipat na naman sila na ang pangunahing layunin ay kumita. Para naman sa mga host family, ginagamit nila ang programa para kumuha ng murang babysitter. Sa kalakaran, mas pinipili nila ang mga Pilipina dahil bukod sa pag-

aalaga ng bata, ginagawa rin nila ang mga trabahong bahay, magaan man o mabigat. Sa madaling salita, may all-around katulong sila. Kaya naman si Nadine, sa tulong na rin ng mga kaibigang Pilipinang galing din ng Netherlands na nasa Norway na ngayon, ay madali lang ding nakahanap ng bagong host family.

“Ano’ng oras pala ang alis mo?” tanong ko ulit. “Alas-dyes ng umaga. Ihahatid ako ng amo ko. Eroplano kasi baka ma-check daw ako sa Germany kapag nag-tren. Amo ko ang kakausap sa immigration at magpapaliwanang ng sitwasyon. Hindi pa naman totally expired ang visa ko.”

“Oo nga. Nakapaskil doon sa istasyon na may check pagdating sa German border”, sang-ayon ko naman. “Mas maigi rin ang biyahe kung eroplano, dalawang oras lang.”

Wala pang au pair visa si Nadine para sa Norway. Dalawang buwan pa ang kailangan niyang hintayin. Pero may sulat siyang dala na nagpapatunay na mabibigyan siya ng visa ng embahada. Dalawang taon din ang kontrata niya roon. Pagkatapos, balak niya ulit lumipat ng ibang bansa. Au pair pa rin puwera na lang daw kung makahanap siya ng boyfriend na taga-roon.

“Kailan ka uuwi ng Pinas?” tanong ko. “Saka na ate. Gusto ko kasi talagang maka-ipon alam mo. Tapos uuwi na ako talaga. Ayaw ko naman habambuhay maging tagapag-alaga na lang ng anak ng iba. Kasi kung ganun na lang ang trabaho ko, sawa na ako sa bata. Wala na ‘yung excitement kapag anak ko na yung aalagaan ko,” sabi niya.

Doon ko naramdaman kung gaano kasidhi ang pangarap niyang makapag-ipon.

“Atsaka gusto ko rin maghanap ng ibang trabaho. ‘Yung nag-oopisina at ‘yung nagpupunta rin sa field.”

“Akbitista?” tukso ko. “Hindi. ‘Yung tulad ng arkitekto. Mga desi-desinyo. Mahilig ako sa ganun eh.” Pagse-seryoso niya.

Maliit, morena at balingkinitan. Ito ang mabilis mong mailalarawang anyo ni Nadine. Liban doon, kapansin-pansin sa kanya ang pagiging masayahin, magaan kasama at kakwentuhan. Hopeless romantic din siya. Minsan habang nasa park kami, nagpasimuno siya ng love questions.

“Ano ang mga kalidad mo na sa tingin mo ay magugustuhan niya sa iyo?” tanong niya kay Myka na abala sa nail file. Gulat na iniangat ni Myka ang ulo at nag-apuhap ng isasagot. “Boobs?” ang mabilis niyang naisip at sinabi. “Qualities, tange. Hindi physical features. Mga kalidad mo na magpapamahal sa iyo sa kanya.”

“Ay seryoso pala ito! Ah, pwede akong maging au pair niya, nanay niya, lover niya. Lahat lahat. Ibibigay ko lahat sa kanya. Ako kasi, kapag nagmahal, to the max.”

Bumaling naman siya sa akin. Paano raw kami naging magkarelasyon ng aking asawa. Nagpaunlak naman ako at nagkwento. Sa pagitan ng aking mga kuwento, kita ko ang kislap ng kanilang mga mata at haghik na dulot ng pagkakilig. Natapos ang aking kwento, ngunit hindi roon natapos ang aming kwentuhan. Nagbahagi rin siya at si Myka ng sarili nilang mga kwentong puso.

Dahil dumidilim na, nagpasya na kaming umuwi. Habang naglalakad, bitbit ang aming bisikleta, nagbukas siya ng saloobin. “Eh, ate, kasi wala talaga kaming formal break. Nawalan lang kami ng komunikasyon. Kaya para sa akin pakiramdam ko na di pa tapos. Wala naman akong lakas ng loob na i-email siya. Ang parang gusto ko na lang mangyari eh, kapag uwi ko sa Pinas tapos makita ko siyang may-asawa at anak, doon lang ako mag-mo-move on. Yun na ang sign para sa akin na wala na, na tapos na.” Mahabang litanya niya.

Ano ang sasabihin ko? Hindi naman ako eksperto. Nagtangka pa rin ako. “Medyo pampelikula naman ‘ata yung gusto mo. Bakit di mo siya sulatan? Eh, hangga’t di mo siya sinusubukang kontakin at kamustahin, eh di mo talaga malalaman. Aasa ka na lang na sana pagbalik mo, pwede pa kayo. Mahirap ang mga what if’s. Dare to move on, sabi nga nila.”

Hindi ko mabasa ang saloobin niya. Wala siyang imik hanggang magpaalam na kami sa isa’t isa.

“Salamat, ate, sa kwentuhan. Ang saya. Nakangiti kaming uwi ngayon at babalik sa aming pagiging Inday,” paalam ni Nadine.

Sumakay na siya sa bisikleta. Tinanaw ko siya papalayo hanggang hindi ko na siya makita. Nagbisikleta na rin ako pauwi.

Sa party, habang katabi ko si Nadine, ang mga eksena sa park at kulayan nila ng buhok ni Myka ang nasa isip ko. Nakakapanghinayang na sandaling panahon lang

kami nagkasama. Masasabik akong tiyak sa kanyang nakakahawang halakhak, nakakatawang mga biro, at bukas na bukas na kwentong puso.

“O, class picture na tayo!” tawag niya sa lahat. Sa bawat klik ng camera, tila pansamantalang tumigil ang oras.

*Naunang isinulat ang maikling kuwentong ito noong 2009. Inalis ng gobyerno ang au pair ban noong 2012.

** An au pair is a young foreign individual (typically female) who lives with a host family, primarily to immerse herself in a new language and culture. In principle, the arrangement is framed as a form of cultural exchange: the au pair provides childcare and performs light household duties in return for board, lodging, a small stipend, and often a language course. In Western European countries that offer au pair programs, recruiters often target young women from labor-exporting countries such as the Philippines, where working overseas is frequently seen as a pathway to better economic opportunities. For host families, however, the program can become a source of flexible, low-cost labor. The boundaries between childcare, light household duties, and regular domestic work are often blurred, allowing responsibilities to expand beyond what is formally agreed upon. This mismatch between the program’s stated purpose as cultural exchange and its practical use as domestic labor increases the au pair’s vulnerability to overwork, underpayment, and, in some cases, abuse and exploitation.

The impossible equation of survival

Ricardo Lozano

Raffy used to count days by pay cycles which was monthly as mandated by the Gulf country where he found employment as a construction worker 20 years ago. He first heard about the US-Israeli war on Iran while working on a high-rise tower being constructed in the middle of the city. Now he counted the days by air raid sirens that blared through a small dormitory he shared with six other Filipinos.

Around 2.4 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are scattered across the Middle East, all of them suddenly exposed to a war they had no part in, all of them calculating the same impossible equation of survival – whether to stay in the Middle East and face the dangers of war, or return back to the Philippines and face slow economic death for themselves and their families.

The Philippine embassy's notice came one day stating “voluntary repatriation” was being arranged for OFWs. It promised free plane tickets, airport assistance, temporary shelter, medical referrals, transport, counseling. The repatriation program was a “complete package,” according to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or OWWA.

But inside the dormitory, no one saw it that way.

“They call it voluntary,” Banjie said, sitting cross-legged on his bunk bed, his phone glowing in the dim light. “As if we are choosing between two good options.”

“They even listed what we get,” Banjie added, scrolling. “Plane ticket, airport assistance, temporary housing, medical help... counseling.” He read it like a full-course dinner menu.

Raffy almost smiled: “Complete, except for the one thing none of us could find back home – work.”

There are approximately 7,000 Filipinos who leave the country daily to work abroad, totaling over one million annually. They had not left by accident. OFWs are a product of decades of a policy that treated migration as a solution to trade deficits, using their remittances to keep the national economy afloat.

The Philippine reactionary state had built an economy that depended on exporting its people. In 2025 alone, overseas Filipinos sent home \$35.63 billion which made

up 7.3% of the country's GDP, a figure large enough to sustain millions yet never large enough to build an economy that could keep them home. The government praises them as heroes, but heroes, Raffy realized, are often those expected to leave.

Myrna, calling in from a women's dormitory across the compound where she had lived for fourteen years, laughed with a dry, knowing sound.

"Fourteen years," she said. "Nag-menopause na nga ako dito." I've practically reached menopause here.

A few chuckled, but it faded quickly.

"At our age," she continued, her voice flattening, "no one will accept us there."

Elvie nodded from across the room. At fifty-eight, she still moved with the efficiency of someone who had spent decades as an administrative staff.

"Even with experience," she said, "I already know. In Manila, I am finished."

There was a cruel arithmetic to it. Here, they could still earn up to five hundred dollars a month. It was not much, but it was just enough to keep their families afloat. Back home, they would earn nothing.

Outside, the war made itself known again. Sirens cutting through dawn, the distant tremor of something exploding somewhere else. News filtered in fragments: airspace closures, stranded workers, small batches of repatriations. A few hundred sent home, while millions remained. Even the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Philippine Central Bank) admitted the scale of exposure with a massive Filipino labor force directly tied to the conflict's outcome. And yet the government response felt thin, procedural, and almost detached. They were monitoring remittances, tracking flows of dollars, managing risk as if the workers themselves were just another economic variable.

"Where is the plan?" Benjie asked quietly, though it sounded less like a question and more like an accusation. Other countries were evacuating their citizens at scale. Here, repatriation came in trickles, draped in language that shifted responsibility back onto the workers themselves. Voluntary. As if choosing to stay in a war zone was a preference, not a condition created by years of policy. As if the state had not already decided long ago that their place was elsewhere.

Raffy thought of home and the tricycle he used to drive. He reminisced the days when income depended on luck and exhaustion. The way work disappeared quietly, without explanation, until leaving his family of four became the only rational decision.

“If we still have a chance to work here,” Raffy said, steady now despite the sirens, “we will definitely grab it.”

Raffy opened the repatriation form and stared at the word again: voluntary. He thought about it over and over in his mind until it collapsed under its own weight. There was nothing voluntary about being pushed out of your country by the absence of work. Nothing voluntary about being told to return to a system that had already marked you as disposable. Nothing voluntary about choosing between being bombed abroad or being erased at home.

He closed the form.

Around him, people were still deciding. There were some who chose to leave, others indignant in staying, but all of them aware that neither option meant safety. The war would continue. The sirens would return. The uncertainty would not lift. But neither would the reality waiting in Manila, where the economy they sustained had no place for them.

So he stepped out of the dormitory and back toward the unfinished tower, toward the work that still existed, however fragile, however temporary. Above him, the sky was clear for now. The cranes still moved. The city still functioned.

In the end, the Philippine government had offered him a way out, but not a way back.

And like millions of others scattered across the region, Raffy chose to stay not because he did not understand the danger, but because he understood something more fundamental: that he had already been exported. And the country that needed his labor had never built a place for him to return.

ABaKaDa ng Migranteng Pilipino

Ito ang ABaKaDa ng migranteng Pilipino, hindi lang alpabeto, kundi kolektibong kuwento ng pagod, pangungulila at paglaban.

A – Andok

Undocumented migrant; Laging ingat, laging kabado.

B – Balikbayan Box

Kahon ng pagmamahal, puno ng pasalubong at produkto ng sakripisyo.



K – Kafala System

Sistemang umiiral sa ilang bansa sa Middle East na nagtatali sa manggagawa sa amo. Kontrolado ng sponsor ang visa, trabaho at exit visa ng manggagawa, na madalas nagreresulta sa abuso, pagkumpiska ng pasaporte at kawalan ng kalayaan.

D – DH (Domestic Helper)

Isa sa pinakakaraniwang trabaho ng OFWs, lalo na sa Gitnang Silangan at Asya.

E – Exit Clearance

Kailangang papel ng mga OFW bago makaalis ng bansa. Tinatawag din na Overseas Employment Certificate o OEC.

G – Gulf

Rehiyon kung saan maraming OFW (hal. Saudi, UAE, Qatar). Lugar ng oportunidad at pagsasamantala.



H – Human Trafficking

Matinding anyo ng pagsasamantala na may aspeto ng panlilinlang, pamimilit, at modernong pagkaalipin, na madalas dinaranas ng mga bulnerableng manggagawang Pilipino sa ibang bansa.

I – Illegal Recruitment

Panlilinlang sa mga manggagawa na madalas ay may pangako ng ligal na papeles at status.

L – Luggage Excess

Problema sa airport, dahil hindi kasya ang mga uwing gamit at pasalubong pauwi ng Pilipinas.



M – Money Transfer

Dugo't pawis na ipinapadala sa pamilya pabalik sa Pilipinas.

N – No Day Off

Reality ng maraming domestic workers.

NG – Ngarag

Pagod na pagod; pisikal, emosyonal, at mental na pagkahapo ng mga migranteng Pilipino.

O – Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW)

Manggagawang Pilipino na nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa at madalas ay nagiging biktima ng eksploytasyon at iba't ibang uri ng diskriminasyon.

P – Placement Fee

Malaking bayarin para makapagtrabaho abroad—ugat ng pagkakautang.

R – Repatriation

Pag-uwi; madalas dahil sa krisis, abuso, o digmaan.

S – Separation (Pamilya)

Masakit na realidad ng migranteng Pilipino; pagkakahiwalay ng magulang at anak o ng mag-asawa dahil sa pangangibang-bansa.

**T – TNT (Tago Nang Tago)**

“Always hiding” – isang slang term na madalas ginagamit sa Estados Unidos bilang bansag sa mga Pilipinong “nagtatago” sa awtoridad upang hindi mahuli, makulong o ma-deport pabalik ng Pilipinas.

U – Unionizing

Pag-oorganisa ng mga migranteng manggagawa upang ipaglaban ang kanilang sahod, karapatan, at dignidad.



W – Wage Theft

Hindi pagbabayad o kulang na sahod; karaniwang abuso sa mga migranteng manggagawa.

Y – Yallah

“Hurry up” – madalas na sigaw ng amo sa Middle East; simbolo ng pagmamadali at kontrol sa oras at katawan ng mga manggagawang migrante.

If You Want to Know What We Are

by Carlos Bulosan*

If you want to know what we are who inhabit
 forest mountain rivershore, who harness
 beast, living steel, martial music (that classless
 language of the heart), who celebrate labour,
 wisdom of the mind, peace of the blood;

If you want to know what we are who become
 animate at the rain's metallic ring, the stone's
 accumulated strength, who tremble in the wind's
 blossoming (that enervates earth's potentialities),
 who stir just as flowers unfold to the sun;

If you want to know what we are who grow
 powerful and deathless in countless counterparts,
 each part pregnant with hope, each hope supreme,
 each supremacy classless, each classlessness
 nourished by unlimited splendor of comradeship;

We are multitudes the world over, millions everywhere;
 in violent factories, sordid tenements, crowded cities;
 in skies and seas and rivers, in lands everywhere;
 our number increase as the wide world revolves
 and increases arrogance, hunger disease and death.

We are the men and women reading books, searching
 in the pages of history for the lost word, the key
 to the mystery of living peace, imperishable joy;
 we are factory hands field hands mill hand everywhere,
 molding creating building structures, forging ahead,

Reaching for the future, nourished in the heart;
 we are doctors scientists chemists discovering,
 eliminating disease and hunger and antagonisms;
 we are soldiers navy-men citizens guarding
 the imperishable will of man to live in grandeur,

We are the living dream of dead men everywhere,
 the unquenchable truth that class-memories create
 to stagger the infamous world with prophecies

of unlimited happiness_a deathless humanity;
we are the living and the dead men everywhere...

If you want to know what we are, observe
the bloody club smashing heads, the bayonet
penetrating hallowed breasts, giving no mercy; watch the
bullet crashing upon armorless citizens;
look at the tear-gas choking the weakened lung.

If you want to know what we are, see the lynch
trees blossoming, the hysterical mob rioting;
remember the prisoner beaten by detectives to confess
a crime he did not commit because he was honest,
and who stood alone before a rabid jury of ten men,

And who was sentenced to hang by a judge
whose bourgeois arrogance betrayed the office
he claimed his own; name the marked man,
the violator of secrets; observe the banker,
the gangster, the mobsters who kill and go free;

We are the sufferers who suffer for natural love
of man for man, who commemorate the humanities
of every man; we are the toilers who toil
to make the starved earth a place of abundance
who transform abundance into deathless fragrance.

We are the desires of anonymous men everywhere,
who impregnate the wide earth's lustrous wealth
with a gleaming fluorescence; we are the new thoughts
and the new foundations, the new verdure of the mind;
we are the new hope new joy life everywhere.

We are the vision and the star, the quietus of pain;
we are the terminals of inquisition, the hiatuses
of a new crusade; we are the subterranean subways
of suffering; we are the will of dignities;
we are the living testament of a flowering race.

If you want to know what we are
WE ARE REVOLUTION!



*Carlos Bulosan (1911-1956) was a prominent Filipino American labor leader, poet and activist who migrated to the United States in 1930 when he was just 17 years old.



About Compatriots

Compatriots is the revolutionary organization of overseas Filipinos. As an allied organization of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, it aims to thoroughly and systematically advance the participation of overseas Filipinos in the national democratic revolution.