



EDITORIAL:

Senate “circus” hides extreme economic crisis

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EDITORIAL:

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The chaotic events in the Philippine Senate on May 26, 2026 was a culmination of a series of farcical events that unmasked the fallacy of the “democratic institution” of the Senate, the upper house of the reactionary legislature.

Senator “Bato” de la Rosa, has been hiding for six months to avoid a possible arrest by virtue of an unannounced warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a co-conspirator in former president Rodrigo Duterte case of crime against humanity. He suddenly appeared at the Senate to cast the decisive 13th vote to elect Senator Allan Cayetano as new Senate President. A ludicrous video clip of “Bato” stumbling while running helter skelter away from arresting officers has caught the attention of the local and international media.


The newly elected Senate President Cayetano placed “Bato” under a dubious “protective custody” but two days later staged a fake siege, with more than 40 shots fired, initiated by his crony Sergeant-at-arms, to allow “Bato” to escape a few hours later. This shameless ruckus not only endangered the lives of more than a hundred people: senators, staff, other personnel and media. Worse, media, religious groups, sectoral organizations, practically everyone, criticized these shenanigans as sinking the reputation of the Senate to unprecedentedly low levels.

As if this monkey business (with apologies to monkeys) is not enough, the pro-Duterte majority, in danger of losing the majority due to impending arrests of its members, is now railroading a rule to allow senators to vote on-line. One of them even stupidly justified this by citing force majeure brought by the war in Iran, threat of US-China conflict and climate change. None of them wants to mention that Senator “Bato” is again on the run, Senator Bong Go mentioned by ICC as also a co-conspirator of Rodrigo Duterte and could be soon arrested, three more were announced by the Ombudsman as facing arrest for graft and plunder.

What is clear is that these senators are desperately preventing the impeachment procedure against Vice President Sara Duterte where detailed evidences of malfeasance would damage her, prevent her from getting elected in 2028, and politically destroy the Duterte clan and cohorts.

The other political faction, the Marcos dynasty and supporters, welcomes, if not working behind the scenes, the downfall of its rival faction. This will reduce the pressure on President Marcos Jr and his cohorts, former Congressman Zaldy Co, former House Speaker Romualdez (Marcos first cousin), former Executive Secretary Bersamin, and former Budget Secretary Pangandaman, for accountability in the systemic corruption in the flood control projects.

Despite the media attention on the Senate hullabaloo, a recent survey revealed that Marcos Jr’s net popularity has nosedived to a historic low of -15%. This reflects the people’s frustration and anger over his incapacity to solve the severe impact of the US war of aggression against Iran on the Filipino people’s sufferings. Marcos regime is helpless in regulating the uncontrolled fuel prices due to the neoliberal policy of oil deregulation. The government is at the mercy of oil cartel’s profiteering. Inflation rate is at a high of 7.2%. Stagflation is a real danger to the economy.

The Filipino people are angry at this political circus, while they continue to suffer the impact of the crisis. The imperative of revolutionary change is clearer than ever. The people should be aroused, organized and mobilized to oust this reactionary government. To rebel is justified! 

NDFP Peace Team writes letter to peace advocates

The Peace Negotiating Team of the National Democratic Front issued a Letter to Peace Advocates last May 1, 2026.

The letter thanked the peace advocates and their organizations for “steadfastly supporting and accompanying the peace process, and tirelessly advocating the people’s clamor for social justice, genuine democracy and emancipation from all forms of exploitation and oppression.”

It further updates the peace advocates on the progress of the peace talks. The letter stated that it has been more than two years since the Oslo Joint Statement was signed in November 23, 2023 by delegations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

The signed document stated that both sides would work towards a final peace agreement that would address the root causes of the armed conflict in order to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Discussions between the two sides after the signing of the Oslo Joint Statement centered mainly on drafting a Framework Agreement. Most of the issues have been agreed upon during the more than two years of talks. One issue remaining is on the disposition of the revolutionary armed forces.

The letter concludes with the call to the peace advocates to push the peace process to resume based on the agreements of The Hague Joint Declaration and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law that created the Joint Monitoring Committee.

It also added that peace advocates could call for goodwill and confidence-building measures such as the release of NDFP peace consultants and the abolition of the NTF-ELCAC which is behind the gravest violations of human and civil rights perpetrated by the police, military and paramilitary forces of the GRP.


The letter concludes with the NDFP restating their commitment to work for a just and lasting peace. A peace that addresses the armed conflict. 



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Impending direct military action against Cuba by US Imperialism

A massive rally was staged by Cubans in Havana on May 22, 2026, demonstrating their unity in defending former president Raul Castro after the recent indictment against him by the US Trump regime on murder charges, reports the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) via its media organ, Ang Bayan. The US has been threatening to put Castro on trial “willingly or by other means.”


The publication wrote that Cubans fear that the US is preparing to kidnap Castro through direct military intervention, similar to the US kidnapping of Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro in January. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said the indictment is “a political action with no legal basis.” Its sole purpose is to “pad the fabricated case (against Castro) to justify the foolishness of a military intervention against Cuba.”

The U.S. Department of Justice’s accuses Castro, serving as Cuba’s minister of defense in 1996, for personally approving the downing of two civilian aircraft operated by the group Brothers to the Rescue. Four men died in the shoot-down, three of them US citizens.

Díaz-Canel said the 1996 actions were a “legal act of self-defense” against the repeated and dangerous violations of Cuba’s airspace by dissident groups set up and funded by the US. Cuba clarified that it had repeatedly warned those groups prior to the incident not to violate the country’s airspace.

Cuba also called the indictment of Castro “utter hypocrisy” in light of the US carrying out extrajudicial bombings of civilian ships in the Caribbean and Pacific accused of involvement in illegal drug smuggling.

Through several earlier pronouncements, the CPP views the vicious U.S. oil blockade and related sanctions that caused massive shortage of fuel and consequently food, medicines and other vital supplies as “collective punishment” and even genocide against the Cuban people.

It asserted that U.S. actions are a part of a broader pattern of imperialist domination, including extrajudicial bombings and interference in sovereign nations. 

“Pax Silica” deal ties PH deeper into US war supply chains, groups say

Progressive groups and lawmakers in the Philippines have criticized Manila’s entry into a United States-led “Pax Silica” initiative, warning that the agreement to build a 1,620-hectare Luzon Economic Corridor for semiconductors and critical minerals risks integrating the country deeper into US strategic supply-chain and military-industrial priorities under the guise of economic development.

Under the deal signed on April 16, the government became the 13th signatory to the initiative, which aims to secure global technology supply chains in semiconductors, electronics, and critical minerals through “trusted ally” networks led by the US. No public record exists detailing which other countries have joined the initiative.

Critics argue that semiconductors are increasingly tied to modern weapons systems such as drones and missile technologies, effectively turning export infrastructure into potential “war production” capacity.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), a multi-sectoral alliance, perceived the initiative as “military requirements” rather than national development, considering the essential function of semiconductors which is one of the Philippines’ reported top export, in manufacturing military machinery.

“Semiconductors and advanced electronics are central to contemporary warfare, embedded in drones, missile systems, surveillance networks, and communications infrastructure,” the group said in a statement.

US officials, however, have framed the initiative as an economic security measure designed to reduce dependence on vulnerable global supply chains and ensure access to strategic materials. A US commerce-linked assessment cited in the agreement notes that Washington currently produces only about 10 percent of its semiconductor needs, reinforcing its push to diversify sourcing through partner countries.

Lawmakers from the Makabayan bloc have called for congressional scrutiny of the agreement, warning that details of the planned industrial zones remain unclear and questioning whether facilities could be repurposed for dual-use military logistics or prepositioning infrastructure.

The initiative comes alongside broader US efforts to tighten control over semiconductor and critical mineral supply chains amid escalating global competition over technology and strategic resources. [△](#)



image: philippinerevolution.nu