

EDITORIAL

End 80 years of US imperialist semicolonial rule

Now more than ever in the country's history, there is great urgency for the Filipino people to struggle with utmost energy to achieve their long-held aspiration for genuine freedom from the semicolonial control and domination of American imperialists.

The deepening global crisis of the capitalist system and the intensifying conflict among imperialist powers is shaking the entire world. Amid this crisis, US military aggression is escalating further, driven by a malign scheme to impose hegemony in different parts of the world to control sources of raw materials and markets for dumping surplus commodities.

In the Philippines, the weight of US imperialism bears down heavily on the Filipino people. Thousands of US military forces maintain a permanent pres-

ence and conduct wide-ranging operations across the country, openly displaying their control and domination over the Philippines. The US relentlessly brandishes military force through successive war exercises. It recently launched a Tomahawk missile from a civilian airport in Tacloban City towards Nueva Ecija, endangering millions of Filipinos in Manila and other areas along its low-altitude flight path.

The US wields control of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), particularly the Philippine Navy, as well as the Philippine

Coast Guard, to serve as escorts or guards for US naval forces maneuvering in seas around China. Massive US aircraft carriers are almost constantly docked or sailing in Philippine waters. These include the USS Abraham Lincoln, which passed through Philippine islands toward the South China Sea before sailing to the Middle East to support the US aggression against Iran. Recently, the US Coast Guard "patrolled" Scarborough Shoal, thousands of miles away from US coasts, to provoke and incite China.

The US imperialists are tightening their control of the puppet Marcos regime and the country's foreign policy. Like parrots, the Marcos regime's pro-US officials repeat US propaganda to justify the strategy of "encircling" and "containing" China's growing strength. To support US operations, the Marcos regime also allowed the return of Japanese troops to the Philippines, in a blatant assault on the Filipino people's demand for justice for the innumerable crimes of Japanese soldiers during their World War II occupation of the Philippines.

In the economy, the US now more aggressively pushes to tighten the control of American capitalists over the country's natural resources under the Pax Silica framework. The US demands special treatment for American companies



operating in the newly opened “economic security zones” in Pampanga and Tarlac for mineral processing and the construction of water-intensive infrastructure for artificial intelligence (AI). These American companies (with partner Israeli military firms) will pay no taxes or lease, and operate free from Philippine regulation and supervision. In line with US aims, the Marcos regime, led by the AFP and Department of Defense, targets and forces the closure of Chinese companies with factories in the Philippines.

In the military sphere, US intervention in the local counterinsurgency war is intensifying and fueling the reactionary state's fascism against the people's resistance. Under the Salaknib military exercises, US troops conduct trainings in “jungle warfare” and “small unit operations” primarily aimed at counter-guerrilla operations. It provides the AFP with jet fighters, helicopters, bombs, cannons, drones, anti-drone systems, GPS trackers,

and other weapons in a desperate bid to crush the New People's Army, one of the biggest obstacles to the total imposition of US power in the Philippines. American troops continue to intrude into remote rural areas, including Central Luzon, Bicol, and several provinces in Mindanao.

US imperialism fuels the fascist repression of the armed agents of the Marcos regime. US imperialism and delusional militarist officials are daydreaming that fascist repression can defeat the armed and unarmed resistance of the broad masses fighting for genuine freedom. The continued perseverance of the New

People's Army, its steady recovery of strength, and deepening nationwide mass support, prove that the Filipino people's aspiration for genuine freedom and democracy will never be extinguished.

Nearly eight decades have passed since July 4, 1946 when US imperialism “granted” the Philippines false independence and established a puppet and fascist state. Colluding with the ruling classes of big comprador bourgeoisie, big landlords, and bureaucrat-capitalists, US imperialism condemned the Philippines to a semicolonial and semifeudal state.

Under 80 years of US semicolonial rule, the Philippines has been mired in endless economic crisis, denied of the opportunity to stand on its own. It preserved the backward feudal system and turned the country into an exporter of cheap raw materials. It forced the country into foreign debt addiction for temporary economic fixes, in exchange for imposing neoliberal policies, stripping forests bare, plundering mountains,

seizing minerals, and grabbing hundreds of thousands of hectares of land. The Philippines has been used as a major military base for the US to project power over the country and across the world.

On June 12 “independence day,” celebration is meaningless amid the people's suffering and oppression by foreign military forces. In 80 years of US semicolonial rule, American monopoly capitalists have seized the country's wealth while degrading and starving the broad masses of workers and peasants. This chapter in the country's history, which will lead to only deeper poverty and suffering, must end. The entire nation must unite and vigorously advance the people's war for genuine liberation, democracy, and the nation's salvation. **AB**



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NDFP launches theoretical conference on fascism and imperialism in neocolonies in the 21st century

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) led the successful 6th International Theoretical Conference with the theme "Fascism and Imperialism in Neocolonies in the 21st Century" on May 22–23 in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was attended by nearly 200 delegates from 17 countries, composed of communist parties, workers' parties, party-building groups, revolutionary organizations, national liberation movements, and progressive organizations.

The activity was the second of two consecutive conferences that tackled the topic of fascism in the 21st century. The preceding conference discussed fascism in the heartlands of imperialist and industrialized capitalist countries.

Discussing 17 theoretical papers deepened the assembly's understanding of fascism as a product of the crisis of imperialism. It emphasized how imperialists and puppet regimes use fascism through counterinsurgency programs and various forms of repression to maintain their wealth and power.

The conference drew lessons from the contributions of Lenin, Stalin, and Dimitrov, including lessons and knowledge gathered from the NDFP's fifth theoretical conference, to analyze the historical development and adaptation of fascism in the 21st century in neocolonial countries. The conference emphasized the urgent need to build a broad united front of workers, intellectuals, and other oppressed sectors to effectively confront and defeat fascism.

The conference concluded with a synthesis of the discussions, tribute to the martyrs of people's war and revolutions in neocolonies, and the singing of "The Internationale."

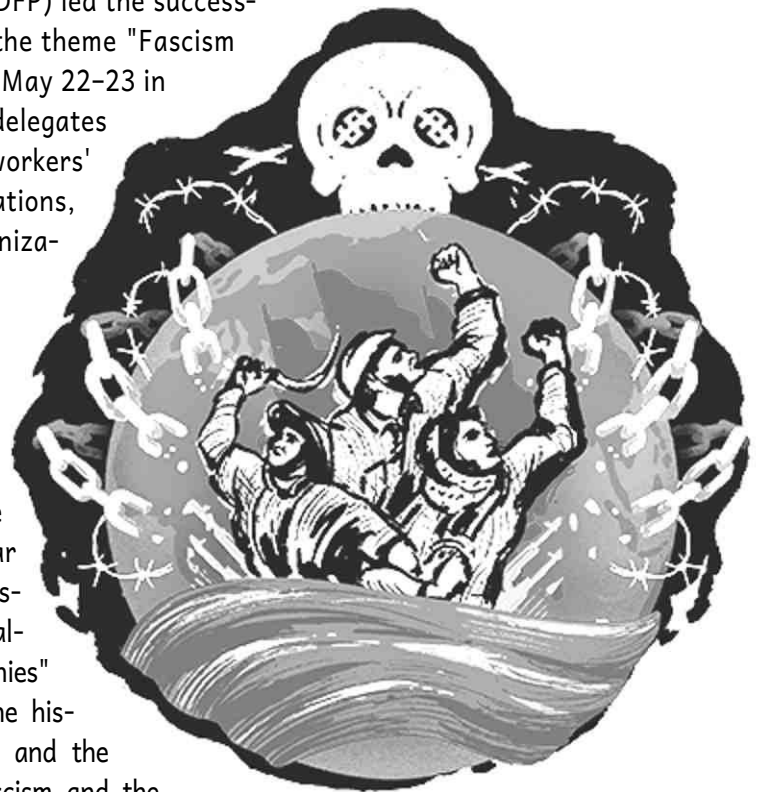
Roots of fascism in the Philippines

The Central Committee of the

Communist Party of the Philippines shared the article "Wage the people's war to uproot fascism and imperialism in neocolonies" which traced the history of fascism and the evolution of fascism and the neocolonial fascist state in the Philippines.

It distinguished the process of the rise of fascism in capitalist countries and in neocolonies. Fascism in the centers of imperialism emerged as a reactionary movement (ultra-nationalist and anti-communist) that exploits the crisis of capitalism to seize power and suppress the working class. Fascism in neocolonies emerged through imperialist suppression of national resistance to enable unrestrained plunder by foreign capitalists and their allied local ruling classes.

Fascism in the Philippines did not organically arise but was imposed by US imperialism in the form of a neocolonial state. The US exported fascism to the Philippines alongside the intensifying crisis of monopoly capitalism. While maintaining a bourgeois-democratic system in its own country, it carried out brutal fascist occupation and



anti-communist repression in the Philippines. This repression eventually intensified through counterinsurgency doctrines based on US manuals.

From past puppet regimes to the present, the state has implemented various military campaigns and repressive laws such as the Anti-Terror Law and Executive Order 70 to systematically suppress activists, journalists, and critics. The state uses mechanisms to completely dominate, including the imposition of undeclared martial law, the enactment of laws to legitimize fascist rule, control of ideology and media, and the use of advanced military technology for surveillance and suppression of revolutionary movements.

The protracted people's war is advancing the people's democratic revolution in the Philippines to overthrow the rule of US imperialism and its allied ruling classes. This is the only way to end fascism.

AB

US counterinsurgency operations under the cover of war games

After Balikatan 2026, the US in May immediately launched its succeeding war games Salaknib, Kasangga, and Marine Exercise (MAREX). More than 8,000 troops from the US, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines, along with troops from New Zealand and Canada, participated in these war games. Contrary to claimed aims of “external defense,” all three are carrying out counterinsurgency operations in Filipino peasant and fisherfolk communities.

The US is conducting Salaknib 2026 in Luzon with the participation of naval forces from the US, the Philippines, and New Zealand, and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. It rehearses moving military equipment between islands under the pretext of “archipelagic defense.” The war games focus on jungle warfare and small unit tactics training under “real time” conditions. “Jungle combat training centers” were set up for this.

Kasangga 2026-1 in Camarines Sur was launched on May 26 with troops from the Australian Army. It focuses on intelligence and combat operations in communities. Foreign troops had already landed in the province even before the war game formally opened. They used the

coastal and mountainous areas of Pasacao, Balatan, San Fernando, Libmanan, and Ragay. They intruded into communities and tightened restrictions on the movement and livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk.

The US is conducting MAREX 2026 with the Philippine Marine Corps in Maguindanao del Norte, Mindanao. It focuses on jungle patrols outside Camp Iranun and artillery firing near populated areas in Datu Blah Sinsuat and Barira. The shelling terrorized residents.

War games by the US have from



the outset emphasized counterinsurgency operations. Before it became a multinational display of troops and weapons, Balikatan focused on “internal defense” or experimenting with tactics and equipment against the Bangsamoro armed movement and against the New People’s Army. Under its cover, the US staged large-scale hypocritical civil-military operations such as building schools, conducting medical missions, digging wells, and other schemes to win the people’s “hearts and minds” away from revolution.

First launched in 2016, Salaknib emphasizes developing the Philippine Army’s tactics and capabilities in jungle warfare, small unit tactics, the use of K-9 units, explosive ordnance disposal, and artillery and mortar fire. It has for two years tested the use of large numbers of small drones (“eye in the sky” in Cagayan Valley in 2025) and modern counter-drone and electronic warfare (2026), alongside joint unit operations. The US later sold the weapons used in these war games to the Philippines. AB

US Coast Guard blatantly intervenes in Bajo de Masinloc

ESCORTING PHILIPPINE COAST Guard vessels, the US Coast Guard carried out what it called a “joint patrol” on May 28-30 in Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal). This US patrol “drilled” Filipinos in boarding, inspection, and seizure operations against vessels deemed “hostile” or criminals at sea; blocking, intercepting, and searching these; and maritime law enforcement.

This is blatant intervention and fuels naval conflicts and tensions. It also runs counter to the demands of Filipinos, especially fisherfolk, for peaceful and diplomatic resolution of maritime disputes between the Philippines and China. Instead of reducing the presence of armed forces around the shoal to assert the rights of small Filipino fisherfolk, it made peaceful navigation and fishing there harder, even impossible.

Bajo de Masinloc is at the center of a heated territorial dispute between China and the Philippines. In 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration declared the waters around it as traditional fishing grounds of small Filipino, Chinese, and Vietnamese fisherfolk.

Gibo Teodoro: Fascist mad dog of US imperialism

At the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Marcos regime defense secretary Gilberto “Gibo” Teodoro Jr strutted as a peddler of imperialist US’ worst militarist policies. In the forum, he urged countries to follow the US line and offered himself as their coordinator in Asia. Like an attack dog, he aggressively denounced those opposing the US. The Shangri-La Dialogue held on May 29-31 is an annual gathering of defense officials in Asia.

At the gathering, Teodoro brazenly declared the Philippines an “Archipelagic Sentinel” and “de-

Philippines, during World War II. He called reminders of the war crimes of imperialist Japan “unfair” and a “misreading of history.”

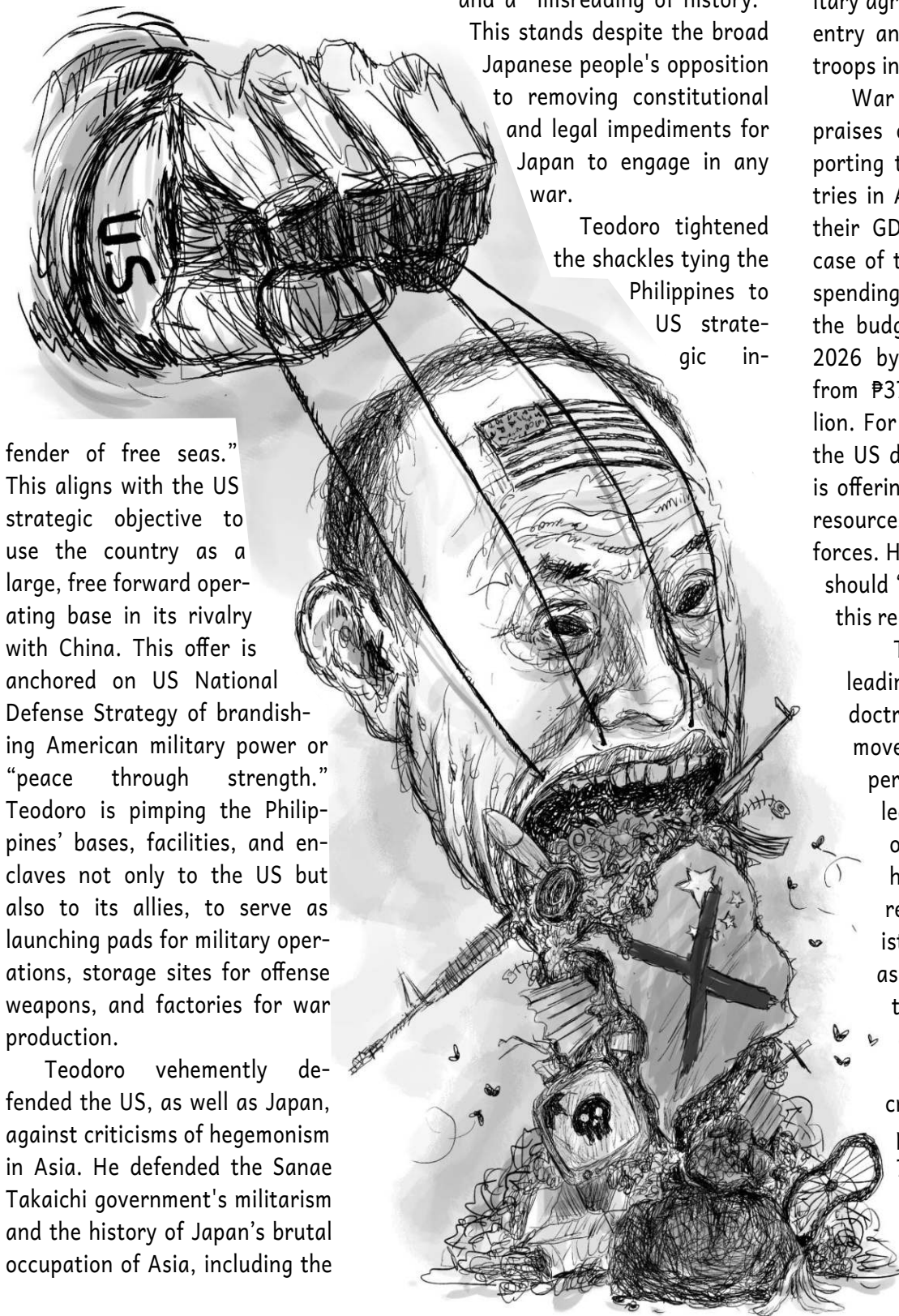
This stands despite the broad Japanese people’s opposition to removing constitutional and legal impediments for Japan to engage in any war.

Teodoro tightened the shackles tying the Philippines to US strategic in-

terests. He signed the 15-year Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement with US Department of War secretary Pete Hegseth on May 30. He earlier signed two “intelligence data-sharing” agreements that expose the Philippines’ internal and security matters to foreign troops. He also pushed and signed four military agreements that allow the free entry and exit of US-allied foreign troops in the country.

War criminal Hegseth heaped praises on Teodoro for fully supporting the US demand that countries in Asia allocate up to 3.5% of their GDP (over ₱1 trillion in the case of the Philippines) for defense spending. Teodoro has increased the budget of the puppet AFP for 2026 by 12% compared to 2025, from ₱378.9 billion to ₱423.7 billion. For admittedly unable to meet the US demand, the Marcos regime is offering the free use of facilities, resources, and land to American forces. Hegseth said other countries should “emulate” the Philippines in this regard.

Teodoro is domestically the leading proponent of militarist doctrine against the people and movements opposing the US imperialist war, especially forces led by the Communist Party of the Philippines. Parroting his master, he brands armed resistance against imperialist plunder and exploitation as “terrorism.” He praises the bloody counterinsurgency campaign that results in massacres and war crimes. He even recently praised and dined with 79th IB troops responsible for the massacre of 19 individuals, including two minors, in Toboso, Ne-



fender of free seas.” This aligns with the US strategic objective to use the country as a large, free forward operating base in its rivalry with China. This offer is anchored on US National Defense Strategy of brandishing American military power or “peace through strength.” Teodoro is pimping the Philippines’ bases, facilities, and enclaves not only to the US but also to its allies, to serve as launching pads for military operations, storage sites for offense weapons, and factories for war production.

Teodoro vehemently defended the US, as well as Japan, against criticisms of hegemonism in Asia. He defended the Sanae Takaichi government’s militarism and the history of Japan’s brutal occupation of Asia, including the

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Marcos visits Japan for military alliance and further exploitation of workers

Protests greeted the visit of Ferdinand Marcos Jr to Japan on May 26–28. The 4-day official visit aims to strengthen military agreements such as the Reciprocal Access Agreement and Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, purchase second-hand weapons and warships, and peddle cheap Filipino labor power.

Filipino and Japanese groups in Japan held protests, forums, and a photo exhibit to denounce the expanding military ties and arms sales to the Philippines. Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Japan, Network Against Arms Trade, and Japan Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines led the activities. They said that arms sales to the Philippines support the Marcos regime's widespread human rights violations.

The regime plans to buy Japan's decommissioned ships (Abukuma-class), Type 88 missiles, and other matériel. To fund this, Marcos will borrow ¥64.38 billion (\$413 million)

from Japan under Official Development Assistance.

Progressive groups in the Philippines protested near the Japanese embassy on May 26 to demand justice for victims of Japan's occupation during World War II, particularly crimes against enslaved comfort women. They said that by allowing Japanese soldiers to once again set foot on Philippine soil proves the Marcos regime's subservience to the US war scheme in Asia.

Alongside the military agenda, Marcos flaunted a promised ₱56.3



billion in investments from four Japanese companies expected to generate 10,000 jobs. However, according to Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Unity of Southern Tagalog Workers), Japanese investments have never brought development. These operations in the Philippines focus on labor-intensive processes. Workers' wages remain low and benefits limited, while profits are repatriated to Japan. AB

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gros Occidental. He also strongly opposes any peace talks with the revolutionary movement to resolve the roots of the armed conflict.

Teodoro represents the most servile and militarist character of the reactionary Philippine state. He first served as defense secretary under the corrupt Arroyo regime. Before becoming secretary under the equally corrupt Marcos regime, he served on the board of directors of the foreign mining company Sagittarius Mines, Incorporated. The SMI is notorious for land grabbing against the B'laan for the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project and for brutally suppressing their resistance.

He comes from the Cojuangco family, a clan of despotic landlords and bureaucrat-capitalists. He served as congressman of the first district of Tarlac from 1998 to 2007. He offered to run as vice president to Sara Duterte in 2022. He sought the presidency in 2010 but failed. He is the nephew of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr, a key crony of the fascist dictatorship of Marcos Sr, as well as of former president Corazon Aquino, who is notorious for massacres of farmworkers and peasants. AB

NPA-Northern Samar launches sniping operation

A UNIT OF the New People's Army (BHB)-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) launched a sniping operation against 19th IB soldiers stationed at the detachment in Barangay Geparayan de Turag, Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar on May 22. The armed action also meted justice for the 19th IB's mounting crimes against the peasant masses.

Residents of Silvino Lobos have long endured the fascist military's rampage in their community. The said detachment is located next to homes, swarming with large numbers of fascist soldiers who spill over and mix themselves with civilians. Combat operations are frequent and disrupt the masses' livelihood.

Meanwhile, a 79th IB soldier operating in Sitio Cagayon I, Barangay Tamlang, Escalante City, Negros Occidental was killed in an armed action by the BHB-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) on June 1. The people's army unit promptly launched a defense against approaching troops at their encampment. This blasts the repeated declarations of the reactionary state and its armed machinery that no guerrilla fronts remain in the area.

The 79th IB intensified combat operations and militarization in the barangay after the clash. They forcibly evacuated 150 families or 554 individuals who temporarily stayed at Tamlang Elementary School for one day.



RunBato

a parody online game based on Bato de la Rosa's dash inside the Senate on May 11 to evade NBI agents. Millions have played it.



8,766

trees are set for cutting for the SLEX Expansion in Laguna by San Miguel Corporation; this adds to the thousands the company already cut for the SALEX Project and the thousands of mangrove trees for the New Manila International Airport in Bulacan.

276.7%

increase in meat imports allowed by the Marcos regime for 2026, from 54,210 to 204,210 metric tons, under EO 116. This will flood the market to the detriment of local hog raisers, while meat prices in public markets remain high.

₱75 million

squandered by the Villafuertes of Camarines Sur for the 6-day Ka-ogma Festival instead of addressing the needs of the Bicolanos.

Concerts and other entertainment activities were launched on land and farms seized by the Villafuertes in the town of Pili.

November 30, 2026

date set by ICC Trial Chamber III for the start of Rodrigo Duterte's trial for crimes against humanity; hearings will run daily until the court reaches recess.

49

out of 191 countries voted for the Philippines in the Marcos regime's bid to be elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council; losing to Kyrgyzstan's 142, described as an anti-US and anti-Israel vote.



27

mostly workers, died when a building under construction collapsed in Angeles, Pampanga on May 24. Workers in the area had no adequate safety protections on the job.

150 YEAR-OLD

house of the family of Gregoria de Jesus, a Katipunan member and wife of Andres Bonifacio, was illegally demolished in Quiapo, Manila. It was one of the last remaining stone houses from the late 19th century.



Peasants and fisherfolk concern over Super El Niño

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP, or Philippine Peasant Movement) warned against the looming super El Niño from mid-2026 to early 2027. For peasants and fisherfolk, this means loss of harvests, further rising costs, water shortages, and severe hunger.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, there is a 62% chance of El Niño from June to August, rising to 82% by the end of the year. Its worst effects are expected from October to December. A total of 49 areas in the Visayas and Mindanao are expected to experience below-normal rainfall, rising temperatures, and severe drought. This will conversely bring fewer but stronger typhoons this year.

Damage to fisherfolk and farmers

Fisherfolk income further drops during El Niño with the decline of fish stocks and coral bleaching of coral reefs which serve as spawning grounds and shelters for small fish. The likelihood of fish kills and red tide increases. Extreme heat also reduces fishing duration and makes fisherfolk more vulnerable to heatstroke.

This gravely threatens food security as 42.2% of Filipinos' protein intake comes from fish. It is the second most important staple next to rice. Fish prices in markets will inevitably rise as catch weakens, adding to already soaring rice and food

prices.

KMP said repeated El Niño disasters expose the state's longstanding neglect of agriculture: inadequate irrigation, lack of production subsidies, dependence on food imports, and the absence of genuine land reform.

Peasants' lament in Bicol, Cagayan Valley, and Panay

Farmers have long carried the burden of successive disasters while the state remains inutile and provides no support for their needs. High prices of diesel and farm input such as fertilizer, raised by the imperialist wars of the US and Israel in the Middle East, further

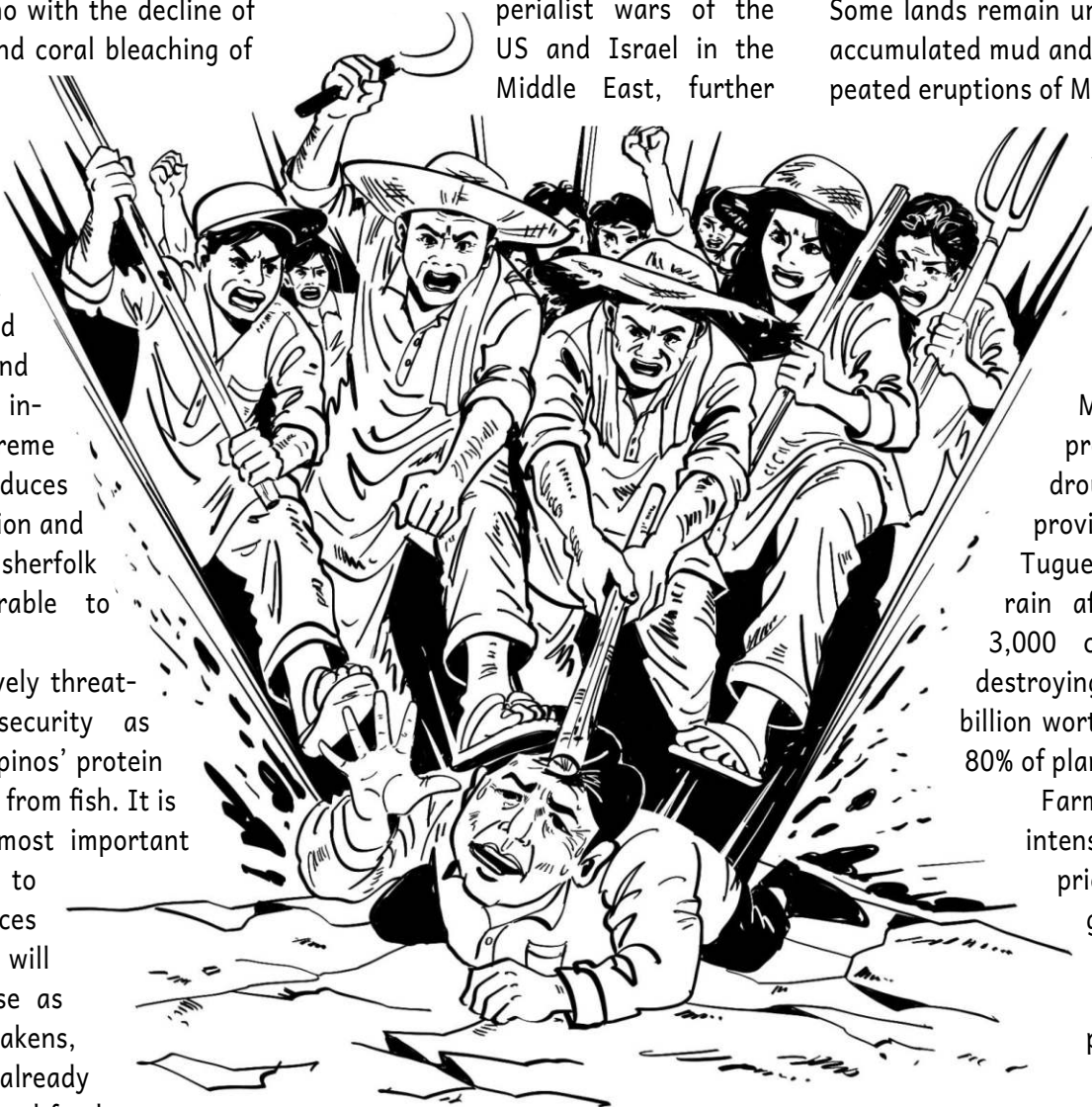
worsen their conditions. The onset of super El Niño will worsen farmers' suffering.

Beyond natural calamities, surging production costs heavily burden peasants in Bula, Camarines Sur. One hectare of rice land requires 249 liters of diesel for tractors and water pumps costing over ₱21,000. Added to these are fertilizer that costs nearly ₱15,000 for Triple 14 and Urea. Initial capital for fuel and fertilizer alone exceeds a total of ₱36,000—excluding seeds, pesticides, and labor. These cause many farmers to stop planting to avoid sinking into debt.

Many farmers have yet to recover or are only beginning to recover this year from past disasters, including ₱2.1 billion in agricultural and fisheries losses in Bicol in 2024. Some lands remain unarable due to accumulated mud and sand from repeated eruptions of Mayon Volcano.

In Cagayan Valley, the Isabela local government declared a state of calamity in March when prolonged drought hit the province. In Tuguegarao, lack of rain affected up to 3,000 corn farmers, destroying around ₱2.3 billion worth of crops, or 80% of plantings.

Farmers' suffering intensified as oil prices rose. Irrigation costs reached ₱110-₱125 per liter. Wa-



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Senate crisis mirrors rottenness of bureaucrat capitalism

The people have witnessed in recent weeks the jostling and power struggle among bureaucrat-capitalists in the Senate leadership. On one side is the group of Sen. Tito Sotto, which declared itself the “new majority” with 12 senators. On the other side is the group of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano with 10 senators, down from 13. Cayetano had earlier positioned himself as Senate president through a coup against Sotto on May 11 when he brought out Sen. Ronaldo de la Rosa from a 6-month hiding to vote for him. The rush of de la Rosa back into hiding, the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on plunder charges and the defection of Sen. Chiz Escudero reduced Cayetano’s majority.

Scrambling for leadership exposes how bureaucrat-capitalists are rushing to protect themselves and their respective factions. At the center is the push of Cayetano’s camp to delay and ultimately junk the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte. It also seeks to block the adoption of the Blue Ribbon Committee report that named several senators in his camp as involved in corruption linked to flood control projects.

At the same time, Cayetano’s camp aggressively pushes hearings to target the role of Ferdinand Marcos Jr, along with his allies and officials, as being at the top of anomalies in flood control. Each camp is maneuvering to save itself from corruption cases, bribery, enrichment in office, and criminal liability.

Both camps are eyeing the 2028 elections which will expectedly intensify the clash between the



Duterte faction represented by Cayetano and the Marcos camp, represented by Sotto together with senators of the Liberal Party and Akbayan.

National democratic groups launched a series of protests in the first week of June at the Senate to denounce its members’ defense of corrupt and criminal officials and their pursuit of self-serving interests. They are calling for truth, accountability, and justice. AB

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ter pump expenses increased to ₱2,500 from ₱1,200 per day, while pesticide prices rose from ₱1,600 to ₱1,900 per sack.

Farmworkers’ wages remain suppressed. Sugarcane workers earn about ₱300 per day, while piece-rate workers receive ₱500 per ton. This covers 11 hours of work to meet a 10-ton daily quota. Farmworkers in corn and rice fields earn ₱500 per day per hectare, which already includes food and transportation.

In Panay, severe drought dried up farmlands and lowered water levels at Maasin Dam. Initial losses from dried vegetables, rice, and fruits reached over ₱200,000. Livestock deaths were also recorded in San Dionisio, Northern Iloilo, with losses estimated at over ₱70,000.

Farmers and fisherfolk demand immediate government action, including declaring a state of imminent disaster, providing subsidies, crop insurance, adequate compensation, expanding irrigation, stopping importation, and scrapping the Oil Deregulation Law.

KMP emphasized that as long as agriculture remains dependent on imports and lacks genuine land reform and meaningful support for local production, the agriculture and fisheries sectors will remain vulnerable to climate-driven disasters. AB

Groups resist environmental destruction for corporate profit

ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDIGENOUS groups denounced the continuing environmental destruction to pave the way for large infrastructure and mining projects.

Led by Mamamayang Nagmamahal sa Pakil (People who Love Pakil), residents of Pakil, Laguna marched on May 30 to oppose the construction of the Ahanan Dam on Mount Ping-as. They consider the mountain sacred and a vital source of clean water, irrigation, and livelihood.

A protest on May 25 of more than 500 residents of Barangay España and nearby communities in San Fernando, Sibuyan Island, in Romblon halted the planned mining operations of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation. They timed the action with the Sangguniang Barangay session. The mining operation targets 1,580 hectares of land in San Fernando for an estimated 50,000 tons of nickel ore.

Protests led by Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment on May 26 and strong public opposition forced the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Ramon Ang’s San Miguel Corporation to suspend tree cutting along Quirino Avenue in Manila. A total of 617 trees would be affected by the Southern Access Link Expressway, with more than 200 already cut even before the suspension.

Exposes further the rotten education system

The US-Marcos regime's new reform in general education (GE) further exposes the Philippine rotten system. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is pushing the proposed Reframed General Education Curriculum Component (RGECC). It aims to cut required GE subjects from the current 36 units to only 18. It targets pilot (experimental) implementation in academic year 2026-2027, which will again reduce courses on history, literature, and ethics.

The GE courses provide a basic foundation in college such as Filipino, literature, history, philosophy, and ethics, which are said to help develop critical consciousness. The RGECC follows the 2013 reform (CHED Memorandum Order No. 20) that reduced GE units from 42-64 to 36 in line with "globalization," K-12, and ASEAN integration, which removed Filipino and Literature as key subjects.

Academics and teachers oppose

A series of forums and protests in May pushed the CHED to announce on May 13 the postponement of the experimental implementation of the RGECC. The sector earlier gathered signatures for a petition against the RGECC. National artists, professors, and legislators signed.

The General Education Movement (GEM) consider the postponement a victory of collective resistance, but it is not enough because the central problem remains: the restructuring of education in line with market forces and neoliberalism. The RGECC aims to make students "job-ready" and mold them into docile and submissive labor for foreign corporations and the big comprador bourgeoisie, while removing the "human" aspect of learning. It also threatens the livelihood of an estimated 60,000-90,000 contractual, part-time, and



non-permanent teachers who may be laid off.

GEM pushes for the total scrapping of the RGECC. It also calls for a genuine and national review of the current GE curriculum, the democratic drafting of a new curriculum, and a ban on all forms of job termination that will result from the GE revision.

Orientation of the education system

The revolutionary group Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (Kaguma) described the reform as the "most aggressive" structural change in education within the framework of neoliberalism. While recognizing the growing protests against the reform, the group stated that the people should not fall into the trap of calling to "reverting" to the core purpose of GE.

GE originated from the Great Books program called Contemporary Civilization of Columbia University. This became the model of GE worldwide as a bourgeois response to the "barbarism" that supposedly resulted in the First World War. GE was used in the hope of creating a "more peaceful, humane, and just society" amid on-

going imperialist conflicts.

At its core, the orientation of GE in the Philippines is fundamentally distorted because of its foundations and history. "The only remedy to this excessive commercialization and corporate stranglehold is a militant and unyielding mass movement that advances an education designed for national industrialization and genuine national liberation," the group stated.

Kabataang Makabayan (KM) unites with the struggle against the rotten education system. It said the Filipino youth must continue to be mobilized to block the GE reform that will further push the youth into ignorance. "The youth must fight for an education that serves the interests of the nation and the people," KM stated.

Kaguma, KM, and the entire National Democratic Front of the Philippines advance a patriotic, scientific, and mass-oriented education as an alternative to the country's colonial, commercialized, and repressive education system. This type of education can only be fully achieved and realized by overthrowing the current rotten semi-colonial and semifeudal Philippine society through a people's democratic revolution. AB

Youth groups oppose Red-tagging and repression

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas (UST) students protested on May 28-29 against intensifying repression and Red-tagging inside the university. They condemned the "notice to explain" sent to three student leaders of Kabataan Partylist-UST Artlets: Raven Racelis, Ray Manuel, and Kerby Calizar. Prof. Marlon Villarin filed the case after students confronted the NTF-Elcac and AFP on campus. Students asserted that the complaint violates academic freedom and constitutes systematic harassment of critical voices.

Students of West Visayas State University in Iloilo City strongly opposed the invitation to Philippine Army commander Lt. Gen. Antonio Nafarrete as guest speaker at their recognition day on June 3. Students wore black ribbons that day in symbolic protest. They said honoring a military official involved in human rights violations insults the university's integrity.

Youth and student leaders from UP Mindanao in Davao City protested on June 2 to denounce Red-tagging in the region. This is linked to the "Active Wanted Persons" poster released by the PNP in the town of Cateel, Davao Oriental on May 27, where most of those named are youth leaders. It threatened the lives and security of the 14 named and their families.



Iran suspends peace negotiations with US

IRAN ANNOUNCED ON June 1 that it has suspended its participation in peace negotiations with the US related to the war. This followed the attack and bombing by Zionist Israel in Lebanon, a blatant violation of the ceasefire framework. In response, Iran will again fully close the Strait of Hormuz.

According to Iran, "a violation in one arena is a violation of the ceasefire in all arenas." Zionist Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself announced on May 31 that he ordered his military to expand and intensify military operations and maneuvers in Lebanon. Its successive bombings killed and wounded many civilians in Lebanon.

After the negotiations stalled, the US attacked Qeshm Island in Iran on June 3, claiming it destroyed the country's missiles and drones. The US labeled this as an act of "self-defense." Iran retaliated by attacking US bases and facilities in Kuwait and Bahrain.

The US imposed a new wave of layered sanctions on Iran on May 28.



The Fifteen is ours. Fisherfolk groups led by Pamalakaya protested at the Department of Agriculture in Quezon City on May 28 to denounce the surge of commercial fishing within the 15-kilometer municipal waters recognized by the December 2024 Supreme Court decision. The protest also marked National Fisherfolk's Day on May 31.

Vendors oppose imperialist war. Hundreds of vendors at Mall of the Valley in Tuguegarao City signed a petition calling for the immediate halt to the US-Israel war of aggression against Iran. They also demanded lower oil prices and financial support for small vendors. They said their income dropped by nearly 60% as oil prices rose.

"Poorest de Mayo" of the urban poor. Progressive groups in Metro Manila launched three separate "Poorest de Mayo" parades in the last week of May as a creative protest against poverty. Drawing from the traditional Flores De Mayo, participants wore outfits made of recycled materials reflecting the people's issues. These included lack of livelihood, low wages, demolitions, the education crisis, environmental destruction, and suffering caused by the wars of the US and Israel in the Middle East.

Investigate the Delpan fire. Kadamay demanded an immediate investigation into the fire at Parola Compound, Delpan, Binondo in Manila that broke out on May 23. A total of 7,123 residents lost their homes and remain in evacuation centers because of the fire. The North-South Harbor Bridge Project of comprador bourgeois Enrique Razon Jr will be built in the community. The project includes a 2.02-kilometer bridge linking Barangay 20 (Parola) to North Harbor and Barangay 649 (Baseco) to South Harbor. Authorities announced its start on May 22, one day before the fire.

Kambalingan, reasserted. In a forum on May 25, displaced residents of Marawi again called for Kambalingan, or a safe, dignified, and genuine return to their communities. Until now, many residents are barred from returning while infrastructure projects rise on their land. Groups criticized the prioritization of expensive projects over basic services and the slow process of compensation. Only 3,187 or 22% of the 14,497 applications have been processed, further worsening the victims' conditions.

US imperialism's intensifying aggression and intervention in Latin America

Led by its president Donald Trump, US imperialism's offensives in the past month against Latin American countries intensified. The "Trump Corollary" or extension of the Monroe Doctrine justified the current attacks, aggression, and pressure.

Venezuela. US troops conducted an "evacuation drill" in central Caracas, Venezuela on May 23. Two helicopters carrying American soldiers, ambulances, firefighters, and other US security forces participated in the activity. US Southern Command chief General Francis Donovan himself led the military operations.

The Venezuelan government under acting president Delcy Rodríguez allowed this under the cover of "standard diplomatic security and protection protocols." Rodríguez entered into various political and economic agreements with the Trump government amid US pressure and threats. These include "security exercises." This followed the US abduction of former Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores on January 3.

Various groups in Venezuela condemned the military exercise, saying it is blatant US intervention and violates the country's sovereignty. "No to the drill! Yankee go home!" the protesters demanded.

Cuba. The US imposed sanctions and filed charges against government officials and revolutionary leaders in Cuba. On June 4, the US Treasury Department directly sanctioned Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, his family, and close relatives of the Castros. This coincided with Trump's renewed threat to

"deal with" Cuba after Iran.

On May 20, the US Department of Justice filed charges against Raúl Castro, 94, revolutionary leader, general, and former president of the country. The US is prosecuting him in connection with the downing of two planes in Cuba in 1996 that were then used by pro-US forces to interfere in Cuba. Cuban officials denounced the move, saying it would only be used as a pretext to assault and attack the country, as was done in Venezuela.

Bolivia. Amid the worsening economic crisis and declining quality of life, the Bolivian people condemned the incumbent regime's subservience to US dictates. They clearly know that the Paz regime's policies favoring the US and foreign companies betrays the country's sovereignty. The general strike of workers and toiling masses in Bo-

livia that began in May continues. Many major cities in the country are paralyzed.

Strikers grew even more furious by the US's open support for the Paz regime's dispersal and fascist repression of protests. They know the US backs the regime because it is key to plundering Bolivia's natural resources. They condemned US intervention in the country, including the threat to abduct Evo Morales, an anti-imperialist leader and former president of Bolivia.

The US covets Bolivia's lithium reserves, among the largest in the world. It is part of the so-called "Lithium Triangle" in South America along with Argentina and Chile. These three countries hold more than 50% of the world's total lithium.

Colombia. The US is blatantly intervening in the ongoing national elections in Colombia. US Senator Bernie Moreno illegally met with Colombia's conservative candidates on May 29 to unite the Right against progressive candidate Iván Cepeda in the June 21 runoff. Moreno joined the 86-member US delegation serving as "observers" in the election and as instruments of intervention.

In the first runoff of the election on May 31, fascist candidate Abelardo de la Espriella led with 43.7%. After the results, Trump openly endorsed him for the final election in June. Current Colombian president Gustavo Petro condemned this as an affront to the country's sovereignty.

