

EDITORIAL

Marcos cannot crush the people's revolutionary struggle

For four years, the Filipino people have endured suffering under Marcos' puppet, oppressive, and fascist regime. Despite all of Ferdinand Marcos Jr's efforts to paint Philippine "progress," he cannot conceal the reality of worsening conditions of the country and the Filipino people. Marcos officials have repeatedly declared the defeat of the revolutionary armed struggle, yet military operations across all guerrilla fronts throughout the archipelago remain relentless. Marcos continues to fan the flames of the people's war.

The situation of workers, farmers, fishermen, and other basic classes and sectors comprising the majority of the people further deteriorates. On the other hand, the few ruling classes, accomplices of US imperialism, feast on wealth accumulated from oppression and exploitation of the toiling masses, bureaucratic corruption, plunder of

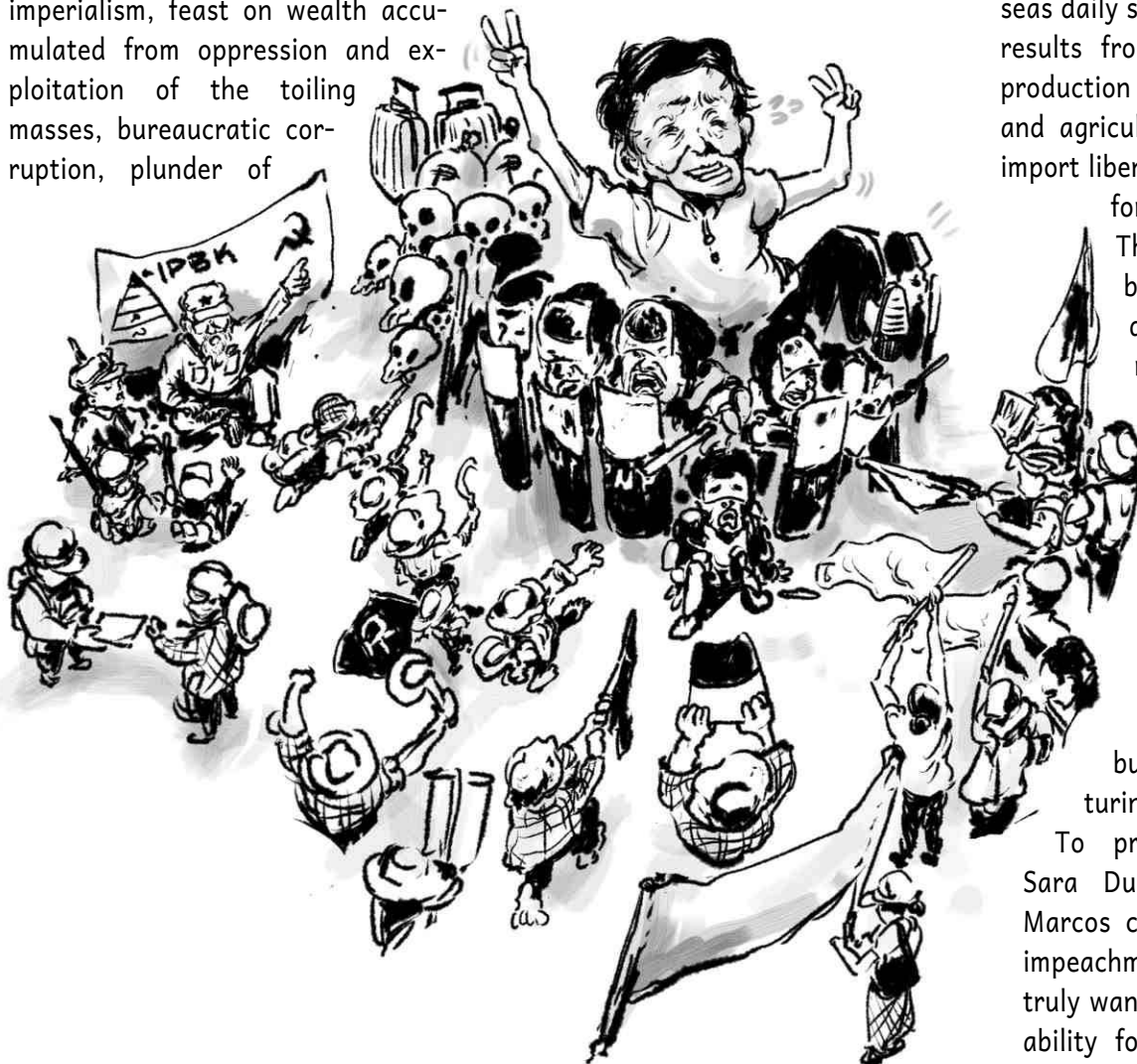
natural resources, and grabbing people's land and livelihood. The nation's security is in peril as Marcos allows the US to use the Philippines as a giant military base.

Living standards plummet amid skyrocketing prices of oil, food, and daily necessities. Marcos's photo-op gestures like rice giveaways and aid programs are hollow. Workers' wages and the salaries of ordinary employees fall short of half what a family of five needs to live decently. Farmers are sinking deeper into debt in the face of rising costs of production and living.

The unemployment crisis is acute. Millions are jobless, especially among the youth. Thousands of Filipino workers migrate overseas daily seeking employment. This results from the decline of local production in both manufacturing and agriculture, caused by all-out import liberalization and flooding of foreign commodities. There is no program to build local national industries to produce basic needs. Marcos continues to bury the Philippines deeper into debt.

While the people struggle, factional strife over corruption and power continues unabated. The 2028 election remains far off, but maneuvering and posturing have already begun.

To preempt Vice President Sara Duterte's candidacy, the Marcos camp is pushing for her impeachment. What the people truly want is justice and accountability for all those involved in



corruption and plunder of public funds, particularly Marcos himself as the highest official and chief of bureaucrat-capitalism.

Marcos surpasses all previous puppet presidents in his subservience to US imperialist dictates. In the economic field, he provides boundless incentives and privileges to foreign capitalists. Everywhere, land is being taken away by plantations and "renewable energy" projects. While no land is allocated for farmers, Marcos will open 1,620 hectares of land for an "economic security zone" for American corporations under the Pax Silica framework. Militarily, there is an unprecedented increase in US military forces within Philippine territory as they prepare an imperialist war against China. Marcos blindly allows the Philippines to be used as a vast military base and launchpad for US aggression and intervention, showing utter disregard for Filipinos who will suffer from being dragged into a US-instigated war.

The US provokes and fans fascist oppression in the Philippines to suppress

the Filipino people's anti-imperialist resistance in all forms—armed and unarmed. More than one billion dollars has been allocated by the US for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the coming five years. The US military wages all-out intervention in counter-guerrilla warfare, campaigns of suppression and martial law imposition in the countryside, under the guise of the "Salaknib" and other military exercises. The US supplies AFP units with weapons and equipment for small-scale operations desperately attempting to crush the continuing spread and expansion of the NPA.

From the people's point of view, the Marcos regime equates to unparalleled corruption, suffering and hunger of the masses, subservience to foreign capital, and fascist oppression. Among the broad people, it is clear that Marcos represents the rotten and decrepit system ruled by US imperialism in collusion with the few ruling classes. Today, Marcos is the primary catalyst driving the Filipino people to rise up and take the difficult path of struggle.

From various corners of the country, mass struggles are bursting forth to defend land and homes, struggle for living wages, expose corruption, hold plunderers accountable, defend people's rights, oppose the destruction of the environment, protest the presence of foreign troops, and fight for national sovereignty. They are getting organized and acting together to defend their welfare and the interests of the entire nation.

In the countryside, armed struggle advances steadily and expands across guerrilla zones and fronts.

Wherever they go, Red fighters of the New People's Army are warmly welcomed by the masses who firmly embrace them as their true army. With the NPA, the broad masses of peasants are emboldened to rise and fight against land grabbers and their fascist mercenaries.

Amid the gross sufferings of the Filipino people, the Party is determined to serve as the core and vanguard of their struggle to end oppression, alter their destiny, and establish a new sovereign and democratic nation. In the spirit of the rectification movement, cadres and Party members devote their mind and strength to the people's cause. Wherever the masses are, the Party takes deep and wide roots to guide them along the path of struggle.





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The Marcos regime's incompetence continues to rock Mindanao earthquake victims

Two strong earthquakes hit the provinces of Mindanao in June. First was the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on June 8 with its epicenter in offshore Sarangani, and second was the magnitude 6.6 earthquake on June 26 with its epicenter in offshore Davao Occidental. This was followed by nearly 10,000 aftershocks. In the face of this, the livelihood of the masses affected by the earthquake continues to collapse, not only because of the disaster, but as a result of Marcos regime's incompetence.

According to the latest record of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on July 1, the confirmed death toll during the earthquake has reached 88. There are still 24 missing while 1,316 were recorded injured. Meanwhile, at least 319,275 families or 1.68 million people in 627 barangays were affected by the earthquake. Around 18,360 houses completely collapsed while 94,919 were partially damaged. Many roads and public infrastructure were also destroyed.

Despite this, the Marcos regime and local governments are moving at a snail's pace to meaningfully address the impact of the earthquake. The government is focused only on the mere distribution of one-time and limited aid, instead of comprehensive measures and policies.

Aid fails to arrive

Many towns in Mindanao have already declared a "state of calamity" to immediately release funds for disaster response. Despite this, many farming communities do not receive aid. In an interview by Ang Bayan with some farmers in the affected provinces, they shared that they have not received help or compensation from the government.

In one community, the farmers' rice crops, which were supposed to be their source of con-

sumption for the whole year, were toppled by the earthquake. In some areas, farmers cannot deliver and sell abaca products due to destroyed roads and large boulders blocking the way as a result of landslides.

Communities are exerting their own efforts to repair their roads so that vehicles can pass through. In some cases, they opted to walk to the town center from the sitios just to make a living. In addition, they suffered from damaged homes and properties.

Farmers were further dismayed by circulating news about local officials pocketing the aid that was supposed to be distributed to them. In a Sarangani town, the mayor made it appear that the rice intended for residents were distributed to a neighboring town, but it was discovered that the local government was merely hoarding and hiding them.



For the farmers, the lack of or sluggish social services from the government is nothing new. They even shared that even before the earthquake, their roads were already badly damaged.

Strengthening the united voice

The revolutionary forces in the Far South of Mindanao, which includes Sarangani, are making every effort to unite and strengthen the united voice of farmers and residents affected by the earthquake. They are raising awareness among the peasant masses about their rights to unite and mobilize them to hold the local government and the Marcos regime accountable.

As a result, several sitio leaders found the courage to go to the barangay center to report the damage in their communities. Along with this, they demanded compensation and support. Revolutionary forces are also urging residents to form organizations to serve as their strength to assert their demands.

In some areas, Red fighters of the New People's Army directly helped the masses in clearing large boulders from the roads after the earthquake. Through these actions,

the people's army is able to demonstrate that it is a reliable army of the toiling masses.

Assisting and responding to the people affected or victimized by calamities is part of the Party's Program for a People's Democratic Revolution. Together with units of the people's army and the local people's government, the revolutionary movement carries out various forms of rescue, relief, and mobilization of disaster victims. **AB**

Tacloban school violence, product of a rotten system

The Special Office for the Protection of Children (SOPC) of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) extended its condolences to the families, relatives, classmates, teachers, and communities affected by the tragic school shooting in Tacloban City on June 22. It is not only an individual tragedy but a symptom of a decaying system.



The school shooting in Tacloban exposes the violent and destructive character of Philippine society that shapes the lives of Filipino children, according to the SOPC. Under the current system, a culture of violence and impunity has become the norm. Every day, children witness severe poverty, state fascism, corruption, and the lack of real opportunities for their future. In such conditions, violence becomes part of a child's consciousness.

The SOPC opposed attempts by the reactionary government to use the tragedy to push anti-child policies. It is wrong to use this incident

as a reason to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility, the office said. Such proposals do not address the root causes of violence and merely shift the blame to the children themselves. The real issue is dismantling the culture of impunity promoted by the ruling class, not imposing heavier punishment on children.

The NDFP shared that in revolutionary areas, the organs of political power (people's governments) actively implement programs for children's welfare. These include literacy and education campaigns based on the conditions of their

communities. Their aim is to raise children as responsible members of society with a high degree of social consciousness.

Recognizing that children prosper when their families and communities are empowered is fundamental to the NDFP's perspective. Landlessness, unemployment, low wages, forced migration, and the absence of social services undermine children's welfare. Hence, genuine child protection cannot be separated from the struggle for land reform, national industrialization, economic, sovereignty, and democratic rights. **AB**

CNL successfully holds 10th Congress

CHAPTER AND UNIT representatives of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL) gathered in the second quarter of the year to hold its 10th congress. Bishops, religious and pastors, lay workers, and youth representatives from various regions of the country attended the activity.

The congress was held under the theme "Strengthen and expand our ranks and further advance the national democratic revolution with socialist perspective; Deepen our integration with the masses in overthrowing the bureaucrat capitalist and fascist US-Marcos regime." It drafted a new four-year plan and elected officers.

According to Renmin Malaya, the elected chair of the group, the gathering is timely in the context of the Philippine revolutionary movement's rectification campaign, and amid intensifying inter-imperialist conflicts and wars and the growing rift among the local ruling classes in the country.

"The CNL will certainly make a major contribution to the current efforts to advance the revolutionary movement. It is now in a stage of rebuilding, after a period of retreat and setbacks caused by internal weaknesses and mistakes," read a message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Allied organizations of the NDFP also extended their congratulations to the CNL.

As the congress concluded, the CNL honored the martyrs and heroes of the Philippine revolution. It paid special tribute to Ka Luis Jalandoni, one of CNL's founders, who died on June 7, 2025. "They are our inspiration. They were never selfish with their lives," said Phillip Rebson, the newly elected CNL secretary general.

Armas chapter in ST holds assembly

THE ARTISTA AT Manunulat ng Sambayanan (Armas)—Jethro Isaac Ferrer Chapter in Southern Tagalog, held a general assembly in June. The chapter launched the event as part of efforts to consolidate and expand its ranks.

At the assembly, members performed and conducted revolutionary mass critique on several pieces. They also elected new officers for the chapter's executive committee.

Also in June, the chapter held a cultural festival featuring discussions and workshops aimed at cultivating the cultural work of revolutionary artists. They also launched coordinated actions of oplan pinta, oplan dikit, and oplan sabit. They put up posters, streamers, and graffiti calling for the advancement the people's war.

One year of Marcos' anti-corruption rhetoric

Ferdinand Marcos Jr failed to deceive the public with his regime's scheme and sham anti-corruption campaign since it was declared in July 2025. The nation knows that his words "Have some shame!" are empty because they only target political rivals while failing to hold himself, his lackeys, and his allies accountable. This also forms part of Marcos' preparation for the upcoming 2028 elections, aiming to sideline opponents, gain more allies, and amass more from corruption and kickbacks for his candidates.

It cannot be denied that Marcos is the king of corruption, the mastermind, and the biggest crocodile in the widespread government corruption. Along with pocketing new illicit gains, he also managed to fully recover over ₱300 billion of his family's ill-gotten wealth that had been confiscated by the state in the past.

The flow of corruption

From 2022 to 2025, Marcos allocated ₱545 billion for flood control projects that became the center of corruption scandals. It was also revealed that he sources funds for these from the unprogrammed appropriations (UA) in the budget. This 2026, despite the exposure of corruption, he still allocated ₱274.9 billion for similar projects.

Marcos once again secured ₱4.6 billion in confidential and intelligence funds this 2026. He maintained the ₱243.4 billion pork barrel for the UA. He also allocated ₱1 billion for his overseas trips, with with his family and lackeys.

Marcos also collects from the pork barrel fund system in the form of "allocable" amounts designated for each district representative. This is what the DPWH calls the Baselined-Balanced-Managed (BBM) Parametric Formula. It is attached to the president's National Expenditure Program under the DPWH budget, which receives the president's blessing. In an investigation by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), it was revealed that Rep. Sandro Marcos, the president's son, had the largest allocable amount (₱15.79 billion) from 2023

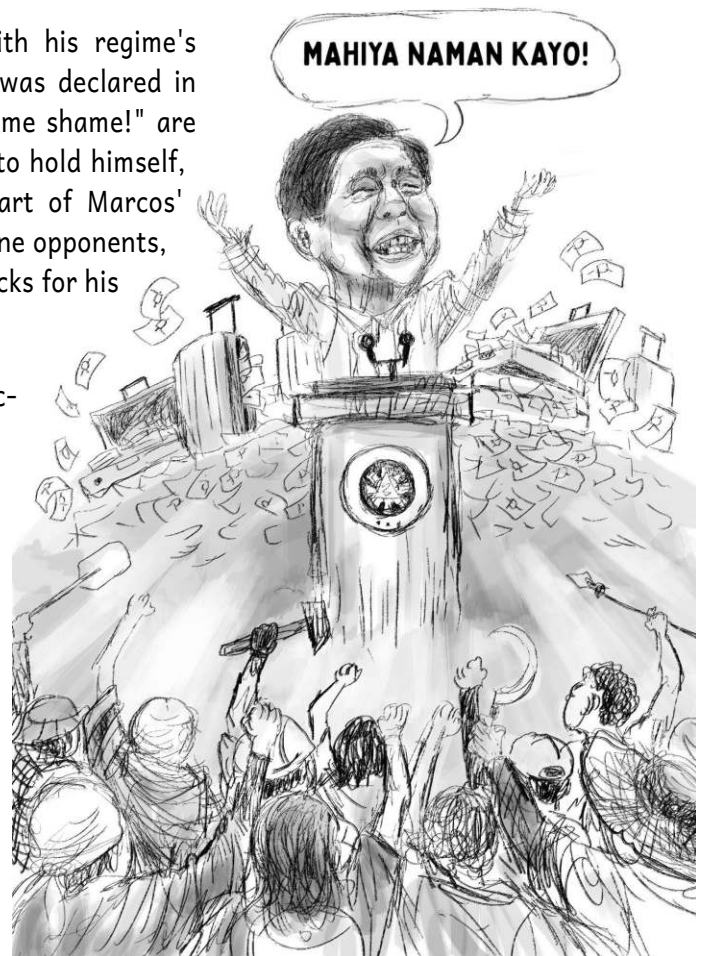
to 2025. Ranking second to him was his uncle, Rep. Martin Romualdez, who secured ₱14.43 billion.

Former Ako Bicol Partylist Rep. Elizalde Co, former head of the House Appropriations Committee, also exposed other corruption schemes of the Marcoses. This includes direct orders from Marcos and his relatives to insert funds into the national budget for kickbacks. According to him, he personally delivered suitcases of money to the Marcoses and to Romualdez. He also exposed that Marcos's wife, Liza Araneta-Marcos, is involved in the large-scale smuggling of rice, fish, and vegetables.

To shield himself from corruption accusations and dictate the direction of the investigation, Marcos formed the Independent Commission for Infrastructure. He also mobilized congressmen to immediately dismiss the impeachment complaint filed against him in January.

There are three grounds for the complaint regarding betrayal of public trust: 1) being the mastermind of systematic corruption within the government (through the "allocables" formula or the BBM Parametric Formula), 2) abuse of unprogrammed funds, and 3) direct involvement in rampant budget insertions and the kickback system.

To date, only a few minor personalities have been imprisoned for



plunder and corruption, all of whom happen to be political opponents of the Marcoses. Marcos is also targeting the queen of corruption, Vice President Sara Duterte. Meanwhile, Co, who has made various accusations against the Marcoses, is deliberately being allowed to escape by the regime.

The past year also exposed the alignment of certain self-proclaimed progressive groups, such as the Akbayan Partylist, with Marcos. The group actively shields Marcos from accountability and the public's demands for justice.

The people's overflowing rage

Consecutive protests were launched by various sectors to hold Marcos, Vice President Duterte, and everyone involved in corruption accountable. The largest among the protests was the "Baha sa Luneta" (Flood in Luneta) on September 21, 2025, which drew 100,000 participants, and another on November 30, 2025, joined by over 20,000

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The hollow promise of "development" under the Marcos regime

In recent days, two announcements from the Marcos regime once again laid bare the utter emptiness of its promises and the burden it places on the Filipino people. First was the insulting ₱85 daily wage increase that regime officials described as "historic." Second was the Philippines' supposed attainment of "upper middle income" status according to the standards of the imperialist institution World Bank. These are nothing but advance boasts ahead of Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 27.

How far will ₱85 go?

The national average minimum wage stands at only ₱504-₱510. This is not even half of the estimated needed minimum wage of ₱1,200 to ₱1,312 per day. Even adding ₱85 to the National Capital Region (NCR) wage of ₱695/day, it still falls far short of what a family of five needs to live with dignity. Worse still, the ₱85 daily increase will be doled out by installment: ₱60 on July 19, and ₱25 in January 2027. If the ₱60 is divided according to the average spending of most families, 64% goes to food — or ₱34.40, which cannot even buy a single kilo of rice. The remaining ₱26 will be divided for transportation, utilities, and much more.

The wage increase is even lower in regions outside the NCR. In the past year, regional wage boards

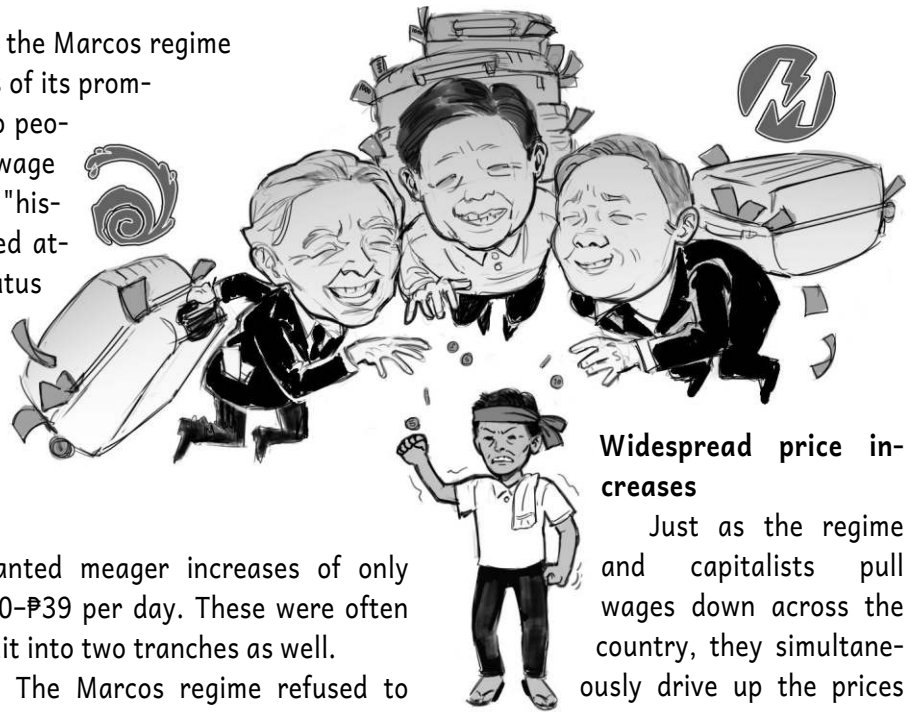
granted meager increases of only ₱20-₱39 per day. These were often split into two tranches as well.

The Marcos regime refused to grant even a modest wage increase to workers despite soaring inflation that has eroded the real value of wages. Nationwide, the inflation rate hit 7.2% in April, up from 2.4% in February. This came after the US war of aggression against Iran, which foreign and local companies exploited to jack up oil prices and rake in super-profits.

According to the regime's own data, roughly 65% of Filipino families live far below decent living standards. Due to low wages, only about ₱78 per day is allocated per family member — far below the state's own official poverty threshold of ₱91 per day.

Protests were also launched to push for the impeachment of both Marcos and Duterte.

A walkout movement among student youth erupted in universities and campuses from September to October 2025. All in all, over 40,000 students and youth nationwide too part. At the Mendiola bridge, more than 5,000 youth and students marched on October 17, 2025, echoing the call, "Remove Marcos-Duterte! Change the rotten system!"



Widespread price increases

Just as the regime and capitalists pull wages down across the country, they simultaneously drive up the prices of goods and the cost of services. People have been reeling from the oil price increases that began in March which have yet to return to previous levels. Exploiting the US war of aggression against Iran, oil companies nearly doubled the price of diesel (reaching ₱107-₱134.3/liter), along with gasoline, kerosene, and LPG.

Even before the "oil price shock," prices of petroleum products have been climbing steadily. From January to February, companies raised oil prices seven times, resulting in a net increase of ₱3.80/liter for diesel and ₱5.40/liter for gasoline, even as the world price of

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people. Both were led by the Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (People's Movement Against Corruption).

Militant actions were also staged, such as at the Pasig City office of St. Gerrard Construction—owned by the Discayas—which is one of the contractors involved in the corruption. Black Friday Protests spread across Metro Manila and other provinces, where the offices of the DPWH and ICI were stormed on several occasions.

US Imperialism is no friend of the Filipino people

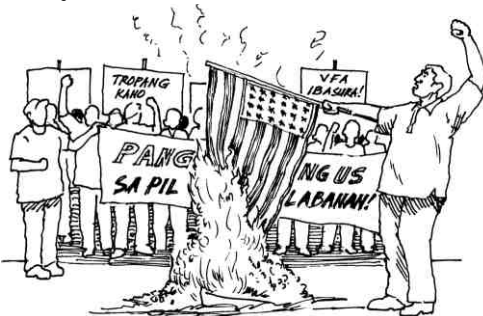
PROGRESSIVE GROUPS MARCHED to the US embassy in Manila on July 4 to protest the 80th anniversary of the so-called "friendship day" between the US and the Philippines. This celebration on Philippine soil is a hallmark of neocolonialism.

The protesters condemned the continuing US interference in the Philippines and its dragging of the Filipino people into the imperialist war being incited against China. They called for the abrogation of unequal military agreements, the closure of US military bases, and the expulsion of US troops from within and around the country.

"War Rehearsal" in Asia

At least 40,000 military troops from more than 30 countries were mobilized by the US in war games across various parts of Asia in June in a large-scale "war rehearsal." These included Resolute Dragon in Japan together with the militarist regime of Sanae Takaichi, Valiant Shield in Guam, and the massive RIMPAC in Hawaii involving 25,000–31,000 troops. In the Philippines, the Kamandag exercises were held from June 15 to July 1 across Northern and Central Luzon, Palawan, Cavite, Tawi-tawi, and Metro Manila.

The simultaneous and coordinated war games along the First and Second Island Chain serve as a "rehearsal" by various armed forces for the imperialist war being prepared against China. The Communist Party of the Philippines strongly condemned the puppet Marcos regime for its open servility to the US and for dragging the country into the geopolitical confrontation between two imperialist powers.



Groups fight destructive solar farms

ON JUNE 29, farmers, youth and students, scientists, environmental defenders, and church representatives gathered at the Central Luzon State University campus in Nueva Ecija to launch the Movement Against Destructive Solar Farms (MADSOLAR). The group will fight against destructive solar farms in Central Luzon.

One of the solar farm projects in the region is the MTerra Solar Project, which will cover 3,500–7,000 hectares of agricultural land in towns in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan. Meralco PowerGen and the foreign company General Atlantic are building the project.

In connection with the project, residents of Sityo Sangilo, Barangay Macabaklay, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija were threatened with forced eviction on July 2. A person claiming to be the landowner, Rey Tan, together with police and several armed personnel stormed the sitio.

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crude oil remained below an average of \$61.80 per barrel.

The oil price shock further drove up production and transportation costs, leading to higher prices of food and other basic necessities. It compounded already high prices caused by elevated production costs, including fertilizer, unregulated importation of expensive rice, and lack of support for local agriculture. In the NCR, the price of rice reached ₱56/kilo by June, while hitting ₱64/kilo in other areas like Zamboanga.

People are also burdened by high electricity and water charges. Meralco raised its rates in the NCR and nearby provinces from ₱13/kWh (January) to over ₱14/kWh (June).

Major electricity distributors in the Visayas also raised their rates- in Cebu by ₱1.83, and in Iloilo by ₱2.33 per kilowatt. In Davao, rates were increased by ₱2/kWh starting January. Meanwhile, water companies in NCR, Cebu, and Davao implemented steep increases in service charges. This is while consumers suffer from the poor service of private utility companies.

No progress

The World Bank's "upper-middle-income" designation is meaningless. It is not a measure of development but merely sets a country's status for borrowing purposes. Contrary to the regime's boasts, the trend of the local economy is down-

ward, and it is not creating enough jobs for the people.

The regime failed to meet even its own target for gross domestic product (GDP) growth. In 2025, the country's GDP grew by only 4.4%, and just 2.8% in the first quarter of 2026. Last year, manufacturing recorded its smallest growth in decades, reaching only 2.5%. Agriculture grew by a mere 2.6%.

Meanwhile, the wealth of corporations and the comprador bourgeoisie expanded. From 2020 to 2022, the net income of the largest corporations rose by 104%. The wealth of the 50 richest Filipinos also increased by 31%- all while they kept Filipino wages low and unable to sustain decent living. AB

Favoring foreigners, oppressing the people

While the Marcos regime refuses to give the people even the slightest relief by removing the VAT and other burdensome taxes, it is rushing to grant incentives and tax breaks- the privilege of not paying taxes- to large foreign corporations.

One of the regime's schemes is the 2026 Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP), an investment "roadmap" outlined by the Board of Investments (BOI) in January. It was signed by Ferdinand Marcos Jr on May 21 and made public on June 3. This roadmap identifies investment areas where foreign investors will be exempt from paying taxes for 14 to 17 years.

The SIPP is nothing more than a further surrender of sovereignty and the sale of cheap Filipino labor to foreigners. It covers investment areas that had already been yielded to foreign control. These were expanded under the Duterte regime through to the Marcos regime, which allowed and facilitated 100% foreign ownership in strategic sec-

tors such as telecommunications, air transport, local banking, and renewable energy (RE).

Industry for imperialist war

The SIPP further incentivizes the operations of companies entering semi-processing of critical minerals and other "services related to defense activities." It includes a special category for so-called "frontier technologies" such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, nuclear energy, and advanced research and development. These subsectors are what US imperialism is currently pushing under the Luzon Economic Corridor and the Pax Silica Initiative. Companies entering these sectors will enjoy the longest and most generous tax-free periods and other incentives.

Contrary to what the regime insists on, the SIPP is far from being a catalyst for economic development. In Philippine history, foreign direct investment has never led to industrialization. Under neoliberal policies in recent decades, manufacturing has been in continuous decline. In fact, its share of the overall economy (GDP) has been steadily shrinking— from 20-25% in the 1950s to just 2.5% in 2025, the lowest in over 70 years.

Nothing will change this downward trajectory of the lo-

cal economy. The SIPP is designed for the "global supply chain," not for building a genuine national industry. It will only further tie the country down as a supplier of cheap raw materials and subjugated labor for semi-processing of imported goods for re-export.

Hollow promises of jobs

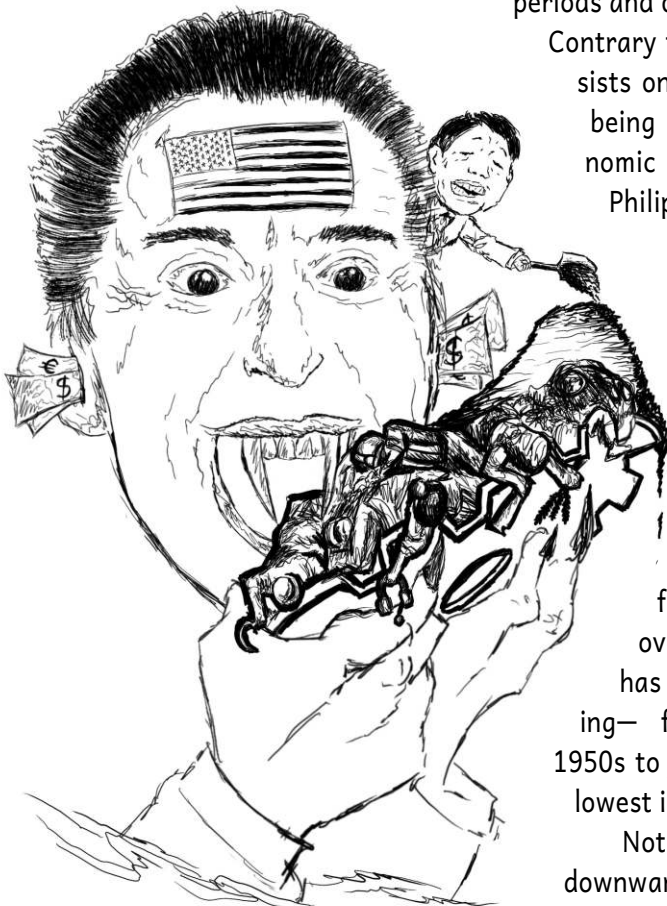
The regime boasts that the SIPP will create millions of jobs, with 420,000 supposedly in the RE sector alone. It also claims that one million jobs will be created in the Luzon Economic Corridor.

The reality will be the opposite. Right now, peasant and indigenous communities are being displaced left and right, their land seized for solar and onshore windfarm projects. Thousands of fishermen will lose their fishing grounds to make way for the giant turbines of offshore windfarms. The destruction of livelihoods is not only immediate but long-lasting, given the damage caused by massive RE projects on land and at sea.

Furthermore, the jobs supposedly created in "advanced manufacturing" and "mindfacturing" represent not development but further exploitation of labor. Foreign companies will simply absorb the talent and skills of Filipinos for their own use in the economy and military.

Meanwhile, oppressive and exploitative policies will persist in the enclaves where foreign capital is concentrated. Despite high productivity rates in enterprises within these zones, most workers are paid only minimum wages. Nearly all of them are contractual with minimal benefits. Even regular workers have no defense against sudden factory closures and the transfer of company operations abroad.

AB



The rise in Enrique Razon's wealth means greater suffering for the Filipino people

On June 15, Forbes magazine reported Enrique Razon Jr.'s net worth at \$18.8 billion—ranking him as the 143rd richest person in the world and the richest Filipino. His wealth is equivalent to ₱1.27 trillion, earning him the title of the Philippines' first “trillionaire.”

Razon's biggest businesses include International Container Terminal Services, Inc (with total revenue of ₱177.3 billion), Manila Water Co. (₱66.6 billion), and Bloomberry Resorts Corp (₱53.9 billion). He also has businesses in mining, renewable energy, power, real estate, oil, and investment. He also owns about 60% of four gas-fired power plants that were formerly controlled by the Lopez family.

In March, he bought SierraCol Energy Limited, the largest independent oil and gas company in Colombia, from The Carlyle Group.

Razon's cronyism

The Razon family were known cronies during the time of Marcos Sr, serving as instruments for the dictator's accumulation of assets worth billions of dollars. Razon continued being a crony under each administration that took office, especially from the 2000s onward.

The ICTSI's rapidly expanded during the term of former President Gloria Arroyo, whose husband Mike had close ties to Razon. He became an important figure in Arroyo's controversial deals, including the State Grid Corporation of China's purchase of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines and the failed NBN-ZTE deal. In exchange, he funded Arroyo's candidacy and those of her allies. In 2007, he served as treasurer of Team Unity under Lakas-Kampi and later helped found

the National Unity Party.

Under the Duterte administration, Razon successively took control of Manila Water and power companies, Apex Mining, Dennis Uy's casinos, and others. His wealth nearly doubled during the pandemic.

Under the US-Marcos regime, his income grew by ₱909.3 billion, the largest among the big bourgeois compradors.

Anti-people projects

Razon is notorious for exploitative businesses, anti-people projects, and the use of the military and hired goons to suppress people's resistance.

These include dams to be built on ancestral lands that displace indigenous peoples and farmers. These projects include the Wawa-Violago Dam in Rizal, the Jalaur Megadam Project in Iloilo, the Chico Hydropower Project in Kalinga, and the Ahunan Dam in Laguna.

On February 6, 2024, 101 people, mostly miners, were reported killed in a landslide in Barangay

Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro, inside Apex Mining operations. Widespread mining had also caused deadly landslides in the area in 2008 and 2012.

On January 8, 36 people died following the collapse of a landfill operated by Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc., a Razon company. Residents of Barangay Binaliw in Cebu City have long complained about the landfill due to foul odors and its effects to the surrounding mountains and rivers.

In Manila, more than 7,000 residents are at risk of losing their homes in Parola Compound, Delpan, Binondo due to the North-South Harbor Bridge Project. After the project was announced on May 22, the entire community burned down the next day.

Wealth taken from the people

The continued enrichment of big comprador bourgeoisie, landlords, and bureaucrat capitalists contributes nothing to advance national industrialization or build an independent economy. Instead, it becomes a heavy burden on the entire people, because it is tied to a system of land grabbing for business interests and US imperialism.

Amid worsening injustice and inequality, the need to push forward the national-democratic revolution becomes even clearer in order to overthrow imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. Under a people's democratic government, land monopoly would be broken, national industry would be promoted, an independent foreign policy would be established, and the welfare of the masses would be ensured.





1 DECADE

has passed since Rodrigo Duterte **officially launched the sham and bloody war on drugs**. In remembrance of the thousands of victims of extrajudicial killings, relatives held the program DEKADA on July 1, marking 10 years of mourning and relentless struggle.

Source: Rise Up for Life and for Rights



P75 million

amount of funds which Sen. Rodante Marcoleta admitted to **have received, but failed to declare, from "3 friends"** for his 2025 Senate campaign.

256

activists, community leaders, and civilians became **victims of "anti-terror" laws**, including 222 who were slapped with fabricated charges (138 of which have been dismissed), with 25 still imprisoned to this day.

Source: Karapatan



234

containers of poisonous electronic waste (e-waste) were dumped by the US in the Subic Freeport in Zambales, violating the Basel Convention, posing security and environmental risks, and trampling on the country's sovereignty.



6 months

suspension imposed on Dr. Lorraine Badoy, former spokesperson of the NTF-Elcac, for red-tagging and vilification of progressive doctors and health workers.

1,000 days

of **genocide by Zionist Israel** in Palestine as of July 2; 73,000 Palestinians have been killed, including 21,500 children.



20 MILLION

people are estimated to have **participated in the week-long funeral ceremony** of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei beginning on July 3. Khamenei was assassinated by the US in an airstrike on February 28, but the funeral was delayed due to relentless US bombing.



July 7, 1892

Andrés Bonifacio and other patriotic Filipinos founded the **Kataas-taasang, Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (KKK)** in Tondo, Manila; the KKK was the first national Filipino organization to wage armed struggle for national liberation.

The onslaught of the AFP-PNP in Oriental Mindoro

We've had enough, stop the harassment!" This is the appeal of farmers and indigenous Mangyan people against the intensified military operations in southern Oriental Mindoro. According to the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM)-Oriental Mindoro, AFP-PNP forces have been harassing communities for decades, with the situation becoming worse since June.

Eight AFP battalions are deployed in Mindoro. Five of these are under the 203rd Infantry Brigade, concentrated in the towns of Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao, and Bongabong. They are stationed in 17 military camps. Under the guise of "localized peace engagement" and "Serbisyo Caravan," conducting Mobile Community Support Program through the mountains and communities in more than 21 sitios across Mansalay, Bulalacao, and Roxas.

The influx of 2nd Infantry Division troops into Mindoro is linked to the declaration of the island as a national priority area for suppression in 2025. Along with the troop deployment, violations of the human rights of residents and indigenous Mangyan have reportedly intensified.

The soldiers brought disruption to daily life and livelihoods of the residents, along with crimes, anti-social behavior, and decadent acts in the communities they occupy. These include theft, destruction of tools and crops, gambling, disrespect toward women, prostitution, rape, and forcing residents into servitude.

In Oriental Mindoro, from 2022 to the present, there have been eight recorded cases of extrajudicial killing, 15 cases of illegal arrest and detention, 16 cases of abduction, and five cases of indiscriminate firing (bombing and strafing). The most notable human rights violations involve a

series of sexual abuses by the 4th Infantry Battalion against women in a community in southern Mindoro.

Within about a year, seven women were reported victims of rape. Two were minors, two were reported to becoming pregnant, and one died a week after being released from a soldier's camp having come down with a fever.

Profit for foreigners and local capitalists

Militarization in Oriental Mindoro is not only aimed at suppressing the revolutionary movement, but also at clearing the way for so-called "development" projects on the island, such as large infrastructure projects by foreign and local corporations, corruption-ridden projects by local government units, renewable energy projects, and mining. AFP and PNP troops serve as loyal watchdogs over the lands and machinery owned by the ruling classes.

Residents are opposing mining and dredging operations in Oriental

Mindoro, including the Bulalacao Coal Mining Project in Barangay Cambunang, Bulalacao; planned oil mining by Pitkin Petroleum Limited; extraction of "armour rocks"; and a sand dredging project in the Balete River.

There are plans to build 10 offshore wind farms on the island, three of them in Oriental Mindoro. Turbines would be placed in Bulalacao's waters, as part of the global Coral Triangle that needs protection due to impacts on the marine ecosystem.

The military operations also form part of preparations for US military activities on the island. There is a secret US military base on Lubang Island. It was also discovered that the US Peace Corps held meetings in the town of Naujan to condition Mindoreños for the US-instigated war against China.

Just resistance

According to PKM-Mindoro, it is just for the people to defend the country's right to self-determination. It is also just to join the people's war, especially when there is no freedom and the people are being deprived of their right to live.

The PKM strongly promotes the national-democratic program as a solution to the semicolonial and semifeudal system in the country. The program addresses landlessness among farmers and indigenous Mangyan, including the dismantling of large landholdings and pastures held by landlords since the 1980s. The New People's Army has been a steadfast ally of the masses in carrying out agrarian revolution. Most of these lands are still being used by peasants and the Mindoro masses today.



Venezuela rocked by powerful earthquakes

Powerful earthquakes struck north-central Venezuela, including the capital Caracas and the La Guaira region, on the afternoon of June 24. According to reports, successive earthquakes measuring magnitude 7.2 and magnitude 7.5 occurred within 39 seconds of each other. Due to the shallow depth of the quakes' origin along the San Sebastián fault system, numerous buildings and hospitals collapsed, and millions of people were left without electricity and communications.

As of July 5 reports, nearly 3,000 people have been confirmed dead, over 16,000 injured, and tens of thousands more are still being sought in the rubble of collapsed buildings. More than 16,000 people have been left homeless, and 850 buildings collapsed, of which 190 were completely destroyed.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, and the entire Filipino revolutionary movement extended their condolences and revolutionary solidarity to the people of Venezuela.

At the same time, the CPP condemned the US for taking advantage of the tragedy to deploy troops in Venezuela. On the night of June 25, US troops landed in Caracas to directly interfere in the operations of civilian agencies in

the country. The US Southern Command simultaneously dispatched warships USS Fort Lauderdale and USS Billings to the waters surrounding Venezuela, along with massive transport aircraft C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules. These same units were the ones that attacked Caracas on January 3 and kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores.

According to the CPP, the US is exploiting the disaster and "humanitarian reasons" as a pretext to intervene in Venezuela, especially given its long history of imposing brutal sanctions that have damaged the country's economy and development. These sanctions, along with other coercive measures by the US, are being used to force the Venezuelan government to comply with Trump's dictates.

AB

Unrelenting human rights violations

CASES OF HUMAN rights violations across the country perpetrated by state forces continued to increase in recent weeks.

Killings. Nenita Buscada, an indigenous person, was brutally killed by the 88th IB in Barangay Saint Peter, Malaybalay City on June 15. Buscada was with her husband and two other civilians heading to the forest to gather wood when they were suddenly fired upon by the 8th IB.

Attempted killing. Olid Yanay, 18, was shot by the 43rd IB in Barangay Caputoan, Las Navas, Northern Samar on the morning of June 13. Soldiers also fired three rounds from an M203 grenade launcher. Olid was able to escape and survived the shooting.

Arrest. Farmer Anthony Biñas was arrested by police and the 85th IB on June 19 in Quezon. He was kept hidden by the police and was only located on June 28 at the Quezon District Jail, where he faces attempted murder charges.

Meanwhile, human rights violations have piled up in recent weeks amid heavy militarization in Las Navas, Northern Samar; in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental; in the towns of Isabela and Binalbagan in Negros Occidental; and even in Marikina City.



CLSU students walk out against repression. More than 200 students from Central Luzon State University in Nueva Ecija walked out of classes on June 22 to condemn the suppression of their democratic rights, red-tagging, and state harassment on university student leaders. They stood against attempts by the administration and state forces to silence them.

Justice for Negros 19 Network formed. Family members, friends, and human rights advocates gathered at UP Diliman in Quezon City on June 24 to establish the Justice for Negros 19 Network. It will continue the campaign for truth, accountability, and justice for the Negros 19, who were massacred by the AFP on April 19 in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental.

Pride protest launched by LGBTQ+ groups. Various LGBTQ+ groups and allies assembled at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on June 26 to commemorate the annual Stonewall Philippines Gay Pride. Protesters emphasized the militant tradition of Pride and condemned the worsening condition of the people amid the economic crisis and continued US imperialist intervention in the Philippines. Militant Pride protests were also held in Baguio City, Laguna, Batangas, and Tacloban City.

Marcos greeted with protest in Canada. Hundreds of members of progressive groups held protests to criticize Ferdinand Marcos Jr during his visit to Canada from July 1 to 4. Marcos went to Canada to meet with Prime Minister Mark Carney and business leaders. The visit reportedly led to agreements regarding the expansion of military cooperation, investment in gold and critical mineral mining, and the export of cheap Filipino labor.