



EDITORIAL

Make Duterte's upcoming SONA his last

The Filipino people anxiously await Duterte's State of the Nation Address (SONA) next week, not because they want to listen to another slew of lies, deception, bullying, cursing and threatening of the Malacañang barnacle, rather because they hope this will be the last they will have to bear these.

The people hope that this will be the last time they will hear Duterte order his police and military forces to kill those whom he want killed, imprison those he want jailed, and silence everyone else. They are eager to see an end to Duterte's tyranny, the plunder of the people's coffers, the aggrandizement of those in power, the abandonment of the people's health, education and welfare, the ravaging of the county's natural wealth, the unending borrowing of funds, the sale of the country's seas to foreign powers and the betrayal of the nation's sovereignty.

The truth, however, is that this might not be the last of Duterte. He himself has declared his intent to

stay beyond 2022. Despite his bombast that "I am ready to go to jail" for all his bloody crimes, Duterte is mortally afraid of the possibility that he will be prosecuted, sentenced and be made to rot in a coop. Thus, Duterte is now doing everything to keep himself in the throne.

His blabber "I don't want Sara to run" is a hoax because this is in fact what he really wants to happen to cement their dynasty in Malacañang. In reality, this is what his minions in PDP-Laban are pushing for, combined with his plan to run as vice president, even if this means dividing and grabbing their party's leadership from former allies who refuse to dance to his tune.

The daughter-father Duterte

tandem for the 2022 presidential and vice-presidential elections, under one or two parties, appears to be the tyrant's trump card. Wielding the entire government's resources and the machinery to rig the elections, he can make the elections' result go his way, just as he made his ticket with their Senate and congressional seats in 2019.

While playing his 2022 election cards, Duterte is also intensifying his campaign of mass killings, arrests and suppression. Part of this was the recent "terrorist designation" by the "Anti-Terrorism Council" against the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). Behind the veil of "anti-terrorism" and "counterinsurgency," the regime will undoubtedly target patriotic, democratic and progressive forces, as well as advocates of peace talks and the political opposition who have been accused of supporting, aiding, friends or contacts of the

revolutionary movement.

In the countryside, the military has deployed its troops in hundreds upon hundreds of villages under its "Retooled Community Support Program" (RCSP). Attacks against the masses by the AFP and PNP are relentless to ensure their votes and paralyze their resistance against the terrorist regime.

By intensifying the campaign of suppression, Duterte aims to prevent the high possibility that widespread anger and an uprising of millions of people will be ignited once election results are found to be rigged. Duterte knows the Filipino people do not want another six years under his dynasty.

All forces upholding democracy and the people's well-being must unite to frustrate any attempt of the US-Duterte terrorist regime to remain in power. The various forms of the anti-Duterte united front must broaden and strengthen against his national treachery, corruption, fascism and oppression of the people.

The opposition forces, as well as the progressives and other anti-Duterte forces face a formidable challenge of uniting behind a single pair of presidential and vice-presidential candidates to more effectively fight the Dutertes in the elections. They face a giant challenge of fighting a regime in power that has no qualms in abusing power and all the resources of the state for their self interests.





In the face of the regime's relentless repression and the worsening social conditions, it is big challenge for the people to fight for the restoration of their democratic rights and for their clamor for wage increases and emergency aid, against onerous taxes, for addition funds for health, for a rollback in the prices of oil and other commodities, a return of face-to-face classes and so on.

There must be efforts to thoroughly strengthen and expand worker's unions, peasant associations and other forms of organizations of the masses of toiling people,

youth, teachers, employees, women and other sectors. They must wisely avoid becoming targets of state violence and suppression while shattering the terrorist regime's culture of fear by waging different forms of collective resistance.

Pull together the people's outrage against Duterte's tyrannical regime and be alert for twists in the situation and sudden sparks of rage to rally the masses in their millions in a possible widespread uprising from now until the elections or right after Duterte rigs the election count.

The Party and the revolutionary forces will continue to play a crucial role as the strongest core of the anti-Duterte movement. In particular, the New People's Army (NPA) must continue to intensify its tactical offensives against the regime's armed minions. Every victorious offensive against the AFP and PNP inspires and emboldens the masses to carry forward the struggle to end their sufferings under the US-Duterte fascist regime. AB

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|  <p style="text-align: center;">Vol. LII No. 14 July 21, 2021</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Ang <i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray, English and Spanish. Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  @prwc_info  fb.com/editorsofAB  cppinformationbureau@gmail.com </p> | <h2 style="text-align: center; text-decoration: underline;">Contents</h2> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Editorial: Make Duterte's upcoming SONA his last</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">CPP slams "terrorist-tag" on NDFP</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Anti-people legislative agenda</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">174-hectare reclamation in Dumaguete</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Voracious generals</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Tribute to 3 people's heroes</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Threat to Liguasan Marsh</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Soldiers, employees as trolls</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Anomalous AFP, PNP contracts</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">NPA seizes 3 firearms</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Courts voids search warrants</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2 copra farmers killed</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Protests</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">In short</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Crisis in the semiconductor industry</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">100th anniversary of CPC</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Political detainee in India dies</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">9</td> </tr> </table> | Editorial: Make Duterte's upcoming SONA his last | 1 | CPP slams "terrorist-tag" on NDFP | 2 | Anti-people legislative agenda | 3 | 174-hectare reclamation in Dumaguete | 3 | Voracious generals | 4 | Tribute to 3 people's heroes | 4 | Threat to Liguasan Marsh | 5 | Soldiers, employees as trolls | 5 | Anomalous AFP, PNP contracts | 5 | NPA seizes 3 firearms | 6 | Courts voids search warrants | 6 | 2 copra farmers killed | 6 | Protests | 6 | In short | 7 | Crisis in the semiconductor industry | 8 | 100th anniversary of CPC | 9 | Political detainee in India dies | 9 |
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| <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CPP slams "terrorist-tag" on NDFP

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines criticized the Anti-Terrorism Council for designating the National Democratic Front of the Philippines as a "terrorist" organization. This declaration was made public on July 19 although it was signed on June 23.

Consequently, the regime ordered the Anti-Money Laundering Council to begin freezing the accounts of individuals, organizations and institutions accused of links to the NDFP. This can possibly affect everyone who extended their support to the NDFP negotiating panel.

It is evident that the designation is a scheme to mount a widespread witchhunt against patriotic, progressive and democratic forces who are fighting Duterte's attempt to remain in power beyond 2022.

Duterte's anti-people legislative agenda

During the past five years, Rodrigo Duterte along with his minions in Congress pushed for the enactment of several anti-people, anti-democratic and neoliberal laws. By railroading these laws, Duterte was able to bankrupt the economy and bury the people in hardships.

Economic liberalization

In a speech last June 16, Duterte urged Congress to prioritize the passage of four neoliberal laws which seek to allow 100% foreign ownerships in economic sectors that are reserved for Filipinos, and to lighten the tax burden of capitalists.

He said he wants the Public Services Act (PSA), Foreign Investment Act (FIA), Retail Trade Liberalization Act (RTLA), as well as the third and fourth package of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) on his desk for signature "at the earliest possible time." These measures will liberalize ownership of public lands, natural resources, institutions in the education sector, transportation, mass media, retail trade and investment.

The two CTRP packages, on the other hand, aim to reduce taxes shouldered by capitalists under the pretext of simplifying real estate taxes and capital income, and streamlining investment taxes.

Duterte is expected to once again push these measures in his State of the Nation Address this coming July 26, as well as the passage of amendments to economic

provisions of the constitution through the Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) No. 2. The FIA and RTLA already hurdled Congress on third reading, while the PSA and RBH No. 2 on second reading.

Earlier in 2018, Duterte enacted the Rice Liberalization Act which paved the way for the influx of imported rice in the local market which ultimately resulted in huge income losses among local rice farmers. In 2020 alone, rice farmers lost about ₱90 billion in income. Anakpawis Partylist reported that a decline in production were recorded in at least 27 provinces due to government neglect and liberalization of the sector. This was while rice prices in the local market increased by up to 31% during the said period.

Oppressive tax increases

The most burdensome policy implemented by Duterte is his tax reform program now directly being shouldered by the people. Since the beginning of his term, he enacted the TRAIN Law which levied additional taxes on consumer goods and petroleum products which resulted in increases in the prices of basic



commodities.

At the onset of the pandemic, he levied a 10% increase on oil imports, as well as taxes on small online entrepreneurs. The regime now targets to impose taxes on online services and other food products.

While burdening ordinary people with additional taxes, he cut the income tax of big corporations from 30% to 25% through the second TRAIN law dubbed the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises or Create Law which was enacted in 2020. The government is expected to lose approximately ₱251 billion in tax revenues during first two years of the law, at a time when the government is in dire need of it. The law also gives corporations several tax incentives.

Anti-democratic policies

Duterte is also notorious for enacting laws to suppress his political rivals along with their businesses. Amid the pandemic in July 2020, Duterte railroaded the Anti-Terrorism Law which violates universal human rights. This primarily targets the regime's critics.

In May 2020, Duterte pushed his supermajority in Congress to block the application for franchise renewal of ABS-CBN. The network has earned Duterte's ire which it accused of not airing his presidential campaign ads in 2016. In 2018, Duterte's also moved to block budget allocations to opposition lawmakers.

Groups oppose 174-hectare reclamation in Dumaguete

SCIENTISTS, YOUTH AND religious groups protested the plan of the local government unit to reclaim a 174-hectare area in the city for the construction of a so-called "Smart City." They said that the project will affect four marine protected areas which serve as habitat to 200 fish species, and will have an adverse impact on the livelihood of local fisherfolk.

The city council allowed Mayor Felipe Remollos last July 7 to award the ₱23-billion contract for the reclamation project to E.M. Cuerpo, Inc. (EMCI) which is in partnership with Chinese company Poly Changda Overseas Engineering Company. The protests held the succeeding day were spearheaded by the No to 174 Dumaguete Islands and Kabataan Para Sa Karapatan-Negros Oriental.

Voracious generals

Military and police grip over society was further tightened when Rodrigo Duterte formed the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). Through this agency, retired and active military officers imposed their control even up to the barangay level. This is in line with the "whole-of-nation" approach of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) which aims to subsume the civilian bureaucracy under the counterinsurgency framework of the military.



Military and police rule is very evident in the manner of regime's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Duterte's generals in the NTF-ELCAC merely donned another shirt and composed the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF). Instead of appointing doctors and scientists, Duterte named his generals to manage the public health crisis, using shock and awe tactics to fight the pandemic. Similar to suppression of communities branded as territories of the New People's Army and armed Moros, the movement of the entire population was placed under severe restrictions by the IATF generals.

Despite the ubiquity of checkpoints, and soldiers and policemen brandishing their weapons and displaying their tanks, the virus continues to spread and the Philippines continues to lag behind other countries in terms of Covid-19 response.

Public funds

People are made to carry the burden of satiating Duterte minions. Amid the pandemic, huge funds needed to address the medical needs of the people were instead squandered to feed the monsters.

The AFP and PNP budget ballooned by 27.7% from ₱289 billion in 2017 to almost ₱400 billion this year. During the same period, the health budget decreased by 10.7%. In the national budget for the current year, ₱33 billion was allocated for the procurement of additional weapons and military equipment in the name of AFP "modernization." Duterte is also seeking for more US military aid and weapons in exchange for renegotiating the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Also due to the increase in uniformed personnel and higher salaries, spending for military pension is also set to increase. This is

because, unlike other government employees, soldiers, police and other uniformed personnel do not contribute to their pension fund. Pensions for uniformed retirees come from taxpayers' money. Their pensions are increased when their salaries are increased during their time of active service.

According to the Government Service Insurance System, its funds will be depleted in 20 years because of the burden of shouldering ₱859 billion pension for uniformed forces annually. Even after negotiations, the AFP and PNP refused to support the law that will mandate them to contribute to their pension. Under the Bayanihan 3, the AFP and PNP even inserted ₱54.6 billion to fund their pensions. This was the second biggest item in the proposed budget.

(This is the last of a two-part article.)

AB

Tribute and farewell to 3 people's heroes

The Filipino people paid tribute to three heroes who passed away recently for devoting their life to the people and their excellence in their fields of struggle. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) extended its sympathies and condolences over the demise of journalist Jaime Espina (Nonoy), cartoonist Leonilo Doloricon (Neil), and mass-leader Carmen Deunida (Nanay Mameng).

Espina passed away last July 7 due to liver cancer. The CPP paid tribute to his invaluable contributions to struggles for press freedom. As a son of Negros, he never kept silent and supported the struggles of *sacadas* in sugarcane plantations across the island.

He became chairman of the National Union of Journalists of the

Philippines and actively fought against media repression and state attacks, and for the rights of media workers.

Doloricon passed away on July 15 at the age of 63 due to complications caused by Covid-19. He was among the most prominent cartoonist and painters in the country for producing masterpieces which depict true social conditions. He is consid-

ered as one of the pillars of social realism in the Philippines.

Among his most popular artworks are drawings which he contributed to the "Philippine Society and Revolution: Isinalarawan."

Ka Mameng died at the age of 93 on July 19. She was known for being a fierce leader and founder of urban poor organization Kadamay. Since the Marcos regime, she was an effective leader of the urban poor's mass struggles. She served as a key mass leader in the campaign leading to the ouster of former president Estrada.

AB

Threat to Liguasan Marsh

There were reports last week regarding a plan to start exploration and mining operations at the the Block 10 Cotabato Basin in Liguasan Marsh and Basin Block 6 in Sulu Sea after the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) awarded a permit to the ESMaulana Global Ventures Company Inc.

The company will dredge the entire 1.684 million hectares of Liguasan and Sulu Sea to extract oil and natural gas. It has already boasted of paying the Department of Energy P2 million for the contract and permission to start the project in partnership with the Philippine National Oil Company and local big landlords.

The Communist Party of the Philippines raised concerns over the said project. The BARMM and the Duterte regime should be made accountable for seemingly prioritizing opening up Liguasan Marsh to local and foreign companies instead of protecting the area and its residents.

Residents and environmentalists

have long protested against the entry of destructive mining companies and other local and foreign companies in Liguasan. Since 2019 Duterte has been planning to to open the area and allow these companies to exploit its natural resources despite protests.

According to a study, the continued deforestation of the marsh endangers various species of fish, trees, plants and birds. Currently, there are 201 kinds of plants and flowers, and 170 species of birds, 39 of which are endemic to the area. There are also 30 endemic species of fish and animals in the area.

Due to rapid deforestation, Liguasan residents experience extreme hunger. In addition, they experience relentless military ram-



pages, bombings and attacks under the guise of “war against terrorism.”

Foreign oil companies, local bureaucrats and their big Moro landlord cohorts have long been salivating over the Liguasan Marsh. The 220,000-hectare marsh covers parts of North and South Cotabato and Maguindanao. A portion of it has been declared a sanctuary in 1979. Residents plant rice and corn in some areas of the marsh.

Liguasan is believed to have an oil reserve worth \$1 billion. It is also believed to have 68 billion cubic feet of natural gas deposits supposedly worth \$1 trillion. AB

Soldiers and employees as trolls

To create an illusion of support for the Duterte regime, government and military officials use their personnel for trolling on social media to peddle lies and deception. This was further proved recently in an exposé about the practice in the Presidential Communication Operations Office (PCOO) and Philippine Air Force (PAF).

The Commission on Audit (COA) flagged the PCOO this July for employing 375 contractual personnel who worked as “specialists” for social media and other forms of propaganda. The PCOO spent a total of ₱70.6 million or ₱15,689 per employee for their salaries. They are believed to be part of troll farms operated by the regime.

The COA report revealed that these personnel had almost similar job descriptions and accomplishment reports during the past year which are believed to be bogus.

Meanwhile, there was also a Facebook report about troops of the airforce being compelled to use

their personal social media accounts to support the regime's propaganda.

The report alleged that soldiers are forced to share all statements and news issued by the PAF and then record whether they have posted these using Google forms. There is an official assigned to ensure the compliance of the soldiers. Those who fail to comply are either fined or given disciplinary action. The report exposed that all PAF officials are required to log their names and serial numbers in an online form, as well as screenshots, to prove that they “liked” the statements their officers. AB

₱9.4-billion anomalous AFP and PNP contracts

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines (CPP) questioned the anomalous contracts and projects of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) amounting to ₱9.4 billion which they have failed to implement last year.

A report by the Commission on Audit (COA) exposed the AFP and PNP for failing to deliver on time 41 projects worth ₱6.8 billion, while nine other military projects worth ₱940.5 million were suspended. The PNP Special Action Force also failed to deliver projects worth ₱1.7 billion.

Bayan Muna also criticized the regime for claiming that it has no funds to aid the people amid the pandemic when huge amounts of unused funds remain in the hands of the AFP and PNP.

NPA-Eastern Samar seizes 3 firearms

The New People's Army (NPA)-Eastern Samar was able to seize an R4 rifle during an ambush against operating troops of the 52nd IB at Sitio Casapa, Denigpian, Dolores, Eastern Samar on July 3.

Four days later, an NPA unit blasted a detachment at Sitio Casapa, Barangay 4 Poblacion, Jipapad. Five were killed including the detachment commanding officer, while four others were wounded. A Gloc pistol and .45 caliber pistol were seized from them.

In Northern Samar, an NPA unit mounted two sniping operations against the 20th IB last July 8 in barangays San Jose and Epaw in Las Navas.

Four were killed while 17 others were wounded among 9th ID troopers during an ambush mounted by

the NPA-Masbate in the morning of July 10. The 24 troopers were on their way to Sitio Balunos, Barangay Rizal, Dimasalang when they were attacked. The ambushed troops were deployed to reinforce around 1,000 soldiers deployed across Masbate in the past two months.

The 3rd Marine Battalion Landing Team covered up the actual number of their casualties after being ambushed by a unit of the NPA-Palawan last July 13. A platoon of soldiers were walking at Sitio Kayasan, Nicanor Zabala, Roxas, Palawan when they were attacked. **AB**

Court voids search warrants against Tumandoks

THE CAPIZ REGIONAL Trial Court Branch 21 voided six search warrants used by police officers who raided 16 communities in Tapaz, Capiz and Calinog, Iloilo on December 2020 wherein nine Tumandoks were massacred and 16 others were arrested. The court also ordered the release of four individuals who were arrested and who remain detained until today.

This is the third case wherein warrants used in provincial operations issued by judges based in the National Capital Region were voided. Earlier, the Supreme Court banned the issuance of search warrants by judges in areas beyond their jurisdiction.

30th IB kills 2 copra farmers in Surigao del Norte

ELEMENTS OF THE 30th IB indiscriminately fired at four copra farmers who were working at Sitio Pan-ukan, Barangay Cambuayon, Bacuag, Surigao del Norte at around 3 p.m. on July 12. Farmers Sagloy Destajo and Richard Lampad were killed on the spot, while Benjie Destajo was critically injured. The victims are residents of Barangay Pautao. The soldiers also arrested and detained Julieto Madelo, a resident of Cambuayon.

Meanwhile, joint elements of the PNP-NCR and 4th ID arrested Julieta Tawidi Gomez and Niezel Velasco based on trumped-up murder and attempted murder charges on July 16 in Barangay Pansol, Quezon City. Various firearms and explosives were planted in their house.

Gomez is a Manobo from San Luis, Agusan del Sur and a council member of the Kahugpungan sa mga Lumadnong Organisasyon in Caraga. Velasco is a coordinator of the Bread for Emergency and Development, a organization which actively extends relief and help to victims of calamities in Caraga.



Just wages. More than 300 riders of food delivery company Food Panda protested in Davao City on July 15. They criticized the company over low wages, unjust termination of riders, and for making them shoulder the cost of permit application.

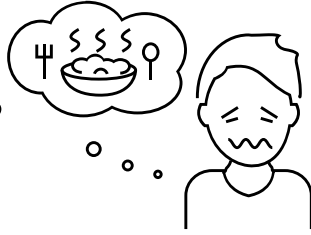
Duque resign. Health workers led by the Alliance of Health Workers hurled tomatoes at the insignia of the Department of Health (DOH) in front of its Manila office on July 16 to condemn the absence of benefits, and the Duterte regime's neglect for their welfare. They also called on DOH Sec. Francisco Duque III to resign for being inutile.

Burdensome oil price hike. Progressive organizations picketed in front of Petron near the Philippine Coconut Authority in Quezon City on July 13 to oppose oil price increases in the past months. Price of petroleum products have already increased by ₱5-₱6 since January.

Bakwit School graduation. The Save Our Schools Network held the high school graduation of students of the Bakwit School on July 17 at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City. Supporters, including personalities and organizations, attended the program.

—IN—SHORT

46.1 milion Filipinos



were job insecure.

or were not able to eat thrice a day in 2018-2020. The figure is higher by 4 million compared to that in 2014-2016.

Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization

1.4 million individuals

were apprehended by the Philippine National Police

since May due to alleged violation of health protocols, mostly for improper wearing of face masks and face shields. Around 42,000 of them were arrested and more than a million were issued "warnings."



₱11.1 trillion

outstanding debt of the Philippine government

Source: Bureau of Treasury

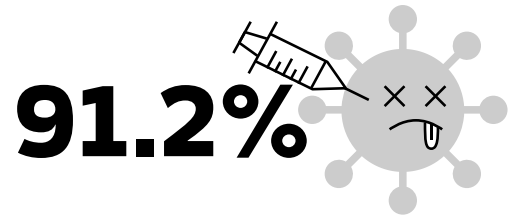
(equivalent to ₱99,762 per Filipino) by the end of May. This year alone, the debt increased by 13% after Duterte loaned an additional ₱1.28 trillion in the name of pandemic response.

Europe flashfloods

At least 185 individuals were killed

during the flashfloods which hit the continent on July 14. The worst impact was seen in Germany where 157 were killed, and 1,300 remain missing. This came after unprecedented torrential rains which are believed to be an effect of climate change.

Source: Frankfurter Rundschau, July 17

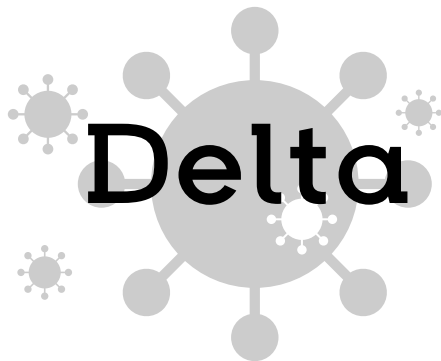


91.2%

efficacy rate

against Covid-19 of two doses of **Soberana 02** with a booster shot of **Soberana Plus**. The efficacy rate of three doses of **Abdala** is 92.28%.

Source: Granma



Covid-19 variant is rapidly spreading across the globe

and causing new surges in infections even in countries with high vaccination rates. This was first detected in India and is believed to be more infectious than the original Covid-19 variant.

91%

of children in the **Gaza Strip** in Palestine suffer from **post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** due to the Israel's 11-day bombing campaign in the area in May.

Source: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, July 2 2021

Crisis and rivalry in the semiconductor industry

The US and China are now pouring new investments in a race to dominate the semiconductor industry. Presently, both leading imperialist countries do not have enough capacity to produce enough semiconductors and rely on imports from Taiwan and Japan. Aware of growing importance of semiconductors, they are pushing for "insourcing" (opposite of "outsourcing") to bring semiconductor production within their countries.



China relies heavily on semiconductor imports. Local production covers only 15.7% of the country's requirements in 2018. In 2020, it imported \$350 billion worth of semiconductors, 14.6% higher than in 2019. Sourcing of semiconductors severely affected the smartphone production of Huawei. Due to US pressure, the Taiwan Semiconductor Company or TSMC stopped supplying Huawei of advanced microchips, causing the latter to stop manufacturing its advanced smartphone models.

China declared its Made in China 2025 with declared aim of attaining capacity to produce 70% of required semiconductor supplies. China is anticipated to invest billions upon billions of dollars to subsidize companies to construct new facilities. However, because of US sanctions and its allies, China will face difficulties to achieve its goal of manufacturing advanced microchips (the equipment for the production of which is solely produced by the ASML company of The Netherlands, a US ally).

Meanwhile, the Biden government is pushing to bring semiconductor production within US soil. It has announced plans to allot \$50 billion in the form of subsidies, tax incentives, infrastructure building and other investments in the industry. The White House is directly intervening in the name of "rebuilding America." The bill CHIPS for America Act has been filed before the US congress with the aim of dominating global capacity in the manufacturing of advanced semiconductors.

The big capitalists are now racing to fill the semiconductor shortage which is expected to last up to 2023. There is high demand for mi-

crochips leading to increasing revenues for manufacturers. There are now plans to establish 29 new factories: 19 this year and 10 in 2022, with eight each in China and Taiwan, six in America, three in Europe and the Middle East, and two each in Japan and South Korea. Europe aims to cut produce 30% of global semiconductor supply.

Taiwan controls the bulk of semiconductor production and is the principal manufacturer of advanced microchips. Taiwanese semiconductor companies were primarily established by multinational corporations, including the biggest, TSMC, which was established by Philips. There is growing anxiety in the US that China will take over Taiwan. Thus, the US is strengthening its presence around Taiwan to protect US interests and ensure that China will not get hold of advanced technology.

Wringing workers

Because of the rush to fill the shortage, production in semiconductor factories are on high tempo. This is resulting in intensification of labor. In Taiwan and Singapore, factories are on a 24-hour shift despite the dangers posed by the pandemic.

In Taiwan, workers mostly migrants from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries, are being compelled to stay in dormitories inside company compound to enforce a military-style factory "discipline." These dormitories, where 8-10 workers are packed in every room, have served as vectors for the rapid transmission of Covid-19 infections.

While the core part of semiconductor production using advanced

technology are in the capitalist countries, a large part of the manufacturing process are carried out in the "economic zones" of backward countries like the Philippines. This is where parts of the manufacturing process have been outsourced requiring intense labor-power, particularly, assembly, packaging and testing. This is also where parts of the manufacturing process are located where workers are exposed to harmful chemicals banned in western countries.

Semiconductor manufacturing maintains a "clean" image drawn from how workers wear personal protective equipment (PPE) typically seen in hospitals. But the PPEs, in fact, are not for the protection of workers, rather for the equipment they use. Their PPE are not enough to protect them from the chemicals which they directly handle or from the fumes of which they inhale.

Since the 1980s, it is common that majority of workers in these factories are women. Here they exposed and inhale poisonous and carcinogenic chemicals used in production. Different studies have discovered that women workers in semiconductor factories have a higher rate of abortion compared to the general population. Various forms of cancer such as leukemia and breast cancer are prevalent. Studies have also shown high cases of visual impairment or blindness of longtime workers in semiconductor production.

In the face of rivalries of big capitalists to control the semiconductor industry, workers must unite firmly to defend their welfare and interests against intensified exploitation.

(This is the last of a two-part article.)

AB

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the once great Communist Party of China

This month of July, the international proletariat commemorates the 100th year of the once great and correct Communist Party of China (CPC). While the CPC remains in power, it is now controlled and led by the state monopoly capitalists and big bourgeoisie in China.

In a statement last July 1, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declared that it is just to mark and celebrate the 55-year golden history of CPC leadership of the national democratic and socialist revolution in China (1921-1976); and expose and repudiate its history of treachery to the proletariat and the restoration of the capitalist system and exploitation since 1976.

According to the CPP, under Mao Zedong's leadership, the CPC treaded the correct path in its first 55 years from which lessons and in-

spiration should be drawn. The CPP pointed out how the CPC led the national democratic revolution and ended the semicolonial and semifeudal system. The CPP recalled the steps China took from completing land reform and advancing socialism across the entire society.

The CPP pointed the importance of the CPC leading the cultural revolution to make democracy bloom and teach the masses how to wield and use political power to pursue progress in China and raise the quality of life of the Chinese masses.

At the same time, the Party denounced the past 45 years reign of the modern revisionists in the CPC who betrayed socialism and brought China back to the capitalist road. The CPC leadership was seized in 1976 by the modern revisionists led by Deng Xiaoping who overturned the victories of socialism. Today, the CPC is no longer a party of the proletariat, rather of the state monopoly bourgeoisie who use state power to aggrandize wealth from exploiting the masses of workers.

The CPP pointed out to how the CPC turned its back against the toiling masses. In agriculture, it dismantled the communes and collectives and made farmers with small parcels of land to fend for themselves resulting in widespread poverty and hunger. In industry, they took away the power of workers and restored wage slavery. Foreign capitalists were attracted with dirt-cheap wages of millions of workers to expand capitalism in China and allow the big bureaucrat capitalists to accumulate superprofits. China is now a powerful imperialist country that exploits and oppresses peoples in different parts of the world.

The oppressed workers and peasants in China must again wage revolution. The situation is extremely favorable to bring together the proletarian revolutionaries and reestablish a genuine communist party who can lead a resurgence of socialist revolution in China.

(Read the CPP's complete statement in <https://cpp.ph>.) **AB**

Political prisoner dies in India

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of India (CPI)-Maoist paid tribute to Fr. Stan Slas Lurd Swamy who passed away on July 5 at the age of 84. He succumbed to a heart attack as the reactionary government in India refused to allow him to post bail despite his old age, and having Parkinsons' disease and Covid-19. Fr. Swamy supported the struggles of minorities in Jharkhand for three decades.

He was arrested by Indian armed forces in October 2020 after being accused of "terrorism," membership in the CPI-Maoist, and involvement in a case called Bhima-Koregaon.

He was charged along with 14 other activists, professionals and human rights defenders. They were accused of participating in a "riot" in Bhima Koregaon, Pune district in Maharashtra in December 2017. They were charged for attempting to kill Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. State forces used the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 2018 which was amended in 2019 to charge them. The CPI-Maoist called on the people of India and all democratic organizations overseas to support the struggle to junk the said law.