

EDITORIAL

Challenges for the new generation of revolutionary youth

Let us wholeheartedly celebrate the upcoming 60th anniversary of Kabataang Makabayan on November 30. Let us reflect on its invaluable contributions to the history of the national democratic struggle of the Filipino people. More importantly, let us look forward to the even greater and crucial contributions that Kabataang Makabayan and the revolutionary youth movement can make in the ongoing struggle to overthrow imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism, and to achieve national and social liberation.

Let us dedicate this occasion to give the highest honors to Comrade Jose Maria Sison, founding chairman of KM and of the Central Com-

mittee of the Party, for his militant and courageous revolutionary leadership. Let us also pay tribute to all the heroes and martyrs produced by KM, many of whom became leading cadres of the Party, Red fighters,

and commanders of the New People's Army (NPA), and who served as organizers of the revolutionary mass movement both in the cities and countryside.

The establishment of KM, six decades ago, on the birthday of the revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio, marked a resumption of the interrupted struggle for national freedom. The KM raised the Red flag and recognized the need to again take the path of armed revolution to achieve the people's century-old aspiration for national independence.

The members of KM diligently studied Marxism-Leninism-Maoism as a scientific mode of thinking, and used it to analyze, expose and criticize the oppressive and exploitative conditions of the people under the semi-colonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines. It called on the people to fight for complete freedom and democracy, national industrialization, and genuine land reform.

The KM vigorously conducted propaganda among the youth and the masses, built its chapter, and launched mass actions raising patriotic and democratic demands. From scores to a few hundreds, tens of thousands of youth participated in street demonstrations led by KM that shook the foundations of the neocolonial state, which resorted to



fascist repression.

The formation of KM in 1964 served as preparation for the re-establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1968. The KM trained proletarian revolutionaries to form the original backbone of the Party. Through KM, the then newly established Party ensured that it was deeply rooted among the masses of workers, farmers, the semiproletariat, and other oppressed classes and sectors. The Party reaped the fruits of the abundant seeds sown by KM to advance the people's democratic revolution throughout the country.

When Marcos Sr imposed martial law in 1972, KM was forced to go underground to continue organizing in urban areas, while many also went to the countryside to participate in the peasant movement and in the armed struggle. It was in the original core of the National Democratic Front, which led in unifying the people against the Marcos dictatorship. Through relentless struggle, the field of resistance was gradually reopened, eventually leading to strikes and protest actions that culminated in the downfall of the tyrant.

In the past decades, KM has

served as a close ally of the Party in shouldering the responsibilities of advancing the national democratic revolution. Through KM, in partnership with the NPA and other revolutionary mass organizations, the Party continuously receives fresh blood, ensuring that it remains vibrant and vigorous.

KM was a partner of the Party in the Second Great Rectification Movement in 1992 in repudiating and combating elements that betrayed the Party and attempted to lead astray the revolutionary movement, either towards reformism or adventurism. These disorientations separated the youth movement from the movements of the basic masses and the armed struggle, gradually weakening KM and the entire youth movement. Through rectification, KM was strengthened again as a comprehensive revolutionary organization. In recent decades, KM has remained a wellspring of new Party cadres and new Red fighters of the NPA.



Together with KM, the Party is confident that the current widespread rectification movement will succeed and that it will continue to advance. KM must be continuously strengthened to mobilize the youth

along the path of the national democratic struggle. It must vigorously reject harmful ideas and petty-bourgeois tendencies, including liberalism, ultra-democracy, anarchism, and other concepts propagated by the bourgeoisie that promote excessive individualism and separate them from the masses.

In the midst of the crisis of the ruling system, it is the duty of KM and the national democratic forces to widely rouse the youth and students, unite their ranks, and mobilize them in their numbers along the path of struggle. The KM must be established, along with other revolutionary mass organizations, in all places where the youth are present. The youth are expected to actively participate in the people's struggles against fascism and state terrorism, economic policies that favor foreign big capitalists, US military intervention, imperialist instigation of wars, and in the democratic mass struggles of workers, peasants, and other sectors.

As the Filipino people continue to suffer oppression and exploitation from US imperialism, in collusion with the comprador bourgeoisie, landlords, and bureaucrat capitalists under the fascist US-Marcos regime, the basis remains to continuously expand and strengthen Kabataang Makabayan. As the crisis of the global capitalist system, and the semi-colonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines remains unresolved and continues to worsen, it is increasingly necessary to advance the struggle for national democracy through protracted people's war.

The path ahead remains long and arduous, and many sacrifices still need to be made to advance the difficult struggle for national democracy. The Party is confident that the KM will remain a steadfast partner, together with other revolutionary mass organizations, in advancing the revolution and achieving victories.

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Tribute to Jude Rimando, a revolutionary moulded by Kabataang Makabayan

On its 60th anniversary, Kabataang Makabayan rightfully deserves a salute as an outstanding revolutionary organization of Filipino youth. We must also give recognition to all the revolutionaries it has molded and contributed to advancing the national democratic revolution in both the countryside and cities over the past six decades.

Among them is Ernesto Jude Rimando Jr, known as Bogs/Talong to his friends and youth leaders, and Ka Dante to the vast masses of workers and peasants in Cebu, Bohol, and Negros. He was also Felipe Marcial, Kabataang Makabayan chairperson during the Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM), who fought against the widespread disorientation in the student movement, opposed factionalism, and intensified the study movement and protest actions in the 1990s.

Jude spent more than two decades working in the youth-student sector. Here, he was known as a diligent and patient organizer. He impressed his Philippine Science High School teachers who thought he was a truant because he often skipped class, only to find out that he was actually organizing. He entered the University of the Philippines (UP) and studied Mechanical Engineering to continue his work. He did complete his course.

During his time at the university, his collective focused on intensifying the movement against the proposed tuition fee increase. Before long, he took on greater responsibilities in the Party committees overseeing the underground youth-student movement, up to the national level.

It was amid this task when the SGRM was launched. Although he had a hand in the conservatism and cliqueism of the youth-student movement, Jude proudly asserted that he was not swayed by the treacherous groups that then peddled "alternative politics" mas-



querading as a "development" of the principles of national democracy. He upheld the Party's discipline while facing the criticisms of weaknesses that plagued the youth-student movement at the time. He led the fight against liquidationism under the leadership of the factionalists in UP Diliman.

He was among those who led the rectification movement against the forces that undermined the principle of the two-stage revolution and national democratic struggle. As KM chairperson, he facilitated analysis and policies to strengthen the ranks of the youth against the saboteurs of the movement. Under his leadership, KM chapters in the youth sector were revitalized.

He led the committee that summed-up the sector's experiences in 1994. "This was for me a decisive attitude in rectification because the greatest contribution to rectification is to present our experiences and critically examine them," he said.

Personally, Jude felt embarrassed because of his prolonged

stay in the youth-student sector. "I kept justifying that I made valid contributions," he recalled. Eventually, he responded to the Party's call for the deployment of proletarian cadres to other regions. Along with his first wife, he requested transfer to Central Visayas. From 1998 to 2016, Jude worked in Cebu, where he was assigned as a member of the Central Visayas regional committee's secretariat. He closely monitored the labor movement on the island, including the massive strike of Sulpicio Shipping workers in 2002. In 2017-2019, Jude worked in Negros, where he served as a member of the Party's executive committee on the island. He led the struggles of sugarcane farm workers, including the fight for the right to collective till the land for food.

"He wholeheartedly embraced the responsibilities given to him. He diligently researched complex issues, especially in advancing the anti-feudal struggle for land," the National Federation of Peasants-Negros stated. "For him, sacrifice and hardship alongside the peasant

"Tribute to Jude..." continue on page 4

Ang Bayan's contribution to the political consolidation of the people's army and the masses in Masbate

In a guerrilla zone in Masbate, Ang Bayan (AB) plays a crucial role in consolidating the people's army and the masses.

Ka Louie, a political instructor in a unit in the area, said AB plays an important role in providing political education to the army and the masses.

"Part of our unit's education program is the discussion group (DG). These DGs aim to train comrades in discussion and propaganda," he said.

Ka Louie's unit discusses every issue of AB, as well those of Silyab, Ang Kusog, statements, pamphlets, and other short documents. "In our unit, we have studied all issues from 2023 to the present. We also review old articles of AB that are relevant to the issues we face," he said. One of these articles is "Linyang Masa sa Gawaing Rekoberi sa Leyte" (Mass Line in the Recovery Work in Leyte), which they study thoroughly as they are in a recovery situation in their area of operation.

"Raising the level of political awareness, especially among young new recruits who are deeply engaged in Tiktok, Facebook, Mobile Legends, and other neoliberal cultural influences, is a significant challenge for us. AB is essential for updating and raising the interest of comrades in understanding the current political situation and gradually train them for the need to explain it to the masses," he shared.

In a situation where the enemy is constantly mobile, AB's contribution to rapid and mobile political studies among the masses is signifi-



cant. Ka Louie said there are times when they need to finish studying, organizing, and planning with mass organizations in just one day. Apart from the standard basic studies in the National Democratic School, AB is useful for the unit in such situations.

"AB can be seamlessly incorpo-
"AB's contribution.." continue on page 5

"Tribute to Jude..." from page 3

masses were normal events in the life of a revolutionary."

In January 2021, state forces illegally arrested Jude on fabricated charges while undergoing medical treatment in Metro Manila. He received much delayed medical attention and his liver cancer progressed to stage 4. His unfinished work was still on his mind even on his deathbed.

His final interview narrated the valuable lessons he learned from his decades-long struggle. He also critically assessed his contributions. "The dialectics of revolutionary life are really intense. There's joy in progress and there's also struggle.

Joy is deepest when you're mired in a very difficult situation and overcome it," he said.

He said he erroneously assumed he knew it all when he began his full time activism in his youth. "Yet there's still so much to learn. That's why one needs to constantly study principles and policies," he said.

"Perhaps the aspect I've come to know over time is that there will be many times when you think you're trapped or have almost no option, or that contradictions can't be resolved. But the most important thing I've learned is how to improve, how to be more critical of oneself. Admit one's own weak-

nesses, shortcomings. Second, deep trust. Because in the most difficult situations, the real issue is whether everyone is willing to work together to surmount the most difficult problems," he said.

Jude passed away at the age of 58 due to liver cancer and other illnesses on July 23 at the Philippine General Hospital, where he was confined since May. He died in detention, fighting eight trumped-up cases filed by the military under the contrived name "Allan Morales." The revolutionary movement honored him and recognized his expertise, intelligence, and diligence he contributed to the revolution. AB

rated into the masses' daily production activities," he said.

He reported that from the last quarter of 2023 to October, they have conducted 37 batches of discussions on AB, mostly among the youth.

Despite difficult situation, comrades continue to find ways to overcome limitations in distributing AB and other propaganda materials.

"Before the RCSP (Retooled Community Support Program) onslaught, we were able to reproduce tens of thousands of copies, whether of AB or other documents. In the current intense enemy offensive, we have yet to regain the same level of vitality in distribution. But we keep persevering based on what the situation allows."

Given difficulties in printing, guerrilla units have adapted by distributing digital copies of AB using smartphones. "We need to keep up with the changing times, especially since many young people are now using Android devices. Of course, we ensure security protocols when using electronic gadgets."

Comrades share documents with the masses using file-sharing apps. "We also request them to distribute it to their neighbors or fellow villagers," Ka Louie said. "It's a big bonus if the local chapters members, middle forces, or mass organizations that receive the documents can also spend time for collective reading."

The efforts of comrades and the masses in one guerrilla zone have resulted in the distribution of thousands of copies of AB, both in printed and digital form since 2023.

Promoting AB as the Party's newspaper is the task of every revolutionary. Like other revolutionary tasks, this is guided by Marxist-Leninist-Maoist principles. For Ka Louie, he holds on to the spirit of dialectical materialism in this task. "Every problem has a solution. If unwilling, there's an excuse; if there's a

will, there's always a way," he said. "How will you know if you don't try? It is in the context of recovery and resurgence that we understand and uphold dialectical materialism."

For him, studying and promoting Ang Bayan is a reminder of the basic Marxist principle. "Advance according to the limits of what we can. Just push on!"

AB



Justice demanded on Day of Departed. Families of victims of the bogus war on drugs, led by Rise Up for Life and for Rights, gathered at a convent in Quezon City on November 2 to commemorate the Day of the Departed. On the same day, families of the disappeared gathered at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City. Families and Karapatan chapters in various regions and provinces visited the graves and lit candles for the victims of political killings.

On October 28, these groups joined a picket before the Senate to demand the indictment of Rodrigo Duterte, then the main speaker at the hearing on his regime's "war on drugs".

Farmers protest oil palm plantation in Negros. Negros Occidental farmers, led by KMP-Negros and NFSW-Negros, staged a picket on October 30 before the provincial capitol in Bacolod City. They called on the governor to stand against the oil palm plantation in the town of Candoni and demanded support for those affected by the "tiempo muerto" or "dead season".

Hundreds of Filipino youth gather in US conference. Filipino youth from various parts of the United States gathered for their third Kabataan Magkaisa Conference and the Kabataan Alliance general assembly on October 5-6 at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA. More than 450 individuals from 113 organizations participated in the gathering. The conference discussed social issues and the situation of Filipinos in the Philippines and abroad.

NPA seizes 3 firearms from AFP intelligence agent

NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) seized three firearms from Diosdato Apatan, a military intelligence agent, in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental.

Apatan has been a military asset since the 1980s.

In Albay, the NPA thwarted the 49th IB's attack on their position in Barangay Matanglad, Pio Duran on October 27. The 49th IB spread false claims that their unit was conducting a "relief operation" when they encountered the people's army. In reality, the soldiers were conducting a combat operation in the barangay.

Barangay officials themselves clarified that no relief distribution took place in the community.

A just demand for compensation amid calamity

The consecutive devastation caused by Typhoons Kristine and Leon inflicted widespread suffering to farmers, fisherfolk, and the urban poor. As in the past, the Marcos regime's incompetence in preparing for the typhoon's impact and the fragile public infrastructure marred by corruption has once again been exposed.

Moreover, Marcos ignores and confounds the fact that this is a result of the accumulated destruction of the environment. He continues to support unbridled logging and mining, dam projects and other infrastructure, land reclamation, and real estate construction that bring about destruction.

Widespread devastation

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) recently reported that the consecutive typhoons ravaged at least 8.7 million Filipinos or 2.2 million families in 12,192 barangays in 17 regions, and forced 748,991 people to evacuate leaving many of them in evacuation centers.

A total of 211 cities and municipalities have declared a "state of calamity" due to the damage. Death toll reportedly reached 150, while 134 are injured, and 20 remain missing.

The heavy rainfall highlighted the lack of preparedness and the inadequacy of the positioned equipment and aid to swiftly assist the areas affected by the flood. In Bicol, merely on the second day of relentless rainfall brought by Typhoon Kristine, the Regional DRRMC announced the suspension of its rescue efforts because its equipment and personnel could no longer handle the extent and severity of the damage.

The typhoon exposed the substandard government roads, bridges, and infrastructure in the region. The destruction of hundreds of roads and bridges hindered those who wanted to provide aid from immediately reaching many areas.

In the past few weeks, Marcos has been making pretentious visits to the affected areas by helicopter and luxury vehicles. Bureaucrat capitalists are also taking advantage of the situ-

ation to pocket millions of pesos in profits and to grandstand in preparations for the upcoming 2025 elections.

The agricultural sector reportedly suffered at least ₱6.4 billion in damages as of November 6. However, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation will only provide ₱600 million to affected farmers. Farmers have long been complaining about the inadequate insurance and cumbersome registration process.

Collective demands

To hold the Marcos regime accountable for its responsibility amid the calamity, farmers and fisherfolk stormed and protested at the Department of Agriculture in Quezon City on October 29. Along with environmental groups, they also went to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to hold the agency accountable for its role in environmental destruction.

They said that the occasional aid is not only measly, but also fails to cover all those affected. They demand the Marcos regime to provide long-term compensation in the form of payments and rehabilitation of damaged farms, communities, and fishing grounds.

The re-organized People Surge, a national alliance of advocates for the rights of disaster survivors, joined the action. The alliance was historically formed and widely mobilized during super Typhoon Yolanda under the Aquino II regime.

The Makabayan Coalition is calling on the Marcos regime to establish a "State Compensation Fund" to provide direct financial support to those affected by the typhoon, especially farmers.

It proposed to use the ₱10.29 billion CIF (Confidential Intelligence Fund) budget, of which ₱4.5 billion is directly controlled by Marcos, to distribute free seedlings, fertilizers and equipment to farmers, and subsidies for damaged infrastructure and inventory for small businesses.



Low wages and terminations are scourging workers

Workers welcomed the reopening of Congress with protests on November 4 to demand the passage of a nationwide wage increase. They assert that the regional wage boards' meager increases do not suffice to keep up with inflation and the decline in their standard of living. The latest example is the paltry ₱40 wage increase for workers in Western Visayas, which they say is not even enough to buy a kilogram of rice.

Along with plummeting living standards, workers are also facing illegal and arbitrary lay-offs and other labor rights violations.

Among these is the series of terminations and deaths of workers at the Herma Shipyard in Mariveles, Bataan in the past few months. At least 50 workers were fired in August, including those who had been working in the factory for 2 to 25 years. In September, two workers died on the job due to unsafe working conditions.

At ABS-CBN, the giant television network, around 100 workers are on the verge of losing their jobs due to a supposed decline in advertising revenue. The company is owned by the Lopez family, one of the coun-

try's largest bourgeois comprador families.

In Davao del Sur, 3,200 workers were abruptly and arbitrarily fired by Franklin Baker Inc. on October 3. The company announced the dismissals only through a message on a Facebook group. Until now, the workers still do not know their status.

In Quezon City, drivers and conductors of Mark Eve's Transit staged a strike in front of their terminal on P. Tuazon Boulevard, Barangay Project 4 on November 5. This was to protest the termination of five union officials. The workers were fired after the union refused to accept the management's plan to appoint union officials.



These workers add to the 800 employees of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and over 300 workers at the Mactan Export Processing Zone who were fired in September.

Meanwhile, the terminated workers of AC Mojares Construction were only offered a separation pay of ₱10,000 despite working for the company for 4 to 19 years. They also have large unpaid wages for overtime pay, holiday pay, rest day pay, and night shift differential. The fired workers protested in front of the company in Quezon City on October 29 to demand what is rightfully theirs.

AB

New round of crackdown on Southern Tagalog organizers

The Marcos regime's forces arrested six progressive and revolutionary organizers in Southern Tagalog in a new series of crackdowns on October 24 and 27. Among those arrested was a National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace consultant.

In Quezon City, a combined force of the 2nd Infantry Division (ID) and police arrested Wigberto Villarico and his partner Marjorie Lizada at their residence in Barangay Fairview, Quezon City, on October 24. Villarico is an NDFP peace consultant in Southern Tagalog, while Lizada is his staff member.

Villarico is a 68-year-old who suffers from various illnesses.

His arrest violates the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). He is the third NDFP consultant to be arrested in the month of October alone. Their arrests clearly aim to

derail efforts to revive the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP.

In Oriental Mindoro, farmer organizers Bong Fran and Kelvin Joaquin were arrested on October 24 in Barangay Hagupit, Bongabong. They were in the middle of assisting farmers affected by Typhoon Kristine when they were arrested.

The two were arrested based on a warrant issued by a court in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, on a charge of rebellion. The soldiers and police also claimed to have confiscated a .45 caliber pistol,

explosives, gadgets, and documents from them.

In Makati City, state forces arrested two labor organizers on October 27. The two were identified as Gavino Panganiban, a Pamantik-KMU campaign official, and Maritess David from the OLALIA-KMU federation.

Police stated that Panganiban is facing murder and attempted murder charges in a court in Infanta and Gumaca, Quezon, while David has been charged with violating the Comprehensive Law on Firearms and Ammunition in a court in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Pamantik-KMU maintained that the charges against Panganiban and David are completely baseless and were only made to suppress the workers and their struggle.

AB

817

killed under the Marcos regime's war on drugs from June 30, 2022 to October 31, 2024.

Source: Dahas Project



8 out of 10

Congress representatives belong to dynastic families.

Source: Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

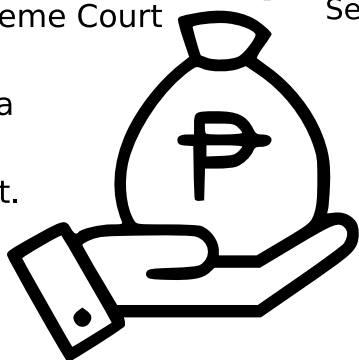
₱43+
BILLION



expected net income of Meralco for 2024 following an over seven-fold increase in electricity rates from January to September 2024, amounting to ₱3.2717/kwh.

₱29.9
billion

of the unused ₱89.9 billion PhilHealth funds were prevented from being remitted to the national treasury after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a petition against it.



1,151

healthcare workers killed

in Israel's systematic attacks on hospitals and healthcare facilities in Gaza from October 7, 2023 to September 24, 2024.

Among them are 165 doctors and 260 nurses.

Source: Palestinian Health Ministry



₱140
BILLION

additional profits that foreign capitalists will pocket in the next four years if the Marcos proposal to reduce taxes on income on bonds and dividends of non-resident foreign investors is implemented.

Source: Capital Markets Efficiency Promotion Act (HB 9277)

56

instances of **US military intervention** in Latin America since 1954, in the form of occupations, bombings, funding of paramilitary groups, and coups de etat. The most were in Panama (9), followed by Honduras and Nicaragua with 8 each.

Source: liberationnews.org

Primer

A decade of EDCA

US military bases and its expanding war games in the Philippines

November 2024

<https://philippinerevolution.nu/>



Marcos regime's criminal push for destructive mining

Amid tragedies bred by strong typhoons, winds, and rainfall, the Marcos regime infuriatingly continues to push for neoliberal policies that are environmentally destructive and detrimental to the people. On October 17, while many parts of the country were still flooded and another more devastating disaster was looming, the Chamber of Mining of the Philippines, together with Marcos officials, held a conference to intensify destructive mining in the country.

In chorus with mining companies, Marcos is pushing Congress to expedite the passage of a bill amending the mining law. This bill is being pushed under the pretext of increasing taxes in the sector and capitalizing on the demand for "critical minerals" for "sustainable energy" systems in the global market. In truth, its primary goal is to weaken environmental and community regulations to further entice foreign capitalist investment.

The Philippine Mining Act allowed 100% foreign capitalist ownership of mining operations in the country fully opening the Philippines' resources to plunder as early as 1995. For three decades, giant mining companies from the US, Australia, Canada, Japan, and recently China have been depleting the country's resources and ravaging its mountains.

Millions of hectares of land and forests have been destroyed, in collusion with local big bourgeois and capitalist bureaucrats. Almost all, or

97%, of the minerals mined are exported for processing and provide no benefit to the local economy. In 2021, the value of minerals exported reached \$5.2 billion, mainly copper, gold, and nickel. Despite this, the contribution of mining to local production is less than 1%, and the communities where the largest mines are located remain among the poorest.

In April 2023, Marcos ordered the "simplification" of the process of obtaining mining permits. Among the beneficiaries of this order are Sagittarius Mines, Inc, Philex Mining Corporation, St Augustine Gold & Copper Ltd, RTG Mining, and IDM International—companies facing numerous complaints from environmental defenders, church people, and communities affected by their operations.

Following this, Marcos signed an agreement with the US to further expand nickel mining, a "critical mineral" in the production of batteries for electric vehicles. This mineral

is being extracted through open-pit mining, one of the methods most destructive to forests and mountains. The largest of these mines are in Surigao del Norte (Taganito) and Palawan (Rio Tuba), both owned by Nickel Asia Corporation of the Zamora family, and in Sibuyan Island by Altai Mining Philippines Inc, owned by the Gatchalian family. Mining companies were given permits to mine nickel even in protected areas, including watershed areas. The Philippines has long been a major source of nickel (second only to Indonesia) for capitalist countries, and nickel mining has caused many disasters in the country.

It is no surprise that Marcos is aggressively pushing to "revitalize" mining. Many companies involved in opening new mines are owned by the Romualdezes, including his cousin, House Speaker Martin Romualdez. Some of these companies include Benguet Mining Corporation, Bright Kindle Resources, and Marcventures Holdings Inc, all under the RYM Business Management Corporation. These companies have extensive operations throughout the country. Benguet Corporation alone has operations in Benguet, Zambales, Zamboanga del Sur, and Bataan. It also plans to mine 12 coal blocks (equivalent to 12,000 hectares) in the Andap Valley Complex in Mindanao. Marcventures has operations in Leyte and is planning to open a mine in Samar that will cover 10,000 hectares of forest and agricultural land. This is also the company behind the massive Mar-copper tragedy in Marinduque in 1993 and 1996. **AB**



San Miguel Corporation evicts indigenous people in southern Palawan

The National Democratic Front (NDF)-Palawan joined the Molbog and Palaw'an national minorities' defense of their ancestral land in Barangay Bugsuk, Balabac, Palawan, which is being seized by Ramon Ang's San Miguel Corporation (SMC). The indigenous people are being evicted from their land to make way for SMC's ecotourism business.

Land grabbing for ecotourism

The land is being grabbed by SMC for the construction of the Bugsuk Island Resort, an eco-tourism project that covers over 5,500 hectares. SMC has colluded with local agencies and officials to railroad its grand project at the expense of the indigenous people.

The Department of Agrarian Reform unregistered 10,821 hectares of land in Barangay Bugsuk and Pandanan from the agrarian reform program for the construction of the resort. This decision, along with the demolition of their community, was announced to the residents only in June.

The Balabac Municipal Council passed a resolution supporting the project. Subsequently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued an Environmental

Compliance Certificate (ECC) that allowed the construction of the resort.

For the residents of Bugsuk, the ongoing threat is a repeat of the nightmare under the regime of the dictator's son. They were first evicted from Bugsuk by the Marcos Sr regime in 1974, 50 years ago, to give way to the coconut plantation business of his crony, Eduardo Conjuangco Jr, the former owner of SMC.

The case of Barangay Bugsuk exposes the rottenness of the reactionary government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER). The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act and its accompanying Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title have likewise been useless to defend and recognize their ancestral land.

"The people of Bugsuk should continue to fight in various ways for their rights to their ancestral land, livelihood, and culture," said the NDF-Palawan.

Other evictions in Balabac

Aside from Barangay Bugsuk, national minorities in the town of Balabac in Palawan are also facing eviction and oppression due to the construction of US military bases and facilities in the province. The US imperialists desperately want to evict the residents of Balabac so that it can freely use the island as a strategic military base and facility in the war being prepared against China.

The island of Balabac is one of the nine "agreed locations" under the EDCA. The island is the largest of the islands that make up the town of Balabac. It is located southeast of the island of Bugsuk.

Currently, the construction of the Balabac Military Runway and a command and control center is nearing completion. The expansion and dredging of the port on the other side of Balabac Island is also being expedited to accommodate large US warships. The Balabac base is the closest to the disputed Mischief Reef, where China has built an artificial island with military facilities and installations.

According to the NDF-Palawan, amid land grabbing, it is only just for the indigenous people to defend their ancestral land in various arenas of struggle, from legal to illegal, armed and unarmed, to prevent the grabbing of their land by bourgeois compradors and US imperialism.

