

EDITORIAL

Revolutionary armed struggle is the true solution

The ruling system exposes its own rotten core with the ongoing reactionary elections. In the past months of campaigning for the Senate, Congress, and local government units, people have witnessed how elections in the Philippines are dominated by dynasties and parties that represent the interests of imperialist powers and of the few, rather than the majority of the people.

The 2025 elections are ruled by the most rotten cliques of the ruling class: the Marcoses and the Dutertes, both thoroughly immersed in corruption, repression, and oppression of the people, and in their subservience to the dictates of foreign imperialists. They are now competing to hold power with the aim of expanding their wealth and bureaucratic privileges, and to escape accountability for their crimes against the people.

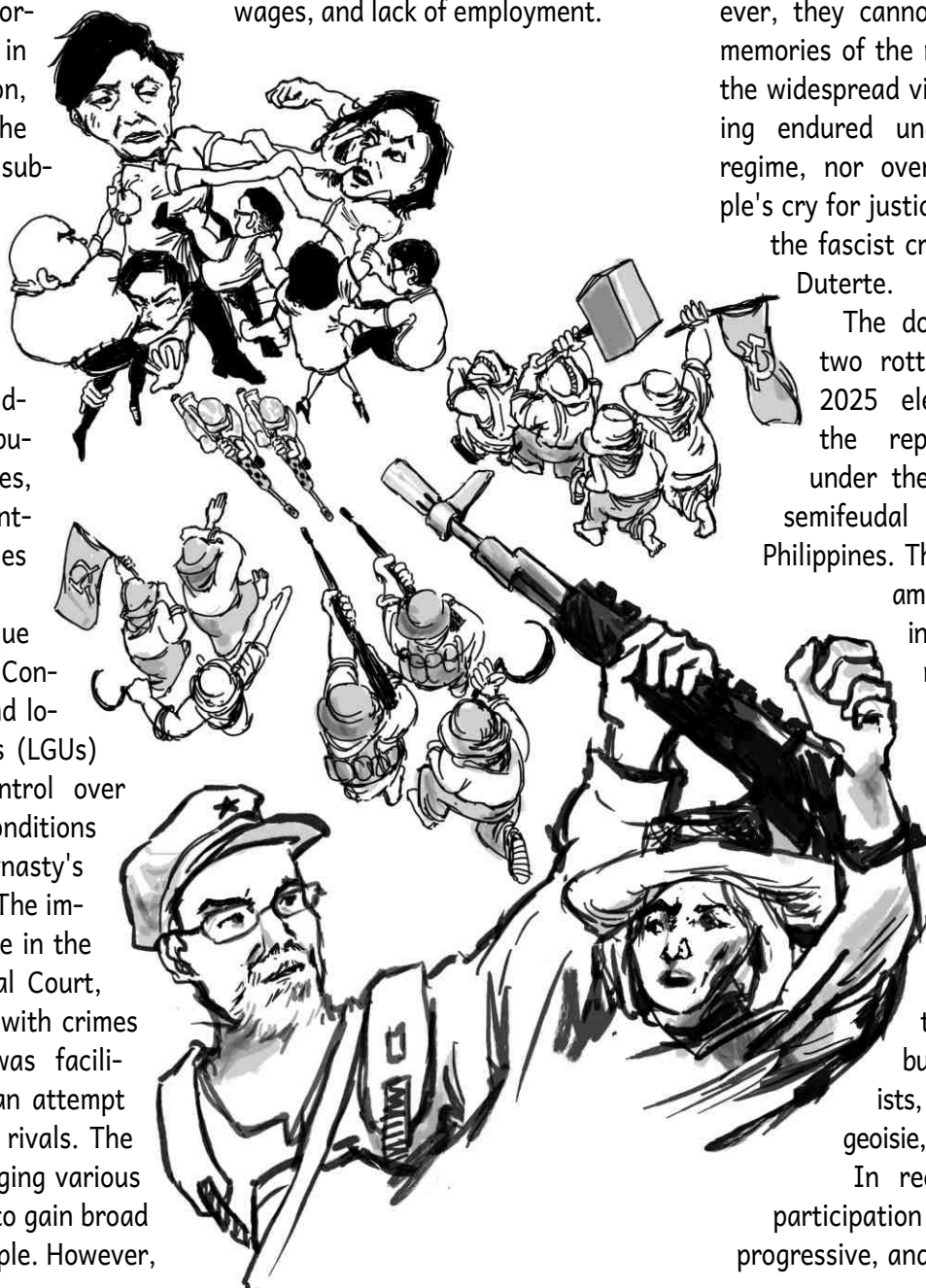
The Marcos clique wants to dominate Congress, the Senate, and local government units (LGUs) to tighten their control over power and create conditions for extending their dynasty's power beyond 2028. The imprisonment of Duterte in the International Criminal Court, where he is charged with crimes against humanity, was facilitated by Marcos in an attempt to derail his political rivals. The Marcos regime is staging various shows and gimmicks to gain broad support from the people. However,

it fails to cover up the severe crisis of poverty caused by the endless rise in the prices of goods, low wages, and lack of employment.

The Dutertes are striving to place enough of their people in the Senate, primarily to block the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte, accused of anomalous spending of hundreds of millions of pesos from the government budget. To gain the people's sympathy, they portray themselves as victims of Marcos' political oppression. However, they cannot erase the fresh memories of the masses concerning the widespread violence and suffering endured under the previous regime, nor overshadow the people's cry for justice for all victims of the fascist crimes of the tyrant Duterte.

The dominance of these two rotten cliques in the 2025 elections illustrates the repugnant elections under the semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines. This is a competition among a few powerful individuals. There is no real space for the participation of the oppressed and exploited masses. The elections are made to appear as democratic, while in reality, they are only for bureaucratic capitalists, comprador bourgeoisie, and landlords.

In recent months, the participation of democratic, progressive, and nationalist candi-



dates and parties in the elections for the Senate and Congress amplified the people's voice. They brought to the campaign trail the calls for a living wage, genuine land reform, lowering the prices of goods, free healthcare and education, jobs, rights, freedom, and other demands of the people. Most of them come from the ranks of farmers and workers, urban poor, fisherfolk, drivers, and other oppressed sectors.

In contrast, reactionary politicians play deaf to the cries of the people. They may portray themselves as pro-people, but this posturing lasts only until the elections. Using their vast resources of wealth, they now dominate the party-list elections as well, leaving no space for parties that truly represent the poor sectors of society.

They spend hundreds of millions of pesos on radio and television advertisements, plastering walls and posts with their posters, and distributing shirts bearing their faces and names. Alongside this, surveys have sprung up like mushrooms to influence the minds of the people. This is accompanied by the use of paid influencers to push social media discourse favoring the interests of some politicians or parties. Hun-

dreds of millions of pesos are sure to flood in as the election day approaches to buy votes.

There are numerous cases of killings and violence among rival politicians in various parts of the country. State violence is employed by agents of the military, police, and NTF-Elcac to suppress progressive candidates and parties, in the form of surveillance, filing of fabricated cases, arrests and imprisonment, and intimidation of their forces and supporters.

It is certain that those in power will again use the automated counting of votes to ensure that the election results favor them. Thus, the call for manual counting of votes is growing stronger, which would provide significant assurance that the votes are counted correctly. However, this continues to be ignored by the Commission on Elections (Comelec). A significant number of Filipino migrant workers are set to be disenfranchised due to the implementation of online voting.


Whichever of the Marcoses or the Dutertes prevail in the upcoming elections, it is certain that the reactionary state will continue to decay more rapidly in the face of the insoluble crisis of the ruling system. It

will continue to implement programs and laws that favor the interests of US imperialism, large foreign companies, and the ruling classes, which will bring further suffering to the people. Corruption will undoubtedly worsen as bureaucratic capitalists recover the hundreds of millions they invested in the elections.

The solid organized ranks of the Filipino people must continue to be strengthened and must push forward along the militant path of struggle, especially in facing major challenges in upcoming months and years, including the start of the Senate impeachment trial of Sara Duterte and the trial of Rodrigo Duterte in the ICC, as well as against the intensifying US military intervention in the Philippines and war incitements against China, the subservience of the Marcos puppet regime, and its anti-people and oppressive policies, corruption, ineptitude, and the fascist repression and assault on the people.

In recent months, many have awakened to the rotten reactionary elections and the sham democracy under the ruling system. This shows the people that, indeed, revolutionary change is the true solution to the fundamental problems of the people. The National Democratic Front and all its affiliated organizations are continuously growing stronger and expanding, doing everything possible to help strengthen the New People's Army and advance the armed struggle.

In the countryside, the New People's Army (NPA) continues to persevere and strengthen itself despite the relentless and brutal suppression by the Marcos regime. The NPA is deepening and expanding its ties with the peasant masses to advance their anti-imperialist, anti-fascist, and anti-feudal struggles, strengthen their mass organizations, and launch tactical offensives it is capable of winning. Under the guidance of the Party and the rectification movement, the people's war is certain to forge ahead along the path of advance.



Vol. LVI No. 9 | May 7, 2025

Ang Bayan is published in
Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon,
Waray, and English. Ang
Bayan welcomes contributions in
the form of articles and news
items. Readers are encouraged
to send feedback and
recommendations for improving
our newspaper.

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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

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Workers demand ₱1,200 living wage nationwide on May 1

More than 7,000 workers, together with the youth and other democratic sectors, marched to Mendiola in Manila on May 1, Labor Day. They demanded raising wages to a living level across the country. Workers in the cities of Baguio, Angeles, Calamba, Naga, Cebu, Iloilo, Roxas, Bacolod, and Davao, and in the town of Rosario in Cavite held similar actions.

Workers said the minimum wage should be raised to the living level of ₱1,200 due to the rising cost of living and decades of suppressed wage increases. At present, workers receive only 36% to 54% of their needs. They demanded the dismantling of the regional wage boards that grant only meager increases. They also called for an end to contractualization and for defending the right to unionize, as well as the right to strike and to collective bargaining.

₱200 across-the-board

Alongside the call for a living wage, the National Wage Coalition (NWC) pushed for the legislation of a ₱200 wage increase to immediately provide relief to workers. The coalition is advancing this proposal amid years of delays in wage increase bills in Congress and the Senate. If passed, this would be the first nationwide wage increase legislated in the past 36 years. The NWC is composed of 30 labor centers, including the Kilusang Mayo

Uno.

As expected, Ferdinand Marcos only repeated previous statements of "studying" the proposal. This is the opposite of the regime's swift passage of an executive order that added ₱200 to the daily allowance of soldiers and police this year.

Wage discrimination in the countryside

Agricultural workers also called for a living wage on Labor Day. According to the Union of Agricultural Workers (UMA), if urban wages are already low, farm workers' wages are even lower despite their crucial role in food production.

Rural workers suffer virtual "third class citizen" treatment, according to UMA. In Eastern Visayas, for example, agricultural workers receive only ₱390, which is just 32.5% of a living wage. In Negros, where large haciendas are located, thousands of farm workers are bound to a piece-rate system, receiving even less than the set minimum wage for agricultural

workers.

In addition to meager wages, they also face inhumane and life-threatening working conditions. They are often exposed to hazardous chemicals, extreme heat, and other situations that are harmful to their health.

Challenge to Filipino workers

The Communist Party of the Philippines statement on Labor Day urged Filipino workers to unite and act as a solid backbone, a broad force, and a leader in the Filipino people's struggle for national and social liberation.

They must advance militant union struggles to fight for a living wage and defend the democratic interests and welfare of workers, it said. They must uphold and use the strike as a weapon in their economic and political struggles.

The Party said Filipino workers must ground their ranks at the forefront of the people's struggles, including the fight against corruption of the ruling regime, fascist crimes, relentless inflation, and unrestrained rice importation. They must amplify the call for genuine land reform, national industrialization, and national democracy.

They must also oppose Balikatan and war games that provoke US-led wars and the Marcos regime's subservience to its imperialist master. It also called on Filipino workers to show solidarity with the Palestinian people against the genocide of the Zionist state of Israel. **AB**



Condition of the working class in Southern Tagalog

The largest number of Filipino workers are in Southern Tagalog. In total, 18% of the country's entire labor force are in the region. The National Capital Region comes second, home to 10.4 million workers. In Calabarzon, 12.1 million out of the region's 14.2 million labor force are concentrated.

This does not yet include those whom the state do not consider part of the labor force, such as housewives, retirees, out-of-school youth, yet unemployed graduates, persons with disabilities, and those who have stopped seeking work for six months. In the reactionary state's latest survey, the labor force participation rate or the percentage of the population aged 15 and above who are part of the labor force is only 64.8% in Calabarzon and 64.2% in Mimaropa.

Among those with jobs, one third are categorized as self-employed. In addition, 7% are counted as employed but receive no salary or are not paid for their work. When combined, these two categories make up 35% of the labor force, numbering 3.2 million in the entire region. When added to the official number of the unemployed, this amounts to a staggering total of 3.7 million without formal employment among the 9.2 million labor force in Southern Tagalog. In addition, there are 1.4 million workers who are underemployed.

Low wages

Wage and salaried workers in the region make up 64% of the employed labor force. The 4.4 million are in private companies, while 777,000 are government employees.

Workers wages paid by capitalists and bureaucrat capitalists, whether in the private or public sector, are very low and not enough to support a family. In Calabarzon,

the minimum wage in May 2024 was only ₱522 per day, while the supposed living wage for a family of five is ₱1,122 per day. In Mimaropa, the minimum wage in March 2024 was a miserable ₱352 per day, far from the supposed living wage for a family of five, which is ₱1,213. It is apparent how the reactionary government maintains a policy of keeping wages at inhumane levels.

Workers are in millions but only a few are organized in unions, which are the primary organizations for advancing their right to just wages. Records from 2021-2022 show that out of the total 34,543 companies in the country with at least 20 workers, only 1,464 or 4.2% have registered unions. This is even lower than the previous 6.3% in 2018.

The regime responds with terrorism to the working class struggle

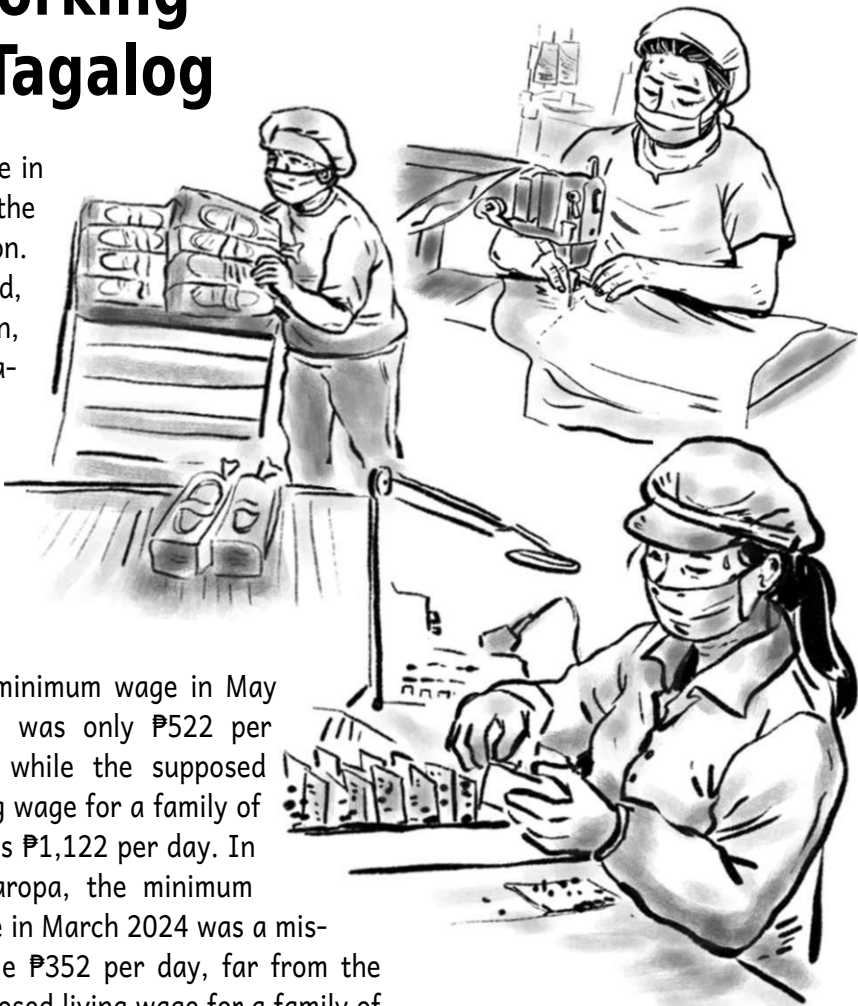
The previous fascist repression of workers' unionization has been surpassed by outright state terrorism through the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Law. The reactionary state is the one implementing terrorism against ordinary citizens, especially workers, activists, people with just advocacies, and critics of the government. The military, police, and state agencies

such as the NTF-Elcac widely use Red-tagging, targeting union leaders and activist members. This is preparatory to killings, abductions, and forced disappearances against them. A prominent example of this is the PNP-Calabarzon operation called Bloody Sunday on March 7, 2021, which killed nine leaders and organizers, including labor leader Manny Asuncion. A few weeks later, Dandy Miguel, union president at Fuji Electronics in Laguna, was also killed.

In early 2023, a delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted an investigation into the situation of unions and condemned the reactionary government's practice of always linking unionism to communism. Since 2016, state security forces were recorded as having killed 76 unionists and organizers. Just after the ILO mission in the country, four more unionists were reported killed.

From Kalatas, May 2025.

AB



Kabankalan 7, virtuous children of Negros Island

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (NPA)-Negros Island (Apolinario Gatmaitan Command) paid tribute to its seven Red fighters who died in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) "overkill" armed operation on the morning of April 27 in Barangay Tapi, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. The Kabankalan 7 died while fulfilling the noble duty of continuously advancing the armed struggle, expanding the mass base, and carrying out the agrarian revolution on the island.

The seven martyrs are Reniel Locsin Cellon (Ka Randy), Mary Jane Magquilat (Ka Shonie), Charity Amacan (Ka Mayang), Johnrey Mejares (Ka Jai), Glenda Tinio Mejares (Ka Glendyl), Ka Pitong, and Dee Supelanas (Ka Dahlia). Supelanas was a former student leader of UP-Cebu. Three of the martyrs were senior citizens and had medical conditions that limited their mobility.

On April 29, Cebuano youth gathered and lit candles together at the University of the Philippines (UP)-Cebu to pay tribute to Supelanas. Before serving as a Red fighter, Supelanas was an activist and student leader. She led campaigns for education, social services, democratic rights, and the fight against tyranny and fascism.

The Party and NPA-Negros Island extended their condolences to the families, friends, and comrades of the Kabankalan 7. "Even as we mourn, let us use this opportunity to further forge the revolutionary spirit, as a way to achieve justice for our martyrs," Party information officer Ka Marco Valbuena said.

Valbuena also condemned the National Task Force-Elcac and the AFP for vilifying Supelanas' memory. State forces portray her as a "victim of manipulation" by the Party and the NPA, despite the fact that thousands of youth have joined and will continue to join the revolutionary movement to transform the rotten society because of their patriotism.

Meanwhile, the human rights group Kapatid called for an investigation into the Kabankalan 7 killings. They are pushing for an investigation as they doubt if "a real military encounter happened or whether it was outright execution." The group finds it suspicious that not one of the seven Red fighters survived.

They asked that given the AFP's overwhelming advantage in numbers and firepower compared to the encamped Red fighters, why they were not just arrested. "Why was not even one of them-or all of them-arrested and charged? Turned into political prisoners rather than silenced forever?" the group added.

AB



NDFP celebrates 52nd anniversary

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE belonging to various revolutionary groups launched a lightning rally in Divisoria, Manila on April 29, carrying flags of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and its allied organizations to celebrate the NDFP anniversary. Their call: "Armed revolution is the true solution!" The NDFP commemorated its 52nd anniversary on April 24.

The Christians for National Liberation (CNL) and Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU) hung streamers near Malacañang with calls to advance the revolution.

NDFP secretary general Elias Dipasupil said the NDFP is a united front organization promoting revolutionary armed struggle. "While recognizing various forms of struggle, the NDFP upholds the primacy of armed struggle to dismantle the rotten semicolonial and semifeudal system while gradually and steadily building the new system through the development of organs of political power in the countryside."

He urged allied organizations to expand and strengthen. "Mass organizations are indispensable amid the current global and national crisis to advance the Filipino people's struggle against oppression and exploitation and to build a society that serves their interests," he said.

Various organizations from the regional to the national level, as well as parties overseas, expressed greetings for the anniversary of the NDF. These include the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army (NPA), NDF chapters in Southern Tagalog and Ilocos, NDF-Palawan, NDF-International, League of Science for the People, Patriotic Movement of New Women, RCTU, Patriotic Youth and KM-Southern Tagalog, Compatriots, CNL, and National Association of Peasants.

The NDF also received greetings from the Friends of the Filipino People in Struggles (FFPS) and its chapters and organizations. The FFPS held activities and gatherings in various countries on April 26 as a celebration. The International Bureau of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP-ML) and the Cairde na Filipínigh Committee of Anti-Imperialist Action Ireland also sent their greetings.

The unwavering support of the masses

It was already dusk when comrades approached the hut of Mang Nestor (not his real name), a rattan gatherer, along the Ilagan-Divilacan Road. Since it was beside the road, they decided to wait for nightfall before heading there.

"Good evening!" the comrades greeted him with wide smiles. Even before they could fully enter the hut, Mang Nestor immediately burst into tears, and could only utter "Comrades!" while weeping. Mang Nestor went out to meet the comrades and welcomed them with tight embraces. "It's been so long since you last visited. We have long been waiting for you," he said with joy as he invited the comrades in.

Mang Nestor is one of the Agay national minorities in Kadas (not the village's real name) who lost their land in the name of the fake reforestation program called the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP). He can no longer make a living from swidden farming, which the DENR prohibits. Like all national minorities deprived of their ancestral land, he owns no land, so he and his wife turned to gathering rattan for livelihood. Despite working extremely hard gathering rattan, their income is meager and barely enough for their family's daily needs.

"I did not go to school. I am illiterate but I am hardworking. And no matter how much my wife and I pour blood and sweat into gathering rattan, we are always short and often disadvantaged because our boss deducts so much from our earnings," Mang Nestor shared with the comrades as he served them hot coffee. "This is why I am very happy that you have returned, comrades," he said with a smile.

The process of gathering rattan is arduous. Aside from being thorny and tough to pull from trees or to climb to get it whole, it is also manually carried down from the forest.



Like carabaos pulling a plow, they use their entire strength to drag several poles of rattan tied to their waists or heads until they reach their huts. Even before harvesting rattan, they have already borrowed money to buy food for their families and provisions for the forest while gathering, on top of the low selling prices for each bundle and pole of rattan depending on its size. Not knowing how to read or count, they are often cheated in the accounting.

Cooperation between the army and the masses

The history of peasants and national minorities in the village of Kadas is rich in revolutionary experience and collective action. In 2000, an issue arose in the area when the Community-based Forest Management administrators tried to evict the peasants. The area used to be a logging concession covering nearly a thousand hectares. When the concession was long left idle, settlers from Ifugao occupied it.

Under the Party's leadership, the peasants succeeded in asserting their right to cultivate the land they were tilling. In the process, their area was developed as a consolidated part of the guerrilla base. Organizations were established and socio-economic projects were launched, such as communal farms

for the youth, women, elders, and blacksmiths; there were farming tools and a potable water system was developed; and other projects for the welfare of the peasants and to increase production. Although the reactionary government continues to refuse to recognize their land rights because it is classified as forest land, with the support of neighboring towns, they collectively faced and overcame the issues affecting peasants in the area.

Land-grabbing projects

The positive gains of the peasants began to erode when the reactionary government's fake programs entered, displacing dozens of Agay national minority communities, settlers from Ifugao, and neighboring barangays. These included the NGP and the construction of the Ilagan-Divilacan Road, supposedly for eco-tourism, which would connect the center of Isabela to the coastal towns. These schemes dealt a double blow to the indigenous people's right to land and livelihood.

Under the previous Benigno Aquino III regime, the National Greening Program was launched nationwide in Ilagan City in 2011-2012. It was further expanded under the Duterte regime, becoming the E-NGP.

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Escalating US preparations for imperialist war against China

At the height of Balikatan activities on May 1, the AFP announced its plan to establish a “Strategic Defense Command” within the year. The new command will reportedly be formed to oversee the hundreds of war games the US will launch in the Philippines, including Balikatan. This command is said to be drawn from the current Education, Training, and Doctrine Command of the AFP, which has long closely adhered to US military doctrines.

Alongside the formation of the new AFP command, the US will begin operating its new military units in the Philippines this year. The US Littoral Rotational Force-Luzon, which will be permanently stationed in the northern part of the island, has already started its operation.

The formation of the AFP’s Strategic Defense Command and the LRF’s permanent deployment in the Philippines are part of the US’ intensified preparations for war against China. The US continues to escalate military tensions with China by deliberately conducting large-scale war games near Taiwan, positioning long-range and anti-ship missile systems aimed at mainland China, and deploying troops and warships in areas very close to Taiwan and the disputed features in the South China

Sea. The stockpiling of hundreds of weapons, vehicles, and other military equipment continues in various locations in the Philippines.

Protest against Balikatan

Demonstrations by national-democratic groups protested the opening of Balikatan 40-25 on April 21. They denounced it as expensive and of no benefit to Filipinos. They said this is a brazen violation of the country’s sovereignty.

In the nearly three-week Balikatan, the military presence and activities of the US and other foreign forces were recorded in Batanes, Cagayan, Zambales, Subic Bay, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Cavite, Palawan, Manila City, and Quezon City. Military maneuvers were also conducted in air and sea territories



in the Philippine Sea and South China Sea.

The Balikatan military activities disrupted not only the peace in the communities but also the livelihoods of poor fisherfolk and farmers.

In Aparri, Cagayan, fishing was banned on May 3-4 for the Counter Landing Live Fire, disrupting up to 15,000 registered fisherfolk.

In Zambales, fishing was also banned on April 25-27 in the towns of San Antonio, San Narciso, San Felipe, Cabangan, Botolan, and Subic. This was again implemented on May 5-6.

Although Balikatan is only until May 9, American troops will remain for subsequent activities.

From page 6

The masses living there strongly opposed it. But due to the violent and prolonged operations of the 86th IB, 502 IBde under the directive and leadership of the 5th ID, the peasant masses could no longer remain. The peasants and national minorities affected by the project were evicted. Everyone living along the roadside was removed and relocated to a single place where they remain vulnerable to eviction. Wealthy non-locals took over their former communities as the value of roadside land increased.

This prompted the peasants, national minorities, and settlers to act collectively, leading to a series of mobilizations with the help and guidance of the comrades. The army

units also launched military operations, including disarmament and raids. This issue, along with the NGP’s widespread eviction of settlers, land grabbing by traditional landlords, and the local reactionary



government’s eviction of residents to make way for fake development projects, roused people to undertake militant action and wage mass struggle in Kadas and nearby towns.

Because of the masses’ rich revolutionary experience in struggle in Kadas, they totally trust the army and know that only the revolutionary movement truly upholds and recognizes their right to land and livelihood. Despite the long absence of comrades in the area, they still warmly and enthusiastically welcome the army. Aside from material support, Mang Nestor, along with others, became the main link for the comrades in reaching out to other masses and accompanied them to other towns.

18.9 million

Filipinos are considered **"functionally illiterate"** or lack reading comprehension. This proves that conditions in schools are non-conducive for learning due to severe education budget shortage and lack of support for teachers.



78.7%

of election-related violations are cases of **Red-tagging**.

Source: Vote Report PH (Abril 30, 2025)

₱20/KILO RICE

gimmick hyped by Marcos on May 1 to win more votes for his candidates. It was withdrawn after deceiving no one.



Pope Francis

December 17, 1936 – April 21, 2025

Pope Francis was **88 years old** when he passed away on April 21, 2025. The Christians for National Liberation recognized him as a brave pilgrim who aspired for justice for the peoples of the world.

₱3.1 billion

additional funding granted by NEDA for the **Kaliwa Dam construction**, despite vehement opposition from the Dumagat-Remontado communities, church people, and environmental groups.

63%

drop in state collection from rice tariffs due to the Marcos regime's order to lower it from 35% to 15%, with rice prices not decreasing significantly.

14,000

riders of Move It are about to lose their jobs after the LTFRB ordered the company to reduce the number of its riders.

5 days

is how short the "₱20/kilo rice" subsidy would last if it covered all 27 million hungry Filipinos; it would last 3 weeks if only 5.6 million would benefit.

The US CVE doctrine behind the NTF-Elcac

Whenever a Red fighter of the New People's Army from the youth-student sector falls in battle against (or deliberately killed by) the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac goes on blabbering about suppressing the ideas and thinking of university youths. This is allegedly a way to prevent the enlistment of young people in armed struggle or what they label as "radicalization" or "terrorist grooming."

This tactic of the AFP and NTF-Elcac stems from and is framed around the US doctrine of "countering violent extremism" (CVE). Any idea considered a "threat" to the ruling system is labeled as "extremism" or "extreme ideology." CVE is used to justify the suppression of all forms of expression and resistance against the state. It portrays "extremism" as the force that drives people to resist, including the legitimate and just taking up of arms by the people against the reactionary ruling state. Contrary to what CVE claims, this is simply not a product of ideas and beliefs but of the very concrete conditions of oppression, exploitation, and state violence.

The CVE doctrine and program

CVE was first adopted under the Obama administration in the US in 2014. It was used during the anti-Muslim campaign or promotion of Islamophobia, simultaneously targeting progressive political activists. The doctrine portrays Muslims and activists as "violent at their core."

CVE was used to police and surveil community leaders to profile or piece together a picture of individuals based on their behavior, especially regarding religion, race, and politics. It aims to monitor the "radicalization" of individuals they claim is key that leads them towards "terrorism." This is also called "soft counterterrorism."

Even without having done anything, an individual's behavior and way of thinking can already be labeled as "terrorist." This violates

basic human rights such as the right to privacy, expression, movement, organization, and others. It sows terror and results in "self-surveillance" to avoid suspicion, and destroys communities.

The harm of CVE in the Philippines

In 2019, the Philippine government, through the Anti-Terrorism Council under the Human Security Act, created and adopted a National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (NAP P/CVE). It expressly aims to oversee programs addressing the political, economic, cultural, psychosocial, and religious aspects of "radicalization" that allegedly lead to "violent extremism."

This was placed mainly under the supervision of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) together with other government agencies. The plan identified six "vulnerable sectors" they must penetrate to prevent "radicalization." These sectors are the community, political detainees and those with "terrorism" cases, religious leaders, universities, social media users, overseas Filipino workers, and religious scholars.

The NTF-Elcac plays a key role as the main coordinating agency for programs implemented under the



plan. This is packaged as the so-called "whole-of-nation approach," the foundation for the agency's creation. The NTF-Elcac communicates with clusters and regional and local task forces to implement the NAP P/CVE.

In practice, the plan took shape with the implementation of the Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) in October 2019 through a DILG memorandum to enter communities. Under the framework of NAP P/CVE, the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) was implemented in March 2020 to target "rebel returnees" or detainees.

In universities and schools, the NTF-Elcac and state security agencies conduct forums, leadership training, camping, partnerships, and

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Aeta barricade at Mt. Pinatubo.

On April 18, the Aeta community in Mt. Pinatubo, Sitio Tarukgan, Barangay Santa Juliana, Capas, Tarlac mounted a barricade to assert their right to their land. For several years, state tourism agencies have not been properly paying the indigenous people, and without NCIP support. Police unjustly arrested and charged some of them with obstruction of public passage and unauthorized entry into a protected area.

Return to work in Bataan. Workers pushed the FCF Manufacturing Corporation management to reinstate those it had placed on "forced leave" status on April 19. The group called on the company to stop the so-called "work speeding" and other schemes of stockpiling finished products because these fuel the forced leave policy.

Fluvial parade against offshore wind farm in Ilocos. Fisherfolk in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte held a parade on April 20 to oppose the planned construction of the BuhaWind Offshore Windfarm along the coast of Pasuquin, Burgos, Bangui, and Pagudpud. During the three-year construction of the wind farm, fisherfolk will be banned from fishing near the area.

Action against Prime Water in Bulacan. Various groups held a noise barrage on April 25 to condemn Prime Water for its poor water service in San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan. Since the establishment of the joint venture between Prime Water and the San Jose Del Monte Water District in 2018, residents have faced numerous problems such as infrequent and weak flow of murky and non-drinkable water, and extremely high service charges.

2 Southern Tagalog mass leaders abducted

TWO CASES OF abduction of mass leaders from Southern Tagalog were recorded in the past two weeks. In addition, soldiers and police also committed human rights violations in Isabela, Quezon, and Metro Manila.

In Batangas, state forces abducted Pauline Joy Banjawan, an organizer of Kadamay-Southern Tagalog who was campaigning for Bayan Muna, on April 26. Two days after her disappearance, she was located at the police station in Santo Tomas, Batangas.

It was determined that the 59th IB abducted her, subjected her to a day of torture before being turned her over to the police. Banjawan was charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

In Rizal, 80th IB soldiers nabbed and detained farmer Jonathan del Castillo on the night of April 27 in Tanay. The victim said the soldiers interrogated and threatened him with death. He was accused of bringing food to the New People's Army (NPA) when he was apprehended. The 80th IB released him only at dawn on April 28.

Strafing. In Isabela, 502nd IBde elements fired at five national minority Ifugao while they were fishing on April 21 in Sitio Sapiot, Barangay Tappa, San Mariano. Three of the civilians immediately returned home safely while the other two are yet to be located. The 86th IB also indiscriminately fired their weapons in Barangay Dicamay Dos, Jones on April 20.

Militarization. In Quezon, not less than 2,000 2nd ID soldiers were deployed for focused military operations (FMO) in four barangays of Lopez starting April 21. The military and police set up numerous checkpoints that hindered the livelihood, farming, and free movement of residents. Everyone passing through the checkpoints were required to show their community tax certificate.

Harassment. Gordon Mutch, an American belonging to the Baltimore Committee for Human Rights in Philippine (BaltCHRP), was barred at the airport and denied entry to the Philippines on April 26. Mutch went to the Philippines to observe the 2025 elections and witness the situation of Filipinos under the Marcos regime. The Philippine Bureau of Immigration detained him for four hours then deported him to the US for his "anti-government activities."

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other interventions in universities to discuss "radicalization."

One aspect of this is the Red-tagging campaign that suppresses the freedom of thought, to organize, express, and other rights of the youth. The NTF-Elcac has also confiscated books from university libraries, claiming these cause "radicalization."

Most severely, the military and NTF-Elcac pressure school administrators to follow their lead. In this context, the AFP forged a cooperation agreement with the University of the Philippines. This is also the NTF-Elcac's main objective when it included COCOPEA, a group of private schools, in its committee.

The CVE doctrine has instilled widespread terror and trauma among the youth and the people. Because of this, many became hesitant to express opinions on social media and to speak out for their basic rights.

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