

EDITORIAL

Firmly resist the oppressive, fascist and puppet Marcos regime

At the end of the month, Ferdinand Marcos Jr will stand before Congress to once again deceive the public about his supposed "accomplishments" over the past three years. He will weave intricate lies, but they will fail to conceal the endless suffering endured by the people under his rule. The living standards of the majority continue to plummet relentlessly. The corruption of the Marcos family is unparalleled. He blindly follows the dictates of his US imperialist masters. Political repression intensifies against the people who stand up and fight back.

Marcos brings even greater suffering to ordinary people. High prices of rice remains a burden on the people, which Marcos cannot cover up with his superficial gimmicks. He colludes with oil companies in the skyrocketing prices of diesel and gasoline. Despite widespread calls, Malacañang has blocked the proposed ₱200 daily wage increase for workers and instead imposed additional taxes on the shoulders of the people. Mass layoffs are rampant, unemployment is widespread, hundreds of thousands are forced to seek work abroad, while hundreds of thou-

sands of poor people are evicted from their homes, as their lands, fishing grounds, and sources of livelihood are ruthlessly taken away.

He implements policies and programs that further enrich foreign big capitalists, their complicit big comprador bourgeoisie, landlords, and bureaucrat capitalists. Marcos engages in rampant borrowing that does not benefit the people but is funneled only into flashy infrastructure projects that serve as sources of kickbacks for him and his corrupt officials. Hundreds of

billions of pesos in stolen Marcos wealth have been returned to their control, while hundreds of billions more are siphoned off through the Maharlika Investment Fund, Marcos' confidential and intelligence funds, and squandered on excessive military spending, at the expense of essential social services.

Like previous regimes, Marcos favors big foreign and local capitalists to maximize their profits. He freezes workers' wages while granting tax breaks to capitalists. He has enabled foreign ownership of land in the Philippines (under the guise of a law allowing 99-year "leases") and removed environmental regulations to allow unrestrained plunder and destruction of the country's natural resources.

Marcos provides them with military and police armed protection to suppress the people who are



defending their land and livelihood. In urban areas, the fascist agents of the reactionary state are targeting unionized workers who are fighting for their demands for wage increases. Marcos is using the NTF-Elcac and the "Anti-Terrorism Law" to suppress the rights of workers, semi-proletariat, student-youth, fishermen, women, and other democratic sectors to prevent them from organizing and participating in the movement for social change.

In rural areas, state terrorism is evident in the imposition of martial law in barangays and communities, which the NTF-Elcac accuses of supporting the revolutionary armed movement. Extrajudicial killings, intimidation, house searches, illegal arrests, "forced surrenders," indiscriminate firing, shelling and aerial bombing in fields and mountains near communities are rampant. Children and the elderly are not spared from the brutality of Marcos' fascist agents. The Marcos regime's suppression is most severe in remote villages and sitios of farmers and indigenous peoples, whose land is being taken away by foreign mining companies, plantations, and energy and eco-

tourism projects. Marcos is using the facade of "peace" to justify his war of suppression against the Filipino people's patriotic and democratic movement. This is the kind of "peace" desired by imperialists and the ruling classes, which silences the oppressed and exploited. This is not the just and lasting peace desired by the people, which can only be achieved by addressing their basic demands for free land distribution, national industrialization, genuine freedom, and democracy.

Goaded by his imperialist masters, Marcos has ordered the intensification of war to supposedly crush the New People's Army. Mar-

cos and the AFP are fully collaborating with US military forces in deploying troops, vehicles, and military equipment in the Philippines, and in launching a series of war exercises aimed at China. Instead of pursuing peaceful dialogue with China, the Marcos regime is escalating armed tensions in the South China Sea.


The Filipino people have nothing to expect from the oppressive, fascist and puppet Marcos regime. As long as Marcos is in power in Malacañang, he will use his power to further plunder the country's wealth, expand his authority, and wrestle against his political rivals. The people have no other choice but to rise up and fight against the US-Marcos regime.

The people must expand and strengthen their organized strength. In urban areas, workers, urban poor, and youth-students must be united as a solid foundation of strength for other democratic sectors. Democratic and anti-imperialist mass struggles must be intensified in factories, communities, and schools.

In rural areas, the people's army and the Party's branches and section committees must be strengthened and expanded in order to exert efforts to build or rebuild peasant organizations to defend against fascism and promote struggles against feudal and semi-feudal exploitation, and to strengthen the call for genuine land reform. Tactical offensives and special operations must be launched to punish the most brutal fascists and fulfill the people's demand for justice.

The only proper response of the Filipino people is to intensify the mass movement and armed struggle to fight against the oppression and suppression of the US-Marcos regime. With unwavering determination on the path of struggle, Marcos will surely be held accountable and face the judgment of the entire people.






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Rectification movement in Southern Tagalog: Internalize theory, learn from one’s own practice

Amid the unrelenting military operations since 2024, a mass work and military work conference was successfully launched in a guerrilla front in Southern Tagalog. The gathering of New People's Army (NPA) units primarily aimed to sum up and share experiences to better confront the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s intensifying annihilation campaign in the subregion. The participants included a mix of senior, middle-aged, and younger cadres. More than half of the participants were youth.

Study, rectify, advance

The conference opened with two case studies in mass work. These were drawn from the experience of two people's army units over roughly a year. The main points discussed were the units' methods in mass work: balancing expansion and consolidation, and the duration of its encampment and its proximity to the masses' communities. Conservatism in mass work and favoritism toward certain bases were sharply identified and are now being rectified.

It emphasized the key role of educational, propaganda, cultural, and medical work in effective and deep-reaching mass work. A good example of this was a squad's release of a primer that discussed the masses' current situation and problems in a town, as well as the their rich revolutionary history gathered from social investigation. The primer was effectively used to unite the

masses and establish groups and branches of revolutionary mass organizations in the said town.

It also highlighted how important it is for the people's army carrying out mass work to participate in production and provide medical services. The positive and negative experiences underscored the decisive role of correct Party leadership and firm unity in advancing the people's army's mass work despite obstacles, hardships, and changing situations. After presenting the case studies, the "Basic Principles of Mass Work in the Countryside" was reviewed.

Case studies of both successful and failed tactical offensives as well as some defensive battles, were next presented and discussed. These case studies highlighted the importance of intelligence work and organizing and mobilizing the masses for this work.

As with mass work, the case studies underscored the need for the

absolute leadership of the Party over the people's army to forge unity regardless of the confronting situation. Without such Party leadership, the people's army's main task of defending against and defeating the enemy, will not be effectively performed. Afterwards, Mao Zedong's "Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War" was studied.

At the core of summing up experiences in mass work and military work, and studying the underlying theories, was the cadres' grasp and deepening understanding of the basic principles of guerrilla warfare in the strategic defensive stage and in the context of the NPA's restrengthening after setbacks caused by internal weaknesses and in facing enemy attacks.

Discussions over coffee were held during some evening sessions where they shared experiences in recruiting young peasants, indigenous people, and young intellectuals. These provided valuable lessons and inspiration on how to invigorate NPA recruitment and how to strengthen and improve the Red fighters amid intense battles with the enemy.

Continue on page 4



Groups oppose planned US ammunition factory, relentless war games

VARIOUS GROUPS EXPRESSED opposition and concern against the proposal in the US Congress to build an ammunition factory in Subic Bay, Zambales. They said that this plan threatens national security and will affect the livelihood of Zambales fisherfolk.

The plan to build the factory appeared in a report by the US House Committee on Appropriations that was made public on June 24.

"US rival countries historically has not directly targetted US mainland, but its military and satellite bases elsewhere," Pamalakaya said.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) condemned the US for conducting Operation Lightning Strike war games under Salaknib Phase 2 on June 30 in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. These war games fired missiles from two High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and used four Apache attack helicopters.

The group said that these war games, especially the live-fire missile test, are detrimental to farming communities. The KMP believes that this is not for defense or peace, but for US war preparations.

Meanwhile, Filipinos and Australians marched in Sydney, Australia on June 22 to protest the Philippines-Australia Kasangga war games. Since 2023, Kasangga has been held twice a year, allowing Australian troops free entry into Philippine territory.

From page 3

To identify the ideological roots of weaknesses and problems, Mao's "Special Course on Empiricism" and "On Practice" were also studied. This aimed to effectively target the empiricist tendency in thinking and action shown by the case studies. Such tendencies manifested particularly in being satisfied with unsynthesized data about the social and economic situation of the masses, a shallow grasp of the areas' revolutionary history, and low-quality intelligence work. The guerrilla front's experience made it clear that incomplete and insufficient social investigation and class analysis result in inappropriate political policies and programs and military plans.

At the end of the conference, participants were asked to reflect. Ka Lima said "We must purge subjectivism and individualism from every fiber of our being, as well as arrogance, complacency in all aspects. This is very easy to say, but truly a challenge in practice. We must remould our way of thinking to sharpen our analysis of things and make correct steps to solve problems."

"Fight to strengthen! Strengthen while fighting!" This is the call of the rectification movement to the revolutionaries in Southern Tagalog.

Despite the military situation they will face, the spirit of Red commanders, political guides, and fighters remained high as the units dispersed to shoulder the new tasks set by the conference. The challenge for the Party and people's army in the current critical stage of the revolutionary movement is clear: Shoulder the increasing and expanding tasks and sacrifices with unwavering spirit to serve the people and confidence in the revolution's correctness and victory.

AB

NPA-Negros paralyzes destructive quarry operations

ON JULY 4, THE New People's Army (NPA)-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) disabled and set fire to two dump trucks and one backhoe used in the destructive quarry operations in Sitio Medel, Barangay Carabalan, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental. The operation incurred damages amounting to ₱11 million.

The NPA carried this out to protect the community and the environment from the harm the quarry has long inflicted. The quarry has affected the farms and livelihoods of residents who depend on the river.



Actions on Marcos' third year. On June 30, national democratic organizations marched to Mendiola in Manila to condemn and hold the Marcos regime accountable on the occasion of its third year in power. They denounced the regime's subservience to US imperialism, its oppressive policies, fascist repression, and ineffective governance. Similar protests took place in Baguio City and Iloilo City.

Picket against SkyCable layoffs. On June 24, the SkyCable Supervisors, Professionals/Technical Employees Union (SSPTEU) held a picket in front of the company in Quezon City to oppose the layoffs at SkyCable Corporation. At least 133 union members, aside from non-union workers, may lose their jobs.

Opposition to demolition of floating houses in Cavite. Members of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) fisherfolk protested along the Bacoor City coast on June 24 to oppose the threatened demolition of their houses built on the sea. The demolition is set to displace more than 100 families. The demolition is linked to the planned 420-hectare reclamation project of Frabelle Fishing Corporation and the local government.

SCMB Railway and LEC projects to serve US imperialist interests

On June 26, the Marcos regime and the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) signed an agreement for a US government loan of \$3.8 million to fund initial research and studies for the Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas (SCMB) Railway project. The project aims to establish a rail system for transporting goods to allegedly reduce congestion at the Manila port.

The 250-kilometer SCMB Railway will connect Subic and Clark, traverse the National Capital Region, and end at the Batangas port. According to USTDA's plan, the Subic-Clark segment will begin construction in 2027-2028, while the Clark-Manila-Batangas segment will start in 2028-2029. The project aims to start railway operations in the early part of 2030. The entire project is estimated to cost \$3.2 billion.

The Duterte regime first offered the rail project between Subic and Clark to the Chinese government in 2016. China promised to fund it in 2018 but withdrew in 2022. When the Marcos regime came to power, the project was revived and extended to Batangas at the behest of the US.

This project was subsumed under the so-called Luzon Economic Corridor (LEC), a trilateral program among the US, the Philippines, and Japan that aims to expedite the dumping of

their capital, personnel, and equipment in the form of infrastructure projects in renewable energy, ports, airports, bridges, and roads. The LEC is the first project of the US Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment and is a key part of its Indo-Pacific strategy against China, specifically to counter the latter's Belt and Road Initiative.

Besides the SCMB Railway, 27 other infrastructure projects have also been placed under the LEC, including the expansion of Clark International Airport, Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge, Subic Bay (Rondono-Ilanin) Bridge, Central Luzon Link Expressway, North Luzon East Expressway, Laguna Lakeshore Road Network Development, Kalaanan Irrigation Project, North-South Commuter Railway, New Clark City Extension Railway, and Southern Batangas Airport.

The SCMB Railway and other infrastructure will be built for the use of

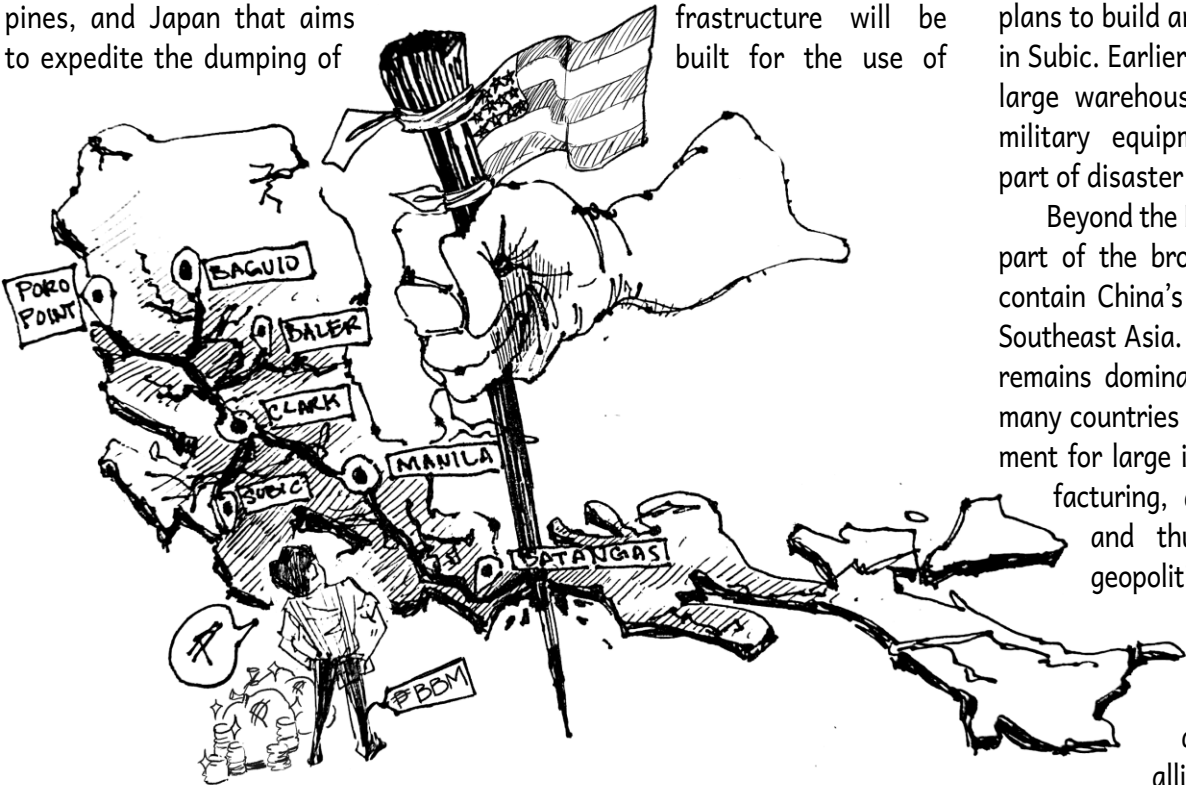
foreign companies, such as American manufacturing and battery companies that aim to profit from the Philippines' rich resources of nickel, cobalt, copper, and bauxite.

The US, together with Japan and NATO countries, aims to pour up to \$100 billion in capital over the next 10 years. Most of this funding will take the form of loans and private capital, which will be exempt from taxes, and have no direct links to the local economy.

Alongside its economic objectives, the SCMB Railway and other projects under the LEC have clear military and geopolitical aims. The SCMB Railway and the network of bridges and roads will connect major "EDCA sites" or US military bases in Luzon, and will facilitate the transport of weapons, personnel, and military vehicles along them. It will also ease military transport in other parts of Luzon. Meanwhile, the Clark airport expansion will serve US warplanes, already having extensive hangars and parking at the adjacent Basa International Airport.

The LEC's military objective became even clearer with the recent US Congress announcement about plans to build an ammunition factory in Subic. Earlier, the US had leased a large warehouse in Subic to store military equipment supposedly as part of disaster preparedness.

Beyond the Philippines, the LEC is part of the broader US strategy to contain China's growing influence in Southeast Asia. American investment remains dominant in the region but many countries favor Chinese investment for large infrastructure, manufacturing, and mining projects, and thus remain open to geopolitical engagement. Unlike the Philippines, ASEAN countries avoid being tied to an exclusive military alliance with the US. **AB**



Embrace the militant spirit of Pride March in the Philippines

Waving rainbow flags waving and raising their fists, hundreds of members of the LGBTQ+ community, allies, and progressive groups marched at the Stonewall Philippines Pride March held on Recto Avenue, Manila on June 26. They pushed through police lines to assert their right to hold their program at Mendiola.

Led by the national democratic LGBTQ+ group Bahaghari, formations celebrating Pride Month formed Stonewall Philippines. The new organization formally declared its annual leadership of militant activities and marches for Pride every June.

Stonewall Philippines honors and lives out the legacy of the first Pride March in the Philippines and in Asia—Stonewall Manila, which was launched on June 26, 1994 in Quezon City. The Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (ProGay), together with the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), led the militant march and sparked decades of LGBTQ+ struggle.

Back then, they demanded an

end to discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and for the promotion of the sector's rights, and also opposed the burdensome Value Added Tax (VAT), rising oil and commodity prices, and exposed the US-Ramos regime's anti-people policies.

Thirty-one years later, the sector now calls for the passage of the SOGIE Bill, living wages, employment, genuine land reform and national industrialization, and an independent foreign policy, as well as freedom for Palestine and other nations oppressed by the US. They paid tribute to the martyrs of the LGBTQ+ sector who served as organizers and activists, such as Alex Dolorosa, Chad Booc, Ryan Hubilla, Ali Macalintal, and many others.

Participate in the national democratic revolution

The Makabayang Kilusang Bagong Kababaihan (Makibaka) expressed solidarity and tribute to the LGBTQ+ sector in celebrating Pride in June. The group urged the sector to unite and directly participate in the national-democratic revolution, which will truly and ultimately pave the way for the complete liberation of LGBTQ+ people alongside the oppressed and exploited masses.

In this regard, the group urged vigilance against sabotage and deception by imperialism and all reactionary forces against the LGBTQ+ struggle and Pride Month celebrations. According to Makibaka, imperialism distorts the celebration to divert

LGBTQ+ people from the struggle against discrimination, national oppression, and exploitation.

Large corporations and politicians exploit the Pride celebration. While they and imperialist US hold festive Pride events, they continue to enforce economic and political laws and policies that further push LGBTQ+ people of the toiling masses deeper into the mire of unemployment or lack of decent jobs, driving them into anti-social activities to survive.

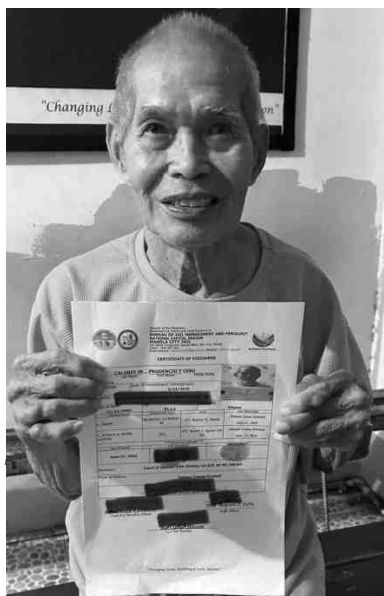
“Rainbow washing” or “rainbow capitalism” is one manifestation of this. It means corporations appropriate the LGBTQ+ sector's symbols and language to boost their profits.

The group also called on Filipino LGBTQ+ people to be critical of the US imperialism's cultural offensive on the masses' minds and behaviors. Imperialism cultivates bourgeois-decadent culture, such as false standards of beauty and other standards of being LGBTQ+. It also emphasizes individualism and hypersexuality.

Amid these imperialist attempts, Makibaka challenged LGBTQ+ sector members to take the path of selfless sacrifice of time and life for the national democratic revolution, an aspiration that goes beyond themselves.

We must emulate the example of the martyred Red commanders and fighters of the New People's Army, including Val Mante (Ka Richard), Daniel Imperial, Wanda Gumban (Ka Waquin), Kevin Castro (Ka Facio), Jo Lapira (Ka Ella), Ciela Pacaldo (Ka Alena), Jethro Isaac Ferrer (Ka Pascual), Kal Peralta (Ka Rekka), Queenie Daraman (Ka Kira), Dee Supelanas (Ka Dahlia), and many others. We must honor their sacrifice of strength, intelligence, courage, and life for the masses and various fields of revolutionary work. AB





6

months unjust imprisonment of **Tay Pruding** (Prudencio Calubid Jr) despite overwhelming evidence that he is not NDFP peace consultant Prudencio Calubid, who in 2006 was a victim of enforced disappearance by the state forces.



of corals in **Paradise Reef** died from the construction of the Samal Island-Davao City Bridge.

5 years of the fascist Anti-Terror Law

under which **227** were harassed, **34** designated "terrorists," **193** charged, and **30** imprisoned. **Six** of the cases have been dismissed.

₱50 increase in daily wages

approved by the NCR wage board this year, is a mere 0.4% of capitalists' expenses, and less than 2.5% of their profit. **This increase is ₱576 short of the daily living wage.**

27%↑

of total price increases in gasoline, and 37% for diesel, are scant amounts rolled back from the 11 rounds of price hikes by oil companies from January 1 to May 25, 2025.

20%↓

decline in fish catch nationwide in May due to bad weather.

31% increase in Philippine debt, from ₱12.8T to ₱16.92T, in the 3-year term of the Marcos regime.

12 DAYS

duration of the US and Israel aggression against Iran, during which the US dropped 30,000-pound bombs on three major Iranian nuclear research facilities.



More taxes on the people, less on foreign capitalists

Over the past decades, the burden of multilayered taxes imposed on the Filipino people has intensified, pushing them deeper into the quagmire of poverty. On the other hand, taxes on biggest comprador bourgeoisie and foreign and local companies have become reduced, allowing them to amass even greater profits.

The people have endured decades of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on the most basic food products and services, which started at 10% but later increased to 12%. In 2016, VAT collections reached ₱622 billion and continued to grow in the following years. In 2013, it comprises an estimated 18.9% of total government revenue, up from a low of 7.9% in 1989. The burden on the people worsened when the TRAIN Law imposed additional excise taxes on petroleum products, cigarettes, alcohol, sweetened beverages, and others.

In June, Marcos further burdened the people by enacting the Digital Services Tax, which imposed a 12% VAT on internet-based services. The new law covers online shopping platforms such as Shopee and Lazada, websites for freelance work seekers such as Fiver and Upwork, and streaming platforms such as Netflix and Spotify. Ordinary content creators, online sellers, freelancers, and consumers will shoulder the tax. The US-Marcos regime will amass an estimated ₱105 billion from this over the next five years.

Before this, online shopping platform sellers were required to register with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and pay a 1% tax on their total income. The Marcos regime also plans next to impose taxes on single-use plastics and motorcycle usage.

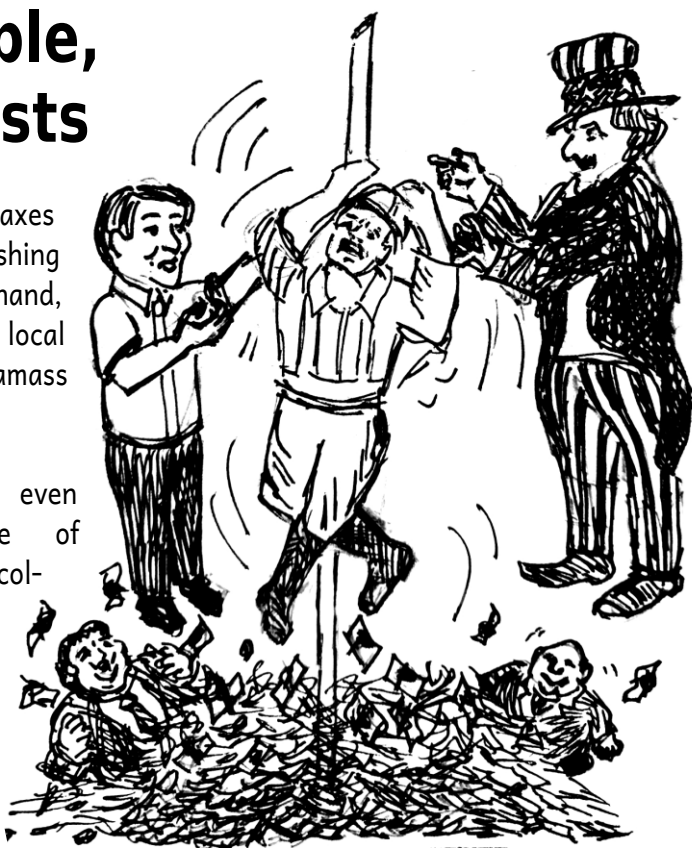
On the other hand, profits of large local and foreign companies

have grown even more because of lower taxes collected under the CREATE MORE Law. Three more laws that further reduced taxes for the comprador bourgeoisie and large local and foreign companies were passed in 2024. These are the Ease of Paying Taxes Act, Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act, and Capital Markets Efficiency Promotion Act, all part of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program, which the Duterte regime implemented and the US-Marcos regime perpetuates.

These laws favor business owners by simplifying the tax payment system, reducing income taxes, lowering penalties for late payments, reducing taxes on the purchase and sale of shares, and granting incentives such as tax holidays, free or low electricity charges, small land taxes, tax payment amnesty, and others.

The CREATE MORE Law alone will reduce the reactionary state's tax collection by ₱5.9 billion over three years. Under the previous CREATE Law, tax cuts for large businesses reached ₱476.8 billion in just five years.

The system of imposing high taxes such as VAT and excise taxes on products and services purchased or used by the people is called re-



gressive or backward. These taxes were first imposed at the dictate of the World Bank (WB) on backward countries such as the Philippines to ensure that the country collected enough revenue and could pay its foreign debts. In the 1980s, this was part of the loan conditions of the WB and International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to the WB itself, taxes such as VAT are the easiest source of state revenue because they are difficult to evade and sellers also become tax collectors. In fact, the WB believes that VAT in the Philippines is still insufficient and “there is room” to increase VAT revenue.

Despite the taxes collected from the toiling masses and the petty bourgeoisie, only a small percentage goes to social services such as education and health or funds for agriculture. About 20% of the government's total annual funds go to corruption or directly into the pockets of bureaucrat-capitalists. Worse, taxes are also used for state fascism to purchase weapons, fund the NTF-Elcac and its fascist campaigns.

AB

Semi-feudal oppression of vegetable farmers in Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur

Poor and middle peasants in the Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur border towns usually till one hectare of land or even less. They usually plant vegetables such as squash, chili, cabbage, potato, carrot, tomato, Baguio beans, bell pepper, eggplant, and broccoli, as well as sweet potato and corn. They endure multiple layers of semi-feudal oppression, from landlessness, usury, and high production costs to low farmgate prices for their products.

Exploitation in production

Lacking sufficient capital, peasants commonly borrow money for production. They submit to loan agreements with local “financiers” or usurers who impose exploitative arrangements and interest rates. In the case of vegetable farms, the loan interests often take the form of a cut in the total harvest or income.

For landless peasants, the “maintainer” system prevails. Under this system, the landowner (acting also as financier) lends money to the peasant to cultivate the land that he allows them to use. The loan covers land preparation, seeds, fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, and wages for farm workers. In this way, the farmer alone shoulders the production costs and labor.

Some financiers burden the peasants by cheating them on the prices of farm inputs they lend. In one case, a financier priced ₱1,100 gallons of Roundup herbicide at ₱1,700.

Vegetable farmers often suffer losses if farmgate prices for their products drop or if calamities strike. This situation traps them in an endless cycle of vicious loans from financiers for succeeding planting seasons until they sink deeper into debt.

Exploitation in selling

Farmers transport their vegetable products to Cagayan de Oro City, far from their farms. They deliver these to the vegetable trading post in Barangay Bulua, where products are usually stockpiled in the warehouses owned by financier-dealers or dealers.

The farmers are charged ₱20 per sack (100 kilos per sack) for unloading their products at the warehouse. They also pay the dealers ₱2.5-₱3 per kilo (₱250-₱300 per sack) as warehouse rent, or in some cases, 10% of the sales value of the vegetable products.

At the trading post, the price of vegetable products are pegged on the volume of supply and market fluctuations. Dealers disregard the farmers’ production costs when setting general prices. Dealers also set the pricing standards based on vegetable quality. They also determine the selling price to traders. If the dealer fails to sell the products, these are re-

turned to the farmers.

For example, the dealer can sell bell pepper he bought from the farmer at ₱50 per kilo to a trader for ₱70. If the dealer sells 5,000 kilos of bell pepper, he earns ₱15,000 from warehouse rent and ₱100,000 from selling to the trader. The dealer earns a gross total of ₱115,000 before deducting wages for workers and other expenses.

The farmer on the other hand earns only ₱250,000 from 5,000 kilos. After deducting production costs of ₱205,132.40, only ₱44,867.60 remains. Entering into a financing or maintainer system leaves him with only ₱22,433.80.

In addition, smuggling and cartels that control and manipulate supply significantly impact prices. The price of local vegetable products drops even further whenever the government allows an influx of imported vegetables.

As food producers, the farmers demand security of tenure on the land they till, fair prices for their products, and the elimination of various ways their products are undervalued. They also call for fair interest rates on loans, higher wages for farm workers, and lower warehouse rent or dealer commissions. **AB**



Killings of civilians and *hors de combat* recorded in Masbate, Leyte, and GenSan

In recent weeks, five victims of political killings by state forces have been recorded. There were cases of arrest, shooting, and harassment. These incidents add to the US-Marcos regime's mounting crimes in its three years in power.

In Masbate, state forces shot and killed 25-year-old civilian Joey Oas in Barangay San Carlos, Palanas on June 29. They claimed he “resisted arrest,” and allegedly confiscated a pistol, magazines, and bullets from him. He was also accused of being a New People's Army (NPA) sparrow unit member.

In Leyte, the 93rd IB and 802nd IBde deliberately killed two *hors de combat* NPA members and a medic on June 18 in Barangay Cogon, Carigara. At that time, Juanito Selleca Jr (Ka Tibor/Ka Rey) and Saddam Paclita (Ka Dimple) were ill and recovering when soldiers attacked and shot them. Lino Delante (Ka Dodong), a medic caring for the patients, was killed with them. All three were unarmed.

In General Santos City, unidentified individuals shot and killed radio broadcaster Ali Jejhon S. Macalintal on June 23 in Barangay Lagao. Macalintal, a transwoman, had been an active member of progressive groups since 2002. In 2024, Macalintal reported that agents of Task Force Gensan were harassing and surveilling her. Days before the shooting, she received threats to her life.

Arrest. State forces arrested five cultural activists on June 27 in Barangay Pasong Buaya II, Imus, Cavite. While carrying out grafitti painting operation, they were trailed, overwhelmingly besieged, threatened with guns, and then brought to the barangay hall. They were temporarily released on July 1 and now face charges of malicious mischief and vandalism.

Shooting. In Negros Oriental, “trigger-happy” 62nd IB soldiers fired their guns indiscriminately in Sitio Putat, Barangay Humay-humay in Guihulngan City on June 23.

The following day, soldiers raided the house of Bobby Gemodo in Sitio Laos, Barangay Binobohan in the city to harass him. Soldiers also went to the house of Mario Noyad in Sitio Natae, Barangay Binalbagan, Canlaon City to intimidate and threaten him.

AB

Church people and other sectors call for genuine peace

MORE THAN 70 representatives of various faiths and human rights groups from 13 countries held the "Pagtatanim: Sowing Seeds of Faith Solidarity for the Filipino People's Struggle for Peace" gathering in Rome, Italy on June 27-28. Organizers held this in response to the urgent need for unity among church people to support the Filipino people's struggle for peace.

Led by the Council of Leaders for Peace Initiatives, representatives of various groups and sectors also held the Mindanao-wide Peace Conference on June 24 in Cagayan De Oro City. They urged people to support the peace talks between the GRP and NDFP, to address the roots of the armed conflict in the country.

Kenya state forces violently disperse people's protest

THE US-RUTO REGIME in Kenya violently dispersed the people's protests on June 25, killing up to 16 rallyists and injuring 400 others. The protest was part of the commemoration of a series of massive demonstrations last year against the neoliberal Finance Bill 2024, intensifying police violence, and state repression.

Recall that massive demonstrations in 2024 forced the US-Ruto regime to backtrack on its plan to impose the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dictated heavy taxes that would further impoverish the Kenyan masses. To cunningly pass the taxes, the Kenyan parliament approved them in parts over the past year.

Actions were held in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisii, and other cities. Protesters carried the Kenyan flag and chanted the calls "Ruto must go" and "occupy state-house" (referring to occupying the Statehouse or Ruto's residence as government head). They also brought images of those killed last year by police violence against demonstrations.

The International League of Peoples' Struggles Africa and West Asia Regional Committee expressed support and solidarity with the struggle of the Kenyan masses. They urged Kenyans to persevere further amid intensifying repression.

"It is only right to continue organizing Kenyans and launching mass actions to advance the call for national sovereignty and democratic rights," the committee stated. As demonstrated by the widespread protests of the Kenyan people in 2024, the ILPS believes that the growing actions can push the Ruto regime to withdraw its rotten policies.

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