

EDITORIAL

Reject false peace, persevere on the path of people's war

In his fourth State of the Nation Address, Marcos will surely boast about his regime's program of "peace and development." He will use this occasion to applaud his fascist forces and minions for "crushing the armed conflict." At the same time, he will obscure the grave abuses of power and trampling of democratic rights, in the cities, and especially in the countryside.

Marcos' "National Action Plan for Unity, Peace and Development" is false and hollow. It deceitfully obscures the reality of widespread poverty, hunger, and suffering of tens of millions of peasants, workers, and unemployed. Its goal is to make the people believe that it is their fate to suffer oppression and exploitation, so as to crush their spirit and strength to defend and fight back, and make them submit to the power of the terrorist state.

In the guise of "peace," Marcos uses the state's armed forces to impose martial law in rural areas to suppress the struggle of the peasant masses. Its goal is to subject people to surveillance, control food supply and commerce, and regulate even the working hours of peasants in their fields. Everyone is forced to "clear" their names and "cooperate" with military officers. Known leaders and activists in peasant organizations are relentlessly persecuted. There are numerous cases of murder, arrest, and illegal imprisonment, torture, and massacres, forced evacuation, shelling and

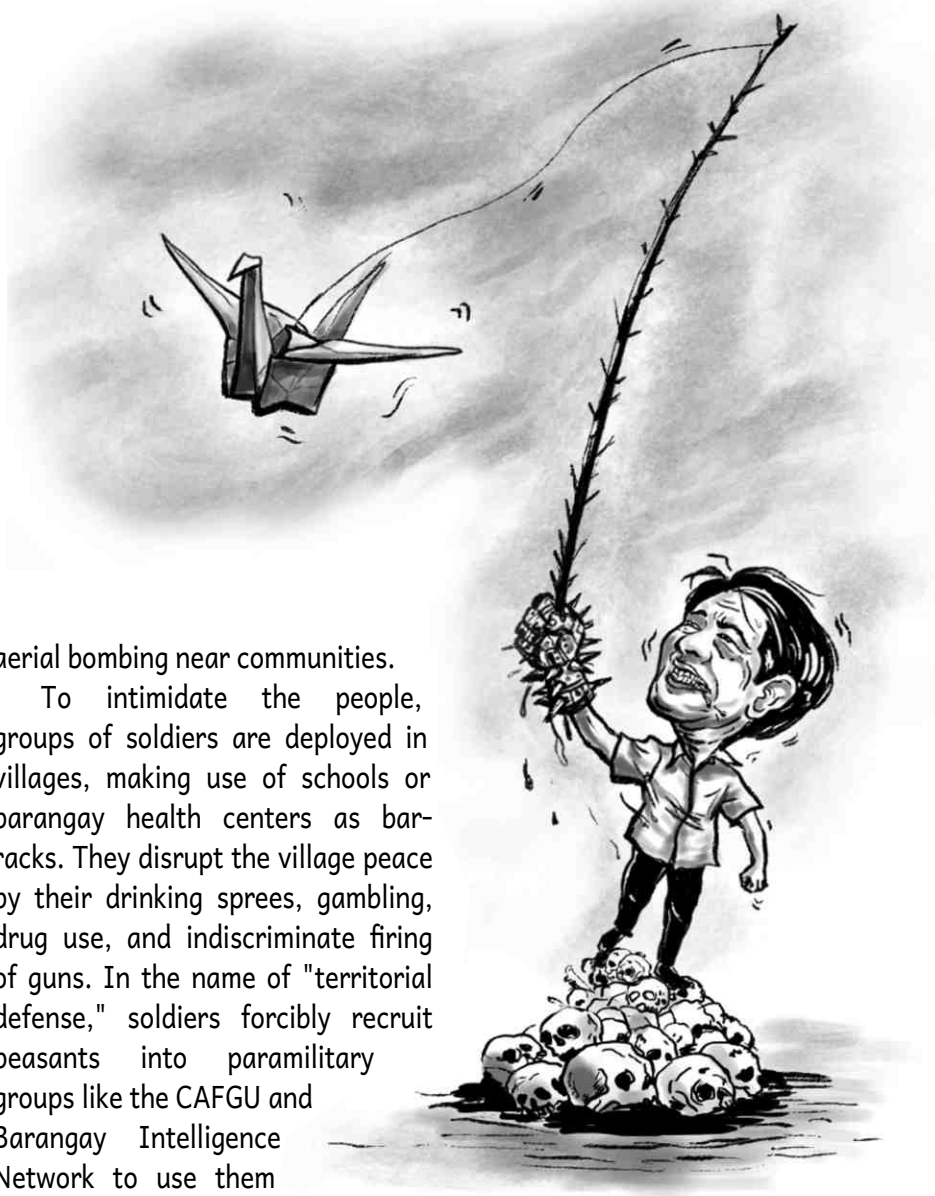
aerial bombing near communities.

To intimidate the people, groups of soldiers are deployed in villages, making use of schools or barangay health centers as barracks. They disrupt the village peace by their drinking sprees, gambling, drug use, and indiscriminate firing of guns. In the name of "territorial defense," soldiers forcibly recruit peasants into paramilitary groups like the CAFGU and Barangay Intelligence Network to use them against their fellow villagers.

In the name of "capacity building" in urban communities, Marcos uses his armed forces to suppress the rights of workers, urban poor, youth students, and other sectors in urban areas. Unionists and activists in schools and communities are subjected to surveillance and intimidation to stop them from organizing and helping their people. Like in rural areas, the military and police use

the tactic of subjecting their families to constant pressure and threats to force their compliance.

Marcos brags of "distribution of land titles" in a grand scheme to deceive the peasant masses, because most of these titles were already in their possession as collective titles (Certificate of Land Ownership Award) under "agrarian reform communities," including lands that were already distributed



by the revolutionary movement to farmers and indigenous peoples, which are being fragmented to make it easier for large land grabbers to buy or take over.

Marcos auctions off vast tracts of land to foreign big capitalists in the form of 99-year "leases". Tens of thousands of peasants and indigenous peoples are driven off to make way for plantations, mines, energy projects, tourism, and other operations of big foreign and local companies. Marcos offers them incentives to invest with little or no taxes to pay. It's certain that President Trump of the US will dictate even more anti-people and anti-national policies to Marcos during their meeting at the White House.

Marcos, his military officers, and accomplices in the NTF-Elcac are deceiving only themselves in boasting that they are close to crushing the New People's Army. They claim that there is only one guerrilla front left in the country, but continue to deploy majority of the AFP's combat battalions in the NPA's guerrilla fronts.

Marcos uses a handful of

traitors to the masses to sing praises to his "peace and development". They are all reactionary special agents tasked to spit out disinformation and lies against the revolutionary movement.

Marcos' "peace" is the silence of the graveyard of the victims of his fascist rule. The US imperialists and local ruling classes celebrate this peace that Marcos claims, which will allow them to freely exploit the land


of the peasant masses, ravage the mountains and rivers, plunder the country's wealth, steal the people's money, and establish the power of the US military forces in the country.

This false peace of Marcos, the NTF-Elcac and AFP is a major obstacle to peace talks with the NDFP. Another obstacle is the continued persecution, imprisonment, and killing of NDFP consultants and representatives, in violation of previous agreements. A just, liberating, and lasting peace cannot be achieved as long as the root causes of the armed conflict in the country are not addressed and resolved, and if the only goal is to crush, suppress, and subjugate all who wage resistance.

The Filipino people should reject Marcos' false and hollow peace. In the face of intensifying oppression, worsening forms of exploitation, and deepening crisis of the rotten semicolonial and semifeudal system, the Filipino people have no other choice but to take the path of struggle, especially the path of armed struggle. Armed struggle is the most powerful weapon of the people to defend their rights, lives, and livelihood. Without armed struggle, the US imperialism and ruling classes will unabatedly continue to oppress and exploit the people.

Despite the losses arising from its own weaknesses and amid the intense attacks of the AFP, the New People's Army is determined to continue the armed struggle, correct past weaknesses, and strengthen the revolutionary resistance. Under the leadership of the Party, the NPA and its mass base will continue to strengthen and expand throughout the country. The ground remains fertile for the armed struggle to advance and revitalize the guerrilla fronts, which will serve as bastions for the people's struggle for national and social liberation.





Vol. LVI No. 14 | July 21, 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.

Contents

Editorial: Reject false peace, persevere on the path of people's war 1

NPA-Mindoro mounts ambush 3

Peasant communities suffer continuous harassment 3

Protests 3

Dozens of "EDCA sites" 4

Hacienda Chiquita peasants face eviction 5

Ilocos Sur residents unite against dredging ops 6

In short 7

Renewable energy projects bring destruction 8


Resistance vs. oppressive and puppet Kenya state 9

Duterte camp delays ICC case hearing 10

Farmers demand ₱20 farmgate price for palay 10

Memorial week for India's martyrs 10

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

 ang.bayan@cpp.ph

NPA-Mindoro mounts ambush, 2 police officers killed

A NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command) ambush killed two police officers traversing Barangay Bagong Silang, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro in the afternoon of July 13. According to the people's army, this operation responds to the Mindoreños' call to hold the AFP-PNP accountable for its terrorist campaign in Central Oriental Mindoro towns.

The presence of the military and police in Victoria provides security for large-scale, destructive, and anti-people projects. These include seven quarrying sites in Victoria that the local government has approved. A large-scale mining operation is also set to enter Victoria as the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement of the Mindoro Nickel Project is revived.

These projects will devastate thousands of hectares of land that farmers and indigenous Mangyan communities depend on for their livelihoods. Police and military typically deploy forces in advance of destructive projects to suppress the people's efforts to defend their land and natural resources.

Peasant communities suffer continuous harassment

MILITARY AND POLICE forces continue to harass peasant communities in Cavite, Masbate, and Negros Occidental.

In Masbate, authorities arrested and filed rebellion charges against four civilians. Ronnie Ursal, Manlik Espinosa, and Melicio Malaras were apprehended on June 25 in Barangay Baras, Esperanza, while Vicente Colomna was arrested on June 11. Except for Colomna, the other three have been released. Meanwhile, nine barangays in the towns of Palanas and Dimasalang have been placed under *de facto* martial law since July 11.

In Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental, former surrenderers turned traitor-agents threatened to kill Jolibert and Rica Basilio unless they surrender and cooperate with the 94th IB. The threat took place on July 9 when the agents went to the couple's home in Sitio Cabagal, Barangay Buenavista. The incident terrorized not only the couple but also the entire community.

In Cavite, 2nd Civil Military Operation (CMO) Company and Task Force Ugnay personnel are preparing to encamp in Tartaria community in Silang, Cavite to suppress the persistent resistance of farmers and residents and to evict them out of the area.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) harassed Kapatid spokesperson Fides Lim after she filed complaints against the agency's illegal and inhumane policies. BuCor barred her from entering any detention facility under its jurisdiction. Lim actively gathers and provides humanitarian aid and fights for political prisoners' rights amid reported cases of abuse and neglect inside the New Bilibid Prison and other detention facilities.



Women protest against worsening hunger.

Using pots and pans, members of Gabriela, the Gabriela Women's Party, and Amihan banged on the gates of the Department of Agriculture on July 7 to protest the worsening hunger experienced by the people. They cited a recent survey by Social Weather Stations, which stated that one in every five Filipino families, or 27.2%, experiences "involuntary hunger" caused by poverty, violence, or environmental changes.

Public sector workers demand higher wages and job security.

Public sector employees, teachers and health workers collectively held a protest on July 11 in Quezon City to protest the Marcos regime and demand higher wages and job security. Their mass actions were mounted weeks before Ferdinand Marcos' fourth state of the nation address to emphasize their long-standing demands. They primarily call for the state to address the worsening quality of life employees face amid rising inflation.

Lagunenses oppose anew the Ahunan Dam construction.

More than a thousand residents of Pakil, Laguna, along with church groups, youth, farmers, fisherfolk, and environmental defenders, marched on July 5 to express strong opposition to the Ahunan Dam construction. From Saint Peter of Alcantara Parish Church, the rally marched to the office of Ahunan Power Inc., where they delivered a unity statement and expressed the people's outrage.

Fuji Electric Philippines workers win new CBA.

Through persistent efforts, the Lakas ng Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Fuji Electric Philippines Inc. (LNMFEP-OLALIA-KMU) won wage increases and other benefits under the new collective bargaining agreement. For three consecutive years, workers will receive a ₱50 wage increase, as well as allowances for food, rice, and other needs. The company is a semiconductor manufacturer based in Laguna.

Dozens of “EDCA sites” and planned military factories

Accelerated US preparations to use the Philippines as base for imperialist war

In the past two years, the US aggressively expanded its military presence and constructed strategic military infrastructure in the Philippines. In 2024, it deployed the Typhon Missile System in northern Luzon. This year, it deployed the NMESIS, MADIS, and other weapons of war.

Also this year, the US took over the naval facility in Oyster Bay, Palawan, ordered the construction of an ammunitions factory in Subic, and released initial funding for the construction of the Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas Railway. (See related article in AB, July 7, 2025.) All these comprise US preparations to turn the country into a large forward operating base for an imperialist war it is provoking against China.

The number of Philippine military bases which the US controls and utilizes is clearly more than the nine “agreed sites” under EDCA (Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement). Camouflaged by non-stop war games, the US has accelerated the construction of barracks, warehouses, and other infrastructure inside Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) camps to host the growing number of American troops, equipment, and vehicles that are now permanently stationed in and around the country.

In June, the US Congress approved \$1-5 billion in funding to “upgrade” the AFP’s naval dock in Oyster Bay. The US now uses the port for “freedom of navigation operations” and “joint patrols” in the South China Sea alongside Australia and Japan. Since 2020, the US has transformed the once-quiet fishing community into a key facility for its naval ships and drones to provoke Chinese vessels and heighten tensions in the South

China Sea. The AFP and US claim these patrols “defend Filipino fishers,” when in fact, it is the US and its massive ships that have deprived them of their livelihood in Oyster Bay and surrounding waters.

Reports in July also revealed that the US is building another naval base off the coast of Palawan, facing the municipality of Quezon. The location was reportedly chosen for its proximity to the Second Thomas Shoal, which has seen maritime friction between the Philippines and China. This base will house inflatable boats used in attacks and serve to supplement those already used by the Philippine military in its skir-

mishes with Chinese vessels. The US aims to activate the base in the first quarter of 2026.

Also this year, the US began laying the groundwork to use the Philippines as a large storage site for weapons and military equipment. This follows the 2025 Joint Vision Statement on Defense Industrial Cooperation signed by the Marcos regime and Donald Trump’s government last March. This allows the US to ensure the rapid and continuous supply of military goods in the event than an inter-imperialist war breaks out.

Under the guise of “collaboration” and “improving AFP defense capability,” the US will setup factories for ammunition, unmanned systems (drones), facilities to process “critical mineral” components for bombs, and “additive manufacturing” such as 3D printing in various parts of the country.

In May, the US deployed a 3D printer at Fort Magsaysay in Tarlac capable of producing small drones (called first-person view or FPV drones) suited to the terrain and climate of the Philippines. Such drones were used during the second phase of the Salaknib Exercises to “saturate with eyes” the forests and rural areas of Northern Luzon. The AFP’s 7th and 5th IB assisted in this activity. Even earlier, the AFP and the Marcos regime opened Aurora for US drone manufacturing in 2024.

The factories, machinery, and military hardware that the US will deploy in the Philippines will be directly operated by its military and by the agents of capitalists from the US military-industrial complex.



Peasants face eviction from Hacienda Chiquita in Negros Occidental

Peasants cultivating 21 and 79 hectares of land in Hacienda Chiquita in E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental are facing threats of eviction. The land was supposed to be distributed under the bogus Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER), but is again being taken away from them.

Since 1952, peasant families and residents have lived and farmed in Hacienda Chiquita, which spans Barangay Tuburan and Barangay Poblacion 1. The land grabbing will affect more than 120 farm workers, and threatens to displace 300 households or about 1,500 individuals.

In 2012, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) urged farmers to apply for CARPER to cover the 21-hectare land. With the help of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW), they submitted their documents, officially titling the land in 2019.

Landlord opposition and the slow processing of documents during the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the distribution of the land.

The Duterte regime also killed and suppressed peasant leaders and support groups.

Instead of proceeding, DAR cancelled the already awarded Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) in 2022, but informed the farmers only in 2023. They appealed the cancellation the following year.

While the appeal was being processed, road construction began in December 2024, destroying four of the 21 hectares of land.

Farmers fear this is a precursor to land-use conversion, a common tactic used to nullify CLOAs and stop land distribution. The land is also reportedly being prepared as a commercial center.

The adjacent 79-hectare land also faces threat of seizure. The dwindling of funds for CARPER under the Duterte and Marcos regimes slowed the progress of related cases and petitions. Authorities are now set to reclassify the land, to use it in a housing project for those displaced by coastal developments in nearby barangays.

On July 9, farmers held a protest at the E.B. Magalona market, near the DAR office, to assert their right to the land.

Marcos' bogus land reform

Agrarian reform and distribution has covered no new land under the Marcos regime. Of the 195,000 CLOAs distributed by the DAR between July 2022 and January 2025, 68% or 132,000 came from previously farmer-owned collective CLOAs that were parcelled under the World Bank's SPLIT program. SPLIT is used to subdivide large landholdings and subject them to market valuation for taxation, sale, and eventual land-use conversion.

Under the New Agrarian Emancipation Act (NAEA), Marcos claims to have "amnestied" CARP beneficiaries' unpaid amortization. In reality, it waived only a small percentage of old debts but did not include the beneficiaries' new debts incurred. It covered only 14% of its beneficiary target and just 6% of farmers. Moreover, NAEA did not eliminate the massive compensation mandated by CARP for landlords; instead, passing the burden onto the public. This year, the Court of Appeals ordered the government to pay a staggering ₱28 billion to the Aquino-Cojuangco family for Hacienda Luisita.

At its core, both SPLIT and NAEA are simply additions to the long list of schemes that allow landlords and hacenderos, plantations, and large foreign agribusiness, real estate, and other corporations to grab and monopolize land.



Ilocos Sur residents unite against destructive dredging operations

Ilocos Sur residents resolutely stood against the destructive dredging operations of Isla Verde Mining and Development Company (IVMDC) at the Abra River estuary and in parts of the West Philippine Sea covered by the province. They collectively held a fluvial protest on July 16 to demand an immediate halt to the operations, which are damaging the environment and their livelihoods. They are also gathering signatures for a petition to stop the dredging.

The dredging began in May 2024 under the pretext of preventing flood in Vigan City, Caoayan, and Santa. An agreement between IVMDC and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office authorized the operation in June 2022. The Department of Public Works and Highways and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau granted the permit.

As of December 2024, the company had already excavated over eight million cubic meters of material from the Banaoang River, an Abra River tributary. These material were transported to Pasay City for use in a reclamation project.

Declining livelihood

From the start of the dredging activities, residents of 12 barangays

in the towns of Santa and Caoayan complained about the noise, accelerated erosion of beach sand, and the declining fish catch. For over a year, large ships' loud noises drive the fish away causing a drop in fish catches in the area.

In the past, fisherfolk earned around ₱1,000 a day from selling their catch, now, they can barely catch even for their consumption. Fisherfolk report that fish caught near the shoreline smell and taste like gasoline.

Some fisherfolk have been forced to sail up to 30 miles offshore just to make a decent catch. Consequently, this raised their fuel expenses from ₱500 to ₱1,000-₱3,000 per day.

The catch of goby fry also fell drastically. From around 100 cans

(17 liters each) previously, they now can only fill about 30 cans. Supply shortages have caused market prices to rise as well.

Sinking communities

Instead of solving the flooding problem, more rapid beach erosion due to dredging now worry residents about increased flooding. This intensified flood threats especially in Barangay Dammay and in the island-barangays of Oribi and Puro. Their worries have doubled with the rainy and typhoon season approaching.

Marine and coastal geology expert Dr. Fernando Siringan revealed that the dredging operation is being conducted at the wrong location. He said some parts of the Banaoang River indeed need excavation, but not the area being dredged.

He explained that the ongoing activities disturb the unstable estuary and draw sediments from coastal areas into the dredged pits. This increases the risk of seawater intrusion into a number of barangays. The operation worsens the flooding instead of solving it.

He added that transporting the dredged sand and gravel to Pasay City is also wrong as these materials should instead be relocated to other parts of the river.

Residents reported that public consultations were not held before the dredging began. A forum was held only in Barangay Rancho in Santa in November 2024, when the project was already underway.

Amid these issues, residents led by Defend Ilocos Sur are calling for an immediate stop to the dredging operations, compensation for those who lost their livelihoods, public disclosure of related documents and scientific studies, and accountability for the company over the destruction and impacts of its operations on local communities.



HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS

(DECEMBER 10, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025)

180,074239

NUMBER OF VICTIMSNUMBER OF INCIDENTS

241917

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS
COERCION
ABDUCTION

71023

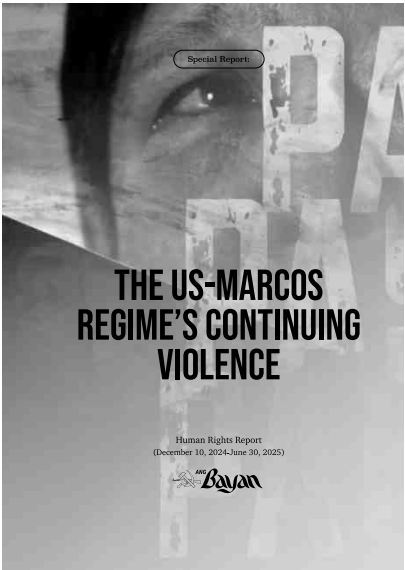
FRUSTRATED KILLING
PHYSICAL ASSAULT AND/OR INJURY
TORTURE

2,06073

FORCIBLE EVACUATION AND DISPLACEMENT
ARREST AND DETENTION

891

THREAT, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION



20% TARIFF

to be imposed on Philippine exports (excluding semiconductors, aluminum, and wiring), to the US, up from 17%. **US President Trump** uses tariffs to force countries into accepting his demands.



₱100/kilo ↓

current selling price of **tawilis**, down from ₱250/kilo, as consumers fear reports about the discovery of the bodies of "missing cockfighters" in Taal Lake.



112.73 MILLION

Philippine population as of July 1, 2024; 3.69 million higher than 2020. The 5-year growth rate of 0.8% is slower than the 1.63% during the 2015–2020 period.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

130

reported deaths of workers from January to June this year in various occupational safety-related incidents.

Source: Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development

₱154.51 BILLION

state revenue from online gambling in 2024, three times higher than the previous year. Total revenue increased by 465% in the third quarter of 2024 compared to 2023.

39%

of Filipinos gamble online, including the poorest sectors and minors. **Many of them are addicted to gambling.**

Renewable energy projects bring profit to capitalists, harm to people

In his first State of the Nation Address, Marcos declared his government would consider renewable energy (RE) a key sector for supposedly developing the country's economy. Since then, land grabbing and environmental destruction have aggressively and blatantly intensified to attract RE investors into the country. By 2024, up to 68% of foreign investments were channeled into RE projects.

The National Renewable Energy Program (NREP)'s goal is for RE to supply 50% of the Philippines' energy by 2040, purportedly to provide a "sustainable energy source." RE refers to energy coming from biomass (decomposition of organic material), solar, wind, geothermal (subterranean heat), and hydropower.

Marcos further streamlined and expedited the issuance of permits and licenses to foreign RE capitalist investors. In April, the Department of Energy granted permits for 1,319 RE projects, 39% or 517 of which are solar projects. Ilocos ranks fourth in the number of solar projects, with 53 projects. The state also targets to set up 46,000 hectares of solar farms by 2040.

Local big comprador bourgeoisie immediately took advantage of the opportunity to benefit from RE projects in the country. These include Manny Pangilinan's Solar

Philippines New Energy Corp. (SP-NEC), the Ayalas' AC Energy Corp. (ACEN), the Sy family's APC Group Inc./Philippine Geothermal Production Co., the Aboitiz company's Astra Solar Energy Corp., Ramon Ang's San Miguel Global Power Holdings, and the Lopez Group's Energy Development Corporation (EDC).

One of the most destructive RE projects is Meralco Terra Solar's 3,500-hectare solar farm (larger than the entire land area of Makati City and Mandaluyong combined) located in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija. It will become the world's largest solar and battery facility. It is owned by SPNEC and Actis, a UK-based company.

The Laguna Lake Floating Solar Project will cover 2,000 hectares of the lake across parts of Calamba, Santa Rosa, Cabuyao, Bay, and Victoria. The project is owned by ACEN and companies from Singa-

pore and the UK.

Among the biggest offshore and onshore wind farms to be built is in San Miguel Bay, Camarines Sur, which will cover 23,307 hectares of San Miguel's municipal waters. It will have a capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW) and is owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure New Market Fund Corp., a company from Denmark, and ACEN, which holds a 25% stake. Also to be built is the 1,200 MW Guimaras Strait OSWF between Panay and Negros, owned by companies from Switzerland and Liechtenstein. ACEN also plans to construct the 2,510 MW Quezon North Wind Farm in Real, Quezon, and the 625-hectare North Luzon Renewable Wind Farm in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

The government has approved 99 hydropower projects in the Cordillera with a total capacity of 4,000 MW. An Australian company owns four of these projects. Three geothermal power plants are also set for development in the region, expected to generate a combined 300 MW of electricity. These are the Buguias-Tinoc GPP owned by EDC, and the Kalinga GPP and Mainit-Sadanga GPP, both owned by APC.

The reactionary state uses the pretext of "addressing the climate crisis" to push multi-billion peso RE projects. In reality, these weaken the country's ability to face climate change-related catastrophes due to the rampant environmental destruction that setting up these facilities require.

Worse, tens of thousands of farmers, fishers, and indigenous people will lose their livelihoods and homes, while destroying thousands of hectares of agricultural land, ocean, and forest in the name of clean energy monopolized by foreign and local comprador bourgeoisie.



Outrage and resistance against Kenya's oppressive and puppet state

In June, outrage and protest flared up anew in Kenya against the government's anti-people tax proposal and its subservience. On June 25, thousands of Kenyans stormed the streets of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisii, and other cities to commemorate last year's protests. The police's violent dispersal killed at least 16 people and injured more than 400.

On July 7, police broke up demonstrations commemorating the 35th anniversary of “Saba Saba” or “seven seven” in the Kiswahili language, killing 38 protesters, injuring 107, and arresting more than 500. On this day in 1990, a massive rally took place that pushed the then president of Kenya to change the system of governance. People used the occasion to demand the ouster of current president William Ruto.

The protests gained momentum in 2024 against the Finance Bill, a proposal that imposes heavy taxes on basic goods and services, eliminate subsidies, and cut the budget for social services. The International Monetary Fund dictated this proposal as a condition for lending.

Its goal was to increase government revenue to ensure re-

payment of debt, which stood at \$76.6 billion in April—equivalent to 75% of Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP). The proposal was withdrawn last year but not completely scrapped. Instead, Ruto cunningly pushed through piecemeal parts of the bill in parliament.

For many Kenyans, the Finance Bill reflects the Ruto regime's neo-colonial and neoliberal line. Workers and the poor sectors of Kenyan society will certainly bear the burden of these heavy taxes. They know these cannot be endured by ordinary citizens who are already mired in poverty, lacking formal jobs, and facing persistently high prices of commodities and services. They condemned Ruto's subservience to imperialist institutions' dictates.

The protests expanded into a movement calling for Ruto's ouster following a series of violent dispersals, mass arrests, rising cases of ab-

ductions and enforced disappearances of protest leaders, and killings.

Alongside the severe economic crisis lies the political crisis of the ruling class. Former deputy president Rigathi Gachagua now actively challenges Ruto's power. Gachagua was impeached in 2024 for constitutional violations, promoting ethnic division, and undermining government authority.

Condition of Kenyan society and people

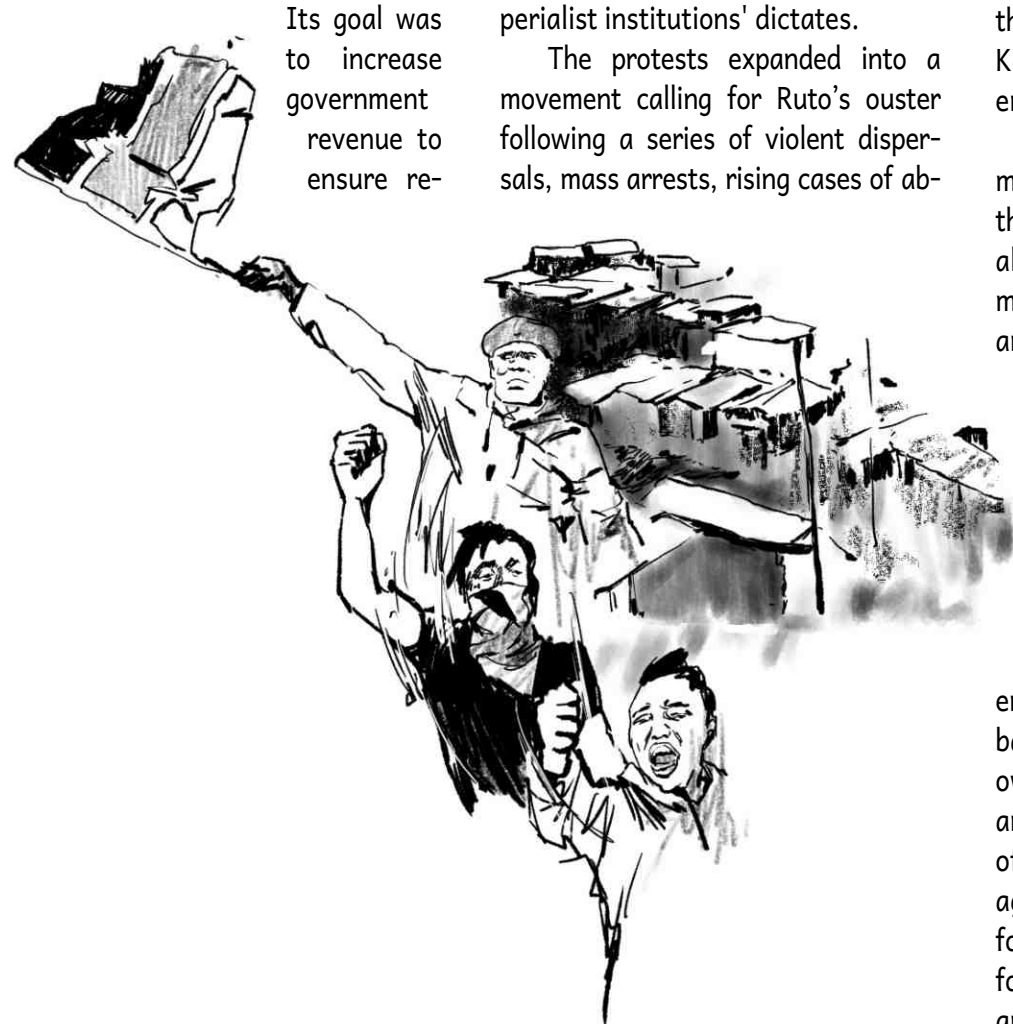
Kenyan society remains pre-industrial and agrarian. Its agriculture relies on small and fragmented production. Agriculture accounts for up to 37% of GDP and 40% of total employment. Industry remains limited, with manufacturing comprising only 8% of GDP.

The country has faced a severe employment crisis in recent years. In 2022, the unemployment rate reached 13.9%, affecting the youth the most. An estimated 67% of Kenyan youth aged 15 to 34 are unemployed.

Meanwhile, 80% of jobs—over 17 million out of 20 million total—are in the informal sector. In 2024, 90% of all newly created jobs were informal, mostly in small-scale retail trade and small-scale manufacturing.

The Kenyan worker's wages remain pegged at \$177/month (₱6,680), while daily living wages for a family of five stands at \$138 (₱7,880) in rural areas and \$299 (₱17,000) in urban areas.

Outside the cities, Kenyan farmers face landlessness, small plots, backward production, unequal land ownership between men and women, and widespread poverty. About 50% of the country's land is classified as agricultural, but only 20% is suitable for farming. Another 20-30% is used for export crops such as tea, coffee, and flowers.



Duterte camp delays ICC case hearing

Former president Rodrigo Duterte's camp submitted a series of petitions to delay hearings of his crimes against humanity before Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The most recent was a petition for an "urgent status conference" filed on June 17 to question the schedule of Duterte's court appearance on September 23. The petition cited reasons of alleged "delays" or hindrances in the prosecution's preparations.

The court had already rejected other "delaying tactics" used by Duterte's lawyers. One of these was a petition to disqualify two judges handling his case. On July 3, the ICC plenary rejected their request to remove Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera and Judge Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-Gansou from Pre-Trial Chamber I.

According to the ICC, Duterte's camp had no basis to allege that the judges were biased because of their previous involvement in decisions related to the court's jurisdiction over the case. The ICC clarified that the judges' duties include revisiting legal issues as the case progresses, and that this does not mean they are biased.

Duterte's lawyers filed two more petitions intended to stall the proceedings. The first questioned the court's jurisdiction over Duterte because the Philippines is no longer an ICC member, and the second requested his interim release. The court has yet to issue a ruling on both petitions. In the case of interim release, the victims, their lawyers, and the ICC prosecution strongly opposed it.

Meanwhile, the case continues to move forward in court. On July 1, the prosecution submitted the 11th set of evidence against the former president, including more than 1,000 documents covering the killings committed from his time as mayor of Davao City up to his presidential term.



Nueva Ecija farmers demand ₱20 farmgate price for fresh palay

FARMERS IN BARANGAY Bantud, San Roque, and other barangays in Guimba, Nueva Ecija filed a petition this July calling for minimum farmgate price of fresh palay to be pegged at ₱20 per kilo. They explained that production costs reach ₱14 per kilo, yet traders only buy the palay for ₱10-12. At the height of harvest season, some traders have even dropped the price to as low as ₱5 per kilo.

Farmers have no drying facilities and no trucks to transport their harvest to the National Food Authority. The agency lacks funding to provide meaningful support. This forces the farmers to accept the exploitative prices traders offer.

Nueva Ecija, particularly Guimba, ranks among the largest rice producers. In data from the first quarter of 2023, the province produced 345,547 metric tons (MT) of palay. This accounts for 39.8% of the total palay production in Central Luzon. The region, in turn, comprises 18.1% of the national palay output.

In June, the NFA established a ₱63.9 million Rice Processing System (RPS) II Facility in Muñoz City. The facility lies more than 19 kilometers from San Roque and can serve up to 6,000 farmers. An estimated 7,500-15,000 farmers operate in Guimba alone.

In addition to the ₱20 purchase price, the farmers also called for the repeal of the Rice Liberalization Law (RLL) or RA 11203, saying that the law pushes the government to rely on foreign agricultural imports to meet Filipinos' needs.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) strongly supported the farmers' demand in Guimba.

The group stated that traders are using the influx of imported rice in the market to further lower the price of local palay. Under these conditions, palay farmers incur losses and sink deeper into debt. Only traders and importers profit from this setup.

Memorial week for India's martyrs

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines (CPP) expressed solidarity with the Communist Party of India (Maoist) for their upcoming Martyrs Memorial Week from July 28 to August 3. Those receiving honors during the week include martyred CPI (Maoist) secretary general Comrade Basavaraju (Nambala Keshava Rao).

According to the CPP, the heroes of the Indian people are also heroes of the Filipino masses because they gave their lives in the struggle for national and social liberation. In both India and the Philippines, the CPP believes that a growing number of workers, peasants, and oppressed classes will take the revolutionary path in continuing the cause of their martyrs.

The CPP urged all revolutionary forces in the Philippines to express solidarity and participate in the Memorial Week.