

EDITORIAL

Strike protest blows on corruption of the US-Marcos regime

Marcos last year boasted that his government had completed over 5,500 flood control projects as solution to widespread flooding. However, shamed by repeated worse flooding, Marcos washed his hands and said "shame on you" while pointing fingers to the contractors of these multi-billion peso projects and their political accomplices.

Marcos evades responsibility, despite having prepared and signed the budget that allocated enormous funds for these milking cow flood control projects. Almost half a trillion pesos were allocated for these anomalous projects over the past two years, 60.7% more than 2022-2023. Like Marcos, political allies and rivals, are also washing their hands. They point fingers at each other. Directly or indirectly, senators and congressmen, officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Budget and Management, various government agencies, and Malacañang itself, are involved in these anomalies.

In recent weeks, gross irregularities in these projects have been exposed, with many left unfinished, made below standards, or non-existent despite release of funds. Corrupt bureaucrats and contractors are revealed to have embezzled billions upon billions of pesos.

People are again made aware how they amass billions of pesos from public projects, in the form of bribes, kickbacks, or commissions. It is believed that up to 60% of a project's value is pocketed by reactionary government officials at various levels. Since the Marcos dictatorship, it has been the practice that up to 10% of these projects' funds are siphoned off to

Malacañang in exchange for government favors and protection.

Marcos' list of the largest contractors in the Philippines is comparable to Duterte's "drug list" that was touted as a way to crack down on drug lords, but in reality, it was used to make them bow and seek protection. The current salvo against contractors, politicians, and corrupt officials by Marcos is a charade of government cleansing, with the true intention of controlling and monopolizing state corruption.

We must understand that many of the flood control projects, particularly the largest ones that involve building concrete walls along riverbanks, are not solutions, but rather causes of more severe flooding. Instead of addressing the root causes of river siltation (such as logging, mining, quarrying, and other destructive activities), these projects merely shift flooding to lower-lying areas and make water surge more powerful and destructive.

The truth is that these large-scale flood control projects have nothing to do with solving flooding. They are simply the latest "favorites" among infrastructure projects that line the pockets of bureaucratic capitalists and dummy contractors. These projects



began to proliferate during Duterte's time (with nearly 14,000 projects). Before flood control projects, their "favorite" projects were highways, flyovers, bridges, airports, ports, and crossings. People's funds are squandered in these projects instead of being invested in productive sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing.

Increasing funds squandered on unproductive infrastructure projects are part of the priorities pushed by imperialist financial agencies, such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Co-operation Agency, and others. Under Marcos, fund for infrastructure has ballooned from ₱2.5 trillion in 2022-2023 to ₱3.07 trillion in 2024-2025, a large part of which is to match foreign grants. Marcos and bureaucratic capitalists serve as agents of these foreign imperialist banks.

Bureaucratic capitalists are obsessed with

"infrastructure projects" because of the speed at which they can accumulate vast amounts of wealth from them. Military officials and NTF-Elcac are also hooked on these projects. A large part of public funds is allocated to building military camps and "beautifying" them, as well as billions of pesos in anomalous and meaningless projects under the so-called "Barangay Development Program."

Corruption or plunder of the

public funds is a fundamental aspect of bureaucratic capitalism. Bureaucratic capitalists and their accomplices accumulate enormous wealth using state power. They are allied with big bourgeois compradors and landlords comprising the political dynasties, and use the state's armed forces to suppress the people's resistance.


The masses bear the brunt of corruption of bureaucratic capitalists, their lackeys, and accomplices in government anomalies. They float on wealth, while the masses drown in a sea of hardship and hunger. While they sleep soundly in their mansions and ride in luxurious cars, millions of poor people live in fear of the raging floods that come with every rain.

The people's anger is deep, intense, and justified. Their hatred for Marcos, the number one plunderer of the public funds, is greatest. The gatherings, declarations, and protests in recent days reflect the overflowing anger against Marcos and bureaucratic capitalism.

They demand to hold Marcos and his lackeys and accomplices accountable for their wealth and power. Knowing that nothing will come of congressional investigations or Malacañang's actions, it is only right that they carry out even bigger street protests to express the outrage of the broad masses of the people in various ways.

The people must be aroused, organized, and mobilized to fight and end the oppressive semicolonial and semifeudal system, and the reactionary rule of bureaucratic capitalists, big bourgeois compradors, and landlords. The people's aspirations for social justice, genuine democracy, and freedom can only be achieved through revolutionary armed struggle.



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Victorious NPA ambushes in Bicol and Negros

A UNIT OF the New People's Army (NPA)-Albay (Santos Binamera Command) ambushed the 49th IB's 16-man squad operating in Barangay Palapas, Ligao City, Albay on August 21. At least three fascist soldiers were killed and one more was reported wounded in the ambush..

NPA-Albay reported that the 49th IB troopers attempted to approach and raid the people's army encampment. It said that the masses monitored the movements of the fascist troops, which enabled the people's army unit to immediately and decisively conduct a preemptive strike.

In Negros Occidental, the NPA-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) ambushed the 94th IB troopers and CAFGU who were operating in Sityo Balao, Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City on September 4. Three fascist soldiers were wounded.

Active defense. In Aurora, an NPA-Aurora (Domingo Erlano Command) unit active defense wounded a 91st IB soldier on the afternoon of August 21 in Sitio Aguses, Barangay Matawe, Dingalan. The 91st IB has been conducting focused and sustained military operations in Dingalan and nearby towns for three months.

In the past weeks, NPA units carried out successive armed actions and active defense against Armed Forces of the Philippines attacking troops. Aside from Albay and Aurora, these took place in Masbate, Oriental Mindoro, Quezon, and Capiz.

These series of battles refute Ferdinand Marcos Jr's July statement that "no guerrilla groups remain" in the country.

People hold Marcos, corrupt contractors accountable

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS HELD successive protests against the Marcos regime and contractors involved in corruption and anomalies in flood control projects and other infrastructure. The mass actions took place on September 4 and September 5 under Bayan's leadership. On September 7, an anti-corruption protest-run with more than 1,000 participants was held at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

On September 4, environmental groups and disaster victims stormed the office of St. Gerrard Construction in Pasig City, owned by the Discayas, one of the contractors implicated in corruption, especially in shabby flood control projects. They hurled mud at the company's logo and gate to express their outrage.

On the same day, members of Anakbayan stormed the DPWH national office in Manila. Simultaneously, KYUSI 4 Truth and Accountability held a protest in Quezon City, while Bayan-National Capital Region and ONE Taft protested along Pedro Gil. In Marikina City, women led by the Gabriela Women's Party also staged a protest.

On September 5, groups stormed the House of Representatives in Quezon City to condemn the DPWH and Marcos. They timed the action with the budget hearing of the department. Bayan-Central Visayas also led a protest in front of the DPWH Region 7 office in Cebu City. In Pampanga and Bulacan, Bayan-Central Luzon staged protests in the past week.



Abusive Negros prison warden removed. On August 28, the abusive warden of the Negros Occidental District Jail-Male Dormitory, Atty. Crisyrel P. Awe, was removed after a 4-day protest by around 600 inmates, including political prisoners. The action responded to numerous rights violations inside the prison led by Awe. The grounds for replacing Awe included cases of harassment and intimidation against prisoner leaders, failure to fulfill previous agreements, and other unjust practices. Prisoners' families also held a support picket outside the prison.

Surface the disappeared! Desaparecidos Philippines and human rights groups protested in Manila on August 30 to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. They called for the surfacing of all those abducted and forcibly disappeared by Philippine state forces. Under the Marcos regime, there are already 15 victims of enforced disappearance. Similar protests were launched in the cities of Baguio, Iloilo, and Cebu, as well as in Los Baños, Laguna.

Migrants in the US unite. Around 850 migrants in the US, including Filipinos, protested in Tacoma, Washington to demand an end to the inhumane treatment of detainees in ICE facilities, the persecution of migrants, and unjust deportations. The action followed a conference that united 100 organizations from the US and other countries under the Defend Migrants Alliance.

Correspondent:

PKM establishes chapter amid military operations in Negros

The Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, and the entire revolutionary movement in Negros remain determined to strengthen their area's mass base. They exert their full strength, courage, and resolve to carry out mass work, guided by the rectification movement, amid relentless military operations in the guerrilla front.

Throughout almost the entire month of August, the AFP and SAF-PNP intensified and expanded their military operations in the mountains of one guerrilla front in Negros. They deployed more than 600-700 forces in 32 columns (9-12 elements each) of fascist troops from five military battalions and one police battalion. Meanwhile, CAFGU elements are on alert in detachments and patrol bases in case of clashes between the military and NPA units.

The massive enemy presence aims to suppress the mass base, encircle, and crush the people's army units and the entire revolutionary movement within the guerrilla front.

The AFP and PNP use surrendered traitors from the mass movement and the revolution. These traitors serve as guides to scour the area, unleash terror, and force civilians to surrender. They accompany soldiers in surveillance, taking pictures of houses and individuals they suspect as NPA supporters under the guise of a census. While agents and soldiers comb the communities, other soldiers are positioned at elevated and strategic terrain. These act as a blocking force at interior passageways and routes to adjacent barrios.

Strengthening the mass base

Amid all this, solid mass organizations were reestablished in Marcia, a village within the scope of the overall military operation. Majority of residents here are from the basic



masses. Most of them are tenants of landlords who are not barangay residents.

Life for farmers in Marcia is difficult. They are victims of feudal and semi-feudal exploitation. The crop-sharing system takes a third of their harvest. The daily rate for wage earners is ₱300, while the piece-rate system pays ₱500. Piece-rate labor is more common than daily wages. To supplement income, farmers also raise livestock for sale.

CAFGU detachments and AFP patrol bases are positioned near the village. In recent years, the village endured severe militarization, where soldiers committed heinous military abuses and war crimes.

In response, the residents of Marcia unite closely to hurdle the problems they face in the economic, political, cultural and military spheres. Hundreds of families, numbering more than 2,000 individuals, are organized into chapters of Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM), Makibaka, and Kabataang Makabayan (KM). Nearly a platoon of people's militia has been mobilized for defense, with defense unit teams organized in every sitio, and a leading local Party branch in the village.

Establishing the chapter

An assembly was recently held to reestablish the village's PKM chapter. A security orientation opened the activity. The army commander praised the courage of the masses who pushed through with the mass meeting despite military forces operating only three kilometers away from their position.

Spearheaded by the army's political instructor, they systematically discussed in the mass meeting the prepared documents summarizing their mass work in the area—its history, the latest results of social investigation, the subjective situation, structure and responsibilities, the one-year program, and the revolutionary mass organization's policies. They focused on the barrio's revolutionary history. Prominent in the discussion was about the unity of the entire movement since the 1960s during the time of KM, in the 1970s under Marcos Sr's martial law, and the people's army's arrival and mass work in the village up to the present.

The Party, NPA units, and key mass leaders in the village conducted a series of consultation meetings prior to the activity. They created a comprehensive plan based on the overall plan of the front

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4 activists and farmers illegally arrested

Cases of human rights violations, including three arrests, one case of indiscriminate bombing, and cases of surveillance and harassment, were reported in the past two weeks.

In Southern Leyte, state forces arrested 61-year-old Piston member Felixberto Consad in Butuan City, at his house in Sogod on August 14. He was charged with murder and brought to the Sogod Police Station. Consad has been living in Southern Leyte to avoid military harassment.

In Rizal, two residents of Sitio Rawang, Barangay Tandang Kutyo, Tanay were arrested on August 29. They were arrested for standing with their community against the land grabbing by the Chua-Tan family and Sta. Lucia Corporation in the area.

In Camarines Norte, 16th IB soldiers abducted peasant organizer Faye Margarette Tallow in Barangay Malibago, Labo on September 4. The military raided the house where Tallow was staying and abducted her. The military has yet to surface her.

In Cavite, the 2nd CMO Battalion filed fabricated charges against Jojo Mercado, Miriam Villanueva, and other residents of Purok 5, Barangay Langkaan 1, Dasmariñas for driving soldiers away from the community. This action was related to their refusal to sell items from their store to the battalion members.

Bombing. Powerful bombs, cannon fire, and strafing of AFP units disturbed the peace and rest hours of residents of Tapaz, Capiz at 2:30 a.m. on August 22. The incident terrorized and forced several families to evacuate their community.

Surveillance. A police officer spoke with and spied on members of Pamalakaya-Navotas in the last week of August. The police agent, who introduced himself as a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources personnel, asked for information and offered money in exchange for details about the group. To expose the surveillance, the group confronted the police officer on August 31 at a restaurant. AB

From page 5

committee and section committee, and on the enemy's actual movements. Within a week, they identified the tasks and requirements for carrying out the plan, including summing-up, investigation, and planning. An initial meeting was conducted to discuss drafts and study the prepared documents. They launched a campaign to unite the entire organized masses around these documents alongside the campaign for the study of the Revolution (the Party's theoretical journal). They also launched a campaign to review the revolutionary guide to agrarian reform, a basic document of the CPP.

Second part: Rectification movement and the establishment of the mass organization. AB



Workers oppose Wyeth layoffs. The Wyeth Philippines Progressive Workers Union (WPPWU-DFA-KMU) denounced the company's "cluster crew" scheme for the factory operations. According to the union, this scheme is labor flexibilization that will increase workers' workload, transfer them to other production sections, and possibly result in layoffs.

The plan to implement the "cluster crew" emerged while WPPWU representatives and Wyeth management were negotiating a new CBA that began in June. The union is pushing for a ₱15,000 wage increase over three years, additional benefits, and the regularization of contractual workers.

Kawasaki strike's 100th day. Members of the Kawasaki United Labor Union (KULU) gathered on August 29 to mark the 100th day of their strike that began in May after a deadlock in CBA negotiations. They held a program in front of the Kawasaki Motors Phils Corporation (KMPC) headquarters in Muntinlupa City. Kilusang Mayo Uno and its unions joined the program.

Dismissed Nexperia workers reinstated. After months of persistence and a case filed at Dole, the Nexperia Philippines Inc. Workers Union (NPIWU-NAFLU-KMU) on August 18 won the reinstatement of two workers and union leaders dismissed illegally by the capitalist. The decision stipulated that the two must return to their previous positions, retain their seniority rights, and receive all unpaid wages and benefits from March 10 until their reinstatement. The two, along with two other union officials, were dismissed in December 2024 on accusations of "blocking" the entry and exit of company products.

Advancing the Filipino youths' patriotic and democratic struggle

Carrying placards, flags, and megaphones, the Filipino youth vigorously advance their patriotic and democratic struggle amid the intensified attacks of the Marcos regime and the National Task Force-Elcac. They refuse to be silenced and reject becoming debilitated or subservient to the state's fascist dictates.

In recent weeks, the youth spearheaded and joined various activities to expose and denounce the Marcos regime's anti-people policies. Inside and outside schools, they participate in the people's struggles.

Actions in universities

Hundreds of youth-students joined demonstrations and activities in private and public universities to mark the opening of classes last month. They highlighted in the mobilizations the issue of education, the defense of their democratic rights, and the fight against the suppression of academic freedom.

More than 1,300 youth protested at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Sta. Mesa on September 2 to start the new academic year. At the University of the Philippines (UP)-Los Baños, around 500 students mobilized on August 12. Hundreds also joined rallies in other UP campuses from Baguio, to Diliman, to Visayas and Mindanao.

Actions also took place at the Technological University of the Philippines Manila, Cavite State University, Southern Luzon State University in Quezon, Bicol University, and Western Visayas State University in Iloilo.

After several years, the Association of Students in Kalinga, an organization in Kalinga State University (KSU), gathered again on August 30 in Tabuk City. The group was previously

recognized by the university but ceased when it was red-tagged by the NTF-Elcac and AFP in 2021.

In private schools, activities were held by the youth at Saint Louis University in Baguio City, Adamson University, Ateneo de Manila University, and De La Salle University and other institutions. They did not yield to the administration's suppression, the threat of suspension, and other sanctions.

Beyond the campus

The youth do not confine themselves to campus issues. They militantly march in the streets with workers and urban poor, and they go to the countryside to unite with the peasant masses and national minorities.

The youth now join the people's denouncement over anomalous and corruption-ridden flood control and infrastructure projects. They stormed and hurled mud and rotten vegetables at the offices of contractors and the Department of Public

Works and Highways, and demanded accountability from the Marcos regime.

They stood with residents of Smokey Mountain and Malara in Tondo against demolition. They continue to support the struggle of workers and unions at Nexperia, the strike at Kawasaki, and they went to picket lines.

They overcome the fear and terror sown by the military in the countryside by joining fact-finding missions in Mindoro and Quezon. They use social media to expose to the public the growing cases of human rights violations in the countryside.

Even Filipino youth overseas return to the Philippines to join the people's struggle. In recent months, dozens of youth from the US visited the Philippines to learn from the struggles of various sectors.

The youth ignore the NTF-Elcac's tired ploy of labeling the sector's activities as "terror grooming." The Filipino youth now boldly take up the crucial task of arousing, organizing, and mobilizing the toiling masses. They remould themselves and shoulder sacrifices as the inheritors of the Filipino people's struggle.

AB



Australian troop basing in the Philippines, a US strategy

Australia launched successive war games in the Philippines in the past months. These align with the strategic defense plan of maintaining US hegemony in the Asia-Pacific, where Australia holds a large advantage.

These war games include Alon 2025, conducted on land and sea in Palawan, Mindoro, and other parts of Luzon. In this war game, Australia deployed the largest number of soldiers to Southeast Asia since its intervention in East Timor in 1999. Prior to this, Australia launched Kasangga 2025, a counterinsurgency training at Camp Kibaritan in Bukidnon.

Australia also recently pushed for building its own bases in the Philippines to host its growing number of troops and matériel in the country. On August 22, defense officials of

Australia and the Philippines signed the Statement of Intent for Enhanced Defense Cooperation to pave the way for this goal. The agreement will be finalized in 2026.

This agreement will allow Australia to permanently preposition troops in the Philippines, launch large war games, and invest in “defense infrastructure” or military bases. This agreement will resemble the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between the Philippines and the US, which tramples on the country’s sovereignty and binds it to armed conflicts stoked by the US.

Australia’s troops, vehicles, and war matériel will augment the already massive US military machinery spread across the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the US directed the AFP to open another naval base in Mahatao, Batanes this September. The base is part of the network of forward operating bases the US is building on the islands of Batanes (another is located on Mavulis Island) for their proximity to Taiwan.

In related news, the Marcos regime was exposed for opening Camp Cape Bojeador in Burgos, Ilocos Norte as a US ammunition depot. These latest steps further drag the Philippines deeper into the escalating US conflict against China. AB

People oppose mining plan in Nueva Vizcaya and Benguet

THE PEOPLE OF Dupax Del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya condemned the mining plan in their community. On August 4, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau granted United Kingdom-based company Woggle Corporation an exploration permit for minerals that can be extracted from the town. The company plans to occupy 3,102 hectares of land covering five barangays or 10% of the total land area of the said town.

The barangay of Oyao immediately issued a resolution against mining, and the municipal council ordered the cancellation of the ongoing mining exploration. The Bayombong Diocese issued a statement of condemnation. The residents launched a signature campaign.

Meanwhile, the community of Barangay Bulalacao, Mankayan, Benguet is calling for the cancellation of the permit granted to Crescent Mining Development Corporation (CMDC) for the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, which was reissued to the company despite failure to obtain a free, prior and informed consent from the indigenous people and a certificate of precondition, as mandated by the reactionary law.

The project covers 534 hectares of ancestral land, with an additional 300 hectares in the same area also awarded to the company. The operation threatens more than 600 families who depend on farming in the ancestral land. CMDC is owned by Asean Copper, 40% of which is owned by an Australian company.

Tribute and honor for the August martyrs in Panay

ON THE OCCASION of the first anniversary of the August Martyrs of Panay, the Communist Party of the Philippines Regional Committee in Panay recounted their lives. The revolutionary movement launched various activities throughout August and specifically marked August 26 as the Panay Martyrs' Day.

The August Martyrs in Panay are the 11 Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA)-Panay (Coronacion Waling-Waling Chiva Command) and Party leaders and cadres who were martyred in August 2024.

Almost a year later, the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Panay reported that the military captured, tortured, and willfully killed 10 of the martyrs, an outright violation of international humanitarian law.

To pay tribute to all the martyrs of the island, NPA-Panay units launched a solemn 21-gun salute. Kabataang Makabayan-Panay, Katipunan ng mga Samahang Mangagawa-Panay, and other revolutionary mass organizations also gathered to give honor.

40%

only of the **budget for infrastructure** construction actually goes to implement projects, while the rest are pocketed by bureaucrat capitalists (from Malacañang to the local government) and their contractor lackeys.

121 milimetro

of rain poured in merely one hour in **Quezon City** on August 30, 2025, flooding even areas that had no prior flooding experience.



7

large warships were aimed by the US in the waters of **Venezuela** to threaten the Maduro regime with invasion, using fabricated accusations that the country is involved in the illegal narcotics trade.



50

ships under the **Global Sumud Flotilla** sailed to Gaza this September aiming to deliver food and other necessities to victims of Israel's genocide in Gaza. Citizens from 44 countries, including the Philippines, joined the flotilla.

40+

luxury cars were flaunted by the **Discaya** family, one of the families owning 9 companies involved in plundering funds from flood control projects.

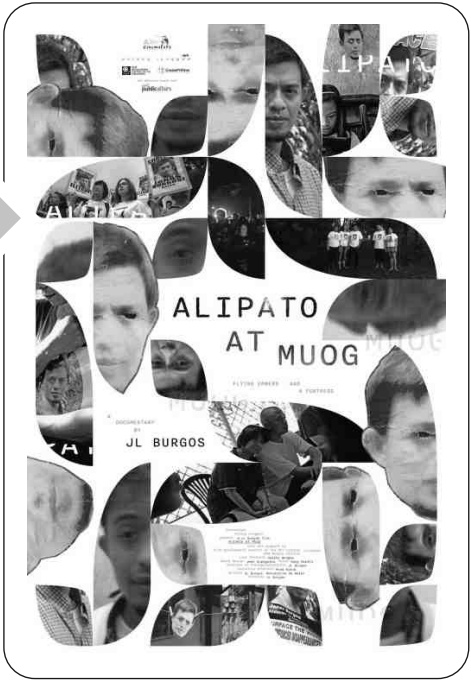
500

teenage girls give birth every day in the country. More than half of pregnancies result from rape committed by fathers, uncles, or male relatives.

Source: Philippine Commission on Population

Alipato at Muog

film about the AFP's abduction and enforced disappearance of activist **Jonas Burgos** won Best Picture at the recent Famas Awards. JL Burgos, Jonas's brother, also won Best Director for this film.



4,567

hectares of forest will be destroyed by the **Banahaw Wind Power Project** of GigaWind4 Inc, a subsidiary of ACEN Corporation of the Ayala Group, at the boundary of Sariaya, Quezon and 10 barangays of Tayabas City.

Source: Save Bundok Banahaw Network

Expansion of commercial plantations threatens the country's natural resources

Ferdinand Marcos Jr boasts that the climate crisis is one of the main issues that his regime addresses. Masquerading as pro-environment, his regime implemented various fake reforestation projects through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). These projects include the Expanded National Greening Program, “PagbaBAGo: A Million Learners and Trees,” Green Samar Reforestation Project, and “Forests for Life: 5M Trees by 2028,” which was launched on March 21. These reforestation projects actually aim to open the remaining forests and frontiers for the “legal” entry of huge foreign businesses to seize and convert vast forests into plantations.

Forests are being extensively destroyed to prepare the land for tree plantations. Falcata and bamboo are typically planted in plantations and reforestation projects for their rapid growth. Although naturally found in the Philippines, falcata and bamboo damage the biodiversity and the ecosystem when planted in areas where they are not endemic. The establishment of plantations displaces and kills many plants, animals, and insects. The soil quality also weakens, making it prone to erosion. Springs and streams dry up. Planted in numbers and “foreign” to the area, the trees compete with other plants and trees for mineral nutrients.

Expansion of tree plantations

In 2021, the DENR encouraged the establishment of bamboo plantations to develop its industry in the country. The Southern Philippines Development Authority granted American company EcoPlanet Bamboo an initial 8,369 hectares in Lanao del Sur to set up bamboo plantations for export. The company CS First Green-Agri-Industrial Corp. manages 30,000 hectares of bamboo plantations in Pangasinan. Kilambay Plantation Corp. also plans to expand its plantations to 25,000 hectares in Mindanao, in addition to 3,000 hectares of plantations it owns in Carmen, Cotabato. The Department of Agriculture also targets expanding bamboo plantations to 42,000 hectares by 2030. Meanwhile, falcata is the country’s most exported wood type, mostly going to China, Japan, and the

US. It is mainly used in making paper, plywood, pulpwood, veneer, and furniture. Exporters favor falcata for its rapid growth. It is ready for harvest after 3 to 10 years, depending on the wood quality desired. The largest plantation of falcata is in Davao Oriental, covering an area of 1,200 hectares. Most plantations, however, are in the CARAGA region, totaling 20,404 hectares. In July, Misamis University and the DENR announced a plan to establish a three-hectare falcata plantation in Barangay Capucan, Ozamis City. The plantation intends to grow 2,400 high-quality falcata trees and propagate their seeds for farms and plantations in Region 10 and other provinces in Mindanao. A 10-year-old falcata tree costs more than ₱12,000.

Behind the guise of “reforestation,” the US-Marcos regime deceives the people into thinking that commercial plantations such as for bamboo are eco-friendly and respond to the country’s climate crisis. In reality, instead of restoring and nourishing the natural forest ecosystem, the establishment of plantations further destroys the environment. Enormous profits, not environmental protection, are the true goal of these tree plantations.

Marcos uses the military and police forces to serve as capitalists’ guards and defenders. Countless indigenous people and farmers have been displaced, had their lands seized, were harassed, abducted, charged with fabricated cases, and willfully killed by butchers in the name of capitalist interests and massive profits.



Protests surge against Prabowo-Gibran fascist regime in Indonesia

Indonesian people's protests against the anti-people policies of the country's president, Prabowo Subianto, and his vice president, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, erupted again in August. Their outrage intensified after a police vehicle ran over and killed delivery rider Affan Kurniawan on August 28. From the capital in Jakarta, the protests spread to 32 provinces and the cities of Bandung, Surabaya, Malang, Solo, Yogyakarta, Medan, and Makassar.

In the latest round of protests, people expressed their extreme outrage by burning public buildings, facilities, and vehicles, and by looting the houses of corrupt officials and politicians. The Prabowo-Gibran regime suppressed the protests with tear gas, water cannons, and rubber bullets. The regime placed streets and communities under conditions similar to martial law and ordered the police to arrest and shoot demonstrators.

State forces killed up to 10 people from August 25 to September 2, arrested 1,241 (including those declared missing), and seriously injured 800.

The protests sparked from anger over the regime granting parliament members monthly housing allowances 20 times higher than workers' minimum wages. This comes on top of their salaries amounting to 100 million rupiah or ₱350,000 a month. At the same time, Prabowo reduced the budget for regions, forcing local governments to impose additional taxes of up to 250%.

Indonesians strongly despise the regime despite its supposed "popularity" during the elections. In his first year in power, Prabowo focused on enriching his cabinet and parliamentary officials. He expanded the powers of the military and police to consolidate his control over the state. He consolidated corruption and benefits through the establishment of the BPI Danantara (National Sovereign Wealth Fund).

The Indonesians' fury has long

been brewing because of the state's incompetence in addressing the livelihood and economic crisis. Prices of goods and services, education, and healthcare keep rising. Many people remain unemployed, and job insecurity is widespread. The minimum wage falls far short of providing for the needs of a family.

Outside the national capital, exploitation of labor intensifies, foreign corporations grab land, evictions of farmers and indigenous people are widespread, environmental destruction continues, and opposition to massive infrastructure, mining, and plantation projects—initiated by the previous Widodo regime and perpetuated by Prabowo—is criminalized.

In the town of Pati in Central Java, 100,000 people protested in the first week of August to reject these additional taxes, demand the removal of the regent (mayor), and call for an end to his other anti-

people policies. In July, protests were also held by small business owners, workers, and the poor who were displaced by the 1,175-hectare megatourism project Mandalika Special Economic Zone. During the same month, workers at PT Huadi Nickel Alloy Indonesia went on strike against mass layoffs and non-negotiable enforced suspension of work.

Indonesian protests drew support from the people of neighboring Asian countries who also suffer from similar livelihood crises and face similar repression and fascism.

The Communist Party of the Philippines also expressed solidarity with the protests, saying these highlight the strong desire of the Indonesian people for revolutionary change. Alongside the Indonesian toiling masses, the Filipino toiling masses bear the weight of an unequal economic system, worsened by the global capitalist crisis, while the reactionary classes and politicians continue to enrich themselves.

Conditions in Indonesia are ripe for intense class struggle, not only through mass protests but, more importantly, through armed resistance and people's war, according to the CPP.

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