

EDITORIAL

Escalate the protest movement to end the US-Marcos regime!

The reactionary state run by bureaucratic capitalists continues to be rocked by the political crisis. The anger of the masses is not subsiding and frequently erupts with every revelation of increasing number of corruption cases. The student walkout movement has not dwindled, rather has spread to universities in Manila and other parts of the country. The actions of civic groups, church people, workers, the poor, and other sectors are proliferating.

Broad alliances of the people are being formed, determined to achieve justice for the people victimized by criminal corruption. A vast and powerful people's movement has risen, which will shake the US-Marcos regime and end the rule of the bureaucratic capitalist clique in power.

Marcos pretends to be surprised or angry at the rampant corruption. The secret investigation by his "independent commission" is irrelevant to the people, as it is clear that its only purpose is to cover up the truth that billions of pesos in anomalous contracts are funneled to Malacañang, and that Marcos himself is the king and sits atop the corruption heap. Three months after he declared "Mahiya naman kayo" (Shame on you), it is clear to the people that Marcos himself is the most shameless and brazen in pocketing billions of pesos of public funds.

The Duterte faction is trying to ride on the widespread protests of the people, but can only

deceive a handful. They cannot cover up their own crimes and corruption, especially during the time of President Rodrigo Duterte. The billions of pesos embezzled by the Duterte family in the Pharmally contract during the pandemic, the ₱51 billion flood control project of Paolo Duterte, and the ₱125 million confidential and intelligence fund of Sara Duterte, are being brought to light. Billions of pesos in contracts also went to Duterte's former aide, Bong Go, and other allies.

In the face of the widespread discussion about replacing the ruling regime, US imperialism has shown that it strongly supports its puppet, Marcos. Recently, a US embassy official personally visited the ICI hearing as proof of its support.

The people are outraged that, despite their strong anger towards corruption, Marcos and his allies in Congress have repeatedly inserted various forms of pork barrel into the 2026 budget. They still went ahead with inserting ₱281 billion in pork barrel funds for Marcos in the form of unprogrammed appropriations, confidential and intelligence funds, and others. Meanwhile, ₱414 billion in pork barrel funds will be divided among corrupt congressmen and senators.

It continues to be revealed how all government programs are riddled with corruption. In addition to flood control projects, billions of pesos are also being embezzled in farm-to-market roads, multipurpose buildings, health centers, bridges, roads, and funds for public aid, salaries, pensions, and insurance.

The people know who and where these projects, corrupted by government officials and military personnel, and their colluding big businessmen, are. With the cooperation of various sectors, these should be investigated, documented, exposed, and made public against the criminal bureaucratic capitalists.

Through their demonstrations



and protests, Filipinos should not relax in pushing their demands and calls for accountability from bureaucrats. Along with the youth, the impoverished toiling masses should strengthen their voices against corruption, bureaucratic capitalism, and fascism, and to amplify the call for the ouster of the oppressive US-Marcos regime along with the Duterte clique.

This is most widespread in impoverished communities and factories, where the masses of workers, who are the most victimized by corruption and the collusion of bureaucratic capitalists and big businessmen, are most outraged. In addition to the issue of flooding in communities due to corruption and incompetent government, they must highlight issues such as low wages, widespread youth unemployment, high prices of goods, high education costs, continuous increases in fuel prices, poor social services, and others, which are the result of the collusion between corrupt bureaucratic capitalists and greedy big bourgeoisie.

Expand the protest move-

ment against corruption to the biggest number of provinces, towns, and cities. Millions are victims of failed and useless infrastructure projects that wasted the people's money. Unite their anger over the tragedies they experience every time there's a typhoon, earthquake, or even when it simply rains. Hold accountable the bureaucratic capitalists for the crimes they committed that caused entire communities and farms to be submerged in floods, bridges to collapse, roads to be de-

stroyed, buildings and homes to crumble, and many more.

The student youth and other sectors standing against corruption should unite their ranks with the strength of the masses in urban and rural areas. If there is anything that will make Marcos tremble, it is the simultaneous walkouts in schools, strikes by workers, marches by farmers, strikes by government employees, teachers, and academics, transportation strikes, and other forms of collective action by the people.



The growing protest movement of the people against corruption and bureaucratic capitalism is steadily advancing due to the leadership of national-democratic organizations and alliances. They are the most determined and most capable of reaching and awakening the masses. They are the ones who strive to build the broadest unity of the people against the US-Marcos regime.

As the protest movement continues, national-democratic forces should accompany it with a vigorous

mass study movement about Philippine society and revolution. They should tirelessly explain that corruption and cronyism are inherent in the semicolonial and semifeudal system, and that it can only be ended by overthrowing imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism.

The people's desire for systemic change can only be achieved by advancing the people's democratic revolution through armed struggle. Therefore, the greatest number of chapters of the allied organizations of the National Democratic Front should be established, and the New People's Army should be fully supported and strengthened. The Party's roots among the masses should be deepened and expanded to serve as the backbone and vanguard of their protracted struggle.^{AB}



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Youth clamor: Remove Marcos-Duterte!

Over 5,000 youth and students marched to Mendiola in Manila on October 17 as part of the National Youth Day of Action Against Corruption. Led by national democratic organizations, student councils, and alliances, the youth cried out: "Remove Marcos-Duterte! Change the rotten system!"

Students staged walkouts and organized local programs in their universities before heading to Mendiola. Groups and students from 28 public and private universities in Metro Manila joined the action.

Students also launched walkouts and protest pickets in Baguio City, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Cebu City, Iloilo City, and Davao City. Over 700 students, teachers, and staff walked out of Central Luzon State University that day.

Several days earlier, students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (15,000), De La

Salle University in Manila and Laguna, the University of the East-Manila, Our Lady of Fatima University, De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, and Mapua University staged separate walkouts. Students of De La Salle Araneta University in Malabon City also walked out on October 20. In total, more than 40,000 students and youth nationwide have joined the anti-corruption walkout movement since September.

The youth remain undaunted despite the Marcos regime's suppression attempts. They continued their protests despite consecutive reported "bomb threats" in many

universities and schools across multiple provinces designed to disrupt the growing and frequent mobilizations.

They also denounced state repression, including the Philippine National Police's summoning of youth leaders and campus journalists for their involvement in the protest and clashes in Mendiola, Manila, on September 21. Police summoned a Polytechnic University of the Philippines journalist and student, and an organizer of the Kalayaan Kontra Korapsyon.

The September 21 police violence victims, mostly youth, dubbed Mendiola 277, gathered on October 12. With their relatives, lawyers, and human rights groups, they formed the Alliance Against Corruption and Police Brutality or AKAB.

AB

People's anti-corruption actions spread

Aside from the demonstrations by youth and students, the anti-corruption protests of workers, urban poor, peasants, fisherfolk, church people, and other sectors continue. They vow to carry on with their protests until the corrupt are held accountable for their crimes against the people.

On October 7, around 17,000 attended and joined the march and people's mass in Baguio City. Two days later, residents of San Jose Del Monte City in Bulacan collectively marched.

On October 11, more than 3,000 people attended an anti-corruption prayer event in Bacolod City. On the same day, thousands of churchgoers and religious people joined an anti-corruption walk for justice in Samaloc, Manila. A march was also staged in Albay

On October 12, an anti-corruption

walk was held in Santiago City, Isabela, with more than 500 people participating. On the same day, a rally was again held in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Two days later, Cavite fisherfolk organized a fluvial parade in Manila Bay.

On October 17, labor unions under Kilusang Mayo Uno held a protest in Laguna. Progressive groups also conducted a rally in Cebu that day. A day later, a protest took place at La Trinidad Public Market in Benguet.

On October 19, thousands joined

a march and prayer against destructive, dredging, corruption, and political dynasties in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur. A day later, mothers and women organized an anti-corruption zumba event in Quezon City.

Progressive groups' Black Friday Protest also continues. The church, meanwhile, recently launched its own version of Friday actions.

This month, the United People Against Corruption announced its plan to file an indemnity class suit against congressmen, contractors, and government officials involved in anomalous flood control projects.

In Hong Kong and Canada, Filipino groups also formed alliances in October opposing corruption in the Philippines.

AB

Community youth: fight for national democracy

At the foot of Mendiola on September 21, the youth's overflowing outrage erupted against widespread corruption and the lack of accountability among the country's highest officials. Many of these young people came from poor communities. Filled with courage and audacity, they confronted the police who had long oppressed their fellow poor. They clearly saw the police as defenders of the oppressive ruling class. They remained unfazed. They withstood the tear gas, water cannons, and truncheons. They clearly understand the righteousness of their struggle.

According to state data in June 2025, youth aged 15 to 24 account for 20.2 million of the country's total population of 116.9 million. Of these, 19.66 million live in poverty. About 7.2 million are out of school, while 2.36 million are neither studying nor working, with 50.3% being male and 49.7% female.

Severe poverty force Filipino youth to work at a young age instead of studying. However, many of them cannot find decent jobs due to the crisis of the backward economy. They comprise a large part of the semi-proletarian class. They belong to the urban areas' vast reserve of labor. They earn only through various irregular and informal jobs. Some of them turn to anti-social activities for having nowhere else to go.

Impoverished youth and their families have no decent homes. Hundreds of thousands of families live in flood-prone areas that submerge during heavy rains. Their communities are violently demolished, or deliberately razed to force them to leave and sell their land to big comprador and foreign businessmen.

Like their parents,

they are victims of the state's corruption, neglect, and fascism. They witnessed and suffered from the previous Duterte regime's bloody war on drugs, which continues to this day. They often become targets of police abuse and brutality and are exploited in illegal activities. Like the broad masses, they long for social change and, as youth, recognize their duty to transform society.

The youth's role in advancing national democracy

The youth play an important role in the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation and democracy. Kabataang Makabayan (KM) and Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison said the

youth need to organize to oppose anti-people policies and fight for their interests as youth and as part of the people.

KM spearheaded national democratic struggles in the 1960s. It militantly led and organized youth in schools, factories, professions, and communities. After martial law was declared, many of its members went to the countryside and served as seed of the New People's Army in various parts of the country.

During the anti-dictatorship struggles from the 1970s to 1986, many other youth groups emerged and sacrificed to end the US-Marcos regime. Besides school-based organizations, the youth also formed community groups. Among these was Kadena (Kabataan para sa Demokrasya at Nasyunalismo, or Youth for National Democracy), composed of community youth. It was founded in 1984 in Silang, Cavite to unite different community youth organizations within the framework of the national democratic struggle.

Kadena militantly organized and mobilized hundreds of youth in urban centers and quickly expanded to other regions such as Southern Tagalog and the Visayas. They also took part in ousting the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

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Marcos regime harasses international delegation

Armed Forces of the Philippines elements harassed and threatened International Solidarity Mission (ISM) delegates who conducted an investigation and study from October 11 to 14. The delegation was in the Philippines to examine the climate crisis, environmental plunder, and militarization in farming and indigenous communities in Rizal and the islands of Mindoro, Samar, Leyte, and Negros.

Soldiers openly surveilled and photographed ISM activities. They took the delegates' names, trailed them while armed, and followed them up to their accommodations. Drones were also repeatedly flown over encampments where investigations were conducted.

On October 14, the arrival of dozens of police and soldiers armed with high-powered rifles at the encampment forced the delegates to prematurely end their activities in Mindoro. This terrorized the indigenous people and the delegates. In Rizal, authorities blatantly prohibited them from holding activities for having no "permit." The soldiers continuously harassed the indigenous Mangyan in Mindoro and the Dumagat in Rizal even after the visiting delegation left.

The Dumagat in Tanay, Rizal, reported that military presence in their community intensified, and soldiers started summoning residents for questioning after the ISM. In Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, soldiers continued to harass the community, affecting the livelihood of residents and starved

the farmers.

While harassing the ISM, the military also committed abuses in other parts of the country.

Fascist attacks in Negros. Military assaults and fascist aggression have been relentless on the island in recent months. Numerous cases of human rights violations were documented during combat operations in several villages.

The most recent of these was the 79th IB's shooting that injured farmer Kato Rizal and his minor nephew while collecting honey in Sitio Nabaisan, Barangay Minapason, Calatrava, Negros Occidental on the morning of October 17. As of the latest report, the whereabouts of the minor remain unknown.

On October 7, the 94th IB raided a farmer's house in Sitio Manluki, Barangay Carabalan. The same unit abducted another farmer in Barangay Buenavista and forcibly used him as a guide for a combat operation. In Toboso, the 79th IB forcibly entered and ransacked the homes of two farmers on October 11. In Negros Oriental, the 62nd IB

reportedly looted and encamped in community centers, churches, and schools.

IHL violation. The 703rd IBde harassed and repressed families and human rights groups trying to retrieve the body of an alleged Red fighter killed in a clash between the military and the NPA in Norzagaray, Bulacan on October 17. Human rights organizations condemned the military for refusing to release the remains to the family and for militarizing the funeral home hosting the remains. The military gave conflicting accounts of the encounter and the body's delivery.

In North Caloocan, NTF-Elcac and the 12th Civil Military Operation intensified the militarization across villages beginning October 6. The military encamped in Barangays 175, 181-182 Pangarap Village, and 187-188. They conducted Red-tagging and harassment campaigns against members of progressive groups.

Killing. Men on motorcycles brutally killed Niruh Kyle Antatico on October 10 in Barangay Patag, Cagayan de Oro City. Antatico was a former senior National Irrigation Administration Region 10 legal researcher who reportedly exposed the agency's widespread corruption and anomalies, including missing funds, substandard projects, and fake contracts. Nafeda-Courage called for justice for Antatico. AB

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Kadena's organizing work ended around 1990. In the gap it left, Anakbayan was established, which organized community youth and played a role in the ouster of the Estrada regime in 2001.

Groups like KM, Kadena, and

others have proven that the community remains a wellspring of militant youth who bravely and boldly advance the people's national democratic aspirations.

With the militancy shown on September 21, the youth, especially

among those from poor communities, will certainly make their movements even more vigorous, as they march to the streets and countryside to fight for genuine social change and liberation long sought by the broad masses. AB

The bureaucrat-capitalist military's gross corruption

As the corruption of the bureaucrat-capitalist system becomes exposed, the stench from the military's bureaucrat-capitalists comes as no surprise. Anomalous infrastructure projects involving the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in collusion with corrupt contractors were recently exposed. A large portion of this (₱50 billion) was also reportedly part of the unprogrammed appropriations for 2026 drawn from the president's pork barrel.

About ₱15 billion was plundered and squandered from 944 military infrastructure projects under the Tatag ng Imprastraktura para sa Kapayapaan at Seguridad (TIKAS, or Structural Strength for Peace and Security) Convergence Program from 2023 to the present. A Senate hearing disclosed that 421 of these were ghost projects while 648 were listed as "completed" contrary to having halted construction at initial stages, rendering them unusable.

AFP Chief Romeo Brawner Jr deceives the public by denying the military's role in the TIKAS funds embezzlement, especially considering that the AFP Unified Command commanders and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) regional directors determine the nature and location of these projects. The Department of National Defense (DND) and DPWH jointly oversee the setting of standards, planning, and monitoring through the TIKAS Central Technical Working Group. Likewise, all TIKAS projects are located within or around military camps.

Corruption inherent in the bureaucracy

Like their corrupt counterparts in the civilian bureaucracy, the military bureaucrat-capitalists exploit their state positions to amass wealth. US imperialism established the fascist AFP in 1935 to serve as the pillar of the Commonwealth gov-

ernment, prior to creating the puppet state in 1946. It expanded massively to 142,000 soldiers under the Marcos Sr dictatorship to brutally enforce martial law. It has since continually fattened on bribes, contracts, and favors from successive ruling cliques from Corazon Aquino to the present regime.

Over the decades, generals have been documented earning from overpriced military procurement contracts for weapons, howitzers, armored vehicles, jet fighters, helicopters, and ships. Generals have been exposed to pocket 10-30 percent kickbacks from contracts for ammunition and firearms. Ghost deliveries of supplies, fake transactions for weapons and equipment,

and collusion with suppliers and contractors are rampant. In 2011, the anomalous tradition of "pabaon" (take home gift) surfaced, where the DND yearly pooled up to ₱1.5 billion in budget funds as rewards for retiring generals. Even fully state-funded pension of rank-and-file soldiers are plundered through payments to thousands of "ghost retirees."

Generals customarily construct luxurious offices and beautify camps to draw large kickbacks. They are also notorious for frequent overseas vacations with their families, expensive cars and houses, and overall luxurious lifestyles.

In 2018, another senator exposed the widespread corruption of the "Davao Group," composed of generals close to Rodrigo Duterte, in the procurement of weapons and military equipment under the guise of AFP "modernization." This October, the Ombudsman charged a colonel who serves as Vice President Sara Duterte's security group head for involvement in the embezzlement of ₱125 million in confidential and intelligence funds.

The AFP and NTF-Elcac tandem

Military officials also pocket large sums from counterinsurgency programs such as E-CLIP, used for the fake "surrender" of civilians, and from infrastructure projects under the NTF-Elcac's Barangay Development Program (BDP).

In the case of BDP's, AFP units decide on which barangays farm-to-market roads (FMR) will be built. Many of these are ghost projects, while others are duplicates, overpriced, substandard, or built in unsafe or unsuitable parts of the

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NPA-Leyte ambushes 14th IB

FROM ABOUT FIVE meters away, a New People's Army (NPA)-Leyte Island (Mt. Amandewin Command) unit fired on the 14th IB fascist troops in Javier town, Leyte in the morning of October 15. The unit reported many casualties among the butcher soldiers.

The 14th IB unit was conducting so-called combat-clearing operations in the hills and rivers between Barangay Odiong and Barangay Caraye in Javier. The operation was part of the 14th IB's extensive combat operations in the barangays within the towns of Javier and Abuyog.

The 14th IB treacherously and cowardly retaliated against the civilian population in Barangay Caraye, Javier. Following the NPA offensive, the 14th IB imposed a hamlet or "lockdown" on the community, prohibiting the masses from tending to their farms.

To cover up their defeat, the 14th IB and 802nd IB fabricated a story claiming they had confiscated a rifle from the NPA during the attack. The military even posted fake pictures on social media of firearms allegedly "left behind" by the NPA.

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barangay. AFP battalions guard these projects.

In Northern Mindanao, for example, the AFP and NTF-Elcac received ₱17.6 billion in 2020 for 142 FMRs. Many of the villages benefiting from these have AFP camps, detachments, or RCSP presence. The most expensive FMRs cost ₱67.5 million per kilometer—five times the national average. Nearly all the contracts were clinched by Ulticon Builders, which was close to the then Duterte regime.

In Samar, the NTF-Elcac took four years by 2024 to complete cementing a 400-meter road soldiers built in the middle of rice fields. The project cost a staggering ₱14 million, or ₱35,000 per meter. The road ended merely at the edge of a neighboring barangay, far from town centers.

At the same time, soldiers also steal funds meant for supposed surrenderee civilians. Even rice and canned goods labeled as aid are merely displayed for photo-ops and returned after staging the ceremonies against the revolutionary movement.

AB

Panay revolutionary leader honored

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines' Panay Regional Committee honored one of the region's most distinguished revolutionary leaders, Roberto Moises Cabales (Comrade William), who was killed by the military and police on the night of October 5 in Barangay Coto, Lambunao, Iloilo. State forces claimed that Cabales and his companion Mateo Suarez (Comrade Badong) "fought back" when allegedly being served an arrest warrant. Villagers denied such an encounter occurred.

In his youth, Cabales studied to become a doctor. For several decades, he served the Filipino masses and worked with the Regional Committee in leading the revolutionary movement in Panay. Cabales was a political prisoner in 1999.

Meanwhile, Suarez was a former NPA member who took leave a few years ago for his physical condition. Afterward, he remained loyal and deeply motivated to assist and contribute to the revolutionary movement. Suarez also became a political prisoner in 2012.

Farmers bring call to the national capital

WITH VARIOUS SECTORS, peasant organizations launched a week-long protest to mark peasants' month. To highlight the farmers' call, they camped out before the Department of Agrarian Reform Central Office in Quezon City from October 15 to 21. The camp hosted visits, solidarity activities, and discussions with different sectors. It also held workshops, a medical mission, and the distribution of material support to farmers.

Amihan also led a rally on October 15 to mark the International Day of Rural Women. On October 16, led by Negros island farmers, the groups again marched in Quezon City for the World Food Day. The next day, they protested at the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Quezon City to condemn militarization in the countryside. On October 19, they and artists' groups held a night of performances at UP Diliman. They also staged a protest action at the Department of Social Welfare and Development on October 20 to demand compensation for disaster-related damages.

The farmers' protest is set to culminate on October 21, the anniversary of the bogus land reform under Marcos Sr's Presidential Decree No. 27. They will march with other sectors at Liwasang Bonifacio to oppose the corruption of the Marcos regime and the Duterte clique. They will call for the removal from power of the two chief plunderers.

Professionals take the path of people's war

Amid the Marcos regime's intensifying fascism, the revolutionary determination of teachers, doctors, nurses, scientists, engineers, and other professionals who join and support the people's war continues to burn stronger. They steadily strengthen their revolutionary organizations to serve as reservoirs of support and new fighters for the New People's Army (NPA).



Inspired by the Communist Party of the Philippines' rectification movement, the Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (Kaguma, or Alliance of Patriotic Teachers), the Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MSP, or Patriotic Health Association), and the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB, or League of Scientists for the People) have been revitalized. These organizations actively speak out on urgent national issues. They regularly release their revolutionary mass publications: "Ang Rebolusyonaryong Lunas" and "Dagling Lunas" (MSP), "Liyab" (Kaguma), and "Agham Bayan" (LAB).

Patriotic teachers

In January, Kaguma established a new chapter at a university. Those appointed as chapter officers include Ka Amber, a new member recruited in late 2024. "I am still finding my footing now, but I have never felt inadequate despite being a beginner because of my comrades' kindness and guidance," Ka Amber said.

Amid heavy workloads and personal life challenges, she strives to continuously fulfill her duties as a chapter officer. She said she manages this by firmly holding to principles and constantly recalling answers to the questions "why" and "for whom."

According to Kaguma, it must strengthen itself to directly participate in armed struggle, contribute to the NPA, and help organize in the countryside to forge revolutionary unity and the people's struggle.

Healing the social crisis

In a guerrilla front in Luzon, an MSP team composed of doctors, health professionals and students carried out a medical mission for the masses and the army. "Getting into the guerrilla zone was not easy; we faced difficult conditions, especially at the peak of heavy rains," a doctor recounted.

They set up a clinic where they conducted patient consultations and operated a small laboratory. MSP addressed both simple and complex illnesses of Red fighters—physical and mental alike.

Within the army, they experienced simple living, sacrifices for advancing the people's war, and the peasant masses' warm acceptance. "These experiences further strengthened and warmed my revolutionary spirit," the doctor added.

Meanwhile, health students from various universities held an assembly on August 2 to establish an MSP chapter. This marked a major step in broadening MSP for health students to embrace the na-

tional democratic revolution.

Scientists for the national democratic revolution

LAB member and former private university computer engineering student Ka Langga joined the NPA for a six-month tour of duty (TOD). During that period, her resolve to serve full-time in the countryside deepened. "When I did my TOD, my decision to go full-time became firm because I completely saw and proved the correctness and necessity of serving as a fighter," she said.

She personally witnessed the masses' warm welcome and love for the people's army in the area where she was deployed. "Despite being the most exploited in society, they still provide food for the fighters, help procure supplies to sustain the army, and participate in revolutionary tasks," she shared.

LAB continues to train its activists and cadres in the cities as full-time organizers in their sectors. This also serves to raise their awareness and readiness to take the path of armed struggle, just like Ka Langga.

Adapted from "Liyab," "Ang Rebolusyonaryong Lunas," and "Agham Bayan."

AB

₱243 BILLION unprogrammed appropriations

granted to Marcos in the 2026 budget passed by the House of Representatives. This is part of a total of ₱696 billion in pork barrel funds for Malacañang and Congress.



₱10.3 BILLION

farm-to-market projects in the 2023 and 2024 budget bloated their prices by 70%. Highest was the ₱348,000 per meter, which is 23 times larger than the ₱15,000 per meter set by DPWH..

82.4%

of the over **1.89 million** Eastern Visayas **farmers** are landless. Despite this, the reactionary government provide them no proper land reform program.

₱8.8 BILLION

in losses incurred by GSIS from investing in private companies. This threatens the government employees' hard-earned savings, which the agency required as pension fund.



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driver cooperatives in **Iloilo** that joined the fake modernization program are now on the verge of bankruptcy due to unpayable debts from purchasing expensive e-jeeps.

37.8 MILLION

Filipinos experienced moderate and severe poverty-induced food insecurity from 2022 to 2024. 55 million or 44%, cannot afford nutritious food.



6 strong earthquakes (above magnitude 6)

shook the Philippines within 18 days, hitting Bogo, Cebu; Manay, Davao Oriental; General Luna, Surigao del Norte; and Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. From September 30 to October 17, Philvocs recorded at least 14,220 aftershocks, with 12,704 coming from the newly discovered Bogo Bay Fault.

Source: *Philvocs*

11 years

passed since US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton killed transwoman **Jennifer Laude**. Despite the guilty verdict, Rodrigo Duterte granted Pemberton an absolute pardon and allowed him to return to the US.



Six decades of victories by the Eastern Visayas peasant movement

Amid the widespread and intensifying feudal and semi-feudal exploitation in Eastern Visayas (EV), it is correct for the peasant masses to look back at the history of their collective struggle. They must draw lessons and inspiration from six decades of brilliant victories achieved through collective struggle.

Using the Communist Party of the Philippines' revolutionary guide for land reform, the broad peasant masses of EV waged struggles to lower land rent, raise farmworkers' wages, eliminate usury, and boost productivity.

In the farmlands, peasants confronted landlords to assert their rights. In coconut farms, they achieved a 60-40 division of net income in favor of peasants, replacing the old 90-10 arrangement. They compelled landlords to shoulder 50% of the cost of hauling copra, thereby increasing peasants' earnings.

In areas that reached higher levels of unity, peasants won a 50-50 arrangement for harvests excluding hauling costs. This marked a victory from the former setup where landlords contributed nothing to production. In places where the one-third share arrangement prevailed in favor of landlords, peasants achieved the 50-50 division.

The masses in some areas also succeeded in lowering loan interest rates from 20% monthly to 10%, and interest-free if paid before one month ends. Conditions for redemption of mortgaged land were removed, and will be automatically returned to the peasant once 100-150 percent profits over the used capital are made. Peasants also retained farming access to

mortgaged land ensuring they could earn both for payment and daily needs.

In some areas, land confiscation from despotic and counterrevolutionary landlords was carried out as a form of justice for exploitation and as indemnification for their blood debt with the masses. In other instances, peasants occupied idle lands of absentee landlords, while some enlightened landlords voluntarily lent or donated their land and even production equipment.

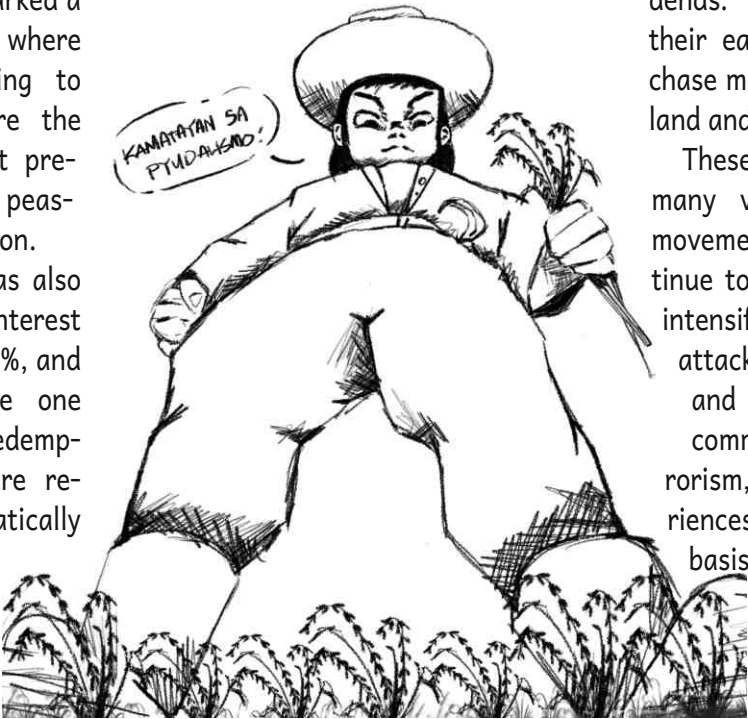
"Without the movement, peasants remain settlers in their own land," a farmer said. Up to now, they continue to benefit from these lands' great support and pro-

duce. The campaign to raise peasants' productivity has continued. They promoted the "tiklos-aglayon" campaign, where peasants collectively helped one another in production. This expanded farm areas, eased and sped up work, reduced costs, ensured sufficient food, and most importantly, trained them in collective action.

There was also distribution of carabaos as primary means for individual and communal production. Peasants formed systems to maximize the use of tractors and other production equipment donated by state agencies and private organizations.

Cooperatives for milling and basic goods stores were established. Cooperatives to sell harvests and products at fair prices were also set up. Beyond providing services and affordable basic goods, associations gained added income through dividends. Some cooperatives used their earnings as capital to purchase means of production such as land and carabaos.

These are only some of the many victories of the peasant movement in the region. They continue to defend these against the intensified presence and ongoing attacks of the Marcos regime and the 8th ID units in their communities. Amid state terrorism, these victories and experiences serve as the material basis for peasants to further defend their lives and livelihood and to fight for a truly democratic and free society. AB



Gaza ceasefire not enough; stop the genocide

A ceasefire was implemented in Gaza on October 14 between the Zionist state of Israel and the Hamas group, mediated by the US. Contrary to what US President Donald Trump boasts of as a "diplomatic gift," this resulted from the Palestinian people's unwavering resolve and refusal to surrender their nation. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are walking back to Gaza City to gradually reclaim the lives destroyed by Israel's genocide.

Despite the agreement, Israel continues to violate Palestinian rights. Its forces have killed 97 people between October 14 and October 19. On October 19, Israel suddenly blocked the entry of hundreds of trucks carrying food into Gaza.

Hamas fulfilled its part in the provision for the release of all 20 remaining living captives. It also began transferring custody of 23 bodies of captives killed by Israel's relentless assaults.

On October 7 and the days that followed, millions worldwide marked the second anniversary of Al Aqsa Flood to support the just resistance of the Palestinians and condemn the genocide. Massive demonstrations took place in the UK, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, the US, Canada, and Japan. In the Philippines, national-democratic groups held protests denouncing Israel's weaponizing of food and aid. On October 17, Ateneo de Manila University students organized a campus camp-in for Palestine.

Scientists and experts estimate that the cumulative death toll in Palestine has reached 680,000, including 380,000 infants and children under the age of five. Over 68,000 of them were directly killed by Israeli soldiers' bombs and bullets.

International agencies have also recorded famine-inflicted deaths at 400, including 140 children. Meanwhile, about 3,000 people were killed while queuing for or competing over aid and food, many in the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation "death traps" operated by American and Israeli soldiers.

AB



Action against demolition in Marikina. Residents of Agora, Barangay Santo Niño, Marikina City stopped the planned demolition of their community on October 15. They launched a protest camp out on October 14. More than 53 urban poor families are under threat of being displaced from the community despite having lived there for over 40 years. The protest compelled the local government to promise relocation for the affected residents.

Barricade in Benguet. Around 400 residents from two barangays in Mankayan, Benguet barricaded on October 13 against the intrusion of Crescent Mining and Development Corporation into their ancestral land. This also marked the formal establishment of the alliance No Mines Movement of Guinaoang and Bulalacao.

Anti-mining protest in Dupax del Norte, NV. Since September 17, residents of Barangay Bitnong in Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya have set up a barricade against Woggle Corporation. Tension between the residents and the company escalated when a provincial court on October 14 issued a Temporary Restraining Order against the barricade. Police dismantled the barricade on October 16 and arrested three residents. They were immediately released afterward.

Residents, churches, groups, and individuals widely condemned the police violence. They held a caravan and protest at the Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Capitol on October 20 to denounce the inaction of the local government. Kalikasan PNE also staged a protest on the same day in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Anakbayan United Kingdom and other national democratic organizations in the UK are set to hold a protest on October 21 at the Metals Exploration PLC Office in London to denounce the company's environmental plunder.

ICC rejects petition for Duterte's interim release

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber 1 judges rejected Rodrigo Duterte's petition for interim release in October. They said he has a high potential to evade justice and interfere with witnesses, given his family's continuing power in the Philippines.

The ICC seriously considered the Duterte family's political influence. The court cited the statement of his daughter Sara Duterte boasting to "break out" her father from ICC custody, and her allegations of "collusion" between the ICC and the Philippine government.

US renews aggression and destabilization campaign against Venezuela

Since September, the US has bombed six vessels in the Caribbean Sea allegedly from Venezuela, accusing them of carrying “narco-terrorists” and trafficking illegal drugs. The bombings were conducted as part of a new series of military aggressions against Venezuela, which President Donald Trump baselessly accused of supporting the “narco-terrorists.” These attacks have resulted in 27 extrajudicial killings carried out by the US.

Alongside the bombings, the US strengthened its military presence in the Caribbean Sea by deploying warships, a nuclear-powered submarine, and other combat vessels. It has also been flying helicopters, fighter jets, and B-52 bombers in international airspace near Venezuela.

Trump also ordered the Central Intelligence Agency to launch covert operations inside Venezuela against its government and people. This action aligned with Trump’s announcement to undertake further military measures against Venezuela and a regime-change scheme in the sovereign country. Trump even offered a \$50 million bounty for the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. These actions augment the existing economic sanctions long imposed by the US and its allies on the country.

Right-wing groups inside Venezuela have joined the US imperialist campaign of aggression. In the first week of October, Maduro’s government exposed an attempt by these groups to carry out a “false flag” operation that would plant and detonate a bomb at the US embassy in

the Venezuelan capital Caracas to further inflame tensions.

Although closed since severing diplomatic ties between Venezuela and the US in 2019, the embassy building still houses some staff and security forces. Following this revelation, Trump ordered his government to halt any efforts to engage or negotiate with Venezuela.

Venezuela and the Maduro government remain unfazed by Trump’s attacks and threats. Maduro said “they will never enter Venezuela,” and the Venezuelan military and people are prepared to defend their country and sovereignty.

Global support for Venezuela

Groups worldwide have strongly condemned the US and Trump’s aggression against Venezuela.

The International League of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS) called for resistance against the attempt to replace the Venezuelan government and all forms of hybrid warfare that have intensified under Trump.

US aggression against the Venezuelan government has been relentless since the country stood up against imperialist dictates. “The US has been relentless in its attempts to overthrow the democratically elected government of Venezuela, determined to use its oil revenues to enrich US monopoly capitalists and financial investors,” the ILPS stated.

The group declared that US aggression will only drive more people worldwide to support Venezuela and its just struggle for national sovereignty against US imperialism.

In the Philippines, the Philippine-Bolivarian Venezuela Friendship Association and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan lead the campaign supporting the Venezuelan government and people. They work closely with Chargé d’Affaires Richard Espinoza Lobo of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Embassy in organizing various activities and gatherings.

These include a meeting with Makabayan Bloc representatives at the House of Representatives on October 13. This meeting resulted in plans for the Makabayan Bloc to file a congressional resolution condemning US militarism and supporting the Filipino people’s struggle for peace, national sovereignty, and the right of all nations to self-determination.

