

LIBERATION

VOLUME XLII NO. 4 | PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES | DECEMBER 2025



ABOUT THE COVER

The cover, created by Julia Makabayan, illustrates how in 57 years the CPP has advanced the people's cause and led the masses to rise against the ruling classes and their imperialist masters. The CPP has established and led the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. The NPA, the main alliance organization of peasants and workers, is tasked to wage armed struggle, expand and consolidate the mass base, and launch agrarian revolution in the countryside. The NDFP's allied revolutionary organizations continue to expand on the basis of NDFP's 12-point program, uniting the masses in the urban and rural areas to support and participate in the people's war by joining the Red fighters until the victory of the national democratic revolution is achieved. The advance and victory of the national democratic revolution has become more relevant, necessary, and urgent as the Filipino people confronts the chronic crisis rooted in bureaucrat capitalism, feudalism, and imperialism.

Graphics, Artwork, and Illustrations:
Julia Makabayan, Cassandra Bigwas

Layout:
Bernadette Rojo

Cover artwork:
Julia Makabayan



The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people's struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

liberation.ndfp.info 

LIBERATION

is the official publication of the NDFP

1 EDITORIAL: THE CRISIS OF BUREAUCRAT
CAPITALISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

3 REPRESENTING THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION TO ALL
CORNERS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD *by Leon Castro*

6 TRUSTING IN THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION: INSIGHTS
ON INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY *by Bernadette Rojo*

8 KAGUMA HOLDS 4TH NATIONAL CONGRESS *by Mia Andres*

10 PAGBABAGONG-KLIMA, BARYA-BARYANG PAGBABAGO
ni Bernadette Rojo

12 BBM AT MGA BURUKRATA KAPITALISTA: PUNONG MULTO
SA LIKOD NG KURAKOT AT KALAMIDAD *ni Pinky Ang*

15 'GUERRILLA FARMING' AND THE ROLE OF SCIENTISTS IN THE
AGRARIAN REVOLUTION *Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB)*

17 IS FASCISM BACK? OR DID IT EVEN LEAVE US?
by Iliya Makalipay

21 LET JUSTICE SERVE THE WORKING CLASS *by Mia Andres*

24 HOW US-MARCOS JR FURTHER DRAGS PH TO US CONFLICT
by Pinky Ang

27 OUR PATRIOTIC LENS: HOW TO READ NEWS ON US-MARCOS JR
'DEFENSE' DEALS *by Pinky Ang*



EDITORIAL

THE CRISIS OF BUREAUCRAT CAPITALISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

The current situation in the Philippines brought to fore a profound betrayal by the reactionary government's bureaucrat capitalists who have long defrauded the Filipino people at the expense of their lives and livelihoods. The shocking extent of corruption involving politicians, political dynasties, and their business allies underscores a system that prioritizes self-enrichment over the welfare of the populace.

The case of the ghost flood-control projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), where billions of pesos have been siphoned away, does not even scratch the surface. And so with the likes of the Discayas.

The issue extends far beyond one government department and one regime. It speaks of the entire reactionary bureaucracy that serves the whims of its imperialist masters and in collusion with big landlords and the comprador bourgeoisie classes.

The systemic corruption ingrained in the semicolonial and semifeudal society has created an environment ripe for discussing the insidious nature of bureaucrat capitalism and its roots—laying bare the depth of its roots in a decaying system that breeds bureaucrat capitalists—individuals whose political positions are blatantly leveraged to amass and flaunt more wealth while revelling in their reactionary classes. The long-standing

issue of corruption is now exposed as a product of this pernicious system, prompting a shift in public discourse.

The revelation of systemic corruption has highlighted the chronic crisis of the semifeudal and semicolonial system—making it increasingly evident that bureaucrat capitalism stands as one of the three major ills, including feudalism and imperialism, plaguing the rotten system. The situation has prompted widespread outrage and mobilization among the populace.

Across the country, protests have erupted, echoing the cries for justice and accountability. Demonstrators are uniting with a broad range of demands: from accountability and justice to the ouster of both President Bongbong Marcos and Vice President Sara Duterte.

The intensifying anger among Filipinos serves as a powerful reminder that the so-called resilience of the people in the face of systemic injustices is not simply enough but has been, in fact, used as an excuse for further exploitation. As more sectors of society awaken to the reality of bureaucrat capitalism and systemic corruption, a consensus that fundamental change is necessary is growing. The fight to reclaim the country's future is not only a call for the ouster of corrupt leaders but also a demand for a reimagined economic and political system.

It's about envisioning a whole new system that prioritizes the welfare of the masses above all else. It's about waging and pushing forward the national democratic revolution, overthrowing imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism i.e., destroying the decaying semicolonial and semifeudal system that breeds corruption. It's about establishing a people's democratic government that will end the reign of thieves.

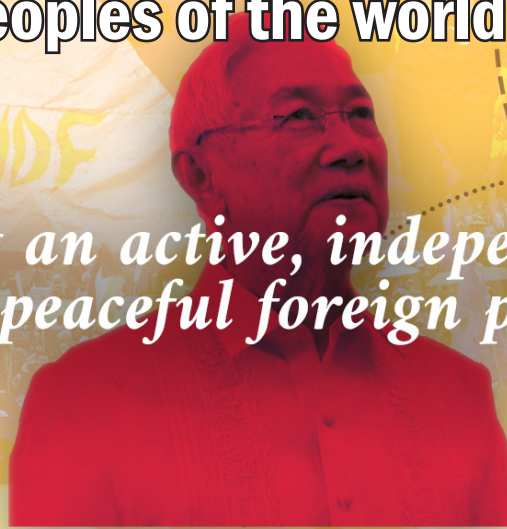
The path ahead may be fraught with challenges, but the voice of the people will continue to resonate across the nation until true justice and democracy are achieved. **LIB**



Representing the Philippine revolution to all corners and peoples of the world

by Leon Castro

Adopt an active, independent, and peaceful foreign policy



When Luis G. Jalandoni died last June 7 at a ripe age of 90, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) lost its longest-serving representative and ambassador, the one who not only started its foreign relations work but the Front's very embodiment of proletarian internationalism and solidarity.

There was little suggestion in Ka Louie's early life that he would be the Philippine revolutionary movement's delegate in dialogues with governments, organizations, and revolutionary movements abroad. Even when sent to the big city to study where he excelled in one of the country's elitist schools and graduating as class valedictorian, he always found himself back in Silay in Negros Occidental to live out his youth among farmers of his family's vast landholdings. As he grappled with what to do next with his life after college, he chose to enter the seminary—again graduating as valedictorian—later to return to his province to serve the poorest of the poor as a member of the Roman Catholic clergy. He himself probably thought he would never leave his home province and would spend the rest of his days in his beloved Negros Island.

But Ka Louie was shown the harsh realities of feudalism and fascism that taught him lessons even his formidable educational training failed to fully explain. He saw the poor brutally oppressed and denied their humanity by cruel landlords and corrupt politicians. He saw farmers working like slaves from sun up to sun down with barely enough to eat at the end of the day but survive the way the candle burns against the wind. Between the

immorally rich and the poor, Ka Louie realized who he should dedicate his life to and whose struggle he should embrace.

Death threats and imprisonment only fueled what was already a burning desire to serve the least of his brethren by any means necessary. He went as far as donating a great majority of his substantial inheritance to his cause. It became natural for him to join the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), helped establish the Christians for National Liberation (CNL) in 1970 and thereafter the NDFP itself. After his release from prison in 1974, he helped in organizing the first-ever workers' uprising under martial law, the La Tondeña strike of 1975.

It was on that year that the top CPP leadership decided to send Ka Louie and by then wife Coni Ledesma abroad to begin NDFP's foreign relations and international solidarity work.

Tireless diplomat

Already marked for assassination by the Marcos dictatorship, it took careful planning for Ka Louie and his young family to escape to Europe to begin their new work. He, his wife and their newborn son used passports under different names, each traveling separately. Their infant child had to travel as another couple's son. Ka Louie even had to disguise himself heavily just to pass various immigration checks in the Philippines and abroad. He was finally reunited with his wife and son in Ireland after three months of clandestine travel.



It was in Utrecht, The Netherlands that they found permanent residence and where they established NDFP's International Office. In 1977, Ka Louie was formally appointed as NDFP International Representative.

As such, Ka Louie was tireless in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to him and Ka Coni. They linked up with existing groups of workers, farmers, women, youth and students and helped form new ones in the international peace movement willing to support the NDFP and the revolutionary movement in the Philippines. He organized forums and seminars to gather political and material support to the revolution. They consolidated and expanded Philippine solidarity groups throughout Europe and, later, the rest of the world.

Ka Louie and Ka Coni met with governmental and intergovernmental organizations and established relations with many Churches. They started organizing work among migrant Filipino workers and seafarers not just in Europe but in other global regions as well. The couple traveled all over to establish solidarity relations with national liberation movements. Among the movements that established relations with the NDFP were The Pacifist Socialist of The Netherlands, The Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Greece, The National Liberation Front of Algeria, The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), The Cooperative Labour Party of Great Britain, The Bulgarian Agrarian Party, The Sandanistas of Nicaragua, The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity. These are aside from various Communist parties in many other nations.

The NDFP international representative was welcomed to Cuba at least four times. In 1987, Ka Louie attended the Non-Aligned Movement's meeting in Zimbabwe where he successfully blocked the Corazon Aquino government's treacherous attempt to be a member. In the same conference, he met with PLO chairperson Yasser Arafat who expressed admiration for the Philippine revolution. Ka Louie visited the Dominican Republic and Ecuador to meet with representatives from many Latin American countries. He also met with representatives of the European Left and gathered the support of 24 European Parliamentarians against the European Union and United States' terror listing of the CPP, the New People's Army and Prof. Jose Maria Sison. In 1987, and again in 2010, Ka Louie and Ka Coni visited New Zealand and Australia to meet with parliamentarians, workers groups and migrant Filipinos. In 1996, he visited India to attend an international forum with 900 other delegates from all over the world.

A polyglot, Ka Louie was comfortable addressing audiences in several of the world's major languages, such as when he addressed hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans in fluent and rousing Spanish in Caracas. He also spoke Ilonggo, Filipino, English, German, and Dutch. During a break in the peace talks with Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) negotiators in 2016, he bantered with counterpart Silvestro H. Bello III in Latin, to the delight of the Norwegian facilitators and journalists present. He talked to the foreign ministries of Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, and Norway to help secure hosting and facilitation of the peace talks with the GRP. With Ka Louie as international representative, the NDFP was invited to many events and discussions in recognition of the revolution it represents.

Ka Louie took on other tasks to advance the revolution and to fight Ferdinand Marcos Sr's fascism in the Philippines. He was the NDFP representative at the Permanent People's Tribunal in Antwerp, Belgium in November 1980 that declared the dictator unfit to govern. The tribunal recognized the NDFP as a legitimate representative of the Filipino people, recognizing as well the status of belligerency of the Philippine revolutionary movement.

Under Ka Louie's helm, the NDFP International Office operated like the international offices of the PLO, the South African National Congress and other national liberation movements in disseminating information about the Philippine revolution. Utrecht also became home to other revolutionary asylum seekers such as Fidel V. Agcaoili, Joma Sison, Julie de Lima and others who fled persecution, even certain death, in the hands of the fascist regimes back home.

Principled negotiator

The Utrecht office also became the base on which the NDFP Negotiating Panel operated from 1989 to present. Ka Louie himself was appointed to the peace panel on that year, eventually becoming its chairperson from 1995 to 2016. With him as chief negotiator, the NDFP crafted and signed agreements with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines such as The Hague Joint Declaration, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and other documents praised by the international peace constituency as innovative and groundbreaking.

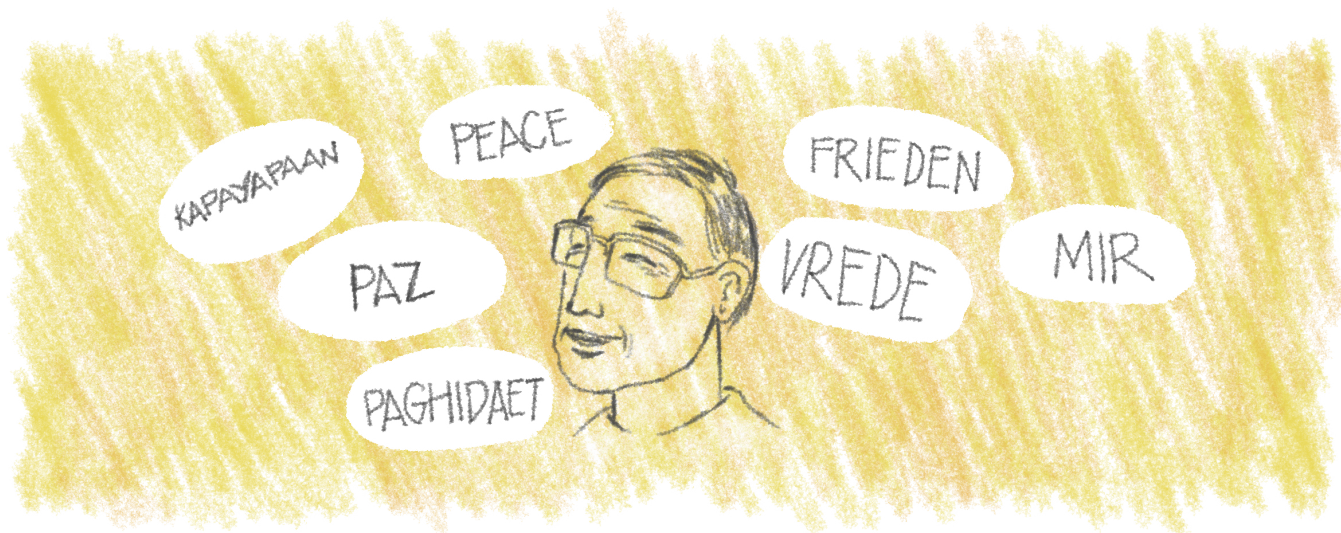
To further win global prestige for the Philippine revolution, Ka Louie helped in crafting NDFP's Declaration of Adherence to International Humanitarian Law it submitted to the United Nations (UN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1991. It is one of the first revolutionary movements in the world to declare such a commitment in the conduct of war. As a member of the National Council and National Executive Committee, Ka Louie also issued the NDFP's Declaration and Program of Action for Filipino Children in the context of the civil war in the Philippines. It was also submitted to the UN in June 2012.

At the time of his death, Ka Louie was NDFP Negotiating Panel's senior adviser. In being the NDFP's longest-serving peace negotiator, he helped in gaining for the revolutionary movement a co-belligerent status in the Philippine civil war.

Active, independent, and peaceful foreign policy

Ka Louie's stellar performance as the revolutionary movement's chief ambassador has prepared the National Democratic Government's establishment of an active, independent and peaceful foreign policy upon seizure of national political power. With the help of the various liberation movements, governments and intergovernmental organizations Ka Louie made friends with across the globe, the new government shall reject and vigorously defend itself against all forms of foreign intervention and interference in the country's internal affairs from all other states. The new government shall establish diplomatic and economic relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, mutual benefit, and the peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts. It shall seek to develop close and warm relations with Third World and socialist countries as well as productive and mutually beneficial relations with capitalist countries.

All these shall be possible because of Ka Louie's hard work and dedication to the cause of the national democratic revolution. The young man who seemed to refuse to leave Negros Island and the soft-spoken priest whose first greeting was always a wide smile had gained in more than six decades of service and struggle the broad and global support for the Filipino people's revolution and future. **LIB**





Trusting in the Philippine Revolution:

Insights on International Solidarity *by Bernadette Rojo*

Sylvie, an activist based in the United States, recalled how they were introduced to the national democratic movement a few years ago. A background in the natural sciences had left them feeling frustrated with how the academe presented climate change as something detached from the politics of capitalism and imperialism. After sharing their frustrations with a friend, their journey as a supporter of the Philippine revolution began with a lent copy of *Araling Aktibista* (ARAK, one of the courses offered by PADEPA or national democratic school).

“ARAK certainly got me interested in learning more, and from there it was followed by more readings like *Philippine Society and Revolution* that really made me understand imperialism more, as a real thing experienced by people in the Philippines,” they shared.

Not long after, they would get the chance to visit the Philippines on a solidarity trip. As they toured parts of

the countryside and got the chance to interact with local peasant organizations, all the educational discussions about the semicolonial and semifeudal character of Philippine society became real.

Sylvie explained, “Before coming to the Philippines, I had built this theoretical understanding of what feudalism, semifeudalism was, based on readings and discussions. You sort of have this picture in your head like the class triangle, and then suddenly you see what it’s really like on the ground. Coming here and actually seeing how the feudal structure is being maintained by US imperialism and bureaucrat capitalism, learning from farmers firsthand what it’s like, was an eye-opening experience.”

Aside from the concrete situation on the ground, Sylvie also witnessed the reality of the people’s struggle—a “principled people’s movement”—with peasant communities remaining organized in the face of severe

state repression. On top of this, what snippets they heard of the activities of the New People’s Army in the area they visited, showed how the locals understood the root causes of armed revolution deeply. “With all the people we talked to, no one said a bad thing about the NPA. It was clear to many that if the reactionary government doesn’t provide for the people, what choice do people have but to fight and take up arms?”

Inspired by their trip to the countryside, Sylvie now understands with greater reason the importance of international solidarity work for national liberation movements like the one in the Philippines. “You really see how grateful people on the ground are for your presence and time, and how these solidarity trips can lend them strength to keep on fighting,” they said.

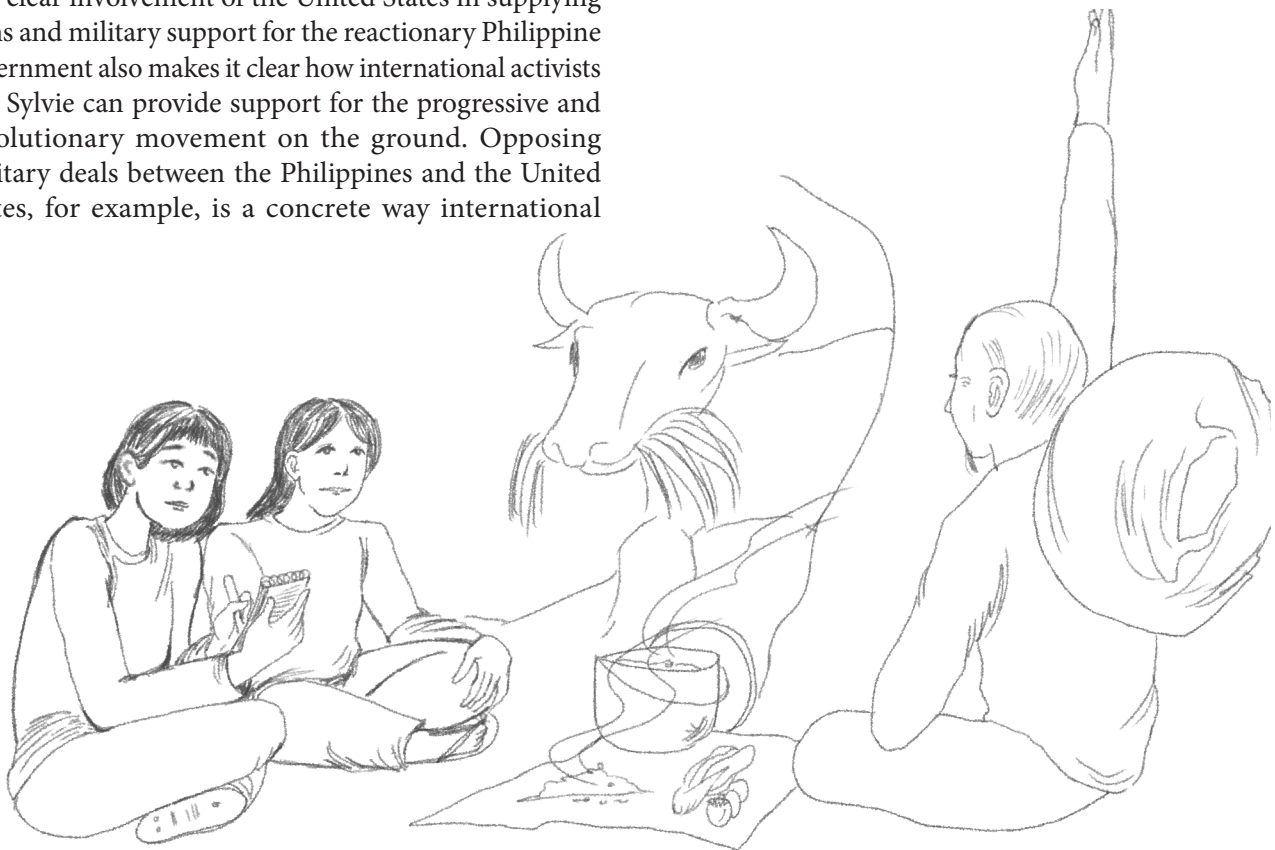
“It can be hard sometimes to make people care, especially since the Philippines seems so far away from places like the United States. That’s why sharing our experiences from this kind of visits, and also hearing firsthand from people on the ground, is so valuable.”

The clear involvement of the United States in supplying arms and military support for the reactionary Philippine government also makes it clear how international activists like Sylvie can provide support for the progressive and revolutionary movement on the ground. Opposing military deals between the Philippines and the United States, for example, is a concrete way international

solidarity can effect changes in the lives of Filipinos being targeted by the “counterinsurgency” operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The current global situation, plagued by imperialist crisis and war, has put a spotlight on national liberation movements across the world, from Palestine to India to the Philippines. Reflecting on how international solidarity in its various forms and expressions has grown as of late, Sylvie recognized the significance of building organizations.

“One thing I appreciate about the Philippine revolutionary movement is how organized and disciplined it is, even in the international level. All across the globe, there are activists expressing solidarity and tangibly support Filipino revolutionaries. And all of this solidarity, I think, is anchored on this deep sense of trust in the Filipino people, in their ability to win against imperialism, and liberate their country from oppression.” **LIB**



KAGUMA HOLDS 4TH NATIONAL CONGRESS

by Mia Andres

It looked like just any ordinary school activity, a forum perhaps. People lined up to register for the event while those who were waiting mingled with attendees they knew. Others were doing last minute preparations for the activity. The lady at the registry asked people to sign the registration sheet, not with your name but one's "pangalan sa pakikibaka" (nom de guerre), issued name tags, and kindly asked to surrender phones, tablets, and other similar devices before entering the hall.

Inside, three red flags were set up onstage—the flags of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). Right at the presidential table was a fourth flag—red with a yellow triangle in the middle. Within the triangle is a hand holding a book. At the lower part of the flag, the word KAGUMA is written, which stands for Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (Alliance of Patriotic Teachers).

Sometime in October 2025, members of KAGUMA held their 4th National Congress with the theme “*Sulong rebolusyonaryong kilusang guro! Magwasto! Magpalawak! Makibaka! Magtagumpay! Buong kakayahang isulong ang demokratikong rebolusyong bayan na may sosyalistang perspektiba!*” (Carry forward the revolutionary teachers movement! Rectify! Expand! Struggle! Win! Advance the people's democratic revolution with a socialist

perspective!) Almost 80 members from various regions and schools were present.

Revolutionary teachers, educators

KAGUMA is an underground mass organization of revolutionary teachers, educators, and students of education allied with the NDFP. It traces its roots back in 1971 being a product of the resurgence of the mass movement during the First Quarter Storm (FQS). Since then teachers have helped in molding generations of revolutionary teachers and youth.

In his written message, Elias Dipasupil, secretary general of the NDFP reiterated the importance of teachers to shape the minds of the public. Citing point no. 9 of NDFP's 12-point program i.e., Promote a national and progressive people's culture, Dipasupil expounded:

“Ang paggamit ng inyong propesyon para hubugin sa mga estudyante ang rebolusyonaryong diwa at aktitud para sa militanteng pakikibaka. Ang pagbaka sa historical distortion at kolonyalistang edukasyon, sa mga kurikulum na nagbibigay ng pinakamalaking halaga sa labor export. Ang paglaban sa imperyalistang opensibang kultural ng indibidwalismo na gustong hubugin ang mga kabataan na hiwalay sa isa't isa at sa lipunan. Ang pagsusuri at paglalantad ng mga mapanghati, baluktot



at kolonyalistang ideyang pinalalaganap sa eskwelahan para gawing masunurin, hindi-kritikal, at makasarili ang mga estudyante. Ang mga ideyang nagbabalat-kayong akademikong pag-unlad pero sa katunayan ay mga ni-rehash na rebisyunismo, misogyny, rasismo, at kolonyalismo.”

Aside from Dipasupil, several other NDFP allied organizations sent their congratulatory and solidarity messages such as the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB), Christians for National Liberation (CNL), Kabataang Makabayan (KM), and Marco Valbuena, Chief Information Officer of the CPP.

Valbuena said, “Through your perseverance, you inspire teachers to look beyond their current hardships and join the struggle of the broader masses for a complete transformation of the social order.”

Rectify, Expand, Struggle, Win

The congress tackled primarily the secretariat report covering the past 24 years since KAGUMA’s 3rd Congress. It was based on the results of a preliminary summing-up with the aim to enrich it further through the congress. Starting with a self-criticism, “*mapagkumbabang pagpuna sa sarili sa pagbitiw sa batayang prinsipyo ng rebolusyonaryong orgnisasyon at ang mga pamamaraan isinagawa nitong mga nakalipas na taon*” the report fleshed out its errors. It also presented the organization’s efforts to combat bureaucratism and empiricism among comrades and cadres in the conduct of its work and in the light of the ongoing rectification movement led by the CPP.

With self-criticism comes rectification. After identifying the errors, the congress discussed and approved its orientation, constitution, and three-year plan. KAGUMA presented a draft plan of action to the delegates for approval. The plan consisted of three major points of action:

1. Develop and invigorate the revolutionary work among teachers;
2. Isolate and overthrow the US-Marcos-Duterte Regime; and
3. Active participation in other forms of struggle to advance the People’s Democratic Revolution.

After a new set of officers was elected and took their oath of office, Guia Umili, the elected chairperson, lead the

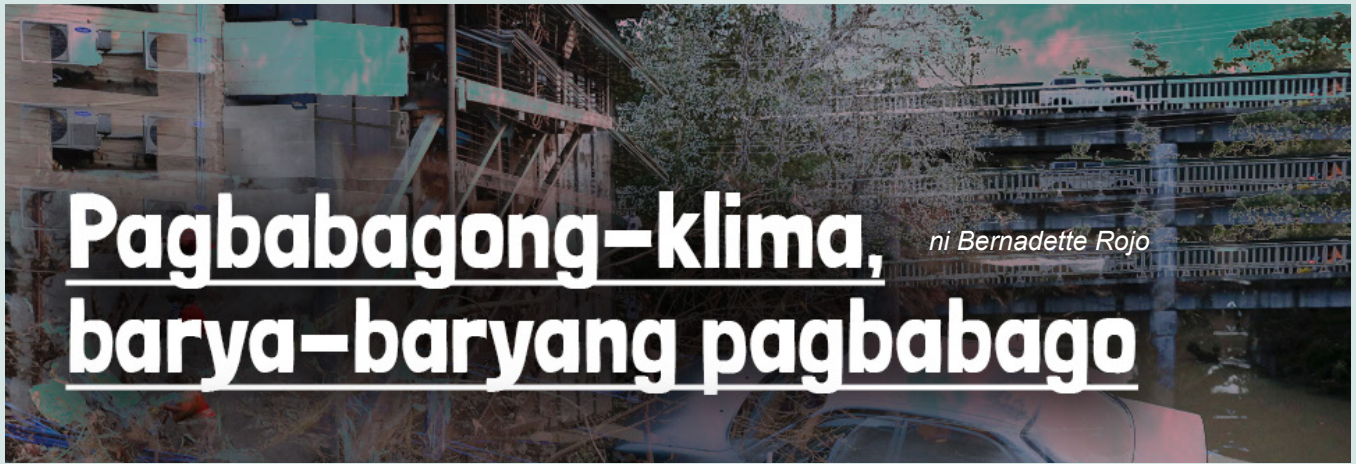
delegates in honoring the people’s martyrs. “They offered and gave their whole lives to the revolution. Let us salute our comrades in the countryside who carry on the highest form of struggle,” she addressed the membership.

The congress, said Valbuena is “undeniably historic— not only because it was convened after a long time but also because it marks the beginning of a new period of advancement for the revolutionary teachers’ movement.”

Umili also called on the congress delegates to put into practice the lessons drawn from the past. “May the link between our revolutionary theory and practice continue to grow stronger; may our documents and studies not become stagnant knowledge stored only in our minds but serve as guides for advancing our actions; and may our actions in turn elevate our revolutionary theory to a higher level.”

After singing the Internationale, the congress ended with thunderous chants: “*Digmang Bayan, sagot sa kahirapan!*” “*Mabuhay ang Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang NPA! Mabuhay ang NDFP! Mabuhay ang KAGUMA!*” **LIB**





Pagbabagong-klima, barya-baryang pagbabago

ni Bernadette Rojo

Naranasan mismo ni Ka Delia ang bangis ng epekto ng climate change nang humagupit ang bagyong Yolanda noong 2013. “Kakaiba talaga yung lakas ng hangin noon,” aniya. “Parang magugunaw na ang mundo, wala ka talagang makita sa labas.” Ikinuwento niya ang pagbagsak ng bubong ng bahay nila at ang paglikas nila sa gitna ng bagyo.

Pagkaraan ng bagyong Yolanda, naramdaman niya na tila wala nang pag-asa sa kanyang lugar sa Leyte. Sirang-sira ang mga gusali, puro delata ang kinakain. Sa kabila ng bilyon-bilyong pondong nakalap ng reaksyunaryong estado pang-ayuda, iilan lang ang nakinabang sa mga proyektong pabahay at walang konkretong hakbang kung paano gawing ligtas ang masa sa epekto ng mga malalakas na bagyo. Ayon sa isang pag-aaral apat na taon pagkalipas ng trahedyang, 25 porsyento pa lang ng mga ipinangakong pabahay ang naitayo ng reaksyunaryong estado.

Tulak nito at ng maraming pang dahilan, lumipat si Ka Delia sa Maynila. Ngayon, bilang organisador ng Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa (KASAMA-NDFP) sa isang siyudad sa Metro Manila, nakikita niya na malapit rin sa bituka ng maralitang lungsod ang usapin ng sakuna. At gaya ng karanasan niya sa Leyte, malaking isyu rin kung paano ginagamit ng mga burukrata kapitalista ang climate change para sa kanilang sariling ganansya.

Flood control, embankment, korapsyon

“Wala namang masamang tugunan ang mga epekto ng climate change. Dapat lang, karapatan ito ng mamayan at responsibilidad ng gobyerno,” sabi ni Ka Delia. “Ang problema, ginagamit ang mga pondo ng taumbayan sa pangungurakot kaya palpak ang mga proyektong tinipid.”

Kung titingnan natin ang pambansang badyet, malaki ang perang inilalaan sa flood control. Umabot sa halos

Php 350 bilyon o one-third ng kabuuang badyet ng bansa ay para sa imprastruktura, tulad ng proyektong flood control sa taong 2025. Malaki ang pagtaas nito mula sa Php 93.7 bilyon noong 2020.

Ibinahagi ni Ka Delia ang sitwasyon ng mga urban poor sa baybayin ng Manila Bay. Inirereklamo ng mga lokal ang walang katapusang pag-aayos ng seawall pero mas lumalala naman ang baha at epekto ng high tide. “Walang kwenta ang seawall dahil pag malakas ang alon sa Manila Bay nakakapasok pa rin ang tubig at bumabaha.”

“Sana nakakatulong yung proyekto nila. Pero wala kaming nakikitang pagbabago. Sana ipamigay lang nila yung milyon-milyong pondo dito sa amin, mas makakatulong pa yun,” sabi ng isang residente.

“Pera lang naman yung habol ng mga trapo, wala silang pakialam kung may pakinabang ang mga proyektong itinatayo nila,” sabi ni Ka Delia. “Posibleng pinapalala pa nga nito ang mga baha. gaya ng mga proyektong bumabara sa natural na daanan ng tubig.” Halos ganito rin ang nasaksihan ni Ka Delia sa kanilang probinsya. Halimbawa, mga pabahay at tide embankment na perwisyo pa sa masa. Karanasan rin ito taun-taon ng libong mamamayan sa buong bansang tuwing hinahagupit ng mga kalamidad.

Hindi naman sikreto na ginagamit lang ng mga pulitiko ang proyektong gaya nito para mangurakot kaya naman pira-piraso ang mga ito, hindi planado at koordinado at hindi pangmatagalan. Walang pambansang plano kung paano tutugunan ang epekto ng climate change.

Para maibsan ang poot ng mamamayan at pagtakpan ang kapabayaan, ginagamit ng mga pulitiko ang regular na pamimigay ng ayuda sa ilang mga residente, ayon kay Ka Delia, “na barya lang kumpara sa malaking kickback na nakukuha nila sa mga walang-katapusang

proyektong ito.” Sa totoo lang, kumikita rin ang mga pulitiko mula sa mga badyet pang-ayuda.

Sama-samang pagkilos laban sa kawalang pananagutan, *criminal negligence*

Sa ngayon, ang climate change ay bahagi na nang araw-araw na buhay ng mamamayan sa buong mundo. Bunga ito ng kasibaan ng kapitalismo gaya ng tuloy-tuloy ang pandarambong ng mga malalaking dayuhang korporasyon sa kalikasan, gayundin ang walang-awat na pagsirit ng carbon emissions mula sa mga kapitalistang bansa.

Ang mga nabanggit ni Ka Delia na kaso ng corruption ay isa sa mga nagpapalala sa sitwasyong ito at sa esensya ay kawalan ng pananagutan ng gobyerno sa gitna ng kahirapan, pagkawala ng mga buhay at kabuhayan. Sa katunayan, antas krimen na ang kapabayaang ito, lalo na ng rehimeng Marcos Jr. Kailangang maningil at panagutin ang rehimen.

Para kay Ka Delia, hinog ang panahon para mag-organisa, lalo na ng mga organisasyong rebolusyonaryo at lihim, sa hanay ng maralitang lungsod.

“Sa pagkakaroon ng organisasyon, nagiging koordinado ang tugon at pagtutulungan ng rebolusyonaryong pwersa sa kanilang sitwasyon. Maski sa usapin ng ayuda, mas madaling pairalin ang tamang oryentasyon sa pagtanggap nito. Naiiwasan ang mga alitan sa pagitan ng mga miyembro ng komunidad. Saka pag organisado, mas matibay ang mamamayan sa paniningil sa rehimen.”

Sistema ang kalaban

Bilang organisador ng KASAMA, mulat si Ka Delia na hindi sapat ang ligal na pakikibaka para makamit ang tunay na pagbabago sa lipunan.

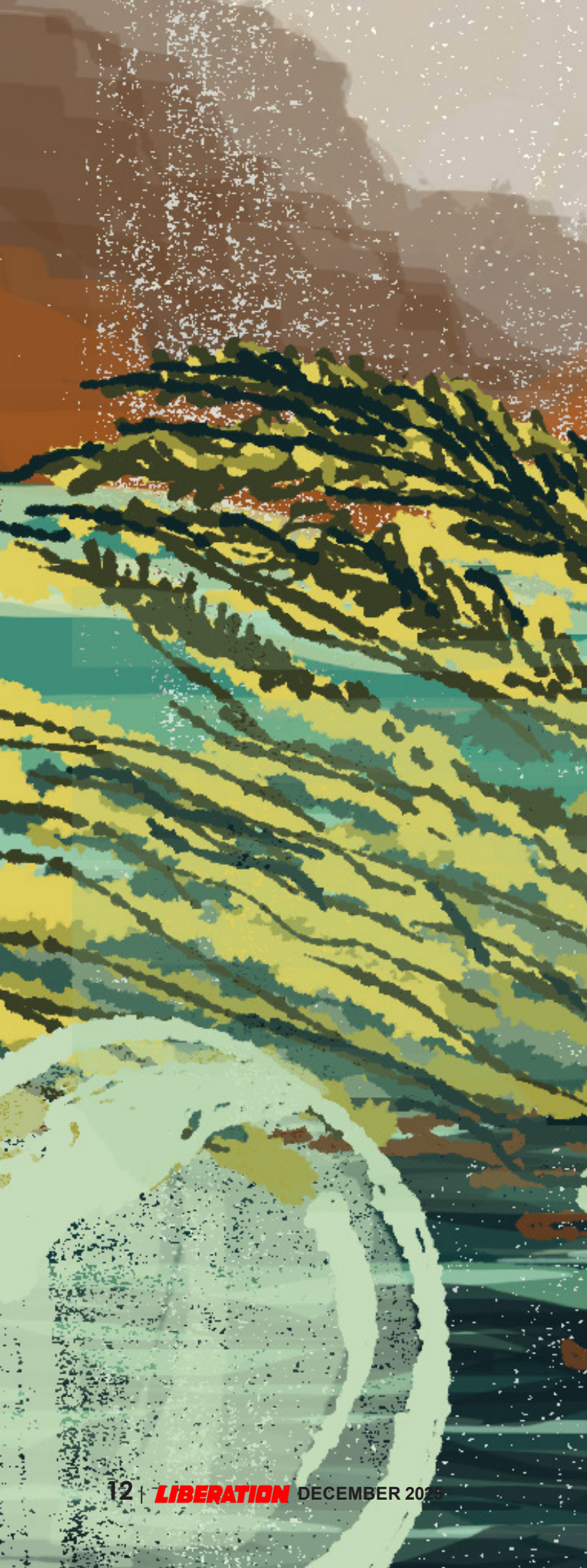
Aniya, nakaugat ang mga problema nila sa palpak na seawall, panakip-butas na ayuda, korupsiyon at lumalalang epekto ng climate change sa tatlong salot ng lipunan—ang imperyalismo, pyudalismo, at burukrata kapitalismo.

Maliban sa pinagkakakitaan ng mga burukrata at mga dayuhang korporasyon, ang mga mapanirang proyekto tulad ng minahan at quarrying, mega-dams, land conversion para sa mga plantasyon at real estate, reklamasyon, kahit ang mga malls ay sumisira sa mga daanan ng tubig, bundok, at mga palayan.

Ang mga proyektong ito ay dahilan rin ng patuloy na pagiging atrasado at mapagsamantalang kalagayan ng mga magsasaka at katutubo sa kanayunan; at isa sa dahilan ng ng pagluwas sa siyudad na nalalagay sa kanila sa panibagong bulnerableng sitwasyon.

“Sa aming pag-organisa sa maralitang lungsod, hindi nawawala ang mga talakayan, ang paglantad ng kabulukan ng sistema. Dito napapatimo ang kawastuhan ng armadong pakikibaka bilang solusyon sa mga problema sa ating bansa. At kahit narito tayo sa lungsod, bahagi ng tungkulin natin ay yung mapalapit ang masa sa rebolusyon, hanggang sa pinakamataas na porma nito.” **LIB**





BBM AT MGA BURUKRATA KAPITALISTA: PUNONG MULTO SA LIKOD NG KURAKOT AT KALAMIDAD

ni Pinky Ang

Tumitindi ang galit ng mamamayan sa lumalalang pagbaha tuwing bagyo at panahon ng habagat o kaya naman kapag tagtuyot dahil walang totoong solusyong itinatatap ang gobyerno sa mga ito.

Regular nang nagpapalitan ang kalamidad na dala ng tagtuyot at bagyo/habagat. Kapag tagtuyot, lumilitaw ang kakulangan ng irigasyon o patubig sa mga taniman. Tuwing tag-ulan niraragasa naman ng tubig, putik at basura ang mga taniman at tirahan. Umaapaw ang ilog, nalulubog ang mga palayan at gulayan, nawawasak ang mga dike, irigasyon, “floodwall,” kalsada, at bahay.

Kada bagyo, milyon hanggang bilyong piso ang tantyang pinsala sa agrikultura at imprastraktura. Sabi mismo sa Department of Agriculture na noong 2024 hindi bababa sa Php 15 bilyon ang pinsala sa agrikultura dahil sa tagtuyot at ang sumunod na mga bagyo. Para sa 2025, sinabi rin ng DA na nitong Agosto pa lang ay nasa Php 3.53 bilyon na halaga ng mga pinsala sa agrikultura. Hindi pa kasama rito ang mas mahalaga—ang buhay ng mga tao.

Magkakaugnay ang mga dahilan ng kalamidad—mula sa kinakalbong forest cover ng mga bundok bumababa sa mga ilog at sapa at kalsada ang tubig, putik at batong di makadaloy dahil sa mga imprastrakturang hindi angkop, di-planado at koordinado gaya ng drainage system o flood control projects. Isama pa rito ang mga reclamation projects, black sand mining sa mga baybaying dagat na dahilan ng pagkasira ng mga bakawan. Marami pa.

Sa Bulacan pa lang, ayon sa mga ulat, ilang bilyong piso ang halaga ng kontrata ng mga “completed” flood control projects na guniguni lang pala o kaya palpak. Ganyan din ang ulat mula sa Negros, Ilocos at Bicol. At naglalabasan ang iba pang mga reklamo at rebelasyon sa iba’t-ibang lugar. Sabi nga tip of the iceberg pa lang ang bilyon-bilyong kurakot sa Bulacan.

Sa lahat nang ito, gutom at dagdag na kahirapan at pagkabaon sa dagdag na utang ang dulot nito sa mga magsasaka, mangingisda, maralitang lunsod—ang pinaka vulnerable sa epekto ng mga kalamidad, mapa-tagtuyot man o malalang pagbaha. Wala o hindi matibay ang kanilang bahay, walang pampagamot pag nadisgrasya, walang ipon pang kapital at rehabilitasyon ng kabuhayan.

“Kahit ilang buwan o bagyo na ang dumaan wala pa ring kumpensasyon at ayuda mula sa gobyerno,” sabi ni Tonyo, isang magsasaka mula Southern Tagalog. Katulad ng iba pang magsasaka sa ibang dako ng Pilipinas, sinabi niyang hindi pa sila nakakaahon mula sa pinsala ng bagyo (Kristine nong 2024), muli na namang sinalanta ng bagyo at pagbaha ang kabuhayan nila nitong Hulyo 2025. Ngayon, “Walang makain ang aming pamilya.” Ang hiling ng mga magbubukid, “magawa uli ang aming palayan para kami makapagtanim.”

Sa tuwing may kalamidad, kailangan pang manawagan ng mga biktima para sa kagyat na aksyon mula sa gobyerno gayung nasa kanila ang rekurso at responsabilidad nila ang tumugon dito. Sa tuwing may kalamidad, ang mga mamamayang ninanakawan ng buwis at serbisyo ang nag-aambagan para maiahon ang isa’t isa. Noong nakaraang buwan, nakiisa at nakipagtulungan sa mga apektado ng sunud sunod na bagyo ang Communist Party of the Philippines at mga alyadong rebolusyonaryong organisasyon. Nagkoordinang sila ng mga tulong ng masa at mga rebolusyonaryo sa iba’t ibang dako ng Pilipinas para sa mga kagyat na pangangailangan.

Sinasamantala naman ng military ang delubyo para kontrolin ang mga tao. Hinaharangan ang tulong na kinalap ng mga organisasyong masa. Sinisiraan ang nagkakaisang pagkilos ng mamamayan. Pero iisa lang ang kanilang pahiwatig: na sa usaping kalamidad, wala silang magagawa kundi manisi sa kanilang kriminal na pagpapabaya.

Palusot ng mga punong burukrata kapitalista: isisi sa iba ang kriminal kapabaya

Tulad din ng mga nagdaang hepe ng burukrata kapitalista, ipinatutupad ngayon ng rehimeng Marcos Jr ang large-scale mining, quarrying, logging, ekspansyon ng mga plantasyong pang eksport, at liberalisasyon ng agrikultura at pangisdaan. Ilan lang ito sa mga proyektong pumipinsala sa kalikasan at kabuhayan ng mamamayan. Ang mga ito ay dikta ng mga imperyalistang bansa,

mga panginoong maylupa at burgesya komprador na kinakatawan ngayon ni Marcos Jr.

Pero tuwing binabatbat ng kalamidad ang Pilipinas, naghahanap ang mga burukrata kapitalista ng masisisi maliban sa mga totoong dahilan. Bilang punong burukrata kapitalista, isinisisi ni Marcos Jr ang kalamidad sa bansa sa climate change (na ito na raw ang normal at dapat nang matutong mamuhay sa ganitong sitwasyon).

Mahiya lang?

Nitong huling SONA 2025, sinalubong ni Marcos Jr ang mga bagyo at habagat ng pasabog na “Mahiya naman kayo!” na target ang mga karibal na pulitiko at mga kasabwat na kontraktor at ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na akala mo ay malinis siya at ang ibang pang bahagi ng reaksyunaryong estado. Halatang naghahabol ng pogi points pero sa tindi nang mga nabulatlat na kaso ng korapsyon, mas naging malinaw sa mamamayan ang pagnanakaw hindi lamang ng mga karibal sa politika ni Marcos Jr kundi maari pang humantong sa mismong Malacanang.

Ang korapsyon sa pondo tulad ng mga tongpats, kupit o tuwirang ghost projects, ang pagpabor sa mga kamag-anak, dummy, o crony—ilan lang ito sa SOP ng mga burukrata kapitalista para nakawan ang kabang bayan.

Doble ang pasakit nito sa mamamayan. Makapagnakaw lang, di baleng mapinsala ang mamamayan. Halimbawa, sa isang bayan ng Batangas, idinaing ng magbubukid ang isang proyekto ng DPWH na sumira sa istrukturang panlaban sa baha na magkatuwang nilang ginawa at ng LGU. Sa halip na makatulong, mas lumala ang pagbaha sa kanilang mga palayan.

**ANG KORAPSYON SA PONDO
TULAD NG MGA TONGPATS, KUPIT
O TUWIRANG GHOST PROJECTS ...
ILAN LANG ITO SA SOP NG MGA
BURUKRATA KAPITALISTA PARA
NAKAWAN ANG KABAN NG BAYAN.**

Tutoong dapat imbestigahan at parusahan ang mga nagpapayaman kapalit ng dusa at buhay ng mamamayan sa baha at iba pang kalamidad. Pero alam naman ng lahat na ang korupsiyon sa DPWH at mga kontraktor nito at mga natukoy na pulitiko ay maliit na bahagi pa lang ng kabuuan. Ang batuhan ng putik ng Malakanyang, Kongreso, at Senado ay patunay kung gaano kabulok ang buong sistemang batbat ng korupsiyon.

Built-in sa sistemang malakolonyal at malapyudal ang krimen ng korupsiyon na isa sa katangian ng burukrata kapitalismo. Ginagamit ng mga burukrata ang pwesto bilang negosyo para magkamal nang marami pang salapi at magpapalawak ng kapangyarihang pang-ekonomya at pampulitika di lang para sa kanila, sa kanilang pamilya kundi para sa mga amo nilang imperyalista, panginoong maylupa at komprador burgesya—sa kapahamakan ng mamamayang Pilipino.

Mahiya lang? Hindi sapat. Kaya nananawagan at iginigiit ng mamamayang Pilipino ang kumpensasyon para sa kriminal na kapabayaan ng rehimeng ito at ang pagpapanagot sa lahat ng maysala at responsable sa kahirapang dinaranas ng masang anakpawis na nabaon sa baha at utang.

Sa gitna ng nakakasukang rebelasyon ng laganap na pagnanakaw ng rehimen sa mula mamamayan, ang pagpapasarap-buhay nila at mga katusabang kontratista, ng palpak na flood-control projects, hindi na lang kagyat na ayuda para sa mga biktima ang usapin kundi ang kumpensasyon sa mga biktima ng pandarambong at ng kriminal na kapabayaan ng rehimen. Kaisa ng mamamayan sa panawagang ito ang Communist Party of the Philippines. Tinukoy ng CPP na kailangang mag-organisa at maningil ng kumpensasyon ang mga biktima ng dati at bagong bagyo, baha at tagtuyot para sa kriminal na kapabayaan ng rehimen pati na rin ang mga patakaran nito sa ekonomya na siyang puno't dulo ng mga kalamidad.

Wakasan ang burukrata kapitalismo

Hindi lang mga kontratista, dapat managot din ang mga punong burukrata kapitalista at mga inaprubahan nilang mapaminsalang proyekto.

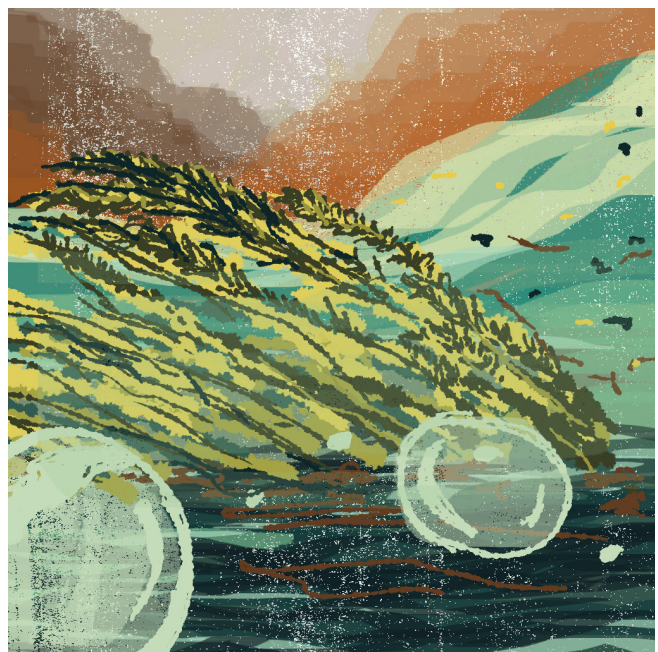
Nananatili ang katotohanang kahirapan ng mamamayan ang naglagay sa kanila sa panganib; kahirapang resulta ng mga polisiya sa ekonomya at pulitika ng reaksyunaryong

estadong walang ibang interes kundi ang interes ng imperyalismong US at iba pang imperyalistang bansa, ng mga lokal na panginoong maylupa at burgesya kumprador at mga burukrata kapitalista.

Batay sa karanasan at suri ng mga kasapi ng PKM (Pambansang Katipunan ng Magbubukid-NDFP), natulak sila sa kalagayang pinaka bulnerable sa kalamidad dahil na rin mismo sa sistemang malakolonyal at malapyudal umiiral sa Pilipinas—ang patuloy na tumitinding kahirapan dahil sa lumalala ang kawalan ng lupa, pagka-atrasado ng produksyong agrikultural at ekonomya. Kung hikahos sila sa kabila ng buwis-buhay na pagtatrabaho, paano sila iigpaw sa pinsala ng bagyo o tagtuyot?

Sa kasalukuyang sistemang malakolonyal at malapyudal, ang pinakamalalaki at pinakamabilis makasira ng kalikasan na nagdudulot ng iba't ibang kalamidad ay ang mga imperyalista at mga burukrata-kapitalista. Ang pinakamalalaking nakikinabang sa mga pekeng proyektong “pangkalamidad” at “pang-iwas sa kalamidad” ay sila rin mismo.

Sa huli, dahil system-generated ang pagkakaroon ng kalamidad sa Pilipinas, ang sistemang nagbubunsod nito ang kailangang pawiin. At mapapawi lamang ito kung maipagtatagumpay ang pambansa demokratikong rebolusyon na may sosyalistang perspektiba. **LIB**



‘Guerilla farming’ and the role of scientists in the agrarian revolution

Contribution from Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB)



One of the most fulfilling activities of the New People's Army (NPA) is our production work with the masses. It sometimes feels like we are living machines in a way we build and develop our agricultural lands. In advancing the agrarian revolution, we simultaneously work together with the masses to support their livelihood and to ensure that we can sustain the needs of the people's army. So instead of the exploitative practice of commercialized agriculture perpetuated by the ruling class, the NPA uses and advocates for “guerrilla farming”—and scientists have a big role to play in this!

“Guerilla farming”

One of the most prevalent problems in the countryside is monocrop farming—the practice of cultivating only one kind of crop in an entire farmland. In our area, the primary livelihood of the masses is copra production, essentially it's monocrop. Coconut is a cash crop that has to be sold and converted into money for the farmer's essential needs.

For tenants who don't own land, they sell their labor to landlords, profits are also split. The rates vary from place to place. In our area, the profit is split 50/50 between the

tenant and the landlord, despite the landlord having no contribution to farming implements and actual farming. Also, landlords don't allow peasants to plant other crops under coconut trees.

Aside from coconut farming, the peasants in our area have access to vast lands in mountain slopes where they have *kaingin* (slash-and-burn agriculture). Members of our unit pondered on how we can maximize parts of these lands and transform them into a more productive farmland.

When we visited Manong Tango, he showed us his land on the slopes of a mountain. You'd really be amazed by the abundance of his cassava farm! Aside from being a source of food, Manong Tango also sells cassava to help his children and grandchildren. There is one problem, though—you can easily see that the crops are not growing evenly along the slope. One of our comrades, an agriculturist by training, explained: water carries the nutrients in the soil from the top to the bottom, so the crops are more abundant at the bottom.

Another comrade jokingly asked, “So how can we flatten the land, without flattening the land?” This is where we

started our “guerrilla farming” project—a term we coined to counter the monocrop farming of the ruling class.

Using Manong Tango’s cassava farm as a pilot site, we started to practice land contouring to build agricultural terraces on the valley. These terraces served a dual purpose: one, to evenly spread the nutrients throughout the land and not let it accumulate in the bottom area; and two, to expand the area of the agricultural land.

We used an A-frame (an instrument to measure the steepness of the slope) that we made from thin branches. This was my first time to measure land—and it was pretty fun! We then placed cassava cuttings in each terrace from top to bottom. Seen from a distance, it looked like a mini version of the Banaue Rice Terraces. A comrade joked that this was our “Kamoteng Kahoy Terraces,” to which we all laughed.

In a kaingin of another farmer, Manong Ron, we engaged in production work everyday to practice multicrop farming or cultivating multiple types of crops in one area. We again built terraces and planted a different crop in each terrace such as cassava, taro, and others. It’s as if we planted a rainbow in the soil! This is the knowledge that we shared with Manong Ron so that he could use his land to plant crops that can be eaten by his family. Multicropping is also important to ensure soil health, manage pests, and to have harvest at different parts of the year.

Why did we call our project “guerilla farming”? The reactionary state and bureaucracy work hand-in-hand to narrow the knowledge of the peasantry regarding their own production work. Because different methods such as land contouring and multicropping are not practiced in favor of the monocropping culture, farmers are not able to scientifically develop these methods outside of the agrarian revolution. Though collective effort, Manong Tango and Manong Ron learned and practiced different ways to improve their farm production.

When we came back to the guerilla farms that we helped build after a few months, I became teary-eyed at the lushness and beauty of our crops. Our unit also made

use of the cassava that we planted to make cassava rolls, which served as emergency food during the time when successive typhoons hit the area.

Agricultural education to advance agrarian revolution

Our aim is to liberate the peasantry from landlessness and abject poverty. The backwardness of agriculture and the landlessness of the peasants is a reflection of a semifeudal economy. As the revolution strives towards the distribution of land to the tillers, the NPA also strives to popularize and develop advanced practices in agriculture.

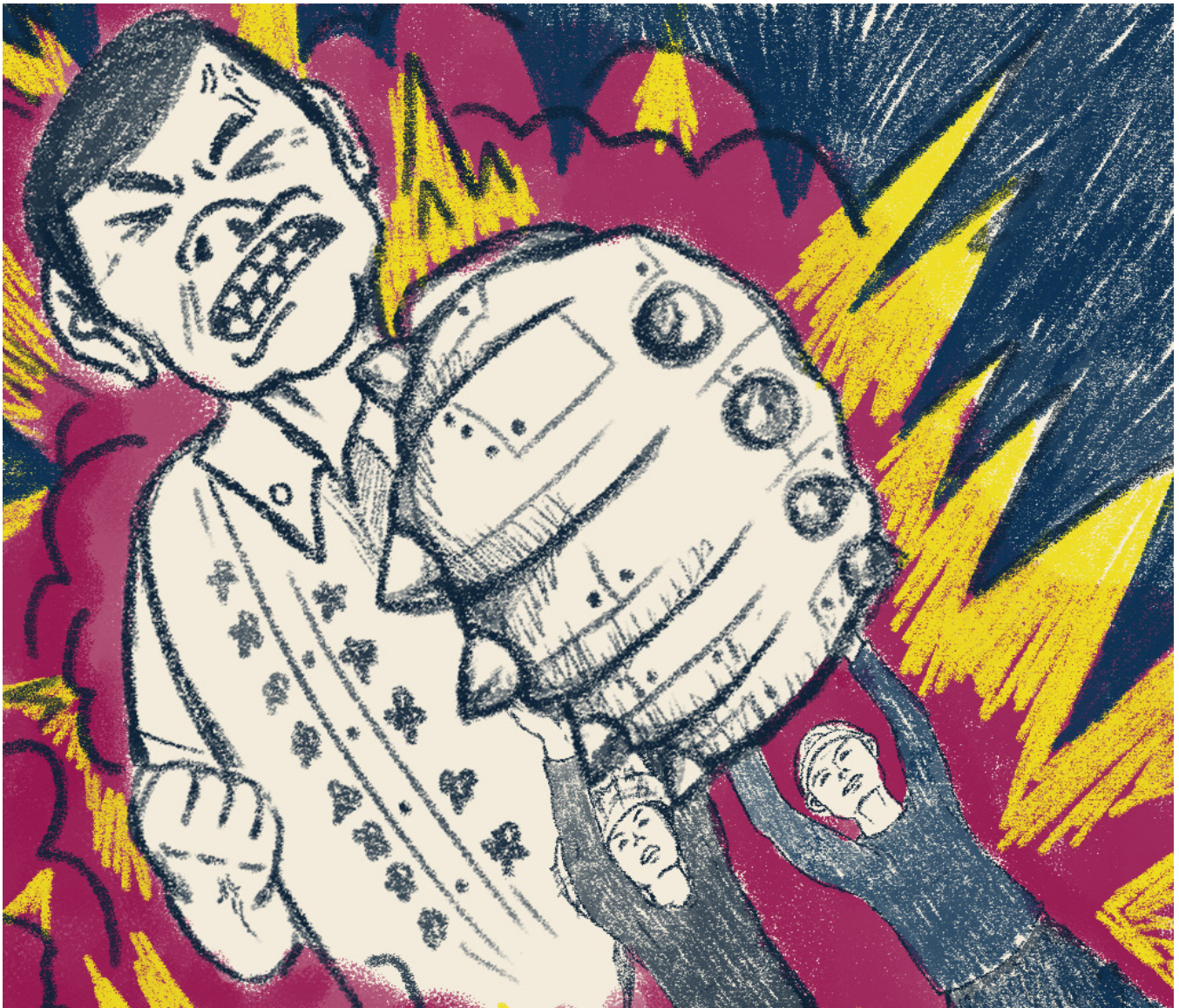
It is important for the farmers themselves to practice land contouring and multicrop farming to effectively use them in farmlands they till. In advancing the educational campaign and the campaign for land redistribution simultaneously, we can make big strides in advancing the agrarian revolution, the NPA, and the revolutionary governance of the masses in the countryside.

From my experience, it became even clearer to me that scientists, engineers, and intellectuals can contribute greatly in the countryside. Through applying scientific concepts to the reality of life and struggle in the countryside, we can help the peasant masses in many ways. From specialized knowledge in agriculture and mathematics, to using and aiming a rifle, there are a myriad of ways that we can apply our knowledge in the NPA life.

The rotten approach of the reactionary state to agriculture in the Philippines leaves us with no other option than to join the national democratic revolution and advance agrarian revolution in the countryside. Our immediate call to scientists, engineers, and professionals—head to the countryside, immerse in the peasant masses, join the New People’s Army! **LIB**

This article was first published in the April 2025 issue of Agham Bayan, the official newsletter of Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB). It has been edited for republishing.

Through applying scientific concepts to the reality of life and struggle in the countryside, we can help the peasant masses in many ways. From specialized knowledge in agriculture and mathematics, to using and aiming a rifle, there are a myriad of ways that we can apply our knowledge in the NPA life.



Is fascism back? ... or did it even leave us?

by Iliya Makalipay

We witnessed how, on September 21, the police lobbed tear gas canisters on the protesters, including by-passers and on-lookers, followed by endless beatings, manhandling, arrests and incarceration. At the day's end, scores were injured, 248 arrested and jailed, and two were killed. Police subpoenas and threats of arrests continue to haunt student leaders who joined the protest and the subsequent student walk-out in many campuses and universities.

Police brutality during the protest in Mendiola had some people asking: is fascism during the Marcos dictatorship back?

What even *is* fascism?

Georgi Dimitrov, a Bulgarian communist leader and theorist, gave a widely cited definition of fascism in his

speech at the 7th World Congress of the Communist International in 1935: “Fascism is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, and most imperialist elements of finance capital.”

In simpler terms, fascism is when the richest and most powerful parts of big business (finance capital) use violence and terror openly, through the state, to protect their power. It’s not just a regular dictatorship—it is extremely oppressive, nationalistic, and tied closely to big capitalist interests against the working class, unions and communists. Big business relies heavily on military and police force to stay in power, divides and controls the people and destroys their democratic rights and freedoms.

Repressive instruments of the state—the armed forces, media, the courts and legislative bodies—are overtly used to preserve a system ruled by a few oppressive and exploitative classes. In the Philippines, it’s the bureaucrat capitalists and dynasties in the government and their masters—the landlords, big business, and the imperialists.

Usually led by one “strong” leader (who wants all the power), fascists rely on the use of fear and intimidation to control the everyday life of the people. Freedom of speech is curtailed. A fascist ruler hates criticism and often uses fear to keep people quiet—silencing criticisms, protests, the critical media, and all opposing opinions. But it also uses deceit, peddling disinformation, conditioning the mindset of the people to support the regime, and tagging its critics as “subversives,” “enemies of the state,” and “terrorists” to deny them the legitimacy of their demands and struggles.

A quick look back

Marital law and the Marcos dictatorship is the most familiar and open form of fascism in Philippine history. It was amid a sharp economic crisis, socio-political upheaval, and a nascent national democratic revolution led by the Communist Party of the Philippines that threatened the existence of the US-Marcos Sr regime—representing the fast decaying semicolonial and semifeudal system—that marital law was imposed. The ruling classes could no longer rule in the old way. The late Bishop Antonio Fortich of the Diocese of Bacolod referred to the situation as a “social volcano ready to explode.”

Ferdinand Marcos Sr claimed he declared marital law to stop communism and save the country. But instead, the Filipino people witnessed thousands of activists, opposition leaders, civil libertarians jailed, tortured, or



disappeared just for speaking out. Media was shut down or confiscated or controlled by the state. Workers strikes were prohibited, unions were busted. One could be arrested for writing something “against the government.” The military was all over—in the streets, in urban and rural communities where they arrested, threatened, killed people; and, hamletted and bombed peasant and indigenous people’s communities.

People lived in fear. At first. And not for long. Martial law did not hinder the growth and spread of the Communist-led revolutionary movement and the legal democratic movement in urban centers throughout the country. Meanwhile, the Marcos family and their cronies stashed away billions of pesos while the rest of the country suffered in poverty, exploitation, and oppression. Aside from repressive laws, martial law also paved the way for more of the dictator’s decrees and proclamations that favored the interests of the imperialists, big landlords, and bourgeois capitalists.

Fascism didn’t disappear after martial law

Fascism did not fly away with Marcos Sr to Hawaii in 1986. It may not look exactly like 1972: there’s no official declaration of marital law, some trappings of democracy like a new Constitution and regular elections were restored when the dictator was ousted in 1986. There was even an attempt to recover the Marcos ill-gotten wealth. But all these were essentially cosmetic changes. From the so-called restoration of democracy when Cory Aquino took over the reins from Marcos Sr, the succeeding regimes did not institute meaningful reforms nor solve the fundamental problems of society such as bureaucrat capitalism, feudalism, and imperialism—from which fascism rose. Fascism is system-based. And, here are some indications:

1. Impunity continues. The Marcoses were never punished, and neither were their cronies and all those who benefited from the dictatorship. No one was made to account and pay for the crimes committed against the

people. They just faded away, albeit temporarily, from the limelight until they crawled back to the center stage, slowly but purposely. Ill-gotten wealth only transferred hands among the bureaucrats, never reaching its true owners—the people who were ravaged by the ruling classes.

The corruption scandals that we witness today? These are familiar cases that have gone from worse to worst because the bureaucrats and their cohorts believe they're above the law. That's normal. The people at the top protect each other while the public gets left behind.

Note that the Marcos comeback ironically started during Cory Aquino's rule—brokered by then Gen. Fidel Ramos (who turned against Marcos Sr at the last hour) and Danding Cojuangco, a known Marcos crony and cousin of Corazon Aquino. And so, the culture of impunity has been paved and cemented from Marcos to Marcos.

2. Marcos-enacted repressive laws and decrees during martial law still exist to this day. Not even the so-called revolutionary government of Cory Aquino repealed these laws such as the Illegal Assembly Act of Batas Pambansa 880 enacted on October 22, 1985 at the height of protests against the Marcos dictatorship. This decree is still used against protesters up to now. Paramilitary groups remain. Marcos Sr's Civilian Home Defense Forces (CHDF) was only renamed Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) during the Cory Aquino regime but still remains as Armed Forces of the Philippines' nefarious force multiplier in its "counterinsurgency" program.

Duterte's Anti-Terror Law is not far from Marcos Sr's Preventive Detention Order/Preventive Detention Arrest (PDO/PDA) in that both allow for arrest and detention of individuals without warrant and on mere suspicion of being subversive, rebel, terrorist or a "threat to national security." Also, laws, reactionary as they are, are weaponized to discredit the legitimacy of the struggle.

3. The so-called counterinsurgency programs—all patterned after the United States' "Counterinsurgency" (COIN) strategy used in countries where it wages wars, proxy or otherwise—were implemented by the succeeding reactionary regimes after Marcos Sr (who had Oplan Katatagan partnered with a series of military operations such as "nip in the bud," "Oplan Thunderbolt" against the CPP-NPA).

A fascist regime views war as a way to achieve national goals. It does not recognize the roots of the armed conflict in the country; and turns the table by saying there is poverty because there is armed conflict. It shuns

tackling the agenda of the peace negotiations such as genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization that would help propel the country towards progress

All the succeeding regimes had their own branding to cover up the war they waged against the people:

- Cory Aquino initially had "Oplan Mamamayan" which was later replaced by "Oplan Lambat Bitag" I to IV that extended to Fidel Ramos' term.
- Joseph Estrada had "Oplan Makabayan"
- Gloria Arroyo implemented Oplan Bantay Laya 1 and 2, extending up to Benigno Aquino III's term
- Benigno Aquino later replaced Oplan Bantay Laya 2 with "Oplan Bayanihan"
- Rodrigo Duterte initially had "Oplan Kapanatagan" and "Oplan Kapayapaan" aside from his "war vs drugs." It was during Duterte's term that the "whole-of-nation" approach—also carried out by previous regimes—was institutionalized through the Executive Order 70 issued in December 2018 creating the deplorable NTF-ELCAC.
- Marcos Jr essentially repackaged the previous regimes' counterinsurgency program into National Action Plan for Unity, Peace and Development (NAP-UPD) which only means the intensification of militarization in the guise of peace and development..

The names and branding change but the targets and victims are the same: Those who fight for their democratic rights and those who work to change the current rotten system into a just and fair society, progressive, and with better living conditions for the masses.

4. As fascism glorifies the role of the military, militarization of civilian bureaucracy has become the norm. First done during martial law, the number of military personnel



continued to rise and became more obvious during the Duterte regime as they occupied hundreds of civilian posts from the national to the local levels. All the regimes rehabilitated and recycled human rights violators among the military and police by placing them in the civilian bureaucracy.

5. Deceit and mind conditioning are features of fascism, thus catchy slogans and tricks are used to gain the support of its followers and rally them against common “enemies”—the subversives, the “terrorists.” They fan anti-communism hysteria by imploring “Filipino pride” and “discipline.” Today’s red tagging/terror tagging is a consequence of this “counterinsurgency” program, akin to the McCathyst witch hunt in the 1960s.

6. Related to the use of deceit and mind conditioning is the building up of a cult personality. Following his self-proclaimed idol Marcos Sr, Duterte centered around a strongman image: anti-elite, anti-crime, authoritarian as he glorified violence and dismissed legal norms. History is revised and rewritten based on a narrative to change the facts and make bad leaders look good and suit their interests e.g., the Marcos family did not steal, Duterte did not kill. Gloria Arroyo also tried to prop up this image—her “strong republic” branding, siding with the US’ “war vs terror,” launching the bloody Oplan Bantay Laya 1 and 2.

The Marcos family’s return to power involves a strategic revision of historical facts, softening the legacy of martial law and dictatorship. This is what the Duterte’s are doing as they try to clean up the crimes they committed while in power. Fascist regimes often do this to hide their crimes and stay popular.

It’s in the system

The police brutality we witnessed is part of a system that has remained unchanged throughout the decades, from Marcos Sr and Marcos Jr. Through dictatorship—open or undeclared—the reactionary state uses force and terror against people and movements to protect and create stability in the semicolonial and semifeudal system that benefit the ruling classes.

Throughout our history, fascism has presented itself in varying forms and degrees. Violence played a central role in suppressing all forms of collective resistance from the people—from the legal democratic mass movement to the armed revolutionary struggle of the people—where all state apparatus systematically and ideologically act to suppress dissent and strip people of the civil liberties and democratic rights and criminalize the act to create a humane society.

Ferdinand Marcos Sr. (1965–1986)
 Martial Law
"This nation can be great again";
"Sa Ikauunlad ng Bayan, Disiplina ang Kailangan."

Corazon Aquino (1986–1992)
"Oplan Mamamayan" & "Oplan Lambat Bitag" I to IV
 extended to Fidel Ramos' term.
"Tama na. Sobra na. Palitan na!";
"Democracy Restored"

Fidel V. Ramos (1992–1998)
"Philippines 2000"

Joseph Estrada (1998–2001)
"Oplan Makabayan"
"Erap Para sa Mahirap!"

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (2001–2010)
"Oplan Bantay Laya" I & II
 extending up to Benigno Aquino III's term
"Strong Republic"

Benigno "Noy" Aquino III (2010–2016)
"Oplan Bantay Laya" II with "Oplan Bayanihan"
"Daang Matuwid"

Rodrigo Duterte (2016–2022)
"Oplan Kapanatagan" & "Oplan Kapayapaan"
 aside from his "war vs drugs" & "whole-of-nation" approach
"Change Is Coming";
"Tapang at Malasakit"

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (2022–present)
 National Action Plan for Unity
 Peace and Development (NAP-UPD)
"Unity" / "Uniteam";
"Bangon Bayan Muli";
"Bagaong Pilipinas"

"Pasismo ng estado, dudurugin!" (Smash fascism) has been a call even before the formal declaration of martial law in 1972. It comes alongside the call to *"Ibagsak ang imperyalismo, Ibagsak ang pyudalismo, Ibagsak ang burukrata kapitalismo"* (Down with imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism)—the three basic ills that define the semicolonial and semifeudal character of Philippine society, a decaying system from which fascism emerges.

Without overthrowing the semicolonial and semifeudal system through the national democratic revolution fascism prevails. **LIB**

inflated prices on basic commodities, only to watch their hard-earned money disappear into the pockets of those in power.

Are we ever to believe that justice will truly prevail in this country—that those in power will one day be held accountable for their crimes? Because in truth, not one past president implicated in grave offenses has ever faced real punishment.

Take Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, for example. She was exposed for electoral fraud to secure her presidency, and her administration was marked by blood and corruption—1,206 activists killed, 206 forcibly disappeared, and countless others silenced. Her regime reeked of scandal: the NBN-ZTE deal, the fertilizer fund scam, and the misuse of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office intelligence funds, among others. Yet, after four years of hospital detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, she walked free—acquitted by the Supreme Court at the start of Rodrigo Duterte’s presidency, who openly backed her release. Not only did she regain her freedom, she returned to power and even served as Speaker of the House in 2018.

Former president Joseph “Erap” Estrada was ousted for receiving bribes or “kickbacks” from jueteng, an illegal gambling operations and from the misuse of tobacco excise taxes and other public funds. In 2007, he was convicted of plunder and sentenced to reclusion perpetua but was pardoned by President Arroyo that same year. With his restored civil and political rights, and obviously unlimited funds from all those kickbacks, he ran for the presidency in 2010, coming second to Noynoy Aquino. His political comeback came after he won Manila mayoralty in 2013.

As long as the same capitalist structures remain intact, impunity will persist.

Estrada made sure to keep the power in the family by putting his sons—not just one but two of them—in the Senate. And it was not a surprise that his junior, Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada, Jr. would also be involved in a massive corruption case. In 2014, Jinggoy was arrested for plunder and graft in the pork barrel scam amassing Php183 million. He was detained for three years in the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Custodial Center. He was later able to post bail. He ran for Senate in 2022 and won.

One of Jinggoy’s co-accused is Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. His kickbacks amounted to Php224 on the pork barrel funds but the Sandiganbayan ruled there was no proof Revilla personally received the money. So yes, he continued to run for Senate and won by just dancing *budots* on national TV. The two are now implicated again in the corruption case of ghost flood-control projects. And then there are the Marcoses. With all their crimes—the billions in ill-gotten wealth, the tens of thousands of human rights violations, and a conviction by the U.S. District Court—they were ousted through People Power, only to find their way back into the highest offices of the land.

No justice in a capitalist order

In capitalism, where wealth and profit dictate value, justice becomes nothing more than a commodity. Its universality is just an illusion. It is a privilege. The moneyed can buy influence, hire the best lawyers, and manipulate the very courts that are meant to uphold fairness, while the masses are left defenseless, criminalized, or silenced.

Marxism maintains that under capitalism, justice is not designed to ensure equality. The justice system is structured to preserve hierarchy and protect the ruling class and maintain power and control over the working class. The system thrives on exploitation and oppression, sustained by its coercive apparatus—the police, the military, the laws, courts and prisons and even education and social institutions. These, alongside dominant narratives shaped by the elite, are weaponized against individuals, organizations, and movements that seek to disrupt or transform the existing oppressive and exploitative social order.

At times, bits and fragments of justice are granted—not to uphold accountability, but to pacify public unrest. The brief detention of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo or the arrest

of Maj. Jovito Palparan, the notorious military general behind countless human rights violations, was meant to pacify the people's outrage. This is why Arroyo and the Estradas walked free after only a few years, and why the Marcoses managed to claw their way back to power. The presidents keep pardoning their predecessors to keep the order of corruption and plunder as they too benefit from it.

Therefore, as long as the same capitalist structures remain intact, impunity will persist.

Build a new just society

We can only establish a just society when the structures that feed greed and impunity are dismantled. In the Philippines, a semifeudal and semicolonial society, it is through a people's democratic revolution with a socialist perspective.

Yes, this revolution is armed, and rightfully so. It is not a matter of vengeance but rather a transformation. The machinery of the existing order will be used and weaponized to suppress and crush the people's revolution to keep their economic and political power.

In constructing this new society, the state will be built to provide for its citizens its the basic needs—as it should always be. Our country will break free from the dictates of imperialism and pursue national liberation and genuine democracy. The state will take preference to the less privileged and impose graver and swift accountability on those in power.

Justice will serve a certain class in this society. This time justice will serve the working class—not the landlords, the comprador bourgeoisie, and the bureaucrat capitalists who for a long time have exploited and oppressed the Filipino people.

Justice can be possible, even a lasting peace, if the people's demand for national liberation and democracy is satisfied. The National Democratic Front and its allied organizations envision that the people's democratic government is to defend the people by enabling them to achieve all-around progress as enshrined in its 12 Point Program. **L/B**





How US-Marcos 2 Drags PH into conflict

by Pinky Ang

The US-Marcos regime markets every announcement of war drills with US troops, some joined by US allies and/or junior imperialist partners such as Japan, Australia and France, as good news. As if these are signs of having someone to lean on against a “threat” such as China, with the added bonus of promised help in times of disasters, and, in killing Filipinos they scapegoat as “terrorists.” But in reality, the latest and upcoming military drills stink of the following:

1. At the expense of the people, treacherous Marcos Jr regime supports more, more, more US domination

At the closing program of Balikatan 2025 in May, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro himself aired a concern he

said was shared also by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Secretary Eduardo Año—how can they prepare for more of the next Balikatan?

For this they unveiled a plan said to have been hatched after intensive “education” of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by the US. They plan to establish a “Strategic Defense Command” this year to oversee the hundreds of US war games being conducted in the Philippines.

The joint war drills have evolved into military operations aside from being a “rehearsal” with the Filipino military as US auxiliary against China. Some of these military operations were against Filipino revolutionaries and

communities, some were provocations or warnings against China, and some were chest-beating ads showcasing the US imperialist war technology and alliances.

“By establishing this new AFP command, Marcos is allowing American troops to use the Philippines as a launchpad for operations that intensify its conflict with China,” said Marco Valbuena, chief information officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The CPP criticized the allocation of public funds for the new command, saying that it is an outrage that Marcos and the AFP prioritize the establishment of a new command that serves the Americans.

Filipinos need to be more vigilant about their public funds which are not only being frittered away by corruption but are also being spent on items that ultimately harm the masses’ interests. The debt-ridden, crisis-wracked imperialist US has lately been more blatant at making its proxies and allies foot an increasing share of the expenses for US wars and intervention.

Apparently, the imperialist US wants to regain its global hegemony, but it is mired in chronic capitalist crisis and overstretched by its direct and indirect participation in imperialist wars and acts of aggression. To mention a few, it is supporting Israel’s genocidal war against Palestine while launching intermittent wars against Hezbollah and Iran in West Asia. US is supporting Ukraine which is losing its war against Russia. In the so-called Indo-Pacific, US makes big of its plan to contain China through its first-island chain strategy where the Philippines and Taiwan are the most directly involved. With the Philippines, the US boasted that the promised \$500 million “military aid” was not included in the recent cost-cutting measures. They regularly boast that the Philippines is the biggest recipient of US military aid in Asia. But these “aid” largely go to their military bases and operations serving their interests—with a portion paid for by Filipino taxes.

The US-Marcos Jr regime is making the life of ordinary Filipinos even more difficult and endangered by its utter subservience to imperialist US. Not least of the reasons include hosting of US bases, stockpiling of US weapons, sharing the costs for what are actually US acts of aggression, buying excess US military hardware to enable interoperability between Filipino reactionary troops and American soldiers in sowing terror in Philippine communities in the guise of “counterinsurgency.”

2. Last Balikatan further expands the sell-out of PH sovereignty and danger to Filipinos

More than 14,000 Filipino, US, Australian, and Japanese service members “trained” across the Philippine archipelago in the latest US-led Balikatan war drills (from April to May). They conducted combat and maritime drills with live fire exercises, calling it a “full battle test.” They planned to highlight their showcase of might and tech by sinking a battle ship. But reality torpedoed their hubris. The antiquated battle ship sunk while being hauled to the drill site. The US-Marcos Jr regime hid their red faces with new boasts about other war equipment such as US missile launchers they positioned with fanfare in northern Philippines, near Taiwan.

The traitorous US-Marcos Jr regime keeps true to its imperialist master’s spin—they drum into everyone’s head their claim that the US troops are in the Philippines to help and maintain their treaty partnership. Stoking the Philippines’ tension with China, the US is using its age-old approach of riding on regional tensions to maintain and even attempt to expand its military dominance.

In truth, they are using the Philippines and the Filipinos for US war preparations against rival China. Balikatan 2025 has pre-positioned more US arms and weapons, “exercised” or conducted bigger war drills in more areas of the Philippines, and brought together more foreign forces as well as trained their local “counterparts” or future proxy in its projected war against China.

Why the US is intensifying preparations of the Philippines as launchpad for its operations is necessitated by the fact that the US mainland or even Guam and Hawaii are far from China or Taiwan for US to directly launch missiles. US warships and warplanes would need to dock and land for refueling, rearming, and repairs. The US would have to cross the Pacific Ocean more frequently while at war if not for a launchpad like the Philippines.

Their use of the Philippines and its reactionary soldiers as proxy brings dire consequences not only to the country’s budget and security. It directly hinders the Filipino people’s quest to peacefully resolve conflicts with China and achieve stable peace with its Asian neighbors.

CPP’s Valbuena pointed to the conspicuous omission in Marcos officials’ media briefings of how the overwhelming presence of so many naval ships, warplanes, missiles, and

other weapons, as well as US troops around and within the Philippines increases the danger of miscalculations. Also, the US bases, missiles, and weapons in the country are clear targets of US enemies. Their presence endangers the lives and environment of the Filipinos.

3. US military acts against Filipinos in their own homeland

As the US tightens control of the Philippines and its puppets ruling the government, it goes more rampant in supporting the “war against terror” on the Filipino people.

Every puppet regime in the neocolonial Philippine government followed the US “counterinsurgency” doctrine to suppress the people’s armed resistance. They used US-supplied bombs and weapons. They bought exorbitant weapons, warplanes and warships from US-dictated sources or “received” US military cast-off. As a supposed ally, the US sometimes pretended like it was mediating between the Philippines and its recommended seller of warships and planes. The US did this when it refused former President Benigno Aquino’s shopping for the American F-15. It directed the Aquino government to purchase helicopters instead from South Korea, a US ally. Now that the US military is upgrading its fighting jets, coupled with intensifying war preparations against China, it has finally agreed to sell its puppets in the Philippines some F-15.

Under Marcos Jr, US troops were reported to have joined counter-guerrilla operations such as during the week leading to this year’s Balikatan. Previously, reactionary local troops shamelessly boasted about their continuing “information sharing” and various cooperation and training on “counterinsurgency” with US military.

The CPP condemned the US-Marcos Jr regime for gross violations of Philippine sovereignty in allowing American troops to join counter-guerrilla operations in Aurora and Quezon provinces in April.

US “counterinsurgency” strategy includes the strident efforts of the reactionary government to try to isolate the revolutionaries and the legal democratic movement by slandering them repeatedly, and threatening with Anti-Terror Act those who would ally or support them.

In the recent Philippine elections, the US imperialists played a key role just as they did in previous elections. In the CPP assessment of the recent elections, they

found that the US exercised direct and indirect influence over the various reactionary cliques, leveraged its total control over the military and defense establishment, and fully employed its interventionist arsenal (political, diplomatic and technical). “Deals and accommodations were brokered at the highest levels by the US imperialists through their agents, brazenly displaying reactionary transactional politics that has long characterized the Philippine political system,” the CPP said.

What to do

The US-Marcos Jr regime is dragging the country into being a frontline pawn in a brewing inter-imperialist confrontation, serving neither peace nor development, as the National Democratic Front of the Philippines put it in a statement last April.

Involving Filipinos in a war that promotes foreign interests, at the same time terrorizing the people to stop their resistance against land grabbing and plunder of natural resources—these acts of the US-Marcos 2 regime should be opposed.

“The Filipino people must assert their rights and desires for freedom and peace, reject the treachery of Marcos and his military officers, and resist their subservience to US imperialist dictates that trample on the aspirations of the people,” Valbuena said in a statement at the closing of Balikatan 2025.

In the Philippine countryside today, the seeds of the people’s democratic government are being sown. These are violently being targeted by the US-Marcos Jr regime. The people’s democratic government is totally different from the reactionary government that oppresses and deceives the people for the interests of landlords, agents of imperialists and the imperialist US itself. The people’s democratic government, the basic units of which are the organs of political power being founded by waging people’s war, strives to attain the people’s aspiration for national and social liberation. Filipinos need to rally to defend and strengthen the people’s war. The increasingly frequent and expanding “joint military exercises and operations” of US and reactionary Filipino troops are blatant acts targeting the Filipinos it never really treated as allies. **LIB**



OUR PATRIOTIC LENS: HOW TO READ NEWS ON US-MARCOS 2 ‘DEFENSE’ DEALS *by Pinky Ang*

Updates on periodic joint war exercises and the US troops’ growing encroachment into the Philippines always hit the news from a neocolonialist point of view. Events that trample on Philippine sovereignty—such as the US building more military bases and maintenance facility, installing firing stations of US missiles, building of ammunition factory, “rotating” more US troops, training more Philippine soldiers to be interoperable with and thus useful to US forces—are spun into an imperialist fairy tale that misrepresents its end as happy-ever-after for the “treaty partner” that is the Philippines.

This is the US imperialist narrative and this should be shattered by every Filipino not just to defend the motherland but also their very lives. US imperialist warmongering, drills, and basing in the Philippines spell danger to Filipinos. Worse, this danger comes with no benefits at all to Filipinos, despite their oft-repeated spin of treaty alliances. History and recent experiences show that imperialist US is actually the enemy pushing the Philippines deep into backwardness and poverty. It not only endangers the Philippines with its conflicts against its rivals but also seeks to crush the national democratic revolutionary movement that is working to free the nation from imperialist clutches.

US imperialism is the enemy of the Filipino people and most people around the world. If it has a friend here,

it is the bureaucrat capitalist class led by whoever is ensconced in Malacañang. Both get rich and amass power from the resulting neocolonial economy and politics at the expense of the majority of our people. The benefits gained by the Marcos Jr clique include political backing and enhanced opportunities to loot the coffers including the exorbitant modernization contracts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The US-Marcos Jr regime’s actions show it is in cahoots with the US to use the strategic geopolitical location of the Philippines according to the desires of the imperialist US. From five sites in 2014, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between the US and Philippines has now increased to nine—officially. But the US actually operates from at least 17 bases across the Philippines. Not content with the annual Balikatan military joint war exercises, they execute other war drills such as CARAT, Salaknib and other smaller exercises in between. They do these “drills” in locations near China-claimed reefs, around Taiwan seas, and in areas in the Philippines where guerrilla zones of the New People’s Army exist.

With more US military bases and with the US upping the ante of provocations against China while driving their local puppet Marcos Jr’s regime to intensify “counterinsurgency,” they hold even more joint patrols, surveillance, and various operations in the country and in the West Philippine Sea.

Their justification revolves around the unequal deal they call Mutual Defense Treaty that allows the imperialist US to maintain its control of the AFP and the ruling puppet administration. The US has used the Philippines many times in its wars, conflict, or intervention with its considered rivals and threats. Nowadays the biggest US rival in the region is China and the biggest threat is the CPP-led armed democratic revolution.

Training, using Filipinos as US auxiliary

“In chorus with US officials, the puppet regime continues to make noise about China’s ‘threat,’ with the shameless objective of pushing the idea that “we need help from the US” to “defend the independence” of the country under the Mutual Defense Treaty. This plot of the US-Marcos regime must be exposed and rejected,” wrote *Ang Bayan*, the official paper of the CPP, when it marked the 33rd year since the historic termination of the Military Bases Agreement by Filipinos in September 1991. Fresh from the success of ending Martial Law and chasing a dictator out of the country, the people’s movement had been able to push for the inclusion of a no military bases clause in the new constitution in 1987. But true to their

anti-people character, the imperialists and bureaucrat capitalists insinuated new “defense agreements” to bring the military bases back.

The reactionary Philippine soldiers are funded by Filipino taxes but are trained and used as US proxies in the conflict between US and China. Although still at the saber-rattling, provocation stage, Filipinos are already being hurt. Fishers are losing access to rich fishing grounds in their exclusive economic zone—both due to US-Marcos Jr war drills and China’s claims. Filipinos can only fish at the risk of their wooden boats being rammed or their crew being sound-blasted away from China-claimed reefs and shoals. Furthermore, Balikatan exercises using live ammunition and explosives have wrought immeasurable havoc to the rich marine life of the Philippines seas. Filipino coast guards and researchers are also harassed and water-cannoned away at sea.

Already anticipating these acts from the Chinese coast guard, the US-Marcos Jr’s navy and coastguard intentionally bring ships near the contested waters to get media mileage by catching on video the Chinese “attacks”. These acts are humiliating and infuriating to Filipinos; but directly related to the “ironclad” relationship of the US and Philippine militaries. Neighboring claimants do not get such treatment because apparently, they engage in negotiations with China.

The US benefits more when Philippine coastguards and the Philippine Navy sail into the West Philippine Sea in their antiquated ships that have been bought at a high price from the US junkyard. It gives them more reason to sell their expensive and excess (about to become obsolete) ships, planes and equipment. On top of that, they use Filipino troops and military camps to provoke China, all the while wresting the Filipinos away from the negotiating table.

False savior

While using Sinophobia to project itself as a defender of the Filipinos, US imperialism also uses terror-tagging to isolate the real defenders of the people—the Filipino revolutionaries.

This is not the first time the imperialist US is doing this. They deluded, fought, and later co-opted Emilio Aguinaldo in 1900s. They massacred the remaining fighters of the Katipunan (KKK) from Miguel Malvar to Macario Sakay. They sacrificed Filipino soldiers to secure the escape of US military officers led by Douglas MacArthur in Bataan at the start of World War II. They heavily bombed Manila

to “liberate” it from the Japanese after the HUKBALAHAP (Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon) had already largely fought them in almost hand-to-hand combat.

After that, the US used the Philippines as launching pad of operations in its intervention in the Korean peninsula and the Vietnam War. US troops in the guise of training and/or humanitarian mission actually conduct military operations in the Philippines. They arm, train and provide or sell bombs and ammunition to the local reactionary troops. They are behind the war crimes of succeeding puppet leaders.

The very first batch of FA15 bombers bought by the Philippine government courtesy of US military aid purportedly for defense against China were used to bomb Philippine farms and forests in the US-designed *counterinsurgency* war, wreaking havoc on the lives and livelihood of already impoverished peasants in the countryside. Their latest and current closest puppet is Ferdinand Marcos Jr, commander-in-chief of indiscriminate bombings and military attacks on civilian communities under the guise of “counter-insurgency” operations.

The US has been using and abusing the Filipinos and the strategic, resource-rich Philippines. It is not here to defend the people, let alone the country’s claims, but to use its resources and people for its own hegemonic ends. **LIB**



A quick look back at 2025: The voices that unite, the boundaries that are pushed

When we unite, our capacity for positive change knows no bounds.

As we recall the milestones of 2025, we highlight the voices that unite—the revolutionary mass organizations allied with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the boundaries that have been pushed in popularizing the call to join the New People’s Army and push forward the national democratic revolution. The year has seen some of the collaborative efforts among the NDFP allied organizations, specifically in the National Capital Region, that continue to break through fascist barriers at the seat of reactionary power.

Numerous initiatives emerged, showcasing the coming together of people to demonstrate how taking risks can embolden the people towards transformative solutions and amplify the message of hope and progress embodied in the NDFP’s 12-point program.

At the heart of the revolutionary movement lies a visionary aspiration—it aims for revolutionary change that redefine the entire society. Here, hope and courage converge, inspiring a future filled with possibilities.

To transform dreams into reality, the movement emphasizes collective effort, underscoring how it can propel real change and demonstrate that tangible outcomes arise from shared dreams—a society that is progressive, just, and peaceful; and a government that serves the interests of the working class and the peasantry.

We celebrate 2025 not just the achievements but the spirit of collaboration that fuels the national democratic revolution. Together, we can continue to push boundaries and honor the voices that champion a brighter future for all. **LIB**

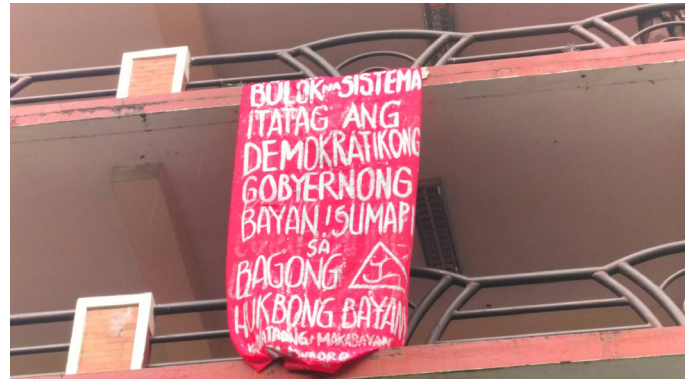
Lightning rallies celebrating the founding of the New People’s Army (March), the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (April), and the Communist Party of the Philippines (December)



Revolutionary organizations' assemblies at the heart of Metro Manila



Sticker bombs, Operation *Pinta* and *Dikit*, and other creative forms



Wakasan ang Kahirapan **ISULONG ANG DIGMANG BAYAN**

