



EDITORIAL

Sustain the revolutionary mobilization of the STEM sector against bureaucrat capitalism

Translated from original Filipino

LIGA NG AGHAM PARA SA BAYAN (LAB) congratulates the sector of STEM (science, technology, mathematics, and engineering) and the Filipino people for the victorious and historic protests across the Philippines over the past few weeks. Last September 21, among the hundred thousand who joined the protests were thousands of scientists, engineers, technologists, and STEM students from different organizations and institutions united in the campaign against widespread corruption under the US-Marcos Jr. regime. ► 2

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Cassandra Bigwas

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*Agham Bayan is published by **Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB)** with the objective of raising the level of awareness of Filipino scientists regarding social issues. It aims to promote the use of science for the nation and the Filipino people within the framework of national democracy and liberation.*

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Aside from this, members of our sector led and joined many more mobilizations — walkouts, fora, and online actions, including the militant defacement of government websites led by hacktivists from the IT community.

The massive participation of STEM professionals and students in the campaign against corruption stems from tireless efforts to arouse, organize, and mobilize for our sector's interests over the past months and years. Our country has long been terrorized by corruption, including the country's STEM sector — brazen diversion of public funds in agencies like the DPWH, while budgets for research, IT infrastructure, and STEM education fall short. In this context, progressive and patriotic forces put in the work to lead the campaign against bureaucrat capitalism, resulting in successive victories in mobilization and popularization of the issue.

From a "run for accountability" event in the University of the Philippines Diliman led by students from its College of Science, to the formation of anti-corruption alliances of engineers and of STEM academics, to historic walkouts of students in science and technology, all of these have been essential in strengthening the progressive and revolutionary sentiment within the STEM sector and of the Filipino people as a whole.

All of these mass actions mean nothing except that the Filipino people, STEM sector included, have had enough of this rotten system of bureaucrat capitalism. Scientists, engineers, professionals, and students are disgusted by the overt exploitation

of the people, and it is clear to all that to protest — and to wage revolution — is justified.

The Filipino people have already achieved so much through collective, militant action. Due to the successive and massive protest actions, the US-Marcos Jr. regime has been pushed to investigate some of the officials involved in corruption of public funds. Some corrupt politicians, such as Romualdez, Escudero, and Zaldy Co, have been forced to resign from their positions. Marcos Jr. was compelled to transfer a portion of the proposed flood control budget for 2026 — which would have gone on to line the pockets of senators, congressmen, and other officials — to basic services like education and healthcare. The regime has become increasingly occupied in its cover-up efforts, even if it remains clear to the people that this massive corruption has no other mastermind but Marcos Jr. himself.

Over the next few weeks, we can expect that Marcos Jr.

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will further be exposed as the number one corrupt official, while the entire system of bureaucrat capitalism in our country unravels. We can expect that the split between the ruling classes will become even more pronounced. If we can sustain our unity and mobilization, it may come to the point that the Filipino people can force a resignation from or even oust Marcos Jr., Sara Duterte, and all corrupt officials. We may get the chance to build a revolutionary coalition government composed of progressive organizations, institutions, and personalities that collectively mobilized for accountability from these thieves-in-government and which wish for a clean government.

It is the task of revolutionary scientists, engineers, and technologists to organize and mobilize the STEM sector, and to bring the people's current upsurge of anger to its revolutionary conclusion: there is no hope in the reactionary government, and we must change the system through national democratic revolution.

Aside from our continued participation in the ever-growing protest actions over the coming weeks, we must deepen the understanding of our fellow scientists, engineers, and professionals about the fundamental issues of our society. We must connect the discourse on corruption to the overall machinery of bureaucrat capitalism, feudalism, and imperialism. We must bring them to communities in the cities and in the countryside, so that they may see for themselves the struggles of the masses in our semi-colonial, semi-feudal society.

In the fertile soil tilled by the current crisis, let us plant the anger of the masses and nurture it until revolutionary strength takes root. Expand the membership of LAB, strengthen the foundation of our organization and the whole revolutionary movement, and support and take part in the armed struggle for genuine change in our society.

End corruption! Change the system! Advance the national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective! ▼

First published last September 24 as "Pagpupugay sa siyentista't inhinyerong lumahok sa makasaysayang kilos-protesta noong Setyembre 21!", statement of Trinidad Ramirez, spokesperson of LAB. Updated and translated for the English version of the October 2025 issue of Agham Bayan.

JUL - SEP 2025

Newsbytes

Forum on state of Philippine STEM. STEM professionals revealed the dismal state of our country's science and technology last July 17, at a forum organized by AGHAM Advocates of Science and Technology for the People, Pro-People Engineers and Leaders, and Computer Professionals' Union at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Around 100 students and professionals attended the event.

Opposition to tree cutting for wind farm project. In September, conservation groups Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines, and other advocates raised alarm over the cutting and pruning of 8,000 trees by renewable energy firm Alternergy for the Tanay Wind Power Project. The tree cutting was done to give way for the transportation of wind turbine parts.

Science students lead 'run for accountability'. Over 2,000 citizens flooded the University of the Philippines Diliman Academic Oval to join the "Run for Accountability" organized by the UP Diliman College of Science Student Council last September 7. The event was organized as a means of creatively protesting against massive government corruption, particularly around anomalous flood control projects.

STEM professionals against corruption. Science academics under Taumbayan Ayaw sa Magnanakaw at Abusado Network Alliance (TAMA NA) – STEM released a statement ahead of the September 21 protests calling for accountability from corrupt government officials. Teachers at Philippine Science High School – Main Campus also signed a unity statement prior to September 21, similarly condemning the plunder of public funds by corrupt officials.



PERSPECTIVE

Mining and plunder of the Marcos-Romualdez family

 Carmecielos Aleste  Soledad

Translated from original Filipino

THE ROTTENNESS OF BUREAUCRAT CAPITALISM is not only reflected in plunder-riddled, failed flood control projects. Another aspect of this system is the prioritization of politicians' cronies in the government's key industry and economic projects. In the mining sector, the Marcos-Romualdez clan has grown fat on profits from their projects in Cordillera, Eastern Visayas, and other regions in the country, while indigenous peoples and peasants face hunger in the countryside.

Plunder by the Marcos-Romualdez clan

The Marcos-Romualdez clan has pestered the Philippines for decades. Under the rule of the dictator Marcos Sr., the Romualdezes started their mining venture by picking up the used gold

mines that the Americans had left in the Cordilleras. The Romualdez family entered the Benguet Consolidated Mining Company in 1980, which later became known as Benguet Corporation (BC).

To maximize their gains from corruption and plunder, Martin Romualdez invested the capital from the business and political activities of his father, Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, who served as governor from 1967 – 1986 in Leyte and was ambassador to the imperialist U.S. during the Marcos Sr. dictatorship. This capital was used to bring family members into other mining companies, such as Marcventures Holdings Inc. (which currently has projects in Surigao del Sur and Samar) and Bright Kindle Resources and Investments Incorporated (BKR).

With his father's and his aunt Imelda Marcos' backing,

Martin was elected as the Representative of the First District of Leyte from 2007 until 2016, and again from 2019 to present. He was taken in by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as a protégé in Batasan, became allies with the Dutertes under Rodrigo Duterte's rule, and was the right hand of his cousin, Bongbong Marcos, during the latter's presidential campaign and their family's comeback to Malacañang. With the victory of Marcos Jr., he was proclaimed as the 28th Speaker of the House of Representatives. Aside from the Marcoses, Martin Romualdez is joined by other relatives in Congress, including his wife, Yedda Marie Kittilstvedt-Romualdez, and their son, Andrew Julian Romualdez, both under the Tingog Party-list.

Andrew Julian, stood as a director of Marcventures and

BKR from 2022 until 2025. Martin Romualdez's nephew, Luis Carlos, is currently a member of BC's board.

Marcos Jr. and Romualdez pushed for policies that further liberalized the public sector. Policies like the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code allowed private businesses to dominate what used to be the public sector with ease.

Marcos Jr. and Romualdez have also continued to exacerbate plunder through the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF). PhilHealth funds and workers' pensions were utilized for the fraudulent sovereign wealth fund. One of the first companies funded under the MIF was the Makilala Mining Corporation (owned by an Australian company, Celsius Resources Ltd. Inc.) for the Maalinao-Caigutan-Biyog Copper-Gold Project in Pasil, Kalinga; MIF provided a 4.5 billion pesos loan to Makilala Mining in 2025. Makilala Mining's project is one of the first new Mineral Production Sharing Agreements approved under the US-Marcos Jr. regime. An estimated 50 million tons of minerals will be extracted by this mining project.

However, the mindless drive to exact profits comes with the intentional disregard for scientific analysis of the damage that the mining will cause. Up to 95% of the indigenous land of the Balatoc community that will be affected by the mine is a forest reserve and key biodiversity area. The project is located

within the Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park, where various key biodiversity areas, important bird areas, and thousands of hectares of watersheds are located.

Revolutionary struggle is the solution to bureaucrat capitalism

The decades-long rule of the Marcoses, Romualdezes, and other powerful political dynasties in the country shows us that the solution to bureaucrat capitalism cannot be found in mere elections. And when communities stand against destructive projects owned by these politicians, they are immediately met with the reactionary state's violence and fascism. It is clear that there is no other solution to the bureaucrat capitalist system but armed struggle in the framework of the national democratic revolution.

Despite the state's fascism, plunderous operations like these have not silenced the people's resistance in their communities. An example of this is the long

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history of struggle of indigenous people in Cordillera against the state's violence. One particular example of this is the Cordillera peoples' united movement against the Chico River Basin Development Project and Cellophil Resources Corporation, despite extreme militarization under Marcos Sr. Up until today, the people's resistance against destructive mining lives on, such as in the recent example of the people's barricade in the indigenous land of Manyakan, Benguet, against the Crescent Mining and Development Corporation.

The revolutionary movement also protects the people and the environment in the countryside from destructive projects, through punitive measures and tactical offensives launched by the New People's Army. In July 2020, Red fighters ambushed several AFP soldiers serving as security forces at the Romualdez mine in Samar. In October 2022, an NPA unit launched a tactical offensive in Abra that inflicted casualties on soldiers guarding large mines in the area.

With the victory of the people's democratic revolution, with the implementation of genuine land reform and national industrialization, wanton plunder at the hands of a few will come to an end. Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan fully supports the revolution and the Filipino people so that we may all achieve these collective goals of ours. ▼

COUNTER-CURRENT

US war technologies in the Philippines are a bane to people and planet



Translated from original Filipino

OUR COUNTRY has been made a testing ground for armaments and bombs of imperialist countries, primarily the United States. This includes the testing done during the Balikatan exercises and other war games under the US-Marcos Jr. regime over the past few months, in which soldiers from faraway countries came all the way just to test these war technologies.

Just this May, soldiers from the United States, Australia, and other countries tested the Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS) and the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). The NMESIS, a missile system against ships, is slated for use in Batanes where the Fires Expeditionary Advanced Base or EAB will be established.

This EAB will serve as the base for US forces to control the Bashi Channel, a strategic waterway between Taiwan and the Philippines that is critical for the movement of both Chinese and American navies. The Batanes Islands will also be made into a station for US warships, missiles, and aircraft.

These bases of the United States, however, are not only in Batanes. Across the country, arms factories and ship repair stations are being set up. This includes the Moogs Control Corporation in

Benguet which produces missiles and military aircraft, and the Subic Freeport Zone which will once again be opened up as a base for US ships. In Batangas, we also find the B.V. Collins Aerospace Corporation which is a factory for war planes. These are only a few examples among many.

Effects on communities and ecosystems

Livelihoods of Filipinos are directly affected by the war technologies used by the United States. Last April, over 6,300 fisherfolk were forcibly displaced in Zambales to make way for the Balikatan military exercises. This amounted to several days without any income for the fisherfolk; at no point whatsoever were they given compensation for damages or aid while the Balikatan exercises were being carried out. Aside from this, their livelihoods were affected afterwards due to the use of live missiles in the sea.

Environmental groups vehemently condemned the Balikatan exercises and the establishment of military bases across the country. Over the past months, groups like PAMALAKAYA, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, and Wild Bird Club of the Philippines expressed their concerns over the devastation that would be caused by the planned

ammunition factory in Subic Bay, citing its effects on the local ecosystem and on the livelihoods of locals.

The bases of the United States have a long record of devastating our country's ecosystems. Due to the disposal of chemicals and wanton use of fossil fuels, lands and waters near former US bases have been contaminated. A prime example of this is the case of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, in which American soldiers poisoned the environment in this manner and ultimately caused severe illness among Filipinos living nearby.



Science and technology for the people

In the face of the brazen disregard for people's rights and our national sovereignty, we need to advance the 12-point program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, and fight for an independent foreign policy alongside genuine national industrialization. Only in this way will we be able to address the needs of the Filipino masses and cast out the imperialist countries from our nation.

The Filipino people have long called for the establishment of national industries, but instead of listening to the people, the imperialist puppets in government have chosen to follow the orders of US imperialism. Indeed, we see that factories to produce guns and ammunition are being prioritized. Genuine national industrialization would prioritize the development and dissemination of technologies and products that people would actually benefit from. Under this framework, scientists and engineers of the country would be mobilized for national development, not for fascism and imperialist war.

As progressive, patriotic, and revolutionary scientists, we have the responsibility to oppose the use of science and technology that would only repress the people and be used for imperialist war. Science should be for the masses, not for the gains and superprofits of the few. ▼

CULTURAL / POEM

kung ano man yung pinahinto sa pagkubkob ng iyong kubo, hindi yon ang iyong puso

🏠 🎭 Ka Berdett

Published in original Filipino

para kay jan michael "ka simon" ayuste

umaalingawngaw ang iyong diwa, kadua,
di manakaw ng punlo ng pasista at
di man ikaw ang kasabay kong humakbang
sa mga lansangan sa maynila't
sa libis ng mga bundok ng kordilyera,
naabutan pa rin, sa bulong ng mga dahon,
ng ipinamalas mong sakripisyo't tiyaga,
isang siyentistang nagpasyang tanganan
ang pinakamatalas na siyensya,
ang pinakawagas na uri ng karunungan na dudulo sa tagumpay,
walang masasabi ang libo-libong librong mailalathala
o kung ano pa mang gantimpala
sa isang pasyang tunay na mapanghubog-mundo,
at kung ano man yung pinahinto sa pagkubkob ng iyong kubo
hindi yon ang iyong puso
hindi yon ang iyong puso.
hanggang ngayon, ito'y tumitibok pa rin
sa isa, sampu, sanlibong dibdib
na parang tambol na bumabasag sa katahimikan
humingang malalim at makinig —

ito na ang alingawngaw, ang alingangaw, alingawngaw
sa walang-humpay na pakikibaka,
sa pagtangan ng siyensya ng rebolusyon,
sa pagsapi sa tunay na hukbo ng masa,
narito ka pa rin, kadua!

Jan Michael "JM" Ayuste, also known as Ka Simon, was martyred on October 30, 2021 in a defensive battle in Besao, Mountain Province. A graduate of biology and a member of LAB, Ka Simon chose to join the New People's Army after a few years as a full-time activist in the city.





HUKBO SCIENCE

A glimpse into the ecological economics of the revolution



Anonymous



Cassandra Bigwas

FOR THE SCIENTIFICALLY INCLINED, there are a lot of opportunities for research in the NPA. Most times, all you need is a notebook, a pen, and a keen eye for data.

It has always interested me how the NPA is able to sustain itself logistically, in the face of the challenges of guerrilla warfare. I decided to take note of how our unit was able to source its food, over the course of 20 days. For context, data gathering was performed as we were shifting from one municipality to another, following an uptick in AFP

operations in the area we were initially based.

The question I wanted to answer was: *what percentage of our food comes directly from nature, from support from the masses, and from the market?* Food sourced from nature would mean any food sourced as an outcome of direct production work by the NPA, such as edible plants and animals in the forest. Food sourced from the masses would mean anything provided freely as support over the course of mass work — typically crops of various kinds. Food sourced

from the market would mean food procured through purchases from a *tindahan* in town, such as canned goods and instant noodles. (Of course, sourcing food from the market would still require help from the masses.) Using this categorization system, I took note of the ingredients used in each meal of our unit across the 20 days, and calculated the daily percentage composition.

A few clarifications and limitations: as much as I would have liked to have been able to measure the weights of the ingredients, that would have been impossible to do.

Sample data and calculation.

Data	From nature	From the masses	From the market	% composition
Day X	Banana blossom	—	—	100% nature
	Bamboo shoot, coconut, river crab	—	—	
	Banana blossom	—	—	
Day Y	Bamboo shoot	—	<i>Bagoong</i>	42.9% nature, 14.3% masses, 42.9% market
	Bamboo shoot	Ginger	Chicken	
	Bamboo shoot	—	Chicken	

I settled for a mixed quantitative-qualitative approach in which the number of unique ingredients per meal per day is first sorted per category, before dividing over the total number of ingredients used on that day. I also did not include the use of common ingredients such as water (sourced from nature in all cases), rice, salt, and oil (all sourced from the market in most cases), though special condiments like *bagoong* are included.

From the data over twenty days, sixty meals, and 118 ingredient-instances, 54.23% of our ingredients were sourced directly from nature, 11.17% from the masses, and 34.6% from the market. Meals would on average be composed of around two unique ingredients. The low percentage coming from the masses can be attributed to our shifting situation during this time, and the general military situation making it difficult

to do mass work. The higher share of market-sourced ingredients can be explained by the fact that foods such as canned goods and instant noodles can be kept for long periods of time, and would typically be the main foodstuff in situations where the unit is separated from the masses.

To my surprise, it turns out this sort of evaluation forms part of the regular assessment work of the unit. While they use more or less the same categorization system, their system of evaluation is slightly different from mine — estimating the weights of procured ingredients, they come up with a value estimation based on the price of the said ingredient in the local market. A can of sardines can therefore be compared to an estimated five kilos of harvested mushrooms, or a whole pig, and so on. The unit's supply officer noted the calculations can be a bit challenging, since different areas

might have different prices for the same ingredient.

When the going gets tough inside the guerrilla zone, sometimes I just think that I get to see and experience things that so many natural and social scientists would die for. To encounter nature and society in this way, to be able to simultaneously study and build a whole new world — what more could a scientist ask for? ▼





RECAP

LAB carries out sticker-bombing and flyer distribution

 Diego Lagablab  LAB - Manuel Dorotan & LAB National

REVOLUTIONARY STEM STUDENTS, engineers, and scientists have continued to conduct propaganda work to highlight the necessity of the national-democratic revolution.

Last July, chapters and cells of LAB carried out an *oplan dikit* or sticker-bombing operation in different areas in Quezon City. This included areas around the Technological Institute of the Philippines in Cubao, University of the Philippines Diliman, and along Kalayaan Avenue. The stickers

bore the slogan “*Isulong ang armadong rebolusyon, ibagsak ang rehimeng US-Marcos!*” (“Advance the armed revolution, overthrow the US-Marcos regime!”).

Last August, LAB members left and distributed flyers in two campuses of the University of the Philippines to spread word about the July 2025 issue of Agham Bayan. The flyers included an excerpt from the editorial and an article of the issue, as well as a QR code to access the entire issue. ▼

