



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

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EDITORIAL

Rotten to the core

Present-day Philippine society is backward, non-industrial and agricultural. It is ruled principally by US imperialism and its local puppets of landlords, comprador-capitalists and bureaucrat capitalists, and weighed down by reactionary and colonial culture. The vast majority of Filipinos are burdened with extreme poverty, unemployment, injustice and brutal repression. The Duterte government is the resulting excrement of such a rotten society.

In his latest State of the Nation Address (SONA), Duterte could only conjure empty boasts and false hopes, desperately presenting distractions to his broken promises and the worsening social crises. More than ever before, Filipinos are forced to seek employment abroad. The destruction of the nation's resources becomes even more pronounced with Chinese imperialist occupation and plunder. The worst plunderers of the past half-century have all regained political and economic power. Extrajudicial killings and persecution of activists and opposition leaders continue to increase daily. And Duterte has turned out as the supreme protector of drug lords and drug smugglers, where his police and military forces are instruments for killing and terrorizing the poor and powerless.

On the other hand, the worsening conditions are driving more people to the streets to demand the ouster of the Duterte government. The worsening state terrorism is increasing international support for the people's ouster demands.

Meanwhile, these worsening conditions are swelling the ranks of the armed revolutionary movement in the countryside. This is the only social movement capable of completely dismantling the rotten neocolonial and semifeudal society, and achieving national and social liberation for the Filipino people. **UP**



About 40,000 protesters of the United People's SONA braved the rain and grave threats by Duterte government officials to present the real state of the nation.

Revolutionary forces slam Duterte's State of the Nation Address

Philippine revolutionary forces led various other sectors of society on 22 July in condemning President Rodrigo Duterte, after he delivered his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) in front of the joint session of the lower and upper houses of the Philippine Congress.

Seizing on Duterte's statement that he will end his term fighting, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said that he will surely not fight for Philippine sovereignty against China and the US, for Filipino fishermen being denied by China the right to fish in the country's waters, for the Lumad,

Moro and national minorities who are being displaced by so-called development projects, and for the poor. The CPP claimed that "Duterte is only fighting for himself," for "his political ambitions to stay in power and preserve his privileges." It said the president is fighting for the Marcos and Arroyo oligarchic families, his "allies in corruption," his friends among criminal syndicates, his "Chinese bully boss," US corporations and the military.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, CPP Founding Chairman and Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), described Duterte's SONA as "a series of boasts and lies."

Sison said that Duterte "discredits himself most by speaking as the apologist for China" in defending China's assertion of its false territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea. By often repeating the false dichotomy of going to war with China and kowtowing to Chinese dictates, Duterte "exposes himself shamelessly as a traitor and paid agent of China," according to Sison.

Political prisoners, including 11 illegally-detained NDFP peace consultants, also released a statement condemning Duterte's surrender of the country's national sovereignty. They also stated that the government is causing "non-stop and wanton attacks on the livelihood and rights of the Filipino masses.

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“The working masses and the Filipino people continue to disdain and oppose the Duterte regime.” They claimed that the regime “is fast being isolated not only in the Philippines but in other countries.”

Tens of thousands marched on the streets of Metro Manila and other major cities of the country, condemning Duterte’s SONA and instead declaring the real state of the Filipino nation.

Sison pointed out Duterte’s lack of plan to develop the country’s economy, particularly his silence on the slowdown in the country’s manufacturing and agriculture sectors, increasing unemployment, low wages and incomes, and prevalence of “short-term low-wage work contracts.”

He asserted that, contrary to Duterte’s claim of fighting illegal drugs, crime and corruption, “the president is actually the protector of drug lords and drug smugglers, has used the military and the police as his private army and main instruments of criminality,” and has become “the chieftain of an alliance of the most despicable plunderers.” He said that Duterte “has no intention of leaving a legacy other than the ignominious end of his treasonous, tyrannical, brutal, corrupt and mendacious rule.”

The CPP asserted that the Filipino people “must fight Duterte to the day he dies and make sure he will be pay for all his crimes... Duterte can continue to kill, kill and kill. But he can’t kill every Filipino who aspires for freedom and democracy.” **UP**



Diosdado Cabello, Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (red shirt) with Filipino delegates (L-R) Ms. Ledesma, Prof. Raymundo and Mr. Jalandoni, and Venezuela Foreign Ministry staff Luz Ballvares. Photo: Prof. Raymundo's FB page.

NDFP joins XXV Foro de Sao Paulo

A delegation of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) composed of NDFP Chief International Representative Luis Jalandoni and NDFP Negotiating Panel member Coni Ledesma participated in the XXV Foro de Sao Paulo held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 25-28 July 2019.

More than 1,200 representatives of 192 parties and organizations from more than 70 countries participated in the Foro. Prof. Sarah Raymundo, Chairperson of the Philippines-Venezuela Friendship Association, also joined the event.

Initially labeled ‘Meeting of Latin American & Caribbean Leftist Parties and Organizations’, the Foro was founded in 1990 by former Brazilian president Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and Cuban Revolution historical leader Fidel Castro. From its initial 60 parties and organizations, it has since expanded and assembled regularly to exchange experiences and ideas

in order to strengthen the struggle of Latin American peoples for sovereignty and democracy, social justice, sustainable development and social inclusion.

This year’s theme is “For Peace, Sovereignty and Prosperity of Peoples... Unity, Fight, Battle and Victory!”. The speakers stressed the need for strong unity and solidarity in effectively fighting US imperialism, and the need for action. An action plan with schedules was approved.

On Saturday, the delegates participated in a march around the city where they were joined by thousands of militant masses. As they reentered the Foro venue, they were greeted by a band playing lively music and the singing of revolutionary songs. Delegates from around the world took turns greeting the crowd and expressing solidarity for the people of Venezuela in their struggle against US imperialism.

Luis Jalandoni also greeted the crowd and expressed solidarity on behalf of the Filipino people. He said that like them, the Filipino people are fighting US imperialism. The march culminated with a rousing speech by Diosdado Cabello, Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV).



Militant Venezuelan masses join the XXV Sao Paulo participants. Photo: Prof. Raymundo's FB page.

On the final day of the Foro on Sunday, the participants approved the Conference Declaration and Resolutions. In the late afternoon, the participants went to Miraflores, the Presidential Palace where President Nicolas Maduro officially approved the Conference Declaration and Resolutions, and declared the Foro officially closed.

President Maduro spoke about their situation and the determination of the Venezuelan people to continue fighting US imperialism, building their country, and helping other peoples in Latin America, the Caribbean, and other parts of the world. **UP**