



EDITORIAL:

Marcos Jr, King of Corruption

Read on page 2

Int'l solidarity mission faces harassment as it investigates state terror in PH (p. 2)
NPA conducts targeted operations against military assets in Negros, Leyte (p. 3)
New MSP chapter of revolutionary health students and professionals founded (p. 4)

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Marcos Jr, King of Corruption

No matter how hard Marcos Jr. tries to distance himself from the corruption scandal that has engulfed his regime, his whitewashing attempts have only exposed him as the king of corruption in the Philippines. By launching a supposed anti-corruption crusade against the Dutertes and their allies, Marcos Jr. ended up unmasking a vast network of corruption-ridden infrastructure projects and padded budgets that lead directly to his own office.


Based on congressional investigations, Marcos Jr. approved 1,889 public works projects worth P61.4 billion in 2023 sourced from so-called unprogrammed appropriations. In 2024, this ballooned to P153 billion for a total of 1,811 projects. In total, some 3,700 projects across two years, valued at P214.4 billion, were funded through these opaque allocations – many of them flood-control projects, road construction, and multipurpose buildings.

In the 2025 national budget, a staggering P243.2 billion are unprogrammed funds, accounting for approximately 3.6% of the total budget. The 2026 budget also includes P243 billion in unprogrammed appropriations in addition to the P10.7 billion in confidential and intelligence funds under the Office of the President.

Unprogrammed appropriations (UAs) are lump-sum allocations that are deliberately crafted to lack line-item transparency, oversight or public scrutiny. Moreover, all expenditures from these lump-sum appropriations can only be released through Special Budget Requests (SBRs) which requires the approval of no other than Marcos Jr. himself. In addition to billions of unprogrammed funds under his control, Marcos Jr. has also been using the Maharlika Investment Fund as a conduit for plunder by diverting pension funds and seed capital from public banks into opaque ventures managed by his cronies and loyalists. On the other hand, the Dutertes in their effort to focus only on the corruption during the Marcos regime, found themselves implicated as among the major corrupt contractors in many anomalous public works projects, and other anomalous high profile cases especially during the Covid pandemic when the Duterte clique looted the billions of funds intended for the fight against Covid.

From the Marcos fascist dictatorship to the Duterte regime and now the Marcos Jr. administration, this systemic corruption has been institutionalized through political patronage, opaque budget appropriations, and vast pork-barrel networks. The massive corruption schemes under the Marcos Jr. regime exposes the structural workings of bureaucrat capitalism, where the state functions as a business meant to funnel public resources to private wealth.

The explosion of popular outrage against the recent expose of blatant and widespread corruption was expressed by more than a hundred thousand protestors, composed mainly by the youth last September 21, the 53rd anniversary of Marcos Sr.'s martial rule. Protest actions against corruption has been sustained in the whole country.

In order to defeat bureaucrat capitalism, the popular outrage of the masses must be translated to a revolutionary force capable of overthrowing the current ruling system. This means waging the national democratic revolution in order to uproot the three basic problems of Philippine society; to defeat feudalism which is the social base that feeds US imperialist domination, to overthrow bureaucrat capitalism that feeds on the exploitation and oppression of the people, and to free the country from the clutches of US imperialism. 

Int'l solidarity mission faces harassment as it investigates state terror in PH

International delegates successfully conducted a fact-finding and solidarity mission last October 11-14 to investigate the continuing fascist terror of the US-Marcos regime against peasants and indigenous communities, and were themselves subjected to numerous forms of harassment by the regime's Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The ISM's theme "Grounding Solidarity: A Learning and Solidarity Mission to Communities Affected by Climate Injustice and Militarism," aimed to investigate and build solidarity with communities affected by the climate crisis, environmental plunder, corruption, and militarization. The mission was in time for Peasant Month in October. Delegates from 15 countries participated in the ISM organized by international organizations such as the Peoples Rising for Climate Justice, International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders, Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation, Oilwatch South East Asia, People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty, Asia Pacific Research Network, Asian Peasant Coalition, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), and Ibon International.

During the ISM, the international delegates interacted with locals and their hosts and heard first-hand testimonies of land-grabbing, exploitation and militarization in the provinces of Rizal, Mindoro, Samar, Tacloban, Leyte and Negros Occidental, specifically the rights violations committed in connection with the Kaliwa mega dam in Rizal; a palm oil plantation in Negros; a real estate development in Mindoro; and low farmgate food prices in Samar.


The ISM delegates became targets of fascist harassment while conducting their fact-finding: AFP and Police agents conducted surveillance of ISM delegates in Manila and Leyte;



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barangay officials in Mindoro demanded permits for the mission and the list of names of delegates and threatened to declare participants persona non grata if the mission fail to comply; soldiers in civilian clothes tailed ISM delegates in Leyte, Negros, Rizal and Mindoro; elements of the 80th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army and barangay officials in Rizal province demanded names and identification documents of the delegates; delegates were monitored by drones while in the town of Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro; and, personnel from the Land Transportation Office in Mindoro demanded identification documents from ISM delegates when they accompanied Iraya indigenous people to a court hearing on a fabricated cases filed against them such as malicious mischief, trespassing, and usurpation or occupation of real rights and properties by Pieceland Corporation, a big real estate company, to force them out of their ancestral lands.

Right after the ISM delegates left the communities they visited, fascist troops harassed and threatened the residents, summoning them for questioning on the identities of the ISM delegates and those from the communities who participated in the fact-finding activity.

The Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS), which was among the participants, stressed in a statement that “despite the US-Marcos regime’s violence and repression against the Philippine movement and its allies, the Filipino people have time and again proven that they are an irrepressible people. As international solidarity allies, we stand with their struggle for national and social liberation and will continue to amplify their aspirations in the international community.” 

NPA conducts targeted operations against military assets in Negros, Leyte

The New People’s Army (NPA) intensified its operations in the Visayas, carrying out a series of tactical offensives against military assets linked to attacks on civilians and revolutionary forces.

In Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, the NPA-Southwest Negros (Armando Sumayang Jr. Command) raided the residence of intelligence asset Garde Francisco in Sityo Lumbia, Barangay Kamansi, on the night of October 3. Francisco, accused of facilitating the killings of civilians, revolutionary leaders, and Red fighters, was killed during the raid.

Francisco was reportedly involved in multiple killings, including the 2022 deaths of National Democratic Front (NDF)-Negros peace consultant Ericson Acosta and peasant leader Joseph Jimenez. He was also implicated in the September 21, 2023 massacre in Sityo Lubi, Barangay Tabugon, where five Red fighters and a civilian were killed, including Ka Rekoy (Bobby Pedro), Ka Goring (Mario Mullon), Ka Joyce (Janice Flores), Ka Bravo (Alejo delos Reyes), his six-month pregnant wife Ka Diane (Melissa dela Peña), and tricycle driver Robin Gaitan. Additionally, Francisco reportedly facilitated the killing of the “Kabankalan 7” in Barangay Tapi on April 27, which included senior citizens and a former student leader, Dee Supelanas.

NPA-Southwest Negros spokesperson Ka Andrea Guerrero stated that the operation “delivers justice to the victims of state attacks” and serves as a warning to those with a “blood debt” to the revolution. She emphasized that “it is better to live righteously than to become a military asset used only for money and temporary freedom that is never a lasting solution to the crisis of poverty and hunger.”

Meanwhile, in Leyte, the NPA-Leyte Island (Mt. Amandewin Command) launched a tactical offensive against the 14th Infantry Battalion (IB) of the Philippine Army in the town of Javier at 7 a.m. on October 15. According to




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NPA-Leyte Island spokesperson Ka Dodong Malaya, the attack inflicted multiple casualties on military forces conducting combat-clearing operations between Barangays Odiong and Caraye.

“The NPA’s attritive action proves the persistence of Red fighters and the revolutionary movement in Leyte,” Malaya said, noting that the NPA relies on mass support and guerrilla tactics to counter the 802nd Infantry Brigade’s operations.

The 14th IB has not released any statement regarding the attack, which analysts say is consistent with military practices to suppress reports when facing high casualties.

In June, the Marcos regime declared 17 towns and cities in Leyte as under “Stable Internal Peace and Security Condition” (SIPSC). The recent operations in Negros and Leyte underscore ongoing tensions between revolutionary forces and military units across the Visayas, highlighting persistent armed resistance despite official declarations of peace and security in the region. 

New MSP chapter of revolutionary health students and professionals founded

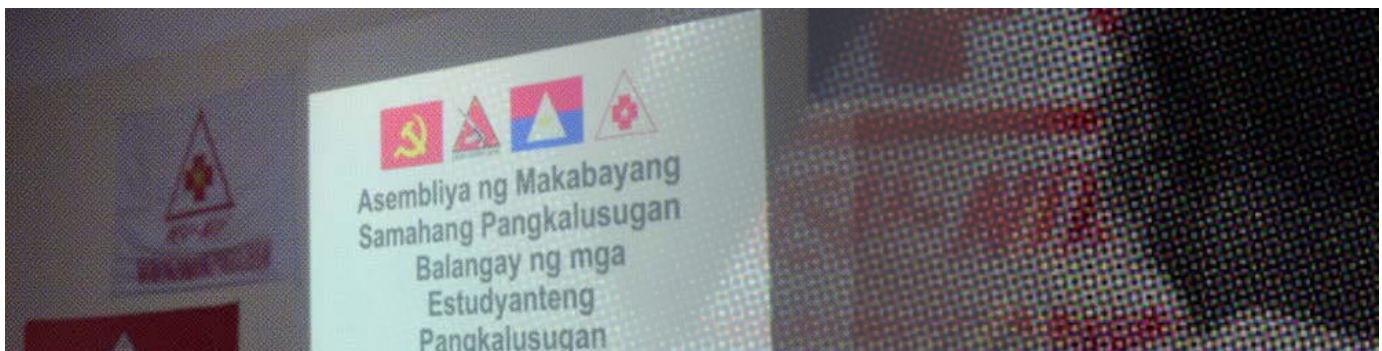


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Health students and professionals gathered for an assembly at an undisclosed location and formally established a Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MSP) on August 2, 2025, reported by the Ang Bayan Ngayon on October 9. The MSP is the health workers’ revolutionary organization and a National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) allied organization.

MSP’s publication Ang Rebolusyonaryong Lunas said that students from various universities and young professionals including doctors in the assembly discussed the history of MSP from its founding in December 30, 1978 during the height of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

The Ang Bayan on its May, 1979 issue, reported that the MSP on its founding day adopted a 7-point program:

1. Fight imperialist domination in the Philippines’ health industry.
2. Oppose the use of health as an instrument of the fascist US-Marcos dictatorship.
3. Develop health programs to strengthen the revolutionary mass movement both in urban and rural areas.
4. Gather the broadest possible health sector support for the armed struggle.
5. Uphold the democratic rights of health workers to organize and to fight for their genuine welfare.
6. Act to reorient the health education system and propagate a national and democratic consciousness on health.

The assembly elected the chairperson, vice chairperson, and three members who will lead specific tasks: propaganda-campaign-education, financial-technical-material support, and health service and training.

A doctor and a student nurse shared their experiences of integrating with the people’s army. They narrated said that comrades’ lives in the countryside is completely different compared to the comfortable and convenient life in the city and how Red medics persevered despite limited resources. They further shared that comrades in the guerrilla front strengthened their revolutionary spirit, and that experience affirmed the correctness of the revolution led by the Communist Party of the Philippines.

According to Ang Rebolusyonaryong Lunas, “health students understand the great responsibility, especially now, to continue to arouse, organize, and mobilize to reject US imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism.”

The publication further stated that the chapter’s formation is a historic and major step for health students because it proves that the sector embraces the people’s democratic revolution as the only solution to the worsening crisis and hardship of the Filipino people. “With fists raised, they firmly uphold the fundamental principles of MSP and will courageously carry out the tasks for the victory of the national democratic struggle with a socialist perspective,” it said. 