



EDITORIAL:

## **Intensify the protest movement and crush bureaucrat capitalism**

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## EDITORIAL:

**Intensify the protest mov't and crush bureaucrat capitalism**

In an attempt to liven up an otherwise lackluster report on his State of the Nation Address delivered to a bicameral Congress last July 28, 2025, Ferdinand Marcos Jr theatrically castigated corrupt politicians, bureaucrats and flood control project contractors with a “Mahiya naman kayo!” (Shame on You!) outburst. At the same time he presented a list of 15 contractor companies suspected of executing overpriced, substandard, delayed or even “ghost” infrastructure projects.

Little did he know then that his rant would open a flood gate of anger from the Filipino masses that swelled with every new revelation of increasingly worse corruption cases. The exposures implicate not only the politicians associated with former president Duterte's faction but also Marcos himself and his faction, like the proverbial stone lifted and let fall on his own feet. Marcos and his allies in Congress have repeatedly inserted various forms of pork barrel into the 2026 budget. They still went ahead with inserting P281 billion in pork barrel funds for Marcos in the form of unprogrammed appropriations, confidential and intelligence funds, and others. Meanwhile, P414 billion in pork barrel funds will be divided among corrupt congressmen and senators.

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

On the other hand, the Duterte family embezzled billions of pesos in the Pharmally contract during the pandemic, the P51 billion flood control project of Paolo Duterte and the P125 million confidential and intelligence funds of Sarah Duterte. Billions of pesos in contracts also went to Duterte's former aide Bong Go and other allies.

A vast and powerful people's movement has arisen.


The student walkout movement has spread to universities in Manila and other parts of the Philippines. At the same time, civic groups, church people, workers, peasants, the poor and other sectors are expanding their actions. People are forming broad alliances leading to a vast and powerful movement.

This is most widespread in impoverished communities and factories, where the masses of workers, who are the most victimized by corruption and the collusion of bureaucratic capitalists and big businessmen, are most outraged.

Every time a typhoon, flooding, earthquakes or volcanic eruption comes, people curse at the corruption of politicians who stole the money that should have gone to disaster preparedness and rehabilitation.

Through the rallies and demonstrations and group discussions in-between mobilizations, more people and more people realize that low wages, widespread unemployment, high prices of goods, high education costs, continues increases in fuel prices, poor social services and others are the result of collusion between corrupt bureaucratic capitalists and greedy big bourgeoisie.

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

The Communist Party of the Philippines, on October 21, 2025, exhorted the youth and the impoverished toiling masses to strengthen their voices against corruption, bureaucratic capitalism and fascism, and to amplify the call for the ouster of the oppressive US-Marcos regime along with the Duterte clique. 

**Stench of corruption, criminality prevails in AFP, PNP**

Despite public pronouncements from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), that their institutions are not corrupt, reality bites.

According to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), “The stench of the padrino system, corruption and criminality pervades in the Armed Forces the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).”

Generals and their cliques are openly elbowing each other for control of billions of funds reserved for the AFP's modernization and counterinsurgency campaign.

On January 6, 2023 Lt. Gen. Bartolome Vicente Bacarro has been removed as AFP chief and Gen. Andres Centino who once served as chief from November 12, 2021 to August 8, 2022, has been reappointed. This is a circumvention of the reactionary law passed in 2021 stipulating that AFP chiefs should serve a fixed term of 3 consecutive years, which was set to avoid the “revolving door” policy of AFP chiefs that has been used by various regimes to reward their most loyal generals. Bacarro should have served a 3-year term. Again, the current AFP chief Gen. Brawner was appointed to the post on July 21, 2023, just several months after Gen. Centino was appointed.

The 2011 Armed Forces of the Philippines corruption scandal, also known as the “pabaon scandal”, was a political scandal involving the misuse of military funds by high-ranking members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The pabaon system referred to the traditional practice of giving millions of pesos to chiefs of staff when they retire.

An estimated PHP1.5 billion (€22,099,410) in AFP funds for operations and salaries were placed anomalously in an unaudited pool of discretionary resources. Under the system, AFP general Carlos Garcia plundered PHP303 million (€4,464,040) as head of the comptroller's office while former AFP chief of staff Angelo Reyes received PHP50 million (€736,647) as send-off money.






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The progressive Makabayan bloc lawmakers questioned the controversial Barangay Development Program (BDP) funds of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) as a form of pork barrel. They said that the BDP is a form of lump sum pork barrel, which is prone to misuse and abuse. The Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG) identified 1,400 barangays as recipients of P20 million (€294,658) each for “development projects.”

Bigger still is the maneuvering in the PNP among those in power for control of the big drug syndicates and other criminal operations that are under the protection or directly operated by top police officials. On January 4, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ordered all generals and colonels in the AFP to submit their “courtesy resignation,” including its chief Gen. Rodolfo Azurin. The resignation can be accepted or rejected depending on the “review” of a committee. This purportedly aims to rid the PNP of officers involved in drugs. Benjamin Abalos, secretary of the DILG, admitted that criminality was a deep problem among the police.

The CPP declared that, “It is preposterous that the state is serious about purging the PNP of syndicates involved in illegal drugs and other crimes. In fact, Abalos admitted that this was a ‘shortcut’ to avoid the ‘long’ judicial process of putting to trial corrupt police officers...” 

## Professionals defy US-Marcos fascism and join people's war

As the US-Marcos regime intensifies its fascist attacks on the Filipino people, particularly the peasants and people in the countryside, more and more enlightened Filipino professionals are being aroused to join revolutionary organizations and the armed revolutionary movement. They are inspired by the rectification movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the strengthening of the New People's Army (NPA), and the upsurge of the people's movement in the cities.

Revolutionary mass organizations such as the Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (Kaguma, or Alliance of Patriotic Teachers), the Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MSP, or Patriotic Health Association), and the Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB, or League of Scientists for the People) have been revitalizing their ranks with new recruits.

They are active in their propaganda work for the people's war and the People's Army and regularly publish their publications such as “Ang Rebolusyonaryong Lunas (Revolutionary Healing)” and “Dagling Lunas (Urgent Healing)” (MSP), “Liyab (Spark)” (Kaguma), and “Agham Bayan (People's Science)” (LAB).

### Teachers


Last October, Kaguma held its Fourth National Congress with the theme “Advance the revolutionary teachers' movement! Rectify! Expand! Struggle! Triumph! Advance the People's Democratic Revolution (PDR) with a socialist perspective!”

The congress resolved in its three-year plan the comprehensive development and revitalization of the revolutionary teachers' movement; the full-effort exposure, isolation, and overthrow of the US-Marcos II Regime; and active participation in various forms of struggle to advance the PDR.

“We hope that this congress will consolidate your ranks, draw lessons from experiences, and advance more firmly in fulfilling your duties to strengthen the revolutionary teachers' movement,” NDFP secretary general Elias Dipasupil said in a message sent to the congress.

CPP information officer Marco Valbuena in another message stressed, “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,” the CPP information officer said.

### Health Workers


Last August 2, health students from various universities held an assembly to  image: philippinerevolution.nu



establish an MSP chapter marking a major step in broadening MSP for health students to embrace the national democratic revolution. In a guerrilla front in Luzon, an MSP team composed of doctors, health professionals and students carried out a medical mission for the masses and the army. They set up a clinic where they conducted patient consultations and operated a small laboratory. MSP addressed both simple and complex illnesses of Red fighters—physical and mental alike. Within the army, they experienced simple living, sacrifices for advancing the people's war, and the peasant masses' warm acceptance.

#### Scientists and Engineers

During the September 21 historic, massive protests against bureaucrat capitalism across the Philippines, LAB members and countless scientists, technologists, engineers and academics vigorously campaigned, participated and enjoined more professionals and students to join the mass protest mobilizations. All the while, LAB trains its activists and cadres in the cities as full-time organizers in their sectors to raise their awareness and take the path of armed struggle. When ready, LAB cadres are sent to the countryside to join the NPA.

During their 49th anniversary last December 2024, the LAB stressed that the people's democratic revolution showed them that it is possible for a scientist to fulfill the revolutionary duty to promote the national-democratic revolution with a socialist perspective, from urban laboratories and classrooms to the armed struggle in the countryside. 

## Filipino peasants' struggle highlighted in recent FFPS webinar "Land is Life"



image: philippinerevolution.nu

The Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) held its recent webinar, "Land is Life!", on October 11, highlighting the continuing plight and resistance of Filipino peasants amid widespread landlessness, state repression, and economic hardship.

A discussion paper presented at the event provided an overview of the general situation of the Filipino peasantry and the perspective of the revolutionary peasant organization Pambansang Katipunan ng Magbubukid (PKM). The presentation, while avoiding tactical details due to security concerns, offered a comprehensive analysis of current conditions in the countryside and the peasants' role as a primary force in the people's democratic movement.

According to the discussion, local peasant chapters remain active and determined despite intensified militarization, forced evacuations, and aerial bombings in rural areas. Despite heavy counter-insurgency operations, many communities have begun rebuilding their mass organizations, reaffirming their commitment to the struggle for land and livelihood.

The paper emphasized that the roots of rural poverty and unrest lie in the persistence of the semi-feudal and semi-colonial system. It cited data showing that only a small fraction of the agricultural population truly owns the land they till, despite decades of so-called "land reform" programs. From Marcos' Presidential Decree 27 to the current National Agrarian Emancipation Act under President Marcos Jr., these initiatives were

described as "sham reforms" that failed to end land monopoly and exploitation.

Severe poverty remains widespread among the rural population. The PKM cited that in 2023, the average daily family income of P968 falls well below the P1,186 living wage, with many regions averaging only P647 per day. The PKM attributed these hardships to landlessness, low wages, usurious lending practices, and depressed farm-gate prices controlled by landlords and traders.

Despite these conditions, the presentation underscored signs of resurgence among revolutionary peasant communities. Organizers reported growth in membership, expansion of peasant advocacy networks, and strengthening of anti-feudal and anti-militarization campaigns. Efforts to build human rights committees, provide sanctuary for persecuted leaders, and coordinate solidarity missions have also been noted as key defensive measures.

The webinar concluded with a message of optimism and determination. Peasant leaders reaffirmed their call for genuine agrarian reform and unity among all democratic sectors in defending the right to land and life.

"The peasant masses remain steadfast," the statement declared. "They are ready to be aroused, organized, and mobilized for genuine change. Land to the landless—onward to the people's democratic revolution!" 