



EDITORIAL:

People demand accountability amid Marcos-Duterte strife

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EDITORIAL:**People demand accountability amid Marcos-Duterte strife**

On June 28, thousands of Filipinos once again took to the streets, gathering in front of the historic EDSA People Power Monument to demand accountability for the catastrophic flood control infrastructure scandal. This mobilization marks a landmark convergence. For the first time, a broad unity of organizations and prominent figures has come together to demand an end to the systemic impunity of politicians who raid public coffers for personal enrichment.

The mass demonstrations against this multi-billion-peso corruption scandal—which implicates both the legislative and executive branches—initially erupted on September 21, 2025. However, at the onset, those demanding accountability were deeply fragmented in their strategies and demands.

On one side, the “Bahasa Luneta” (Flood at Luneta) rally was led by the militant alliance Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), joined by various progressive personalities and sectoral organizations. Over 50,000 citizens flooded Rizal Park in Manila, carrying banners that read “Lahat ng sangkot, dapat managot!” (All those involved must be held accountable!) and “Marcos singilin, Duterte panagutin!” (Hold Marcos to account, make Duterte answerable!). Beyond demanding justice for the stolen funds, Bayan called for the ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. due to his complicity in the systemic corruption. They advocated for the establishment of a Transition Council to dismantle deep-seated graft, reform the skewed electoral system that favors political dynasties, and pave the way for genuinely clean, democratic elections.

On the other side, the initial “Trillion Peso March” at the EDSA Monument was led by Cardinal Tagle, alongside the political party Akbayan (a covert Marcos ally), factions

of the Liberal Party, and several staunch anti-communist figures. While this mobilization drew over 10,000 people to demand accountability, its leaders explicitly prohibited slogans targeting the sitting president. Fearing that destabilizing Marcos might trigger a power grab by the Duterte faction—or that an impeachment would constitutionally elevate Vice President Sara Duterte to the presidency—they chose to isolate their demands for accountability to the Dutertes alone.

The recent June 28 mobilization, however, represents a seismic shift. Organized under the banner of the White Ribbon Movement and led by Cardinal David, the demonstration saw BAYAN and other progressive forces march side-by-side. The fragmented factions have finally united under a single, uncompromised demand: every single individual responsible for plunder must be held accountable—without exception, and regardless of their political alignment.

Today, the vast majority of Filipinos realize that corruption is not a collection of isolated incidents, but an endemic feature of the Philippine political system. This is the textbook definition of Bureaucrat-Capitalism: a system where high-ranking government officials routinely weaponize the power of the state to protect private monopolies and accumulate massive personal wealth.

To end this cycle, the Filipino people must remain aroused, organized, and mobilized. The fight against the flood control scandal must not be reduced to a tool for elite factional infighting. Instead, the struggle against Bureaucrat-Capitalism must be waged as a central, non-negotiable front in the broader, historic movement for genuine national and social liberation. 

Violence in schools reflection of corrupt social system

On June 22, 2026, an unprecedented violence occurred at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City in Eastern Visayas where two students aged 14 and 15 years used hand guns to fire dozens of shots and killed three fellow students and wounded more than a dozen others. The nation-wide outcry prompted several lawmakers of the regime and Marcos Jr. himself to push for the lowering of the age for criminal responsibility and also mandatory military training in college or ROTC, social media ban on minors, and other measures.

These has been criticized by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Special Office for the Protection of Children and the National Democratic Front-Eastern Visayas. Both units said that cases of violence among the youth are a reflection and a product of a corrupt semi-colonial and semi-feudal social system with a government that has deliberately and systematically neglected to ensure the well-being and interests of Filipino youth as a vulnerable sector.

On July 3, 2026, Celine Manlimbasog, Spokesperson of the NDF-Eastern Visayas, pointed out that under this corrupt system, “a culture of violence is widespread,



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exposing youth to fake information, consumerism, and harmful online content so that private companies can make huge profits. The state has neglected to address major problems in the education sector that hinder the development of creative, critical, and productive thinking among youth. In schools, the lack of facilities, books,

and other equipment in public schools remains a major problem while the salaries of teachers are burdened by the shortage of teachers.”

The situation in Eastern Visayas is just a part of the nationwide malady. Manlimbasog reported that 6,915 cases of various forms of abuse against children were recorded from 2017 to 2023. At least 30 victims of various forms of violence against children and minors, including 21 victims of murder and attempted murder occurred from 2018-2025. On of these, elements of the 8th Infantry Division of the regime's Armed Forces of the Philippines were the perpetrators.

Bullying among children in the schools is no different from how the powerful landlords, bureaucrat capitalists and imperialists oppress and exploit the Filipino people, especially the toiling masses. In Eastern Visayas, especially in the countryside, the 8th ID is spreading state fascism and has victimized at least half a million people to suppress their struggle for rights and social justice, continued Malimbasing.

On June 26, 2026, Coni Ledesma, Head of the NDFP

Special Office for the Protection of Children, said that public discussion should be directed toward the social, economic, political, and cultural conditions that reproduce violent behavior among the youth. “The National Democratic Front of the Philippines has consistently upheld the principle that the well-being of children is inseparable from the struggle to transform the social conditions that deprive them of their rights.”

“As we mourn with the victims and their families, the NDFP and the entire revolutionary movement reaffirm our commitment to advancing the rights and welfare of Filipino children. A truly child-friendly society is one where every child is guaranteed the conditions necessary for their full development and participation in social life. Such a society can only be achieved through the eradication of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism which are the fundamental sources of exploitation, oppression, and violence that continue to afflict Filipino children and their families. Only in such a society can Filipino children genuinely enjoy peace, dignity, security, and the opportunity to realize their fullest potential,” Ledesma concluded. 

Residents expel encamped soldiers in Sarangani as NPA resist AFP operations

Residents successfully expelled fascist soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' 105th Infantry Battalion (IB) in Sitio Green valley, Barangay Nalus, Kiamba, Sarangani. The said military unit has been carrying out a counterrevolutionary war under the guise of the Retooled Community Support Program (RSCP) for several month.

The masses' assertion forced the soldiers out on June 2. The residents banded together to demand the removal of the troops from the city center while also defying orders that prevent the residents from buying food, water and other supplies.

Last June 4, through the full support of the masses, a unit of the New People's Army-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) successfully escaped clearing operations of the 20th IB in Barangay Catoogan, Las Navas, Northern Samar. After a five-minute firefight, the NPA fighters were able to retreat without casualties. The AFP unit on the other hand suffered five deaths and many more were left injured in the active defense operation.

Meanwhile, NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) meted out a punishment order against an intelligence asset of the Philippine National Police in Sitio Pison, Barangay Minautok, Calatrava, Negros Occidental last June 5. The said intelligence asset was tried in the people's court for various crimes committed against the Negrenses and the revolutionary movement. Illegal drugs, money, a .45 pistol, and a magazine was confiscated from his possession.



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The same NPA unit launched an ambush against the police Regional Mobile Force Company on June 14, 2026, in Barangay Lalong of the same town. The police were on their way to assist AFP troops in the latter's Retooled Community Support Program in the area, which was a show of force to further strengthen the militarization of the countryside. The Red fighters immediately ceased their fire when they noticed there were civilians accompanying the police.

The RJPC-NPA appeals to the civilians in the area to avoid riding in PNP and AFP vehicles because the reactionary regime's troops are legitimate targets of the NPA's military actions. 

Duterte's setbacks at the ICC continue

Former Philippine president Rodrigo Roa Duterte, presently detained since May 12, 2025, at the International Criminal Court's detention center in the Hague, The Netherlands, and charged with crimes against humanity, has suffered another setback at the second status conference held last June 23, 2026. Presiding Judge Joanna Korner issued a lengthy and stern warning to the counsel of the parties in the case to refrain from making public statements to the media following previous inappropriate comments made by former defense lead counsel Nicholas Kaufman criticizing the courts "illegal decisions".

Korner stressed that there is no reason for counsel to make comments related to the ongoing proceedings outside the courtroom, which she described as the only appropriate forum for raising legal matters. "Trials are not conducted by the court of public opinion, but by this court during the course of the proceedings."

Korner, a British Judge, decried that Kaufman's statements attracted public attention and controversy, and worse, fueled "suppliers of what is undoubtedly and obviously fake news."

This warning is not the first time. Korner pointed out that as early as October last year, the Pre-Trial Chamber I (PTC-I) had already warned Kaufman of his legal duty to be respectful and courteous to the court, but the warning appeared to have gone

unheeded.

Kaufman earlier had been very vocal in criticizing the court's proceedings up to April 22 this year. In a news interview, he accused the court of facing an existential crisis, saying the court was holding a high-profile figure like Duterte as a "big catch" to defend against sanctions from the United States.

On April 23, the PTC-I confirmed all three charges against Duterte: 1) murders in Davao City with the Davao Death Squad, 2) murders of high-value targets during his presidency and 3) murders and attempted murders in barangay operations. The ICC also denied Kaufman's petition for the ICC to reverse the PTC-I's January 26's decision that found his client fit to stand trial. Kaufman resigned as lead counsel shortly thereafter. Peter Haynes, a British lawyer, replaced Kaufman.

Duterte appeared at the first hearing of the PTC-I May 14, 2025, two days after his arrest. However, he has not appeared in person in all the subsequent hearings. He is now mandated to appear in the courtroom during the full trial scheduled on November, 2026, in accordance with the ICC rules.

In another Duterte setback, the ICC ordered the freezing of money seized from Duterte during his 2025 arrest. The prosecution also seeks access to other seized items (including keys), though the defense calls this a "fishing expedition." 

NDFP, CPP express solidarity and sympathy to Venezuela



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The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) extended sympathies to and expressed solidarity with the people of Venezuela who suffered two successive major earthquakes that caused thousands of deaths with many more injuries and inflicted devastating damage to people's home and public infrastructure.

Marco Valbuena, Chief Information Officer of the CPP, said, "We are one with you as you struggle to recover and rebuild from the devastation. We express our solidarity as you rise from the rubbles, even as you resist intensifying

US imperialist economic, political and military pressure to take away your oil and sovereignty."

The NDFP International Office calls on revolutionary movements, national liberation struggles, progressive forces, and anti-imperialist organizations across the world to stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people during this critical period. The NDFP and the entire Philippine revolutionary movement stand with the Venezuelan people as we build upon the resilient spirit of our peoples to recover and triumph over disasters brought by nature, but especially those brought about by US imperialism. 