



EDITORIAL

Resist the scheme to perpetuate Duterte's tyranny

Rodrigo Duterte's desperate cling to power is a manifestation of the insoluble crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system. It breeds the worst form of reactionary rule and exposes its rotten core. It further affirms the correctness of waging revolutionary struggle to end the rule of the reactionary classes and establish people's democracy.

A few months prior to the 2022 national and local elections, the ruling Duterte fascist clique is now busy paving the way to perpetuate its tyrannical rule. In a Duterte-endorsed meeting of the PDP-Laban leadership, it issued the vile resolution to support his vice-presidency and to have him pick his own presidential running mate.

This is clearly a plan to circumvent the 1987 constitution's prohibition against the reelection of a sitting president, and is an outright violation of the underlying principle against the perpetuation of dynas-

ties and dictators.

This maneuver is turning out to be Duterte's main tactic to legalize his stay in power beyond the end of his term in 2022. If this happens, Duterte will remain de facto president, if not actual president once his annointed president resigns to allow him to sit once more in his Malacañang throne.

Duterte's choice to go the election route which is relatively more complicated than open imposition of fascist dictatorship to remain in power shows that he has not consoli-

9 NPA offensives in 9 days

VARIOUS UNITS OF the New People's Army (NPA) mounted nine tactical offensives in the provinces of Davao Oriental, Quezon, Occidental Mindoro, Camarines Sur, Northern Samar at Samar within nine days. Sixteen enemy troopers were killed while 18 others were wounded.

In Davao Oriental, the NPA ambushed a military vehicle traversing the road at Sitio Tagawisan, Badas, Mati City, in the morning of May 30. Witnesses reported that two elements of 66th IB aboard the vehicle were slain. The offensive was launched just a kilometer away from a checkpoint of the PNP Task Force Mati.

In Quezon, the NPA ambushed troops of the 85th IB in Barangay Batbat Sur, Buenavista on June 6. A soldier was killed and two others were wounded.

In Occidental Mindoro, the NPA-Mindoro ambushed joint operatives of the 203rd IBde and police aboard a military vehicle at Sitio Banban, Nicolas, Magsaysay on May 28. The said unit was on its way to a counterinsurgency program in an adjacent barangay, along with several local government officials. Three were reportedly killed and 10 were seriously injured.

The NPA-Mindoro belied accusations by the 203rd IBde that the ambush targeted Gov. Ed Gadiano. It stated that Red fighters ensured the safe passage of vehicles with civilians before carrying out the offensive.

dated the ruling system in his favor. In the face of deepening factionalism within the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police, Duterte is incapable of declaring martial law without fear of backfire. He fears a mutiny of pro-US officials who are against the increasing influence of China and his favoritism in the distribution of the loot of corruption and criminal activities.

Duterte's plan to run as vice president elated his minions who have been rewarded with top bureaucratic positions, government contracts, corruption of public funds and a share in drug smuggling and other criminal activities. They expressed high praises for the dictator in the hope that they would get a bigger share in the next six years.

Duterte's plan to cling to power beyond 2022, however, is also causing rifts among his followers and with his alliance with the Marcoses, Arroyos and other reactionary cliques, who aspire to have more power, if not sit on top of the heap. The ambitious pro-Duterte politicians

have deep qualms about his vice-presidency run. They are bound to break away from the Duterte ranks.

Duterte's allies are also gravely apprehensive over his plans. They consider plans to have his daughter Sara or factotum Bong Go run as his president as further concentrating power of the Dutertes. On the one hand, Duterte cannot be sure that an ally that he will get as president will bow to him when the time comes. On the other hand, any ally he will get to run as president will always fear Duterte's coup or assassination plots to take back his throne. Even now, some of Duterte's key allies are maneuvering to prevent Duterte's plans to remain in Malacañang. If Duterte will push his scheme, he will also be putting to risk his political alliances.

Duterte's plans to remain in power beyond 2022 was widely denounced and repudiated. This is an expression of the people's utter abhorrence of the Duterte tyranny and their profound aspiration to see an end to their sufferings under the evil regime.

Duterte's cling on power shows





his addiction to power and fear of taking responsibility for his sins and crimes. Over the past five years, he used Malacañang to accumulate wealth and privilege, to betray the nation in exchange for paltry benefits from the imperialists, to seize the business of his rivals, to favor the business of some oligarchs and to take over control of the drug syndicate behind the veil of his "war on drugs" which has killed 30,000 lives. While not enough funds have been allotted to pandemic response, education and health, Duterte has poured the people's money to the military and police in its cruel and dirty war in a desperate attempt to suppress the people's democratic struggles and to crush the armed revolutionary movement.

Duterte's thirst for power is matched by his contempt for the people's national and democratic interests. In five years, he has ruled as a tyrant and used state violence to impose fear on the people. Duterte wants to remain in power until he dies to avoid being punished for corruption, treachery and terrorism.

In the face of all this, the Filipino people must manifest their militance to frustrate Duterte's schemes and make him account and pay for all his major crimes against the people.

The situation compels all democratic forces to unite with the aim of ending Duterte's reign in the soonest possible. The broad ranks of the people must be organized and mobilized to link their urgent demands for higher wages and subsidies with the clamor to end the anti-people regime. While some will face Duterte in the elections, the majority of forces must strengthen unions and associations in factories, communities, schools, hospitals and offices. Big assemblies must be mounted to strengthen the people's determination to launch collective struggles in the streets and other avenues. The New People's Army must also mount bigger tactical offensives to contribute to the overall effort to end the fascist regime.

AB

 <p>Vol. LII No. 11 No. 7, 2021</p> <hr/> <p>Ang <i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray, English and Spanish. Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p> <p> @prwc_info</p> <p> fb.com/editorsofAB</p> <p> cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: Resist the scheme to perpetuate Duterte's tyranny 1</p> <p>9 NPA offensives in 9 days 1</p> <p>Imperialist campaign of counter-terrorism 3</p> <p>Residents evict soldiers in Quezon 3</p> <p>Dennis Uy's acquisition of Malampaya 5</p> <p>No justice for Marawi residents 5</p> <p>Protests 5</p> <p>2 NDFP consultants killed 6</p> <p>China wagers on Duterte 6</p> <p>In short 8</p> <p>Mega dams on Apayao-Abulog River 9</p> <p>Disecting the "Forbes 2000" 10</p>
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Imperialist campaign of counter-terrorism

The oral arguments at the Supreme Court on the Anti-Terror Law (ATL) ended last May 17. This came after four months of debates since lawyers of petitioners filed their cases against the oppressive law.

The anti-democratic nature of the ATL was further manifested when the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) accused 29 individuals of being "terrorists," including known peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines who were tagged as leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Last December 2020, the ATC also listed the CPP and the New

People's Army as "terrorist organizations."

From the very beginning, the regime's lawyers are insisting that the enactment of the ATL and the listing of so-called terrorists are in accordance with international laws and resolutions issued by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Unlike other international laws, the policy of "international counter-

terrorism" peddled by the UNSC was not a result of any international treaty or agreement. This was imposed across the globe in compliance with the dictates of imperialist countries comprising the UNSC. In fact, there is no international consensus on the legal definition of terrorism.

The UN is dominated by the Security Council which is comprised by five permanent member-countries which are all imperialists—US, United Kingdom, France, Russia and

"Imperialist..." continued on page 4

"9 NPA..." from page 1

Two successive ambushes were mounted by the NPA-West Camarines Sur against troops of the 9th IB in Barangay Cambalidio, Libmanan in the morning of May 30. Four soldiers were reportedly wounded.

Meanwhile, six soldiers were killed in successive attacks mounted by the NPA-Western Samar (Arnulfo Ortiz Command). Two were killed during simultaneous harassment operations in the barangays of San Nicolas and Can-aponte, San Jose de Buan on May 31. Three Red fighters were wounded and immediately given attention by medics.

Four operating soldiers of the 43rd IB were killed and three others were wounded during an NPA harassment operation along the boundary of the barangays Dawo and Bayo in Oquendo District, Calbayog City on May 24.

On the same day, the NPA-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) fired at operating troops of the 20th IB in Barangay San Miguel, Las Navas. Four soldiers were killed during the incident. AB

Residents evict occupying soldiers

The National Democratic Front-Southern Tagalog (NDF-ST) lauded in its statement last June 2 the bravery and unity manifested by the people of Quezon as they were able to successfully evict four military encampments from their villages. Through their united conviction manifested through petitions and other actions, residents of barangays Sta. Elena and Cawayan in Lopez, and Vista Hermosa and P. Herrera in Macalelon were able expel the soldiers who occupied their communities.

Residents of Barangay Sta. Elena complained about the vandalism by soldiers in their barangay hall. Soldiers do not dispose of their garbage properly and litter everywhere, then order residents to clean for them. In defiance, residents united to bar the entry of the fascists to their barangay.

In Barangay Cawayan, soldiers were forced to leave as residents opposed the presence of the military camp near their community.

Residents of Vista Hermosa were also able to evict occupying soldiers who are responsible for causing trouble and hardships in their community. On January 31, a resident's horse died due a strafing incident by drunk elements of the CAFGU and military. This was one of the reasons why residents petitioned at Sangguniang Barangay to demand their eviction. On May 17, the military camp was relocated to

the neighboring barangay of P. Herrera, but was met by complaints from the residents.

The barriofolk evicted the soldiers amid focused military operations by the 59th IB and 85th IB in 34 barangays of Lopez, Macalelon and Gumaca for more than a month now. Nearly two company-sized troops of the military, police and CAFGU mount these operations in the said barangays. They serve as security forces of two destructive dam projects in Barangay Vista Hermosa.

These mass actions prove that the military's weapons and threats is not a hinder to the people's unity. The bravery and conviction of the residents of Quezon to fight for their welfare must serve as an inspiration and be replicated by all of the people in Southern Tagalog who are oppressed by soldiers who are occupying their villages, the NDF-ST said. AB

"Imperialism..." from page 3

China—and ten temporary member-countries. The US uses and controls the UN through the Security Council to impose sanctions and exact punishment, and justify its illegal and unilateral actions against organizations, individuals and even states which it accuses of being "terrorist" or "supporting terrorism."

The policy of "international counter-terrorism" was first imposed through the issuance of UNSC Resolution 1373 in 2001 two weeks after the attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001 (more known as 9/11) which the group Al Qaeda claimed to have perpetrated. It obliged all states to comply with all international conventions on "counter-terrorism" of the UNSC, including countries which have not ratified these. This has served as the framework of other various countries in implementing their respective laws on "anti-terrorism" and issuing "terror lists."

Even before this, the US government under Pres. William Clinton in 1995 has already issued a Specially Designated Terrorist List which included names of individuals accused of being terrorists. This was issued during the "peace process" between Israel and Palestine.

Pres. George W. Bush Jr. placed the "war on terror" at the center of the priorities of the US government through the enactment of the so-called USA PATRIOT Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act). It was ratified following the 9/11 attack in 2001 and played a vital role in domestic and foreign

policy making. The law gave the US government the power to tag anyone as a terrorist in an arbitrary manner and without due process. Individuals who are tagged as domestic or foreign "terrorists" or "supporters of terrorism." are subjected to surveillance and arrest. This was used by the US to justify its attacks and invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003.

In 2002, the US heightened the punishment against alleged terrorists from economic sanctions to criminal prosecution. It implemented the "Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) List" or list of organizations accused as terrorists by the US State Department which remains in place until today.

Bush constructed the notorious US detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba in January 2002. At least 780 individuals from various countries accused of terrorism have been detained here. Majority of them were detained without trial or any criminal cases being filed against them. Only five of them were convicted by the court. All detainees are repeatedly tortured and abused in the name of "enhanced interrogation." At least nine have died in the facility. (Latest reports indicate that at least 40 individuals remain detained in Guantánamo Bay following the transfer of other

prisoners to other facilities due to protests calling for the closure of the detention camp.)

Later on, the scope of the "war on terror" was further broadened, and all of the enemies of the US were branded as "terrorists." This included even foreign movements and states which resist US hegemony. Bush began peddling the "Axis of Evil" in 2002 which refers to foreign governments allegedly "supporting terrorism."

Countries initially covered by the term were Iran, former Ba'athist Iraq, and North Korea. John Bolton who then served as undersecretary of the US State Department later identified Cuba, Libya, and Syria as part of this. In 2018, he also called Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua as the "triangle of terror." These countries were accused of "supporting" terrorism and have the potential or capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction.

The US first included the CPP and NPA as part of its FTO List on August 9, 2002, along with the Abu Sayyaf group. It also listed CPP founding chairperson Jose Maria Sison as an "individual supporting terrorism."

In compliance with the dictates of the US, the Philippines under the Arroyo regime enacted the Human Security Act in 2007, which was later on enhanced by Duterte regime as the ATL. The CPP and NPA were also listed as "terrorists" by the European Union (2001) and New Zealand (2010). Contrary to repeated claims by the regime, both are not included in the FTO lists of Canada, the United Kingdom and United Nations. The European Union also delisted Sison in 2009. **AB**



Senate wants Dennis Uy's acquisition of Malampaya Gas Project reviewed

The Senate requested the Department of Energy to review Dennis Uy's Udenna Corporation's successive acquisition of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-To-Power Project from the Royal Dutch Shell this year and Chevron Corporation last 2019. The project is the sole natural gas mining in the country. It is located offshore of Palawan.

Uy bought 45% of Shell's stake in the project for P18.2 billion. He will pay an additional P3.8 billion in 2022-2024. Meanwhile, he finalized his acquisition of Chevron's 45% stake last year for ₱27.1 billion last March 2020. All in all, Uy shelled out \$1 billion or ₱48 billion to control the project.

The two companies sold their operations since the reserved gas in the area is dwindling. From 2024 to 2027, the remaining 859 million standard cubic feet of natural gas will run out. In reality, Uy is not buying the remaining natural gas in the area but the old production wells and pipelines of the project.

The Malampaya Gas Project supplies 35% of electricity in Luzon.

The gas from the project is processed by the First Gen Corporation and is largely sold to Meralco and distributed in Metro Manila.

Uy acquired the project using 90% foreign capital. He was granted loans mainly by the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group and ING Bank. In the case of buying out Shell, the transaction was supervised by Farallon Capital, one of the biggest hedgefunds in the US.

Many are wondering how Uy managed to get bank financing to buy the Malampaya Gas Project. Last April, news was he was deeply in debt by \$2 billion and was in the process of selling assets. Uy's company also has no experience in natural gas operations. **AB**

No justice for Marawi residents

THE TASK FORCE Bangon Marawi (TFBM) is lying when it announced that 65% of the rehabilitation of Marawi City is already "complete." This was the statement of Drieza Lininding of the Moro Consensus Group last May 23 on the fourth anniversary of the Marawi Siege which resulted in the destruction of the city. On the same day, residents conducted a caravan to the Maqbara Public Cemetery in Barangay Papandayan to commemorate the first day of the bombings. The remains of approximately 470 victims who died during the 5-month bombing campaign by the AFP in the city were buried in this cemetery. The said bombings resulted in the displacement of 325,294 individuals in 2017.

Four years have passed and majority of the remaining 27,000 families who were displaced are still unable to return to the city. Roads are yet to be reconstructed and electricity lines and water pipelines are yet to be installed. Despite the residents' willingness to return to their communities, they have no funds to reconstruct their ravaged homes. As of now, only 113 out of 17,768 families have been able to return to Tolali, while only 100 were

relocated in Pagalatan, Saguiran. Meanwhile, 2,943 families are in temporary shelters at the Boganga Transitory Site, while many others are in Baloi and Rogongon, Iligan City, Poona Bayabao in Piagapo in Lanao del Sur, and other places.

Amid the hardships suffered by evacuees in evacuation centers and lack of livelihood, Duterte has no interest in pushing Congress to enact the bill which will allocate ₱30-₱50 billion to compensate the evacuees. **AB**



DUTERTE WAKASAN NA.

"Duterte Wakasan Na," a formation set to unite all forces aiming to end the Duterte regime and its destructive and failed policies was launched online last June 3. The coordinators criticized the planned tandem of father-daughter Rodrigo and Sara Duterte for the 2022 presidential elections.

This formation was the offshoot of the "Save the Nation! Duterte Resign!" petition initiated by health workers.

PROTEST AGAINST BACIWA-PRIMEWATER.

Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA) workers protested last May 3 in front of the house of its director Mona Dia Hardin in Bacolod City to oppose the illegal dismissal of 60 workers and the selling of BACIWA to Villar's Primewater.

PROTESTA DE MAYO.

Wearing traditional Flores de Mayo costumes, teachers picketed in front of the Department of Education headquarters last May 28 to demand the release of the budget their internet allowance, just wages and other benefits.

MOBILIZATION FOR AID.

Successive protests were launched by democratic organization during the last week of May to demand a 10,000-aid for all, 100-wage subsidy and 15,000-production subsidy. This was prior to Congress' approval of the Bayanihan 3, which allots a measly 2,000-aid for all and 30-billion to 45-billion funds for workers, farmers and repatriated Filipino workers. A 54.6-billion pension fund for retired military officials was inserted into the bill. While voting for the bill, the Makabayan bloc called on the people to call for more significant aid.

State forces kill 2 NDFP consultants

Two consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and five other civilians were killed by armed state agents in the past two weeks. In the same period, five others were arrested and three were abducted, including a child.

Killing. State agents simultaneously killed Fr. Rustico Tan and Reynaldo Bocala, peace consultants of the NDF in the Visayas, on May 28 at their homes in Cebu and Iloilo.

Police elements gunned down Bocala, 75, of the NDF-Panay, and his companion Willy Arguelles Epago in Barangay Balabag, Pavia, Iloilo. The police made it appear that they were killed after "fighting back."

On the same day, state agents gunned down Tan, 80, who was sleeping at his house in Pilar, Camotes Island. He served as peace negotiator of the NDF-Cebu in 1987.

Meanwhile, three activists were massacred and another was abducted by the 202nd IBde and Special Action Forces during a raid in Barangay Macabiling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna on May 21. Christopher Boton, Cristina Estocado and Rommel Riza were killed while Kemuel Ian Cometa was abducted. Cometa was a graduate of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and coordinator of the Kabataan Partylist in Laguna. He is yet to be surfaced by

the military.

In Negros Occidental, soldiers of the 94th IB killed Padoz Lozano in Barangay Mahalang, Himamaylan City on May 13. The soldiers also raided three houses of the Hilado family at Sitio Alulong, Barangay Buenavista.

On March 31, state agents gunned down two abaca farmers identified as "Greg" and "Uno" in San Miguel, Catanduanes. The victims were siblings and both residents of Barangay Progreso in the said town.

Arrest. Elements of the 94th IB arrested Robnie Ariola, Junjun Casilo and Jonalyn Agaton, residents of Sitio Bugo, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental, after staging a fake encounter with the New People's Army in the area on May 26. The soldiers also burned down the house of resident Gerard Ariola.

In Bicol, the police illegally arrested Elwin Mangampo, chairperson of fisherfolk organization Lambat Bicol, on May 30 inside his

house at Purok 2, Barangay 1, Pio Duran, Albay. The soldiers searched his house and planted grenades and firearms as evidence. Mangampo has long been subjected to red-tagging by the military.

State forces also arrested farmer Rolando Obal in Barangay Macalamlam, Rosario, Batangas on May 26. He was slapped with trumped-up charges of murder and illegal possession of explosives. The military and police made it appear that the victim was involved in an encounter between the military and the NPA on the same day. Soldiers also arrested farmer Gilbert Orr who is yet to be surfaced.

Abduction. In Occidental Mindoro, 10 soldiers of the 203rd IBde abducted MJ, four-year old child of political prisoner Emilia Marquez, last May 12 at Sitio Ambuyan, Pitogo, Rizal.

This has long been a practice of the military to coerce detainees to "cooperate."

Harassment. Soldiers of the 72nd IB forced the residents of Sagundanon, Kitaotao, Bukidnon last June 6 to demolish the community's Lumad school. The soldiers threatened to arrest those who refused to obey. AB

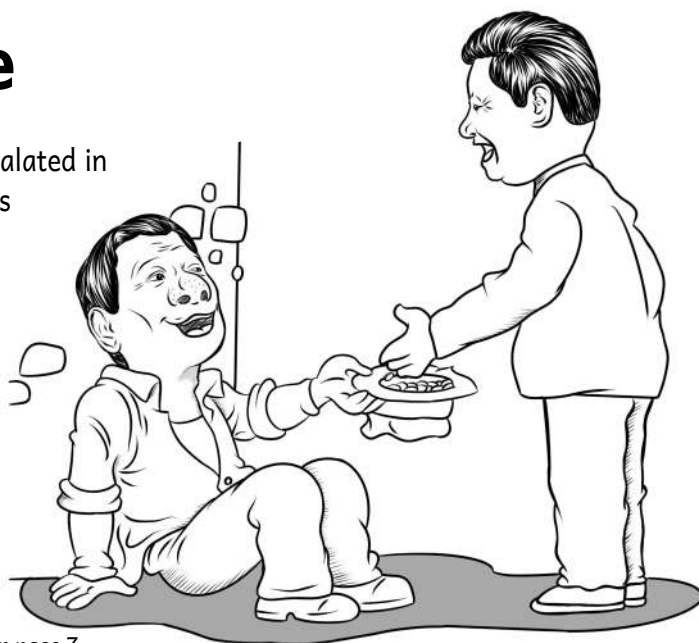
China wagers on Duterte

Rodrigo Duterte's subservience to China has further escalated in recent months. From his defeatist response to tensions at the West Philippine Sea, to the issuance of policies such as the Executive Order No. 160 which favors Chinese mining operations in the country, Duterte is outrightly selling off the sovereignty of the country.

In exchange for what? It is believed that this is in exchange for China's promise to fund ambitious infrastructure projects under his Build, Build, Build program. When Duterte visited China in 2016, he

bragged that the country promised to give him \$24 billion or ₱1.2 trillion to fund

"China..." continued on page 7



"China....," from page 6

these.

The reactionary president's term is already set to end within a year. Now, what has actually happened with the trillion pesos promised by China?

False promise

Of the funds promised by China, ₱720 billion is supposedly for 26 big-ticket infrastructure programs including railways, bridges and dams.

China is making it appear that these projects are part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a grandiose program for the construction of railways, roads and ports which aim to connect China to Central and South Asia up to Europe and Africa.

The Philippines was not originally covered by the Silk Road Economic Belt or the Maritime Silk Road of the BRI. This was used as a bait to the greedy and corrupt Duterte regime in exchange for its unwavering subservience to China's dictates.

China's gain in the country for almost five years is already huge,

despite releasing only 5% of the funds which it promised to loan Duterte.

Aside from the ₱14.4-billion loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank supposedly for Covid-19 response, China currently has only two "Infrastructure Flagship Projects" in the country with signed contracts. These are the ₱4.37-billion Chico River Pump Irrigation Project and the ₱12.2-billion New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam, which are bound to destroy communities and grab the ancestral lands of national minorities.

According to the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines, only 11 Chinese-funded projects have been delivered, while 12 others are yet to begin. Majority of these are bridges and roads, including the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge and Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge which are both in Metro Manila. Other projects were cancelled such as the 32-kilometer Panay-Guimaras-Negros Bridge, which according to Sen. Franklin Drilon will be left to the next administration. Other projects were cancelled by local governments such as the Sangley

Point International Airport Project in Cavite.

In sum, the Philippines has received ₱28.8 billion in loans from China, which is way lower than loans from Japan (₱537.6 billion), Asian Development Bank (₱408 billion), and the World Bank (₱254.4 billion).

Wagering on Duterte

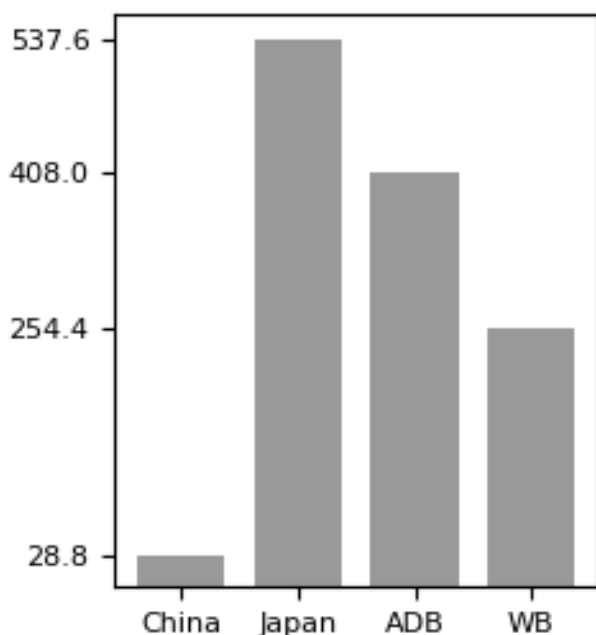
Although the funds promised by China to Duterte seem to be unrealistic, it has already gained a lot. Biggest of which of course is its expanded control over the West Philippine Sea. This was why China in 2018 declared that it will not allow Duterte to be replaced.

In fact, Duterte has already been able to pocket huge amounts of money in the form of bribes. He also have control over the smuggling of drugs from China. There are reports of bribe money secretly stashed in Chinese banks. Expect Duterte to continue favoring China in exchange for financial support.

Not everyone in the Duterte government blindly believes China's false promises. In reality, during Duterte's term, officials of the reactionary military already opposed his "China pivot" scheme, and outrightly pushed for more war exercises with the US military. There are active and retired military officials who have threatened to abandon the Duterte regime if it continues to surrender the Philippines seas and territories in the West Philippine Sea.

China is aware that if it will be unable to maintain the Duterte regime's fanatical support, its growing control not only in the Philippines but in the whole of Asia can be reversed. Like the US, China is expected to show huge interest (and intervene) in the upcoming 2022 elections. AB

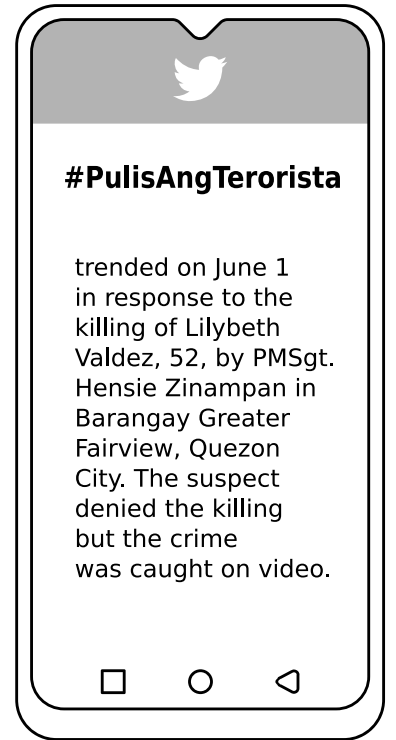
Source of Philippine loans since 2016 (in billion pesos)



₱56.4 billion

budget inserted for the pension of retired soldiers in the **Bayanihan 3** which was supposedly filed to aid individuals affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is the **second biggest item in the proposed bill**, next to the ₱216-billion aid for all.



Roman Protasevich

A journalist and critic of Pres. Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus who was arrested on May 23.

Lukashenko ordered the hijacking of the commercial plane which Protasevich rode from Greece and was bound to Lithuania.

90%

of the salt supply in the Philippines is imported, primarily from Australia.

This is despite the Philippines having the second longest coastline in the world, and thus have a sufficient source for the said product.

AB



Call of tens of thousands of residents who protested across Brazil on May 29 to oppose Pres. Jair Bolsonaro's failed pandemic response.

They demanded the ouster of Bolsonaro.

₱5 billion

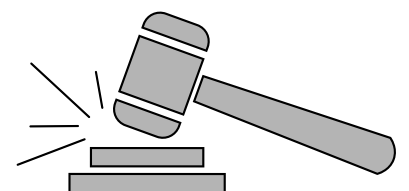
is squandered by the military annually in its campaign to "decimate" the New People's Army in Eastern Visayas.

Source: 8th Infantry Division.

With a vote of

44-0

the House Committee on Justice junked the impeachment complaint against **Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen** on May 27.



Isnag minorities oppose construction of megadams on the Apayao-Abulog River

The Isnag minorities of Cordillera strongly oppose the Gened Hyrdoelectric Power Plant, a project for the construction of two megadams that will inundate their communities. They said that they are against the project as it encroaches on their ancestral land, contrary to claims by the company that residents entered into an agreement with the company.

The reservoir covers 2,883 hectares of Isnag ancestral land.

Gened 1 and Gened 2

Two dams—Gened 1 and Gened 2—are set to be constructed on the Apayao-Abulog River which crosses the provinces of Apayao and Cagayan. The regime awarded the contract for this project to the Pan Pacific Renewable Power Philippines Corporation (PPRPPC), one of the beneficiaries of the \$3-billion loan promised by China which was arranged by Rodrigo Duterte himself when he visited the country.

The project has been queued for decades due to residents' strong resistance.

In 2017, the Duterte regime issued an environmental compliance certificate for the said project.

Last April, the construction of the ₱33-billion Gened 1 has started. On the other hand, the ₱52-billion Gened 2 will be constructed at the upper portion of the river. The company claims that these dams have a capacity to generate 510 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The electricity that will be generated in these dams will be sold to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) which is 40% owned by the State Grid Corporation of China. Estimates by Danggad, the revolutionary publication in Cordillera, indicate that the PPRPPC is set to earn ₱2,883.59 per hour from these projects. Within a year, it will be

able to sell up to 5.4 gigawatt/hour which amounts to a total of ₱15.6 million.

Of this amount, only 1% or ₱155,572 will go to the reactionary state.

Half of this measly amount will go to the Department of Energy. The remaining ₱77,857 will be shared among local government units—10% for the region, 30% for the prubinsya, 35% for the municipalities, and 25% for the barangays. Only ₱19,464 will go to the barangays annually.

Isnags deceived

In the early part of 2021, the Isnag Indigenous Cultural Communities which represent 22 barangays issued two resolutions to express their opposition to the said project.

To reverse this, the PPRPPC organized meetings in March to April wherein residents were deceived into signing documents indicating their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for the project. Indigenous leaders also noted that they did not sign any memorandum of agreement or MOA with the company. Some of the individuals who "signed" the said documents were not present during the meetings. Some of those who signed also moved to have their signatures removed after being informed about the impact of the project on their culture and communities.

On May 30, the association of



Isnag elders along with Kabuyao Youth formally requested the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples-Cordillera, to nullify the MOA.

The project will inundate 20 barangays with 12,932 residents. The water source of communities, rice fields, farmlands and pasture lands will be diverted to the reservoir of the dam. With the construction of the dams, all surrounding areas will be declared as "watershed areas." This will prohibit farming, logging and other economic activities in the ancestral area which used to be the Isnag people's main source of livelihood. During strong rains, the water in these dams will overflow and inundate even neighboring barangays. It is also vulnerable to collapse as it is located along the Bangui Fault Line.

"This (the dam project) will result in death. Many will be drowned, and farming will be prohibited. It is important for us to oppose and firmly fight this. Let us all join the struggle. Let us take up arms!" This was the statement of an Isnag elder who lives in Kabugao, Apayao. Their tribe has been opposing the project since 2004.

AB

Dissecting the "Forbes 2000"

Forbes Magazine is one of the leading magazines of the monopoly capitalist world. It recently released its latest list of the biggest 2,000 corporations. It is instructive to study the list to come up with an overall view of the current picture of the global capitalist system: who are the biggest capitalists and the level of concentration of capital in the hands of a few monopolists.

These observations reaffirm the basic characteristics of imperialism as identified by V.I. Lenin in his study of monopoly capitalism.

1. The assets of the biggest 2,000 corporations amount to US\$223.4 trillion. This is more than twice the US\$84.5 world gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020. This is also equivalent to 62.33% of the US\$358.4 trillion total national assets of all countries in the world.

All in all, the biggest 2,000 corporations are located in only 61 countries (31% of the total number of countries). More than half of their assets are found in only three countries: US, China and Japan.

2. The number of the biggest corporations in the US is twice as big as that in China. But the assets of Chinese and Hongkong companies (US\$50.2 trillion) are almost equivalent to those of the US (US\$51.76 trillion) indicating a higher concentration of capital in China.

3. The three biggest sectors or industries in terms of assets are all involved in financial operations. These include 289 banks, 132 diversified financial corporations

(selling such products as housing loans, credit cards and others) and 114 insurance companies. The assets of these financial corporations amount to US\$156.4 trillion or 70% of the overall assets of the biggest corporations. The assets of banks alone amount to US\$107.5 trillion or 48.12% of the total.

Of the biggest banks, 44 are in China, 40 in Japan and 36 in the United States, comprising 41.52% of the total. The four biggest banks in terms of assets are in China: the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China and the Bank of China.

Of the diversified financial corporations, 52 are from the US while 19 are from China, or 55.3% of the total. While 28.07% of the insurance companies come from the US, the big-

gest are from Japan that hold 17.44% of all the sector's assets.

4. Other sectors comprising the top ten biggest in terms of assets are Business Services and Supplies, Construction, Oil & Gas Operations, Consumer Durables, Utilities, Telecommunication Services and Drugs & Biotechnology.

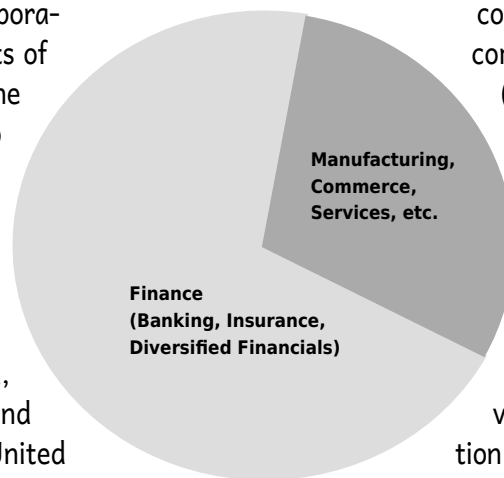
The 67 Chinese construction companies hold 74.9% of the total assets in the sector. Far second are construction companies in Japan (19) that hold 6.74% of total assets, and the United States (17) with 3.36% of the total assets.

Companies involved in oil production and distribution have total assets of US\$6.799 trillion. The biggest 20 companies own 65.89% of the total assets in the sector. Of the biggest oil companies, 21 are from the US, seven from Russia, six from Canada, six from Japan, five from India and four each from China and South Korea.

Forbes Magazine ranked the biggest oil companies as Royal Dutch Shell, ExxonMobil, Gazprom, BP, Total, Sinopec, Chevron and Rosneft. In 2020, the two Chinese companies were the biggest in terms of sales controlling 16.3% of the total.

(The complete article can be read at www.cpp.ph.)

Concentration of capital among financial corporations



Number of biggest corporations per country

