



# UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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## EDITORIAL Duterte is the greatest calamity

The Philippine archipelago has been battered by five typhoons in the last three weeks. Cyclone winds, floods and landslides have killed scores of people, rendered hundreds of thousands homeless, destroyed farmers' crops and fisherfolk's boats, and ruined roads, bridges and other public structures. As of this writing, countless men, women, elderly and children are still desperately clinging onto their roofs, waiting for rescue. Damages to agriculture and infrastructure, already running at scores of billions of pesos, are expected to greatly rise at the end of this still unfolding calamity.

Numerous NGOs and civic groups in the various areas in Luzon and northeast Visayas islands have already started rescue and relief in the affected areas, while appealing for and coordinating help from people and organizations beyond the affected areas in the Philippines and also from abroad.

Responding to the call of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, the allied organizations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the local organs of Red political power have taken action in rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations since weeks ago.

The CPP said that the "...devastation of the millions of Filipino lives and livelihood is not solely caused by the successive storms but also by the reactionary state's failure to sufficiently prepare for and respond to the calamities."

Mass poverty makes the majority of Filipinos vulnerable to disasters. The social system ruled by a small corrupt and oppressive class lacks the capacity to prevent, prepare for and overcome various kinds of disasters that impact on the safety and livelihood of the majority of the people.

The regime of President Rodrigo Duterte is the worst in a long line of administrators for this rapacious ruling elite. He drastically cut down allocations for disaster preparedness, while allocating huge sums for his armed minions to suppress the slightest resistance to his regime.

Indeed, this otherwise natural-resources-rich archipelagic country is often ravaged by natural disasters like typhoons, flooding, earthquake, volcanic eruptions, dengue and corona virus.

But the biggest calamity is Duterte himself. **UP**



*Photo: cpp.ph*

## Urgent aid needed for typhoon victims in the Philippines

Amidst the devastation caused by five successive typhoons and the criminal neglect of the Duterte government, Philippine revolutionaries mobilized all its forces in the Luzon island to help the victims of the disasters and called on humanitarian agencies and individuals to assist in the massive relief efforts. The Communist Party of the Philippines called for "mass mobilization to help victims to collectively recover from the damages of the successive typhoons."

"We urge all humanitarian agencies and people's organizations to collect and help distribute food, water, clothing, construction supplies, as well as other farm implements, seeds and others," the CPP said. "They can coordinate with local revolutionary forces to ensure that assistance will reach the intended recipients with dispatch."

The Party issued the call on 1 November in the aftermath of Category 3 Typhoon Quinta (International name: Molave) and Category 5 super typhoon Rolly (Goni), even as Typhoon Siony (Atsani) was bringing torrential rains to northern Luzon. Typhoons Tonyo (Eta) and Ulysses (Vamco) brought more rains, flooding and devastation in the first two weeks of November.

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More than 240,000 persons lost their homes to Typhoon Goni which hit the Philippines with winds at 225 km/h. It brought storm surges, flash floods, power outages and roofs being blown off. The impact of Typhoon Vamco was particularly damaging because it hit the same communities in the Bicol region and Central Luzon as Typhoon Goni.

Typhoon Vamco caused flooding and two to three meters of storm surge. A total of 1,262 villages were severely affected by the typhoon. Many residents were trapped on their rooftops because of the floods. The situation has also been complicated because of the pandemic, and those infected with covid-19 had to be treated in isolation tents.

Units of the New People's Army were mobilized to coordinate with revolutionary organizations in the rural areas to help in rebuilding houses and structures damaged by the strong winds and heavy rains. Efforts are still underway to facilitate the entry of emergency supplies, especially to the interior villages.

In the Southern Tagalog region, the NDFP called on its allied organizations to mobilize and facilitate relief and rehabilitation efforts in the affected communities. NDFP Spokesperson for Southern Tagalog Patnubay de Guia said, "Local organs of Red political power in the village, municipal and district-levels must lead such efforts. We need to assist in the reconstruction of houses, properties and livelihood of our townmates."

Meanwhile, the CPP said that the devastation is not solely caused by the successive typhoons but also by the Duterte government's failure to sufficiently prepare for and respond to the calamities.

CPP Information Officer Marco Valbuena said, "Under the Duterte regime, allocations for disaster preparedness have been cut by 60% from PhP39 billion in 2016 to a measly PhP15.7 billion this year. Local government units are similarly underfunded and incapable of carrying out efficient local disaster response efforts."

The Party urged the Filipino people to hold the Duterte government accountable "for its neglect to undertake disaster preparedness efforts to mitigate the impact of natural calamities." **UP**



*Image: forbesimg.com*

## CPP congratulates Americans on Trump defeat, calls to end US support for Duterte regime

The Communist Party of the Philippines congratulated the American people for voting against US President Donald Trump, preventing "another four years of Trump's fascism, militarism, racism, misogyny and bigotry" and called on the Filipino people to strengthen their demands for an end to US military support for the tyrannical Duterte regime.

The CPP made its statement on 8 November, even as Trump is still desperately contesting the results of the US presidential elections.

"Under Trump, US imperialist militarism and aggression intensified," the CPP said. "He continued to employ and expand economic sanctions against countries asserting independence. He aggressively pushed for sales of US weapons to oppressive regimes. He walked back on US commitments against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles and contact-detonated mines, as well as to the Paris Agreement on climate change."

US President-elect Joe Biden rode on the wave of widespread discontent and democratic mass movement which has engulfed the US. Over the past months, thousands of Americans have taken to the streets to protest racism, police brutality and attacks on civil rights, as well as to clamor for jobs, higher wages, work safety, decent housing and an effective public health response to the pandemic.

"The American people must continue to organize and mobilize in their numbers to make the Biden government act swiftly to respond to these urgent demands," said the CPP.

"In the Philippines, the US military continues to maintain facilities and troops across the country... US military support to the Duterte regime goes to the expanded and intensified drug war sham and counterinsurgency operations that have resulted in thousands of killings, widespread abuses of human rights, incessant murder of activists, unlawful arrests, torture and imprisonment of critics and opposition forces."

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The Filipino people, the CPP said, must strengthen their call to end US support to the Duterte terrorist regime. “They must double their efforts to convince the American people that continuing US military support for the Duterte regime equals support for his tyranny, bloody reign of murder and state terrorism against the Filipino people.”

In a separate statement, CPP Founding Chairman Prof. Jose Maria Sison said, “It remains to be seen whether President-elect Biden will act in any way different from that of Trump, even only on such matters... as respect for the 1987 Philippine Constitution, especially civil and political rights, the end of state terrorism and assertion of Philippines’ sovereign rights.”

Sison said, “In all circumstances, the Filipino people must rely on themselves in their struggle for national and social liberation and must not depend on any illusion that there will be any policy shift in Washington in favor of human rights and democracy.” **UP**



President Evo Morales (L) and President-elect Luis Arce. Photo: ruptly.tv

## NDFP lauds electoral victory of Movement for Socialism in Bolivia

The Movement for Socialism (MAS) party of Evo Morales won a landslide victory in the elections of Bolivia on 18 October 2020. The MAS presidential candidate, Luis Arce, former Economy and Public Finance Minister under President Morales, won 55% of the vote. He and Vice-Presidential candidate, Choquehuenca, received the decisive support of the indigenous Andean people and rural population.

In an interview on 1 November, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), through Chief International Representative Luis Jalandoni, declared “its warmest congratulations to President Luis Arce and Vice-President David Choquehuenca for their overwhelming victory and that of the MAS party and the Bolivian people.

“This strongly affirms the pro-people, pro-indigenous people, policies of the Movement for Socialism. This great victory provides further strength to the progressive anti-imperialist forces in the very important region of Latin America.”

The MAS party garnered 3,393,978 votes, a powerful victory of 55%, thus no longer requiring a run-off election. For the first time, there will be a majority of women in the newly elected Senate.

110 international observers from various international agencies declared that the election was free from fraud and transparent. Official observers from the United Nations, the Inter American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE), Association of Electoral Organizations of South America, the European Union, and the Carter Center attested to the validity of the elections.

Political allies of President Morales, including Presidents Alberto Fernandez of Argentina, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico and Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, among other dignitaries, congratulated President Luis Arce and Vice-President David Choquehuenca.

In a related development, on 27 October, a Bolivian judge annulled the arrest warrant issued against President Morales for allegedly being involved in sedition and terrorism. This annulment clears the way for President Morales to return to Bolivia from Argentina. **UP**



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