



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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EDITORIAL

Big recruiter for the New People's Army

International observers are asking us in disbelief, how can the greediest political dynasty in the world come back to power? Also, compatriots who were deeply engaged in the electoral campaign against the Marcos-Duterte gang are in shock and in rage, seeking answers on how the son of the infamous dictator and daughter of the notorious tyrant managed to win the May 2022 elections, and even so by a ; 'landslide'.

In fact, in the period leading to 9 May, the thousands of cheering crowds in the Robredo-Pangilinan campaign sorties all over the country dwarfed the lackluster attendances in the Marcos-Duterte rallies. This was reflected in the gatherings of overseas Filipinos in unprecedented numbers in many cities around the world to campaign for the Leni-Kiko tandem. These led many to predict that the opposition will win the vote. Then came the bombshell.

But others are not all surprised at the results of the election, conducted in the elite-controlled neocolonial and semifeudal Philippines. Here, elections can only be a showcase or pretense for democracy, at best. Thus, on a regular basis, sections of the ruling classes joust among themselves for various levels of political positions, each position ripe with rich opportunities for bureaucratic corruption.

In particular, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Communist Party of the Philippines have pointed out much earlier that the May 2022 elections were destined to be stolen by the Duterte-controlled Commission on Elections through the use of the Smartmatic vote counting machines. This was to be combined with massive vote-buying, falsification of ballots, armed coercion and red-tagging, especially in the rural areas. All of these predictions happened!

This preprogrammed election process and its 'landslide' results obscure the fact that the vast majority of the Filipino people are disgusted with tyranny and dictatorship, corruption and incompetence under the Duterte and preceding regimes.

As the CPP points out, the US imperialists and the local ruling classes wish to stabilize the ruling system and have their interests protected and promoted under Marcos II and Sara Duterte. This incoming regime will continue and even outdo the past six years of Duterte's state terrorism and puppetry to foreign imperialist powers.

The rigged election is a clear indication of how the moribund ruling system is rotten to the core and dominated by the vilest of the reactionaries.

The menace of the coming six years under Marcos II will certainly lead to the democratic, patriotic and revolutionary forces of the Filipino people to strengthen and multiply their ranks. Conditions for strengthening the revolutionary armed struggle are widening.

Yet another Marcos, just like his father, is coming in to be a big recruiter for the New People's Army. **UP**



Image: cpp.ph

Reject the illegitimate Marcos II regime – CPP

The Communist Party of the Philippines [called on the Filipino people on 13 May](#) to “reject and resist the Marcos II illegitimate regime”, declaring that the 9 May Presidential elections “were manipulated to make it appear that Marcos won a ‘landslide’ victory.” The tandem of Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Sara Duterte-Carpio, according to the CPP, stole the 9 May national and local elections, “by rigging the Commission on Elections’ automated election

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system, vote-buying, armed coercion, systematic disinformation, mind manipulation, political deceit and historical distortion.”

The Party added, “The campaign was run by big-ticket PR firms running media campaigns and social media troll farms, funded by Marcos’ ill-gotten wealth and Duterte’s state funds, and financial contributions from big business tycoons, big landlords, political dynasties and warlords. Under the pretext of counterinsurgency, military and police units actively campaigned for Marcos and Duterte... In classic Hitlerite fashion, the lie of the Marcos ‘landslide victory’ was deliberately made so colossal to make people think it could not be such a gross distortion of the truth.”

The COMELEC’s partial and unofficial count on 13 May indicated that Marcos, Jr. garnered 31.1 million votes while closest rival, outgoing Vice President Maria Leonor Gerona Robredo received 14.8 million votes. The tally represented 98.35% of the total votes cast. As of 13 May, all rival Presidential candidates, including Ms. Robredo, have already conceded defeat.

Thousands of Filipinos, however, have been protesting since 10 May against electoral fraud and rejecting the COMELEC count. In Metro Manila, thousands have been trooping to the national canvassing center. Similar protest actions have been taking place in other major cities across the country. On 13 May, several groups called for a Black Friday Protest.

Election watchdog Kontra Daya tagged the just-concluded elections as “the worst in history” due to the unremitting spread of disinformation during the campaign and the numerous election irregularities.

Kontra Daya said up to 1.1 million votes were lost due to the malfunctioning of nearly 2,000 vote counting machines. They received 577 reports of VCM malfunctions, 152 reports of illegal campaigning, 109 reports of vote buying and 55 reports of harassment and intimidation on 9 May.

Numerous incidents of vote-buying and intimidations were also reported by opposition political parties and other election watchdogs across the country. The COMELEC reported the malfunction of 1,800 VCMs on 9 May.

In their call to reject the “illegitimate regime”, the CPP stressed, “The Marcos-Duterte clique represents the worst of the tyrants, fascists and corrupt bureaucrat capitalists... Marcos Junior is an unrepentant beneficiary and defender of the 14-year Marcos fascist dictatorship. He combines with Sara Duterte, a power-hungry authoritarian who ruled Davao City with military and police power.”

The CPP warned that the Marcos-Duterte regime will be “a continuation of the past six years of tyrannical rule and puppetry to foreign imperialist powers, and a return to the Marcosian-levels of corruption and plunder.” **UP**



Photo: pna.gov.ph

Demands for release of Sen. De Lima mount amid witnesses’ retractions

Demands for the immediate release of jailed Philippine senator Leila de Lima is mounting, following the retraction of two major witnesses accusing Sen. De Lima of involvement in the illegal drug trade. Philippine human rights alliance Karapatan called on 3 May for the immediate release of Sen. De Lima, describing her arrest

and continued detention as a “case of political persecution and repression.”

On 28 April 2022, self-confessed drug lord Roland Espinosa issued an affidavit declaring that he lied when he testified in Congress in 2016 that he gave PhP 8 million to Sen. De Lima to finance her senate bid. On 30 April, former Bureau of Corrections official Rafael Ragos issued a separate affidavit retracting his claims that he delivered PhP 5 million to Sen. De Lima’s driver in 2012 at the behest of drug convicts in the New Bilibid prison. Both witnesses claim that officials of the Philippine National Police and Department of Justice coerced them into making the false accusations.

Karapatan called for an independent investigation into the allegations of coercion and the various officials’ roles “in the filing of malicious charges” against the senator.

Phil Robertson, Deputy Asia Director at Human Rights Watch, said, “Senator de Lima has suffered five years in detention for an alleged crime that key witnesses now dispute... The authorities should immediately drop the politically motivated charges and release her, and impartially investigate the witnesses’ claims that they were coerced to give false testimony.”

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Meanwhile, six US senators led by Sen. Marco Rubio and Ed Markey issued a [joint statement on 3 May](#) calling for Sen. De Lima's immediate release, adding that any remaining charges should be dropped without further delay.

US Senators Dick Durbin, Marsha Blackburn, Chris Coons and Patrick Leahy joined the statement. They said, "Clearly, the bogus charges against her were, as we suspected all along, politically-motivated and based on false information... That she has lost five years in jail due to these spurious charges is a travesty."

The European Parliament has been calling for the immediate release of Sen. De Lima as early as September 2020.

Sen. De Lima has been a fierce opponent of President Rodrigo Duterte's 'war on drugs' under which more than 30,000 have reportedly been killed by police agents and vigilantes since June 2016. She was also leading investigations into Duterte's involvement in 'death squad' killings in Davao City when he was the long-time mayor of that city.

In its 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the US State Department said it found reports on human rights abuses committed by Philippine security forces, including extrajudicial killings and torture as "credible." The report alleges that the incarceration of De Lima is politically motivated. **UP**



ARMAS publishes Golden Edition anthology of Philippine revolutionary art

Philippine revolutionary organization Artists and Writers of the People (ARMAS) published in April 2022 the Golden Edition of its cultural journal Ulos, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, and in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army. The Ulos Golden Edition, a 'twin

issue' of December 2018 and March 2019, contains 50 poems, songs, short stories, news rapportage and essays penned by revolutionary writers in the last five decades, adorned with selected illustrations from revolutionary artists.

ARMAS, one of the 18 allied organizations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, collects cultural works from the various regions of the country and publishes these in its cultural journal Ulos (English: lunge or thrust). The Ulos Golden Edition highlighted works from renowned revolutionary writers and martyrs including Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Alan Jazmines, Eman Lacaba, Romulo Sandoval, Kris Montañez, Wilfredo Gacosta, Servando Magbanua, Kerima Lorena Tariman, Mayamor, Alice Guillermo, Neil Doloricon, Parts Bagani and Silvia Madiaga.

In its Editorial, ARMAS said the Golden Edition brings out the importance and role of revolutionary propaganda and culture in the five decades-long national democratic revolution. The works reflect the revolutionary struggles of the people, from the northernmost regions to the southernmost regions of the country, and record historical events through the series of reactionary presidents from the dictator Marcos to the tyrant Duterte. ARMAS recalled that the creation and spread of revolutionary cultural works was one of the priorities set with the reestablishment of the CPP in 1968.

ARMAS also reflected on the development of cultural media in the last five decades. Cultural cadres in the late 1970s used V-type silkscreens to print their publications. Nowadays, cultural works have branched out to the digital world of the USB drives, DVDs, digital audio and video formats and the internet.

Copies of Ulos Golden Edition are free to [download here](#).



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