

Reject and resist the Marcos II illegitimate regime

Communist Party of the Philippines
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In one of the most brazen power grab in recent Philippine history, the Marcos-Duterte clique stole the May 9 national elections by rigging the Comelec's automated election system, vote-buying, armed coercion, systematic disinformation, mind manipulation, political deceit and historical distortion.

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 were used to actively campaign for Marcos and Duterte.

The dictator's son, Ferdinand Jr., is set to assume the presidency, while the tyrant's daughter, Sara Duterte, is set to become vice-president. In the eyes of the Filipino people, the incoming Marcos-Duterte regime is an illegitimate regime established on the foundations of electoral fraud and deceit.

The Filipino people anticipate that, like his tyrant father, Marcos Junior will establish a despotic and corrupt regime that will be at the behest of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, and which will cause gross suffering on the

broad masses of the people. He is set to become chief of the neo-colonial state under US imperialism and oversee the further aggravation of the semicolonial and semifeudal system.

The Marcos-Duterte clique represents the worst of the tyrants, fascists and corrupt bureaucrat capitalists of the ruling reactionary classes. Marcos Junior is an unrepentant beneficiary and defender of the 14-year Marcos fascist dictatorship (1972-1986). He combines with Sara Duterte, a power-hungry authoritarian who ruled Davao City with military and police power.

To pave its way back to Malacañang, the Marcoses used its billions of pesos of illegally acquired wealth to capture local political power in Ilocos Norte and Leyte, run and win seats in the reactionary congress, and reestablish and cultivate political loyalties and financial ties with the big bourgeois compradors and foreign banks. Their steady return to power was

allowed by successive reactionary regimes since 1988 under the advice of their US imperialist masters with the aim of ironing out factional conflicts.

The Marcoses used their renewed political clout to carry out a widespread campaign of disinformation to distort or delete historical records. Over the years, they sought to whitewash the crimes of plunder and corruption, and gross violations of human rights perpetrated during the Marcos dictatorship. The Marcos' scheme to return to Malacañang was boosted over the past six years under Duterte who authorized the hero's burial for Marcos, repeatedly praised his dictatorial rule, claimed that the Marcoses have no ill-gotten wealth, and finally connived to rig the elections.

The results of the elections were manipulated to make it appear that Marcos won a "landslide" victory in order to overshadow the fact that millions across the country joined mass demonstrations to reject the Marcoses and support the political opposition. It aims to give his regime a veneer of "legitimacy." 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.

With the aim of preserving the stability of the ruling system, majority of the reactionaries, their political parties, the US imperialists, the military and police, and big bourgeois compradors have now all turned a blind eye to the systematic election steal and gave their recog-

nition to a Marcos II presidency. They all wish to stabilize the ruling system, and have the interests of the ruling classes protected and promoted under Marcos.

A Marcos II regime promises to be a continuation of the past six years of tyrannical rule, state terrorism and puppetry to foreign imperialist powers, and a return to the

Marcosian-levels of corruption and plunder, 50 years since Marcos Senior declared martial law and established one-man rule in 1972. Its emergence through deceit and fraud is a clear indication of how the moribund ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system is rotten to the core and dominated by the vilest of the reactionaries.

Prospects under Marcos II

Marcos Junior is the greatest apologist of his father's one-man dictatorship and their family's corruption. He is expected to be no less a tyrant and thief. He and his family belong to the top-ranks of the bureaucrat capitalists who have accumulated scandalous amounts of wealth by serving as agents of the imperialists, and the ruling classes of big bourgeois compradors and big landlords.

For the Filipino people, the impending six years of Marcos rule is set to become a period marked by rapid socioeconomic deterioration, intense hardship and oppression, and heightened political repression. They have no other recourse but to defend their democratic rights and interests through all forms of struggle.

The looming menace of six years under Marcos Junior compels the Filipino people and their democratic, progressive and patriotic forces to

strengthen and multiply their ranks. It is also generating conditions for strengthening the revolutionary armed struggle as the people, especially the youth, are being roused in numbers to join the New People's Army.

1. Once Marcos Junior assumes power, the Filipino people will completely lose their money which the Marcoses pocketed during their 14-year reign. As president, Marcos Junior will have all the means to have the properties and monies claimed by the Marcoses released from sequestration, to put an end to the government policy of recovering the ill-gotten wealth, order the abolition of the Presidential Commission on Good Government or simply make it ineffectual.


2. A Marcos presidency will effectively render moot and academic all the 40 civil cases related to their illegally-acquired wealth that is estimated to be at least \$10 billion, only less than half of which has been seized and returned to the government. Marcos Junior, himself, has been convicted at least twice for failure to pay taxes, and is facing demands to pay ₱203 billion in

taxes.

He is also facing contempt charges in the US over his refusal to cooperate with the Hawaii court which in 1995 ordered the Marcoses to pay \$2 billion to victims of human rights. His mother, Imelda, was convicted in at least seven criminal cases of graft carrying 11 years each, and who has so far evaded imprisonment. She will likely live the rest of her life never ever stepping foot in jail.


3. Marcos wants the next generation of Filipinos to grow up with zero knowledge of the unprecedented scale of corruption, plunder and abuses perpetrated during the 14-year Marcos dictatorship, and make them believe in the mythical "golden age" under martial law. Marcos can mobilize the vast resources of government to completely purge schoolbooks of any traces of the truth about martial law, and heighten further the revision, distortion or deletion of historical records. He can even order the government to acquire the area where the Bantayog ng mga Bayani stands and use it for some sort of government infrastructure project.


4. Marcos has declared plans to continue Duterte's Build Build Build program which has served as one of the biggest milking cows of corrupt government officials and primary reason for the doubling of the country's indebtedness under



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Duterte. There is superfluous construction of bridges and roads, as well as land reclamation. Marcos has established ties with Chinese officials and financial institutions and will most likely push the implementation of the Kaliwa Dam, the Gened Dam, the Chico River dam project and other infrastructure projects that are being opposed by people because of the detrimental effects on the environment, the people's livelihood and land rights.

5. In the mold of his dictator father, and with the template set by Duterte, Marcos Junior is set to establish authoritarian rule that is intolerant of dissent and criticism. He will wield the draconian Anti-Terrorism Law against anyone who dares rise up and oppose his regime. As his father used the communist bogey to justify the declaration of martial law in 1972, policy of red-tagging and terrorist-labeling will likely further intensify under Marcos Junior.

To consolidate the support of the military, Marcos plans to continue the National Task Force-Elcac or establish some other similar agency. Under the sway of military generals who have been pocketing billions from weapons purchase contracts with the US, it is likely that Marcos will continue to carry out the militarist and fake localized peace talks, aerial bombing campaign and brutal counterinsurgency war as central state policy. The chances of Marcos engaging in serious peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front is nil or close to nil.

The political opposition has been decimated. The Senate and Congress is now filled with Marcos and Duterte allies and, as before, are likely to serve as rubberstamp to Marcos authoritarian rule.

There will be less freedom of information and of the press as Marcos has displayed lack of interest in answering critical questions from journalists. Instead of the truth, Marcos will continue to feed the

people with fake news and false images as part of stage-managing his rule, in the same way that his mother Imelda used government money to build edifices and walls to hide the gross ills of society and the ugly secrets of the Marcoses.

6. The Marcoses return to power is set to further intensify the contradictions between rival factions of the ruling classes. Marcos will take full advantage of his six-year term to demand a percentage of the profits or take over control of the operations of the big bourgeois compradors, either through threats of legal or extralegal action, such as what Duterte did to the Lopezes and other big business interests.

While the Marcoses and Dutertes project themselves as allies, they are also, in fact, bitter rivals due to their mutual thievery, treachery and distrust. While the Marcoses owe Duterte for giving Marcos Senior a hero's burial, they also resent the fact that Duterte refused to lend a hand in his six-year electoral protest over his 2016 loss in the vice presidential race. On the other hand, Duterte is disgruntled over how Marcos Junior and Gloria Arroyo preempted his daughter Sara from running as president and refused to accept offers of "power sharing." While Marcos sits on the throne, he is also keenly aware how Duterte is fully capable of stabbing him in the back.

To preserve their alliance, Marcos will likely prevent the investigation and prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC) into charges of crimes against humanity filed against Duterte.

7. Marcos is set to further bury the country deeper in debt in the face of growing fiscal deficit as a result of rampant government corruption, military and police overspending, overpriced infrastructure projects, and corporate tax cuts. To pay for the gargantuan debt, Marcos is set to continue pursuing the policies "recommended" by the International Monetary Fund and

other financial institutions to "expand the tax base" which means imposing more and more taxes on the people. He is set on continuing the now decades-long policies of import and investment liberalization, low wages, land-use conversion, cuts in social spending (education and health), and other neoliberal measures which have pulled the country from one crisis to another.

8. In exchange for the support given him by big business tycoons, Marcos Junior will continue with the policy of wage repression and the suppression of unions and workers associations. The Filipino working class will suffer even greater exploitation and hardships amid rising prices, low wages, unfair working conditions and loss of income.

9. In exchange for the support given him by big landlords, Marcos Junior will continue to suppress demands for genuine land reform and ignore the plight of the peasant masses and minority people who have been suffering from land grabbing and forced dislocations.

10. Marcos Junior is set to continue Duterte's policy of dual puppetry or double subservience to the US and China. On the one hand, in exchange for Chinese loans and bribe money, he will likely not challenge China's military aggression and intrusion into Philippine waters, nor demand China to recognize Philippine sovereignty over its exclusive economic zone and extended continental shelf as defined under the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS) and the decision of the International Arbitral Tribunal. Like Duterte, Marcos has surrendered this claim on the basis that China does not recognize the UNCLOS nor the decision of the IAT.

On the other hand, to consolidate the support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Marcos will continue to carry out US-IMF-WB economic neoliberal policy dictates (which also benefit

Chinese big monopoly companies). He will also continue to uphold the Mutual Defense Treaty, the Visiting Forces Agreement, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and other unequal military

agreements with the US, which together with the Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines, allow the US military to use the country as a large military base for prepositioning troops and weapons.

Marcos' policy of dual puppetry will likely serve to turn the country into a magnet that will pull it into the middle of an increasingly probable armed conflict between the US and China.

Tasks under the Marcos II regime

The Marcos-Duterte power grab through deceit, fraud and automated stealing of the May 9 elections are stirring the Filipino people to rise up and defend their democratic rights and welfare through all forms of struggle. The Party calls on the Filipino people and their revolutionary forces to carry out the following general tasks.

Wage a broad democratic resistance against the illegitimate regime of Marcos Junior that was established on the basis of systematic fraud and violence. Build the anti-Marcos and anti-Duterte broad united front of all democratic forces. Mount an international campaign to expose the Marcos II government as an illegitimate regime.

Resist all policies of the Marcos II regime that promote authoritarianism, state terrorism, corruption and puppetry. Resist all policies that impinge on the people's basic democratic rights, including the right to organize, peaceably assemble, press freedom, academic freedom and so on.

Campaign against disinformation and attempts to reverse the people's historical judgement against the Marcos dictatorship. Wage an educational campaign and cultural revolution to help the people, especially the youth, recall and never forget the crimes perpetrated against the Filipino people by the 14-year US-Marcos dictatorship, and how the people courageously and militantly resisted through all forms of struggle.

Carry forward the fight for justice for all the victims of human rights abuses under the Duterte

regime. Support the push for the investigation and prosecution of Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court, and the demand that he be punished for the innumerable cases of extrajudicial killings, abductions and torture perpetrated by police and military forces in the course of the sham war on drugs, as well as in the brutal counterinsurgency war in the countryside.

Fight to end the militarized state and push for the dismantling of the NTF-Elcac. Demand the removal of all former military officers in the bureaucracy.

Strengthen the local and international campaign to end the US-sponsored aerial bombing campaign, military presence in communities, "surrender" drive and other tactics that systematically target civilians.

Build and strengthen workers unions and all other forms of democratic mass organizations in schools, offices, workplaces, in urban and rural communities, in order to collectively push for their democratic rights and welfare.

Arouse, organize and mobilize the broad masses to raise the demand for wage increases, better working conditions, an end to contractualization and other forms of

flexible labor, genuine land reform, increased state spending for public health and education, an end to all-out import liberalization and smuggling of agricultural goods, respect for the ancestral land and the right to self-determination of national minorities, an end to aggressive entry of mining operations and expansion of plantations, and so on.

Fight to defend the country's national sovereignty against US and Chinese intervention. Demand an end to Chinese intrusions into Philippine maritime territories. Demand the pull-out of all American military forces and advisers, the dismantling of US military facilities, and the removal of all US prepositioned military weapons across the country.

Conditions have become exceedingly favorable for the further intensification of the people's democratic revolution through protracted people's war. In this civil war, the enemy wants to crush the people's armed resistance against fascist oppression. The people and the revolutionary forces have no choice but to do their best to defeat and destroy the armed counterrevolution.

Party cadres and all revolutionary forces must persevere and untiringly strengthen the Party, the New People's Army and all other revolutionary mass organizations in order to advance the struggle for the national and social liberation of the people. AB