

Sentro ng turismo sa Oriental Mindoro, sisimulan na



CALAPAN CITY - Sisimulan na ang konstruksyon sa Marso 1 ang magsisilbing sentro ng turismo sa Oriental Mindoro na tatawaging Liwasan ng Mamamayan. Pebrero 26 nang isinagawa ang Ground-breaking Ceremony nito at tinatayang aabot ng P70 milyong halaga ng proyektong Liwasan ng Mamamayan na magsisilbing istruktura na pagkakakilanlan ng Oriental Mindoro.

Ang Liwasan ng Mamamayan ay isang malaking pan-turismong proyekto na nakaangkla sa layuning isinusulong ngayon ng Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) na matugunan ang pangangailangang maibsan ang naging matinding epekto ng COVID-19 hindi lamang sa industriya ng turismo sa bansa kundi sa pang-emosyonal na aspeto ng mga lubhang naapektuhan nitong mamamayan alinsunod na rin sa Republic Act 11469 o kilala sa "Bayanihan to Heal as One" Act.

Kasama ng Punong Lalawigan sa ginanap na groundbreaking ceremony

sina Roxas Mayor Leo Cusi, Provincial Engineer Edylou Tejido, Unang Ginang Hiyas Govinda Dolor, Kapitan Remy Frayre ng Barangay Camilmil, at Engineer Larry Suzara ng Sanlahi.

Sa harap ng Kapitolyo sa kinatatayuan ngayon ng compound ng Boy Scout of the Philippines na may lawak na 5,000 metro kwadrang lupa, itatayo ang proyektong Liwasan NG Mamamayan na magsisilbing People's Park and Public Plaza. Madadagdag at magsisilbi itong tourist attraction partikular sa Lungsod ng Calapan na inasahang makatutulong sa mga mamamayang nakararanas ng depresyon at kawalan ng pag-asa sa buhay. Natatangi ang naturang proyekto sa pagkakaroon ng kauna-unahang dancing fountain na may makukulay na repleksyon ng ilaw na magbibigay sigla sa mga magtutungo rito upang mamasyal at mag-relax.

Ayon sa Gobernador, ang katuparan ng naturang proyekto ay isang patunay na maaasahan ang kanyang bawat salita. Isa rin ito, aniya, sa mga matagal na niyang



pinapangarap na pagbabago na nabigyan ng katuparan kabilang ang lumang gusali ng Benigno Aquino na isa na ngayong maipagmamalaking Batasang Panlalawigan, ang dating anyo ng tanggapan ng Provincial Agriculturist Office na nakalipat na ngayon sa malaki at maayos nitong tanggapan sa loob ng kapitolyo, at ang lumang gusali ng Boy Scout of the Philippines na naipagawa rin subalit maging gusali dahil nakatakda ring

gawin ang mas malaki pa nitong gusali sa Barangay Sta Isabel. Nakatakda pa ring tapusin at inagurahan ang ibang pang kasalukuyang ginagawang malalaking proyekto ng kanyang administrasyon hanggang buwan ng Mayo kabilang dito ang P130 milyong halaga ng Sentrong Pangkabataan, ang Sports complex sa Naujan, ang Capitol in the South, Bulalacao Community Hospital, dalawang palapag ng gusali ng Pinamalayan Hospital na inihahanda na

ngayon para maging Provincial Hospital, ang Mangyan Heritage Cultural Center sa Mansalay, at ang P150 milyong halaga ng IT Park na makapagbibigay ng maraming trabaho sa lalawigan.

Ang Liwasan ng Mamamayan ang magsisilbing pangalawang malaking proyekto ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan na aambag sa pagsigla ng turismo hindi lamang ng Lungsod ng Calapan kundi ng buong lalawigan (PIO Oriental Mindoro).

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Doctors, health workers, colleagues press for Doc Naty Castro's freedom



Health workers call for the release of Dr. Naty Castro (Photo from Council for Health and Development Facebook page)

By ANNE MARXZE D. UMIL
Bulatlat.com

MANILA – Doctors, health workers, development workers and colleagues of community doctor Naty Castro reiterated their call for her release as they gathered Monday, Feb. 21 in University of the Philippines Manila.

UP-Philippine General Hospital Dr. Gerardo Legaspi expressed his support in calling for Castro's release. "We are fighting for our fellow health worker who chose to render her service in far-flung areas," he said during the press conference.

Castro was arrested on Feb. 18 and was later flown to Agusan del Sur. She is now detained at the Bayugan Police Station. Authorities claimed that Castro is a high-ranking member of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

"She is a community doctor and a human rights advocate," Julie Caguiat, Castro's batch mate and friend at the UP-College of Medicine said.

St. Scholastica's College President, Sr. M. Cristine Pinto, OSB said, "It is unjust that one who has chosen to live in places that are not reached by the services that every human being is entitled to receive; one who has committed her life to give life to others, is now deprived of her right to life."

Castro is an alumna of St. Scholastica's College and UP Manila.

Dr. Reginald Pamug

gas, secretary general of Health Action for Human Rights (HAHR), said there is a pattern of red-tagging, arrests and killing of doctors and health workers in the country. "Physicians who provided medical attention to the underserved such as Dr. Dreyfus Perlas, Dr. George Repique, Dr. Avelex Amor, Dr. Mary Rose Sancelan and Zara Alvarez were government physicians; but were senselessly killed for standing up for compassion for the poor, integrity and honesty in government service," Pamugas added.

Why is Castro serving in Mindanao?

Caguiat, also a community doctor, said that since their college, their hearts are in community work. Until they finished medical school, they decided to join Community Medicine Foundation where they were deployed to Mindanao.

"As Executive Director of the Community-Based Health Program (CBHP) in Butuan, Agusan Norte, Dr. Naty provided vital health services to far-flung communities and trained thousands of volunteer community health workers (CHWs) to educate them and treat the basic diseases of their families and communities. Some of the CHWs are active as paramedical workers and frontliners in their communities in the time of COVID 19, teaching, organizing and caring for their neighbors and family groups

and clusters," Caguiat said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat also shared that Castro helped their community in Surigao del Sur.

"She gave us training on common diseases and how to maintain cleanliness of our surrounding to avoid illnesses," Cullamat said, adding that they also learned to plant nutritious crops to prevent illnesses.

This is why they are indignant over the arrest of Castro saying that their communities in the far-flung areas are not even reached by the government's health services. She said that the lessons they learned from Castro have improved their lives as Lumad. "Do people who help the poor, especially professionals like doctors, deserved to be treated this way?" Cullamat asked.

Caguiat admitted they were not surprised but still enraged at what happened.

"This is what we are fearing, even before because there are many threats and harassment," Caguiat said, who also worked with Castro in Mindanao. She said they knew they were being monitored.

Pamugas urged the Department of Health "to protect frontline doctors, especially those who have answered the government's call to serve in isolated and remote communities."

Meanwhile, Castro's brother Jun, expressed their family's gratitude to all those who are supporting her sister. (RVO) (with permission from bulatlat.com)



TINGNAN: Isa lamang si Using Ganhuyan sa mga naging benepisyaryo ng cash incentive mula sa pamunuan ni Governor Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor para sa mga pangunahing mamamayan na may edad 85 pataas, noong Pebrero 25.

Si Lolo Using Ganhuyan ay isang Hanunuo Mangyan mula sa barangay Panaytayan at may edad na 109 taon.

"Si Lolo Using ang pinakamatandang Mindoreñong nakilala ko," ayon kay Governor Bonz.



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The political economy of the Ukraine crisis

By MENCHANI TILENDO
Bulatlat.com

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is a reflection of the worsening inter-imperialist conflict in a multi-polar world. It is a by-product of an evolving global situation wherein the US, in a quest for preserving its world hegemony, has shifted its policy from the global war on terror in 2000s, to targeting sovereign conflicts with Russia and China — major powers that embody particular political, economic, and military strengths. The US government's behavior towards Russia and China differ in a sense that China has now emerged as its largest economic rival, and Russia has maintained its hands-down authority when it comes to building a powerful military industrial complex.

We have seen through the course of recent history how China has positioned itself as a major global power in terms of political economic initiatives like the Belt and Road, but it has also kept up with the arms race arena because of continuous US aggression. Regardless, the US has never defeated Russia as the most powerful country in terms of armaments and new generation nuclear weapons. Therefore, despite the undefeated military presence of the US in almost all parts of the world, its formula of aggression towards Russia is streamlined through entering the larger rivalry of European imperialist powers inclined to a more diplomatic approach such as the United Kingdom, Germany, and France. After all, the US' assertion of its global hegemony will never be maintained without struggling to keep both its military and economic dominance in place.

To understand the core of the crisis in Ukraine, there needs to be a clear landscape of the political economic foundations involved. In so doing, it should be viewed not just as a conflict of narratives between Russian President Vladimir Putin's "interfere with the Russian action and this would lead to the consequences you have never seen in history" versus US President Joe Biden's "the world will hold Russia accountable". It has always been about how the sovereign people of Ukraine have suffered from the long-time armed conflict of the Russian and Ukrainian regime — a conflict engineered by none other than the US government and the North American Treaty Organization (NATO).

US-NATO, Russia, and Ukrainian regime as key players

Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, as the founders of the Soviet Union, decided to co-sign the original

Minsk Agreement in 1991 as a modern-revisionist response to take the road of capitalist restoration claimed to put an end to the threats of the Cold War.

"It is a matter of history that the Soviet modern-revisionists from Khrushchev to Gorbachov and Yeltsin had the illusion that, if the Soviet Union took this road, Russia would go back to the European homeland, join the Council of Europe and enjoy the "dividends" of peace like the US and its NATO partners," International League of Peoples' Struggle Chairperson Emeritus Prof. Jose Maria Sison said in a statement.

"The Minsk Agreement in 1991 aimed to dissolve the Soviet Union and form the Commonwealth of Independent States in exchange for the assurances of the US, NATO and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that the human rights and democratic rights of the former Soviet republics would be respected and that NATO would not recruit from the former Warsaw Pact members and expand to the borders of Russia," Sison added.

The 1991 Minsk Agreement did not prevent the US strategy to take over the republics of the former Soviet Union through economic aids, investments, and geopolitical and trade alliances. This strategy has been effective in commanding the US influence over the East bloc countries such as Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Romania. It has also been effective in attracting former republics such as Moldova, Latvia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. The others which were not drawn by the US and have been more aligned with Russia — like Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, and Tajikistan. This redivision of major global alliances with the help of NATO has not only heightened US military presence in all of these republics, but it has also prompted constriction policies against Russia as the largest US military rival. To prevent Russia's global economic interests, the US has imposed sanctions which have significantly deprived Russia of refurbishing its military hardware. All of these are the geopolitics of monopoly capital of all sides.

Launching pad of West vs Russia proxy wars

Ukraine is called the breadbasket of Europe for good reason. It produces 16% of the world's corn and 12% of its wheat, as well as being a significant exporter of barley and rye. Russia considers Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence as Ukraine is also the lead global producer of metals such as nickel, copper, and iron. It is also involved in the export and manufacture of



photo from ILPS facebook page

essential raw materials like platinum, neon, and palladium.

Under the framework of the Soviet Union, there was a shift in geopolitical resources and advantages between Russia and Ukraine. Soviet-era dinosaur enterprises have dominated the southern and eastern provinces of Ukraine. Similar to Russia's, they were all built in Soviet times as part of a single, integrated energy-abundant economy. But manufacturing in Russia is weak, most of the advanced systems and science on this were channeled to Ukraine. Russia may have held gas and oil fields, but they do not have Ukraine's manufacturing capacity. Thus, Russia is dependent on the export of gas that goes through Ukraine.

The US sees itself as defending Ukraine against Russia and it has postured to do so through levying economic sanctions to deter the latter from further aggression in Ukraine. Case in point is the building of a new gas line directly from Petrograd to Germany. Russia can't access this because of US-imposed sanctions absorbed by the Ukraine regime.

On the other hand, Russia sees Ukraine as a front in this war that's being waged by the West against Russia. Ukraine's lurch away from Russian influence felt like the final death knell for Russian power in Eastern Europe. Russia is asserting to profit from Ukraine's gas exports, and because of US sanctions, it is now pinning down Ukraine. On the other hand, the US is using Ukraine to further constrain Russia.

Turning point: 2014 US-instigated coup

At the end of the day, it is Ukraine's economy, not Russia's,

that is eroding the fastest under the threat of war. Ukraine, like Belarus, has been functioning as a buffer area between US-NATO powers and Russia.

The turning point of the Ukraine crisis was in 2014 when the US succeeded to engineer a coup d'état to topple the pro-Russian Ukrainian government which had ties to the pro-Nazi party during the World War II and had been at the forefront of bloody repression against the anti-fascist rebellion from the masses. The US and its NATO allies have installed a pro-Western and neo-fascist Ukrainian government after the coup; and it has always ignored the Minsk Agreement that was supposed to create self-governed regions and would have assured stability in the region.

But the Russian-speaking nationalist forces in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have declared independence from both Ukraine and Russia after a public referendum in response to the US-backed coup and have not initiated any violence since this declaration.

With its continuous violation of the Minsk Agreement, the now US-controlled Zelenskyy government in Ukraine continues its wars of aggression against the declared independent governments of Donetsk and Luhansk as well as Crimea which has voted to rejoin Russia.

"The Ukrainian fascists have been able to kill so many Russians and destroy their homes and workplaces and cause the reduction of the overall Russian population in Ukraine from more than 22 to 17 per cent (or by more than three million) by forcing them to seek refuge in Russia and other countries as refugees," Sison said.

Ukraine: A prize neither Russia

nor the US can't win

The Ukraine conflict is an example of how sovereign countries become launching pads of inter-imperialist proxy wars mainly because of their geopolitical and economic positions. Consistent with the Cold War era's doctrine of "divide and rule", the US has strategically recruited many more NATO members to constrict Russia's political, economic, and military influence.

In its defense of its own hold of power, Russia is preemptive of the US design and intention, that is why it continues to demand to uphold the Minsk Agreement. Either way, desperation on both ends have prompted Russia to declare the invasion over Ukraine — and this is not necessarily different from the long-time wars of aggression masterminded by the US. Both of these are interventions that will never guarantee the people of Ukraine their genuine national liberation and self-determination.

The crisis in Ukraine indicates the start of a dangerous tension all over the world. The people of Ukraine, now more than ever, are faced with the challenges of conflict between Russia and the Western powers, and against the puppet Zelenskyy regime.

Accepting the Russian invasion will never be an option. Being pawns of the US-imperialist agenda against Russia is not the solution. There are no benefits from both major powers whose real main objective is to assert and parade their global dominance. The people of Ukraine's territorial and social integrity lie only on the strong global anti-imperialist solidarity in the face of intensifying conflict, instability, and threats of war. (RVO) (with permission from bulatlat.com)

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ROXAS TOWN PLAZA GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY:

Ang groundbreaking ceremony ng proyektong pagsasaayos ng Roxas Town Plaza sa bayan ng Roxas noong Pebrero 24.

Ang naturang proyekto ay kaloob ng pamahalaang panlalagiwan ng Mindoro Oriental. Ito ay magbibigay ng bagong mihura sa bayan ng Roxas upang maging isa sa pinakamaganda at maunlad na bayan sa ating lalawigan.



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