

Quarterly news from the global chapters of Migrante International to help OFWs stay informed and connected to the Philippines and the migrant worker movement.



Photo courtesy of Migrante Philippines Facebook

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## Editorial: Marcos put the people's needs over your greed!

*Since Marcos Jr's SONA in July 2024, the economic crisis of the Philippines has worsened. The administration continues to fail overseas Filipinos.*

The inflation rate crept up to 4.4% in July. As the summer ended, budget deliberations began. Marcos' alarmingly high PhP 6.352 trillion 2025 national budget increased funding for militarization and infrastructure projects to PhP 419B and PhP 942B respectively, while decreasing funding for sorely needed social services for ordinary Filipinos.

Marcos cut the Agriculture budget by PhP 10.4 Billion, the health budget by PhP 10.7 billion, and slashed hospital budgets by 50%. Marcos undeniably demonstrated disregard for OFWs' wellbeing by slashing the Department of Migrant Workers' budget by PhP 18M and Department of Labor and Employment by PhP 14.4 Billion. Marcos claimed this budget ensures prosperity for the Philippines, but reducing social services and assistance to the Filipino people only worsens poverty – the very opposite of prosperity.

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The reduction of services means that our loved ones will rely even more on our wages as overseas Filipino workers, which are barely enough to help us survive in host countries, let alone ensure that our families can thrive back home. Marcos expects us to allow ourselves to be exploited even more by working 2-3 jobs to get by, regardless of the negative impacts on our health, our safety, and our lives.

The US imperialist backed Israeli genocide has now spread war and violence to other Middle East countries that employ our kababayan. Migrant International demands immediate and comprehensive evacuation of OFWs in the Middle East.

OFWs remitted PhP239 Billion in 2023. How can Marcos justify putting our money towards war and violence against our own people, while denying basic needs services to those at home and abroad?



Photo courtesy of Migrante Europe

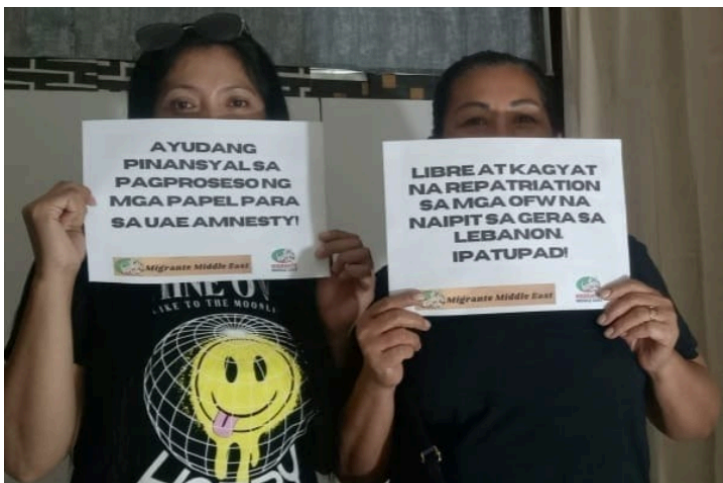
In August, Marcos administration tried to hide the worsening poverty through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)'s claim that families with at least PhP64 for daily meals are not food poor.

Changing the definition of 'poverty' doesn't make poverty disappear. PhP64 isn't even enough to buy a package of Lucky Me pancit Canton for one person, let alone feed a family of 5.

Meanwhile, Sara Duterte's requested PhP2.037 Billion for the Office of the Vice President came under sharp interrogation.

Duterte refused to explain why her budget was so large. Progressive House Representatives, France Castro of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Raoul Manuel of Kabataan Partylist, Arlene Brosas of Gabriela Partylist, did not allow Duterte's inflated budget to squander our money. Instead, the House of Representatives slashed Duterte's OVP budget to P733M for 2025, with many rightly calling for her resignation and impeachment.#

## OFWs in Lebanon call for immediate repatriation



In a press conference organized by MIGRANTE International last September 29, 2024, Filipino workers in Beirut, Lebanon criticize the Philippine government for the slow processing of their documents and in attending to their repatriation. The call for immediate repatriation was called for after the terroristic missile attacks led by Israel supported by US government of suspected Hezbollah areas in Beirut.

Photo courtesy of Migrant Middle East



# Global Protests mark 52nd Martial Law Anniversary



Global Martial Law mobilizations including: Migrante Republic of Korea (top left), Migrante Thailand (middle left), Migrante Japan (bottom left), Migrante USA, (middle), Migrante Canada (right)

Filipino migrants across the globe joined protest actions on September 21, 2024 marking the 52nd anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law. Protest actions were held in key cities in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Hong Kong.

The protesters expressed indignation over the de facto Martial Law in the Philippines under President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., the son named after the late dictator who was ousted in a popular uprising on February 25, 1986.

Migrante USA members and their allies held various forms of protests in Philadelphia, New York City, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland.

Actions included a rally on behalf of Brandon Lee a Chinese-American who survived an assassination attempt in 2019.

Lee was targeted after living in the Cordillera region organizing indigenous communities for a decade. The assassination attempt led to efforts to pass the Philippine Human Rights Act.

Migrante Canada chapters along with other progressive groups allied with the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan held various protest actions in Vancouver, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Montreal, Quebec; and the cities of Scarborough and Ottawa in Ontario.

The activities included rallies, photo exhibits, an inter-generational sharing on the Martial law experience, and screenings of films on Martial Law.

Similar protest actions were held in the Asia-Pacific region where various organizations including self-help groups joined hands with Migrante chapters and its allied organizations in organizing various events.

# Pinalabnaw na Magna Carta, tinututulan ng mga Seafarers

Isinabatas ang isang Magna Carta for Filipino Seafarers bilang Rep Act 12021 noong Setyembre 23, 2024. Sa halip na isang batas na magtatanggol sa karapatan ng mga seafarers, isang hilaw na batas na pabor sa mga manning agents, shipowners at insurance (Protection and Indemnity Club or P and I Club) ang lumabas.

Taliwas sa HB 4438 ng Makabayan bloc, ang lumabas na batas RA 12021 ay nagpapanatili sa pagiging kontraktwal ng mga seafarers sa halip na maging regular matapos ang isang taong pagtatrabaho sa iisang kumpanya ayon sa Labor Code o PD 442 as amended. . Hindi kasali ang mga fishers sa mga ocean going fishing vessels. Hindi rin kasali sa kumpletong proteksyon ang mga Domestic o inter-island seafarers. Nariyan pa rin ang work related na requirement bago mabayaran ang isang seafarer na nadisgrasya, nagkasakit o namatay habang may kontrata.

Ang masahol pa, ang mga seafarers na nagwagi sa kanilang demanda laban sa shipowner at manning agency, ay kailangan pang magbayad ng bond para makuha ang napanalunan nilang award na kinukwestyon ng manning agents at shipowners (Sec. 59).

Diskriminasyon ito laban sa mga seafarers na bukod tangi ay pinapatawan ng “bond”. Makukuha lamang nila nang buo kapag nanalo pa sila sa Court of Appeals at manalo pa rin sa Supreme Court na aabutin pa ng kung ilang taon (apat hanggang anim na taon) batay sa takbo ng mga kaso ngayon.

Kaya’t patuloy na isinusulong ng Concerned Seafarers in the Philippines o CSP, mga kasapi at alyadong organisasyon ng MIGRANTE International ang pagkilos laban sa pinalabnaw na Magna Carta.
















Protest action organized by Concerned Seafarers in the Phils. and SEANetwork



# Alamin Ang Inyong Karapatan: Ano ba ang Illegal Recruitment?

## **Rep Act 10022:**

*Ang illegal recruitment naman ay may trabahong pinapangako, totoo man o hindi. Kasama rito ang lahat ng pagpapasali, pag recruit, pag kontrata, pag transport, pag refer kung walang lisensya ang recruiter. Kung meron man o walang lisensya, ang mga sumusunod ay krimen din ng Illegal Recruitment:*

-  (a) Maningil ng kahit anong halaga na bawal o lagpas sa pinapayagan ng DOLE/ DMW.
-  (b) Magbigay o maglathala ng maling impormasyon para makapag recruit.
-  (c) Magbigay ng maling datos para makakuha ng lisensya, o mangako ng job order na wala naman.
-  (d) Manulot ng manggagawa na meron nang trabaho sa iba.
-  (e) Manira o mag blacklist ng sinuman para hindi makapagtrabaho sa iba, kasama na ang mag intriga na nag uunyon ang aplikante.
-  (f) Mag recruit sa gawaing nakapipinsala sa kalusugang pampubliko o immoral at makakasira sa dignidad ng bansa.
-  (g) Hindi makapag sumite ng tamang report sa deployment .
-  (h) Palitan ang kontrata na naaprubahan na ng DOLE/ DMW sa paraang makasasama sa manggagawa.
-  (i) Makilahok ang opisyal o ahent ng recruitment agency sa negosyo ng Travel agency.
-  (j) Hindi pagbibigay ng passport at travel documents sa manggagawa.
-  (k) Mabigo na mapaalis ang may kontrata na.
-  (l) Hindi mabayaran ang gastos ng manggagawa kung hindi matuloy ang deployment nang walang kasalanan ang manggagawa. .
-  (m) Pagpayag sa sinumang banyaga na maging pinuno o manager ng recruitment o manning agency.

***Saan isasampa: Kung kasong administratibo lamang para mawalan ng lisensya ang manning agency o para maisauli ang illegal placement fee, ang kaso ay isasampa sa POEA / DMW. Kung hindi lisensyado o rehistrado ang recruiter, isampa agad ang kriminal na kaso sa piskalya, sa tulong ng abogado ng DMW.***

Kung kasong kriminal para ipakulong ang Illegal Recruiter at makasingil ng damages, sa Regional Trial Court kung saan nakatira ang biktima o kung saan nangyari ang anumang element ng krimen. Pwede ring dumulog sa DMW para humingi ng abogado at tulong sa pagsasampa ng kaso sa RTC.

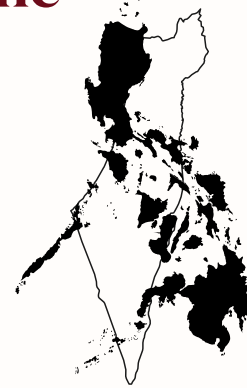
Ang prescription ng krimen ng Illegal Recruitment ay 5 taon mula nang naganap ito pero 20 taon kung ito ay ginawa ng Sindikato ng 3 tao o Large Scale na may 3 biktima (Economic Sabotage) Tiyakin na ang kakasuhan ay tatlo o mahigit pang mga tao kasama ang lahat ng tumulong sa recruitment.

Ang parusa ay 12 taon at 1 araw hanggang 20 taon na pagkakulong sa kriminal.

MaLing Akala



# OFWs stand in solidarity with Palestine



Migrante International and its member chapters join the global calls to end the US-backed Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

We support the right of Palestinians to defend their homeland and stand against war and occupation.

The same imperialist war-mongers that violate the sovereignty of the Philippines and exploits our people are the same murderers responsible for the deaths and displacement of Palestinians.

We stand for the self-determination and liberation for all those struggling against imperialist violence.

# Migrante Canada reinvigorates and expands alliance at 6th congress



More than 140 delegates, observers, and guests attended the Congress held in Edmonton, Alberta. These included participants from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario, and Migrante United States.

Migrante Canada held its 6th National Congress on August 23 to 25, 2024 with its 13-member chapters and organizations. Two new member chapters joined the alliance. Joanna Concepcion, chairperson of Migrante International, delivered the keynote message.

The Congress approved a three-year General Plan of Action and elected a new National Executive Committee (NEC) for 2024 to 2027 led by Danilo de Leon who was re-elected as chairperson. The other members of the NEC include Vice Chairperson Javier Jardeleza, Secretary General Christopher Sorio, Deputy Secretary General Dennise Velasco, Treasurer Eric Maestro, and Campaigns and Communications Officer Hannah Marie Sabit. #



## Migrante BC demands justice for trafficking victims

Members of Migrante British Columbia, and victims of illegal recruitment and labor trafficking, marched to The Promise Land Consultancy (TPLC) office in Vancouver to demand immediate refunds on September 9, 2024.

Migrante BC accompanied the victims to directly confront TPLC, asserting their rightful claims, and demanding justice and compensation; as part of their ongoing campaign advocate for migrant workers exploited by unscrupulous recruitment agencies.

Migrante BC demanded that the Philippine and Canadian governments take immediate and decisive action against TPLC.

“Both governments must take this case seriously and promptly investigate and suspend The Promise Land Consultancy’s operations in both the Philippines and Canada. We urge the Department of Migrant Workers in the Philippines to expedite aid to the victims,” said Dennise Velasco, Secretary General of Migrante Canada

## Fil-am youth unite to fight state neglect



Over 450 youth and students attended the national Kabataan Magkaisa conference at the University of California Los Angeles from October 5 to October 6.

Youth spoke out against the US and PH governments’ neglect of their families in times of crisis: from anti-Asian hate, economic distress, family reunification and Filipino migrants’ struggles. They connected youth and student struggles to Filipino workers’ ongoing fight against exploitation.

Youth who supported workers at a local Seafood City store shared how they went with workers to confront their manager with demands for better working conditions. They also spoke to customers and passersby about the ongoing issues in the workplace, as well as issues of migration and the Philippines.

## Filipinos in UAE call for cost-free repatriation

MIGRANTE Middle East calls the PH government to provide free requirements and services to overstaying Filipinos.

Recently, the United Arab Emirates declared amnesty for overstaying foreign workers. In the span of a week, around 20,000 overstaying foreign workers applied and 2,053 are Filipinos. The Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi reported that 200 Filipinos availed the repatriation. However, MIGRANTE Middle East believes more Filipinos are willing to avail the amnesty and to be repatriated but are reluctant to do so due to high cost of passport and other requirements.

## Migrante Italy calls for PRA exemption for direct hired OFWs

The PH government required direct hired Filipino workers in Italy to pass through Philippine recruitment agency (PRA) in order to avail the Overseas Employment Certificate and allowed to leave the country. However, PRA required direct hired OFWs to pay Euro1,500 which is the same amount paid by OFWs to secure “Nulla Osta”, a work certificate issued by the Italian government. MIGRANTE Italy calls to exempt direct hired OFWs bound to Italy to pass through PRA in order to lessen their burden in paying huge mandatory fees in order to work in Italy.



## Call for Donations



Communities in the Philippines devastated by **Tropical Storm Kristine** and heavy floods need our help.

**For monetary donations:**

**Bank of the Philippine Islands**  
**Account Name:** Consortium for People's Development-Disaster Response Inc.  
**Peso Account:** 9593-0095-45  
**Dollar Account:** 9594-0027-81  
**SWIFT Code:** BOPIPHMM

**For in-kind donations:**

- Food supplies (rice, canned goods, biscuits)
- Drinking water
- Hygiene kits

**Drop-off point:** ECP Compound, 275 E. Rodriguez Ave, Kalusugan, Quezon City

**Contact:** [coordinator@cpddr.org](mailto:coordinator@cpddr.org) | +63 966 501 0967 | +63 967 210 6607

[f /migranteinternational](#) [globe migranteinternational.org](#)

## “No pay, no work” order in Taiwan, deferred

Due to collective action, migrant workers put a stop to the unjust “no pay, no work” order by MECO Taiwan. In an advisory issued on the 19th of September, MECO was deferring the implementation immediately. Initially implemented on the 1st of September, the order was imposing the requisite of having paid OWWA, SSS, and Pag-IBIG before the Filipino migrant worker in Taiwan can have their contract verified. Without contract verification, the worker will likely lose their job.

However, due to the leadership of MIGRANTE Asia Pacific, actions protesting this unjust order were planned and carried out. From petition signing, to online and face-to-face rallies, to changing of Facebook profile photos (AKA DP change), these actions were instrumental to the initial victory.

However, as MIGRANTE Asia Pacific said, “Although MWO has withdrawn it, it can still be reinstated, so we will continue to monitor it, and the fight continues, until the MWO order will finally rest in peace.”#

### Ano ang gagawin sa mga naglipanang scammers at budol?

Ang mga OFWs at mga nag paplanong maging OFW ang kabilang sa mga pangunahing target ng mga scammers at human traffickers. Marami ang gumagamit ng online social network at nagpapa endorse sa mga sikat na tao at celebrities. Kung ikaw o ang kilala mo ay naging biktima nito, ano ang mga maaaring gawin?

**Sundan sa page 5**

*Tinig Migrante is calling on all Migrante International members and migrant Filipinos to send contributions, feedback, and suggestions to: [homeoffice@migranteinternational.org](mailto:homeoffice@migranteinternational.org).*

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Tinig Migrante (Migrants' Voice) is published under the leadership of the Executive Committee of Migrante International.