

Reclaim and Regain the Wealth, Sovereignty and Dignity of the Filipino People and Nation: A Vision of Genuine Change for Filipinos

By Senator Jamby Madrigal

We dedicate ourselves to a Philippine society made prosperous, progressive and pro-environment by the genuine industrialization and sovereignty of the Filipino nation and people, and by the equitable empowerment and socially just liberation from poverty of the Filipino especially of the poor and disempowered. We commit ourselves to a genuine people's nationalism: a Philippines principally for Filipinos and a Philippines controlled by Filipinos, a pro-Filipino society enjoyed by the majority, not just a few local partners of foreign big business. In short, a Philippines for the Filipinos.

We are not mere reformers, or agents of reforms that merely perpetuate the "free trade" system led by foreign capitalists only to favor a new set of Filipino cronies.. We are innovators for social justice and advocates of economic policies that benefit the majority instead of a economic and political oligarchy. We pledge to fight to realize the goals of the following New Vision for the Filipino Nation:

- 1. Genuine, pro-Filipino industrialization and nationalist economy:** to attain genuine, pro-Filipino industrialization by developing core Filipino-controlled industries from machinery and R \$ D to herbal medicine, principally for Filipino consumers, full and deep processing of local raw materials, including coconut, abaca and gold, protection of Filipino production against importation and smuggling, and prioritization of government budget for genuine industrialization.
- 2. Fair and equitable trade and debt:** to ensure fair and just prices for Philippine exports, including coconut, banana, abaca and labor exports, now undervalued by foreign business cartels, regain national income lost from unfair trade, develop fair trade ties with countries and people's organizations, capping debt payments, repudiating onerous debt, and demanding and exacting reparations and restitutions for previous unfair trade and onerous debt.
- 3. Local people's control and anti-monopoly-cartel policy:** to dismantle various foreign and local business monopolies and cartels, including petroleum, power, drugs and rice, promote and protect people's cooperatives and alliances to replace exploitative cartels, reverse "free market" policies imposed by the IMF, WB, WTO and ADB and replace them with the pro-Filipino policies of people's price and economic control, pro-Filipino government leadership and Filipinization of the economy.
- 4. Genuine agrarian reform:** to work with progressive people's organizations for a genuine agrarian reform program that truly liberates the peasants from poverty and feudalism, to stop landgrabbing and conversion to non-food uses of peasant lands, to ensure adequate farmgate prices and farm pay, and to freely distribute to peasant-tiller cooperatives and associations haciendas previously diverted from land reform.

5. Genuine, adequate pro-Filipino protection and rehabilitation of the environment: to bring about the genuine, adequate pro-Filipino protection and rehabilitation of the environment by:

- a) stopping destructive logging and large-scale mining, factory, trawl, blast and cyanide fishing, conversion of mangrove forests, industrial pollution of rivers and water bodies, maintenance of landfills and waste dumpsites, the importation of toxic wastes, acidification and poisoning of the soil with synthetic agrichemicals, the spread of GMO farming, further global warming through coal-and-oil-fired power plants, and continued promotion of non-biodegradable materials and fossil fuels;
- b) prosecuting and imprisoning especially the major deforesters, polluters and their political-military collaborators and protectors;
- c) demanding and exacting reparations from foreign countries and businesses for the massive and wanton deforestation and environmental plunder of the country and toxic despoliation of the former U.S. bases; and by;
- d) promoting organic farming, zero-waste management, R & D and public, pro-Filipino funding of wind, solar and other renewable energy, and people's environmental awareness and activism.

6. Fair, equitable and nationalist treatment and empowerment of overseas Filipino workers and migrants, and adequate living standards for all Filipinos: To seek and achieve the fair, equitable and nationalist equitable and nationalist treatment of overseas Filipino workers and migrants by:

- a) Fighting inadequate pay, discriminatory employment requirements, inhumane and abusive work conditions, and racist culture and anti-immigrant scapegoating;
- b) Working with progressive migrant organizations for agreements, contracts and regulation that ensure adequate non-discriminatory pay, humane working conditions, adequate job security and organizing rights, for protecting undocumented migrants and political refugees against restrictions and persecution, and for ensuring adequate Philippine-based jobs through genuine, pro-Filipino industrialization, and;
- c) Helping migrants return to their Filipino roots and national identity, and regain their national dignity.

And, to seek and achieve adequate living standards for all Filipinos through adequate minimum wages and wage hikes, farmgate price support, regularization of work contracts and other social justice measures.

7. Truly nationalist, pro-Filipino, and pro-people government: to uphold a pro-Filipino leadership and civil service dedicated to the goals of genuine people's nationalism, to the championing of the Filipino's genuine sovereignty and freedom from foreign control and local repression, to ending the dictation of government policy by the IMF, WB, WTO and ADB, to the repeal of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), the Mining Act, the Oil Deregulation Law, the EVAT Law, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) and other anti-Filipino laws, to prioritizing public funding for nationalist education, preventive, nutrition-based health care and R & D, and to opposing the removal of nationalist and protectionist provisions in the Philippine Constitution.

8. Truly nationalist, independent and pro-human-rights Philippine security and peace: To foster a truly nationalist, independent and pro-human-rights security and peace by:

- a) fighting for an Armed Forces of the Philippines free from the dictation of foreign military agencies, including JUSMAG;
- b) keeping the territory of the Philippines free from foreign military intrusion and nuclear weapons, stopping the interference of foreign military forces in the Philippines, and repealing the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) and the Military Assistance Pact;
- c) relentlessly prosecuting human rights violators, including masterminds and perpetrators of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances of unarmed activists, abusive dislocation of communities and harassment of journalists, and
- d) supporting sincere negotiations with the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MNLF) based on social justice, national sovereignty and genuine reforms.

9. Selfless government service free from corruption, patronage, conflict of interest and profiteering from government office: To achieve selfless public service free of corruption, patronage, conflict of interest and profiteering from government office, by relentlessly exposing, prosecuting and punishing big-time "big fish" grafters, bribe-takers and influence-peddlers and adequately protecting whistle-blowers and anti-corruption "watchdogs".

10. Genuine equality, empowerment and dignity of women: Strive to attain genuine equality, participation and protection of women in all areas of life in the tradition of Gabriela Silang through nationalism-enlightened and informed involvement in government and people's organizations, and ending patriarchal practices and beliefs including work and pay discrimination, abuse of spouses, sexual harassment and rape.

We commit ourselves to the monumental but necessary tasks that lie before us and to the sectors of Philippine society who most need and want genuine change.

To the *workers*, we pledge to:

- 1.. Promote a decent and humane standard of living among workers by supporting adequate increases in wages, including a nationwide PHP` 125 daily hike in wages across-the-board.
2. Protect workers' job security by upholding regularization of work tenure, banning the IMF-dictated practice of "job flexibility", contractualization and agency hiring, and heavily punishing its perpetrators!
3. Support adequate safety nets to workers against the scourge of globalization by fighting for policies providing adequate unemployment insurance and higher severance pay to employees retrenched.
4. Safeguard national sovereignty and job security by scrapping the IMF-WB policy of privatization of government corporations, services and assets such as Napocor and reversing this process through buying back and re-nationalizing Petron and other privatized institutions.
5. Defend civil rights and civilian supremacy, including the workers' right to free expression and assembly and organizing unions in the face of union-busting by imposing heavy penalties on companies, directors and top officials, government and military personnel engaged in dismissal and harassing unionists, quelling protest actions, and intimidating worker communities through military outposts and troop presence in factories.

To the *farmers, farm workers and rural women*:

1. Support the enactment and implementation of a genuine agrarian reform law and program that frees farmers and farm workers from the burden of land amortization payments in the interest of just income redistribution and their liberation from feudal poverty, and that works to dismantle agricultural trading-lending monopolies, cartels and oligarchies through adequate government price support and control, and cooperatives truly empowering the grassroot rural producers.
2. Work with progressive rural organizations in seeking a pro-Filipino fair and just trade policy free from IMF, WB and WTO dictation that includes fair and just farmgate and export agricultural prices, fair compensation for farm workers, affordable prices of farm inputs, such as fertilizers and irrigation and a stop to the WTO policy of rice and vegetable importation, together with smuggling, to protect Filipino rice and vegetable farmers.

3. Pursue the fight for a genuine, pro-Filipino industrialization program that will fully process Philippine agricultural raw materials, such as coconut, principally for Filipino consumers, and supply the affordable, high-productivity goods and services, including organic fertilizers, renewable energy, irrigation and other infrastructure, in support of farm production.
4. Defend and restore the productivity, health, safety and well-being of farmers and farm workers by fighting deforestation, large-scale mining and air pollution from fossil fuels and its resulting siltation, extreme weather and destruction of lives and crops through massive flooding, by punishing and exacting reparations from its major foreign and local beneficiaries and perpetrators.
5. Defend against foreign investors and their local collaborators the protectionist and nationalist provisions in the Philippine Constitution reserving to Filipino citizens the right to own land, including agricultural land.

To the *fisherfolk*, we pledge to:

1. Protect the livelihood and income of small fisherfolk from displacement by foreign and local oligarchic business projects, including the demolition by the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) of fishing communities in Cavite along Manila Bay in support of a Sangley International Port.
2. Safeguard the productivity and income of fisherfolk and their fishing grounds against the pollution and siltation by industrial, mining and logging companies.
3. Uphold the sovereignty, and exclusive fishing rights for their economic benefit of Filipino fisherfolk and the rest of the Filipino people over Philippine fisheries and territorial waters against the encroachment and poaching of Japanese, Chinese and other foreign factory, trawl and other fishers, and work towards the abrogation of anti-fisherfolk and anti-Filipino agreements such as JPEPA.
4. Promote fair trade in tuna and other Philippine fishery products through higher, fair export prices, local price support for the catch and produce of Filipino fisherfolk and just, affordable and Filipino-controlled prices of fishery inputs such as gasoline.
5. Support the pro-Filipino claim on territorial waters on the basis of the archipelagic doctrine against moves by China and other foreign powers to usurp Philippine resources..

To the *teachers*, we pledge to:

1. Uphold an adequate public education budget by canceling and rechanneling government foreign debt service and unfair trade payments of at least PHP 160 billion per year for the construction of classrooms and other facilities.
2. Raise the monthly salaries of public school teachers by PHP 9,000 to Salary Grade 13, to be implemented in 3 years, or by PHP 3,000 immediately.
3. Establish a bank or zero-interest lending fund specially for teachers.
4. Enhance the occupational health and well-being of teachers by reducing the student-teacher ratio, enacting and regulations work standards that disallow work overload.
5. To push for the enactment of the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers.
6. To promote deeper and more thorough nationalist education and attitudes, especially on nationalist economics, and also through the primary use of the Filipino language as medium of instruction.

To the *government employees*, we pledge to fight to:

1. Raise monthly salaries of government employees immediately by PHP 3,000.
2. Implement immediately and retroactively the salary increase provisions of R.A. 7305 or Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.
3. Do away with salary discrimination against LGU employees by repealing provisions of EO 811, giving local legislative assemblies the power to set salary rate for LGU personnel
4. Extend adequate GSIS grants rather than loans to victims of natural and man-made disasters.
5. Revoke all IMF-dictated government policies to lay-off government employees, including E.O. 366, abolishing 30% of government positions and destroying 420,000 government jobs.!

To the *youth and students*, we pledge to:

1. Support their struggle for education and an educational system that is not only accessible and affordable to the great majority of the Filipino people, but that also serves to enlighten them in nationalism and a spirit of selfless service to the people and country.
2. To promote educational democracy and end the school profit-orientation dictated by the IMF and WB by doubling the public education budget, removing the rationale for tuition fees in state colleges and universities and enabling the poor to enroll..
3. Push for the production of textbooks on nationalist topics and their distribution to students at subsidized rates.
4. To work for the raising of the DOST budget to over PHP 75 billion, or at least one per cent of the country's GDP as recommended by UNESCO to boost country's productivity and promote high-productivity instead of low-productivity call center jobs for college graduates,

To the *transport* sector, we pledge to:

1. Fight for affordable fuel prices by cracking down on overpricing by the petroleum cartel, instituting price control and anti-trust regulation, and re-nationalizing Petron.
2. To support transport worker health and safety and fight global warming by pushing for a major shift to environmentally-friendly fuels or energy in transport.
3. Stop the extortion of "tong" by police and traffic officers from public transport drivers and severely punish the perpetrators.
4. To push for the development of Filipino-controlled transport input industries, including energy and comprehensive automotive equipment manufacturing, not merely assembly

To the *women*, we pledge to:

1. Fight to protect Filipino women not only against the general ravages of globalization, poverty, underdevelopment and repression but also those specifically victimizing them, such as job and pay discrimination, sexual harassment, abuse and violence by spouses, parents , fiancés and foreign

employers, rape, sexual trafficking and the desperate scramble for hazardous jobs overseas.

2. To address their special needs such as longer maternity leaves, breastfeeding facilities and breaks, day-care centers,
3. To work for the incorporation of women's and children's in the school system and media

To the *urban poor*, we pledge to:

1. Support their call for a genuine moratorium on demolition of informal settler communities.
2. Work for more adequate public housing that is more affordable and located near their workplaces.
3. Fight for Filipino-controlled industrialization of the economy to absorb urban poor Filipinos in jobs that are stable, adequately-paying and based in the Philippines.

We pledge to fight for these goals. Join the fight to reclaim and regain the wealth, sovereignty and dignity of the Filipino people and nation! Join the fight for the genuine change the Filipino people and nation need and deserve! Ibalik ang yaman, paghahari at dangal ng sambayanang Pilipino!