

On the CA rejection of environment secretary Gina Lopez' appointment

Written by Partido Lakas ng Masa

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PLM condemns the Commission on Appointment's rejection of Gina Lopez' appointment as Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This is the third time the joint body consisting of representatives from the lower and upper houses of Congress refused to approve Lopez' appointment. A majority of CA members, mostly supporters of President Duterte, voted for rejection. The system of trapo politics has unabashedly bowed down to the interests of mining capital. In so doing, it has struck a blow against the environment and the interests of the majority of the Filipino people.

It is a case of corporate profits and greed against the environment and the welfare of the people and corporate greed has won this round. The mining corporations are now emboldened and we need to brace ourselves for a new and renewed offensive as they attempt to claw back lost ground. The movement now needs to prepare for this new offensive.

Although the appointment of Gina Lopez was a welcome reprieve, her administration did not last even a year. It was inevitable that her progressive agenda would be blocked by the system of trapo politics and corporate rule that underpins capitalism in this country.

And President Duterte has once again demonstrated that he is unprepared to take on the system, that he in fact stands with it, despite his rhetorical rants against the oligarchy.

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The lesson in all this is the need for system change. Progressive government officials, however committed and dedicated to the people's cause, will be easily blocked and terminated by a capitalist state founded on corporate greed and ruled by trapo and elite forces.

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