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CONDEMN THE TERROR BOMBINGS PERPETRATED BY THE ESTRADA GANG

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I condemn in the strongest terms the Marcos-style terror bombings in Metro Manila and join the families of the victims and the entire people in demanding justice and in holding the Estrada ruling clique accountable.

Joseph Ejercito Estrada, alias Jose Velarde and alias Asiong Salonga, is the most probable mastermind of these despicable bombings. These are calculated to draw attention away from the overwhelming evidence against him in the Senate trial, pave the way for repressive actions and preempt the mass movement, which will surely mount in the first quarter of 2001.

Estrada has become so desperate by his exposure as Jose Velarde that he is resorting to cowardly terror bombings in a futile bid to extricate himself from his infamy as a big thief and plunderer. It is Estrada who has the strongest motive and utmost capability and opportunity to carry out the terror bombings in broad daylight in crowded areas through such minions as General Panfilo Lacson.

The Estrada ruling gang has done again what it did so many times in Metro Manila and Mindanao in the year 2000 to whip up anti-Moro hysteria and step up its all-out war policy in Mindanao and deflect attention from its corruption scandals.

Estrada and his minions are now putting the blame on others but themselves for the terror bombings. They are desperately trying to collect political profit from their own dastardly crime and to deck out Estrada as the victim rather than the criminal mastermind.

It is public knowledge that the Communist Party of the Philippines has repeatedly declared that the broad united front and the people have already isolated the Estrada ruling clique and can remove it from power through peaceful, massive and militant mass actions and the proper place for the New People's Army to carry out its tactical offensives is in the countryside.

By carrying out terror bombings, the Estrada ruling gang is serving notice to the people that it will undertake repressive measures to quell the broad mass movement, while Estrada tries to buy his acquittal in the Senate trial or to protract this trial until it is overtaken by the 2001 electoral campaign period. Estrada's scheme is to suppress the mass movement and take its choice from either outright acquittal by the Senate or indefinite delay of the trial until the clique can cheat in the 2001 elections.

Estrada is extremely desperate and fearful of losing power, facing criminal prosecution and giving up his ill-gotten wealth. He is therefore committing the most cowardly and most heinous crimes to keep himself in power. He is not only a shameless thief but also a mass murderer through Oplan Makabayan, his all-out war policy and the current bombings.

But the broad united front and the people are more than ever determined to wage mass struggles to remove Estrada from power, precisely because of his unbridled corruption and murderous acts.

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