

## **Editorial**

The essays in this special issue provide fresh insights on the Duterte presidency. The approach has been thorough and honest. The papers cover a whole range of issues, from political economy to religion, the war on drugs, and Duterte's vision of democracy. Majority of the writers come from the Visayas and Mindanao. These young scholars have opened new democratic spaces for the debates on the state of governance under the Duterte administration and all the corresponding challenges to Philippine society, positive as well as negative, including the contexts that are crucial in understanding our current socio-political situation.

Karl Gaspar offers a framework from the perspective of indigenous peoples (IP) in dissecting the leadership qualities of Duterte. Menelito Mansueto and Jeresa Ochave explain the element of communications while Sacred Heart School scholar Rhoderick Abellanosa elucidates a complex religious dimension. In keeping with the signs of the times, Alexis Deodato Itao will initiate a Ricoeurian way of describing Duterte's style whereas Roger Bayod, who teaches at Cor Jesu, the same school where Duterte finished his secondary education, will shed light on the environmental concerns under this administration.

Allen Gumiran and his co-authors will examine the presidency using the lens of Slavoj Žižek. While Duterte is viewed in a negative way by some scholars, it is reasonable to say that he is that one leader who has political will, according to Ruben Balotol, who gives an analysis of the present Philippine political economy. Two brilliant young UP-Cebu professors, Regletto Aldrich Imbong and Noe Santillan have written fine critiques of Duterte's presidency. Drawing from his reading of Randy David and Christopher Ryan Maboloc, Benjamin Labastin, who is from the city of Ozamis, will explain the two versions of Dutertismo.

The current issue of the journal is clear in its intent. There is no universal narrative nor must there be a dominant position in unveiling all the meaning of this unique historical unfolding that is happening before us. The essays show both the depth and substance, as well as the competence of local scholars in analyzing the state of Philippine democracy and society. While people differ in their moral positions and political commitments, any society must be steadfast in the desire to achieve the common good. The SES Journal of Applied Philosophy is grateful to all who sent their articles, and is truly indebted to the reviewers, both local and international, for ensuring the quality of its output.

### **The Editorial Board**