

NPA ambushes PNP in Mt. Province

TEN POLICE OFFICERS were wounded while one was killed in an ambush successfully launched by the New People's Army-Mt. Province (Leonardo Pacsi Command or LPC) against PNP operating troops in Mt. Masini in Barangay Aguid, Sagada last June 5. Among the wounded are PSupt. Joseph Bangcawayan and Insp. Mariano Liban Jr..

According to Ka Magno Ugyaw, spokesperson of the LPC, the PNP has been operating in the area since February to arrest small-scale miners who purportedly operate without permits. Ironically, the destructive operations of foreign large mining corporations remain unhampered. Under the pretext of a bogus total log ban, police officers prohibit indigenous peoples in the area from cutting timber for household use. These two pseudo-environmentally friendly campaigns have been extensively used to violate the rights of the people.

Ka Magno added that the prohibition imposed by the PNP on the Igorots to use the resources in their own ancestral lands is a blatant violation of their right.

Meanwhile, in Northeastern Mindanao Region, NPA units conducted not less than seven military actions last May 25-31. The AFP suffered not less than eight casualties from these successful attacks.

Two harassments and a sniping operation were conducted by the NPA-Surigao del Sur. On May 25, the NPA was able to flank and

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EDITORIAL

Struggle amid crisis and fascism

The social crisis under the US-Duterte regime is deteriorating rapidly. Millions are ruined by worsening poverty and hunger in the face of rising prices, additional tax burdens and a sharp decline in wages and income. Duterte's promised "change" is a sham. It is now clear that only by organizing and struggling can the people carry forward their cause.

Duterte blindly perpetuated the previous oppressive neoliberal socio-economic policy. The worst among these is the TRAIN law which imposed a number of burdensome taxes. Since its implementation in January, prices have shot up, especially of basic needs. Making things worse, prices of diesel and other petroleum products have risen by around 40%.

Wages of workers and ordinary employees are extremely inadequate to cope with skyrocketing prices. The meager minimum wage

is not even half of the income needed by a typical family to live decently. Millions are scrambling daily to make ends meet amid rising costs of food, rent, water, electricity, fare, education, medical care and others. Millions are denied sufficient wages and benefits, as well as their right to job security. Almost nine million Filipinos are unemployed or underemployed, in addition to 27 million who are no longer counted in the labor force. Many are made to work in precarious conditions.

They are additionally oppressed by contractual forms of employment which Duterte promised but failed to end.

Across the country, landgrabbing by big landlords and capitalists in real estate and agribusiness to pave the way for commercial crops, plantations, infrastructure and energy projects, timber and mines is rampant. Duterte has turned a deaf ear to the grievances of peasants for genuine land reform; and is more interested in agribusiness deals with foreigners, especially in his push to

expand rubber and oil palm production.

The Filipino people are being compelled by the intense socio-economic crisis to struggle to defend and advance their welfare and interests. Struggles are breaking out. In the past few weeks, several strikes and protests have erupted successively to demand regularization of contractual workers and an increase in the minimum wage.

In the rural areas, peasant struggles continue to advance the demand for genuine land reform and assert their

rights to the land they till. They launch collective occupation and cultivation of land. They are amplifying their call for an end to the CARP fake land reform program.

The struggles of teachers, government employees, students and other democratic sectors for higher salaries, free education, strengthening public services and others are also advancing.

Since Duterte has assumed power, no measure or policy has been carried out to redirect the local economy and draw it out from crisis. In the possible resumption of peace negotiations with Duterte, the agenda includes genuine land reform and national industrialization—key issues which the NDFP asserts as the most important measures to raise the toiling masses from their impoverished conditions and achieve lasting peace.

Over the past two years, Duterte has refused to listen to the pleas of the poor. Tyranny and terrorism have been the response of the fascist regime in its aim of suppressing resistance and, thus, impose his kind of peace—that desired by the exploiters and oppressors. Duterte uses the military and police to suppress. Cases of killings, arrests, detention and filing of trumped up charges are rampant.

But the rising up of the Filipino people is inexorable. They shatter the terror that Duterte imposes and strive to advance along the course of resistance. They could not remain silent and bear enslavement and oppression. They draw strength from their unity and steadily advance in the path of struggle. The sparks of resistance are bound to ignite a conflagration. Soon, the march of the indignant masses will thunder across the country and shake the ram-parts of Duterte's rule. AB



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fire at the 36th IB headquarters in Upper Ambago, Barangay Dayuan, Tago. On May 26, another NPA unit harassed the 75th IB troopers in Km. 9, Diatagon, Lianga. On May 31, the NPA sniped the "C" company 36th IB headquarters in Barangay Cabangahan, Cantilan. Sgt. Alden Awadi was killed in action.

In Surigao del Norte, the NPA ambushed 36th IB troopers on May 26 in Little Baguio, Bacuag who were returning from their military operation. One was killed while five were wounded among the soldiers.

In Agusan del Sur, the NPA harassed a CAFGU detachment in Barangay New Tubigon, Sibagat on May 29. On the following day, the NPA sniped elements of the 8th Special Forces Coy occupying Sitio San

Roque, Magsaysay, in the same town.

On May 30 in Agusan del Norte, the NPA ambushed Edgar Panisan, an active CAFGU trooper in Mahaba, Cabadbaran. Panisan used his position in the village as councilor to conduct surveillance and coerce civilians to surrender as NPA members.

In North Cotabato, the NPA was able to seize the initiative from attacking 39th IB troopers on May 8 at around 10 a.m. in

Sitio Kapatagan, Barangay Luyon, Makilala. Not less than nine were killed among the soldiers during the firefight.

In South Cotabato, the NPA blew up a command-detonated explosive against troops of the 27th IB

in Sitio Lemteneneg, Barangay Kematu, T'boli on May 8. Ten AFP troopers died while 11 were wounded.

In Quezon, the NPA sniped operating troops of the 80th IB in Sitio Longo, Umiray, General Nakar on May 24 at around 6 a.m. An

AFP official was killed in action.

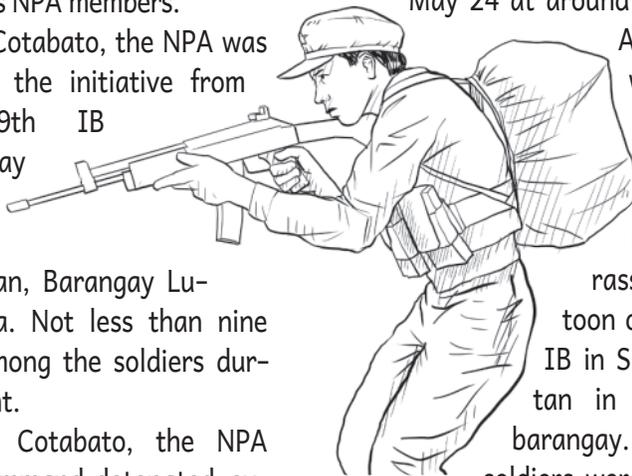
On May 27, the NPA ha-

rrassed a platoon of the 80th

IB in Sitio Inamitan in the same

barangay. Several

soldiers were wounded in the offensive.



AB

Duterte's BBL fans the flames of the Moro people's struggles*

DUTERTE'S BANGSAMORO Basic Law (BBL) is set to further reinforce their national oppression. It subsumes any so-called "Moro authority" to be exercised in the BBL under the 1987 Philippine constitution and the powers of the central government.

Most critically, it reserves the central government's exclusive right to operate an armed forces within the Bangsamoro area, and puts local police operations under the Philippine National Police. Duterte's BBL aims to disempower the Moro people by disarming and demobilizing their armies, thus disabling them from defending their rights and exercising political authority.

Furthermore, Duterte's BBL denies the Moro people the exclusive right to determine the use of their natural resources. The Moro people will forever suffer the loss of the Liguasan Marsh and the Lanao Lake and its rich resources long coveted by foreign big capitalists. Duterte's BBL is set to transform Bangsamoro land into a haven for plunderous mining companies, and destructive rubber and

oil palm plantations, and make the broad masses of the Moro people suffer widespread displacement from their lands.

Duterte's BBL is an insidious measure which pretends to serve the Moro people but in fact aims to oppress them further. The broad spectrum of Moro groups are disenfranchised, to say the least. To many, Duterte's BBL further insults and assaults the Moro people who just recently suffered gravely from the war of destruction against Marawi City perpetrated by Duterte, the AFP and the US military.

Duterte and the whole anti-Moro chauvinists in the reactionary state are making the same mistake of deceiving the Moro people. The enactment of Duterte's BBL in its present mangled form will surely rouse the Moro people, especially

the broad masses of peasants, workers and semiproletariat, as well as petty-bourgeois intellectuals, to continue waging revolutionary resistance.

Various armed Moro revolutionary groups are bound to intensify their armed struggle as Duterte's BBL makes it crystal clear that they have no other recourse. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and all revolutionary forces reiterate full support to the Moro people's continuing struggle for their right to self-determination.

The CPP enjoins the broad masses of the Moro people to rise up with the Filipino people against the Duterte government which has made them suffer through wars and attacks against their human rights. The Filipino people and the Moro people are strongly connected by their struggles for national liberation and social justice against common enemies. Their history of symbiotic resistance continues.

AB

*From the statement of the CPP, June 5, 2018

Congress mangles the BBL

After a long wait, the reactionary Congress and Senate simultaneously passed their respective versions of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) last May 31. Just as the Moro people feared, both versions failed to recognize their right to self-determination.

The two versions are slated to be merged next month before signed into law by Duterte in his July 31 state of the nation address. As stipulated, the bill will then be subjected to a referendum by the end of the year.

The BBL was passed after Duterte certified it as an “urgent” after almost two years of delay. In the Lower House, 227 voted for, and 12 (including the Makabayan Bloc) voted against it, while two abstained. In the Senate, 21 senators readily approved of it.

In separate statements, Suara Bangsamoro and Bayan Muna vehemently criticized both BBL versions as treachery to the century-plus-long struggle of the Bangsamoro for justice and the right to self-determination.

“We have nothing to celebrate,” remarked members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) which drafted the original BBL. Almost in tears, they watched how both houses mangled their bill. The BTC is composed of 11 MILF-appointed and 10 Duterte-appointed members, including four from the MNLF.

According to Jerome Succor Aba, national president of Suara Bangsamoro, the recently passed versions of the BBL deny Moros control over their resources.

The BBL will appoint a new Bangsamoro political entity that will administer the wholesale of their territory and natural resources to foreign corporations which the regime claims will bring growth and development in Bangsamoro areas. It will replace the present Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The Senate version removed

the crucial phrase “right to self-determination”—the essence of the Moro struggle—from the preamble of the law. It also removed the principle of “subsidiarity” wherein the central authority will only perform tasks which can not be performed at the local level and the “parity of esteem.

A study by Bayan Muna shows that 12 of 58 exclusive rights reserved for Bangsamoro government proposed by the BTC in its original draft have been removed by Congress. Among those removed are the privilege to manage and distribute land, determine and reclassify agricultural land, regulate power generation, transmission and distribution as well (the largest dams that are among the major power sources in Mindanao are in the Bangsamoro territory), as well as the operation of public utilities such as transportation, to practice their own justice system, and to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

The exclusive rights reserved for the Central Government (government based in Manila) have been increased to 20 from nine as originally proposed by the BTC in its draft. It reserves the central government's right to operate the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police, and administer justice within the Bangsamoro area. The worst part is that Duterte will be the one to appoint the 80 members of Bangsamoro Authority (BTA), including its Chief Minister.

In the economic side, the Central Government still has the power of “eminent domain” or the power to seize private property for public



IGALANG
ANG MGA
KARAPATAN NG
BANGSAMORO!

use of a state, and the power to grant rights, privileges, and concessions on exploration, development and utilization of fossil fuels and uranium which may be extracted from the Liguasan Marsh.

Furthermore, it does not impose a 25-year limit nor a 60-40 foreign equity limit for foreign investors, and has, instead, merely required “environmental protection and ecological balance” as considerations. Businesses and other enterprises within the Bangsamoro free ports will enjoy fiscal incentives and other benefits similar to those granted by the Central Government in special economic zones.

With the Central Government's right to control the AFP, cases of human rights abuses will certainly increase. Out of the 74 battalions of the Philippine Army, 24 are presently deployed in ARMM. These forces are responsible for the widespread evacuations in ARMM, mainly in Marawi.

Despite the dreadful result of BBL version, which was originally prompted by the peace negotiations between the MILF and GRP in 2014, the MILF leadership is still hoping that this can still be “reformed” in favor of the Moro people in the upcoming meeting of the Congress bilateral committee.

AB

Martial law year one met with protests

Progressive groups held rallies in Manila and various parts of Mindanao to condemn widespread violations of human rights as a result of one year of Mindanao martial law and demand its immediate termination.

In Davao City, members of Bayan, Karapatan, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Pasaka Confederation of Lumad Organizations and Save Our Schools mounted a rally on May 23 to condemn the increasing cases of killing, arrest, detention, forced evacuation among others under martial law. Lumads staged a picket in front of the Eastmincom headquarters in Panacan. They assailed the worsening abuses in their communities. Also in Davao, the Movement for Civil Liberties led an interfaith prayer in Orcullo's Park to call for healing, justice and peace for the victims of martial law.

In Tagum City, a rally was held by farmers, agricultural workers and Lumads to expose attacks against them and their community leaders. They condemned the militarization of their barrios and the AFP for forcing them to surrender as Red fighters.

In Marawi City, residents held an indoor prayer rally. On May 25, Tindeg Ranao, an organization of Marawi war victims, picketed the Lanao del Sur Provincial Capitol. They protested the anti-people rehabilitation of Task Force Bangon Marawi which favors the establishment of a military camp and giving away their lands to foreign businesses.

In a forum held at the University of the Philippines-Diliman in the national capital, Marawi Sultan Abdul Atar held the regime responsible for the issues faced by the Moro people. These include the destruction of 37 mosques and 30 madrasahs (Islamic schools) destroyed by AFP airstrikes. He also called for the residents' access to their properties, a clear program for the displaced and reparations for the looting committed by soldiers.

Bayan and Sandugo also marched from the University of Santo Tomas to Mendiola bridge in Manila. Jerome Succor Aba of Sandugo said Duterte's martial law brought terrorism to Mindanao. "It brought nothing but bombings, killings and more sufferings to the people." AB

GRP Congress approves national ID system

A CONGRESSIONAL BILATERAL conference committee approved the national identification (ID) system or the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act of 2018 last May 22. The bill only needs the signature of GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte to be enacted.

Since the Ramos regime, several attempts have been made to establish the national ID system. However, only the Duterte regime was able to push for its approval, using its supermajority in Congress and Senate which it manipulates through bribery and coercion.

Under this scheme, all Filipino citizens, age 18 years and above, are required to have their private information registered in a public repository. In the hands of a murderous, demagogue and dictator-wannabe, this system is bound to be used as weapon for fascist sup-

pression. It will be primarily used for mass surveillance and monitoring to track everyone's movement, not only those who fight and are critical against the reactionary regime. It will place the repository of private data in the hands of abusive and criminal elements of the state which they may use in incriminating an individual or group.

Presently, the regime is already using an ID system (any government-issued ID) to harass and coerce citizens. In Mindanao, the military and police compel people to present their identification documents in checkpoints. In villages,

they compel people to obtain a cedula or barangay clearance to prove that they are legitimate residents. Those who fail to present identification documents are immediately put under suspicion as terrorists or criminals who may then be arrested and detained. At the outset of martial law, more than 200 civilians were detained in Davao City just because they could not present identification cards. This is relentless and widespread in villages occupied by the AFP.

Essentially, the national ID system violates the right of the people to privacy. It denies them the privilege to keep confidential their sensitive data that need not be exposed to the public, including personal health information among others.

A P20 billion budget will be allocated for the said system, in favor of Duterte's corrupt bureaucrat accomplices. AB



Bureaucratic-capitalist corruption worsens under Duterte

Rodrigo Duterte regime's stench is reaching the high heavens with the consecutive exposés of corruption cases of his minions. His fake anti-corruption campaign cannot hide the extent and depth of his cronies' and close friends' bureaucratic plunder of the country's resources and coffers. He also uses this campaign to suppress officials, both corrupt and clean, who do not fall in with his policies and ambitions.

When Duterte was still a candidate, he promised to "wipe out" corruption within three to six months in office. He vowed to "skin alive" these officials, or throw them out of helicopters. A "whiff of corruption" is all it takes for him to fire any official, or so he claims.

Two years on, bureaucratic corruption under Duterte worsened. His sporadic firing of officials is nothing but a spectacle. He replaced disgraced officials with various hangers-on who compete in squandering the people's money. His supporters, friends and cronies take turns in taking advantage of their offices to fund their extravagant lifestyles. The civilian bureaucracy is filled with his military and political allies who have no qualms in using their positions for their own interests. No contract or privilege is too big or small for them to profit. Rehabilitation aid or funds are not exempt from their grasping hands.

Among Duterte's fired officials, almost none has been charged with an administrative or criminal case. He even reappointed some to new positions. Almost all of his closest minions remain in office despite their involvement in big cases of anomaly and corruption.

Bureaucratic benefits

Despite left and right criticism, Duterte continues to have "confidence" in Solicitor General Jose Calida, one of his attack dogs. Calida was charged at the Office of the Ombudsman for owning a company which provides security guards to three public

agencies. He was also exposed to have given himself excessive allowances (P7.46 million in 2017).

Duterte also insisted his "confidence" in Wanda Tulfo-Teo and Cesar Montano of the Department of Tourism, just before they were forced to resign after their shameless favoring of family members and friends was exposed. Teo gave a P60-million contract to her own brothers and appointed her husband to a lofty position. Meanwhile, Montano has been exposed last year for using his office to pay the salaries of his family, friends and even his gardener. After their dismissal, they were not obligated to return the funds they plundered.

Duterte also had "confidence" in Vitaliano Aguirre, Department of Justice (DOJ) secretary, before he was fired when allegations surfaced of him accepting bribes to drop charges against confessed drug lords Kerwin Espinosa and Peter Lim, as well as accepting Janet Lim Napoles, the pork barrel queen, to the DOJ's Witness Protection Program. No charges were brought against Aguirre.

In October 2017, Duterte fired Ismael Sueno (Department of Interior and Local Government) and Peter Laviña (National Irrigation Administration), two of his most ardent campaigners. Complaints against them were made by lower-rank officials for using their positions to fund their respective businesses.

Instrument for tyranny

Duterte uses his anti-corruption

campaign to fire or threaten to fire non-allies to give way to his appointees, control officials outside his sphere and force their agencies to cater to his whims.

On March 2017, he announced the dismissal of 92 officials, whom he did not name. Most of them were low-ranking officials and appointed by the previous regime in the Bureau of Customs (BoC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), and Land Transportation Office (LTO). They were replaced by Duterte's own personnel, primarily in the BIR which he uses against rival or competing capitalists.

In the case of the BoC, he appointed Nicanor Faeldon to control the smuggling of goods. Faeldon was forced to resign after he was implicated in the smuggling of illegal drugs and was placed under investigation. But Duterte reappointed him as deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense even after the ombudsman decided to charge him.

In some cases, Duterte used expensive foreign trips of non-allied officials or those who no longer serve his purpose as a pretext to fire them. (In fact, Duterte himself incurred the highest expenses for foreign trips, which is thrice as big as those of the previous presidents.) Among those whom he fired using this excuse are CHED Head Patricia Licuanan, Melissa Aranadas and four more officials of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), Philhealth chief Ma. Celestina de la Cerna and three others. De la Cerna and Aranadas were eventually reappointed to positions with the same benefits.

Duterte also fired officials who go against his plans. He dismissed USec. Maia Chiara Halmen Valdez

from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary after she extended rice importation permits signed by the previous Aquino regime. The current regime eventually signed new permits to continue rice importations.

He used the threat of dismissal against officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission to crush Rappler, a news source critical of his regime. Despite being beyond his authority, he suspended Assistant Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang who exposed papers regarding the Duterte family's million-peso bank deposits. He also replaced the head of the Anti-money Laundering Council, who provided Carandang with the said papers and even threatened to have the Ombudsman herself impeached.

Cabinet of billionaires and millionaires

Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's cabinet is made up of billionaires and millionaires. Mark Villar, Department of Public Works and Highways secretary, topped the list with a declared P1.4 billion net worth in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) in 2017. The Villars own various companies in construction, real estate and other infrastructures.

Next in line is Alfonso Cusi of the Department of Energy who declared a net worth of P1.3 billion. They are followed by millionaires Carlos Dominguez of the Department of Finance (P338 million), Arturo Tugade of the Department of Transportation (P303 million), Martin Andanan of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (P115 million) and Francisco Duque III of the Department of Health (P120 million).

Meanwhile, the disgraced Wanda Tulfo-Teo of the Department of Tourism declared a net worth of P48 million, belying Duterte's boast that his people will not be corrupt as they are already rich. AB

Groups mount parade against tyranny, for justice

Two alternative parades were staged by progressive organizations in the last week of May to give an alternative significance to the traditional Flores de Mayo.

In UP Diliman, Karapatan launched the May Protest Against Tyranny last May 26, a parade of "queens" fighting Duterte's tyranny. Five "queens" donned gowns symbolizing martyrdom, peace, justice, truth and hope.

Cristina Palabay of Karapatan said that the activity also contributes to the #BabaeAko and #LalabanAko campaign launched on social media by Filipino women fighting Duterte's blatant misogyny. Women also condemned Duterte's mocking response to the #BabaeAko campaign when he kissed a Filipina worker on the lips in front of the public in South Korea.

Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Pamantik) meanwhile launched a two-day Flores de Mayo. Through the activity, workers declared their issues and anti-people policies of the US-Duterte regime, particularly contractualization. The parade stopped at key places and local offices of state agencies in the region last May 30-31.

On May 31, contractual workers pelted the DOLE seal in front of its office in Intramuros, Manila with paint bombs to express their anger against the agency. This came after DOLE Sec. Silvestre Bello III failed to issue his promised order that will allow the entry of food for the striking workers in Middleby.

Campaign against TRAIN and price increases

Bayan, Bayan Muna and Gabriela conducted a signature campaign on May 22 to be submitted to Congress to revoke the tax



reform under TRAIN. Bayan and Bayan Muna members took post at the MRT-North Avenue station to gather signatures from passengers and passers-by. Gabriela stationed at the tricycle terminal in Barangay Batasan, Quezon City.

In a related news, Gabriela Women's Party (GWP) assailed Department of Budget and Management Sec. Benjamin Diokno's statement that the people should "become less of a crybaby" amidst skyrocketing prices of oil and other goods.

GWP Rep. Emmi de Jesus said that Diokno blabbers inside his comfort zone while the people are gravely suffering from the 17 rounds of oil price increases since January.

This comment by Diokno was followed by a statement by the National Economic Development Authority that a P10,000 monthly budget is sufficient for a family of five to live decently.

A social media protest dubbed the Crybaby Selfie Challenge against Oil Price Hike was kicked off by KMU-Metro Manila. Netizens posted selfies while pretending to be in tears in front of household consumptions. They also urged netizens to post their families' monthly expenses to belie that P10,000/month is enough. AB

NutriAsia workers go on strike

On June 2, workers of NutriAsia went on strike after the management illegally terminated workers who formed a union. At the same time, workers mounted successive protest actions during the past two weeks to assert their right to decent work and wages.

Members of the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng NutriAsia put up their picket line in front of factory gates in Marilao, Bulacan. Urban poor and youth members of Kadamay and Anakbayan arrived and expressed their solidarity with the striking workers.

The workers demand the reinstatement of dismissed workers, recognition of their union, and the regularization of contractuels. Only 100 out of more than 1,500 NutriAsia workers are regulars. Most of the workers have been with the company for decades but remain contractuels.

On top of receiving meager salaries, workers are not fully compensated for overtime work rendered nor do they receive benefits despite the mandatory cuts in their salaries for necessary contributions. The company also does not report workers involved in work-related accidents and simply terminates them to claim "zero-accidents" in its factory.

In response to the strike, the company connived with the PNP to deploy 30 police officers armed with rifles, shields and truncheons, and a

firetruck to harass and threaten striking workers. NutriAsia is a company that manufactures ketchup, sauces and cooking oil.

In Pasig City, the PLDT management failed to stop the deluge of more than a thousand workers in its PLDT Teltec Building demanding implementation of DOLE's order for their regularization. Contractual workers from various Luzon PLDT branches trooped to the company office to demand their inclusion in its payroll as regular employees.

The workers questioned the company's imposition of requirements contrary to and not stipulated in the DOLE order. Some workers have been in the company since the 1980s but remain contractuels. Many employees have died in work-related accidents but their families have yet to receive benefits.

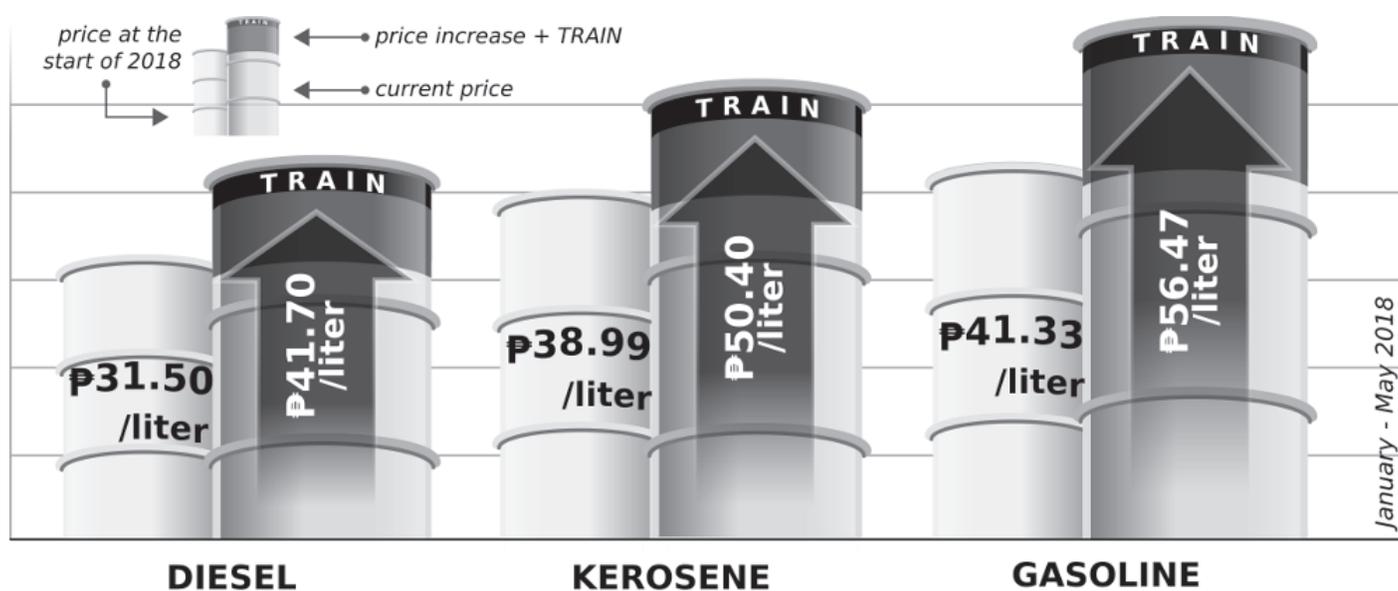
In Laguna, Middleby workers on sit-down strike continue to fight company harassment which, in connivance with DOLE 4-A, im-



posed a food blockade since May 23. At the same time, the company attempted to sneak its machines out of the factory. Relatives of striking workers were barred from visiting and bringing food. Workers who prevented Middleby guards from blocking the gate in order to obstruct the entry of food were hosed down.

In support of the striking workers, workers from nearby Honda Cars factory sneaked baskets of canned-goods and rice into the blockaded factory compound through its fences. They were also hosed down by the firetruck. Because of this, the company placed large nets on top of the fences.

In Zambales, a picket protest was staged by the Kilos na Manggagawa, together with the League of Filipino Students and Kabataan Partylist, outside the Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction in Subic. The group con-



demned the inhumane working condition of almost 40,000 Hanjin workers. On May 12, a video of an accident in Hanjin, where two workers died and one left in a coma after falling from a scaffolding, became viral. The Institute for Occupation Health, Safety & Development estimates that more than 60 workers have died since 2006 due to the unsafe working conditions in Hanjin.

The group added that workers are being forcibly sacked through a scheme called “Voluntary Retrench-

ment Program,” and are also forced to work for more than 24 hours but are only compensated only with an equivalent of an eight hour work-day through the “overnight/over-day” system.

Jen Pajel, chairperson of Kilos Na Manggagawa, called on Hanjin workers to unionize, assert their right to decent wages, security of tenure, and a safe workplace. The group also distributed leaflets and reading materials to workers and passengers.

Hanjin is the fourth largest

ship-building company in the world.

Meanwhile, the Makabayan bloc filed in Congress last May 28 the National Minimum Wage Bill (o House Bill No. 7787) which pushes for the implementation of a P750 national minimum wage. House Bill 7787 also proposes the abolition of the Regional Wage Board which sets regional wages based on purported varying costs of living. The Kilusang Mayo Uno and Kilos Na Manggagawa expressed their support for the said bill. AB

National minorities forced to evacuate

Indigenous peoples families were forced to leave their homes amid intensified militarization of their communities in Mindanao and Luzon. Meanwhile, two women activists were killed by military agents while harassment and intimidation in peasant communities continue unabated.

Forced evacuation

In Misamis Oriental, 47 Higaonon families from Sitio Camansi, Barangay Banglay, Lagonglong were forced to evacuate last May 26 because of the intensified operations and encampment of the 58th IB in their community.

Under the command of 1st Lieutenant Valleser of the 58th IB, soldiers relentlessly threatened, harassed and intimidated residents who they accused of giving support to the NPA. They also strafed the

school in the community. One civilian was held at gunpoint and five houses were ransacked.

Soldiers kept close watch as residents trekked to the Lagonglong Gym where they first encamped. Since they were prohibited by local government from staying longer in the gym, they were compelled to walk another 100 kilometers to the center of Cagayan de Oro City.

Soldiers under the command of a certain Captain Diaz continue to

coerce civilians to surrender in exchange for reward money and food. Residents are interrogated and photographed individually under the pretext of relief goods distribution. This was the sixth time the community was forced to evacuate since 2015.

In Quezon, 420 Dumagats were forced to evacuate along the riverbank of Sumag, Barangay Umiray, Gen. Nakar. The residents were harassed by elements of the 80th IB and 2nd ID after an encounter with the NPA last May 14. Twelve Dumagat civilians were arrested and were falsely charged for purportedly violating the gun ban. Meanwhile, Rocky Torres and Dandoy Avillaneda, two Dumagats who were illegally arrested and tortured by military elements last May 14 (*See Ang Bayan, May 21, 2018*) are now facing trumped up murder charges.

While soldiers currently occupy the Umiray barangay hall, residents endure their “talikod mundo” (shelters made of sacks and coconut leaves) along the riverbank. The residents were compelled to leave their farmlands and livelihood due to the intense militarization of their community. The soldiers have already slaughtered the residents' livestock.

In Zamboanga del Norte, resi-



dents from Barangay Saad, Siayan again left their homes last April 26 due to the AFP's relentless military operation in their community. They temporarily evacuated in the covered court of Barangay Poblacion in Siayan.

Killing

Beverly Geronimo, 27, member of the Tabing Guangan Farmers Association (TAGUAFA) and leader of the Parents-Teachers Association of the Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Inc., (MISFI), was shot dead by elements of the 25th IB last May 26 in Barangay Salvacion, Trento, Agusan del Sur. Geronimo and her daughter Nene (not her real name) were on their way home aboard a vehicle when the suspects held them up. Beverly sustained seven gunshot wounds while Nene was shot in the arm. Nene recounted that her mother pushed her away to save her from the shooting.

Beverly has been intimidated by the military since 2009 for actively opposing large-scale mining and expansive operations of OZ Metals and Agusan Petroleum. A couple of months before the killing, the military presented her and other members of TAGUAFA as Red fighter surrenderees. They have also been threatened to be killed *tokhang*-style (killed in the name of the "war against drugs") if they would not cease giving support to the NPA.

On the same day, Bayan-Central Luzon reported the murder of Carolina Lana, a former leader of the Samahan ng mga Magbubukid na Kababaihan in Aurora. Lana was shot dead by two men in her store in Barangay Dianawan, Maria Aurora, Aurora Province.

Harassment

In Bukidnon, Quezon Vice Mayor Pablo Lorenzo's armed goons fired two shots at Manobo-Pulangihon farmers in Barangay Botong, Quezon last May 26. The goons also ransacked the farmers' temporary office and stole their money, be-

AFP and PNP massacre 9 Moros

UNDER THE GUISE of "war against drugs," combined forces of the 7th IB and PNP North Cotabato massacred 9 moros, including seven members of the 105th Base Command of Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces-Moro Islamic Liberation Front and 2 minor civilians. The incident occurred at Sitio Biao, Barangay Kilada, Matalam, North Cotabato last May 26. Relatives of the victims were also arrested.

The massacre took place four days before Congress approved the Bangsamoro Basic Law. The victims were identified as Dadting M. Hassan, Muhamidin A. Hassan, Konne A. Hassan, Burrah S. Salping, Muhalidin S. Salping, Tiyo Mantik, Orom Mantis, Deng Malunok and a certain Abu.

Butch Malang, chairperson of MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) condemned the massacre. He said that this is a violation of human rights and the provisions of the Operational Guidelines of the Government of the Philippines and the MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities. Based on their investigation, there was no *shabu* found in the area. He also added that no firefight took place since the PNP and AFP already disarmed the victims while some of them were asleep when they were shot.

Malang also slammed the failure of state forces to coordinate with the MILF on operations within their territories despite series of meetings for coordination and cooperation last May 25 and May 11 which was attended by the chief of the PNP North Cotabato himself. Government units are tasked to coordinate with the MILF and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group as protocol for their the anti-drug operations.

In the documentation by KAWAGIB on Tuesday, residents of Purok Biao, Barangay Kilada belied the accusation that the victims were drug users and pushers. They said that 70 police and army authorities first conducted the raid on May 25 and followed it up with another operation the next day, where they raided the house of Dadting Hassan. Around 50 families evacuated from the community fearing more attacks from the PNP and AFP.

For Suara Bangsamoro, the Matalam massacre is no different from the growing number of cases of killings and massacre under the Duterte regime. Before the incident in Matalam, state forces also killed Mindatu Aminola, another MILF member from Barangay Olonoling, Tupi, South Cotabato on May 19. Last year, AFP and PNP elements also massacred three members of MILF in Barangay Koronadal Proper, Polomok, South Cotabato. AB

longings and food, including five sacks of rice.

The farmers are members of the Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group Association, and are actively asserting their right to their ancestral land. They also oppose the Lorenzo family's plan to convert their lands into a pineapple plantation. They reported the incident to the local police but the latter did not help them.

In Cavite, farmers under KASAMA-LR conducting collective

land cultivation (*bungkalan*) in Lupang Ramos, Dasmariñas were repeatedly harassed and intimidated on June 2-4 by goons of Rudy Herrera, a notorious landlord agent. Last May 28, in an attempt to evict the farmers from the area, Herrera ordered Nestor Pangilinan and his group BUKLOD to enter the 150-hectare land that was being cultivated.

On June 2, Herrera's goons physically assaulted Rosalinda Atienza, 62, and Romeo Aledia, 45,

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Defend Lumad schools

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS NETWORK and Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanugon Learning Center (STTILC) reported about five incidents of encampment and harassment by the AFP in Lumad schools during the opening of classes last June 4.

Since May 29, at least 20 troopers of 51st IB have occupied the STTILC Tibucag campus in Barangay Dagohoy in Talaingod. Another 25 soldiers conducted patrols around the campus and occupied six houses in the community.

Meanwhile, 23 soldiers occupied the Lumad school in Sitio KM17, but eventually left after being confronted by the teachers.

More than 40 AFP troops encamped in Sitio Laslasakan, Barangay Palma Gil. On June 3, soldiers entered the school campus in Sityo Nasilaban, Barangay Palma Gil and interrupted teachers and students cleaning their school.

Throughout the week, members of the 51st IB set up checkpoints along roads going to the communities and targeted Lumad teachers.

During the opening of classes in STTILC in Sitio Nasilaban, drones were flown by military troops while students and teachers were conducting a flag ceremony. Soldiers then arrived and ordered the students to harvest vegetables and bring the produce to their military camp. STTILC said 241 students and 11 teachers are affected by the incidents.

Under Duterte's martial law, the group reported that 2,200 students were forced to drop-out, as well as the killing of two students, illegal detention of a Lumad teacher, the coercion against teachers to surrender as NPA members, arrests and filing of trumped-up charges against Lumad teachers, and the arrest and filing of trumped-up charges against Lumad teachers.

Around 59 Lumad schools remain closed due to the unrelenting AFP military operations. AB

In honor of Ka Pepe Luneta

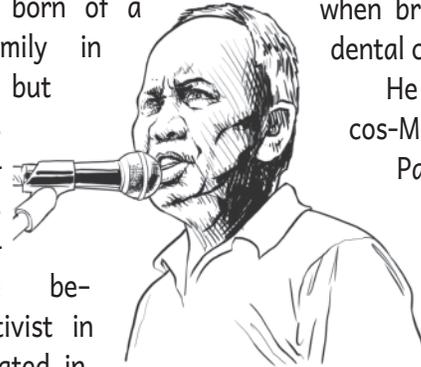
The Communist Party of the Philippines honors Jose (Ka Pepe) Luneta as a hero of the Filipino proletariat. Ka Pepe is one of those who reestablished the CPP in 1968. He passed away last May 1 in Bielefeld, Germany at the age of 73 after 55 years of helping advance the Philippine revolution.

Ka Pepe was born of a middle class family in Batangas City but chose the class standpoint, viewpoint and methods of the revolutionary proletariat. He became a mass activist in 1963 and participated in Marxist-Leninist study circles. He joined student rallies and mass work in Manila and Central Luzon.

He was among the leading co-founders of KM in 1964. He was in China in 1968 to help in the Philippine section of Peking Radio. He was a delegate *in absentia* to the congress of reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in December 26, 1968 and was elected to the CPP Central Committee and Political Bureau. He returned to the Philippines in 1969, joined the Executive Committee of the Central Committee and was appointed General Secretary in June 1971.

He excelled in education, languages and cultural work. He translated from the Chinese original the song "Ang Masa" which spread like wildfire among mass activists during the First Quarter Storm of 1970.

He was arrested in Malabon, Rizal on January 1976. He and his comrades were detained and severely tortured in military intelligence safehouses. He inspired his comrades by telling them that they are fearless because they are selfless for the people. He escaped his prison guards in 1982



when brought outside for a dental checkup.

He worked in the Ilocos-Mountain Province-Pangasinan region until 1984 and contributed to its development. He was transferred to

the Southern Luzon Commission (SLC) and served as its Party secretary from 1984 to 1989. He contributed significantly to the development of the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions and in the expansion work in the islands of Mindoro and Palawan under the SLC.

In 1990, he left the country to undertake political work among overseas Filipinos and help in building solidarity relations with other peoples. He later would go to Germany to seek political asylum in 1984. From then on, he stayed in Germany as a refugee. He devoted himself to propagating information about the struggle for national and social liberation in the Philippines and in forging solidarity between the Filipino and Germans and other nationalities.

In the course of his entire life as a proletarian revolutionary, Ka Pepe made significant contributions to the growth in strength and advancement of the CPP and the people's democratic revolution in the Philippines, and to the development of proletarian internationalist relations and solidarity relations with peoples of the world. AB

Based on Ka Jose Ma. Sison's "In honor of Comrade Jose (Ka Pepe) Eborá Luneta" which can be read at <http://www.philippinerevolution.info>

members of KASAMA-LR. On June 3, Hererra and Pangilinan brought with them 40 fake land-claimants to interrupt the *bungkalan*. In connivance with the PNP, they barred the supporters of KASAMA-LR from the farmers' camp. On June 4, gunshots were fired at members of KASAMA-LR while they were on their way home from the barricades they set up to protect their land.

The farmers of Lupang Ramos have long been struggling for their right to land. In 1990, the Department of Agrarian already ordered the distribution of the land as per the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). After a decade, however, the Supreme Court revoked this order and ruled that the disputed land is not covered by CARP. Determined to assert their right, the farmers decided to launch their *bungkalan* on September 2017.

In Metro Manila, a junk shop which serves as the office of the Sandigan ng Maralitang Nagkakaisa sa Dumpsite Catmon Org. Inc. was strafed on May 27 by Malabon Mayor Antolin Oreta's private

goons. Thirteen residents of Barangay Catmon, Malabon including the leaders of various organizations and two minors were inside the office during the incident.

Arrest and detention

Juan Alexander Reyes, a union organizer, was arrested by state agents on June 2 in Barangay San Antonio, Quezon City. He was shoved to a van and was taken to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-NCR in Camp Crame where he was slapped with illegal possession of firearms and a case of arson in Agusan del Sur.

Reyes is a leader of the Sandigang Manggagawa sa Quezon City (SMQC) and Bayan-Quezon City. He actively participated in the campaign against *endo* and in the struggle of the workers in Pearl Island Commercial Corporation, and many other factories in the city.

In Butuan City, Nerita de Castro was arrested by elements of the CIDG-Davao and Caraga and the 402nd Brigade in Emenville Subdivision, Barangay Ambago last May 31. De Castro is a small-time busi-

ness woman who devoted her life in advancing the rights of women. She was also a member of Karapatan-Surigao del Sur during the 1990s and served as the executive director of Pulso Micro Media Services from 1990 until 2006. Pulso is under the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Tandag. She was charged with murder for purportedly having been involved in a killing and an attempted killing in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. She is currently being subjected to unceasing interrogation by agents of the CIDG-Davao City, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Presidential Management Staff and members of the PNP-Caraga.

In Negros Oriental, elements of the 62nd IB arrested last May 25 Jesus Rafols, a farm-worker from Sitio Bungao, Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City. He was illegally detained for three hours by the military. Following the arrest, the soldiers militarized the sitio and put the village folk under strict surveillance. Drones were also flown in the community from May 26 to 29. AB

Farmers demand CARP's burial

"THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN Reform Program (CARP) is long dead and a genuine land reform program must be enacted," said Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) in a statement, assailing House Bill 7425. In this bill, the Congressional Committee on Agrarian Reform seeks to remove the 15-year-old age qualification of heirs of landowners as specified under CARP's retention limit.

KMP said that this aims to "zombify" CARP which expired last June 2014. This month marks CARP's 30th year.

The group criticized the Duterte regime for its failure to enact a genuine land reform program more than two years after taking power. Instead, the regime allows the full control of landlords and landgrabbing by foreigners of vast lands of the country. Hundreds of thousands

of hectares of haciendas across the country are not dismantled, while agribusiness contracts are entered into wantonly by the regime, including with the US, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia and others. In contrast, the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill filed by Anakpawis Partylist has been queued in Congress for more than a decade now.

KMP added that in resistance, farmers launch land occupations,

cultivation campaigns and collective actions to demand their right to land and livelihood.

In Masbate, a picket-dialogue held last May 29 by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Masbate at the provincial office of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) was successful. The dialogue led to an agreement to proceed with the collective cultivation this month in the island of Deagan in Dimasalang. The farmers also succeeded in pressing the DAR to evict the armed men belonging to the company arrogating the land, and transfer the management of copra production to the farmers' cooperative. AB