



EDITORIAL

The countryside is fertile ground for intensifying people's war

Every field and mountain in the vast Philippine countryside is marked by poverty and hunger. The poor peasants, farm workers and toiling masses suffer relentless exploitation and oppression. Theirs is an intense aspiration to end more than one century of semifeudalism which are virtual fetters of the past and barriers to social liberation.

The peasant masses' fervent spirit of resistance to assert their well-being, defend their rights and advance their struggles for land reform permeate across the country. The land is becoming more fertile for the people's war to advance more rapidly and extensively in the coming period.

The peasant masses could no longer endure the reign of big landlords and giant capitalists who own large plantations and mining and logging companies. They are filled with indignation over the fascist attacks of

reactionary state's armed forces to suppress their struggle for land and social justice.

Landlessness and landgrabbing are worsening. After almost seven decades of fraudulent land reform programs, large landholdings and plantations remain in the hands of a few. To survive, millions of peasants enter into extremely exploitative tenancy relations or become farm workers with inordinately low wages.

This feudal setup is worse in wide

"The countryside..." continued on page 2

NPA ambushes PNP convoy in CamSur

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-West Camarines Sur (Norben Gruta Command) successfully ambushed the 1st Camarines Sur Provincial Public Safety Company (PPSC) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) along Maharlika Highway, Barangay Napolidan, Lupi, Camarines Sur last October 18, 8:55 a.m.

The said police unit was part of the security convoy escorting Bureau of Food and Drugs Authority Director General Mila Puno. Three police officers were slain while four others were wounded. An M14 rifle together with five magazines, and two .45 caliber pistol magazines were seized from them.

Contrary to lies peddled by

"Convoy..." continued on page 3

"The countryside...", from page 1

swathes of ricelands, coconut farms and sugarcane lands. The peasant masses carry the burden of high costs of production. They are bound to such type of crops requiring expensive pesticides and other chemicals sold by big foreign agribusiness.

Farm work is back-breaking. The system of individual and small-scale farming remain backward where one wrestles with simple hand tools and farm animals and depend on rain water. Mechanization is limited and yield is low. This year, almost 750,000 agricultural jobs were lost.

Wealth produced by the peasant masses is expropriated by landlords who contribute not even a drop of sweat in enriching the land. They appropriate 30, 50 up to 90 percent of the peasants' harvest as land rent. Peasants are forced to mortgage their land or tenancy to borrow money from loan sharks, ariendadors, rural banks or microfinance agencies at exorbitant interest rates to finance the next

planting season and their daily consumption. Out of 10 tenants paying amortization, seven have been forced to surrender their titles.

Land rent and loan interests jack up the costs of production. Peasants are left with peanuts after traders buy their harvests of palay, copra, abaca or corn cheaply. Their lot this year has worsened in the face of skyrocketing prices after tax impositions by Duterte.

There are widespread cases of evictions of peasants, fisherfolk and minority people from their farms and ancestral land. Duterte is clearing hundreds of thousands of hectares to pave the way for the expansion of mining operations, real estate, tourism, energy and infrastructure projects, and plantations of pineapple, banana, oil palm and other export crops in association with foreign big capitalists.

Under the Duterte regime's Oplan Kapayapaan, and with US imperialist backing and support, the AFP, PNP and paramilitary groups are employed persistently to lay siege and occupy hundreds of rural

communities, including those in Moro land. Human rights abuses are rampant, especially in Mindanao which has been under martial law for one year. People are arbitrarily indicted and treated as outlaws and supporters of the armed movement. More than 4,000 have been forced to parade themselves as "NPA surrenderees." There are now 13 cases of massacres. No less than 170 peasants have been killed under Duterte. More than 500,000 have been forced to evacuate.

The US-Duterte regime's all-out war of suppression against the masses has, however, failed. Instead of being intimidated and forced to bow their heads, the peasant masses are raising high their chins and clenching their fists, knowing that worse oppression and exploitation await them if they surrender to the tyranny and terrorism of big landlords, big foreign corporations and their rotten bureaucrat capitalist and fascist cohorts.

The countryside is fertile ground for waging armed revolution more vigorously. Take stock of the objective situation and subjective strength to advance the people's war across the country with unprecedented speed and breadth.

Resolutely advance the struggles of the peasant masses. Firmly advance their antifeudal, antifascist and anti-imperialist struggles and mobilize the rural toiling masses in their millions. Carry out careful and widespread investigation into the masses' situation and problems and identify solutions and measures to address their welfare amid worsening economic crisis and deteriorating social conditions. Wage all forms of struggle to assert and defend their land rights, from the simple right to plant food crops up to land ownership.

Rouse the peasant masses, especially the youth, to join the people's army in their numbers to further strengthen the NPA as their army. Perseveringly expand and intensify guerrilla warfare on the



Vol. XLIX No. 20 | October 21, 2018

Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English.

Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items.

Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.

 [instagram.com/sine.proletaryo](https://www.instagram.com/sine.proletaryo)

 [@prwc_info](https://twitter.com/prwc_info)

 [fb.com/groups/cppinformationbureau](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cppinformationbureau)

 cppinformationbureau@gmail.com

Contents

Editorial: The countryside is fertile ground for intensifying people's war	1
NPA ambushes PNP convoy	1
Goons massacre farmers in Negros	4
NDFP consultant and 4 others, arrested	5
Building the Party in FX	6
Underpriced farm products in Mindanao	7
War against the Bangsamoro	8
Peasant Month protests	9
OPE-P: heightened US intervention	10
Colonial education	11

Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

basis of a widespread support and mobilization of the masses. Mount extensive tactical offensives against the brutal fascist enemy troops.

Further expand and strengthen the revolutionary mass organizations and revolutionary committees from the village level up as organs of political power. At every level, carry out programs for mass education, culture, public health, defense and protection of peace, economy and other fields to address the people's problems. Creatively resist the enemy's all-out war and campaign to legalize the masses.

Carry forward and expand the implementation of the Party's min-

imum program for land reform to reduce land rent, eliminate usury and improve farmgate prices and raise production and peasant income. Carry out the maximum program of land confiscation where such can be defended by the NPA. At every stage, undertake the systematic planning of the economy to ensure production of food, raise the income of the peasant masses and support the further expansion of the people's army.

In all this, the Party's expansion and strengthening is key. Further deepen and widen the Party's roots among the rural toiling masses in order to effectively train

leaders in line with the proletarian viewpoint, standpoint and method. Further expand, strengthen and increase Party branches and sections.

Bring rural issues and struggles into the factories and schools. City-based Party cadres and members and activists are encouraged to go to the countryside and help in advancing the people's war. More than ever, cadres from the working-class and intellectuals are needed to contribute their knowledge and skills in advancing the peasant struggles and agrarian revolution, establishing and administering the people's government, and strengthening the army and advancing the armed struggle. **AB**

"Convoy...", from page 1

the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the PPSC, Red fighters carefully select their targets in every tactical offensive. Particular in the Lupi offensive, command-detonated explosives (CDX) targeted only armed elements of the PNP, said Ka Ma. Roja Banua, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Bicol. Because the detonation is directed, the NPA purposely spared the vehicle that carried Puno. Banua said that they obtained the detailed itinerary of the convoy from members of the PNP.

Earlier, on October 17, the NPA also ambushed Teodoro Adaptante, a CAFGU element deployed in Barangay Alanao in the same town.

The PPSC and other mercenary armed agents of the reactionary government have perpetrated a long list of crimes and human rights violations in Bicol. On top of killing civilians under the guise of the "war against drugs," they also perpetrated the murder of activists.

Camarines Norte. On October 14, the NPA-Camarines Norte seized two M4 assault rifles in an ambush against the 96th IB in Purok 7, Barangay Dumagmang, Labo, Camarines Norte, at around 4 p.m. Eight soldiers were slain while two others were wounded.

The ambush was mounted near

the temporary camp of the 96th IB.

Agusan del Sur. The NPA-Agusan del Sur conducted a punitive action on October 4 against Charity Ampong, a despotic landlord who owns hundreds of hectares of calamansi farmland in Barangay San Luis, Agusan del Sur. The Red fighters paralyzed a truck, and torched few sacks of fertilizer and 18 hectares of farmland owned by Ampong. The said action was a response to the complaints against extremely low wages and the inhumane working conditions in the hacienda.

During planting season, Ampong compensates farmers with a meager P250 daily salary. The farmers are prohibited from resting except during noon. Their wages are further cut down when resting outside the said schedule. During harvest season, they are compensated with only P90 per sack of lemon they are able to reap.

On the next day, the NPA ambushed elements of the CAFGU Active Auxiliary who indiscriminately fired their guns in the same barangay. Eight enemy troopers were wounded. The NPA-Agusan del Sur held a tribute in honor of Joel Seguero who was martyred in the said offensive.

Northern Samar. Red fighters from the Special Operations Group

of the NPA-Northern Samar (Arnulfo Ortiz Command) ambushed Ananias Rebato, former municipal mayor of San Jose de Buan together with his hired gun, Severino Tesoro Jr., on October 8 in Barangay Babaclayon, San Jose de Buan. Tesoro died on the spot while Rebato was seriously injured. After a few days, Rebato succumbed to his injuries and died in the hospital.

Rebato was notorious for massive corruption and tyranny. Around 31 cases of sexual assault and rape have been filed against him. A rabid supporter of the AFP, he sowed terror in various communities of the said town and ordered the displacement, harassment and killing of resident peasants.

The punitive action serves revolutionary justice not only to Rebato's direct victims but also to the people of San Jose de Buan who have long suffered from his despotic rule.

Meanwhile, a young farmer was illegally arrested and accused by the military of participating in the said offensive.

The NPA-Eastern Visayas (Efren Martires Command) offered a Red salute to Ambie Gabane (Ka Mati/Ka Mamoy) who was martyred in the course of the ambush. **AB**

AFP-backed goons massacre 9 farmers in Negros

Nine were killed, including two minors and four women, in a massacre on Hacienda Nene, Purok Fire Tree, Barangay Bulanon, Sagay City, Negros Occidental, on October 20.

At around 9:30 p.m., 40 unidentified armed men strafed the farmers who were then resting in a hut in the said hacienda. The victims were identified as Iglicerio Villegas, Angelipe Arsenal and Morena Mendoza who were residents of Barangay Plaridel; Peter Ras, Dodong Laurenio and Bingbing Bantigue. Among those killed were also Joemarie Ughayon Jr., 17, of Barangay Rafaela Barrera, and Marchtel Sumicad, 17, of Purok Mahogany, Barangay Bulanon.

Reports indicate that most of the victims suffered head-shots. Three of the victims' corpses were incinerated by the perpetrators while four others survived the strafing.

All of the victims were active members of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) who launched their "bungkalan" or collective farming in the area on October 19. The land is within the 75-hectare hacienda that was grabbed by a certain Atty. Barbara Tolentino, and leased by Conpinco Trading.

Despite being issued a "notice of coverage" by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), land within the hacienda is yet to be distributed.

Since 2008, farmers annually launch their collective farming to survive the "tiempo muerto" or dead season between the harvesting and re-planting of sugarcane.

In a statement, the NFSW said that the assailants who shot the farmers are possibly mercenaries who are members of the "Revolutionary Proletarian Army," an armed group in Negros that broke away with the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1993.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng

Pilipinas stressed that this was not the first incident of peasant killing in Sagay City.

On December 21, 2017, Flora Jemola, chairperson of NFSW-Sagay City, was stabbed to death by suspected elements of the 12th IB-CAFGU. On February 21, Ronald Manlanat, a member of NFSW in Hacienda Joefred, Barangay General Luna, was also shot dead by suspected elements of the CAFGU.

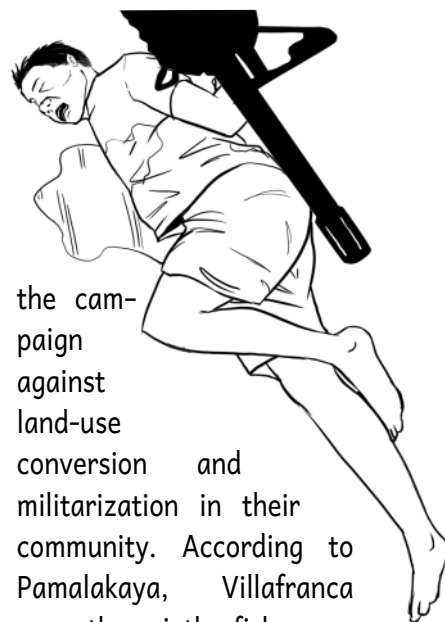
In a statement, the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura said the the killings are a direct result of the AFP's red-tagging campaign against peasants in Negros. On April 20, BGen. Eliezer Losanes, commander of the 303rd IBde, peddled a piece of fake news maliciously stating that the lands which are being cultivated by farmworkers and farmers in Negros are communal farms of the New People's Army (NPA).

In sum, 45 farmers have been killed in Negros Island under the Duterte regime.

Killings. A B'laan farmer was shot dead by elements of the 73rd IB in Sitio Mahayag, Barangay Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani on October 7 at around 7 p.m.

The victim was identified as Jimmy Ambat, who was earlier accused by the military as an NPA member. Ambat was in his house together with his family when he was killed. He was shot when he rushed to the aid of his nephew who was then being beaten by the soldiers.

On October 15, Victor Villafranca, a member of Haligi ng Batanguenong Anakdagat (HABAGAT), was killed by suspected military elements in Lian, Batangas. Villafranca actively participated in



the campaign against land-use conversion and militarization in their community. According to Pamalakaya, Villafranca was the sixth fisherman killed under the Duterte regime.

In Albay, elements of the 22nd IB-CAFGU shot Mario Pantoja Maritana, 40, on October 2 in the morning while on his way to their house in Barangay Doña Mercedes, Guinobatan.

Maritana was aboard a motorcycle after taking his child to school in Barangay Malobago when he was ambushed. Maritana died in the hospital two days after the incident.

The victim has long been tagged by the military as a supporter of the NPA and accused of participation in an ambush mounted by the NPA on September against the 22nd IB-CAFGU in their barangay.

In Ligao City, elements of the 22nd IB-CAFGU forcibly entered the residence of farmer Amador Orfano, 59, in Barangay Pandan on October 7 at around 3 a.m.

The suspects asked Orfano where the house of Kagawad Grace Ocfemia is. The victim was shot dead after the interrogation.

After the crime, the suspects went next to barangay Pinamaniquian and torched the house of Ocfemia.

On top of this, the fascists also burned down two more houses of the Quinalayo family in the same

barangay on October 14 and 16. The 22nd IB-CAFGU also threatened to burn down all houses in the area.

Dispersal. Seventeen members of the Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farms (NAMASUFA), including a pregnant woman, were wounded in the almost simultaneous dispersal of their picketlines in Sumitomo Fruits Corp. (SUMIFRU) on October 11. Within 13 hours, 300 security guards and goons of the company assailed the picketlines in SUMIFRU Packing Plant (PP) 370 in barangays Pilar Babag, PP 98 and PP 340 in Osmeña, PP 92 in Alegria, PP 90 in Gabi, PP 99 in San Miguel and PP 115 in Marapat, all in Compostela, Compostela Valley.

The assailants demolished the huts and burned down the structures and food supply of, and mauled the striking workers. Simul-

taneously, soldiers of the 66th IB illegally entered the houses of the workers. Two workers, Jimboy Cagas and Ramil Monte, were arrested by the police but were immediately released.

The deployment of dispersal teams in various picketlines of SUMIFRU striking workers occurred after the Compostela Valley Regional Trial Court 11 Branch 56 junked the petition of SUMIFRU to prohibit workers from impeding the entry and exit of these said plantation's banana products.

Meanwhile, in the afternoon of October 18, security guards and police officers also violently dispersed the camp of peasants from Norzagaray and San Jose del Monte, Bulacan in front of DAR. The said farmers put up a market of vegetable products which they harvested from the lands they tilled

and are struggling for. The peasants marched to DAR to hold a dialogue with its administrators. Immediately after the dialogue, however, guards and police officers attacked them and demolished the huts they have constructed.

Harassment. Paid internet trolls continue to harass and vilify activists in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan. Twenty-six individuals were tagged as "NPA members" in various leaflets distributed by the 5th ID in Tuguegarao City and Amulong, Cagayan.

In Ilocos, trolls of the AFP accused Mary Ann Gabahan of the Ilocos Human Rights Alliance as an "NPA protector" and "councilor's mistress."

The writers and staff of Northern Dispatch, an alternative news outfit in Northern Luzon, were also harassed and vilified. AB

State forces illegally arrest NDFP consultant and 4 others

ELEMENTS OF THE military and police illegally arrested National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Adelberto Silva and four others on October 15 at around 2 p.m. in Barangay Pagsawitan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Travelling with Silva, 71, were Hedda Calderon, 63, of Gabriela Women's Party; Ireneo Atadero, 55, of Kilusang Mayo Uno; Ediciel Legazpi, 60, a farmer; and their driver, Julio Lusania, 53.

After blocking and ordering them to alight from their vehicle, the military planted guns, grenades and an improvised claymore mine as evidence. On the next day, they were charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The cases against Calderon, Atadero and Legazpi were dismissed and they were temporarily released on October 18.

The NDFP vehemently condemned Silva's arrest, the designated vice-chairperson of the NDFP Reciprocal Working Committee on Social and Economic Reforms. Fidel Agcaoili, chief peace negotiator of

the NDFP, said that Silva and his companions were conducting consultations with various sectors when they were arrested. As consultant, Silva is supposedly protected from surveillance, arrest and harassment under the GRP-NDFP Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees.

Meanwhile, on the same day in Misamis Oriental, police officers arrested Alfredo Abao, a member of Misamis Oriental Farmers' Association. Abao was the third peasant leader arrested in the province.

Elements of the 7th ID and police also illegally arrested four activists in Sitio Bangkusay, Barangay Talabutab Norte, Natividad, Nueva Ecija on October 13.

The victims were identified as Yolanda Diamsay Ortiz, 46, of Anakpawis; and Eulalia Ladesma,

44, of Gabriela Women's Party. They were subjected to interrogation and bore torture marks on their faces. Also arrested were Rachel Galario, 20, and Edzcel Emocling, 23. The four, who were then in the area to give aid to peasants who were hard hit by Typhoon Ompong, were accused of being NPA members. The military also threatened their relatives.

Students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) mounted successive protest actions in support of their schoolmate, Emocling, and her companions who were arrested. Emocling and Galario were temporarily released on October 16.

On October 17, nine unidentified men arrested Cesar Carreon, a member of Anakpawis, in Mexico, Pampanga. On October 18, it was reported that Joey Torres Sr., regional peasant organizer of Bayan Muna deployed in Nueva Ecija, was missing for weeks already. AB

Building the Party in FX



This article is a contribution by Party members in the Bicol region to Ang Bayan's (AB) series featuring outstanding experiences on Party branch building in various fields of revolutionary work. AB's editors encourage all Party committees to contribute to this series by submitting their stories.

Building a party branch, first and foremost, is ideological building—this was proven by the Party branch in FX. A vigorous theoretical educational campaign along with efforts to concretely apply its lessons is key to building the confidence of cadres in leading the comprehensive revolutionary work of a Party branch.

Residents of barrio FX were first organized under the national democratic revolution in 1974 by cadres from Sorsogon. The following year, the organizing committee, local party branch and a people's militia unit were formally established in the barrio. FX is considered as one of the most consolidated barrios in the province. The Party branch in FX has been through various calamities caused by successive "counter-insurgency" campaigns of the reactionary state.

As with others, the branch in FX experienced both advances and retreats. By adhering to major historical lessons, the Party advanced and gained further strength in FX. Among these lessons is the significance of mounting a vigorous educational campaign in building a Party branch.

In a letter to a comrade, Ka Liz, secretary of the FX branch, said that "...presently, we are set to formally establish a barrio revolutionary committee. This should have been done a long time ago, but raising of the level of mass organizations has been slow despite having a Party branch and full-fledged mass organizations. Among the factors that have resulted in this are the sluggishness in conducting educational discussions in the past and the lack of trained instructors."

Identifying these major factors and weaknesses, the branch and the regional Party committee collaborated in conducting an educational campaign in the barrio. This resulted in a higher rate of completion of Ba-

sic and Intermediate Party Courses (BPC and IPC). All members of the executive committee (EC) of the FX branch completed the IPC. Meanwhile, 48% and 92% of the total membership of the branch completed the IPC and BPC respectively.

The branch achieved these victories through an efficient instruction machinery. There are now ten BPC and two IPC instructors. The provincial Party committee also issued a policy exhorting all local branch secretaries to serve as instructors and spearhead the education work in their respective branches. While the FX branch can already mobilize its own BPC machinery, it now also preparing to complete all requisites needed in establishing its own IPC machinery.

Ka Jing, one of the head instructors in FX, said that they used to find it hard to launch their own Party education campaigns especially BPC, but through constant practice, teaching became easier for them.

"We initially consult the EC of the branch in preparation for educational discussions. Meanwhile, the people's militia ensures the security of the barrio. Studies are often con-

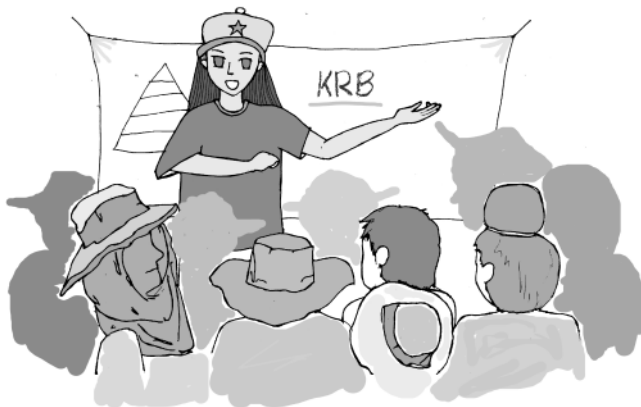
ducted in residents' houses. The schedule for the educational discussion is also flexible because the venue is just within the barrio and is accessible to resident-instructors. It can either be a seminar-type or staggered, depending on the availability of the students," said Ka Jing.

BPC is often subdivided into two sessions with three days each. This resolved previous concerns of mothers with small children who cannot join long discussions in far venues. Even the youth who go to school are given a chance to study BPC because studies can also be conducted during weekends.

Because studies are systematically and flexibly conducted, majority of the Party membership were able to graduate from the formal courses. Food for educational sessions are funded through the funds of the branch from contributions of its members and donations from beneficiaries of the agrarian revolution. It is also important to ensure that all educational inputs are complete, including the library of all texts and handouts needed in the discussions. To efficiently conduct the discussions, the branch uses a computer and projector.

Achieving a relatively higher level of ideological consolidation, the branch was able to overcome past problems. Among these are the passivity of the branch and the failure of its members to deliver most of their tasks when the unit of the people's army operating within the area is far away. Experience has taught the LPB in FX that ensuring the vigorous delivery of ideological tasks is key to building its cadres' confidence in delivering other political and organizational tasks. Aside from completing the said formal courses, the branch also regularly conducts collective planings, assessments and criticism and self-criticism (CSC) sessions.

Ka Liz added that, "because



of our efficient and lively collective work, we are also able to methodically tackle our organizational tasks. Whenever there are tasks, the EC convenes for a meeting and subsequently presents the ideological, political and organizational plan to all branch members systematically. An objective and agenda are specified in every meeting to ensure direction and smooth flow.

Regular CSC is also a vital organizational tool. No one is perfect, and we may make mistakes in conducting our organizational tasks. That is why we need to learn how to accept criticism and correct our errors. Through this, we prevail over our individual and collective weaknesses."

Because of relentless enemy operations, there were times when mass organizations were pacified in FX. But because of the strength and

determination of the branch, it was able to reestablish these organizations. An example of this was when the area was heavily militarized under the Arroyo regime's Oplan Bantay Laya I and II. After a few years, the branch was able to reestablish the mass organizations of three sectors—that of the peasants, youth and women. The branch also has the capability to supervise the elections within organizations. Because of the strength gained by the Party and after completing the requisites, the barrio revolutionary committee in FX was formally established.

Under the leadership of the branch, mass campaigns are vigorously launched in FX. On many occasion, the Party was able to mobilize its residents to voice their demands and concerns not only on their local issues but even on national issues.

When the local guerilla unit of the New People's Army (NPA) was established, the branch was among the first to deploy elements from their own people's militia unit. The FX branch is conscious of its tasks to recruit full time Red fighters. Tempered in their longstanding struggle, FX is neither shaken by military offensives nor dread of the enemy's psywar. Recognizing the need to expand in adjacent barrios that are behind, local cadres of FX has struck deep roots even beyond their barrio. Some cadres of FX are now members of the subsection committee which covers the cluster where the barrio is at.

The experience of FX proved the significance of the ideological work of the Party in all levels. This particular experience has paved the direction of other territorial Party organs in delivering their major consolidation tasks at the basic level. AB

Traders undermine farmgate prices in Mindanao

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC Front of the Philippines-North Eastern Mindanao Region (NDFP-NEMR) belied claims by the US-Duterte regime that the price of rice is high because of the high farmgate price of local palay (unhusked rice).

A study on the situation of rice farmers in NEMR revealed that during harvest season, 50 kilos of palay is only P900 (P18 per kilo) when bought by traders from farmers during harvest season. Typically, 50 kilos of palay can produce up to 32-35 kilos of rice when milled. The trader only spends a total of P145-P150 for drying, P75 for milling and P20 for transportation. The trader then sells 35 kilos of rice produced from 50 kilos of palay at P55/kilo or P1,025 per sack. Deducting the cost paid to farmers (P900) and the milling

cost, the trader is left with a net profit of P880 per 50-kilo sack of palay. Given that a trader buys 100 sacks of palay, he can reap up to P880,000 in profit per harvest season.

In the North Central Mindanao Region, farmers' produce are also bought at extremely low rates, notwithstanding the exceedingly expensive costs of production, land rent, usury and other exploitative farming arrangements that they have to withstand. In San Fernando, Bukidnon, for instance, an abaca farmers who sells his produce only earns a

meager P106 per day. Meanwhile, a trader who buys the product can earn up to P7,643.

Farmworkers in Stanfilco in Danggagan and Kitaotao are also intensively exploited. They are compensated with a meager P291 daily salary or P4,365 per 15 days of work. Their low wages are further cut down by the company through numerous deductions, actually leaving them with only a meager P3,765 monthly salary.

These conditions compel farmers to struggle for their right to live. In Bukidnon, farmers from ten adjoining barrios stood to benefit from the successful campaign to raise the prices of their products. This month, banana farmers from a certain barrio were able to raise the farmgate price of their produce from P7.50 to P10 per kilo.

In Agusan del Norte, coffee farmers were able to raise the prices of their produce by P10 per kilo. AB



The continuing war against the Bangsamoro

The war in Marawi and against the Bangsamoro has not yet ended as the attacks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on the life, rights and communities of the Moro people continue unabated. This was the rebuttal of Suara Bangsamoro to the US-Duterte regime's statement, during the commemoration of the "liberation" of Marawi on October 17, that the war in the city has "already ended."

Estimates by the AFP itself and their American masters indicate that only around 214,000 residents who were evicted from Marawi during the siege were able to return to the area (including residents from adjacent towns). In addition, 208,000 are still unable to return to their homes, with 127,000 to remain displaced in the next two to three years. Around 24 communities in the city were effectively destroyed by military shelling and airstrikes, and reconstruction has yet to begin.

Clearly, this is not a victory for the Moro people, rather for the US-Duterte regime's henchmen, big bourgeois compradors and foreign corporations, and bureaucrat capitalists who are now benefitting from public contracts awarded to them under the "Bangon Marawi" project. This is also a victory to AFP and US military that grabbed hectares of land in Marawi for the construction of a military reservation.

Last October 16, residents and Moro youth protested to demand that they be allowed to return Marawi to rebuild their homes.

They said that they are absolutely fed up with the government's promises. The scheduled groundbreaking ceremony in the city has been postponed several times already, purportedly due to various reasons. The most recent ruse of the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) was that Duterte will supposedly not be able to make it to the groundbreaking.

According to Agakhan Sharief, a Marano leader, the government has long promised rehabilitation but in

reality, not a single establishment has been constructed up to the present. This is because of the seemingly endless negotiations among bourgeois compradors, bureaucrat capitalists and their foreign cohorts on how to divide economic benefits and booty among themselves. Various companies have been successively awarded with public contracts under a selection process that is riddled with anomalies and corruption. Financial aid supposedly for evacuees are also pocketed by local agencies and Duterte's cronies.

The TFBM continues to disregard the welfare of residents of 27 barangays at ground zero. Majority of them remain in evacuation centers and suffer from extreme hunger and poverty. They are also burdened with the incessant increases in prices of basic commodities. Last August, regional inflation rate reached 8.1%.

Aside from causing widespread hunger, Duterte's war also blighted the culture of the Moro people.

Duterte's indiscriminate war

and bombings have resulted in the destruction of 37 mosques, 44 madrasah facilities and 22 schools. AFP soldiers have also looted about 3,000 idle houses in ground zero.

In an attempt to pacify residents, the TFBM and local government launched Kambisita, a program allowing residents to visit their houses to salvage their properties within the area.

Faykha Khayriyyah Alonto Ala, resident of Barangay South Mandaya Proper, however said that they are not satisfied with Kambisita as this is merely a temporary solution to their longstanding demand to return to their homes.

Armed conflict will continue

Instead of ending the war, the AFP has actually intensified its war against the Moro people. At present, 75% of AFP troops are deployed in Mindanao. The implementation of martial law has emboldened the military and police to kill and arrest civilians under the pretext of accusing them as members of the Maute group, Abu Sayyaf, or whatever organization they consider terrorist.

The war against the Moro people will carry on and will further intensify as the regime continues to implement more economic programs that are anti-people and pro-for-

"The continuing..." continued on page 9



Groups mount Peasant Month protests

Various groups and organizations led by farmers marched to Mendiola on October 19 as part of the commemoration of the "Peasant Month."

The farmers carried a mural dubbed as "Death-erte," and raised their slogans against poverty, hunger and fascism.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said that Duterte seems to have endless ways to bring death to the Filipino people—from Oplan Tokhang and Oplan Kapayapaan, to death by poverty and hunger due to the anti-people economic policies it has implemented. Worst among these is the TRAIN law which has resulted in the incessant rise in the prices of basic commodities, while the toiling masses' wage remain exceedingly low.

KMP also slammed the sluggishness and inaction of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) un-

der its new secretary, John Castriones, especially in resolving 10,000 pending cases of land dispute cases and CLOA cancellation of thousands of peasants who are relentlessly evicted from their farmlands. Worse, DAR is intently facilitating the conversion of agricultural lands and is consciously allowing Oplan Kapayapaan to wreak havoc in many peasant communities.

The farmers also expressed their opposition to the imminent issuance of an order by the Duterte regime extending the bogus and anti-farmer Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Among the participants in the march were farmers from Central Luzon who were harassed on Octo-

ber 18 in front of DAR where they constructed their camp. (*Read related article on page 5.*)

Protest-actions for genuine land reform, justice and against militarization of peasant communities were also mounted in various urban centers all across the country.

In Camarines Norte, small coconut farmers converged to demand to return the coco levy fund to them, and raise the price of copra.

In Visayas, farmers and fisherfolk conducted "Lakbayan Kontra Kagutuman, Kahirapan at Pasismo" (March Against Hunger, Poverty, and Fascism). Peasant organizations from Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Bohol started their march on October 18 and converged in front

"Protests..." continued on page 10

"The continuing..." from page 8

eign and local capitalists. The state continues to bomb Moro communities under the guise of war against terrorism, while glossing over its indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians, destruction and looting of private properties.

Last June 2018, a pregnant woman died after being hit by AFP's mortar shelling.

Currently, the "war on terror" slogan is being utilized as a convenient pretext to their attacks against the Moro people. On September, seven peasant Tausug were massacred by the AFP during a purported operation against elements of the Abu Sayyaf. The AFP also used Oplan Tokhang as a pretext to justify their attack against nine members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the 105th Base Command of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force in Matalam, North Cotabato. Last month, state elements also shot dead in Mamasapano,

Maguindanao, Babu Meriam Uy Acob, a Maranao leader and known human rights defender.

The Moro people continue to demand justice over the destruction of Marawi. The Duterte regime has to be held accountable for destroying the city, the death of about 1,000 civilians as a result of unrelenting military operations, the arrest and torture of civilians to coerce them to admit that they are either members or supporters of the Maute group, and other abuses against the Moro people. The Moro people demand that the Duterte regime immediately start the city's reconstruction instead of constructing temporary settlements, and finally allow them to return to their homes.

The Bangsamoro Organic Law is utterly useless for the Moro People as it fails to address the root causes of the Moro's armed struggle. Instead, the regime has bound to it and gradually disable the Moro Is-

lamic Liberation Front. Simultaneous with the signing of the bogus law, Duterte also compelled each municipality in Lanao del Sur to yield and surrender their arms which denies the people the power to defend themselves against the attacks of the regime's armed forces.

The Duterte regime's neglect of the people's rights and welfare and its wanton attacks against the Moro people to sow its reign of terror across the Bangsamoro and exploit their resources, are the reasons why the Moro's armed struggle will continue. The Moro people are left with no choice but to take up arms to defend their lives, livelihood and ancestral domain against the attacks of state forces and the US-Duterte regime. The unity between the Moro people and revolutionary forces of Mindanao will be further strengthened as they carry on the struggle for their right to self-determination and freedom. AB

OPE-P: Heightened US military intervention

Under Rodrigo Duterte's rule, US military intervention in the Philippines deepened and expanded. Duterte himself paved the way to US' greater control over the country, especially the AFP, when he imposed martial law in Mindanao on May 2017 to "crush the terrorist Maute group."

Throughout his "war on terror" against the Maute group, the US commanded AFP operations inside Marawi City. The US used the siege in the city as a pretext to formally establishing the Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines (OPE-P) on September 1, 2017. It replaced Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines (OEF-P) as the US' "named operation" in the country. The OEF-P took the form of the 900-troop Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines located inside an AFP base in Zamboanga City from 2002 to 2015. Like the OEF-P, the OPE-P is under the US' overseas contingency operations (OC), previously called the "global war on terror" which is funded by the Pentagon's colossal budget.

On December 2017, Duterte de-

clared the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) as "terrorist organizations" to further justify the existence of the OPE-P and expand its operations beyond Mindanao.

The US Defense Department Lead Inspector General's report for January-May 2018 indicates that the OPE-P permanently bases 200-300 US troops in the country to supposedly advise, train and support Filipino troops. At this time, fighting in Marawi has already ended and armed skirmishes between the AFP and Moro groups have become less.

Within the current year, the OPE-P reported expenses of up to \$32.4 million (P1.8 billion based on a foreign exchange of P55=\$1). Most of the funds were spent on

providing aerial surveillance support through unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV or drone) in AFP combat operations.

Though the OPE-P identified "ISIS-Philippines" as its main target, there have been numerous reports of drone surveillance in AFP-suspected NPA areas this year. Drones were sighted flying overhead before the 59 incidents of bombings and straffings recorded by the National Democratic Front-Mindanao since January 2018. Drones also often precede AFP focused military operations. For 2019, the OPE-P proposed a \$108.2 million budget (P5.95 billion), triple its current operational budget.

The US also used the OPE-P to expand joint military exercises and position more troops in the country. Balikatan 34, which was participated by 8,000 troops (3,000 US and 5,000 Filipino) last May is among

"OPE-P..." continued on page 11

"Protests..." from page 9

of the Cebu City Capitol on October 19 to express their demands.

In Negros, collective land cultivation (bungkalan) activities were mounted by farmers and farmworkers in more than 30 haciendas in the region.

In Eastern Visayas, a dialogue was held by peasant groups and representatives of the local government to demand the demilitarization of peasant communities.

In Mindanao, farmers, farmworkers and plantation workers also launched various activities and caravans.

Noise barrage against hunger

On October 16, progressive groups, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Gabriela, protested in Metro Manila in conjunction with commemoration

of the United Nations World Food Day. They said that this should instead be dubbed as the "World Foodless Day" amid the continuous rise in the prices of basic commodities.

Carrying and thumping empty cauldrons and pans, the groups protested in Nepa-Q Mart in Quezon City, Bagong Silang Market in Calocan City, Marikina Clock Tower, Pasig City Public Market, and Alabang Market in Muntinlupa City.

According to Gabriela, the fact that majority of the Filipino people suffer from hunger is unsurprising given the incessant rise in the prices of food commodities, and that inflation rate has already peaked at 6.7% last September. The 2.2 million poorest families are hardest hit by this.

Although the Duterte regime

said that it will suspend the excise taxes levied on petroleum products under TRAIN law, protesters continue to express their distrust as the said measure will have little to no effect in the actual prices of commodities.

Meanwhile, progressive youth groups led simultaneous protests against the approval of the P2 jeepney fare hike. On October 18, protests were held in various universities and jeepney terminals across Metro Manila.

In a statement, Anakbayan said that the plight of jeepney drivers and operators is a result of the 40% increase in the price of diesel or P14 per liter since January. Instead of addressing the said problem, the regime resorted to passing the burden to commuters by imposing a fare hike. **AB**

these exercises. This was followed by two more large exercises, the MTA Sama Sama on July and Kamandag 2 (previously Phiblex) this October. Live fire and amphibious landing, exercises which Duterte vowed to reduce if not outrightly ban, were part of the program.

These large-scale exercises are part of the US plan to maintain its presence on Philippine land and seas. Big and small exercises, conferences and other military activities led by US soldiers occur almost daily all over the country. From 258 in 2017, these activities rose to 261 in 2019 and will increase to 281 in 2019. More and larger trainings in various military fronts are conducted annually.

Alongside these exercises, US warships regularly sail through Philippine seas and the South China Sea in the guise of "freedom of navigation operations." Some of these ships dock in the country for repairs, leave waste material and refuel, as well as for rest and recreation of US troops.

In general, the entry and exit of US troops and armaments in the country are becoming more frequent. In addition to the exercises, most of the troops enter the country aboard "visiting" warships. Since January, ten ships containing not less than 17,500 military troops, dozens of warplanes and other weapons have docked in Manila Bay, Subic Bay and other large seaports since January. The largest of these ships run on nuclear energy. The total number of troops is even bigger if it includes the ships which sailed in Philippine waters no less than 15 times for various reasons, including freedom of navigation operations. These include the USS Essex which was exposed to have been stationed in the Philippine Sea after one of its Marine trooper fell off the ship and disappeared. These US ships are accompanied by Japanese and Australian ships.

OPERATION PACIFIC EAGLE-PHILIPPINES

January-June 2018

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Dockings of US warships in the Philippines. Carrying about 17,000 US troops.



USS Carl Vinson | 5,500 US troops



USS Theodore Roosevelt | 3,200 US troops



USS Ronald Reagan | 5,000 US troops



In addition to intervening in internal issues, the US also managed to push its strategic plan to maintain a more permanent and extensive base for their troops and war matériel under Duterte.

Using past military agreements, the US has already openly started construction of facilities for their troops inside their old military bases. In 2017, the US and AFP inaugurated a new building inside Basa Air Force Base in Pangasinana supposedly for humanitarian purposes but is, in fact, built for stockpiling war matériel. The US and the AFP also announced the onset of constructing same facilities in Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation, Lumbia Air Base, Antonio Bautista Airbase and Benito Ebuen Air Base. This year, the construction of a military base started in residential areas in Marawi City after the US made the Duterte regime unearth and declare the city as a military reservation. This is one of the reasons why displaced residents are not allowed to enter the city, except for limited visits.

The US continues to unload airplanes, helicopters, ships, armaments, bombs and other war matériel in the country. Since

January 2017, the US has been dumping its outdated armaments worth P5 billion under the guise of the AFP modernization plan. This will be augmented by more weapons, such as the anti-missile radar system which Duterte is set to "buy" from Israel and six F-16 jet fighters from the US supposedly to defend Philippine seas. The acquisition of such weapons supposedly for territorial defense is in line with the US defense plan against China's rising military power.

US and Philippine military and state officials continue to enjoy strong and close ties. Every year, the commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command visits the country, and in turn, Defense Secretary Lorenzana meets with US State Department officials in Washington D.C. The Security Engagement Board, the committee which sets US activities in the country, also holds regular meetings.

Aside from military activities, US agencies also intervene in various aspects of Philippine national security including Philippine National Police programs, social media, and customs among many others.

Decades of colonial education in the Philippines

For more than a century, the United States used education, along with other cultural institutions such as the media, to strengthen its control over and dominate Philippine economy and politics.

From the deployment of American teachers during the colonial regime up to the current K-12 program, US employs the system of education to shape and train the Filipino youth according to its strategic interests in the country and the whole region.

Using the colonial government and the succeeding puppet regimes since 1946, US systematically framed the Filipino youth's culture, identity and conduct according to the "American Dream." Resources were allotted to the education system to ensure that schools, both private and public, serve the interests of its companies and institutions in and outside the country, and also the civil bureaucracy and security of its puppet regime.

American Education

The centralized public school system was instituted in the Philippines through Act No. 74 of the Philippine Commission, the US colonial government headed by William Howard Taft. It created the Department of Public Instruction which facilitated the entry of 500 teachers from US known as the "Thomasites".

It established the primary system of education, as well as the Philippine Normal School (now known as the Philippine Normal University) to train Filipino teachers who will teach in public schools. English was set as the medium of instruction and books based on American culture were used.

Through Act No. 1870, it extended public education and founded the University of the Philippines in 1908. The university was used to produce Filipino experts on politics and economics according to the US blueprint to lead the colonial bur-

eaucracy.

In 1927, by virtue of Commonwealth Act (CA) No. 337, technical-vocational education began in the country. It was followed by CA 313 which facilitated the establishment of vocational and agricultural high schools in the regions.

The Education Act of 1940, whose objective was to eliminate illiteracy among adult Filipinos, was enacted into law. Accordingly, it implemented a "citizenship training program", a training program for manual labor. Its objective is to supply agricultural workers to US, especially in Hawaii.

Education under puppet regimes

Since 1946, successive puppet regimes enacted laws to perpetuate and further intensify the colonial education in the country. In particular, they ensured that it continues to address the demand of imperialist companies for cheap and docile labor.

President Diosdado Macapagal enacted Republic Act No. 3724 in 1963 that created the Bureau of Vocational Education to administer the development of skills in agriculture, industries, technical and other vocational courses. This is in line with the then increased foreign investments in the garments and textile industry.

Under the dictates of the World Bank (WB), the Marcos regime formed the Philippine Commission to Survey Philippine Education (PCSPE) in 1969 to purportedly gear education towards "national development." In compliance with its recommendations, Marcos carried out a Ten-Year Educational Development Plan, a P500 million program funded by WB which targeted to develop mastery of marketable low-

level skills. It answered the then particular needs for cheap labor in export-processing zones. Marcos also prompted the labor export of graduates from technical-vocational schools as a solution to the grave problem of unemployment.

Marcos built centers for skills training in the regions and subsumed researches for faster training, particularly for the out-of-school-youth and unemployed, under the Office of the President.

Upon the legislation of the Education Act of 1982, Marcos established the Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education to assess technical and vocational programs, and pattern courses, equipment and factories after the needs of the then emerging neoliberal order.

Part of this was the regime's systematization of the labor-export policy through the implementation of Executive Order No. 797 which instituted the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA).

POEA data indicate that the number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) increased by 1,035%, from 36,029 in 1975 to 372,784 in 1985. Majority of them were deployed to the Middle East in the 1980s and worked as construction workers.

The New Secondary Education Curriculum of 1989, which dovetails the similarly-oriented elementary curriculum, was designed under the Corason Aquino regime.

This introduced the subject Technology and Home Economics (THE) which teaches cooking, sewing and welding. It also introduced Values Education which instills "obedience" and "industriousness."

In line with this, RA 6655 or the Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1988 was ratified to provide free and compulsory secondary education. A particular provision of the said law requires the inclusion of vocational and technical courses

in the curriculum to purportedly produce work-ready high school graduates.

In 1994, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) was established, passing administration of technical-vocational education from the Commission on Higher Education to the former. Since its establishment, courses offered by TESDA are constantly being changed to adapt to the particular demand of skillset in the world market.

In 1998, the WB and Asian Development Bank published the Philippine Education for the 21st Century: The 1998 Philippine Education Sector Study (PESS), a research recommending to decrease elementary subjects. The study insisted on the significance of developing basic literacy and numeracy skills. This reform perfectly complemented the emergence of the business process outsourcing industry in 1992 and its boom since 2001.

In 2002, the Arroyo regime created and implemented the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC), other-

wise known as the Millennium Curriculum, which streamlined the curriculum into five subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Filipino and Makabayan (Values Education, Arts, Information and Communication Technology, Culture, Health and Livelihood, and Social Studies and Health Studies).

Social studies was subsumed under Makabayan to further narrow down the platform for discussions on the history of the country and the actual societal condition.

English was reinstated as the medium of instruction under the BEC in compliance with the demand of the world market. This measure, however, was met with broad dissent, until a bilingual medium of instruction was implemented, with Filipino set as the secondary medium.

The K-12 program was designed and immediately implemented under the Aquino regime through the legislation of the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. The program, including courses and trainings therein, are all patterned after

the demand of the global market for technical-vocational and professional skills. The said program extended the basic education curriculum by adding two senior high school years and imposing four career tracks: Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL), Academic, Arts and Design and Sports.

Courses offered under the TVL track include trainings on manicuring, welding, butchering, information and communications technology-related skills, and others skills that meet and directly fit the demands of labor-market in Canada, Middle East and other countries.

The largest proportion of students were assigned to take the Technical-Vocational-Livelihood track, and are enticed to not pursue college. These graduates will automatically be transformed into low and semi-skilled workers and become part of the large pool of unemployed. They are left with no other option but to be hired under contractual arrangements with measly wages and no benefits, either in the country or abroad. **AB**