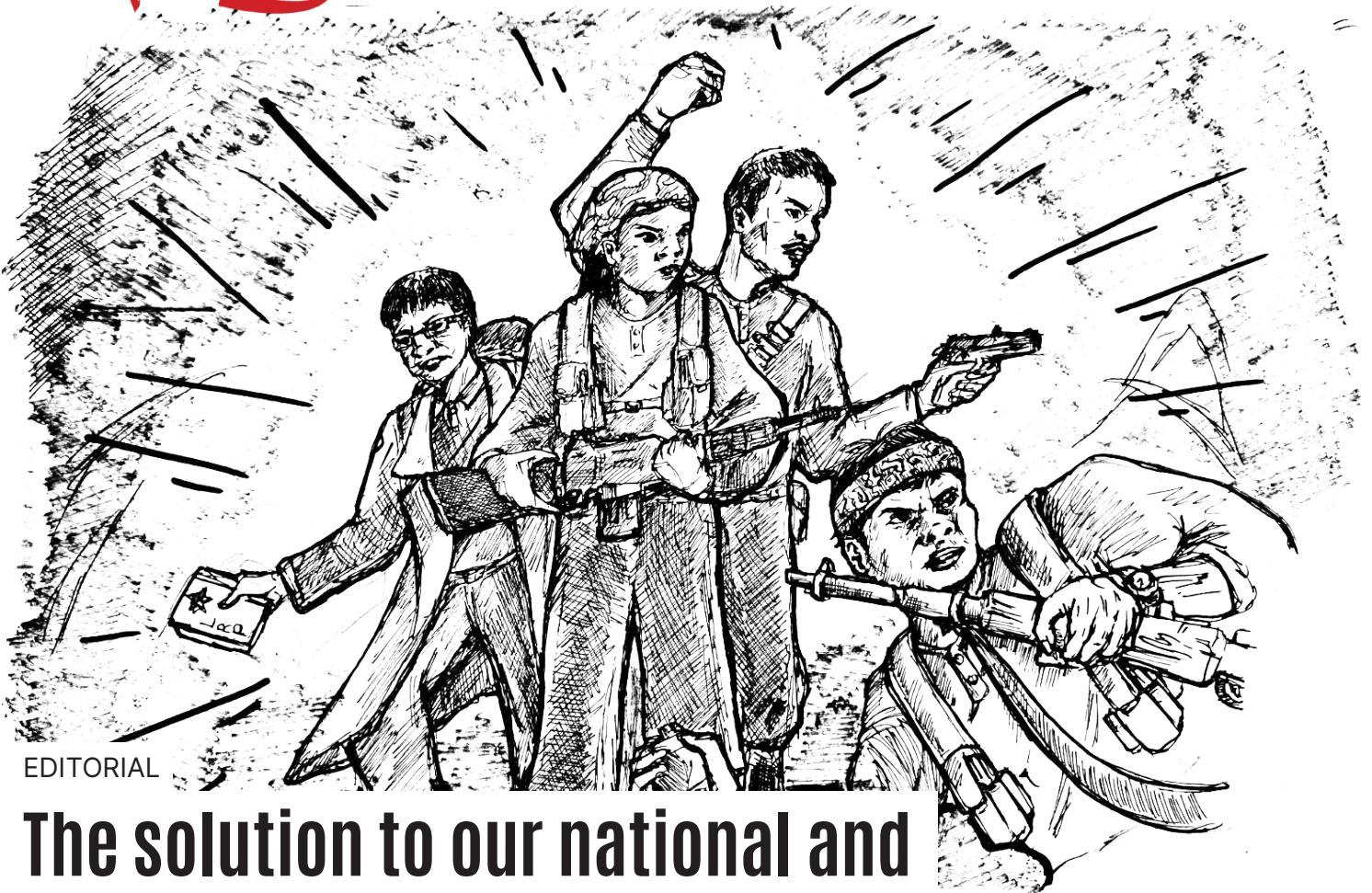




AGHAM BAYAN



EDITORIAL

The solution to our national and environmental crisis is revolution

FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS, the Filipino people have been exploited and oppressed by imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. These are the three root causes of the widespread poverty, abuse, and repression, alongside the devastation of the environment and the exhaustion of our country's natural resources. On the other hand, the elite few — local comprador bourgeoisie, landlords, bureaucrat capitalists in cahoots with foreign capitalists — continue to enjoy immense wealth and power. ► 2

PERSPECTIVE / 'Guerilla farming' and the role of scientists in the agrarian revolution ► 4

ADVANCES / STEM students take part in the rectification movement ► 7

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL / The solution to our national and environmental crisis is revolution **1**

PERSPECTIVE / 'Guerilla farming' and the role of scientists in the agrarian revolution **4**

AT A GLANCE / Revolutionary offensives against plunderous mining operations, 2017 - 2025 **6**

ADVANCES / STEM students take part in the rectification movement **7**

HUKBO SCIENCE / A successful experiment in herbal medicine **8**

Jan - Mar 2025 Newsbytes **9**

CULTURAL **9**

RECAP / Groups hold protest action in UP Diliman on NPA's 56th anniversary **10**



*Agham Bayan is published by **Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB)** with the objective of raising the level of awareness of Filipino scientists regarding social issues. It aims to promote the use of science for the nation and the Filipino people within the framework of national democracy and liberation.*

EMAIL

agbay_lab@protonmail.com

The reactionary elections are promoted by the ruling class as an ostensibly democratic process in which the people can decide their government's leaders and officials. The truth is these elections give only false hope that genuine change in Philippine society can arise from this process. The reactionary elections are nothing but political sleight of hand designed to maintain the exploitative and oppressive status quo.

Three root causes of crisis

Imperialist powers and the local ruling class have continuously exploited the Filipino people, while also draining our natural resources. US imperialism, chiefly in control of our economy and our trade, is one of the main reasons behind the hardships of the Filipino people. Foreign megacorporations continue to plunder our country — through large-scale mining, plantation, and energy projects — to serve the interests of foreign capitalists and the local elite. This is exemplified in the negligible 0.70% contribution of the mining industry to the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP). Majority of the leading mining companies in the Philippines are owned or supported by US, China, and other countries, while 95% of metallic minerals mined in our country are sold to international markets.

Alongside imperialism is the persisting and backwards feudal mode of production, in which a few landlords control most of the country's land, and in which the peasantry are

oppressed and burdened by debt and poverty. The people have witnessed how the farmers of Lupang Ramos in Cavite are continuously subjected to harassment and threats of displacement; how land-grabbing is a continuing issue for the peasantry of San Miguel, Iloilo; and how indigenous Lumad communities in South Cotabato and nearby provinces in southern Mindanao are affected by the Tampakan Mining Project.

The bureaucrat capitalists in government are the ones who permit and protect the businesses, projects, and operations of other members of the ruling class, as they also benefit from these endeavors. They also brazenly make use of public funds for their personal interest.

Dominating the current mid-term elections cycle are different political dynasties (Marcos, Duterte, Romualdez, Villar, Tulfo, Yap, and others) and big bussines (Co, Teravera). The use of violence and terror also continues through the Philippine National Police and the Armed

The truth is these elections give only false hope that genuine change in Philippine society can arise from this process. The reactionary elections are nothing but political sleight of hand designed to maintain the exploitative and oppressive status quo.

Forces of the Philippines, which are deployed to crack down on progressives and revolutionaries fighting for genuine change and for their democratic rights.

The ruling class makes use of the the elections as an instrument to maintain the current economic and political order. All the empty promises of political reforms have shown that genuine change cannot be achieved as long as imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism continue to dominate. In the decades of struggle of the Filipino people for change, it is clear that the solution to the crisis of Philippine society is not elections, but revolution! This is the way to a just and free society for all.

The revolutionary program

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), alongside the New People's Army (NPA) and under the leadership of the Communist Party of the

Philippines (CPP), continues to forward the national democratic revolution as the real solution to the three basic problems of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. The goal of our revolutionary program is clear: genuine agrarian reform; national industrialization; social services for all; self-sufficient economy; environmental conservation; and many more. We also understand that revolution, genuine change in our country, will never take place through a simple vote, but through armed struggle in the framework of the people's democratic revolution.

The CPP, NPA, and NDFP have already scored significant victories in implementing the revolutionary program, in different parts of the country where Red political power has been established. In these areas, the masses have been able to establish their own schools with curricula relevant to their needs. Renewable energy projects have also been established in some

We understand that revolution, genuine change in the country, will never take place through a simple vote, but through armed struggle.

places to serve the needs of the community. In the current stage of the people's war, the NPA has also been able to take punitive measures against destructive mines, quarries, and megadam projects. The revolution, and genuine social change, is not some distant dream — it is happening, now, in the countryside.

The challenge remains for the members of Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan to engage with the masses belonging to the sector of science and technology, and with the basic masses, to further arouse, organize, and mobilize for the national democratic revolution. We must maximize the current situation for the continuous expansion of our revolutionary organization. More than just actively participating in campaigns in urban centers, we must also take to the countryside to directly support and take part in armed struggle. We have seen how many revolutionary scientists and engineers have used their skills in the context of the armed struggle, from medical work assisting other Red fighters, to improvements in agricultural production of the masses.

Scientists and engineers of the people, take part in the national democratic revolution! Join the New People's Army! ▼





PERSPECTIVE

‘Guerilla farming’ and the role of scientists in the agrarian revolution



Cassandra Bigwas

ONE OF THE MOST FULFILLING activities of the New People’s Army (NPA) is our production work with the masses. It sometimes feels like we are living machines in the way that we build and develop our agricultural lands! In advancing the agrarian revolution, we work together with the masses to support their livelihood and to ensure that we can sustain the needs of the people’s army. So instead of the exploitative practice of commercialized agriculture perpetuated by the ruling class, the NPA uses and advocates for “guerilla farming” – and scientists have a big role to play in this!

“Guerilla farming” against monocrop farming

One of the most prevalent problems in the countryside

is the culture and practice of monocrop farming, or the practice of cultivating only one kind of crop in an entire farmland. In our area, the monocrop farming of coconut is widespread, so the primary livelihood of the masses is copra production. In many cases, peasants are forbidden by landlords to plant other crops under coconut trees.

For tenants who have no land ownership and sell their labor to landlords, profits are also split. The rates vary from place to place; in our area, the profit is split 50/50 between the tenant and the landlord, despite the landlord having no contribution to farming implements and the actual practice of farming.

Coconut is treated as a cash crop by peasants: it needs to be sold and converted into money to be used for the farmer’s

needs. In this case, it would be ideal to maximize unused lands by transforming them into productive farmlands. The peasants in our area have access to vast lands in mountain slopes where *kaingin* or slash-and-burn agriculture has been practiced. With this in mind, members of our unit wondered: how can we improve this practice?

When we visited Manong Tango, he showed us his land on the slopes of a mountain. You’d really be amazed by the abundance of his cassava farm! Aside from being a source of food, Manong Tango also sells cassava to help his children and grandchildren. There is one problem, though — you can easily see that the crops are not growing evenly along the slope. One of our comrades, an agriculturist by training, explained: water carries

the nutrients in the soil from the top to the bottom, so the crops are more abundant at the bottom.

Another comrade jokingly asked, "So how can we flatten the land, without flattening the land?" This is where we started our "guerilla farming" project – a term we coined to counter the ruling class' monocrop farming.

Using Manong Tango's cassava farm as a pilot site, we started to practice land countouring to build agricultural terraces on the valley. These terraces served a dual purpose: 1) to evenly spread the nutrients throughout the land and not let it accumulate in the bottom area; and 2) to expand the area of the agricultural land.

We used an A-frame (an instrument to measure the steepness of the slope) that we made from thin branches. This was my first time to measure land – it was pretty fun! We then placed cassava cuttings in each terrace from top to bottom. Seen from afar, it looked like a mini version of the Banaue Rice Terraces. A comrade joked that this was our "*Kamoteng Kahoy* Terraces," to which we all laughed.

In a *kaingin* of another farmer, Manong Ron, we engaged in production work everyday to practice multicrop farming, or cultivating multiple types of crops in one area. We again built terraces and planted a different crop in each terrace, such as cassava, taro, and others. It's as if we planted a rainbow in the soil! Now, Manong Ron could use his land to plant crops that can be eaten by his family. Multicropping is also important to maintain soil health, manage pests, and ensure

harvest throughout the year.

Why did we call our project "guerilla farming"? The reactionary state and bureaucracy work hand-in-hand to narrow the knowledge of the peasantry regarding their own production work. Because methods such as land contouring and multicropping are not practiced in favor of monocropping, farmers are not able to scientifically develop these methods outside of the agrarian revolution. Through collective effort, Manong Tango and Manong Ron learned and practiced different ways to improve their farm production.

When we came back to the guerilla farms that we helped build after a few months, I became teary-eyed at the lushness and beauty of our crops. Our unit also made use of the cassava that we planted to make cassava rolls, which served as emergency food during the time when successive typhoons hit the area.

Agricultural education to advance agrarian revolution

Our aim is to liberate the peasantry from landlessness and abject poverty. The backwardness of agriculture and the landlessness of the peasants is a reflection of a semifeudal economy. As the revolution strives towards the distribution of land to the tillers, the NPA also strives to popularize and develop advanced practices in agriculture.

It is important for the farmers themselves to practice land contouring and multicrop farming to effectively use them in farmlands they till. In advancing

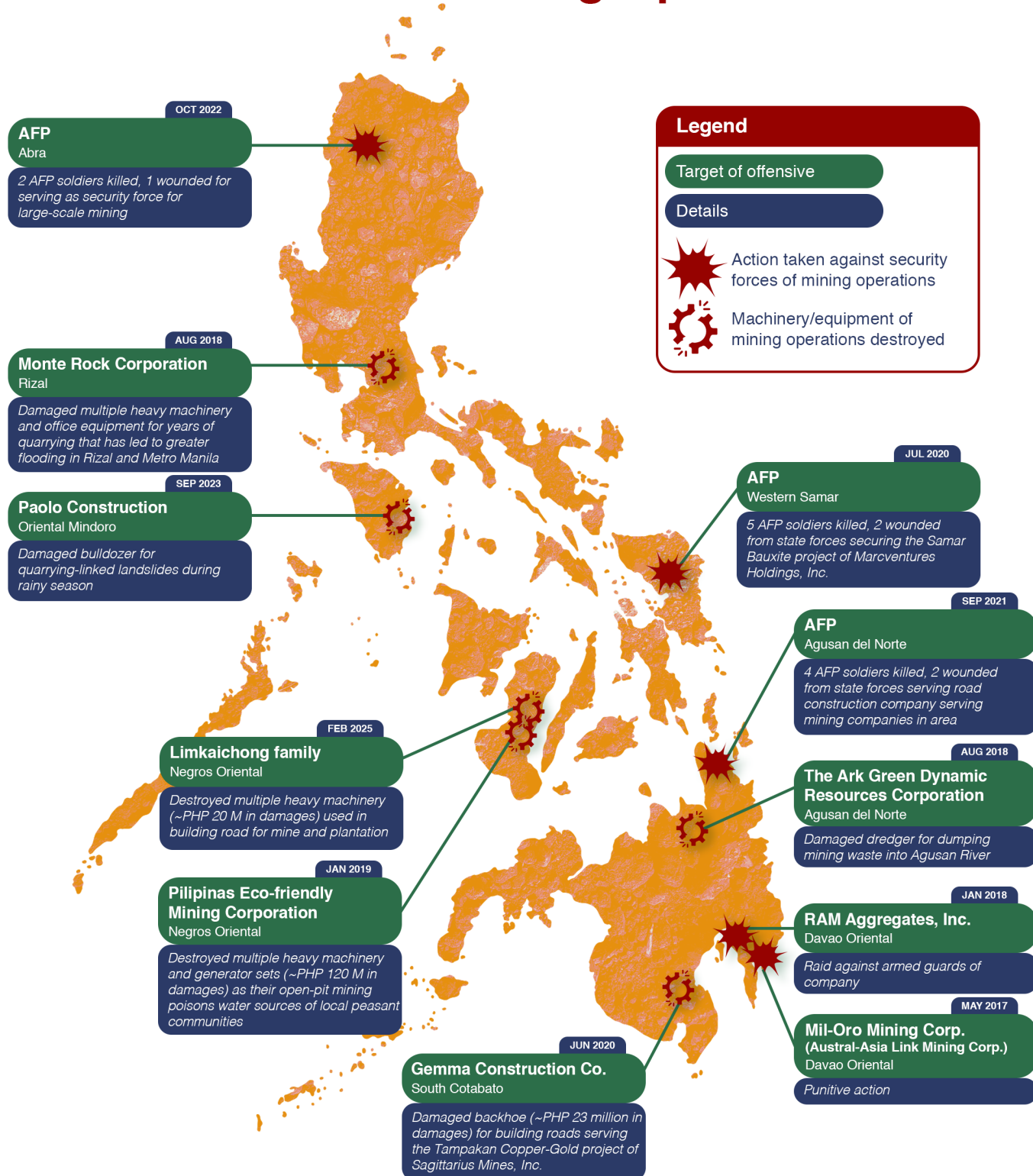
From specialized knowledge in agriculture and mathematics, to using and aiming a rifle, there are a myriad of ways that scientists can apply their knowledge in the NPA life.

the educational campaign and the campaign for land redistribution simultaneously, we can make big strides in advancing the agrarian revolution, the NPA, and the revolutionary governance of the masses in the countryside.

From my experience, it became even clearer to me that scientists, engineers, and intellectuals can contribute greatly in the countryside. Through applying scientific concepts to the reality of life and struggle in the countryside, we can help the peasant masses in many ways. From specialized knowledge in agriculture and mathematics, to using and aiming a rifle, there are a myriad of ways that we can apply our knowledge in the NPA life.

The rotten approach of the reactionary state to agriculture in the Philippines leaves us with no other option than to join the national democratic revolution and advance agrarian revolution in the countryside. Our immediate call to scientists, engineers, and professionals: head to the countryside, immerse in the peasant masses, join the New People's Army! ▼

Revolutionary Offensives against Plunderous Mining Operations



ADVANCES

STEM students take part in the rectification movement

 Ka Nunat  Miguel Esteban

AMONG THE MOST DYNAMIC and passionate members of Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB) are the youth — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students and young advocates who bring fresh energy to the revolution. In the context of the ongoing rectification movement, these young revolutionaries are playing their part in the effort to address internal weaknesses, and strengthen the role of the STEM sector as a whole in advancing the national-democratic revolution.

Ka Charlie, a STEM student and a member of an LAB chapter in Metro Manila, reflected on some of issues within organizing and mobilizing STEM youth. “I think one of our main issues in growing as part of the movement has to do with the petit bourgeois culture we come from. It’s sometimes a struggle having fellow comrades overcome liberal attitudes within the organization,” shared Ka Charlie. “There’s an active effort to build a more proletarian and revolutionary culture. There’s still a lot to do, but I’m very proud of what our chapter has accomplished so far. We’ve become more accepting of criticism from others and ourselves.”

Identifying these weaknesses has also lead to significant improvements in

practice. The youth chapters of LAB have been actively pursuing campaigns to arouse, organize, and mobilize, and its effects have been seen in the bold expansion of its membership in the cities. Ka Milya, a recent LAB recruit from 2024, noted how their fellow comrades seemed “more determined and committed than ever before.” “I can definitely see a difference in the effectiveness of how we operate. For example, I can tell that we’re able to bring campaigns closer to students, and that the students are readily accepting these campaigns — very different from last year. And even with all these mass campaigns that we have, we are still able to launch internal educational campaigns to collectively improve our

ideological foundation as revolutionaries.”

But the greatest victory of all the past year for the youth chapters of LAB is the increased support provided to the New People’s Army. From financial and material support, these young scientists are wholeheartedly finding ways to participate in the primary struggle. Some have even decided to join the people’s army themselves.

As LAB prepares for its golden anniversary this December, the rectification movement remains a central focus. The youth of LAB, armed with the determination to continue the people’s war ever onwards to complete victory, are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the revolution. ▼



HUKBO SCIENCE

A successful experiment in herbal medicine



Nikola Magbanua

THERE ARE A LOT of limitations to medical work in the New People's Army: medicines that you might easily find in a Mercury Drug can be scarce or absent, and many situations are hardly ideal for treating wounds and caring for patients. This pushes Red medics to become resourceful, study the cases at hand thoroughly, and apply scientific concepts in their work.

An encounter with the reactionary military resulted in several casualties on the side of the enemy, but left us with a major wounded-in-action (WIA) case: Ka Pascal, a comrade and fellow medic, was shot through the thigh. He could still walk, but a major concern was the regular cleaning of the wound to prevent infection in a constantly damp

and dirty environment. Intensified operations by the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines in the area also made it almost impossible to stay and rest anywhere for more than a day. The question: how on earth can we ensure Ka Pascal's recovery in these conditions?

Short answer: with a lot of collective thinking and hard work. Within seven weeks, the gunshot wound was fully healed and Ka Pascal was walking normally. Aside from Ka Pascal's own determination to recover, a major factor was our successful use of a local herbal remedy in the daily cleaning of the wound.

The herbal medicine in question (which we will call Plant N, after its local name) was used by the platoon previously to treat

a major accidental foot injury of another comrade. The foot injury had become severely infected, and some of the locals in the unit suggested the use of Plant N. Initial reservations of some of the members of the medical collective disappeared when Plant N proved more effective in stopping the infection than sugar, which a Western medical textbook had suggested.

At that time, one problem with Plant N was that it was always freshly prepared and sterilized (in other words, steamed) before use. What if the unit was in an area without any Plant N around, or had to keep moving?

To prepare for such situations, our collective decided to test if Plant N, prepared and sterilized in a plastic bag, would remain effective for long periods of time (without, of course, the benefit of any cold storage). Ka Pascal was more than willing to be our test subject. Sure enough, Plant N was still able to draw out pus from the gunshot wound more than a week after the initial preparation, aiding in the overall recovery of Ka Pascal. This was done alongside regular cleaning of the wound using a mixture of water, detergent soap, and bleach.

With our experiment, we were able to "upgrade" our unit's use of Plant N, benefiting not only Ka Pascal but other comrades in the future.

Cases like this show how useful a science background can be in dealing with problems big and small inside the guerilla zone. We have a lot to offer in the context of armed struggle — *kaya tara na!* ▼



JAN - MAR 2025

Newsbytes

Environmental defenders' gathering in Davao. Asdang! The 5th Environmental Defenders Congress National Gathering was held in Davao City last January 27 - 29 to bring together environmental groups and community organizations. Nearly a hundred participants attended the gathering, including scientists, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk, and church leaders.

Diliman STEM community for the impeachment of Sara. Dozens of STEM students, staff, and faculty held a protest action at the UP Diliman College of Science last January 30 to call for the impeachment of Sara Duterte. Speakers at the protest decried the questionable use of public funds by Duterte and other corrupt officials, as well as the budget cuts of state universities.

Full disclosure of Comelec-Miru contract sought. Members of the Right to Know, Right Now Coalition filed a petition at the Supreme Court last February 13 seeking to compel Comelec and Miru Systems to release details related to their contract. This came after the refusal of the Comelec to disclose relevant information on how the withdrawal of one of Miru's local partners last year might affect the upcoming reactionary elections.

Call for hybrid election system. Civil society groups under Kontra Daya staged a protest action in front of the Comelec main office in Manila last March 27 to condemn the continued implementation of the automated election system. IT experts from the Computer Professionals' Union called for the manual counting of ballots before electronic transmission as a measure to prevent electoral fraud.

CULTURAL / POEM

Mandaragit Ka Layag

Published in original Filipino

Sa gubat ng semento't bakal
Laging nagmamasid, lumilipad
ang ibong mandaragit na ngala'y—
Kapital

Araw-araw ay dama ko ang kanyang tuka
Na kinakayod, kinakaskas
Ang kubang likod ng manggagawa

Sa pagpagaspas ng kanyang pakpak
At palahaw ng makina
Nadiring ko ang hudyat ng 6-9 shift
Ng kaniyang katakawan't ganid
Dilat at nanlilisik, nagbabantay sa daloy ng salapi—
ng laman, dugo, at pawis

Ngunit akala ata ng mandaragit
Na manggagawa'y kimi
Na malumanay na magpapalamon
Sa bituka nitong halang at sala-salabid

WELGA! —ang pipilay sa halimaw
At masa ang punglo na bubulag sa kaniya
Kabundukan ang yajakap sa manggagawa
Sa kanayunan, paroroon siya sa digmang bayan
Sa tángang baril, tiyak na babagsak
Mula sa langit, sa lupang dinambong
Dugo ng kaaway ay dadanak

At sa lumagapak na ibong mandaragit
Ang maso ng proletaryo'y nagngingingit
Nag-aabang, nasasabik!
Na basagin ang bungo't lipulin
Sa apoy ng digmaang yari
Ang supertubo,
Ang pananamantala —
Ang Uri

The recent victories of workers' strikes is testament to the growing strength of the workers' movement.

Stand with workers! Take to the factories and streets, head to the countryside, join the New People's Army!

RECAP

Groups hold protest action in UP Diliman on NPA's 56th anniversary

 Gaea Sumulong  LAB National



REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS under the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) staged a lightning rally at the University of the Philippines Diliman last March 30 to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the New People's Army. Among the participants were members of Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB).

In a short program in front of Quezon Hall, LAB spokesperson Trinidad Ramirez highlighted the necessity of armed revolution in the face of the continuing economic and political crisis under the US-Marcos regime. They also invited all those listening to the program to take part in the revolution and join the NPA.

Aside from LAB, revolutionary mass organizations Kabataang Makabayan (KM), Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa (KASAMA), Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (KAGUMA), Revolutionary Organization of Lumads (ROL), and the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF) also took part in the protest action. ▼

