

ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

Bayan

English Edition

Vol LIV Blg. 5

March 7, 2023

www.philippinerevolution.nu

EDITORIAL

People's war for freedom and democracy

Let us commence celebrations of the 54th anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) and its heroic efforts to advance the people's war in the Philippines. On March 29, 2023, let us set our sights on the path towards victory while carrying the heavy tasks of facing the fascist terrorism under the US-Marcos-Duterte regime.

Why is there a people's war in the Philippines? This is because the Filipino people desire to achieve genuine national freedom and democracy for the Motherland: freedom from US imperialist subjugation, and democracy from the tyranny of the big bourgeois compradors, landlords and bureaucrat capitalists.

The people's war is patriotic, revolutionary, just and enjoys the deep support of the masses. It is invincible because it represents the aspirations of the people. They are

determined to take back the country's wealth from foreign robbers and their ruling class accomplices, end the semi-colonial and semi-feudal system in the country, and build a prosperous and developing country for Filipinos.

The success of the people's war depends on the general mobilization of the people, above all, of the peasant masses. In general and in essence, the people's war is a peasant war led by the working class through the Party. Land is the principal democratic demand of the

majority of the people. It is the key question in the people's war.

The enemy, US imperialism and its puppet Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), is much bigger and more powerful. It has powerful weapons including jet fighters, helicopters, drones, bombs and unlimited ammunition. The strength of the enemy is matched only by his fascist brutality. While using powerful weapons to subdue the people, he only isolates himself further from the masses and pushes them to fight back.

Though lacking in weapons, the NPA has in its ranks Red fighters who are highly disciplined and politically conscious. They are not



just warriors. They are also doctors, teachers, artists, and forces of production who all serve the interests of the masses. Economic, political and military democracy firmly unite its officers and fighters. Veterans or new fighters, regardless of gender or class origin, all are valiantly fighting for the country's freedom. They are wholeheartedly ready to make all sacrifices to serve the masses and achieve victory.

The people's war in the Philippines is protracted. The NPA needs



time to accumulate strength until it can defeat the enemy and seize power in the entire country. Through guerrilla warfare, the NPA weakens the enemy step by step, gradually accumulates strength, and creates conditions for victory.

Since the vast countryside of the country is fragmented into many separate islands, it will take time to progress from being small and weak to big and strong throughout the archipelago. The NPA's forces were initially established on the larger islands, and gradually progressed to connect guerrilla forces on many islands.




Piece by piece, the NPA annihilates the more modern army armed and financed by the most powerful imperialist in the world. Their forces concentrate to defeat the enemy's weak points, annihilate the fascists and seize its weapons and military equipment. When the enemy is stronger, the guerrilla forces flexibly disperse to conduct mass work and shift to avoid getting caught unprepared in battle. Even if they temporarily leave the established base, they ensure that the seeds of the revolution they have sown will flourish and bear fruit, even as they sow more seeds among the broader masses.

Red fighters fully grasp that the strength in weapons is not decisive factor in war, but the determination and indomitable spirit of the people. Any lack of material things can be overcome by the deep support of the masses, by their extensive participation in the war, together with the heroism of their brave warriors. All possible weapons—guns, bolo, wood or stones—will be used against the enemy. The small shall become big, and the mighty enemy shall be overcome. The people and their people's army armed with the correct theory and ideology shall advance and prevail. This is the historical law of people's war, regardless of its twists and turns, retreats and advance.

The armed struggle will further advance along with the widespread mass struggles. The key in advancing the people's war is the firm unity of the masses and their people's army. The flames of mass struggles in the countryside, together with all the means of armed resistance by the people's militias and NPA units, will engulf and raze the fascism of the puppet state.

The NPA is under the absolute leadership of the Party. The correct leadership of the Party shaped the people's army, and has kept it loyal to the oppressed people's desire for freedom and democracy. Red fighters are being taught Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to use as guide in all its actions. The Party is the NPA's iron backbone.

As we commemorate the 54th year of the NPA, let us strengthen our resolve to fight. Persevere on the path of protracted people's war. Advance extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare on the basis of an ever widening and deepening mass base. Strengthen and expand units of the people's army and people's militia. Part by part, smash and defeat the arrogant enemy. Achieve a thousand and one victories. Serve the masses wholeheartedly, and march along the long road to freedom and democracy! **AB**

 <p>Vol LIV No. 5 March 7, 2023</p> <hr/> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray, English and Spanish. Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p>	<h2 style="text-decoration: underline;">Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: People's war for freedom and democracy 1</p> <p>Negros holds studies and training 3</p> <p>NPA confiscates 5 pistols and shotguns 3</p> <p>RCEP will further destroy the economy 3</p> <p>Panay's toiling women suffer wage slavery 4</p> <p>Destructive projects in Negros 5</p> <p>People's protests 6</p> <p>"Modernization": Massacre of livelihood 7</p> <p>In short 8</p> <p>A year into the US/NATO war in Ukraine 9</p> <p>Military violence target peasants, communities 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	
 ang.bayan@cpc.ph	 @angbayan1969

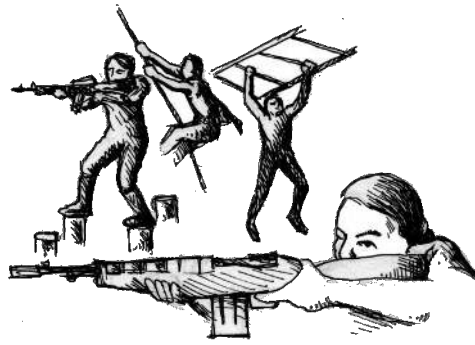
NPA-Negros holds studies and training amid militarization

Two groups of fighters in Central Negros and Southwest Negros finished the Intermediate Party Course (IPC) in the middle of heightened military operations in February. The study was held for 13 days.

Scores of members of the Party, the NPA and revolutionary mass organizations in the guerilla fronts were able to consolidate amid continuing combat operations of the 302nd and 303rd IBde in the island. With the support of the revolutionary masses, fascist enemy forces were kept blind and deaf on the presence of the people's army in the areas the activities were held.

Red fighters in Central Negros also graduated from a week-long Basic Politico-Military Course wherein a team of new recruits joined the New People's Army (NPA).

"It is better that we are inside the NPA because we can be armed with the knowledge of basic revolutionary principles and technique and tactics in guerilla warfare to defeat the police and AFP and all other



class enemies," said Ka Jerry, one of the Red fighters who participated in the military training crash course.

As part of their practicum after the training, fighters mounted seven armed actions in Central Negros, where three are punitive actions and four are sniping operations. These armed actions aim to weaken the fascist machinery of the enemy in the guerilla front.

Ka Jerry added that the training gave the fighters additional knowledge and courage to continue advancing the armed struggle. This further prepared the minds of the fighters in the face of relentless enemy attacks.

"We shall arm ourselves on the aspect of politico-military to vigorously face the sacrifices and difficulties as Red fighters," he said. AB

NPA confiscates 5 pistols and shotguns in Canlaon City

OPERATIVES OF THE New People's Army (NPA)-Central Negros confiscated four .45 calibre pistols and a 12 gauge shotgun, magazines and ammunition in a disarming operation against Noletto Hermoso of Sityo Inatito, Barangay Bucalan, Canlaon City on February 21. The operation lasted for 10 minutes, the NPA unit said.

Hermoso is known to have links with the military and smuggles firearms, according to the report of the NPA-Central Negros. They also reported that Hermoso repeatedly fire shots and threatens his neighbors. Before the operation, the NPA unit repeatedly talked to Hermoso to convince him stop his anti-social activities.

Meanwhile, a soldier of the 62nd IB was killed in a sniping operation of the NPA-Central Negros at Sitio Batang-batangan in the same barangay on February 26.

RCEP will further destroy the economy

PEASANT GROUPS LED by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) expressed paramount opposition to the Philippines' decision to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Senate ratified the treaty on February 23 with a vote of 22 in favor, one against and one abstention.

Agriculture will be one of the most affected sectors upon entry of RCEP as under the treaty, the Philippines will be obligated to remove tariffs on sensitive agricultural products. Claims by its proponents saying the country needs the treaty for free competition are false.

The Philippines' backward and neglected agriculture is in no position to compete with imported commodities from countries which provide massive subsidies to their

farmers. Presently, farmers are already deep in debt due to high costs of production. Farmgate prices are pulled down because of unimpeded importation, smuggling and manipulation of cartels in collusion with the ruling reactionary faction.

Decades of "free trade" have caused unprecedented damage to the country's agriculture and industries. These sectors plunged deeper in crisis since the Philippines joined the World Trade Organization in the

1990s. Manufacturing has the smallest share in the country's gross domestic product last year while agriculture dropped to its smallest in the country's entire history.

Policies imposed by the WTO have killed many sectors in the industry and agriculture and have maintained the entire backward economy. This pushed programs in privatization, deregulation and liberalization on trade, products, services, agriculture and many others.

Since 1995, the country joined not less than 10 treaties on "free trade." These include treaties with China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, ASEAN and Europe. AB

Panay's toiling women suffer unemployment and wage slavery

Panay farm worker Vina's wage start at ₱270 per day. This is lower than the daily wage of men farm workers which is at ₱350-₱400 for a day of toiling in the farms. In the island, majority of the farmers, women and men, do not receive the government mandated ₱410 daily wage for agricultural workers in the Western Visayas.

It has been a long time since wages for Vina and farm workers like her were increased. Big landlords in the island disregard the mandated wage increase by the Department of Labor and Employment on April 2022. In collusion with the state's economic officials, they justify this by saying that the meager wage increase is "harmful to the economy."

Ferrylyn, a cashier, and Rosario, a canteen helper, have a slightly higher daily wage of ₱300. Nevertheless, it is far from the ₱450 mandated minimum wage in the region for non-agricultural workers. The two are part of the service and retail subsectors wherein a third of women workers of Region VI are part of. Like Vina, their wages did not increase despite the DOLE order.

Like in other parts of the country, a big number of women who are considered "employed" are in the "informal sector" or engaged

in irregular and insecure jobs, and who receive paltry or even zero wages. One of them is 66-year old Lola Dolores, who earns ₱50-₱100 per day from hawking *balot* and *penoy*. The sector includes women working in manual and unskilled jobs who compose a third of "employed" women in the region. One of them, Ariel, earns ₱150 for a day of doing laundry. Manicurist Rosana, another Panayanon, meanwhile earns ₱120 per day.

But the biggest number of women in the island are those not recorded in the statistics of the labor force and are considered as "unproductive" by the state. Data for 2020 in Western Visayas, the region which includes Panay, said the labor force participation rate was 58.7% or 3.1 million of the population aged 15-years old and above which was 5.4 million. Of

this number, only 1.1 million (35%) were women. Compared to 33.8% of males, more than half or 66.2% of women in the region were not in the labor force. This is a reflection of the unequal opportunities for decent jobs for the large number of Panayanon women.

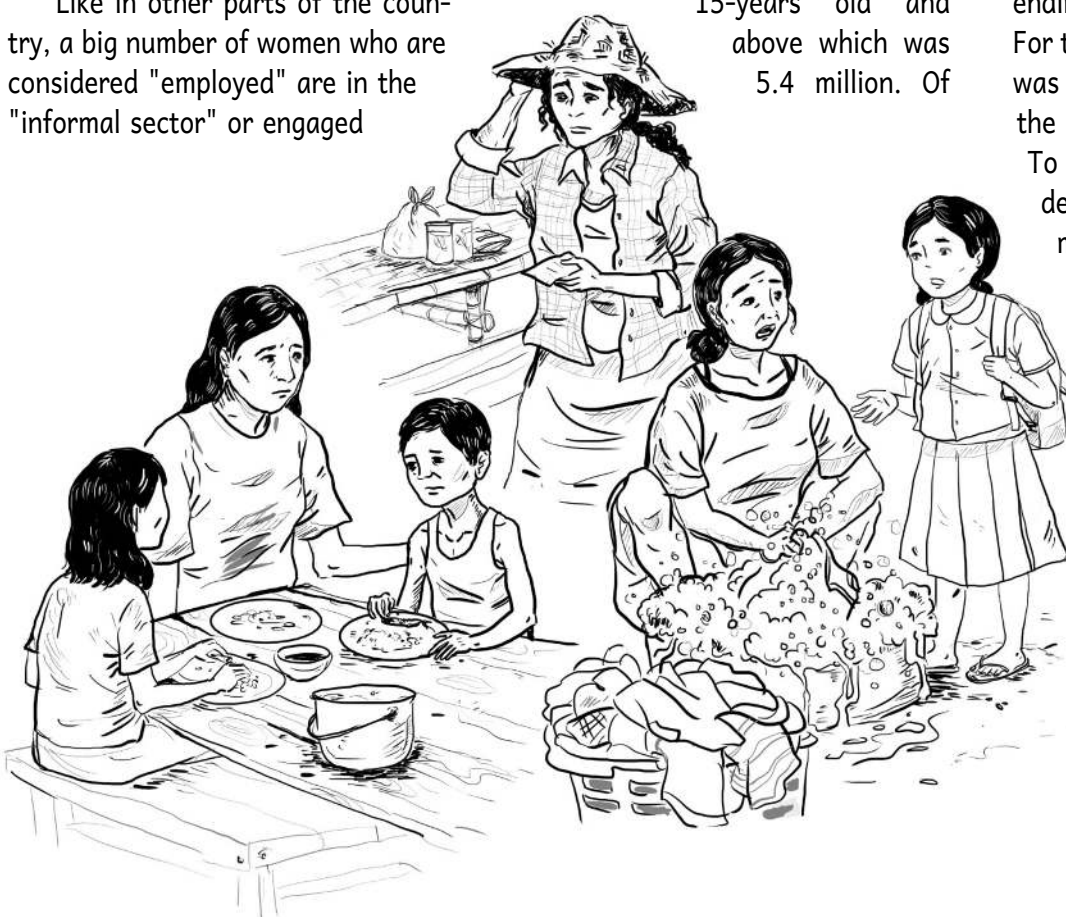
One of them is Virgie, a housewife who helps her husband in providing for their family. To contribute, she accepts oddjobs which can earn up to ₱200, depending on the season. Other housewives like her raise animals in their backyards and plant for additional food.

Even as the number of women in the labor force is already low, the number of employed women is even lower. In the region, 63.2% of those employed are men while only 36.8% are women. Meanwhile, 41.4% of the 183,000 unemployed in the region in 2020 were women.

Panay's toiling women do not have a choice but to tighten their families' belts in the face of the unending skyrocketing of inflation. For the month of February, inflation was estimated to reach 9.3% from the already high 8.7% in January. To cope with the already large deficit, almost all women borrow money. Microfinancing companies then exploit their desperation to further bury them in debt with high interest rates. These loans are paid daily or weekly.

Like the toiling men, with or without work, part of the labor force or not, toiling women in Panay demand regular and decent jobs, wage increases and lower prices of commodities.

(Read the related article on the situation of the people in Western Visayas in the previous issue of AB.)



Destructive projects in Negros' protected areas

In August 2022, plans of the 79th IB to bomb Mt. Mandalagan, a mountain which is part of the protected North Negros National Park (NNNP), were preempted. The military said the bombing is a "test run" but people were aware that its objective was to drive away people in the area, as well as units of the New People's Army who have been defending the remaining forests in the island from plunder. This was to give way for the environmentally plunderous and destructive infrastructure and eco-tourism projects of the big bourgeoisie.

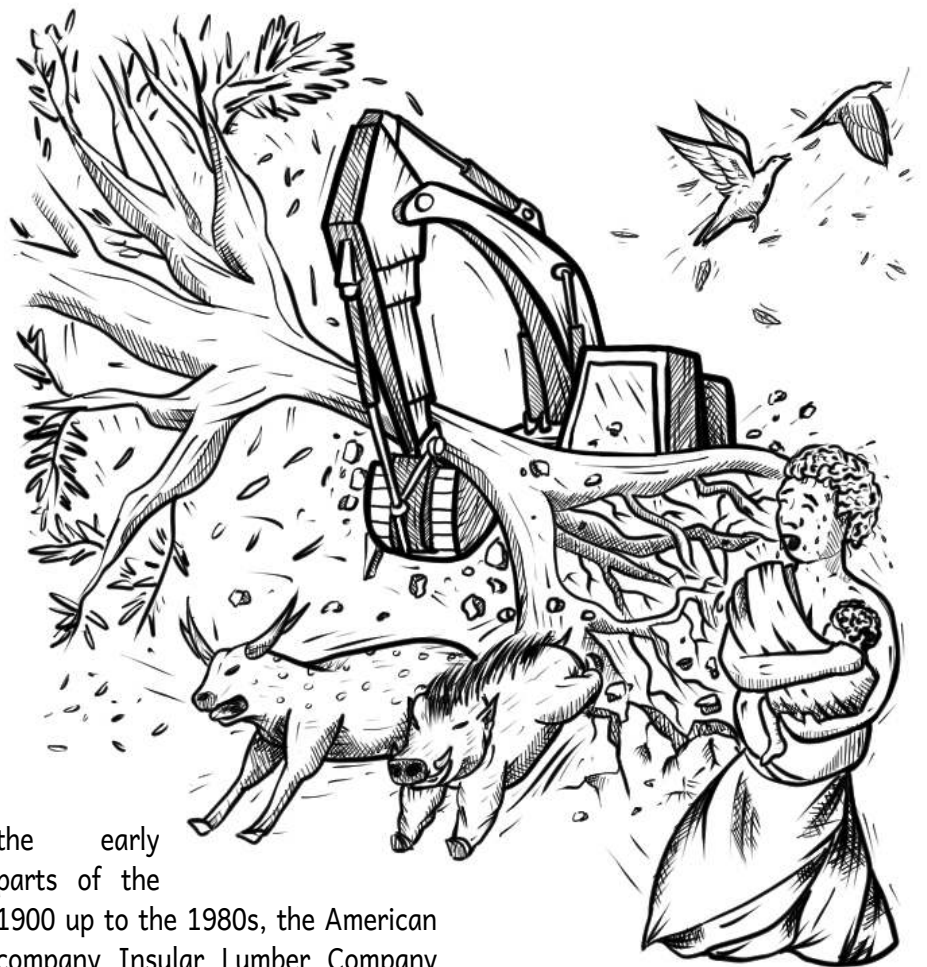
The NNNP is a mountainous area covering more than 80,400 hectares of land in Negros Occidental. It was declared a forest area in 1940 and a protected area in 2005. It covers 10% of the island, which includes parts of the cities of Talisay, Silay, Victorias, Cadiz, Sagay and San Carlos and towns of Murcia, Don Salvador Benedicto, EB Magalona, Toboso and Calatrava.

At its backbone is Mt. Mandalagan and Mt. Silay which are considered the biggest watershed of the province. It has four water systems which are source of potable water for 17 cities and towns, including Metro Bacolod.

The indigenous Ati and Bukidnon reside and live harmoniously in the NNNP. They rely on its forests for livelihood, food and medicine. Apart from them, thousands of Negrosanons reside and farm in more than 40,000 hectares of the area.

The NNNP is recognized as the shield against destruction brought by climate change and calamities like extreme typhoons, rain and wind. It also serves as an important biodiversity area and home of various flora and fauna.

Like many other natural resources in the country, the big compradors and their foreign capitalist partners and local bureaucrats are racing to exploit the area. During



the early parts of the 1900 up to the 1980s, the American company Insular Lumber Company (ILCO) denuded its forests. At this time, the ILCO was known as the world's biggest logging company.

Fast forward to the present, the bourgeoisie and their partners continue to plunder the NNNP. The latest among these are projects on eco-tourism, road networks and plans to construct a geothermal plant and open magnetite mining operations.

Patag-Silay-Calatrava-Cadiz Road

On the pretext of the pandemic in 2020, the Department of Public Works and Highways began road construction from Calatrava to Silay City which cut through the heart of the NNNP. The project was awarded to Trimluv Builders and Supply, a construction company which is involved in another destructive project—the Jalaur River Multi-purpose Project in the neighboring island of Panay. The contract for the construction of the 3.7 kilometer road is worth ₱125 million.

Environmental groups, including the San Carlos Diocese, fiercely resist the project. They said this

would mean the clearing of the forests, destruction of the natural terrain, eviction of wild animals and the widescale ecological destruction and loss of its benefits.

The project is packaged as a farm-to-market road which will purportedly benefit farmers. But it is clear that this is but an initial step for bigger and more destructive projects the bourgeoisie and their partners plan to construct inside the protected area.

Eco-tourism

Don Salvador Benedicto is branded as the "summer capital" of Negros Occidental because of its relatively cool climate. The local government opened the town's 500 hectares to foreign and local investments in 2014 despite two-thirds of its area is inside the NNNP.

This gave way to the clearing of forests and construction of resorts, concrete roads and other illegal structures by non-residents in the area. Similar structures were also erected in Patag, Silay City and

Continue "Destructive projects..." on page 6

People's protests: Demand for justice, anti-chacha and for livelihood

Consecutive protests were mounted by democratic organizations in Metro Manila and different parts of the country in the past two weeks.

Oppose the Marcos cha-cha. Various sectors protested in front of Congress on March 6 to express their opposition to the attempt to amend the 1987 Constitution. Marcos Jr's lackeys railroaded the bill to create a Constitutional Convention to amend the constitution set on the last quarter of the year. Marcos wants to remove provisions on the limitations of foreign ownership and economic investments, as well as the limitation on term limits of national and local officials.

EDSA37. More than 2,000 gathered in front of the People Power Monument on February 25 to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the EDSA Uprising which ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr and his family. This was the first anniversary of the uprising after the Marcoses returned to power.

Justice to New Bataan 5. Youth groups commemorated on February 24 the first year anniversary of the 1001st IBde's massacre of Chad Booc, Gelejurain Ngujo II, Elegyn Balonga, Tirso Añar and Robert Aragon in Andap, New Bataan town, Davao de Oro. They demanded that

military units involved in the crime be made accountable.

Reopen CADP. In Batangas, sugarcane worker-members of the Batangas Labor Union at Central Azucarera Don Pedro Professional Technical Monthly Paid Workers Union Inc. staged a protest. They gathered in front of the Azucarera Don Pedro sugar mill in Nasugbu to denounce union harassment and call for the reopening of CADP.

Junk the Herrera Law! Labor groups trooped to the Commission on Human Rights office on March 2 to call for the repeal of the 34-year old Herrera Law. The said law has permitted the proliferation of contractualization and repression of workers' rights to strike and form a union.

Women's noise barrage and protest. Gabriela launched its series of noise barrages and protests on February 27 in front of the SM North in Quezon City and the Iloilo Provincial Capitol for the National Women's Month.

On March 3, women youth groups protested at Mendiola to oppose the EDCA and MROTC.

On March 4, women led by the Lila Pilipina gathered at the Plaza Rajah Sulayman in Manila to oppose the US-Japan-Philippines Security Triad, along with calls for justice to Filipino comfort women during the Second World War.

Hold imperialists accountable for climate crisis. Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines mounted a protest in front of a hotel in Makati City on March 2 in lieu of a meeting of a United Nations committee to hold capitalist countries accountable who are leading emitters of greenhouse gases causing climate crisis. They demand reparations from these countries for damages and lost value due to catastrophes caused by climate change.

On March 3, activists trooped to the DENR to call for the repeal of the destructive Philippine Mining Act on its 28th year as part of the Global Climate Strike.

No to demolition. Residents of Maysapang, Taguig City picketed on February 22 to oppose the planned demolition in their community.

Junk the Fisheries Code of 1998. Fisherfolks stormed the office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Quezon City on February 24 to demand the repeal of the repressive Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 on its 25th anniversary. Apart from this, they demanded an end to dredging operations and reclamation projects in Manila Bay which are destructive to the environment and livelihoods of small fishermen.

End military occupation! Parents and teachers of the Mataragan National Agricultural School in Barangay Mataragan, Malibcong, Abra on February 21 kicked out soldiers who have encamped in the barrio's school grounds. They actively campaigned against the soldiers' threat to the security of their children. AB

"Destructive projects..." from page 5

Gawahon, Victorias City.

Driven by real estate speculation, land values rose owing to the area's increasing popularity. Increasing number of developers are salivating to enter the NNNP to construct commercial vacation homes for foreign tourists. More and more spaces are cleared inside the NNNP for these structures.

To remove the obstacles to these projects, communities around the NNNP are being sub-

jected to militarization. On June 22, 2022, the 79th IB staged a fake encounter in Sitio Tinibyangan, Barangay Minapasuk, Calatrava to drive away about 50 individuals.

This was followed with strafing on July 6, 2022 where two children were wounded at Sitio Banwa Minatay, Barangay Marcelo of the same town.

Recently, San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminanza, one of those who oppose the destruction and plunder of the NNNP, became a target of military intimidation. AB

On the "modernization" of public transportation: Massacre of livelihood, burden on consumers

The reactionary state has pushed for the pro-foreign and pro-capitalist phaseout of traditional jeepneys in the name of modernization in the past five years. This year, the Marcos regime furthered this by imposing a new deadline for the consolidation of franchises. Several thousands of drivers and operators mounted a transport strike and protest actions in the entire country against the said program. They gained the support of other sectors and commuters.

Drivers and operators of jeepneys and UV Express (commuter vans) first announced their plan to go on strike on February 27. In response, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) moved the deadline at the end of the year. This was not enough for drivers. They called for the total repeal of the program. On March 6, groups protested at Mendiola, UP Diliman, Novaliches, Monumento, Manila, Baclaran, Pasig, Alabang, Los Baños, Bicol, Cebu, Davao and many other places.

Massacre of livelihood

This plan is a deathblow to the livelihood of drivers and operators. A unit of the electronic jeepney that the state demands as replacement for traditional jeepneys costs ₱1.6-₱2.3 million. This is a huge burden for drivers who only earn an average of ₱700 per day, an amount which is not even enough to live on decently. The government's offer to buy their traditional jeepneys for ₱200,000 to help purchase a new one is insulting. Apart from this, additional "assistance" will be in the form of loans which they will then pay for seven years at 6% interest and 5% equity. In the end, a driver or operator will have to pay up to ₱3.4 million per unit.

The mandatory creation of cooperatives and corporation to replace individual franchises is

clearly a failure. Operators who already established a cooperative were buried in debt. They need to pay ₱475,000 monthly amortization for the operation of 15 units of modern jeeps. These units are easily destroyed and spare parts are hard to acquire.

In a day, operators of electronic jeepneys earn ₱8,000. Around 50%-55% of this is allotted for fuel expenses and the remainder is allocated for other expenses like amortization. Fuel price increases the past months are also an additional burden which cuts a lot from their remaining income.

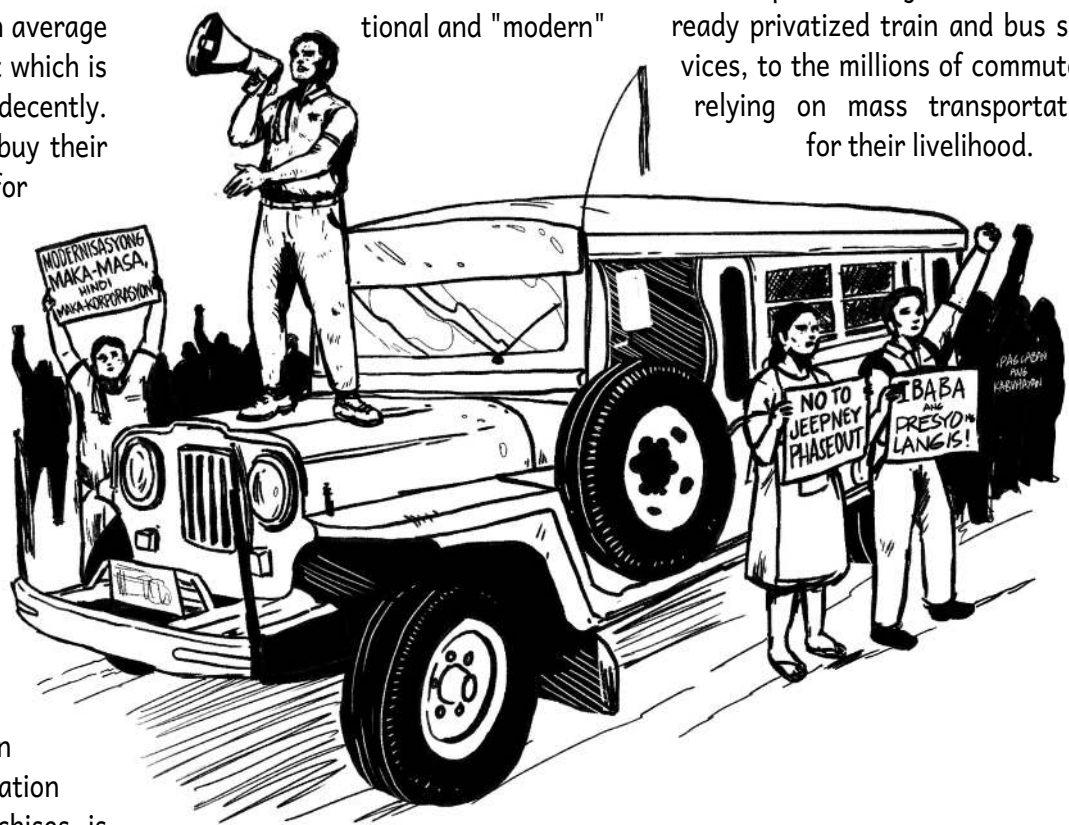
Drivers and operators are not the only ones who will be affected by this program. Commuters will shoulder fare increases resulting from this policy. At present, the difference between traditional and "modern"

jeepney fare is at ₱2. According to studies, minimum fare could increase up to ₱35-₱40 in "modern" jeeps for drivers and operators to earn and pay for the cost of purchasing one.

On the other hand, big corporations which will supply these "modern" jeeps will rake in profits. Due to the lack of a local industry, 100% of "modern" jeepneys and spare parts are imported.

Only big companies and corporations in the Philippines will benefit from the sale and operation of these jeeps. In 2022, Manny Pangilinan invested ₱1.5 billion for 500 jeepney units. Meanwhile in 2017, QEV Philippines supported by the Aboitiz family, a local unit of the Singapore's QEV Capital Pte. Ltd, launched its own electronic jeeps. Hyundai Asia Resources Inc from South Korea and joint-ventures Hino Motors Philippines Corporation, Isuzu Philippines Corporation and Mahindra Cars Philippines are also selling electronic jeeps.

Modernization will surely be catastrophic, along with the already privatized train and bus services, to the millions of commuters relying on mass transportation for their livelihood. AB



₱708

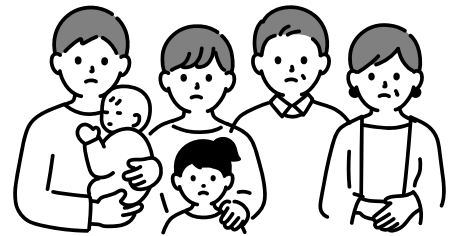
estimated additional monthly expenses of a worker if the fare increase for the LRT-1, LRT-2 and MRT pushes through.

Meanwhile, LRT-1 alone will earn ₱2.46 million per day if the fare increase is approved.

4 BATTALIONS

were deployed to Samar from December 2022 to February 2023 against the allegedly remaining 4 guerilla fronts in the region.

These battalions have a long record of human rights violations and summary executions and harassment of civilians.



₱1,000

meager additional aid approved by the Department of Budget and Management for the poorest families in the country.

Meanwhile, Senate employees successfully asserted that they be given ₱38,000 additional allowance to cope with the skyrocketing inflation.

130,000 sacks

of contraband sugar were intercepted in the port of Batangas on February 9.

Malacañang permitted its entry by releasing a Department of Agriculture order on March 1 for the importation of 440,000 metric tons of sugar.

\$15.71B

worth of agricultural products entered the country in 2022,

almost three times more than the agricultural export that is about \$6.79 billion only, which amounted to a deficit of almost \$9 billion.

₱500 billion

tax big companies evaded to pay in 2022.

On the other hand, ordinary Filipinos are not able to escape from paying taxes imposed on food, commodities and services.

2

new species of hedgehogs were discovered in Eastern Mindanao in February 2023.



One of the two, called the *podogymnura intermedia*, can be found at Mount Hamiguitan, Davao Oriental, and Mount Kampalili in Pantukan, Davao de Oro, while the *P. minima* species was discovered at Mount Kitanglad, Bukidnon.

A year into the US/NATO war in Ukraine

A year after the war in Ukraine commenced, several democratic and anti-imperialist organizations criticized the US government and its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for stoking the proxy war in Ukraine against Russia. On February 25, different organizations came together in a protest in Brussels, Belgium to commemorate the first anniversary of the war and demand its immediate end.

For the part of the Communist Party of the Philippines, it condemned the US' nonstop pouring of weapons and military equipment in Ukraine. The Party said that the US/NATO continuously stoke and prolong its proxy war against imperialist rival Russia. Ending US and NATO intervention is key to end the war and resolve its roots across the negotiating table. It should recognize the aspirations of the Ukrainian people for peace, freedom and democracy, as well as the aspiration of the Russian-speaking population of the Donbass region for their right to secession and national self-determination.

The war has resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands to 200,000 soldiers and civilians on all sides of the conflict. Attacks on civilian infrastructures have intensified. Millions of Ukrainians have

been driven away from their homes and economically displaced.

Profiting from the people's misery

While the broad masses of workers in Ukraine are suffering, monopoly capitalists continue to rake in profits. The US military industrial complex is one of the biggest profiteers in the prolonged war. The Biden government alone has poured \$76.8 billion into Ukraine, 61% of which comprises of direct provision and grants and loans for weapons and military equipment. US/NATO allied countries such as Germany, France and the UK also profit from these.

Market speculation of large finance capitalists and monopoly companies push the prices of key commodities including oil and grain. Disruptions in fuel supplies to Europe caused by US sanctions against

Russian natural gas caused widespread suffering to people during winter.

The US/NATO proxy war in Ukraine against Russia is an inter-imperialist war. It is a manifestation of the continuing crisis of the moribund monopoly capitalist system. Lenin pointed to the possibility of redividing the world among the imperialist powers as they seek to continuously expand its spheres of investments and hegemony. Among the strategic aims of the US is to take over Russia's large European market of natural gas, as well as seize control of the rare earth mineral resources in the Donbass region.

The sharpening global crisis of capitalism, and, in particular, the prolonged stagnation and slide into economic recession of the US and other leading capitalist countries, intensify the push of the US to provoke wars against its imperialist rivals.

Even as the US pours billions of dollars into the war in Ukraine, it is busy increasing its military presence in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and other Asian countries, as part of its preparations of the theater of war against China.

The proletariat around the world must act vigorously and lead in building and strengthening international solidarity among all anti-imperialist organizations, movements and countries in order to mobilize the greatest numbers of people. They should demand an end to the US/NATO war in Ukraine against Russia, and to US imperialist war-mongering and war preparations elsewhere in the world. **AB**

US BENEFITS IN THE UKRAINE WAR (2022)

\$153.7B 
arms sales of American companies **NORTHROP GRUMMAN**, **LOCKHEED MARTIN** and **RAYTHEON**, almost 50% more before the war.

\$131.1B 
profits of American oil companies **EXXONMOBIL**, **CHEVRON** and **SHELL** from ceaseless speculation which pushed the prices of petroleum products.

\$196B 
worldwide sale of US **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS** and **FOOD** due to the supply interruption of exports from Russia and Eastern Europe.

Military violence target peasants, communities

Consecutive cases of human rights violations against peasants were reported in the past weeks. Units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are involved in attacking civilian communities in violation of the international humanitarian law.

In Albay, state forces killed peasant Vernon Bonggat on February 20 inside his house in Barangay Tablon, Oas. His murder is considered as retaliation of state forces after the 49th IB suffered defeat against the New People's Army (NPA) on February 15 in Barangay Ramay.

Two military state agents forcibly entered his room at around 8:30 p.m. before he was killed. Bonggat's house is a kilometer away from operating forces of the 49th IB.

In Negros Occidental, houses of peasants Albascion Onopre and Rhoda Garnica in Sitio Cabagnaan, Barangay Carabalan, Himamaylan City were strafed and destroyed by 94th IB soldiers on March 1. According to reports, the incident oc-

curred after an encounter reportedly took place between the 49th IB and an NPA unit in a separate part of the sitio.

Residents evacuated in fear because of the incident. About a hundred families evacuated to the barangay center from the sitios of Panagbaan, Florete, Cabalungan, and Daat after the incident.

Meanwhile, 62nd IB troops mauled peasant Lindon Mata at Sitio Bantolinao, Barangay Santol, Binalbagan on February 23. In Barangay Amuntay on February 14, the 62nd IB entered the house of Lindayaos who were with their children. While talking to Jelman Lindayao in front of their children, soldiers placed a bolo on Jelman's neck.

In Bukidnon, soldiers ransacked

the house of Nerisa Lumayag at Sitio Gabonan, Barangay Dumalaguing, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon on January 29. Lumayag was with her husband and children when soldiers entered their house. The incident terrorized the family especially the children. The family is accused of helping and assisting the NPA with its supplies.

In Abra, military agents harassed and interrogated peasant and Mabaca tribe Peace council member Jerome Agaid, a resident of Mataragan, Malibcong. Agaid was fishing with his 5-year old child in Barangay Gadani, Tayum when they were threatened and detained.

The 24th IB forced Agaid to "surrender" and turn his back against his own tribe. According to the report, the military exploited the recent hospitalization of his wife to coerce Agaid to cooperate. The soldiers promised to pay for his wife's hospitalization if he follows their orders. AB