



EDITORIAL

## March along the path of armed struggle until complete victory

**O**n March 29, the Filipino people and all their revolutionary forces will mark the 50th founding anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA). This will serve as occasion to celebrate all victories accumulated through five decades of fierce armed resistance against the armed agents of the US-supported reactionary government of oppressors and exploiters.

In celebrating the NPA's 50th anniversary, all its Red fighters and commanders, as well as Party cadres and mass activists, reaffirm their determination to wage revolutionary armed struggle whatever the hardships and sacrifices and however long it takes to end the Filipino people's oppression and exploitation under the neocolonial state and class rule of the big bourgeois compradors and big landlords.

For 50 years now, the reactionary armed forces have failed to defeat the revolutionary armed

struggle waged by the NPA under the Party's absolute leadership. The NPA has surmounted relentless military offensives mounted by the US-supported Armed Forces of the Philippines. It has grown from one level to another, from a small company of Red fighters in 1969 to a nationwide revolutionary army, the strongest ever in the Filipino people's history.

The reactionaries have been repeatedly frustrated in their futile attempt to defeat the NPA.

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## AFP sustains 44 casualties in Visayas

NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA) units launched consecutive military actions in Samar, Negros and Panay last January 4-19. Within 16 days, 16 offensives were launched in the Visayas which dealt at least 44 casualties against the Philippine Army.

In other parts of the country, the people's army continue to carry out offensives.

**Negros Oriental.** The NPA simultaneously attacked two Peace and Development Teams of the 302nd Bde in barangays Tacpao and Binobohan in Guihulngan City last January 19 at 4:47 a.m.

The Red fighters raided the PDTs occupying the Tacpao barangay hall and day

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More significantly, armed with lessons from the past and determined to overcome weaknesses and shortcomings, the NPA is ever confident and capable of further strengthening itself and advancing the people's war to higher levels and attaining complete victory in the foreseeable future.

Marking the NPA's golden anniversary at this time is even more significant as it has so far prevailed over the strategic offensive under the Duterte fascist regime's National Internal Security Plan (NISP) mounted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) since last year.

Contrary to AFP declarations since 2015 of aiming to decimate the NPA in Eastern Mindanao, the NPA forces in those regions continue to persevere and score victories. Despite suffering setbacks in some parts, mostly as a result of internal weaknesses, the NPA in the eastern Mindanao regions continues to surmount difficulties

posed by the AFP's sustained military offensives.

Underscoring the determination of the NPA and its ability to confront the enemy's superior military force, its units in Mindanao continue to successfully mount major tactical offensives wiping out enemy contingents and seizing its weapons. It has frustrated several rounds of focused military offensives, dealing significant blows to the rampaging enemy forces. In the past two years, the NPA has also steadily advanced in Western Mindanao.

Since last year, Duterte and his military officers repeated ad nauseam their plan of crushing the NPA by middle of this year. However, in the face of the conspicuous and undeniable steady advance of the NPA nationwide, it has changed its tune and moved their deadline (for the umpteenth time) to the end of 2022. After extending martial law rule in Mindanao, it has extended its declaration of a state of national

emergency to Bicol in Luzon, and in the Negros and Samar provinces in Visayas, to cover close to half of the country.

Overcoming several years of slow growth, the NPA in Luzon and Visayas regions have made significant headway, resolving such problems as overdispersal, self-constriction, military conservatism, and so on. Units of the NPA in north and south Luzon and across the Visayas regions are moving higher from one level of strength to another. This is unequivocally demonstrated by the rising tempo of successful NPA tactical offensives mounted since the latter part of 2018.

The NPA is determined to accomplish the tasks set upon it by the Party over the course of the current five-year program of the Central Committee. It aims to recruit several thousand more Red fighters and bring the people's war to levels higher than ever before.

This year, the NPA is set on frustrating the continuing strategic offensive of the US-Duterte fascist regime and its armed forces, police and paramilitary groups. It aims to further raise the momentum of the revolutionary armed struggle in the coming months by mounting more annihilative tactical offensives to wipe out enemy units and seize their weapons.

The US-Duterte regime is becoming increasingly frustrated and desperate in its aim of suppressing the people's armed and non-armed resistance. The AFP is overstretching its forces and wasting gross amounts of public money in all-out military offensives. Its troops are increasingly being forced to go on one combat operation after another with very short periods of rest and rising casualties. Conflicts over corruption and favoritism are set to rise and break out among officers and between officers and foot soldiers. US military support for Duterte's total war will be increasingly untenable

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care center using command-detonated explosives (CDX). This was followed by grenades and rifle grenades from the NPA advance unit. Twelve soldiers were killed in the raid.

Meanwhile, Red fighters fired upon another PDT in barangay Binobohan.

On January 14, 8:40 a.m., Red fighters fired upon a platoon of the 94th IB under Capt. Joshua Lodrigo while the soldiers were traversing the road between sitios Kaningag and Kanlabaw in Barangay Banwage, Guihulngan City. Nine soldiers were killed.

On January 4, the BHB simultaneously fired at an outpost of the 94th IB in Barangay Linantuyan, Guihulngan City and of the 62nd IB in Barangay Sikatuna, Isabela, Negros Occidental. Two enemy casualties were reported.

**Negros Occidental.** An element of the 15th IB was killed and another wounded in an NPA offensive in Sitio Pacama, Barangay Magballo, Kabankalan City last January 18. Prior to this, a soldier was wounded in a harassment operation against the Bravo Coy of the 62nd IB in Barangay Hilamonan in the same city last January 11, 7:45 p.m.

**Western Samar.** Nine soldiers, including three sergeants and tree

corporals, sustained wounds when the NPA-Western Samar ambushed the 63rd IB in Barangay Bay-ang, San Jorge, Western Samar last January 11, past 4 p.m. Red fighters used a CDX and fired at troops under the command of Lt. Col. Rizaldo Laurena.

In Barangay Concepcion, a soldier was killed and two wounded after the NPA launched harassment operations against the 52nd IB camp at midnight on January 19.

**Iloilo.** Two soldiers were wounded in an ambush launched by the NPA against 61st IB and 33rd DRC troopers at Sitio Tigmahon, Barangay Almodias, Miag-ao on January 11, at 8 a.m.

The NPA mounted another ambush on January 13, 11:30 a.m. There were at least four enemy casualties reported. On the same day, at 5:30 a.m., a CAFGU element was wounded in an NPA harassment operation against a 61st IB and CAFGU detachment in Barangay Cabatangan, Lambunao.

The NPA also fired at soldiers occupying Barangay Malitbog Ilaya, Bingawan on January 13 in the evening, and at 61st IB troopers in Barangay Tigmalapad, Miag-ao on January 16, at 11:30 p.m.

**Antique.** The NPA carried out harassment operations against a CAFGU detachment in Barangay

Osorio 1, San Remegio on January 12 and 13.

**NORTHCENTRAL MINDANAO.** The AFP sustained 11 casualties in two NPA-NCMR offensives in Cabanglasan and Iligan City. On January 10, Red fighters fired at 8th IB-CAFGU elements constructing their camp at Sitio Miaray, Barangay Manggaod. Six enemy troopers and two others were killed and wounded, respectively.

On January 15, an NPA unit harassed troopers of the 51st IB in Barangay Mainit, Iligan City. A soldier was killed and three others were wounded.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Bukidnon paralyzed a boom spray owned by the DOLE Philippines last January 18 at Sitio Kibalang, Lilingayon, Valencia City. DOLE, a company which produces bananas and pineapples, is notorious for destroying the environment and landgrabbing from peasants and Lumads.

**NORTHEASTERN MINDANAO.** The NPA carried out three active defense actions against soldiers of the 4th ID who were combing through upland communities since December 2018.

**Agusan del Sur.** On December

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as grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law rouse international indignation.

The US-Duterte regime is causing the Filipino people grave suffering with its onerous taxes, social cuts, further import liberalization, excessive foreign borrowing and other neoliberal policies. This has resulted in rising cost of living, joblessness and widespread economic displacement among the broad masses of workers, peasants and petty-bourgeoisie and further ruin of the national bourgeoisie. The Duterte regime is increasingly bankrupt as it faces rising trade

and fiscal deficits, devaluation of the peso, balance of payment deficits and other financial troubles. Corruption has become increasingly rampant as Duterte and his allies plunder state resources through flagrant bureaucrat capitalist and criminal operations.

In the face of its utter failure to address the pressing socio-economic conditions of the people, the Duterte regime has increasingly resorted to all-out political suppression through military rule and other draconian measures. It is employing state terrorism to silence all criticism and opposition to his tyrannical rule. There are

rampant cases of extrajudicial killings and massacres, abductions, arbitrary and prolonged detention, filing of trumped-up charges, armed intimidation and coercion, food blockades and restriction of movement and other attacks on democratic rights.

In the face of the fascist criminal onslaught of the Duterte regime, the Filipino people are ever drawn to join or support the armed struggle being waged by the NPA. Under Duterte's reign of terror, the need to wage revolutionary armed struggle has become ever more necessary and urgent. AB

# NPA-NCMR's diverse and advanced medical work experiences



*This article is a contribution of the New People's Army-North Central Mindanao Region (NPA-NCMR) to the Ang Bayan series showcasing advanced and contemporary experiences of the NPA in various fields of work. This is part of recognizing the accomplishments and victories of the NPA in the past 50 years. Ang Bayan is calling on NPA operations commands at all levels to contribute their experiences as part of the preparation for the 50th anniversary of the NPA this March 29.*

Health work is part of waging the revolution," said Ka Iris, a member of the Regional Medical Staff of the New People's Army (NPA) in the North Central Mindanao Region (NCMR), in an interview last December 2018.

As an independent people's army, this is a crucial NPA line of work. It covers healthcare for Red fighters, sanitation, first aid, and even carrying out major and minor medical operations. Major medical

operations include combat surgeries or operating on injuries sustained during armed encounters.

Medical committees and groups are established in every front and company wherein its members' skills

are forged through theoretical and practical trainings. These include basic, intermediate and advanced health courses.

Medical officers in NCMR are now a size of a company. Conferences and trainings have been conducted to enhance their skills and has resulted in more efficient provision of basic health services to the people's army and the masses.

## Major and combat operations

One of the specialties of medical committees in the region is on treating gunshot wounds (GSW) sustained by Red fighters during armed encounters.

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23, the NPA detonated an explosive against operating troops of the 26th IB in Sumulon, Barangay Padiay, Sibagat. Another harassment operation was mounted against the 3rd Special Forces Battalion in the hinterlands of San Juan, Bayugan on January 5.

**Surigao del Sur.** Red fighters also detonated a bomb against troops of the 36th IB in Manhulayan, Barangay Bolhoon, San Miguel on January 7.

**SOUTHERN TAGALOG.** P03 Rodolph De Saldajeno, intelligence head of PNP-Rizal, was killed in an NPA partisan operation in Barangay Punta Baja on January 8. Saldajeno was active in organizing Barangay Intelligence Networks against the revolutionary movement.

## Successful armed actions in 2018

**BICOL.** Ka Raymond Buenfuerza, NPA-Bicol spokesperson, reported a total of 101 tactical offensives launched by the NPA in the region in 2018. This resulted in 72

elements of the 9th ID and the PNP killed and another 56 wounded. These offensives include the 15 coordinated offensives mounted across the region on December 17-19, 2018.

On January 19, the NPA fired at the 31st IB camp in Sitio Kabugaan, Barangay San Isidro, Bulan, Sorsogon.

**CENTRAL LUZON.** Red fighters valiantly fought PNP and AFP fascist elements in the region. According to the NPA-Central Luzon report, no less than 14 soldiers and police were killed while four others were wounded in seven encounters with the NPA from September to November last year in Aurora and Nueva Ecija.

**Aurora.** Four 91st IB troopers were killed in NPA counter-attacks on September 2, 2018 in Barangay Villa Aurora and on November 14 in Barangay Decoliat, both in the town of Maria. Two Red fighters, Gerald "Ka Mat" Salonga and Noli Boy "Ka Nomer" Ronquillo, were martyred during the September 2 encounter.

On October 6, 2018, the NPA

ambushed troopers of the 1st Aurora Provincial Mobile Force Company aboard a vehicle in Sitio Dicong, Barangay Villa Aurora. No less than three police personnel were killed. On November 12, at Sitio Boundary in the same barangay, Red fighters carried out harassment operations against a 91st IB camp. Two soldiers were killed while three others were wounded.

**Nueva Ecija.** Five 84th IB troopers were killed in successive counter-attacks by the NPA in Pantabangan. The armed actions were carried out in barangays Malbang on November 1 and in Masiway on November 8. Another soldier was wounded during a harassment operation mounted by Red fighters against an enemy camp at Sitio Baong, Barangay Labi, Bongabon on September 17, 2018.

The NPA-Zambales also reported that it paralyzed two backhoes that were used in constructing the Capas-Botolan Road on June 23, 2018. Residents in the area were thankful as the said project is being used for landgrabbing. **AB**

## NPA-NCMR successfully conducts medical conference

THE NPA-NCMR successfully concluded its regional medical conference last December amid sustained military operations.

Twenty-two medical cadres and practitioners from the regional, subregional and front levels, as well as a representative from the urban committee participated in the meeting. The conference, which included a review of some courses, was conducted within 12 days.

The conference aimed to enhance the participants' practices and sum up their experiences. Ka Iris, Regional Medical Staff team leader, said, "the conference will

enable participants to sum up experiences in various fronts, correct wrong past practices and improve the correct ones."

Despite intense military operations, the unit of the people's army did not hesitate to improve their knowledge on the revolutionary health work. The military operations even reinforced the delegates' will to finish the conference.

"Let us prove to the enemy that we can face their blows," a delegate

said.

The discussion flow was lively as delegates from various fronts shared their concrete experiences. Ka Mayo, a revolutionary medic working in urban areas, said, "the direct participation of medics in the war will give them greater knowledge that will bring health work to a higher level."

By the end of the conference, the delegates enthusiastically pledged to implement their unities apply lessons learned from the conference. They carry with them newly acquired theories as they return to their respective units. **AB**

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Among the medical breakthroughs of the regional medical committee was a successful operation on a Red fighter who was shot on the chest last May. In a guerilla zone, a team performed thoracotomy to stop the bleeding inside the pleural cavity where the bullet was lodged. This condition is called tension pneumothorax with hemothorax, wherein the presence of blood and water in the cavity constrict the lungs. During the operation, the patient's chest was punctured and inserted a chest tube to drain the blood and water.

The medics closely monitored the patient on their way to the first medical station. They alternately carried the patient towards the second station where the operation was conducted. "We operated on the patient in a hammock because it was too painful for him to lie down," narrated Ka Mitch, one of the unit's medics. "Four medics worked together in the operation."

"We were nervous because we've never performed such procedure," Ka Mitch added. "It was challenging." Some processes were not followed due to lack of equipment. "The tubes we had were too short and had to be attached."

"We referred to several docu-

ments and consulted those who have performed the procedure." The actual operation lasted an hour. The patient was saved and was able to return as a regular Red fighter after three months.

Another recent experience was the performance of an emergency redact procedure to a farmer who accidentally chopped his foot with an axe. His metacarpals suffered trauma and the tendons were severed.

After providing first aid to the patient, the NPA medical staff organized their operating room. They administered general anesthesia to the patient while mending his broken bones and stitching the tendons. Using the basic surgical instruments, the medics gave their all to save the farmer's foot.

"Four medical teams worked in the operating room," shared Ka Amy, one of the medics who at-

tended to the patient.

"There was a time when the patient's vital signs became unstable. This was a problem as this could lead to cardiac arrest." The anesthesiologists were alarmed when the patient's pulse rate reached 100, but were able to eventually take control of the situation.

Among the anesthesiologists' tasks is to monitor the patient's vital signs and the effect of medicines on the patient. Due to the lack of medical equipment, they had to verbally update the surgeons on the patient's vital signs such as blood pressure every ten minutes. "On other operations, we use board and paper to record and draw the pattern of the patient's vital signs," Ka Amy narrated. "But in this case, the anesthesiologist verbally relayed them."

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# State violence erupts in 2019

Armed personnel of the US-Duterte regime's have been on rampage since the onset of the year. Up to 66 individuals fell victim to various cases of killings, illegal arrests and harassment. Aside from them, 41 families were driven out of their homes, and 15 communities and barrios were occupied by soldiers.

## Five civilians killed

In Bicol, three civilians were killed by 96th MICO soldiers within two weeks. On December 31, 2018, Ranoy Sampaga Masanoc, 27, was shot-dead while aboard a motorcycle in Sitio Matungao, Barangay Tugbo, Masbate. He sustained wounds on the head and chest.

On January 11 and 12, motorcycle-riding gunman shot Nicasio Ebio and Hermenegildo Domdom in two separate incidents in Sorsogon. Ebio, 37, a fisherman and member of Anakpawis, was killed first. He was shot near the barangay hall in Bato in the Bacon district.

According to witnesses, Ebio raised his hands and pleaded for his

life before he was shot. After the shooting, the perpetrators announced that they were going to kill another man and woman next.

A day later, Domdom, 32, was killed in the nearby town of Prieto Diaz. He was a construction worker. According to his co-worker who was aboard a motorcycle with him when he was shot, they were traversing

the border between San Ramon and Lupi when they were waylaid by the gunmen. Domdom was ordered to lie on the ground before he was shot. He was previously accused of being an NPA member. His wife is an active member of Anakpawis and is believed to be the gunmen's other target.

In Quezon, Albert Espenas, 39, a peasant resident of Barangay Mabunga in San Francisco was shot-dead at his store by gunmen pretending to be customers.

In Negros Oriental, Remeglo Aquillos, who was then aboard a motorcycle, was blocked and shot-dead by some gunmen in Barangay Bulado, Guihulngan City. The victim died on the spot after sustaining multiple gunshot wounds **AB**

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The operation lasted for two hours. It took time because of the thorough process of mending the patient's tendons and skin.

The medical staff closely monitored the vital signs of the patient in the next 24 hours. They cleaned his wounds in regular intervals, ensured he took the right medicine on time and monitored his urination and bowel movement.

For a week, they took care of the patient round the clock. The patient was well towards full recovery a few days after the operation. The medical staff left a detailed instruction to the patient and his caregivers to ensure that he recovers on time and properly.

The patient and his family were grateful since having the operation in a public or private hospital outside the guerilla zone meant spending thousands of pesos for the procedure alone.

## Mass clinic

Aside from these activities, the committee also active conducts

medical work in communities and barrios. The NPA mounts regular mass clinics to provide free dental and medical consultations and medicines to the people.

In 2018, around 5,000 patients benefitted from NPA health services such as check-ups, circumcision, dental services such as tooth extraction and providing dentures, cyst operations and others.

It also organized Barrio Medical Groups in various fronts. These groups partner with the people's army in providing community health services.

The committee also developed and conducted trainings on the use of medicinal herbs (especially for cough and skin diseases) which can be found in the forests.

The medics also perform acupuncture. They had a case wherein a paralyzed patient was able to walk again after undergoing regular acupuncture sessions.



Eye check-ups are also conducted in the region. The committee coordinates with comrades in urban centers to order eyeglasses for the patients. Medics are also capable of making dentures.

On top of these, NPA medics also provide medical services to enemy troopers who get wounded during tactical offensives. Injured soldiers are given first aid.

The health condition of prisoners of war are also well attended to. Medics also conduct daily check-ups and provide the prisoners their maintenance medicines such as those for hypertension and diabetes, among others.

Unity within the committee is key to medical work, Ka Iris shared. "Tasks are efficiently completed when these are done collectively by comrades in the medical team," she added. "The medics continually learn under the conditions of the intensifying and continuing war," she concluded. **AB**

## Minorities arrested

SIX KALINGA FISHERMEN were illegally arrested by 17th IB troopers on January 14 in San Mariano, Isabela. The victims were identified as Espido Tamang, Jojo Tamang, Rodel Infiel, Arjay Zipagan, Tuting Ampa and Porong Ampa.

The six were fishing in Barangay Panninan when they were fired at and illegally arrested by the soldiers. They were detained for two days in a military camp in Rogus, Cauayan City. They were accused of keeping a grenade in their basket and fishing net. The six were released after residents, barangay and municipal officials, and human rights defenders trooped to the camp.

In Davao del Norte, 71st IB troopers abducted Raquel Quintano, 42, spokesperson of Kalumonan, an organization of families of political prisoners in Southern Mindanao, on January 16.

While Quintano was hailing a jeepney at around 8:30 a.m. in Barangay Madaum, Tagum City, the suspects who were aboard a black Toyota Vios stopped in front of him and forcibly shoved him inside the vehicle. The next day, he

was maliciously presented by the 71st IB in its camp in Mawab, Compostela Valley as a tax collector of the NPA. Quintano is an active human rights defender and actively campaigned to hold the 71st accountable for torturing and attempting to burn two peasants alive on November 2018. (*Read more details in Ang Bayan, January 7, 2018.*)

Two Lumad students of Salugpungan were also illegally arrested by the 66th IB in Barangay Ngan, Compostela, Compostela Valley on January 17, 3:00 p.m. After the arrest, they were presented as NPA surrenderees.

In Pampanga, Jennifer David, an active member of Kabataan Partylist was illegally arrested by police operatives in Barangay San Matias, Sto. Tomas, was brought to the Sto. Tomas police station and was accused as terrorist. AB

## Demolition in Naga

FIFTEEN POOR PEASANT families from Zone 7 San Rafael, Barangay Cararayan, Naga City lost their homes after being demolished on January 17. The demolition was ordered by the Naga City government unit.

PNP-SWAT elements and hired goons entered the area at around 5:00 a.m. and subjected the residents to harassment before conducting the demolition at noon. Some of the residents were even held at gunpoint. For three decades, they resided in the 14.8-hectare farm area until it was subjected to use-conversion. AB



## Harassment against activists and peasants

IN NEGROS ORIENTAL, 17 delegates of a relief drive were blocked by 303rd IBde and PNP Magallon operatives at a checkpoint in Guinpana-an, Magallon, on January 15, 5:00 p.m. The said group came from Sitio Tacpao, Trinidad, Guihulngan City and aimed to provide relief support to residents who were subjected to militarization.

Among the delegates are members of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Karapatan, Iglesia Filipina Independiente, and health workers. For about 30 minutes, they were held by the operatives and were barred entry. The delegates' vehicle was even tailed to La Castellana.

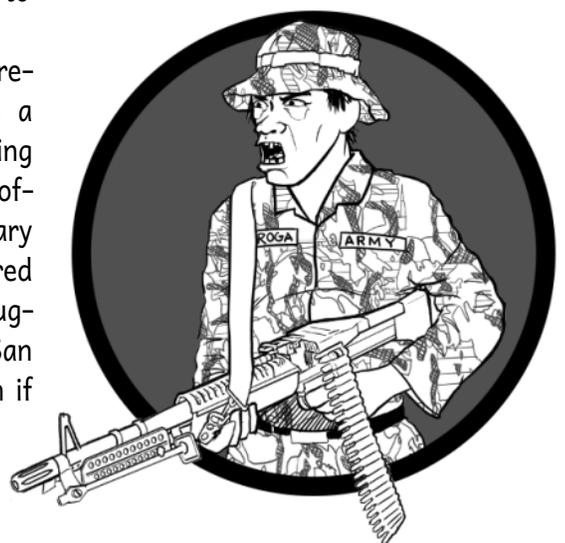
In Don Salvador Benedicto, armed goons of landlord Melvin Ybañez slashed the crops belonging to 32 peasants in Hacienda Tupas in Barangay Bunga on January 12. The farmers' corn crops were even ran

over by a tractor. The next day, Ybanez's goons threatened to kill them.

In Bohol, Joemar Pogio received a text message from a suspected state agent accusing him of being a high-ranking official of the revolutionary movement. He was also ordered to leave the organization Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa San Miguel, and was offered cash if he cooperated.

Elements of the 47th IB conducted a house-to-house

operation in Barangay Canlangit, Sierra Bullones. Residents were questioned on the whereabouts of Rakel Autida, a member of Gabriela whom the military tagged as an Abu Sayyaf member. AB



# Continuing protests

**D**emocratic sectors conducted consecutive protests to assert their rights and livelihood and condemn the continued repression and abuses perpetrated by the US-Duterte regime. Among these are demonstrations by peasants, students, workers, women and the urban poor.

## Protest to reclaim coco levy

More than 450 coconut farmers from Batangas, led by Balaybay and Coco Levy Funds Ibalik sa Amin, together with Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, protested in front of the Philippine Coconut Authority in Quezon City last January 15. The groups called for the return of the more than P100-billion coco levy funds to its beneficiaries and opposed its privatization. In the coco levy bill, "landlords, big planters and businesses will benefit from the fund that is supposedly for small coconut farmers and farmworkers," said Agaton Bautista of Balaybay.

The coco levy bill basically turned everything over to private investors while leaving scraps to the peasants, the group added.

## "Black Friday protest" against Red-tagging and violence

Various youth groups led by Anakbayan and League of Filipino Students (LFS) protested last January 18 against the hounding of students and its members by PNP and AFP elements. The PNP said that students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and University of the Philippines (UP) are being recruited to the New People's Army.

Last January 14, the National Union of Students of the Philippines released an alert stating the AFP is looking for its member and student leader, Rejhon Soriano Modesto.

UP Diliman Chancellor Michael Tan also condemned the PNP declaration. He said that the univer-

sity recognizes that education is not bounded by the walls of the university.

Tan added that the AFP and PNP's continued attacks cause apprehension among parents and students as this allows the military and police to threaten UP teachers and students.

According to the LFS, this is a futile attempt of the regime to suppress the growing student movement and weaken their fight against Duterte's tyrannical leadership.

Simultaneously, the youth called for additional budget for free education.

## Workers protest against Sumifru

More than 200 workers of Sumifru Phils. Corp. marched and converged in front of the headquarters of the company in Makati last January 18. They threw paint at its gates and asserted that the

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## Militarization in Negros and Surigao del Sur

ABOUT 150 ELEMENTS of the 62nd IB, 94th IB and PNP have been rampaging across barrios in Central Negros since the early morning of January 9. Barrios in the interconnected towns of La Castellana, Magallon (Moises Padilla) and Guihulngan City are currently militarized.

In La Castellana, 62nd IB and PNP elements have occupied barangays Puso, Cabacungan and Manghanoy. In Barangay Puso alone, 100 soldiers have maintained presence in three of its sitios. Barangays Macagahay, Montilla and Guinpana-an in Magallon, and Tacpao, Binobohan in Trinidad, Guihulngan City are also militarized.

Soldiers illegally and forcibly enter houses in the said barrios. Even passers-by are subjected to interrogation. Students and teachers are terrorized as the soldiers encamped in schools. The soldiers also encamped in baran-

gay halls.

In Surigao del Sur, Lumad communities in Barangay Diatagon, Lianga have also been militarized by the 75th and 36th IB since the last week of December 2018. Among these are sitios Simowao, Emerald, Manluy-a, Panukmoan, Decoy and Han-ayan. Food supplies in the communities have been scarce as residents were barred from going to their farms.

On December 31, 2018 at around 2:00 p.m., six bombs were dropped in Panukmoan and Decoy, just 150 meters away from the community center. This has re-

sulted in the evacuation of 26 Lumad families or 172 individuals.

On January 12, three habal-habal drivers were harassed and interrogated by 75th IB troopers. The three were accused of being NPA members. One of them was threatened with a gun while another was struck with a rifle.

On January 13, soldiers blocked food supplies intended for ALCADDEV students and teachers in Sitio Neptune. The teachers, school staff, a *habal-habal* driver and many others in the community were subjected to interrogation. The next day, the soldiers refused the entry of food supplies for the community from the town center until the Department of Social Welfare and Development gave it permission. AB

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company implement the Supreme Court order to regularize its workers and stop military abuses.

Workers under Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farms (NAMASUFA) from Compostela, Compostela Valley have encamped in Manila since last year.

According to Paul John Dizon, NAMASUFA president, a union member has been murdered, two nearly killed, almost 20 injured, their makeshift camps razed and its members' houses ransacked including the union's office, since they mounted their protest. These attacks were perpetrated by Sumifru in connivance with state forces, he added.

Sumifru Phils. Corp. is an agricultural company which produces and exports fruits. Its main products are banana, pineapple and papaya. Its operation covers more than 12,000 hectares of land in Mindanao. In Compostela alone, it has 2,200 hectares with nine packing plants that export about seven million boxes of fruits every year. The company rakes in P19 million in profits from Compostela alone.

Prior to this, the workers protested in front of DOLE to demand a P750-national minimum wage.

### **PayDay protest caravan**

On the first pay day of 2019 and implementation of oil price hikes, Defend Job Philippines and Kilusang Mayo Uno-Metro Manila launched a protest caravan last January 15 to protest against incessant increases in the prices of basic goods, low wages and contractualization. The protests coincide with the first pay day of the year and as oil prices steadily increase.

The caravan held programs at the Seoil Gas Station near Mendiola Bridge in Quiapo, in front of the headquarters of the Department of

Justice, Court of Appeals and Department of Labor and Employment in Manila. The group also stopped in front of the Japanese Embassy and Toyota along Roxas Boulevard. A protest was also held in front of the main warehouse of Jollibee in Paranaque. The participants condemned the continuing practice of contractualization, union busting, illegal dismissal and violation of the labor code.

Meanwhile, last January 14, members of BAYAN converged along the Elliptical Road, Quezon City to condemn the imposition of additional taxes and simultaneous oil price increases.

### **Women march against poverty and repression**

To kick off the celebration of the International Women's Day, Gabriela and Gabriela Women's Party launched the Women's March against Poverty and Repression in Mendiola, Manila last January 19.

They criticized the worsening economic conditions caused by the first and second wave implementation of additional taxes under Duterte's TRAIN law and "Build, Build, Build" program.

Women called for justice against intensifying state fascism and repression. These include the increasing cases of killings, arrests, and Red-tagging of different mass organizations.

They also condemned the extension of martial law in Mindanao and the implementation of Memorandum Order 32 in Negros, Bicol and Samar.

The protest was held in conjunction with the conduct of the

global women's march in the US and other parts of the world.

### **Kadamay condemns commercialized housing**

Last January 7, more than 500 members of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) trooped to the National Housing Authority (NHA) office to condemn the profit-driven housing program of the agency, as well as the implementation of neoliberal and anti-poor policies of the Duterte regime.

Members of Kadamay Pandi, Bulacan who up to now are not assured of ownership of their homes and are denied electric and water services, joined the protest. They were accompanied by participants of the Occupy Pabahay in Montalban, Rizal and community residents of Metro Manila whose homes are in danger of being demolished.

"The government's inaction is disappointing. They prioritize business. It pushes the "Build Build Build" program to amass profit," said Gloria Arellano, national chairperson of Kadamay.

The group attempted to go inside the NHA to register their demands. Kadamay declared that they will hold more protests until Duterte is ousted from office, ending his anti-poor policies and human rights violations. AB

