



ANG Paghimakas

PAHAYAGAN SANG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA SANG PILIPINAS ★ ISLA SANG NEGROS

GINAUBAYAN SANG MARXISMO-LLENINISMO-MAOISMO OCTOBER 2023

EDITORIAL

Armed struggle is the solution to the land problem

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS an occasion to give focus on the blood-and-sweat struggle of peasants to achieve genuine land reform. Peasants are the most exploited and oppressed by the ruling class of big comprador-landlords. As the majority of Philippine society, they are the primary target of counterrevolution to prevent the unity of the great forces of farmers and workers.

In more than a year's reign of the illegitimate Marcos Jr regime, it is clear to Negrosanons that it will keep the country as a client state of US imperialism. The export-oriented and import-dependent national economy remains the same, if not more worse.

Most farmers in Negros are slaves to the monocrop sugar economy. The influx of hundreds of tons of imported sugar, legal



or smuggled, and the hoarding of sugar to control market prices and supply kill farmers and farm workers who depend on the sugar industry. Small planters have become bankrupt due to expensive costs of planting sugarcane while cheap farm gate prices of sugar cannot offset the expenses. Farm workers bear the loss through unjust wages.

Farmers of rice, banana, and other agricultural products have similar experiences. Skyrocketing prices of basic goods have thoroughly devastated farmers. On the other hand, their produce and livestock are almost taken for free due to very cheap prices offered by compradors.

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The reactionary government plays a vital part in further squeezing farmers dry through its laws and policies. The New Agrarian Emancipation Act bragged about by Marcos Jr, the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Tilling (SPLIT) program of the Department of Agrarian Reform and the World Bank, and conversion of agricultural lands have additionally hastened the reconcentration of peasant lands into the hands of landlords. Aside from this, farmers are being attacked by foreign and big comprador projects with the aim of stealing their land and destroying their livelihoods, such as mining and quarry operations, mega dams, commercial plantations, eco-tourism, and reclamation.

The situation of farmers in the midst of liberalization of agriculture, persisting land monopoly by landlord-compradors, excessively low farmgate prices, and lack of food security despite being food producers themselves, is being aggravated by bureaucratic corruption and militarist rule of state forces in the countryside.

One of the worst corrupt acts recently exposed was Sara Duterte's spending spree of questionable confidential funds on December 2022 in the amount of ₱125 million within 11 days. Meanwhile, the atrocities and deception of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP) and National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac in the countryside of Negros have intensified especially towards their pipedream deadline for defeating the New People's Army (NPA) on the island.

Counterrevolution and neoliberal attacks are interconnected. The escalating violence of the regime manifests the wor-

sening economic crisis in the country that is linked to the crisis of imperialist US. This exposes imperialism and its tentacles as paper tigers—desperate to defend the rotten society teeming with crisis. State fascism unmasks the fear of the ruling class of a peasant class that is aroused, organized, and mobilized against the system that has long deprived them of their right to land.

The massacre of five hors de combat and one civilian in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental and the abduction of a peasant organizer and the "salvaging" of the driver who accompanied her in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental last September are examples of how the police and military are ready to carry out the order of fascist generals and their masters. Essentially, the island of Negros and the entire country are under martial rule due to the domination of tyranny and fascism.

With these conditions, the violence of the ruling class needs to be faced with revolutionary violence of the oppressed classes through a just armed revolution.


As the basic force, the peasant masses who reside in the countryside are the source of Red fighters of the NPA led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). The peasant force must be mobilized to make victorious the struggle against semicolonial and semifeudal exploitation. In fact, the primary content of the national democratic revolution is land, the democratic aspiration of the peasant class.

Through the leadership of the advanced detachment of the proletariat embodied by the Communist Party, farmers should arm not only their hands but also their minds with Marxism-Leninism-Maoism as an ideological weapon. Agrarian revolu-

tion must be strengthened alongside mass base building on the entire island to shatter the terror sowed by state forces in the countryside and to unleash the great strength of the basic alliance of workers and peasants. This alliance serves as the anchor for the national democratic movement of the oppressed and exploited Filipino people that will dismantle imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism.



History has already proven that only through armed revolution can the rotten ruling system be destroyed and a new and more advanced society can be built. At this point in history, the armed struggle in the country has a socialist perspective. Only through armed revolution can the longstanding problem of land and its fascist counterpart be truly eliminated. **AP**

OCTOBER 2023



ANG *Paghimakas*

Ang Paghimakas (The Struggle) is grateful for all contributions that made this issue successful. For the improvement of our *Ang Paghimakas*, all readers are urged to continue contributing news, pictures, stories and other articles. We also ask for suggestions and comments on how to make our publication better.

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#NPANegrosOffensives

1 soldier killed, 7 wounded in Central and South Negros

THE TACTICAL OFFENSIVE MOUNTED IN Isabela, Negros Occidental was a response to the widespread human rights violations committed by the 62nd Infantry Battalion (IB), Ka JB Regalado, spokesperson of the Leonardo Panaligan Command (LPC-NPA), said.

One soldier was killed while two were wounded after the LPC-NPA harassed 62nd IB troops in Purok Tumpok, Brgy. Riverside last August 30, 9:30 in the evening.

Meanwhile, five soldiers of the 15th IB were wounded in a counter-offensive of the Armando Sumayang Jr Command (ASJC-NPA) against the said military unit at Sitio Kansauro, Brgy. Gil Montilla, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental on September 16, past 3:00 in the afternoon.

The Southwest Negros Guerilla Front acknowledged the "huge help of the masses in terms of morale, supply, and

direct participation in hardships and sacrifices to preserve the strength of their genuine army, that is the NPA," according to Ka Andrea Guerrero, spokesperson of the ASJC-NPA.

Meanwhile, the Rachele Mae Palang Command (RMPC-NPA) and the entire revolutionary forces in Southeast Negros honored Ka Candy. She was martyred in an encounter between the RMPC-NPA and 11th IB at Sitio Taleo, Brgy. Milagrosa, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental on August 26.

Rapist punished

On October 8, around 3pm, death penalty was meted out to Joven Hamilon at Sitio Gabi-gabi, Brgy. Basak, Cauayan, Negros Occidental. He was charged for raping his two children (one is a minor) that resulted to their pregnancy.

Apart from this, Hamilon

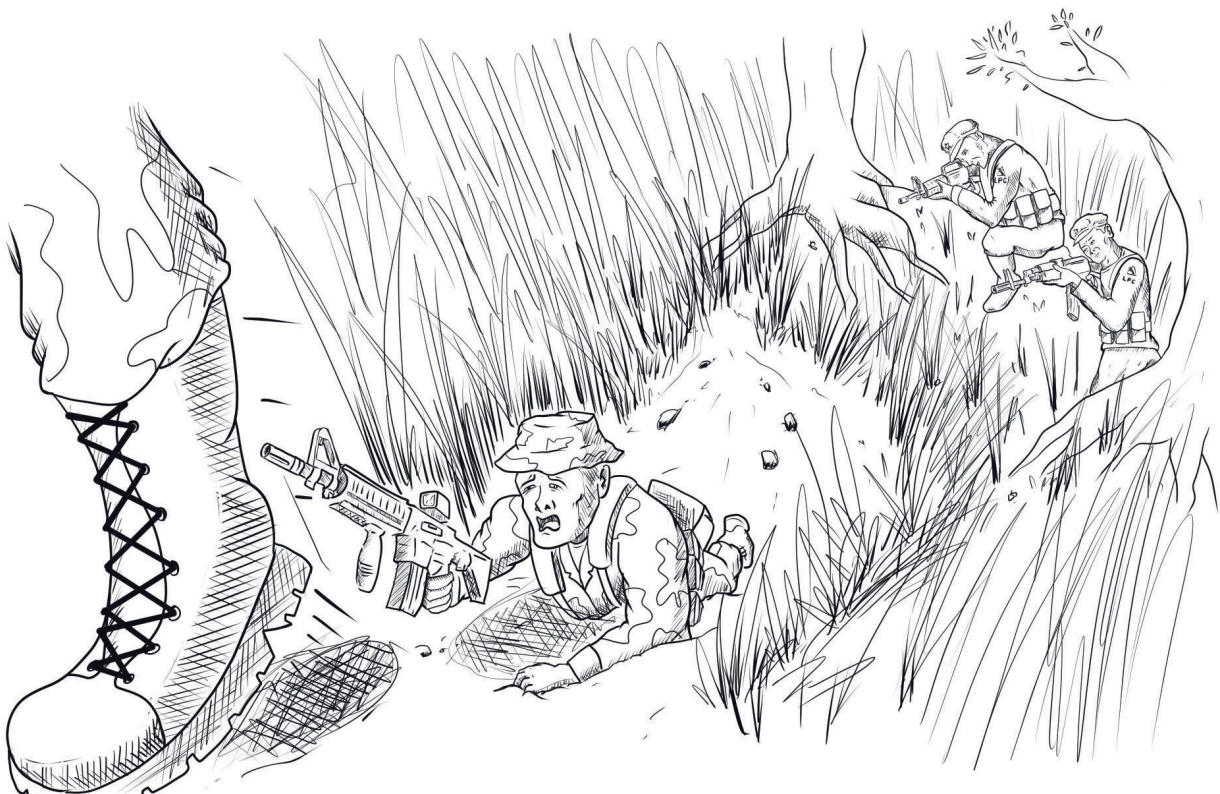
was a local asset of the 15th IB and was known by locals to have drunken rages.

Hamilon also faced a complaint of hacking his neighbor that resulted in the wife's miscarriage.

Meanwhile, Jimuel Entera, 40 years old, was also punished with death penalty in Sitio Indangawan, Malucahoc, Sipalay City. He was an active and aggressive asset of the 15th IB who reported to the Barasbarasan Detachment. His children were used to monitor the resident's movements and scour forests for NPA encampments.

Entera also stole livestock and crops from farmers in the area.

Entera was warned by Red fighters to stop his activities in 2021 to help him change, however, his crimes only worsened and the harm he caused in the area intensified. **AP**



5 hors de combats, 1 civilian massacred by 47th IB

THE ARMANDO SUMAYANG JR COMMAND (ASJC-NPA) vehemently condemned the brutal massacre of three NPA medical personnel along with a Red fighter couple on medical leave and a civilian tricycle driver by members of the 47th IB last September 21, 7:50 in the evening.

The five hors de combat were identified as Ka Rekey (Bobby Pedro), Ka Goring (Mario Mullon) and Ka Joyce (Janice Flores) with couple Ka Bravo (Alejo delos Reyes) and Ka Diane (Melissa dela Peña) who was 6 months pregnant, and the tricycle driver was Robin Gaitan.

According to Ka Andrea Guerrero, spokesperson of the ASJC-NPA, "this is clearly a violation of international humanitarian law regarding non-combatants, particularly the Geneva Convention of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, and is considered a war crime."

Ka Maoche Legislador, spokesperson of AGC-NPA Negros, also called 3rd ID generals as blatant liars and butcher criminals in their shameless cover up of their brutal crimes on Negros Island.

Legislador delineated the AFP and NPA wherein "the NPA only targets legitimate military targets, ensures civilian security in their conduct of tactical offensives, and most of all, the masses applaud NPA actions against fascist state forces and despotic landlords. These are contrary to the conduct of the AFP."

Meanwhile, Ka Bayani Obrero, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Negros, urges human rights defenders and their organizations to "launch independent investigations and fact-finding missions on recent incidents in Negros Occidental."

Particularly in Negros, 34 civilians, mostly peasants, and 19 hors de combat were victims of extrajudicial killings committed by elements of the 302nd and 303rd Brigade of the Philippine Army and the PNP under the reign of Marcos Jr. This is part of 513 cases of human rights violations involving 38,374 victims.

(For more details, refer to Ang Paghimakas' special report released last April, July and October.)

Meanwhile, on October 6, around 1 AM, 62nd IB troops indiscriminately fired on a sugarcane field and a grove near the household of Telma Dela Cruz in Sitio Kapaklan, Brgy. Santol, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental.

Soldiers of the 62nd IB also ransacked Dela Cruz' house and looked for her child, Dante Dela Cruz, 40 years old. When Dante was not found, the soldiers immediately fired shots, disturbing and traumatizing the community.

After the incident, the 62nd IB troops camped in the Dela Cruz' house. The family filed a blotter in the barangay and the people made it clear that no encounter ensued in the area.

Last October 3, around 1 AM, the Dela Cruz' household

Farmer couple killed by 79th IB

FARMER COUPLE CHRISTIAN JOB VARGAS and Maily Salgado were brutally murdered by 79th IB troops on October 17, past 5:00 in the afternoon, at Sitio Nabalas 1, Brgy. Canlusion, E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental.

Vargas' mother, Jocelyn, denied AFP allegations that the two were killed in an armed encounter between the 79th IB and NPA.

According to Jocelyn, the couple went to their farm to harvest bananas to be sold in the city when they were captured by soldiers and subsequently tortured before being shot to death.

Elements of the 79th IB threatened to shoot and screamed obscenities at Jocelyn and several residents when they tried to approach the detained couple.

Meanwhile, 79th IB troops illegally detained Vargas' cousin Denver from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM on the same day. Denver went towards the couple when he heard shouting and he saw the two being captured by the military, but he returned to his house after Christian signaled him to not come any closer.

According to Ka Maoche Legislador, spokesperson of the Apolinario Gatmaitan Command-NPA Negros (AGC-NPA), the culture of impunity has persisted in the AFP for so long that it is already deeply rooted in the minds of soldiers that they will not be held accountable by the people for their blood debts.

The AGC-NPA condemned the killing of the couple and made clear that "there was no encounter in the area." **AP**

Organizer and driver abducted in Sipalay City

BUTCHER FORCES OF THE STATE, particularly the 15th and 47th IB were responsible for the abduction of Deah Lopez, 26 years old, a peasant organizer, and Peter Agravante, 30 years old, a tricycle driver, last September 15, around 10 AM, in Brgy. Gil Montilla, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental, according to NDF-Negros.

Agravante was found dead in a ravine in Brgy. Nagbo-alao, Basay, Negros Oriental around 14 hours after the abduction.

Aside from a bullet wound on the head, Agravante's hands and feet were hogtied using rope and duct tape, while his eyes and mouth were also covered with duct tape.

According to witnesses, a white pick-up truck pulled over and dumped the body in the area around midnight.

This type of vehicle was also seen during the abduction. Until now, Lopez' family is still searching for her.

The incident alarmed progressive forces especially that on the same month, two female activists, Jhed Tamano and Jonila Castro, were also abducted in Orion, Bataan.

Many hailed the two for standing up in public and identifying their abductors in a press conference with the very culprits, the 70th IB.

On September 28, Tamano and Castro filed a petition to the

Supreme Court for a "writ of amparo" and "habeas data," and sought temporary protection for them and their families in the midst of dangers they were facing.

According to Ka Bayani Obrero, NDF-Negros spokesperson, the incident involving Castro and Tamano gave strength to those continuing the search for Deah Lopez and other victims of abduction by the military under Marcos Jr's reign.

NDF-Negros called on all Negrosanons to demand justice for all victims of human rights violations and make AFP officials and their commander-in-chief Ferdinand Marcos Jr accountable. **AP**

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was also sought out and Dante was arrested without a warrant, and brought to the CAFGU detachment in Brgy. Cansalungon, Isabela, Negros Occidental. He was only allowed to return home the night after.

The 62nd IB, 303rd Brigade and 3rd Infantry Division (ID) whitewashed the actual incident and circulated in social media that it was an encounter.

In Southwest Negros, military operations of 15th IB troops continued. From October 10 to October 16, the military was monitored operating in Sitio Magtanday, Brgy. Camindangan, Sipalay City, while in the municipality of Cauyan, they were in Sitio Batakon, Brgy. Masaling; sitios Putlak, Patol, Manlatab and Bajay in Brgy. Caliling; and Sitio Langgoni, Brgy. Inayawan. The 47th IB was also conducting simultaneous operations in Brgy. Tabugon, Kabankalan City. **AP**

Bishop calling for investigation of successive killings

INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS AND THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) should seriously investigate the killings in Negros especially the death of six individuals in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. This was the statement of Bishop Gerardo Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos last September 27.

According to Bishop Alminaza, in the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) civilians and hors de combat alike are protected and they have rights that must be safeguarded.

He clarified the term "hors de combat" used in the IHL which describes a person who cannot fight due to being sick, wounded, captured or incapacitated. These persons are not allowed to be attacked or harmed because they pose no threat.

He added that the core fundamental principles of IHL are: distinction between civilians and combatants, prohibition to attack those hors de combat (i.e. those not directly engaged in hostilities), prohibition to inflict unnecessary suffering, the principle of military necessity, and the principle of proportionality.

Alminaza also urged: stop making Negros a killing field and don't kill non-combatants and civilians.

At the end of his statement, he quoted Fr. Niall O'Brien, a Columbian Missionary for 20 years, "Violence has a source, and that source is injustice. Violence is the fruit of the tree of injustice and hatred is its evil flower. If we sow seeds of injustice, we reap violence. If we want to remove violence, we must first remove injustice." **AP**



ISKULHAWS

Imperialism, a paper tiger

IN THE MIDST OF WORLDWIDE chaos, we ask, why is there an upsurge of inter-nation conflicts and an impending world war?

Comrade Nikolai Lenin (born Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov on April 22, 1870) posited in his great work, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” that one of the five prominent characteristics of imperialism is the territorial division of the world among capitalist powers, and its redivision can only lead to war. Therefore, the current conflicts in the world are due to imperialist countries competing over their market states.

Comrade Lenin studied and analyzed capitalism in the final stage of imperialism on January-June 1916 in Zurich, Switzerland during the eruption of the First World War. Comrade Karl Marx with the help of Comrade Friedrich Engels using dialectic and historical materialism was the first to study the capitalist system in his critique of political economy.

The other prominent characteristics of imperialism posed by Comrade Lenin are: concentration of capital has reached a point in which monopoly has become dominant in capitalist society; industrial capital and bank capital have merged to become finance capital and developed the financial oligarchy; export capital has acquired its own

value in surplus capital aside from export of surplus goods, and colonies and semi-colonies became the outlet of the surplus capital of capitalist countries; and that international combinations of monopolies, trusts, cartels, syndicates and others (examples are transnational and multinational corporations) have emerged.

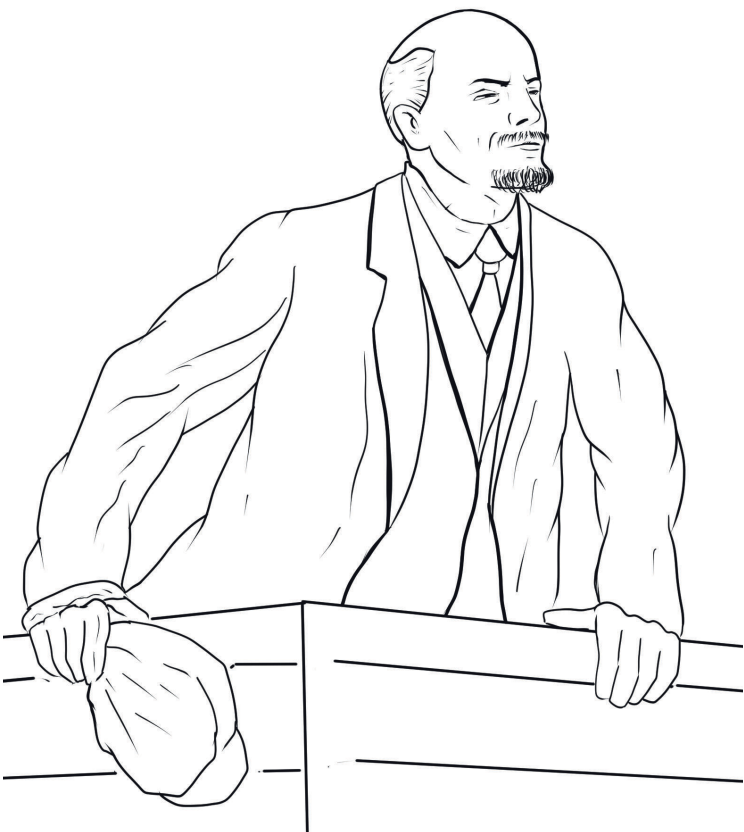
Inter-imperialist wars surfaced due to the worsening crisis caused by overproduction. Such overproduction is not intended to cater to the needs of the people, but rather overproduction of commodities driven by insatiable accumulation of superprofits by the monopoly bourgeoisie who control their countries and the world, as well. Superprofit is extracted from the labor power of workers in their own countries and the entire world.

Imperialists are considered paper tigers. They appear powerful and advanced but are filled with rotteness in the very core of their system. Imperialist countries such as the US, European countries, Japan, and likewise China and Russia are currently buried deep in an even “longer great depression” and is yet to overcome what is considered to be worse than the economic depression of 1929.

Through the victorious first Socialist Revolution in the world on October 1917, the great October Revolution, Comrade Lenin proved that imperialism is the eve of socialist revolution. Only through socialist revolution and construction can the inherent contradiction and crisis of imperialism be resolved.

Comrade Lenin’s critique of imperialism is valuable for us proletarian revolutionaries and the entire people of the world. The current occurrences of the downward spiral of the world capitalist system that has caused a worldwide and societal crisis and chaos causing proxy wars and wars of aggression are reminders of the correctness of Comrade Lenin’s analysis.

The 106th anniversary of the October Revolution is near this November (October 25 in the Russian calendar at the time) and we are currently in the period of transitioning to the resurgence of proletarian revolutions in the world. It is a challenge for all Filipino revolutionary forces to firmly grasp Lenin’s critique of imperialism and contribute to the re-strengthening of the socialist cause of the proletariat. **AP**





Justice for Zara Alvarez!

Various sectors gathered at the Fountain of Justice (FOJ) in Bacolod City to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the murder of human rights defender Zara Alvarez. It was organized by the Human Rights Advocates-Negros (HRAN) last August 17.

Based on HRAN's documentation, over 110 murders were linked to the Negros Crackdown under Duterte while, under the Marcos administration, over 30 were killed. Included here are prominent cases of the Jacolbe massacre (July 2022), and the killing of Crispin Tingal and the Fausto massacre (June 2023).

Never Again to Martial Law!

A Misang Bayan (People's Mass) was held last September 20 in Escalante City to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the Escalante Massacre. According to HRAN, they will not stop until justice is attained, not only for the martyrs of the Escalante Massacre, but for all victims of the state on the island.

Meanwhile, on September 21, progressive groups held a protest in remembrance of the 51st anniversary of Martial Law at the FOJ in Bacolod City. According to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Negros, the island remains a killing field under the new Marcos administration.

Transport groups took part in the commemoration through a forum initiated by the Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (PISTON) that discussed issues on rising fuel prices and those affecting the local transport sector in Bacolod City.

Stop Mining!

The people of Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental organized a "Walk for Nature" with the local government, Alyansa Tigil Mina and other environmentalist groups after their Anti-Mining Solidarity Week last September 22 to 25 in the said municipality.

They called for the opposition of mining in the mountains of Sta. Catalina and the protection of natural resources.

Justice for Jude Fernandez!

An indignation rally was held by Negros

progressive groups last October 5 in front of the FOJ in Bacolod City to condemn the PNP-CIDG operation that resulted in the killing of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) labor leader Jude Fernandez at Binangonan, Rizal on September 29.

They called for the abolition of the NTF-Elcac and the rechanneling of confidential funds of the government towards social services because, according to them, said funds will only be spent to intensify the witch-hunt and extrajudicial killing of progressive ranks.

No to Reclamation!

On October 9, residents of Brgy. Pahanocoy, Bacolod City condemned in a press conference the 700-hectare project of Engr. Andres Taculod that caused floods damaging their houses and livelihoods. Over 400 families signed a signature campaign against the reclamation project.

According to the Bacolod Against Reclamation Movement (BARM)-Pahanocoy Chapter, the project will affect urban poor communities, as well as their livelihoods, and natural resources, including mangroves. Not only Pahanocoy residents will be affected; the seashore is also a source of food and livelihood for residents of neighboring barangays such as Sum-ag, Handumanan, Cabog and Felisa.

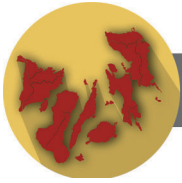
Bigas! Bigas! Hindi armas!

Urban poor and peasant groups of Negros gathered in the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) church in Bacolod City to commemorate World Food Day, or they dubbed as Hunger Day, on October 16.

The forum tackled various issues, such as the 2,000-hectare reclamation, land reclassification of farm lots, militarization in urban and rural areas, privatization of public utilities, and the relation between skyrocketing cost of fuel to cost of living.

Stop the Attacks!

Farmers, rural women, fisherfolk and human rights defenders in southern Negros exposed the threats, intimidation, and coercion by the military and NTF-Elcac in their communities.



Visayas News

IP group calls attention to roots of armed conflict

THE KATRIBU KALIPUNAN NG KATUTUBONG Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KATRIBU) released a statement calling attention to the roots of armed conflict after Kaerlan “Lala” Fanagel, a Lumad who was a former member of the group, was killed in a Bohol encounter.

Fanagel was among six Red fighters of the New People’s Army (NPA)-Bohol martyred in an encounter against the 47th IB on September 7 in Brgy. Campagao, Bilar.

The group added that “escalating acts of plunder, militarization, bombings, enforced disappearances, criminalization and the unjust labeling of Indigenous Peoples leaders and activists as terrorists have only fueled the flames of the ongoing armed conflict.”

Katribu paid tribute to Fanagel and expressed high regard for his decision to join the NPA. “In his eyes, the conventional avenues for seeking justice appeared insufficient to address the escalating attacks on the Indigenous and Moro Peoples.”

Fanagel was a native of Brgy. Poblacion, Malapatan in the province of Sarangani. **AP**

“News...” from page 7

According to a press conference last October 16, from July to October, the 94th IB and 15th IB continuously threatened Paghidaet sa Kauswagan Development Group (PDG), a non-government organization, and people’s organizations in Kabankalan City and Cauayan. Development workers of the PDG received death threats while they were also red-tagged along with associations in meet-

ings conducted by the military in barangays.

They also condemned the statements of Jonel Moreno alias Roy in an activity led by the AFP and NTF-Elcac in Kabankalan City last September 21 that again defamed and red-tagged PDG.

Justice for the Sagay 9 massacre!

Peasants and farm workers led by the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) or-

Successive harassments on workers, progressive forces in Cebu

THE ALYANSA SA MGA MAMUMUO sa Sugbo-Kilusang Mayo Uno (AMA Sugbo-KMU) condemned on September 25 the harassment and interrogation by police forces on workers who filed complaints with the International Labor Organization High-Level Tripartite Mission (ILO-HLTM) last January.

Two of the 300 dismissed workers from the Universal Robina Corporation (URC) were approached by policemen from Police Station 3 (Waterfront Pier) at their houses last September 15 and 16 and were interrogated on who was behind the filing of cases.

They were victims of interrogation, harassment, and threats by URC last year using the same police force because they opposed the rampant contractualization and illegal retrenchment of workers in the company.

Simultaneously, two former workers of Tsuneishi Heavy Industries in Balamban, Cebu were interrogated by the police in separate incidents regarding the cases they filed with the ILO-HTM and Commission of Human Rights (CHR-7).

The two filed similar complaints regarding the harassment and red-tagging by the 82nd IB last 2021 and 2022 due to their organizing work among co-workers in the company.

In the harassments and interrogations, police officers commonly used Executive Order 23 (EO 23) of the Marcos Jr administration as an excuse.

EO 23 created the Inter-Agency Committee for the Protection of the Freedom of Association and

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ganized a candlelight vigil on October 20 to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Sagay 9 massacre.

NFSW pointed out the failure of the government’s land reform program and that it only served big landlords which caused the brutal killing of nine sugarcane farm workers (including four women and 2 minors) in Hacienda Nene, Brgy. Bulanon, Sagay City, Negros Occidental last October 20, 2018. **AP**

8th ID abducts, secretly imprisons 2 newborns and more than 8 civilians in Samar

TWO NEWBORNS AND THEIR MOTHERS, along with others, remain imprisoned, inaccessible to their families, and deprived of legal representation in an 8th ID camp at Brgy. Maulong, Catbalogan, Samar, despite the absence of clear grounds or charges. There are at least 10 victims of secret detention in the said military camp and they are subjected to emotional, physical, and mental torture by butcher soldiers.

Mariel Rebato and Monica Ogacho are in the hands of the 8th ID, along with their newborn babies. Also imprisoned with

them are Marygrace Tambis Bicina, Renato Chokoy Rufo, and three others who were abducted by the military last March 2023, and the rest were arrested by the military at their rented house in Calbayog City on December 2022.

According to NPA-Western Samar, there are some who were abducted and imprisoned by the 8th ID that can attest that their families, loved ones, and many other victims of secret detention are in the Brgy. Maulong camp.

It stated that there were

four Red fighters also abducted by the military and were bid to "return to their comrades" to do harm to the NPA.

Furthermore, instead of harming their comrades, they confessed to what happened to them because they could not bear to do the criminal intent of the military. Some of the "released prisoners" were made to carry Global Positioning System (GPS) trackers for their "mission" to verify the location of the camp they were heading to

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"Successive..." from page 8

Right to Organize of Workers which was the government's answer to the ILO-HTM.

However, according to the KMU National office, the EO23 is contradictory to the recommendation of the ILO-HTM to strengthen tripartite dialogue in order to protect the freedom of association.

Additionally, violations under EO23 prove that the fascist character of the AFP-PNP prevails in the Inter-Agency Committee.

Meanwhile, Jaime Paglinawan, president of AMA Sugbo-KMU and KMU's vice president for Visayas, along with 26 other people, were harassed by the Joint Task Group Cebu-AFP through the filing of cases with the Department of Justice al-

leging violations of Republic Act 10168 or Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suspension Act of 2012.

The 26 are former council members, board members, and staff of the Community Empowerment Resource Network (CERNET), Inc., a non-stock and non-profit organization based in Central Visayas.

According to CERNET, the allegations are false and laws are being used by the AFP against those who uphold collective action and development that endangers development organizations and its workers while they are striving to contribute to the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Various organizations, both international and local, vehemently condemned this state measure and the AFP, and expressed support for CERNET and Paglinawan.

CERNET received the subpoena on August 13. **AF**





In Truth...



A FARM WORKER NEEDS
to work for **500,000 days**
or close to **1,369 years**
with an average wage of **₱250.00/day**
under oppressive working conditions
IN ORDER TO save **₱125 million**
which was just wantonly spent
by the office of
Vice President Sara Duterte
in **11 days.**

"8th ID..." from page 9

so it could be bombed by plane.

Together with the victims' families and kin, NPA-Western Samar called on all goodwilled and defenders of human rights and lawyers who uphold genuine justice to help the families searching for their loved ones illegally detained by the 8th ID.

Abduction or *desparecidos* and illegal detention in secret locations is a violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva conventions. Violation of such is worsened in the abuse of the

rights of women, pregnant mothers, infants and children.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict of the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1974 particularly considered a war crime "all forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of its military operations (number 5)." **AP**

The State of Education in Negros

NEGROS ISLAND, A STARK REFLECTION of the Philippines itself—an agrarian, pre-industrial and export-oriented and import-dependent economy dominated by big compradors and landlords servile to US imperialism—is also subjected to a colonial, commercialized, and anti-democratic educational system.

Colonial or pro-imperialist education is sugarcoated as making the Filipino youth "globally competitive" but in reality aligns Philippine education with the demands of the global job market. The youth is treated as an abundant source of cheap labor for monopoly capitalist countries and outsourced jobs in the Philippines.

The Matatag Curriculum of the Department of Education (DepEd) led by Vice President Sara Duterte is, in essence, no different from the K-12 program. Purportedly designed to alleviate the student-teacher load, it further emphasizes technical and vocational skills to produce globally competitive labor. It neglects to cater the country's major need for agrarian reform and national industries.

The Matatag Curriculum's integrated "peace competencies" program within the "makabansa" foundational subject is also flagged as a platform for spreading government propaganda against progressive groups and whitewashing the dark history of the Marcos family and the current state of terror. During the State of the Youth Address in Bacolod City, senior high school students have decried the lack of Philippine history classes in the K-12 curriculum. They cited the declining nationalist consciousness of their peers and their susceptibility to fake news, mostly propagated in TikTok.



In this semicolonial and semifeudal system, education is also gravely commodified. Capitalist educators are allowed by the state to increase tuition and other fees, meanwhile public education suffers annual budget cuts. Thus, education becomes more and more inaccessible to the Filipino youth.

Mark (not his real name) decided to return to school this year after working since 2021; aiming to enroll in a state college for free tuition due to limited finances. Unfortunately, he ended up on a waiting list, and he later found out that only 25 students were accepted into his chosen program.

In Western Visayas, despite a worsening economic crisis with an inflation rate of 6.6% in September, the DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) approved hundreds of tuition fee hike applications for the academic year 2023-2024. Negros Occidental witnessed a significant reduction in enrolment, with approximately 43,000 fewer students, a 13% drop from the previous year.

Prominent institutions like the University of St. La Salle (USLS),

University of Negros Occidental Recoletos (UNO-R), and Colegio de San Agustin (CSA) in Bacolod City imposed tuition fee hikes of at least 5%. Students of these private institutions are united in denouncing the lack of genuine consultations on these increases. The fee hikes were presented in so-called "forums" which were only for compliance, rather than a meaningful discussion of all stakeholders.

Under the 2024 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the government plans to allocate a mere ₱108.80 per day per student for basic education. Finance Chief Benjamin Diokno's statement that free education has become inefficient and "wasteful" would jeopardize the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, a hard-earned legislation by the militant student movement.

Educational leaders, such as Dr. Norberto P. Mangulabnan of the Carlos Hilado Memorial State University (CHMSU) and President Reynaldo Ramos of the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP), are supporting a unity statement initiated

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A challenge to youth and students by DG

“KAPASYAHAN BAGO ANG KAHANDAAN (RESOLVE come before willingness),” this has been the source of my revolutionary spirit since I first heard it from a comrade. It denotes that one does not need to become the best revolutionary before they can do revolutionary tasks, or even better, one does not become a perfect revolutionary since there is no such thing.

Before I decided to become a full timer, I was a student organizer in a university; dealing with various campus and societal

issues, uniting the fragmented and lost petty bourgeoisie inside the university, and bringing them closer to the revolution. I learned most of my theoretical foundations within the collective inside the campus. As a student organizer, I was exposed to handling several contradictions among the student masses and the administration, and saw how all campus issues are directly caused by the semifeudal and semicolonial structure of our society. It was a stepping stone towards a greater struggle in basic sectors organi-

zing and a challenge to go beyond student organizing, although both types come hand in hand and not contradictory.

Before my decision to become a full timer, I was in a mentally unwell position that affected my academic and political work. I got extended on my last year in university due to mental health reasons and some other personal problems. In these moments, I was most lost on what I was supposed to do next.

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by the Kabataan Partylist to oppose the ₱6.2 billion budget cut for State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the 2024 NEP.

The impact of these budget cuts is evident in universities like CHMSU, where admissions for certain programs have been significantly reduced. The lack of budget for capital outlay, thus the lack of new classrooms, resulted to some classes being conducted outdoors or under trees.

Under a fascist regime that uses force to quell the people's resistance to the ruling system, the education sector is also severely affected. Through its "whole-of-nation" approach and the NTF-Elcac, the regime has taken alarming steps toward militarizing civilian agencies, including the DepEd and CHED. The RTF-Elcac and the 303rd Brigade of the Philippine Army met with administrators of learning institutions last September to brief them of alleged "recruitment tactics" or armed groups in their schools. This militarization creates a chilling effect on academic institutions, suppresses critical thinking,

and encroaches on students' rights to organize, dissent, and express their opinions freely.

Campus publications in Negros have experienced censorship of critical articles and the undemocratic selection of moderators. There are also documented instances of campus editors and writers being singled out, red-tagged, and dissuaded by school administrators from involvement in progressive organizations.

The sustained and focused military operations in rural areas also have direct impact on the youth and schools. For instance, more than two weeks of combat operations by the Philippine Army have led to the suspension of classes in several schools in Sitio Pallacon, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental last April. Encampments near and within school premises, hamletting, military checkpoints, door-to-door operations, and interrogations disrupt the learning environment and instill fear among youth and teachers on Negros Island.

The reinstatement of the Mandatory ROTC is one step from becoming a law. The ruling class does not only need a reserve

army of "globally competitive" cheap labor, but a servile one. The US-Marcos regime has also railroaded this bill to create a large number of reservists for the reactionary army, as inter-imperialist war escalates.

Discrimination and other repressive policies are also prevalent. During a freshman orientation at the USLS, a Political Science student who identifies as gender non-conforming confronted the school administrator regarding the institution's inconsistent approach to inclusivity. This courageous action received a round of applause from hundreds of freshmen in attendance.

The rottenness of a semi-colonial and semifeudal system is evident in the educational system. All the more must the Negrosanon youth unite with the broader masses in their militant struggle. Youth and students are eager to participate in the national democratic revolution that aims to combat and destroy not only the current system of education, but the entire ruling system in order to truly attain a nationalist, scientific, and mass-oriented education. **RP**

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I had almost no motivation to finish my studies and felt completely helpless. A comrade jokingly said that the solution was for me to become a full timer. I shrugged it off, although the idea stuck with me.

I then visited a community confronted with a destructive project. Comrades emphasized the need for a full time organizer there to help the masses; failing to do so would be a disservice to the exploited and oppressed. Finally, everything made sense to me. I decided to commit full time and take up the challenge.

My decision was not just my own. It was molded by the collective, the continuing exploitation of the masses, and the whole national democratic movement that is the bedrock of the Filipino people's struggle against imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. The decision to become a full timer was the easier

part, the harder part is the day-to-day struggle of remoulding my petty-bourgeois influences. It is a daily conscious decision and effort to always serve the people in everything that we do, how small or big the task may be.

Being a full timer resolved most of my mental health problems that were mainly due to the contradictions I had as a student organizer. Now, I realize that the feeling of being lost was a manifestation of the inherent struggle of a young petty bourgeoisie in a rotting society suffering a chronic crisis and heightened fascism. The helplessness stemmed from an idealist existential crisis of having to be "someone else, something more." My life finally found meaning in the struggle for social justice and national liberation.

The struggle continues. Although every day we are bombarded by news of fascist attacks and anti-people policies forwarded by capitalist bureau-

crats, the Filipino masses are resolute in forging a better society; the revolutionaries continue to wage the protracted people's war that will soon liberate the Filipino people. Together with all activists, organizers, and revolutionaries, we must remain steadfast in doing our very best in all the work that we do, in arousing, organizing, and mobilizing the collective power of all exploited classes against the ruling class.

I hope to see more student organizers taking up the challenge of doing full time organizing work with the masses of workers and peasants and becoming revolutionaries. There is a need everywhere. There is work that must be done. In times of confusion and contradictions, we must rely on our collective and always ask ourselves why we are here and who we are for. The masses are waiting for us. We are waiting for you, too. **AP**





Red Salute!

Willing to sacrifice for the masses

IN THIS ISSUE, WE REMEMBER four Red fighters who offered their lives to fight state fascism in order to liberate the toiling masses who have long suffered exploitation and oppression. Ka Jemon, Ka Jeloy, Ka Philip, and Ka Sardo were martyred in an encounter between the Mt. Canseron Command-New People's Army (MCC-NPA) and elements of the 94th IB last March 1 at Sitio Canagbaan, Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental.

Revolutionaries will continue to grow in numbers to continue what they started, and comrades and the masses will always honor and remember their sacrifice.



Ka Jemon

Ka Jemon (Rodolfo Leo John Azucena) hailed from Victorias City, Negros Occidental. He was a member of the Front Committee and acted as Platoon leader. He was a caring brother, father, and comrade.

Ka Jemon was industrious, approachable, and helpful to comrades. He did not think twice in accepting responsibilities given to him by the Party. He was determined and steadfast in performing tasks, and even if problems arose, he always helped in coming up with solutions to overcome difficulties.

Ka Jemon was known to be a good baker of various types of bread and he was fond of singing.

Ka Jeloy

Ka Jeloy came from the peasant class in Brgy. Macagahay, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Party Branch (KTPB) and became a squad leader.

Ka Jeloy was funny, cheerful, hardworking, and kindhearted. He was helpful to comrades and the masses. He did not refuse any tasks and his enthusiasm was always there when performing these.



Ka Philip

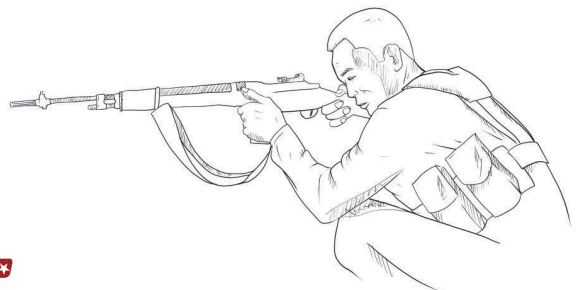
Ka Philip (Andre Cose) was born in Brgy. Sicaba, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. He was a member of the KT-PB and a vice squad leader.

At first, Ka Philip would seem shy. He was ready to hear out suggestions from comrades. He transformed his lumpen influence into revolutionary courage in facing difficulties because he understood his role in helping the masses. Despite his limitations, he was willing to study and it did not hinder him from performing his duties.

Ka Sardo

Ka Sardo (Ricky Altariba) came from North Negros. He was a member of the KTPB and acted as vice squad leader at times.

Ka Sardo was hardworking especially in technical tasks. He voluntarily helped comrades to hasten whatever work was being done. His most outstanding personality was his optimism and enthusiasm despite the intensifying fascism of the state. **AP**





Laygay Medikal

3 herbal plants that should be around the house

GUAVA, SAMBONG (ALIBHON) AND MALUNGGAY (MORINGGA) are three herbal plants that should be around the house because these greatly help in maintaining good health.

Herbal plants have a lot of benefits. These can help treat illnesses or give relief from several diseases. The use of herbal medicine must be based on the patient's illness and age. There are several methods of using herbal plants, it could be used to clean wounds, as mouthwash, as dressing, it could be directly applied to the skin, and could be taken by drinking. However, using herbal plants must be done with care. It is not good if used excessively or improperly.

Guava

- Can help in the treatment of loose stools and rheumatism
- Can be used to dress skin irritations and any wound
- Can be used as mouthwash for swollen gums or bad breath
- Can be used for fainting spells - squeeze fresh leaves and let patient inhale it while still unconscious
- Can be applied to bruises
- Method of preparation:
 - > get fresh leaves or bark
 - > wash thoroughly before boiling for 15 minutes
- Dosage:
 - > ages 13 and up - one glass, 3 times a day
 - > 6-12 years old - half a glass, 3 times a day
 - > 2-6 years old - $\frac{1}{4}$ glass, 3 times a day
 - > infant - one tablespoon, 3 times a day

Sambong

- Crush fresh sambong leaves and apply to skin abscess, dress twice a day
- For headaches caused by sinusitis-apply heat on fresh leaves until it is warm to the touch then put them on the patient's forehead
- heated leaves can be also applied on the abdomen for abdominal bloating and gas
- Can be used for muscle aches - use water with sambong to wash hands and feet in the afternoon
- Can be taken (through drinking) by those with UTI (urinary tract infection), cough, diarrhea, rheumatism, fever, and indigestion
- Method of preparation:
 - > gather leaves or any part of a sambong plant
 - > wash thoroughly before boiling for 15 minutes
- Dosage:
 - > ages 13 and up - one or half a glass, 3 times a day
 - > 6-12 years old - half a glass, 3 times a day
 - > 2-6 years old - two tablespoons, 3 times a day

Malunggay

- Malunggay is the leading herbal plant that can help in the daily nutrition of the body
- Contains vitamin A, B, and C, potassium, calcium, magnesium and iron; it also has anti-oxidants that helps in strengthening the immune system
- Can help to lower high blood pressure and its side effects; it can help to lower cholesterol
- Can help to balance blood sugar
- Can increase breast milk supply in nursing mothers when consuming malunggay every day.
- Can help when experiencing constipation and indigestion
- Can be used by Tuberculosis (TB) patients - two glasses every meal
- Can be used for anemia, rheumatism, headaches due to hangover, loose bowel movement, and infertility
- Can be applied on wounds and skin irritations
- Method of preparation:
 - > Leaves, flowers, and stem can be used
 - > Wash before using
 - > Can be added to food
 - > steep fresh leaves and drink **AP**

POETRY

Dalayawon nga Pagkatawo

by Ka Shenji

Sa mga huloy mo nga mga mata
Makita ko ang bilidhon ta nga kawsa
Sakripisyo, kabudlayan wala ginakahangaw-an
Basta malab-ot ang putli nga handum sang
banwa.

Sa mga makagalanyat mo nga mga yuhom
Makita ko ang kaaliwalas sang imo pagbaton
Sang mabug-at nga mga responsibilidad
Para lang sa pagbag-o sang sosyedad.

Sa mga mahinay, apang malig-on mo
nga paglakat
Makita ko ang kapag-on kag kalig-on
sang panindugan
Bisan pila pa ka banggi-anay sa sulod
sang Partido
Nagpabilin ka nga malig-on kag nanindugan
pareho sang
Nara nga kahoy nga wala nagahilay wala-tuo.

Sa malumanay kag mabugnaw mo nga
paghambal
Mabanaag ang kinaiya sang isa ka proletaryado
Indi hambog, mapainubuson kag pasensyoso
Apang tinggas mag-uyat sang mga prinsipyo.

Sa mga pili mo nga harakhak
Nagalanog nga inspirasyon sa amon

Magpadayon sa pagrebolusyon bisan
kami naga-isahanon
Mabatian lang ang nagaharakhak nga
buasdamlag sang aton palaabuton nga
henerasyon.

Ang imo bug-os nga pagkatawo
Pareho sang mga bantug nga baganihan
sang kasaysayan sang kahilwayan
Isganan nga martir nga wala nagakangilin
maghalad sang kabuhi
Para sa bug-os nga katawhan nga pigos
kag ginahimuslan.

Bulahan ang Negros sang imo dalayawon
nga panindugan
Pareho sang iban pa nga mga martir
nga nag-ula sang dugo
Mangin dungganon ka nga modelo
sang amon pagkapursigido
Kaupod salamat sang imo kabuhi kag pagkatawo
nga amot sa paghimakas kag pagbag-o.

KAUPOD, MABUHAY KA!

*A tribute to Comrade Kokoy and all
revolutionary martyrs and heroes
September 2, 2023*

