



EDITORIAL

Mark the Edsa uprising and persevere on the revolutionary path

It is especially relevant to mark in the coming days the Edsa Uprising in the face of attempts of the Marcos family, in collusion with the ruling Duterte clique, to steal the upcoming elections and install themselves in power. Holding to history's lessons, the Filipino people must firmly resist the Marcos-Duterte schemes, while persevering on the revolutionary path to end the rotten system giving rise to fascist hardliners and dictators and ruled by exploiters and oppressors.

The uprising of millions in Edsa and other major streets in Manila and across the country in February 22-26, 1986 is the culmination of the 14-year perseverance in all forms of resistance. Previous years were marked by relentless giant mass actions, along with the expansion and strengthening of nationwide armed resistance led by the Party and New People's Army. These shattered all fears and ceaselessly rocked the dictatorship.

In this year's commemoration, the people, especially the youth, must recall how Marcos wielded absolute

power to aggrandize himself, his family and cronies. How Imelda and their children wallowed in luxury and extravagance. How the congress and courts were padlocked and Marcos became sole law maker and judge of all. How he corrupted the military and police and used both in his campaign of suppression to terrorize and paralyze the people. How peasants were massacred in Culatingan, Palimbang, Daet, Sag-od, Escalante, Culasi and other places. How he bankrupted the economy and burdened the country with mountains of debt. How different forms of

exploitation and oppression intensified, unemployment worsened, prices skyrocketed, the peso devalued and poverty and hunger aggravated.

The Edsa Uprising is the Filipino people's historical judgement of the Marcos dictatorship. The ouster of Marcos from Malacañang is a show of the people's power draw from their unity and collective action.

Inconsistent with the people's judgement in 1986, the Marcoses were able to return to the country after a few years after US imperialism brought together and settled conflicts between rival factions of the ruling classes with the aim of stabilizing the neocolonial state. Not soon after, big businesses were restored in the hands of Danding Cojuangco and other big compradors and bureaucrat capitalist cronies of Marcos. A large portion of the billions upon billions of the Marcos stolen wealth remain in their hands.

The Marcoses and Romualdezes returned to Ilocos and Leyte politics, and later in congress and the senate.

Using the billions of pesos of stolen wealth, the Marcoses are spreading disinformation to deceive the people through mass media, social media, schools, the church and other means. Memories of the dark days in the country's history are being deleted even as illusions of progress and prosperity under martial law are conjured to obscure the Marcos dictatorship's plunder and crimes. The apex of this deception was reached when Duterte allowed Marcos's remains to be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani in 1986.

In line with the long-standing

ambition of the Marcoses to return to Malacañang, Marcos Jr. is now running as president in tandem with Duterte daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio as vice. They are handing out left and right seemingly bottomless amounts of stolen wealth to create the illusion of widespread support. Marcos Jr. is using the slogan of "unity" to fool and make people forget all the Marcos crimes and sins against them.

In commemorating the EDSA uprising, all the Marcoses' lies and distortion of historical truths must be determinedly exposed, condemned and resisted. There is need for a daring, clamorous and widespread education and propaganda campaign,

street actions and other measures to counter the Marcos-Duterte lies and manifest how they are hated and rejected by the people. Further broaden the ranks of democratic classes and forces to block the path of the Marcoses and Dutertes and prepare for a widespread uprising.

Exert all efforts to intensify mass struggles amid intensifying economic and social crisis. Mount valiant, daring, creating and broadening mass actions in streets, communities, factories and campuses to fight the incessant increases prices of oil products, food and other necessities, low wages, joblessness, more burdensome taxes, dumping of imported rice, meat and vegetables and other anti-people policies. Show the people's wrath against Duterte's thieving, murderous, treacherous and terrorist reign.

The attempt to restore the Marcoses and perpetuate the tyrannical reign of the Dutertes show the further rotting of the ruling system, where political and economic power is being concentrated more in the hands of the worst fascist and criminal cliques of the ruling classes, while people are made to suffer worse poverty and oppression. While it rots, the system engenders the likes of the Marcoses and Dutertes whose hunger for power is insatiable.

The people should take advantage of the elections to aggressively and openly promote the national democratic analysis and program on issues. Put forward clearly the call for a revolutionary end to the semicolonial and semifeudal system.

Use every opportunity to strengthen the Party and revolutionary mass organizations and intensify recruitment to the people's army. While fighting the Marcos and Duterte schemes, assiduously carry forward the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the puppet and bureaucrat capitalist state, and the exploitative and oppressive class rule of big landlords and big bourgeois compradors, and to establish the people's democratic government. **AB**



ANG Bayan

Vol. LIII No. 4 | February 21, 2022

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.



@cpp_angbayan



fb.com/angbayandailies



cppinformationbureau@gmail.com

Contents

Editorial: Mark the EDSA uprising and persevere on the revolutionary path	1
NPA mounts checkpoint in Surigao del Sur	3
NPA-Negros ambushes police	4
Protests	4
AFP deploys 2 battalions to Masbate	4
Cutting wages in the time of a pandemic	5
State illegally arrests doctor, 2 young activists and 3 farmers	5
Imperialist oppression of onion farmers	6
Under the state's watchful eye	7
In short	8
US provocations and warmongering in Ukraine	9

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

NPA mounts checkpoints in Surigao del Sur

For two hours, the New People's Army (NPA) held a portion of the national highway in Surigao del Sur (SDS) last February 10. The Red fighters mounted checkpoints in Barangay Mabahin, Cortes while carrying an operation to disarm three former soldiers in their home by the roadside. The measure was part of carrying out the revolutionary movement's policy on reactionary elections.

Seized from the soldiers were three short firearms, bullets and other matériel. Red fighters advised them against conducting any act that could harm the peasants and civilians, and the revolutionary movement. One of the soldiers is running for a local position in Cortes.

The checkpoints were set up a kilometer away from a CAFGU detachment and three villages away a police station. Four police personnel attempted to respond but withdrew after seeing that they were outnumbered by the Red fighters. While holding the checkpoints, the comrades were aware how some police and soldiers mixed with civilians to take videos. Some soldiers armed with short firearms stood at a distance where they monitored the Red fighters.

Ka Sandara Sidlakan, NPA-Surigao del Sur spokesperson, belied claims of the 901st Brigade that the operation violated international humanitarian law. "They know fully well that civilians were not frisked, harassed or threatened by the comrades."

Preparation for the action

In an interview by Ang Bayan, Ka Sandara narrated how the NPA unit conducted its preparations. Because the armed action will take place along the highway, Red fighters gathered detailed intel and studied the area and characteristic of the target community.

They conducted dry-runs to ensure that the action will be carried out swiftly. Forces were assigned to disarm, man the checkpoints and interact with the residents. Of the entire force, 25% were women.

"I was tense as we were approaching the target and feared that the action might fail," said a Red fighter who was joining an armed action for the first time. But when the comrades reached the house of the target and those manning the checkpoint appeared calm, his anxieties faded away.

Ka Sandara said that a firefight would likely have erupted had they encountered soldiers passing through the highway that morning. The NPA allowed the military vehicle to pass through, aware that the area was populated.

"At first, residents were taken by surprise when they first saw armed people flagging vehicles on the road," related Ka Sandara. "But when they realized they were Red fighters, most of them relaxed." Some were happy because it was the first time that they saw a Red fighter.

Residents saw comrades were "tidy and impressive" in their uniform of black pants and shirts printed with the image of Ka Oris. With a smile, they calmly explained the objectives of the armed action. "They were so excited on seeing the NPA, some approached and practically embraced the comrades!" Ka Sandara narrated. Some drivers and passengers passing through the checkpoints waved at the comrades. "This is not the army that Duterte claims to have crushed," she said. While adding to the strength of the people's army, it also helped embolden the masses.

It was unavoidable that the checkpoints caused delays for some passengers and drivers who comrades dutifully talked to. Some passengers feared of being caught in



a crossfire, but were assured by the NPA of their safety.

The Red fighters took the opportunity to explain the importance of the NPA's armed revolution. They also explained that the checkpoints were there to ensure that the armed action will be carried out orderly and for the safety of the civilians in the area.

Policy on elections

The checkpoint and disarming operation are part of the policy on the conduct of campaigns during the reactionary elections. "The checkpoints ensured that candidates will not bring armed goons, police and military forces to harass and intimidate the people," said Ka Sandara.

These also serve to remind candidates not to belittle the revolutionary movement and its political power.

Ka Sandara said that during the election period, people of Surigao del Sur must unite to make the candidates listen to their demands. These include standing against the construction of detachments in the villages, military occupation on the pretext of the Retooled Community Support Program and the forced surrender of civilians as members or supporters of the NPA.

They must also unite to defend the environment against widespread mining, illegal and large-scale logging and expansion of plantations. She said peasants must also demand a raise in their wages, as well as in the price of their products, lowering of land rent and others. **AB**

NPA-Negros ambushes police

The New People's Army-South Central Negros ambushed police forces along the highway of Sitio Candida 2, Barangay Bi-ao, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental last February 13. Two police personnel were wounded. The NPA belied police reports that a 15-year old civilian was wounded in the NPA action. According to the NPA unit which carried out the attack, the victim was hit by a bullet when a policeman fired his gun indiscriminately while fleeing towards the community.

In Negros Oriental, a 62nd IB trooper was wounded in a sniping operation against its detachment in Barangay Guba, Vallehermoso last February 10. In Bukidnon, two 8th IB troopers were killed in an NPA harassment operation last February 11 in Sitio Bendum, Barangay Busdi, Malaybalay City. An NPA unit in Agusan del Norte fired at a 65th IB detachment in Barangay Tagbungabong, Remedios T. Romualdez last February 6, wounding a soldier.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Central Negros seized four pistols and a shotgun when it raided the house of intelligence assets of the 62nd IB in Barangay Malansa, Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental last February 16. Three military assets were killed in the gunfight.

AFP deploys 2 battalions to Masbate

TWO BATTALIONS are currently deployed in Masbate (population: 908,920) in a desperate attempt to quell the people's struggle and defeat the New People's Army (NPA) in the island. It was reported in February that the transfer of the 96th IB to the island from Camarines Norte has been completed. This brings the soldier-to-civilian ratio to 6.6 soldiers for every 10,000 population in the island, as opposed to 2.7 healthworkers per 10,000 individuals in recent years.

The 96th IB's deployment purportedly covers 300 barangays in the island which are alleged election hotspots. In reality, this aims to entrench the military's domination in many parts of the island. The battalion was formerly deployed in Camarines Norte.

The 96th IB has a bloody record while under the 902nd Ibde covering Camarines Norte and several towns in Camarines Sur. Three farmers were tortured, killed and buried in shallow graves in Ragay, Camarines Sur in May 2018. A father and his son were also killed by this unit in Labo, Camarines Norte in March 2020.

With the battalion's transfer to Masbate, violations of human rights in the province are set to intensify. According to the records of the National Democratic Front-Bicol, 74 of 229 victims of extrajudicial killings from 2016 to January 2022 were recorded in Masbate. This is the highest number of cases in the region.

The masses of Masbate are already suffering from the presence of the 2nd IB, a unit of the 31st IB, the 93rd Civil Military Operations Company, a military intelligence company, and around three battalions of police forces.

AB



Oil price hikes slammed. Members of Gabriela held a noise barrage in Marikina's public market; in Baseco, Tondo; and in Tatalon and Mega Q-Mart in Quezon City last February 18 to protest relentless oil price increases since January. Earlier, drivers and jeepney operators organized a protest action along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Vegetable farmers holds caravan in Benguet. A caravan was organized by 250 vegetable gardeners and traders last February 14 along major roads in La Trinidad, Benguet to oppose unrestricted importation and smuggling of vegetables and other agricultural products from China. They also stressed that the limited and unsustainable response by the regime to control smuggling of vegetables destroy their livelihood.

Protest in Hacienda Murcia. Farmers and residents of Purok Cojuangco in Hacienda Murcia conducted a silent march to the municipal hall of Concepcion, Tarlac last February 4 to denounce the threat of demolition. They reported having received a notice of eviction and prohibition last 2019 from the Cojuangco clan and Landfactors, Inc. owned by the Sy family who seized their land. They were charged with trespassing and malicious mischief when they asserted their rights to the land. They have been farming the land for decades.

Protesters heckle Marcos Jr.'s motorcade. Protesters heckled the motorcade of Marcos-Duterte tandem in Caloocan City last February 19 while unfurling huge banners written with "Huwag iboto magnanakaw at sinungaling" (Do not vote for thieves and liars!). They also waved placards bearing the call "Never Again!" as the vehicle bearing Marcos Jr. passed by.

Cutting wages in the time of a pandemic

In cahoots with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), capitalists got away with slashing wages under the guise of “preserving jobs.” They exploited the workers’ desperation to hang on to their jobs in the midst of destructive lockdowns and absence of state aid.

Big companies took advantage of the conditions borne out of restrictive and prolonged lockdowns to further depress already low wages. Many workers from small businesses were also forced to accept wage cuts so they can keep their jobs.

This was confirmed by the Philippine Statistics Authority. In its Occupational Wages Survey, wages dropped an average of 9% in 2020. The average monthly wage of ₱18,108 in 2018 dropped to ₱16,486

in August 2020. Workers in finance and insurance, real estate and wholesale and retail trade were among those who suffered the steepest drop.

Wages moved further away from the decent wage of ₱1,051/day or ₱31,530/month.

The DOLE provided the legal basis for capitalists to brazenly violate the law through issuing an advisory on May 18, 2020. The agency allowed them to slash wages and wage benefits so long as

workers “agreed.”

The DOLE pushed for work-from-home arrangements which slashed work hours and days while dumping more work on the workers which obligated them to work beyond 8-hour days. The agency also allowed arbitrary layoffs. It rescinded the advisory on September 2020, after five months of workers’ objections.

Workers have long fought for a just increase in wages. The last meager wage increase in the National Capital Region was in 2018. Workers petitioned for a wage increase in 2019, after the DOLE threw the first one out. The agency

Continued on page 6

State illegally arrests doctor, 2 young activists and 3 farmers

Soldiers and police illegally arrested a doctor, two young activists and three farmers in the past few days.

In February 8, police arrested Dra. Ma. Natividad Castro at her sibling’s residence in San Juan City. Dra. Castro was among the health workers who assisted in establishing community health centers and health programs in the Caraga region in Mindanao. She also served as the general secretary of Karapatan-Caraga for many years.

She was slapped with trumped up charges of kidnapping and illegal detention and implicated in the raid by the New People’s Army in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur in December 29, 2018. Her arrest is part of the relentless attacks against Lumad and rights defenders in Mindanao which aims to intimidate people in the island and create the illusion that it is the Duterte family’s turf.

Bicol. Police arrested Allen Omanad, a student from the Catanduanes State University in Viga, Catanduanes last February 13 after planting a .38 caliber pistol and ammunition inside his home.

According to Omanad’s parents, three men broke into their residence and planted a pistol just minutes before the police arresting team arrived. Omanad chased the burglars but failed to catch them.

Last January 21, the 31st IB arrested Nora Garote, a resident and village councilor of Barangay Sta. Lourdes, Barcelona, Sorsogon. In Legazpi, Albay, Maricel Morilla was arrested on January 20 and was implicated in the ambush by the people’s army against elements of the 31st IB in Barangay Banquerohan in 2020.

Anakpawis Partylist municipal coordinator Edwin Romero and a member of Kabataan Partylist experienced harassment while waiting at Alice Bridge in Sorsogon City. Meanwhile in Masbate last February 8, the police and the 96th IB abducted and killed civilian Richard Mendoza, a resident of Esperanza, and presented him as an NPA member killed in an encounter.

Negros Occidental. Harlyn Balora, a member of Anakbayan Negros was illegally arrested on February 19 in Sitio Montara, Barangay Camang Camang, Isabela where he resides. A 500-strong police and military force also searched houses in in the area. Balora is currently detained at the Isabela Police Station.

Meanwhile, soldiers threatened, harassed and interrogated residents of Barangay Bi-ao, Binalbagan after Red fighters dealt a blow against the police on February 13. The soldiers broke into a private home and destroyed a parked motorcycle. A 15-year old boy was hit when police fired their guns in panic while fleeing from an ambush by the Red army.

Rizal. Guards of the JMV Security Services opened fire at the residents in Sityo Avatex, Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal in the morning of February 16, severely wounding a resident.

These guards were used to evict residents from the 148-hectare property land grabbed by the JVH Real Property and Leasing. AB

Imperialist oppression of onion farmers

The Bongabon town in Nueva Ecija is known as the Onion Capital of the Philippines because it produces the largest share of onions of the country. It is also called Asia's Onion Basket. But onion farmers, known for being the best and most patient, are reduced to tears because all their efforts go to the imperialist countries and their local ruling classes henchmen.

Imperialist agribusiness in onion production

Among different agricultural crops, onion production is considered among the most sensitive, laborious and costly. According to a study by the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) in the province, the cost of an onion crop cycle can reach up to ₱150,000 to ₱200,000 per hectare. Up to 41% goes to the purchase of seeds, fertilizers and chemicals. One fourth goes to fertilizers.

It has been the policy of the reactionary government since Marcos to promote high-yielding varieties and genetically modified organisms that were developed to be dependent on fertilizers, chemicals and other technologies controlled by imperialist countries.

Because seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are not locally produced, all production input in onion farming are imported by businessmen and sold to farmers at very high prices. In Nueva Ecija, seeds produced by EastWest, an American company, are the most prevalent.

Farmers gripe over the non-stop increase in prices of farm inputs, such as the skyrocketing price of a 50-kilo sack of urea from ₱1,800 in October 2021 to ₱2,600 in December 2021.

Despite increase in prices, there is a noticeable decline in the quality and quantity of farm inputs. For instance, a can of seeds which weighed 500 grams is now only 400 grams. Unlike before when a kilo of seeds would yield 200 sacks of onions, only a few farmers could now produce more than 100 sacks. Various onion plant diseases have emerged including the debilitating army worm (harabas), a type of worm that can wipe out hectares of

onion farms overnight. Multinational companies purposely weaken the seeds to compel farmers to buy more chemicals to counter diseases and pests.

Importation and price manipulation

Onions sold by farmers typically costs only ₱10-₱25 per kilo, especially during harvest. On the other hand, onion prices in the local markets go as high as ₱120 to ₱250 per kilo.

Through the stock buying scheme, local merchants manipulate onion prices. Local onions bought at low prices are stored in facilities owned by the merchants themselves to create artificial shortages and justify the importation of onions. Onions categorized as "rejects" and discarded by other countries are imported at cheap rates. When local prices go down as a result of the flooding of imported onions, these merchants will again exploit the

situation by buying local onions at very low prices, which they again store, and then release only when local supplies go down and prices go up.

Onion importation is the biggest factor behind the income losses of onion farmers. Of the agricultural products imported in 2020, onions comprise the biggest volume (40,585 metric tons worth ₱2.03 billion). As a result, up to 39% of local onion supply is imported. This does not include illegally smuggled onions.

In 2020, farmgate prices of onions fell by ₱8 per kilo because of the flooding of imported onions, mainly from China, authorized by the Department of Agriculture. Onion farmers suffered losses and incurred debts they can no longer pay. The Duterte regime plans to further push the importation of onions by removing the 75% tariff on the importation of 1,718 types of onions. This is in line with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an agreement of Asian countries pushing for agricultural liberalization.

(This article first appeared in Pulang Silangan, the revolutionary newspaper in East Central Luzon.) **AB**

From page 5

refused to deliberate the petition which was based on the skyrocketing prices of basic goods and services. In the meantime, the bill for a national minimum wage is still languishing in Congress.

Meanwhile, millions of workers who lost their jobs have not been able to return to their former status. Capitalists replaced regular jobs lost during the pandemic with temporary and contractual work. According to Ibon Foundation's estimates, most work (95%) created during the pandemic are part-time. A large part is in the informal sector. Less than 1% are regular jobs.

According to the group, around 5.7 million Filipinos are jobless, and not 3.2 million as reported by government statistics. This is because the government exclude in their count those who have lost hope in finding work.

All these mean lower pay, loss of benefits, job insecurity and suppressed workers' rights such as the right to form a union. On the other hand, big companies are marking "historic" highs in terms of income and revenue. They have more than recouped their losses incurred when the pandemic first hit. In 2021, the 50 richest bourgeois compradors increased their wealth by 30.5%. Among them are Manuel Villar, Enrique Razon and Dennis Uy, Rodrigo Duterte's favored allies. **AB**

Under the state's watchful eye

The SIM Card Registration Act now only awaits Rodrigo Duterte's signature to become a full law. The proposed law mandates that all cellular phone users and subscribers of any type of telecommunications must register their full names and present their ID before purchasing SIM cards. The law also covers current and new users of social media.

This law forms part of strengthening the state's machinery for surveillance against the people. The Duterte government railroaded its ratification in January after languishing in Congress for several years since 2016. The law purports that it will solve cybercrimes and terrorism.

If enacted, the law will outrightly attack the right to privacy of the estimated 82 Filipino cellphone users, including around 73 million social media users of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others. In addition, the state intends to keep the personal information of all cellphone users for 10 years. The law is also deliberately ambiguous as to which individuals and government agencies are allowed access to these data and how these will be used.

Under this law, every cellphone text message or each post on Facebook or Twitter will become directly connected to a specific person. Anyone who communicates through cellphone loses their privacy and anonymity.

This law gradually erodes the people's right to their private lives, which is key to a democracy. This basic right guarantees that a person determines and decides upon the boundaries of the different aspects of their lives. These include their correspondences, location, and even views on politics, religion, sexuality and others.

No less than the reactionary 1987 constitution stipulates the sanctity of private correspondence, information shared between a lawyer and their client, medical information between a doctor and their patient, business transactions and even between a journalist and his or her source. These are "privileged information" that only the individuals involved should be privy of and are exempt from state interference and surveillance. Any attempt to scrutinize these without any legal basis or court order is an abuse of power.

In the face of severe repression, anyone who makes a firm stand risk exposing their real identity. A cloud of fear will permanently hinder

people's rights to freely express their views and engage in public debate. A tyrannical state, moreso, will possess the superfluous capacity to monitor ordinary people and journalists beyond any legitimate government interests.

In particular, this will result in decreased reports of government corruption, police and military atrocities, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, corporate abuses, environmental destruction and other wrongdoings and crimes by powerful entities. Without anonymity, the people and those in the media will be hindered by fears of persecution and abuse from military and police officers, big bureaucrats, government officials and big corporations, and powerful religious authorities.

Advocates of internet security also assert that there will be greater disadvantages with the enactment of the SIM card registration. They denounced the power given to the state to subpoena telecommunications companies to surrender information of subscribers or users of their services. Prior this law, the government and telecommunications companies have already been collecting personal information such as names, addresses and dates of birth. They also gather information from valid IDs and selfies required for availing their financial services.

In many parts of the world, the SIM card registration has long been proven ineffective in solving related crimes. On the contrary, such laws have resulted into increased and worse forms of crimes such as identity theft and the illegal trade of SIM cards. The only remaining reason to insist on this law is for the fascist state to keep watch on its people round the clock.

(Read the longer version of this article on [cpp.ph](#).)

AB



38% ↓

drop in farmers' incomes after the Rice Liberalization Law authorized unlimited importation of rice

Source: Ibon Foundation

45 

farmers' groups submitted a petition against the Regional Comprehensive and Economic Partnership or RCEP, which became the basis for its non-ratification in the Senate last February 2.

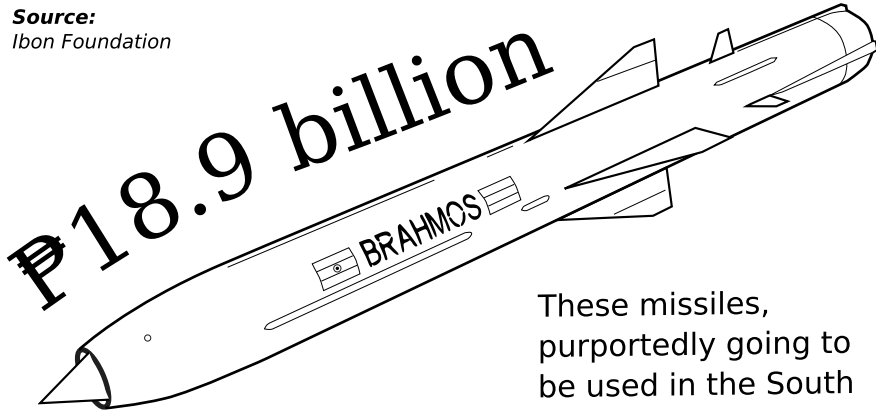
↑ ₱9.15/liter diesel

↑ ₱6.75/liter gasoline

↑ ₱8.45/liter gas

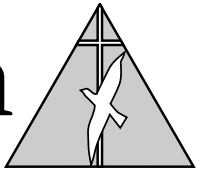
oil prices rose seven times in seven weeks

Source: Department of Energy



the Duterte regime wasted in buying BrahMos Supersonic missiles from India.

These missiles, purportedly going to be used in the South China Sea, have limited targeting capabilities and are therefore ineffective even within the Philippine EEZ.

50th 

year anniversary of the Christian for National Liberation in February 17.

The group was founded exactly a century later on the day that Filipino priests Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos at Jacinto Zamora, known as the Gomburza, were killed by Spanish colonialists.

International Observer Mission

created by the ICHRP on February 7 to monitor the Philippine elections.

The body was formed based on the escalation of human rights violations as elections loom.

Source: International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines

I am still alive!



Jose Maria Sison declares on his 83rd birthday on February 8 in relation to the fake news being peddled by the NTF-Elcac that he already died.

FEBRUARY 7, 1986

snap elections that sparked the first EDSA uprising took place.

35 Comelec employees walked out of their jobs when massive cheating allegations surfaced.

US provocations and warmongering in Ukraine

Over the past weeks, the US imperialists have intensified provocations and warmongering in Ukraine in the hope of sparking an armed conflict and proxy war with Russia. In collusion with American big media and the military industrial complex, the US has been whipping up the threat of an "imminent invasion" by Russia in Ukraine to justify heightened military spending to raise the sales of military weapons.

The US has been provoking Russia since last year by pushing for the inclusion of Ukraine into the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and by opposing the commercial operations of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. The US is flooding the puppet Ukrainian government with weapons against the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic in the Donbass region (special region in the west of Ukraine with Russian population) to provoke a Russian invasion.

The push of the US puppet regime in Ukraine for the country to join the NATO, the US-led military alliance, is a direct challenge to Russia. This would allow the US and its military allies to position troops, tanks, missiles and other military matériel right next to Russia's

border. Ukraine's inclusion into the NATO will add to the US network of military bases in its state of Alaska, in Poland, Romania and other countries close to the Russian border.

In the face of US provocations, Russia positioned tanks and an estimated 100,000 troops in its western borders with Ukraine, as well as in the southern borders of Belarus, a country north of Ukraine, where Russia maintains a military base. These form part of Russia's political and diplomatic tactics to oppose US arm-twisting. Russia is pushing for renewed negotiations to reaffirm previous agreements surrounding the Donbass region, explicit prohibition of the eastward expansion of NATO to Ukraine and other countries, and a ban on US and NATO intermediate-range missile in

countries within striking distance of Russia.

For weeks now, the US has been beating the drums of war to justify plans of increasing military aid and stepping up weapons sales to Ukraine. The US congress aims to triple military aid to Ukraine this year to \$1.2 billion including more than \$500 million worth of foreign military financing to sell excess weapons, \$200 million worth of drawdown authorization for the US president to transfer war matériel in US stockpiles to non-US militaries, and other measures.

Furthermore, the US has already allowed its NATO allies Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to send US-made weapons to Ukraine.

The biggest beneficiary of US warmongering is the military industrial complex and the Pentagon (Department of Defense) which was allotted a record \$768 billion budget for 2022. After withdrawing from Afghanistan, the US imperialists are bent on inciting another long-drawn armed conflict onto which it can pour its surplus arms and induce production of more weapons.

The people of Ukraine are being made to suffer from interimperialist conflict between the US and its NATO allies, and Russia. The progressive and revolutionary forces in Ukraine and across the world must arouse, organize and mobilize the people to demand an end to US warmongering and provocation in Ukraine. The peoples of the world must unite and demand the imperialist powers to negotiate and reach a peaceful settlement of their conflicts.

