



EDITORIAL

## Advance the revolutionary struggles with full courage and determination

**T**he political and economic situation is very favorable for advancing all forms of mass struggles and the revolutionary struggle for national democracy firmly. The further political isolation of the Duterte regime must be taken advantage of in order to reach and mobilize an increasing number of people especially in the coming months before the elections.

As Rodrigo Duterte's Malacañang term draws to a close, his fascist regime escalates its brutal attacks against the Filipino people. This is in line with his desperate attempt to attain his declaration of ending the armed resistance and to carry out his scheme of widespread suppression and imposing martial law on the pretext of widespread chaos. In the cities and countryside, Duterte employs fascist terrorism to tyrannize the people, destroy their unions and organizations, trample on their rights and crush their resistance. The regime's worsening attacks reveal its mortal fear of a people's uprising that can be ignited

by their rapidly worsening conditions and standard of living.

The Philippine economic crisis continues to worsen. The successive increases in fuel prices over the past ten weeks is bringing gross suffering and misery upon the masses and stokes their outrage. The big capitalists are exploiting the war in Europe to accumulate superprofits, and which also provides the Duterte regime a windfall in the form of increasing tax collections. As a result, prices of food, goods and services are rising, which force the majority of the people into poverty. The value of the peso is nosediving even as wages remain low. Like rub-

bing salt on the people's wounds, the regime's officials announced that more taxes will have to be imposed to cover Duterte's mountains of debt.

Amid reports of reduced number of Covid-19 cases, the regime "opened the economy" but widespread unemployment remains. This is because a large part of export-oriented manufacturing remains aground. Weak local production is tied to the international imperialist crisis. Global production remains weak due to the crisis of overproduction. The crisis of local agriculture and fisheries continues to worsen due to unmitigated liberalization and the flood of imported rice, vegetables, meat and fish, resulting in the bankruptcy of millions of peasants and fisherfolk. Until now, the Duterte government has failed to carry out decisive measures to strengthen

the public health system as preparation for a possible pandemic resurgence.

As the May election approaches, the contradictions among the rival cliques of the ruling class intensify. As the election campaign heats up, large rallies supporting Leni Robredo are gaining ground across the country, bringing together the people's anger against the Duterte regime's fascism, corruption and treachery. These put to stark focus the isolation of the ruling clique and its Marcos-Duterte tandem.

The situation is bound to widen and consolidate further the democratic united front, including the possibility of uniting the anti-Duterte parties and candidates. The Marcos-Duterte plot to steal the

elections will become more untenable and will undoubtedly ignite massive people's resistance.

The economic and political crisis of the ruling system, and worsening state terrorism is generating conditions that favor resurgence of different forms of mass struggles against political repression and to advance the struggles for the people's urgent democratic demands. The people must be mobilized untiringly to fight against rising prices of fuel and commodities, for jobs and higher wages, to reduce land rent, economic subsidies, cancellation of debt, an end to dumping of imported agricultural products, and so on.

All efforts must be exerted and all methods utilized, including taking advantage of the election campaign,

to reach factories and communities in the cities and countryside, to arouse, organize and mobilize workers, peasants, the poor, the youth, women and other oppressed and impoverished people. Party cadres and activists must overcome their fear and hesitation, steel their minds and hearts, be ready to face all difficulties, hunger and sacrifices, and daringly and untiringly surpass all past efforts in organizing the masses and uniting their will and strengthening their determination, and in addressing their concrete problems and leading their struggles.

The mass movement must take advantage of the growing political movement against the Marcos-Duterte collaboration and link their mass struggles to the election campaign and the resistance to the plans of stealing the elections. On the other hand, the struggles in the election arena waged by democratic forces must be linked to the political and economic struggles of the masses.

We are celebrating this month the 53rd anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA). Be ever determined to strengthen and expand the NPA. Further strengthen military discipline and raise the capability in guerrilla tactics to frustrate the enemy's all-out offensives that are set to heighten further in the coming months. Fiercely resist the enemy's attacks against the people. Launch tactical offensives with certain victory. Target the detached and small units of the enemy. Expose and oppose the enemy's psywar that deceives and disunites the masses.

Firmly uphold the interests of the peasant masses and advance their struggles. Continually expand the territories of the guerrilla fronts and build new guerrilla fronts. Sustain recruitment and training of young Red fighters who will bring the people's war to greater heights in the future.



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| <p><b>AN Bayan</b></p> <p>Vol. LIII No. 5   March 7, 2022</p> <hr/> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray, English and Spanish. Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p>                                    | <p><b>Contents</b></p> <p><b>Editorial:</b> Advance the revolutionary struggles with full courage and determination 1</p> <p>Doing modules, NPA-style 3</p> <p>NPA launches 7 armed actions 4</p> <p>Protest actions 4</p> <p>AFP bombing in Lanao, Mindoro, Masbate 5</p> <p>Reject the Marcoses 5</p> <p>The AFP's forked tongue 6</p> <p>Divorce and protection against violence 7</p> <p>The Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth 8</p> <p>In short 9</p> <p>End the imperialist war in Ukraine 10</p> |
| <p>Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>   |   |
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# Doing modules, NPA-style

A number of Red fighters have taken on teaching responsibilities in the countryside after the Department of Education implemented the blended learning mode in 2020. Ka Agnes, a teacher and New People's Army member, was one of those who shouldered the task.

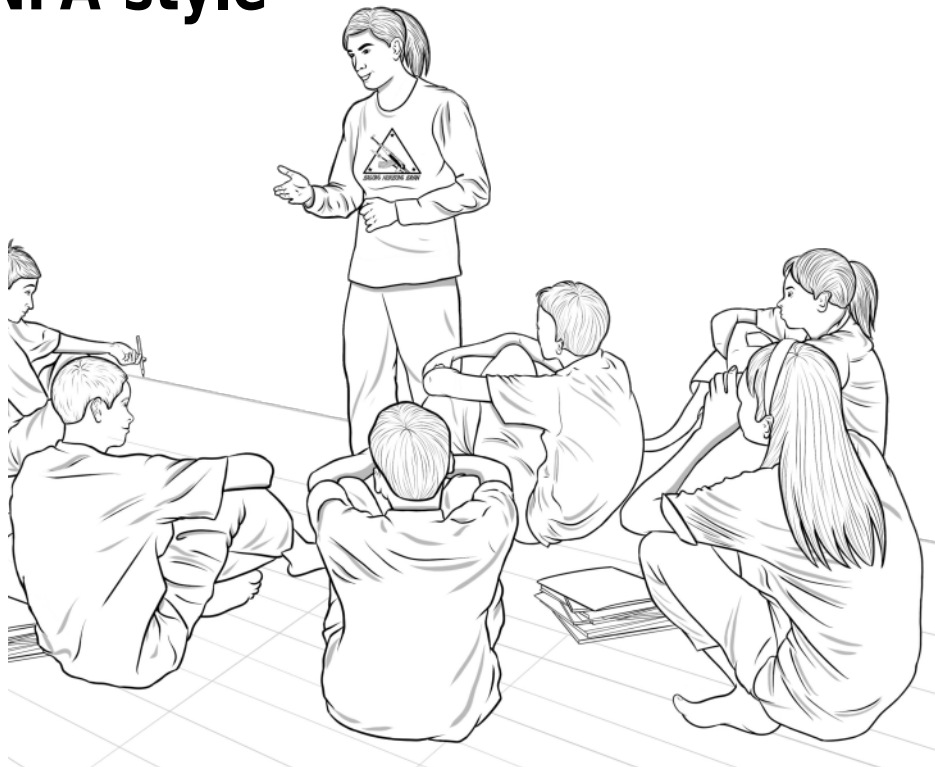
"When I was younger, I was amazed how my teachers taught two grade levels at a time," she said. "I never thought I'd be doing the same thing." In her area of responsibility, Ka Agnes taught students in four grades in "all subjects, lessons and topics."

Many parents don't have the time, patience or knowledge to teach. She heard mothers gripe about how they have long forgotten school lessons, or how that they are too busy and do not have the time to teach. "I did not graduate," a mother told her. "That's why I'm sending the kids to school."

Ka Agnes narrates that before their unit arrived in the area and comrades were not yet available for teaching, kids looked up answers for their modules from an app. "I was surprised when I read the answers," she said. "Not all are correct! And children were just concerned with the answers, not with the process or solutions on how to come up with answers for their modules. All they did was copy."

Ka Agnes saw grave errors in the modules and even in the weekly exams. "There were errors in the conjugation of verbs, errors in tenses, choice of words, and examples," she lamented. "The worst was when the lessons themselves were wrong."

As a teacher herself, Ka Agnes can relate to the difficulties that teachers have to endure under the blended learning mode. Compared to in-person teaching, she knows how hard and costly it is to prepare



and print modules and grade voluminous modules dumped on them, not knowing whether it was answered by the student or his or her mother. "It's hard to evaluate a student's level of understanding if you don't see them face-to-face," she said. "You won't know who to award the First Honors for high marks, the student or the mother?"

In her experience, blended learning is a failure and no amount of adjustment can save it. "If you ask me if children learn effectively from this, I'd say no."

Homes in the countryside are comfortable not for learning but for doing other things. "The house set-up is too different, there is no pressure, life is a breeze." She said that when schools were open, children would long for Fridays and free weekends. "Now, they pray that Friday won't come because they need to turn in their modules and they haven't gotten to them despite having been given a whole week."

Since they don't physically go to school, children have lost the ability to keep time—from waking up to preparing to go to the hourly shifts of lessons which conditions them to listen to a teacher for a specific period. Under in-person learning, even exams are conducted within a set ti-

me frame.

"They no longer acquire the discipline of learning that comes from the discipline of keeping time," Ka Agnes lamented.

Many children also choose to work instead of doing their lessons. "Momoy, a student of mine who is in Grade 9, chose to work in a furniture shop rather than work on his modules." She can't fault the child since his family really needs the added income.

So many things can get in the way of doing the modules. "Once they get distracted by their Android cellphones, for sure they'll be at it for the rest of the day," she said. "The modules will be left gathering dust in a corner."

Worse, Ka Agnes observed, the blended learning mode has bred conditions where young minds deteriorated due to online gaming and activities. This is the result of unsupervised internet use, something that children had limited access to when they were in school.

"They race to improve their ranking in online games, rather than work for the honor of learning."

Unregulated gaming has changed the children's physical and social environment. They often

*Continued on page 4*

## NPA launches 7 armed actions

The New People's Army launched seven armed actions, mostly sniping operations, in Bicol, Negros, Davao de Oro and Bulacan in the past few weeks.

Two elements of the 94th IB were wounded in a sniping operation of the NPA-South Central Negros (Mount Cansermon Command) last February 22 in Sitio Amaga-Cantupa, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City in Negros Occidental. The soldiers were then forced to leave the community.

This was followed by another sniping operation in Sitio Cunalom, Purok 3-Gamot, Barangay Carabalan in February 28 where three 94th IB troopers were reportedly wounded.

In Kabankalan City, the people's army paralyzed a quarry company operating in Ilog-Hilabangan River last March 2. The said quarry company has wreaked havoc on the environment and caused the people hardships. It is part of the Ilog-Hilabangan River Basin construction project which will displace 200 families.

In Camarines Sur, a unit of the NPA-East Camarines Sur (Tomás Pilapil Command) launched harassment operations against a detachment of the CAGU and 83rd IB troopers in Barangay Pili-Tabiguian, Caramoan in February 16.

Meanwhile, a unit of the NPA-Sorsogon sniped the 504th Maneuver Company of PNP Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) in Barangay Esperanza, Pilar, Sorsogon in February 28. P/Cpl. Ryan M. Atos was killed and an element of the RMFB was wounded.

In Davao de Oro, an NPA unit ambushed AFP operating troops in Barangay Tandawan, New Bataan last February 9.

In Bulacan, the NPA-Rizal launched harassment operations on February 12 in neighboring Sitio Anginan, Barangay San Mateo, Norzagaray against the 80th IB. AB

*From page 3*

neglect their health when playing online. They no longer get out of their homes and their bases for forming friendships changed. Their emotional and mental health is damaged. "They isolate themselves in their rooms and their emotions veer wildly with the things they see on the internet."

Ka Agnes understands that parents and adults have a crucial role in supervising and regulating gadget use. But in many cases, adults are too busy working so they can feed their families amid widespread destruction of jobs due to the state's failed response to the pandemic.

"When all is said and done, we circle back to the failed semicolonial and semifeudal system," Ka Agnes said. "This rotten system is also rotting children's minds. This is precisely what the people's democratic revolution is fighting against and repudiating."

She plans to shift lessons after the children are done with their quarterly modules. "I'm going to schedule a short course on Philippine society and revolution," she said. AB



**Odette victims protest in Bais City.** Odette victims from Bais City, Negros Oriental trooped to the local office of the Department of Welfare and Development last March 3 to demand the release of financial aid due to them. It has been three months since the typhoon's destruction but they have yet to receive any financial aid from the government despite having processed and signed the necessary documents. The city recorded 14 dead and 19 missing due to the typhoon.

**Farmers condemn landgrabbing in Tarlac.** Farmers from Barangay Tinang, Concepcion, Tarlac picketed in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City last February 25 to demand that land in Hacienda Tinang be awarded to its rightful beneficiaries. The 200-hectare property have been claimed by the fake Cooperative Development Authority and farmers have never benefited from it. The family of Congressman Noel Villanueva of Tarlac's third district runs the cooperative.

**Junk the Mining Act of 1995.** Environmental groups and indigenous peoples gathered in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the 27th anniversary of the passage of the Mining Act of 1995 last March 3. The law paved the way to the unbridled plunder of resources in ancestral lands, they said. The groups emphasized the effects of the law to climate change which has resulted into worsening calamities.

**National protests against high prices.** Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Anakpawis Partylist spearheaded protests against relentless price increases of petroleum products last March 4 in Litex Market, Quezon City. Similar protests were held by Kadamay and Gabriela. Bayan Muna earlier called for a special congressional session to stem skyrocketing oil prices. They called for the repeal of excise taxes and the Oil Derogation Law.

## AFP bombs civilian communities in Lanao, Mindoro and Masbate

Three cases of aerial bombing and shelling of civilian communities by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) were recorded during the past two weeks. Thousands of families were forced to evacuate due to these.

The AFP dropped at least 12 bombs in a Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp in Maguing, Lanao del Sur between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. of March 1. At least seven civilians were killed while several others were wounded. The AFP also mounted a brigade-sized combat operation covering six barangays. Thousands were trapped in the operation and were not able to leave the area. More than 1,300 families were directly affected by the bombing and attacks and were forced to evacuate to the town center. (*Read related article on page 6.*)

In Occidental Mindoro, the AFP dropped bombs using FA-50 aircrafts at around 1 a.m. last February 26 on communities bordering Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro and San Jose. The community was later shelled seven times at 5 a.m. in the morning. Two Blackhawk helicopters came and went repeatedly to strafe the mountains from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. before dropping fascist troopers in the area.

In Masbate, hundreds of residents were distressed by the bombing in Barangay Igang, Masbate City last February 21. This was after an AFP attack aircraft dropped six bombs at around 4 a.m.

**Killings.** Soldiers the 20th IB indiscriminately fired at children tending their coconut kiln (koprahan) in Barangay Roxas, Catubig, Northern Samar last February 8. Andre Espinilla, 12, and Leandro Alivio, 13, were killed while another was severely



wounded. To cover up their crime, the AFP claimed that the children were "caught in a crossfire" when a unit of the New People's Army (NPA) ambushed them.

According to the official report of the local NPA unit, it is not true that the children were caught in an encounter between the NPA and the AFP. The indiscriminate firing by the 20th IB against the children occurred separately from the earlier counter-raid operation mounted by an NPA unit against operating troopers of the 20th IB. Both happened on the same day.

**Illegal arrests.** In violation of his rights under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), Ka Esteban Manuel, Jr., 73, peace consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, was arrested by soldiers of the AFP Joint Task Force Storm, together with another civilian, last February 16 in Villareal, Samar. According to his family, they still do not know the whereabouts of Manuel Jr.

Cagayan Valley Makabayan Coalition coordinator Agnes Mesina was arrested on the evening of February 28 in Aparri, Cagayan. Mesina was part of a fact-finding mission to Barangay Sta. Clara, Gonzaga. She was released four hours later after human rights organizations asserted that the case for the arrest warrant used against her has already been dismissed.

Four men arrested Diosdado Grefaldo Barbacena Jr. last March 6 in Barangay Rizal, West District, Sorsogon City. He is a member of the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Sorsogon and husband of the provincial chapter spokesperson of Anakpawis Partylist. AB

### Edsa's call: reject the Marcoses

MORE THAN 4,000 people marched to the People Power Monument along EDSA, Quezon City last February 25 to commemorate the 35th year of the EDSA uprising. Led by the Bayan multisectoral alliance, they chanted, "Ang pinatalsik ng EDSA, huwag nang ibalik pa!" (Those ousted by EDSA should never be allowed to return!)

"Teach-in" or a big classroom-setup is this year's type of protest. They recalled the Filipino people's resistance against the dictatorship. At the same time, the demonstration was a show of defiance against the return of the corrupt and tyrannical rule of the Marcoses in power.

Aside from these activities in EDSA, various programs and gatherings were organized in Baguio City, Naga City, Iloilo City, Cebu City, Bacolod City, Davao City and in the cities in Cagayan Valley. There were also protests in Pangasinan and Tarlac. Among the attendees in the protests were democratic organizations, martial law veterans, students, church workers and mediamen.

Earlier, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines warned of "radical distortion of martial law's history." Similar to different groups, church people have expressed alarm over the "distortion of facts and attempts to erase or destroy our collective remembrance by implanting disinformation and wrong narratives." This is dangerous, according to the church, because "this will poison our collective memory and destroy the moral foundations of our institutions." AB

"Nanlaban" in the cities, "engkwentro" in the countryside

# The AFP's forked tongue

The Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) modus of fabricating news of encounters was fully exposed when it covered up the massacre of five civilians by one of its units in New Bataan, Davao de Oro between February 23 in the evening and the morning of February 24. Using gruesome photos, the 10th ID announced the following day that activists Chad Booc, Gelejurain Ngujo II, Elgyn Balonga, and drivers Robert Aragon and Tirso Añar were killed in an armed encounter.

These photos that were circulated on the internet showed Booc with a firearm and an empty ammo vest in order to portray him as a member of the New People's Army (NPA). These photos were mocked, cursed and feasted upon by the AFP's personnel.

The local NPA unit promptly declared that no encounter took place in Purok 8, Barangay Andap on the date claimed by the AFP. The victims' group said that they were in the area to visit a Lumad community as part of their work as volunteer teachers and advocates of indigenous peoples' welfare. On the night of February 23, they left New Bataan for Davao City when they were accosted by soldiers at a checkpoint in Barangay Poblacion.

The case now known as the New Bataan 5 is similar to previous cases of civilian abductions and killings in Mindanao. These include the shooting of three civilians by soldiers in Sityo Manluy-a, Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur on June 15, 2021. The modus is also similar to the series of killings of several revolutionary

leaders in Mindanao last year. There have been numerous cases where civilians who were mercilessly killed suddenly became "members of the NPA."

In all these cases, the military's disinformation campaign automatically kicks in to cover up the cruel murders of civilians and the unarm-

A week after the massacre in New Bataan, Moro communities became the subject of the AFP's attacks and fabricated stories. After dropping bombs on Barangay Rung-gayan, Maguing, Lanao del Sur, in the early morning of March 1, the 103rd Ibde insisted that they bombarded a "camp of the terrorist Dawlah Islamiyah."

The truth is that the area was a civilian community under the territory of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Despite being roundly refuted by a local MILF commander and local officials of Maguing, the AFP stubbornly maintained that it was the "Maute" and Dawlah Islamiya that their bombs hit.

## No ordinary fake news

The AFP systematically and thoroughly spreads disinformation on media and social media after every fascist crime such as the above cases. According to communications experts, this type of fake news is not a mere case of omission or lack of data, but a plan that is orchestrated, funded and run by professionals. This is designed to foment irrational anger and hatred against targeted individuals, groups, race, religion or gender.

Disinformation is a weapon the AFP uses in its war of suppression. It is used to cover up crimes and grave violations of human rights in order to eliminate all obstacles in their war against the people. They utilize social media and employ numerous Facebook accounts under their control in order to manipulate public opinion. Fake "media" accounts are created to deceive millions of Facebook users.

The AFP closely follows the US Counterinsurgency Guide's instructions which regard the manipulation of information as one of the key components of a supposedly successful counterinsurgency campaign. Among the doctrines taught by the US is that in order to instill information on the most significant number of the population, and thereby control public opinion, information must be disseminated immediately, no matter how distorted or completely fabricated these are. This also includes controlling the flow of information, which explains frequent news blackouts, restrictions to prevent media access to incident areas, and threats that prevent people to speak up.

In the New Bataan incident, it took the 10th ID almost 24 hours before reporting on the supposed encounter. Instead of sharing the

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## Divorce and protection against violence

Women's groups in the Philippines have long advocated for the right to divorce. Their call is growing stronger in the face of escalating abuse of women in the home, especially since the pandemic. In the Philippines, one in four Filipino women in the 15-49 age range have experienced physical, emotional, or sexual violence from their spouses or partners.

This marks an increase from 2020 in the number of internet searches about domestic violence. The Philippines has one of the highest number (ranked third), with 1,048 per 100,000 people doing searches on the topic.

Laws recognizing a woman's right to separate from her husband already exists: legal separation and annulment of marriage. However, due to the complex and very emotional, legal process and lack of money and resources (with costs of up to a million), many simply endure abusive relationships or break up outside the scope of the law.

From 2016 to 2021, the number of cases filed for legal separation dropped by 45%, amid the rise in cases of domestic abuse. This shows the lack of protection under the law for legal separation and annulment of marriage.

A divorce bill has long been pending before the Philippines congress. It was filed in 2005 by the Gabriela Women's Party with the aim of allowing more women to escape abusive marital relationships and protect

their rights and well-being and those of their children. This is superior than the annulment law and legal separation.

Annulment declares the marriage void from the very start, but it does not cover conjugal matters, including children and property. Mutual responsibility in addressing the needs of children is not ensured. There is also no guarantee that the assets, usually in the man's name, are reasonably divided. In contrast, the divorce proposal will ensure that the rights of the children and the aggrieved party are protected.

Under the law on legal separation, the termination of the marriage is recognized but the divorced person can no longer remarry. Under divorce, the legal marriage is dissolved and the separated person is allowed to remarry.

Divorce is considered a rights-based option. Growing support of the Filipino people for advancing this is an important step to address the deeper ills of society that continue to threaten the destruction of marriage as an institution.



Within the revolutionary movement, the right to divorce has long been recognized. It is granted when there is evidence that one's spouse has turned traitor or outrightly counterrevolutionary. Likewise, if one party is proven to be unfaithful, bigamous, cruel, or if one made an attempt on the life of the other. It is also granted for other physical and mental reasons within a period of time and when requested by a couple or one of the spouses due to personal differences which have resulted into a breakdown of the relationship.

Divorce requests are processed by section committees or at the higher level of the Party organization. The Party ensures that the welfare of children of divorced couples is secured. AB

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*From page 6*

news with legitimate media organizations, the disinformation was posted on its Facebook page, and was then echoed by the different military accounts.

In 2020, a wide network of Facebook accounts spreading disinformation and run by military officers was discovered. A few hundreds of these are said to have been taken down by Facebook. But

these form only a small fraction since widespread disinformation by the AFP continues.

Recently in Esperanza, Masbate, a farmer was also made to wear an ammunition vest and a firearm was planted on his person after being killed by the 96th IB and presented as a member of the NPA who died in an encounter. Eight of the 15 massacres in Bicol under the Duterte regime were reported as

encounters between the NPA and the AFP-PNP.

Cutting the flow of information between the people and those considered "enemies" of the ruling government also forms part of the military's disinformation. They sabotage the website of the Communist Party of the Philippines, as well as those of the independent media, in order to prevent the flow of correct information. AB

# The Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth

Why is Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. avoiding public debates, forums and interviews? One of the reasons is because he does not want the public to know about his family's hidden wealth.

Just how big is the Marcos stolen wealth? Conservative estimates peg the Marcoses' enormous stolen wealth to be around \$10 billion or ₱510 billion (\$1=₱51).

After the Marcos dictatorship was ousted in 1986, the first Aquino regime established the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to investigate and reclaim the Marcoses' hidden wealth in the country and overseas. After three decades, the PCGG was able to recover only a small portion. This was due to complications in the legal process, non-cooperation of foreign governments, as well as the PCGG's internal weaknesses.

The PCGG was able to recover only \$3.6 billion in the country and overseas from the start of the Aquino I regime up to the current government of Rodrigo Duterte. In particular, Marcos assets worth \$680 million were recovered from banks in Switzerland, US and other

countries. Reparation to victims of human rights violations during the 14-year US-Marcos dictatorship was taken from this recovered wealth.

Most of the Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth was spent to keep their billionaire lifestyle, maintain their political base in Ilocos Norte and Leyte and reclaim political power at the national level in order to perpetuate their plunder and bloody rule.

There is no truth to stories being circulated that the Marcos wealth came from Ferdinand Marcos Sr's law practice and the secret "Tallano Gold."

A sizable portion of their wealth stolen from Japan-funded projects were deposited into Credit Suisse in Switzerland. These were deposited in several accounts under the names of fake foundations and institutions such as the ones under his crony Herminio Disini. The initial deposit of \$100 million ballooned to more than

\$800 million.

After depleting funds from Japan's war reparations, Marcos trained his eyes on foreign loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for his infrastructure projects and private accumulation of bureaucratic loot. This was done by overspending and overpricing of infrastructure projects (such as roads and bridges) in order to extort large kickbacks, broker's fees and other forms of bribery from foreign companies and foreign suppliers of construction materials.

Wielding absolute power over the military and police during martial law, Marcos suppressed all opposition and plundered the public coffers and public resources with impunity. He harassed and confiscated privately-owned utilities such as Meralco, PLDT, Philippine Airlines and two others, mass media corporations including seven television stations, 16 daily newspapers, 11 weekly magazines, 66 community newspapers and 292 radio stations.

Marcos used "presidential decrees" and "letters of instruction" to award favors to himself and his cronies. For example, his defense secretary Juan Ponce Enrile took control over the logging industry, Eduardo Cojuangco over the coconut industry, Roberto Benedicto controlled the sugar industry, Antonio Floirendo over the banana industry, and many more.

Despite constant denials regarding the family's stolen wealth, Imelda Marcos' tongue slipped when she claimed that "Those are all ours!"

If Marcos Jr. wins the presidential elections in May 2022, many fear that the people will completely lose the battle to recover their ill-gotten wealth.





16



organizations under the **National Democratic Front of the Philippines** were arbitrarily and baselessly designated as “terrorist groups” by the Anti-Terrorism Council in a proclamation last January 26, published only on February 22.

30-40



**Filipino workers in Hong Kong** were forced to sleep in parks and other public spaces during the last week of February.

They were kicked out by their employers from their homes after they tested positive for Covid-19

\$111

per barrel

crude oil prices on March 2 as the conflict between Ukraine and Russia escalated due to US warmongering. This was the highest since 2014.

## ALERT LEVEL 1

declared over most of the Philippines on March 1. This means most of the country are already put in pre-pandemic levels.

Because of this, the Department of Health is stopping its daily reports on Covid infections.

2-3

million tons



of poison were dumped into the Boac River in Marinduque on March 24, 1996 in what is known as the worst mining disaster in the country.

400

Source: Philippine Eagle Foundation

pairs of eagles are what is left in their habitat in Mt. Apo and the mountains of Southern Mindanao. Fears abound that their numbers will drop further if the Dutertes get their way of clearing the forests to make way for commercial plantations.



500

Palestinians are in jail without charges and trial for six months or more under the fascist Israeli state’s “administrative detention” scheme

Source: Palestinian Support and Human Rights Association

70%

of parties running under the party list system is controlled by political dynasties and big business.

Source: Kontra Daya

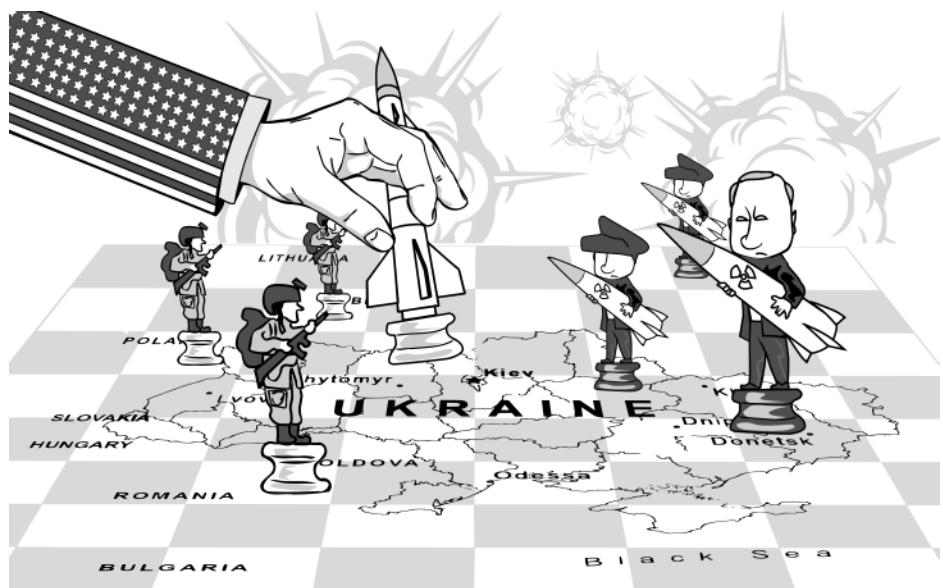
# End the imperialist war in Ukraine

Russia's attacks in Ukraine last February 24 saw the igniting of the inter-imperialist armed conflict as a result of the non-stop provocation of the US and its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The three decade-long US-NATO provocations involve violations of the Minsk Agreement of 1991 which prohibit the US-NATO to include countries formerly belonging to the Warsaw Pact (countries that were militarily allied with the then Soviet Union).

Instead of accepting Russia's offer of dialogue last December 2021 to forge a new security agreement, the US persisted in its provocations by pouring weapons into Ukraine, pushing its inclusion into the NATO, and mounting armed attacks against Donbass. (*Read the related article in the previous issue of AB*).

Attacking Ukraine was Russia's last card to counter the strategic plan of the US and NATO to encircle it with intermediate-range missiles that can target Russia. From 1991, and in violation of the Minsk agreement, the US-NATO countries in central and eastern Europe were one by one attacked, destroyed or placed under the US-NATO, starting with the invasion and destruction of Yugoslavia, the bombing of Serbia, and coercion against Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Latvia and other countries. Since then, 14 countries have been added to the NATO.

From western Europe, Ukraine is the last frontier before the Russian border that has yet to be included in the NATO. From 2014, after supporting a coup to install a puppet government, the US has spent up to \$5 billion (according to a



congressional hearing) to support its puppet regime and use it to provoke a war against Russia.

Russia's attack against Ukraine is its latest act to defend its interests against its imperialist rival. In the first few days, Russia occupied and defended the Donbass region in coordination with the local independent states, destroyed more than 900 military facilities, occupied a naval base in the Azov Sea, took control of nuclear plants, and attacked major cities in the south of Ukraine populated by Russians, and is set on attacking the capital city of Kyiv.

Although smaller and weaker, it is being reported that Ukraine has been defending using missiles and anti-missiles, tanks and other weapons supplied by the US. By March 6, more than 1.5 million Ukrainians have been forced to evacuate to neighboring countries.

It is to Russia's interest to quickly end the war and push negotiations to forge a new agreement ensuring Ukraine's non-inclusion into the NATO and pushing back US support. It is to the interest of the US and NATO to prolong the war to ensure continuous sales

of weapons to Ukraine to force the limits of Russia's strength. US military aid to Ukraine has reached \$800 million over the past days. The US also pushed Germany to send tanks, contrary to its policy. Big capitalists in the military industry, including Raytheon, Lockheed, Northrop Grumman, Huntington Ingalls Industries, are celebrating because of the rise in the value of their stocks.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is one with the call for an immediate end to the war. It supports the call for a dialogue to forge a new security agreement to ensure peace in Europe.

The Party calls on all workers and people in Ukraine, Russia, and in the US and Europe to expose, denounce and resist the imperialist war. The revolutionary proletariat must act to build the independent strength of the working class, fight the capitalists who are earning profits from war, and fight for socialism. They must call on soldiers being used as cannon fodder to renounce orders and unite with calls for ending the war. AB