



EDITORIAL

Strengthen, expand and mobilize the mass base for the people's war

Deep and wide mass support is the key reason why the New People's Army (NPA) and the armed revolution it wages will never be defeated. Though the enemy is a gigantic monster using all the evil means, it won't ever succeed in severing the ties that bind the masses and the NPA nor in crushing their determination to march forward along the path of the people's war.

The NPA is firmly resolved to carry out its task to arouse, unite and mobilize the peasant masses in their numbers, and thus, strengthen and expand the army's mass base. The key here is to carry forward a widespread antifeudal movement in the countryside to fight the worsening forms of oppression and exploitation of peasants.

Always concerned about the masses' well-being, the NPA looks into their situation and grievances

to help them collectively find solutions. The NPA pays careful attention to problems concerning the economy, livelihood, production, health, sanitation, education, culture, peace and order, security, drugs and others.

Of these, the key is the economy or the issue of production and how the masses reap or are ripped off the wealth they have created. The NPA painstakingly exposes how

"Strengthen..." continued on page 2

16 NPA attacks in 9 provinces

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army mounted at least 16 attacks in the past two weeks. This shows the determination of the NPA to foil the ambition of the fascist regime to defeat the armed revolution.

Albay. An NPA unit ambused a mobile of the 93rd Special Action Company-PNP last April 3 in Barangay Aliang, Ligao City. Two policemen were killed and two others were wounded. No civilians were hurt during the operation, contrary to lies peddled by the military.

Lanao del Norte. Red fighters blasted operating soldiers at the mountainous area of Sitio Salingsing, Barangay Rogongon, Iligan City on March 30 at 11 a.m. Nine soldiers were reportedly killed and four others were wounded. In the afternoon, an NPA unit fired at a CAFGU detachment at Sitio Binasan in the same barangay. A CAFGU element was killed and two soldiers were wounded. The area is covered by the operations of the 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the 1st ID.

Bukidnon. Five soldiers were killed in a series of attacks and counter-attacks mounted by the NPA-Bukidnon against the 1st Special Forces Battalion (SFB) on March 20 in San Rafael, Talakag. Four elements were killed in an NPA

"16 attacks..." continued on page 3

"Strengthen...", from page 1

landlords, loan-sharks and big traders do not have any god-given right to unjustly take away the fruits of their sweat and blood. The NPA must bring their efforts at rousing, organizing and mobilizing the peasant masses to a higher level of intensity and breadth. In line with the Party's Revolutionary Guide to Land Reform, they must exert all efforts to carry forward the struggles to reduce land rent, raise the wages of farm workers, bring down interest rates on loans and raise farm gate prices. Widespread struggles must be waged against the Rice Tariffication Law, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act, import liberalization of pork, poultry and other agricultural products and other laws and measures that oppress the peasant masses. This has become urgent in the face of the severe crisis in the economy and people's lives.

Amid rising food prices and

scarcity, the NPA and the masses must continue to cooperate in mounting campaigns to produce root crops and vegetables. They must also strengthen the mass movement to address the Covid-19 pandemic by raising the people's knowledge and implementing measures for prevention, taking care of people's health, preparing facilities and giving the necessary care for the elderly and denouncing the incompetence of the reactionary regime.

The struggle of the peasant masses and minority people against the different forms of land grabbing by big landlords and big capitalists for setting up and expanding plantations, mining operations, energy, ecotourism and other projects, must be intensified.

Local revolutionary mass organizations and Party branches must be strengthened and consolidated. They must function regularly. Ensure that their links with territorial organs of the Party and NPA com-

mands in the fronts and districts are not cut. Strengthen the training and development of local cadres and mass leaders, raise their capacity to lead and mobilize the masses.

Cadres, leaders, activists and the masses must determine the methods of strict secrecy to keep the fascist blind and deaf, even if they are right under the enemy's noses. They must master the tactics of fighting militarization in their areas, using various direct or indirect methods of disobeying fascist soldiers who order them around, opposing restrictions, fighting forced paramilitary conscription, illegal arrests and killings, exposing and denouncing all disinformation and lies peddled by the enemy in media and social media, and rejecting their presence. Units of the NPA must be good at maintaining links with the masses and mounting armed actions against fascists lord- ing it over the villages.

The concerned army commands and Party committees must plan to expand their territory and form new guerrilla fronts, while consolidating and fighting tooth-and-nail in existing guerrilla fronts and base areas. As the theater of the people's war expands, the enemy will be forced to stretch its forces and expose its weak parts for the NPA to target in tactical offensives.

By continually expanding its area of operations, the NPA can have more military initiative. It must continue to mount annihilative tactical offensives that can win certain victory against the weak isolated units of the enemy with the aim of seizing its weapons. In line with these are the attritive tactical offensives to retaliate, disrupt or make the enemy suffer sleepless nights in their detachments and camps. The NPA must deploy partisan units in the cities or town centers to target the fascists behind the crimes against the masses, and

"Strengthen...", continued on page 3

 <p>Vol. LII No. 7 April 7, 2021</p> <p>Ang <i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English. 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> @prwc_info</p> <p> fb.com/editorsofAB</p> <p> cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2>Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: Strengthen, expand and mobilize the mass base for the people's war 1</p> <p>16 NPA attacks in 9 provinces 1</p> <p>Revolutionary forces celebrate #NPA52 3</p> <p>Solidarity between the masses, NPA 4</p> <p>Mass base expansion in Cagayan 5</p> <p>Tribute to Rosalino Canubas 5</p> <p>In short 6</p> <p>Roads for corruption and war 7</p> <p>Bankrupt abaca farmers 8</p> <p>Union leader, peasants kileed 9</p> <p>Week of arrests 9</p> <p>ECQ in Metro Manila and 3 provinces 9</p> <p>Calls for armed struggle in Myanmar 10</p> <p>Armed actions in India 10</p>
<p>Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

"Strengthen....," from page 2

to sabotage the enemy's communication, transportation and supply lines.

Conditions for waging people's war in the Philippines are becoming more favorable in the face of the worsening crisis of the ruling system and extreme fascist cruelty under the tyrannical regime. The intolerable hardships and intensifying oppression and exploitation are rousing the Filipino people to take the path of armed revolution. The Party and the NPA must continue to master the right balance and combination of armed and political struggles, of mass work and military work, to mobilize the masses along the path of the people's democratic revolution. AB



"16 attacks....," from page 1

ambush against a column of the 1st SFB which scoured the forests at around 3 p.m. Earlier at 10 a.m., the 1st SFB attacked an NPA camp wherein two Red fighters and a soldier were killed.

Agusan del Sur. The NPA ambushed and killed a CAFGU element in Barangay Sto. Niño, Bayugan City on March 28.

Oriental Mindoro. The NPA fired at the camp of the 203rd IBde in Barangay Malo, Bansud on March 28 resulting in one killed among the soldiers. The attack was launched 10 meters away from the camp. Terrified, the soldiers fired their weapons in all directions.

Sorsogon. An intelligence agent of the 31st IB and element of the the 31st IB was killed in a partisan operation in Barangay San Antonio, Barcelona on March 28.

Panay. Seven attacks were conducted by NPA forces against the military and police across the region. On March 30, the NPA thrice fired at troops of the 12th IB conducting Retooled Community Support Program operations in the barangays of Siya and Lahug in Tapaz, Capiz. On the evening of

March 23, they attacked a CAFGU detachment in Bagacay, Igaras, Iloilo. On March 21, they fired at operating police forces in Grasparil, Sibalom, Antique. On the next day, three soldiers were killed during an NPA ambush in Onop, Miag-ao, Iloilo.

Samar. A soldier was wounded in an NPA ambush in Barangay Poponton, Las Navas on March 6. Meanwhile, the NPA in the province also reported a series of harassment operations from February 16 to 19 which killed a police and wounded another.

A soldier was also killed in an NPA sniping operation in Barangay Tarabucan, Matuguinao, Western Samar on February 4.

Meanwhile on March 29, the NPA-Bicol reported about its armed actions in Masbate and Albay. Its unit ambushed and blasted operating soldiers in Masbate City. Two soldiers were killed and another was wounded. In Albay, it paralyzed the equipment of the Ibalong Resource Development Company in Barangay Miiti, Camalig. The company is notorious for destroying the environment and grabbing the land of farmers. AB

Revolutionary forces commemorate #NPA52



REVOLUTIONARY FORCES CELEBRATED the 52nd founding anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) on March 29 amid the relentless operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Celebrations were conducted in the countryside and urban areas in Southern Tagalog in the face of the worsening fascist attacks of the Duterte regime in the region. Participants braved the heavy troops deployed in the area to reach the NPA headquarters in the region. In urban areas, revolutionary forces echoed calls on the NPA to serve revolutionary justice for

the victims of the regime's terrorism.

The NPA-Negros paid tribute to all Red fighters and commanders for their victories and persevering in the path of the armed struggle. From only 60 forces that were left at the outset of the Second Great Rectification Movement, the NPA now has five guerrilla fronts deployed across the region, from

northern to southern Negros.

"Pakyas ang US-Duterte!" (The US-Duterte regime failed!) was the introductory message of the NDF-Northeastern Mindanao Region in its celebration. The Regional Operations Command called on the NPA to overcome their weaknesses including military conservatism. It reported about four big tactical offensives in Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur wherein high powered rifles were seized.

A program was also held by Red fighters in the Southern Mindanao Region.

Solidarity between the masses and people's army in Ilocos-Cordillera

Like in other places in the country, the Covid-19 pandemic and intensifying state fascism poses a huge challenges to the people's army and the revolutionary people in the Ilocos-Cordillera region. Units of the people's army in the region faced these with determination.

In its ranks is Ka Emil, a young revolutionary who serves as their platoon's economic officer (oversees logistics and supplies). Because of the lockdown, the supply of medicines, food and other essential needs of the the masses and people's army was hampered. To address this, they were compelled to become creative, think of and adopt new modes of mobilization, and strictly uphold military discipline.

"As an economic officer, it was a huge challenge for me to think of ways on how to help the masses get by and improve their livelihood during the pandemic," said Ka Emil. They conducted health and education campaigns on Covid-19 to allay the fears of villagefolks and make them understand the importance of complying with health protocols while carrying on with their production.

Afterwards, the unit conducted a campaign to improve the level of production of the people's army and the masses. "The participation of the people's army in production activities is now more frequent compared before," said Ka Emil. "Through this, I and my comrades were able to appreciate the importance of collective work and the agrarian revolution," he explained.

In a barrio,

the people's army and masses were able to harvest sacks of squash, sweet potatoes, taro and chayote, products which they did not used to be interested in as they could just buy food. They promoted the planting of sugarcane and coffee to replace commercial sugar and coffee. They also improved and benefitted from the planting of pomelo, "perres" (local lemon) and lagundi. The capacity of the masses to support the people's army improved simultaneous with their capacity for food production.

When the unit became very mobile, Red fighters had to maneuver in a nearby forest. "It was a huge advantage for us to be knowledgeable about wild plants and skillful in hunting," he said. When they could not go near the barrios, they relied on the natural resources of the forest such as wild fruits and vegeta-

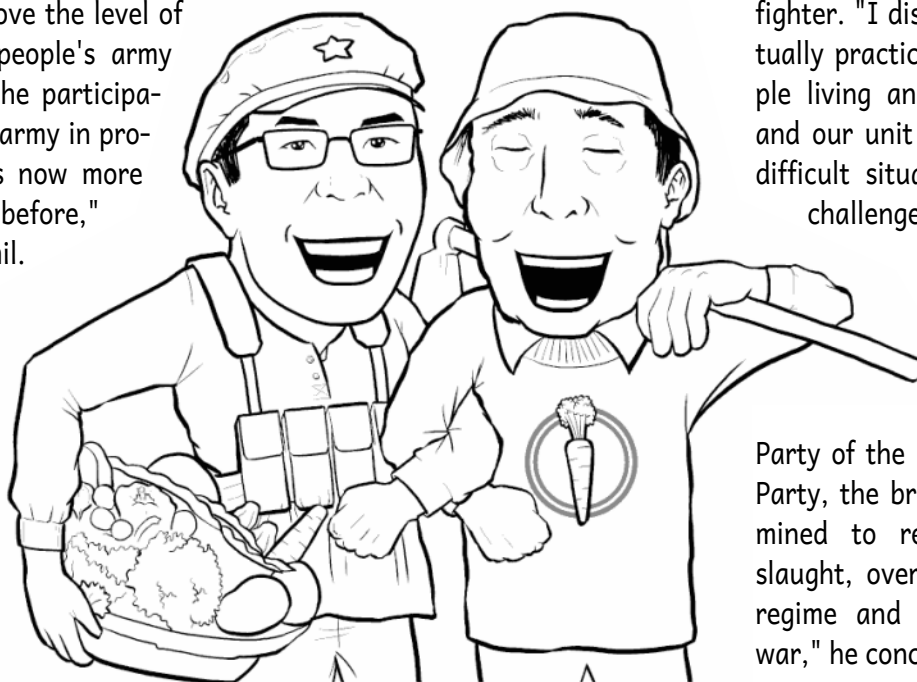
bles, eels and wild pigs. This experience has further improved his understanding of the significance of protecting the environment.

The difficult situation which they faced also posed a huge challenge to Ka Emil's personal remolding. "During the first few months of the pandemic, I asked myself: Will I survive?" His answer to his own question was: "I will not know unless I experience it." With revolutionary determination, he further persevered in performing his tasks.

"Militarization entails more difficult walks, sleepless nights and fatigue," he said. He was raised in the city and lived a comfortable life. "I needed to exert extra effort to adjust. At first, it was difficult for me to move around and sometimes suffered from low morale, but I was able to gradually adjust." He said that he opened up to comrades his thoughts and feelings. "I learned how to rely on comrades and the masses," he said.

He was able to prove to himself that he can endure the difficulties and sacrifices of being a Red fighter. "I discovered that I can actually practice the principle of simple living and arduous struggle. I and our unit are ready to face the difficult situation and even bigger challenges."

"As the Committee Central said in its statement for the 52nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines: Led by the Party, the broad masses are determined to resist the fascist onslaught, overthrow the US-Duterte regime and advance the people's war," he concluded. AB



Mass base expands in Cagayan Valley

The support of the masses for the people's war continues to expand and deepen. This was the statement Elias Almazan, political officer of the New People's Army (NPA)-Cagayan Valley (Fortunato Camus Command). In an interview with *Baringkuas* (the regional revolutionary publication), he stressed that the intense and large-scale military operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) have failed to foil the expansion and consolidation of the revolutionary mass base in the region.

Ka Elias said that while the AFP and PNP are busy with conducting battalion- and brigade-sized operations as well as sustained Retooled Community Support Program (RSCP) operations in the barrios, the NPA was able to expand and recover territories in more barrios and towns that are not covered by focused military operations. Members of the revolutionary mass base of guerrilla fronts increased by several thousands from 2020.

The NPA platoon has not only been able to reach neighboring villages and communities in interior areas and the hinterlands but also those located in the plains and near highways and in coastal areas.

He said that all of the masses in recovery areas warmly welcomed them, especially those who are suffering from poverty and exploitation.

The coercion of local government units by the military to declare the NPA as "persona non grata" is futile and empty propaganda. This is because the villagefolk themselves desire that their communities be covered by NPA operations for them to be able to report their concerns.

Among the problems facing the masses are the widespread and various forms of landgrabbing. These are primarily perpetrated by big landlords, private companies and government agencies in connivance with their favored contractors.

This is on top of various types of



semifeudal exploitation such as the imposition of high loan interest rates and other forms of usury, low farmgate prices, and price manipulation schemes employed by traders who buy their produce. "The masses see that only the NPA is fair and eager in finding solutions to their problems," said Ka Elias.

The NPA continues to operate in these barrios and towns covered by sustained RCSP operations and sees to it that these are not left behind. Platoons clandestinely deploy smaller NPA units to reach the masses in these areas and conduct activities that they could hold.

"The enemy's operations and

psywar are futile because the masses easily understand that the AFP is only pretending to have changed its "anti-people" nature."

It is to the advantage of the people's army that revolutionary ideas have for decades been sown and taken root among the masses. Its territories are expanding and more and more revolutionary mass organizations and organs of political power are established in villages and clusters of barrios.

"Even in prioritizing expansion work, we also have to combine this effort with the strengthening of the mass base," he ended. AB

Tribute to Comrade Rosalino Canubas

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Regional Party Committee in Cagayan Valley paid tribute to Comrade Rosalino Canubas (Ka Yuni), regional commander of the NPA in Cagayan Valley who was killed in an encounter in Barangay San Mariano Sur, San Guillermo, Isabela on March 15.

The Central Committee's tribute was contained in its message on March 29. It said that Ka Yuni was among the young cadres elected to the Second Central Committee for his brilliant contributions in waging armed struggle in Southern and Western Mindanao.

In Cagayan Valley where he was last deployed, Ka Yuni was known for his daringness even in the face of challenges and difficulties. Ka Yuni served as the first deputy secretary general of the Regional Party Committee in Cagayan Valley.

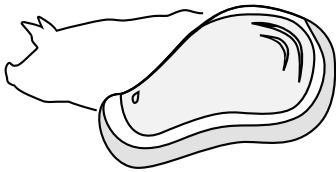
Read the full tribute of the Regional Party Committee in Cagayan Valley at cpp.ph.

—IN—SHORT

The **Duterte regime** permitted the importation of

350,000 MT

of pork with a lower tariff of 5% (from 30%).



This is **99.6%** higher than the actual **pork shortage** and will surely **adversely impact** on the livelihood of **local hog raiser**.

Malnutrition in poorer nations costs up to

\$850 billion

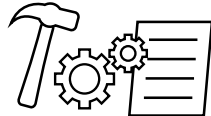
in **lost productivity among workers**.

Source: Global Nutrition Report 2020

The number of **jobless Filipinos** increased to

12 million

in February from **10.5 million** in January. The figure continues to rise even as many big businesses were already able to recover their losses in late 2020.



Source: Ibon Foundation

A measly

₱1,000-aid

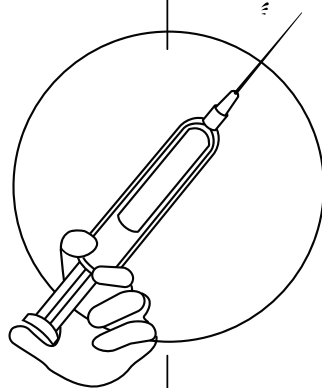
was provided by the government for each household after imposing a **2-week lockdown** in **Metro Manila** and nearby provinces. This is **equivalent** to only **two days** of the **daily salary of workers**.

The Duterte regime borrowed

₱58.4 billion

for the procurement of vaccines but

0

 procurement contracts have been signed until today.

Around

169 million

individuals were already **inoculated** in the **US** as of **April 6**, with a rate of

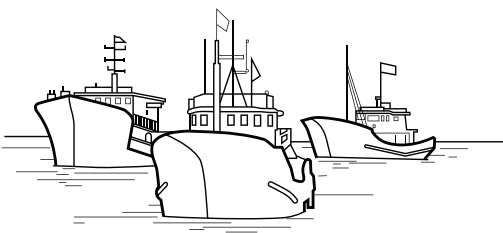
4 million inoculations per day.

Up to

222

Chinese militias vessels

were illegally moored at the **Julian Felipe Reef** in March.



Roads for corruption and war in Northern Mindanao

The reactionary government touts about its plan to railroad the construction of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) or road networks which will link farms to markets purportedly to facilitate faster transportation of farm produce and raise farmgate prices. However, these roads have actually no impact on farmgate prices as these are often arbitrarily set by big traders.

In the case of commercial products such as rice, cacao, coffee, sugar and others, prices are set based on the movement of prices in the global market. In truth, these roads have only hastened the procurement of farm produce by traders at lower rates. These have also hastened the encroachment of landgrabbers in lands owned by small peasants.

The said road construction program has also been implemented by previous regimes. As before, contracts for these projects are riddled with corruption and serve commercial plantation and mining interests, as well as the reactionary state's counterinsurgency aims.

Roads that link war to corruption

The Northern Mindanao Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) earlier announced that 142 road projects worth ₱17.6 billion are set to be constructed in the area this year. This is more than twice of the 68 road projects in the area in 2020. Twenty of these road projects will cover barangays with existing military camps.

Over 68 of the 142 road projects in 2021 are in Bukidnon. Most of these are in Impasug-ong where the 8th IB headquarters is located. Not less than 13 barangays covered

by these roads have camps, detachments, or are currently occupied by AFP troops in the name of Retooled Community Support Program operations.

Based on data from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in 2020, every kilometer of road costs ₱13 million to construct. But in Baungon, Bukidnon, the 8-kilometer road which will link the barangays of Mabuhay at Imbatug is worth ₱67.5 milyon per kilometer—five times higher than the average. Meanwhile, the planned 8-kilometer road project in Barangay Concepcion, Valencia City costs ₱30 million per kilometer or more than twice the average.

There were duplicated listings of road projects including the road project in Barangay Kibalabag, Malaybalay City, that was listed thrice and allotted a budget of ₱300 million to ₱360 million per listing. The road in Kisolon, Sumilao was also listed twice and allotted a budget of ₱600 million per listing. Three other programs in the province will receive double allocations under the Barangay Development Program.

Aside from these, the DPWH relisted and will fund road projects already constructed in 2020 or even earlier. Some of which will receive triple allocations under the DPWH budget.

Who will benefit?

With these projects alone, generals of the RTF-ELCAC, local government officials and the DPWH, notorious for being the most corrupt agency of the reactionary state, will be able to pocket huge amounts of public funds. Construction companies which are close to the Duterte family will also benefit from this, including the Ulticon Builders Incorporated, who bagged the contracts for the biggest road projects in Mindanao. Cement-manufacturing companies owned by big bourgeois compradors Ramon Ang (First Stronghold Cement Industries, Inc.) and Tomas Alcantara (Holcim Philippines) will also benefit from this as the biggest competing cement manufactures.

These roads will also benefit the powerplants and commercial plantations which are ubiquitous in Bukidnon. The biggest commercial plantations, covering 127,000 hectares of agricultural land, are located in the region. Dole, Davco and Del Monte which cover entire communities and ancestral lands in seven towns across Bukidnon target to expand their operations by approximately 80,000 hectares within the province and the neighboring towns of Misamis Oriental. The 30 FMRs in these towns will further hasten the transportation of the products of these plantation companies. AB



Bankruptcy among abaca farmers in Bicol

Abaca farmers in Catanduanes have already been facing bankruptcy even before the Covid-19 pandemic. Fifty kilos of abaca are sold for only ₱3,000 which is relatively lower than the ₱5,000-cost of production shouldered by farmers, including rent to landlords.

Overall, at least 200,000 peasant families across the country plant abaca. The crop line covers 180,302 hectares of farmlands. Abaca production is generally backward, small-scale and unsystematic. There is no significant improvement in the production equipment of farmers who typically do manual labor from planting to stripping to produce abaca fiber.

Farmers commonly wait up to two years to benefit from and harvest their abaca. They wait for another three months before abaca plants grow again. With 20-30 abacas, farmers are able to harvest 20 kilos of produce. These are harvested in 2-3 days by at least 2-3 people.

According to the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority, the province of Catanduanes produces 30% of the abaca supply in the country. The Bicol region has the largest share in the local abaca production.

Based on a research by the Instructor's Bureau of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Bicol, the average pre-pandemic price of dried abaca in Catanduanes was ₱60/kilo. Prices vary depending on the quality of dried abaca. Abaca that is less white is usually bought cheaper. To be able to sell 50 kilos of dried abaca, farmers shoulder up to ₱4,210 in production costs.

Part of the costs covers ₱600 for clearing

and cutting abaca plants; ₱2,400 salary for two farm workers employed to strip abacas; and ₱300 for drying.

In transporting the produce from the farm to the road, farmers spend ₱1 per kilo of abaca. The transportation from the barrio the market costs ₱30 per bundle of abaca fiber. For three days, approximately ₱450 is spent for food expenses.

Up to 25% is deducted from the farmers' net income for land rent, leaving them with a loss of ₱1,960 in the end.

Exceptional Filipino product

The Philippines is among the very few countries across the world which supply abaca. Abaca produced in the Philippines is internationally known as the Manila Hemp. Aside from the Bicol region, other areas including Mindoro in Luzon; Leyte, Samar, Negros Oriental, Iloilo and Aklan in Visayas, and all provinces in Mindanao produce

abaca. Many of those who produce these are small and poor farmers and indigenous peoples.

The Philippines produces 87% of the global supply of abaca. In 2019, the Philippines exported \$156 million or ₱7.8 billion (\$1=₱50) in abaca products. The average value of abaca exported by the country annually is \$97.1 million, 12.6% of which is raw abaca fiber.

In 2020, the total local production of abaca fell by 2.17% from 72,300 metric tons in 2019 to 70,770 metric tons. This was primarily caused by transportation restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic and successive typhoons which hit the country during the last quarter of 2020.

Data by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations indicate that the average price of exported abaca fiber in 2016 was \$1.99-\$2.35/kilo (₱99.32-₱117.5). This is higher by ₱30 than the price at which traders buy the produce of abaca farmers.

In sum, exporters gain about ₱4,966-₱5,875 per 50 kilos of abaca fiber, 60% more than the income of farmers which is only ₱3,000. This is despite the fact that production costs are shouldered solely by farmers, and that no value is added to the raw fibers exported to other countries.

Around 57% of abaca fibers produced locally are processed for the production of tea bags and other paper products. Each tea bag costs ₱1.5-₱2 each.

Abaca is also used for the production of paper bills, clothers and others. Last year, abaca was promoted as a good material for producing face masks. **AB**



Union leader, peasant father and son killed

DANDY MIGUEL, WORKER of Fuji Electric Philippines and union president of the Lakas ng Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Fuji Electric Philippines, was gunned down at the gate of the enclave in Barangay Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna on March 28. He was also the vice chairperson of the Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan.

Miguel spearheaded the fight of their union for an annual wage increase which will be implemented in the next three years, as well as the implementation of health measures against Covid-19. He was the 10th activist killed in the region in March.

In Camarines Norte, the 96th IB killed father and son Louis Buenavente and Jetly Buenavente on March 19. The soldiers were pursuing a unit of the New People's Army (NPA) which raided police troops at Purok 6, Barangay Dumagmang, Labo in Camarines Norte when they chanced upon the victims. They were later presented as Red fighters. The faces of the victims were broken and they also sustained gunshot wounds in the chest.

Bombing. More than 15,000 residents of 15 Mangyan communities were forced to evacuate due to the 203rd IBde's artillery shelling of barangays along the boundary of Mansalay and Roxas, Oriental Mindoro from March 25 to 26. Most affected by the shelling are the residents of Panaytayan, in Mansalay, and San Vicente in Roxas.

Abduction. Soldiers of the 203rd IBde abducted siblings Kadlos and Jeremy Lukmay, residents of Sitio Kilapnit, Barangay Panaytayan, in the morning of March 25. Kadlos is pregnant and a teacher, while his younger sibling is a student. They are yet to be surfaced by the military.

Week of arrests

FOUR MASS LEADERS leaders and activists who have been red-tagged were arrested in Central Luzon (CL), and another in Cagayan Valley, and were slapped with trumped-up charges during the Holy Week. Three were arrested in CL on March 30.

Joseph Canlas, chairperson of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon, was arrested in Mexico, Pampanga. He spearheaded the farmers' campaigns against landgrabbing and land-use conversion in the region.

Florente Viuya Sr., labor leader and chairperson of Bayan-CL, was arrested in sa Bamban, Tarlac. He was arrested along with May Arcilla, paralegal of Karapatan-CL.

In Bulacan, the police arrested Concepcion Opalla on on March 26. She was the a former leader of Kadamay and among those who led the occupation of idle housing units in Pandi in 2017. It took two days before she was surfaced by the

arresting officers.

In Southern Tagalog, state forces arrested Genelyn Dichoso, official of Karapatan, and her daughter Jennifer in Calauag, Quezon last April 5. On March 30, the police raided the headquarters of the Alyansa ng Manggagawa sa Engklabo in Santa Rosa, Laguna and planted evidences of firearms and explosives.

In Manalo, Amuling, Cagayan, state forces arrested Calixto Cabildo, chairperson of Anakpawis-Cagayan, last March 26.

Meanwhile in Sorsogon, political detainee Elizabeth Estilon was unjustly separated from her infant Prince Joel on March 27.

ECQ in Metro Manila and 4 provinces

THE DUTERTE REGIME imposed stricter lockdown measures (enhanced community quarantine) in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Rizal from March 29 to April 29. This was after the number of new daily cases of Covid-19 reached 10,000. The Department of Health (DOH) announced on April 1 that the 72% of the total number of cases in the country were recorded in the said areas.

The DOH also reported that the occupancy rate of intensive care unit beds (631 out of 804) in the area is already at 79%; 69% for isolation beds (3,143 out of 4,526); and 61% for ward beds (2,180 out of 3,439). A third of the total number of hospitals in the National Capital Region (50 out of 152) are already under critical status, half of which are about to reach their full capacity, while the other half already reached their full capacity. This includes the Philippine Orthopedic Center (75% occupancy rate) where 117 out of 180 health workers were reportedly infected with Covid-19.

On April 4, new daily infections peaked at 12,576, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 165,715.

Calls for armed struggle resound in Myanmar

The need for armed struggle in Myanmar (previously Burma) grows starker in the face of daily killings of civilian protesters by the military junta. Inside the country, more and more people are subscribing to the view that rallies, barricades and civil disobedience are no longer enough. As the days go by, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar's military, grows increasingly brutal.

Last March, the junta killed 114 people in one of the bloodiest days in the 2-month daily protests. As of April 3, around 550 have been killed by the junta in its desperation to cling to power. These include 46 children. More than 2,750 have been arrested.

International media reports of activists from urban centers who are already training in local states in the country's borders. These states are territories of Myanmar's national minorities where various armed groups, called ethnic armed organizations in the country, exist. These groups have waged armed struggle against decades of exploitation and oppression by the military junta

and even against the government headed by Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League of Democracy (NLD). In 2015, 16 of these groups signed a national ceasefire agreement in return for autonomy.

When the Tatmadaw grabbed state power in February 1, these armed organizations immediately

opened its territories to suppressed activists and NLD members. They condemned the coup and voided the national ceasefire agreement as the Tatmadaw attacked their territories.

Myanmar has a long history of armed struggle. It can be said that armed resistance persisted since 1939, when the Communist Party of Burma was founded. The communists led the armed resistance against the British colonialists from 1939-1941, Japanese occupation (1941-1945), reinstatement of British colonialism (1948-1962) and subsequently against the puppet civil regime and its usurper, the military junta from 1962.

The communist party was formally disbanded in 1989 but communist elements continued to wage sporadic armed resistance. Many of them assisted in forming armed groups among the national minorities for self-determination and national liberation. Around 28 such armed groups exist in Myanmar today. AB



Armed actions against counterinsurgency roads in India

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION Army of the Communist Party of India (CPI)-Maoist launched no less than 13 armed actions from January to March this year.

Six of these are demolition operations against operating paramilitaries and construction machinery. The latest is an ambush against a busload of District Reserve Guards (DRG) in Nayanpur District last March 23 where five paramilitary troopers died. The DRG is a paramilitary force similar to the CAFGU in the Philippines.

Other actions to paralyze construction machinery in road projects

include attacks in Logarda District on March 16, Bahaglat District on January 31 and Gadchiroli District on January 27.

The roads are part of the infrastructure project called Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas. (This is similar to the "farm-to-market roads" under the Barangay Development Program of the NTF-ELCAC.) The roads are part of the

counterinsurgency program initiated on 2016 by the government headed by Narendra Modi.

The bulk of the funds for these roads will come from the central government. In exchange, the Modi government is requiring local states to implement the three agricultural reforms on agricultural product sales, land rent and contract growing which were railroaded into law last October 2020. These reforms are at the center of the protests of around 250 million farmers since November 2020. AB