



EDITORIAL

Workers and toiling people: Never be cowed! Rise up and fight!

To Filipino workers and toiling people: On May 1, together with workers and toiling people across the world, let us fill the streets and demonstrate our unity, courage and determination to fight for our class interests, and for the people's aspiration for freedom and democracy. With thunderous steps and collective cries, let us shake the foundations of foreign imperialist rule, in collusion with the ruling exploiting classes of big bourgeois compradors and big landlords, and the reigning oppressive state.

Amid the aggravation of the global capitalist crisis, workers suffer worse forms of exploitation that squeeze more value from their labor power. Capitalists shortchange workers of their labor power. Millions upon millions of workers receive minimum wages that are not enough to cover their daily cost of living and those of their families.

Working hours are incessantly extended to accumulate more value without corresponding compensation. Workers are stretched to their physical limits to accelerate the pro-

duction and distribution of commodities. The basic rights to an eight-hour work day and just minimum wages equivalent to their daily needs are systematically being dismantled and trampled upon.

In the past six years under the Duterte regime, workers suffered one of the sharpest fall in living conditions due to anti-worker policies such as freezing and repression of wages. Minimum wages in the National Capital Region have not been increased over the past two years despite rising prices of fuel, food and

other basic needs. Workers were duped by promises to end contractualization. Instead, worse forms of flexible employment emerged especially since the pandemic.

Less than 1% of Filipino workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements. This is the result of almost three decades of relentless attacks against their rights to unionize. Orchestrated by the NTF-Elcac, unions are suppressed to disarm workers. In the name of "counterinsurgency," unionists and labor leaders are being killed, charged with false criminal accusations, imprisoned or subjected to endless harassment to make them turn against the interests of workers, silence and make them work for the state.

Filipino workers undergo extreme sufferings and intensified exploitation and oppression in the

face of non-stop increase in prices, low wages and wage cuts, increasingly onerous taxes, and widespread unemployment. They have an intensifying desire to get organized, take action and fight for their rights and the welfare of the entire people.

Persevere in the life-and-death struggle to build or rebuild labor unions to bring together their power to fight for what is theirs. Decisively increase the number and size of unions to unite more and more workers. Resist and overcome threats, violence, bribery and all maneuvers by capitalists to undermine workers unity. Sharpen the weapons of

struggle including strikes, pickets and other forms of collective action.

Workers must strive to advance the struggle for higher wages so that they can provide enough food and a decent life for their families.

Oppose the various schemes of flexibilization. Struggle to end the system of contractualization and fight for job regularization. Push for the recognition or restoration of workers' right to paid 8-hour working day and put an end to the quota and piece-rate system in all its various forms.

The Filipino working class must show their unity this coming May 1.

Fill the streets and march from factories and communities and congregate in public squares to raise the collective voices of workers and people. Recall the important role played by the working class and the strike movement in the 1970s in shattering the fear that prevailed during martial law under the Marcos dictatorship.

Link the economic struggles of workers to the struggle against Duterte's fascist, pro-imperialist and anti-workers tyranny, including the call to repudiate the Marcos-Duterte electoral tandem, and the major struggles after the elections.

On May 1, a few days before the May 9 elections, workers must fortify their determination to push without letup their struggle for wage increases, regularization and the right to build unions, as well as for their demand to hold Duterte and his accomplices accountable and punish them for their crimes of fascist terrorism, and for the people's aspiration for genuine freedom, democracy and justice.

Across the world, workers' struggles and strikes are erupting in different countries in Europe, in Latin and North America, in Asia and Africa to fight intensifying exploitation and suffering amid the worsening global crisis of capitalism. Let us celebrate the victories of workers in different parts of the achieved through building their unions and mounting strikes.

The Communist Party must strive to widen and deepen its roots in factories and workers' communities. Build, expand and increase the number of Party branches and recruit and train communist cadres in their numbers to serve as the masses' pillars and leaders in their struggles. Rouse more and more workers to become Red fighters and join the revolutionary armed struggle. Untiringly raise the consciousness of workers to take the path of national democracy and socialism.



ANG Bayan

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AB

Due to lack of jobs

Filipinos fall into the gig economy

The number of Filipinos involved in the so-called "gig economy" are rising these past years. (A "gig" is a temporary and non-regular work.) In 2018, there were 2 million workers in this sector. There have been estimates that the number increased during the pandemic. Majority (84%) of them are dependent on online platforms.

In 2021, the Philippines recorded the fastest growing gig economy in the world. Majority are delivery workers or those in the Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS).

In a report by Google, the online food delivery service grew the most in the country. This pushed the general merchandise value of the gig economy in the country to \$17 billion, 93% higher compared to the previous year.

One of the companies recorded the highest profit in the Philippine gig economy is Singaporean company Grab Holdings Inc. During the pandemic, the company grew by 39% and recorded the highest profit during the first quarter of 2021 with \$507 million.

Its competition, Foodpanda, owned by German company Food Hero, recorded a 70% increase in online food delivery. Singaporean company Shopee and Chinese company Lazada, both online shopping platforms, also recorded higher profits.

The "gig economy" embodies the worst forms of flexible work and all-out extraction of superprofits from workers. While these foreign companies rake in profits, their workers suffer worse working conditions.

The "gig economy" blurs the employee-employer relationship between the capitalist and the worker. Workers are falsely categorized as "independent contractors" to make it appear that they control their "own time."

In truth, capitalists have extended working hours. For example, in the TNVS, drivers usually wait for "orders" the whole day or whole night. Platforms under the TNVS

implements a piece-rate (per piece or per ride.) Idle time waiting for orders are not being paid. This is contrary to the right for a paid 8-hour workday.

Capitalists also pass the burden for spending for the working equipment needed. Workers spend for their gasoline, vehicle and repairs. They also buy their own cellphones and load. During the pandemic, they also paid for their health protection. Worse, companies push their workers to acquire branded uniforms and bags which usually cost up to ₱3,000.

Because they regard workers as "independent contractors," capitalists evade responsibility for them. Denying them health insurance and hazard pay has become legal. Companies are absolved of responsibility even as accidents occur or workers get sick during working hours. Workers are also held accountable if deliveries were delayed even on legitimate reasons. Companies are not obliged to grant them paid leave or day-off.

Worsening exploitation

A study by the Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER) found companies exploited the pandemic to squeeze greater profits from workers who lost their jobs to the lockdown and migrated to the "gig economy."

They pulled the minimum earnings of drivers to ₱48 from the ₱79 per delivery pre-pandemic. Their incentives were also decreased to ₱390 from ₱770 which they get every after 11 successful deliveries.

In EILER's research, even before the pandemic, a driver needed to



work in three platforms (Grab, Foodpanda, Lazada) to earn a ₱1,500 net income per day. The rider has to deliver an average of 200 parcels per day.

During the pandemic, there were instances that a driver only gets 20 deliveries per day, on a ₱20-₱45 rate per delivery.

In addition, companies do not give their workers protection during system glitches, fake orders, and customer fake reports. They are forced to pay for deliveries not received by customers.

As "partners" and "independent contractors," workers are denied their right to collectively negotiate and complain against unjust policies.

In November 2020, hundreds of Grab workers complained at the company's head office in Metro Manila. They were threatened to be removed from the platform if they will protest.

In June 2021, Foodpanda workers in Davao protested. They demanded an increase in their earnings in deliveries. The company "suspended" them for 10 years.

Amid company threats and harassment, workers remain unfazed. They established organizations in Grab, Foodpanda and other companies. They continue to demand an increase in compensation, benefits and insurance, and fair incentives. **AB**

8 arrests in 6 days

Eight illegal arrests were conducted by state armed forces in different areas of the country in just six days around the period of the holy week. All of them were accused of being members of the New People's Army (NPA) and were planted evidences to be charged of fabricated criminal cases.

Not less than 15 units of military and police arrested three women farmers who are members of Bayan Muna last April 13 in Barangay Mawaque, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

They were Maria Teresa Buscayno, Erlinda David and Evelyn Muñoz, who were all elderly. According to Karapatan-Central Luzon, they have been staunch advocates of the interests and welfare of fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, farmworkers, peasants and urban poor for decades.

Two days before this incident, Ernesto Lorenz, Maria Fe Serrano and Plinky Longhas were arrested while in queue for vaccination in Parañaque City. Lorenzo is known as consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in peace negotiations. Serrano's companion is the wife of Eduardo Serrano, a political prisoner who died in prison due to state's refusal to release him even though those fake charges against him were already dismissed by the court.

Before them, a youth-leader of Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Aldeem Yanez was arrested in Cagayan de Oro last April 10. Soldiers and police force raided his parents' home where he was currently residing at dawn.

Last April 8, Isabelo Adviento was arrested in Nueva Vizcaya, he is the fourth nominee of Anakpawis Partylist in 2022 elections.

Also during the Holy Week, military troops conduct artillery shelling on civilian communities at Palo 12, Barangay Poblacion 2, Santiago, Agusan del Norte last April 15. This is in retaliation after NPA fighters ambushed them.

Kadamay-Negros organizer Iver

Larit is still missing, after he was abducted by suspected state forces last April 5. He was last seen going out of his house in Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City. He has long been a victim of red-tagging.

In Southern Tagalog, soldiers of 85th IB harassed the medical service conducted by Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK) in Agdangan, Quezon last April 10. Soldiers disrupted the event and questioned its legality.

Moreover, the Communist Party of the Philippines questioned the immediate cremation of the 1st Special Forces Battalion last April 7 of the four bodies which they claim to be members of the NPA which was killed in an encounter in Barangay Tikalaan, Talakag, Bukidnon.

The NDF-Eastern Visayas reported last April 9 the arrest, torture and murder of Bryan Obin (Ka Tanel), former Red fighter, by the 20th IB in Barangay Sag-od, Las Navas last March 12.

In Piat, Cagayan, military personnel of the 17th IB murdered unarmed NPA members Saturnino Agunoy (Ka Peping), and NPA medics Augusto Gayagas (Ka Val) and Mark Canta (Ka Uno) last April 14. They were traveling to seek medical attention for Agunoy when they were blocked and killed by the soldiers.

In Bicol, 49th IB murdered Armancio Malto, in his home in Purok 5, Barangay Badbad, Oas, Albay last March 27. They also arrested Maricris Reblano, also a resident of the said community. A wounded Red fighter, Franklin "Ka Drilon" Roaring, was also arrested. He is a resident of Barangay Mayag of the same town. AB



Holy Week Cavalry of the Poor.

Urban poor groups held their annual Cavalry of the Poor to mark Holy Week. Last April 8, members of Kadamay held a protest-procession in Tatalon, Quezon City. In Cebu last April 15, Panaghugpong-Kadamay Cebu and Movement Against Carbon Market Privatization organized stations of the cross which tackled people's issues such as privatization, oil price hikes, land grabbing and contractualization. A similar activity was held in Davao City.

Workers protest in Cebu. Numbering 293, contractual workers of Universal Robina Corporation protested in front of its factory in Tabok, Mandaue City, Cebu last April 13. This is to oppose their transfer from People First Labor Service Cooperative, a manpower agency, to HR Team Asia. Workers are against this plan because they will be considered as newly hired employees of the URC and will lose their entitlement to separation pay.

Lightning rally at US Embassy.

About 30 youth activists led by the League of Filipino Students stormed the US embassy in Roxas Boulevard, Manila last April 8, at dawn, to slam the Balikatan 2022 war exercises which was held in the Philippines from March 28 to April 8.

Opposition against the incinerator project in Davao.

Members of Panalipdan-Youth picketed in front of the city council office in Davao City last April 20 to oppose the Waste-To-Energy Incineration project. It is planned to be constructed in Barangay Biao Escuela, an agricultural community within the city. According to the group, this project will gravely affect the resident's health.

50-year advances of the revolutionary women's movement

It is a stellar victory not only for women but for the entire revolutionary movement that the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Makibaka) has persevered in 50 years of revolutionary struggle to change the system which has oppressed and impoverished women.

Through five decades, it firmly upheld the view that the ruling class political authority forms the backbone of other authority systems which oppress and exploit women, and that it should be smashed to attain genuine women's liberation. This takes primary form in women's participation in the armed struggle for national democracy.

Makibaka spearheads in shattering feudal and bourgeois culture and ideas that see women as weak, house-bound or as private property. It paves the way for women to participate in the struggle for societal change. Tens of thousands of

activist and revolutionary women arose from factories, communities, campuses and farms.

Makibaka emerged and was launched in 1970, and was founded formally on March 18, 1972 after its first congress on March 11-12 in Sampaloc University Center. The congress clarified that the key to women's liberation is its active participation in the national democratic revolution. It adapted the name "Makabayan" to replace the original "Malaya," to emphasize this point.

Makibaka's history is marked by its role during the First Quarter

Storm and its opposition to martial law. It was at the historical Diliman Commune. It spearheaded protests against the Bb. Pilipinas pageant which commodified women. They also participated in the US Tobacco Corporation strike. Women worker activists emerged including Liza Balandó from Rossini's Knitwear who was killed by fascist soldiers during a protest action on May 1, 1972.

When martial law was imposed in 1972, women joined the New People's Army in the countryside, including Lorena Barros, Makibaka's first president. Makibaka persevered in publishing *Malayang Pilipina*. Its members were among the first organizers of *sakadas* in Western Visayas and participated in agrarian revolution in other parts of the country. It also established

Continued on page 6

12 armed actions in 3 regions

Units of the New People's Army (NPA) reported mounting 12 armed actions in Eastern Visayas, Northeast Mindanao and Ilocos-Cordillera regions.

The NPA-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) ambushed combined police and military forces last April 3 in Barangay San Miguel, Las Navas. Two were killed while five others were wounded on the enemy side.

Earlier, an NPA unit used a command-detonated explosive against operating military troops in Barangay MacArthur, Las Navas last March 25. Three soldiers were killed.

This came after the NPA's attack against the 20th IB in Barangay Nagoocan, Catubig last March 22. One was wounded in the armed action. Meanwhile, the NPA mounted back-to-back harassment operations last March 4-5 in Barangay Trangue, Catarman and the

43rd IB's camp in Barangay Santander, Bobon. One was killed while another was wounded.

The NPA-Central Negros meted punishment on CAFGU element Jeger Flores in the 62nd IB's Barangay Sandayao Patrol Base in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental last April 10. Flores was involved in the murder of Arnold Suerte, a farmer, last January.

In Surigao del Norte, the NPA ambushed combined forces of the 30th IB and the PNP in Barangay Binukaran, Malimono in the afternoon of March 26 in Barangay Binukaran, Malimono. Two were reportedly wounded on the soldiers and police ranks.

Last April 6, two CAFGU elements under the 30th IB were

wounded in an NPA ambush at Sitio Tumay-as, Barangay Ferlda, Alegria in the same province. The following day, Red fighters accosted two active assets of the 30th IB in Barangay Maya, Sison.

The NPA unit seized military paraphernalia including backpacks, combat boots, cellphones, a GPS tracker and a pistol.

Red fighters of the NPA-Agusan del Norte ambushed the 40-man unit of the 29th IB operating in Palo 12, Barangay Poblacion 2, Santiago last April 14. Two soldiers were killed.

Meanwhile, three soldiers were wounded in a harassment operation last February 4 by the NPA-Kalinga in a CAFGU detachment in Barangay Mabaca, Balbalan, Kalinga province. In a counter-raid operation by the NPA, four soldiers of the 24th IB were killed in Barangay Anayan, Tinig Abra last March 23. **AB**

A billion people to change the system causing climate change

On April 22, the 52nd Earth Day organizers aim to reach a billion people to call for urgent attention to address the planet's health. Filipino environmental groups who have long called for the protection of the environment, natural resources and ancestral lands against local and foreign plunder, have heeded this call.

This month, Filipino activists paid attention to the 6th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released on April 4. The IPCC is tasked to assess the measures taken to lower global carbon emissions. It is under the United Nations.

According to the panel, measures taken by governments are not enough to prevent global temperatures from exceeding 2 degrees celsius, from the current 1.2 degrees celsius, in the next 20 years. In fact, it is possible that temperatures will exceed 2.7 degrees celsius since governments, in collusion with big banks and oil companies, have refused to cut down production and use of oil, coal and natural gas—the main sources of carbon dioxide emissions. This means more intense

heat, fires, flooding and droughts.

Running counter to the Paris Agreement, capitalists have funded exploration and extraction of oil, coal and natural gas without let-up. From 2015 to 2021, 60 imperialist banks have poured \$4.6 trillion into these enterprises, the largest of which is JP Morgan Chase (\$382.40 billion,) followed by three large American banks. JP Morgan Chase is one of the biggest oil speculators and profits most from the recent spikes in crude oil prices in the international market. Coal mining, on the other hand, is mainly funded by Chinese banks.

Carbon removal is not enough to lower the global temperature, the IPCC also stated. Carbon removal technologies are "speculative" and can even have a "negative effect" on

ecosystems and communities. "Natural remedies," like planting trees are also not enough to lower temperatures. Separate studies have shown that regenerating forests through planting tree plantations are not effective and can even be harmful. At best, these should be considered as secondary measures.

In the Philippines, environmental groups also assert that we should not rely on individual efforts to prevent climate change. For a long time, it has been emphasized that people should live "sustainably" to minimize their "carbon footprint." These measures include cycling, composting, erasing unwanted emails, using of metal straws and turning off lights when not needed. Carbon emissions dropped by a mere 17% in the middle of the global lockdown in 2020, they said. This shows that individual actions, like avoiding travel, are not enough to prevent climate change, even when done on a global scale.

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chapters in Mindanao. It recruited members in Davao campuses and in communities in Ozamis, Pagadian and Dipolog. It was among the founding organizations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in 1973.

Persistence in organizing and struggles during the first years under martial paved the way for mass struggles, culminating in 1983-1986 giant rallies until the fascist Marcos dictatorship was ousted. Makibaka rapidly expanded its membership during this time.

Makibaka persevered in advancing the Filipino women's struggle in the framework of the national-democratic struggle. It has strengthened its underground movement amid the difficult and da-

ngerous situation marked by the US-Duterte regime's attacks. During the regime's fascist lockdown and restrictions since 2020, communities with Makibaka chapters served as sanctuaries of the underground forces.

Makibaka members are determined to arouse, organize and mobilize women in the countryside and cities. "Intense dedication and hard work is needed to convince the masses for the need to unite and struggle," an organizer said.

Last January, Duterte declared Makibaka as a "terrorist organization." Makibaka said this "apes his idol Marcos Sr,"—to terror-tag the revolutionary movement to justify his wicked plans.

Makibaka is aware that the

reactionary elections is dominated by the ruling class, but recognizes as well the fervent desire of people and women to remove the oppressive and fascist Duterte regime from power. Makibaka takes it as a challenge to mobilize women to defeat the Marcos-Duterte tandem.

The need for a radical social change remains and has only become more imperative. Women will continue to uphold the need for people's democratic revolution. The revolutionary women's movement is ready to face all challenges.

It will continue to expand and consolidate, and periodically assess and sum-up its experiences to overcome weaknesses and errors, draw lessons and advance its struggles. AB

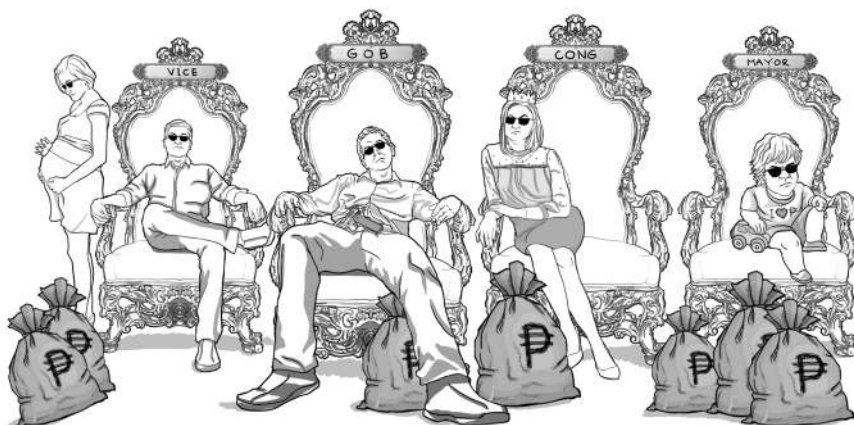
A monopoly of families in government

Majority of groups running under the party list system this coming May elections do not represent the poor, contrary to the declared objectives of the party list system. This was the conclusion arrived at by a research made by electoral watchdog Kontra Daya in March.

Apart from having connections with big businesses and the military, party list candidates are characterized as serving as vehicles in electing political families or dynasties. Of the total 177 candidates for the party list system, one out of four represent dynasties.

One of the foremost groups is Tingog Partylist which presents itself as an advocate for the people of Eastern Visayas but, in fact, is an instrument of the Romualdez clan to tighten its control in the region. The party's incumbent representative and first nominee is the wife of Leyte First District Rep. Martin Romualdez, a cousin of Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

A research by Ibon Foundation show at least 23 members of the Marcos-Romualdez clan have either



held power or currently hold positions in the reactionary government.

One of the clan's patriarch is Mariano Marcos, father of dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr. He served as a propaganda officer of the fascist organization Kapisanan ng Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas and the notorious Makabayang Katipunan ng mga Pilipino (Makapili) during the Japanese occupation. These are similar to the right-wing party Kilusang Bagong Lipunan of Ferdinand Marcos Sr. and family.

Families are also represented by other party list groups such as PDP-Cares (Pimentel), Cibac (Villa-nueva), Agimat (Revilla), BHW (Co of Ako Bicol), Kusug Tausug (Tan of Sulu) at many others.

The dominance of dynasties is a pervasive feature of the nation's politics. Around 70%-90% of elected positions are believed to be controlled by influential families. In a study on local elections (from municipal/city councilors to governors), every election from 1987 to 2017 saw an additional 170 members of political dynasties getting elected. Ten elections were held during this period.

In 2001, up to 1,303 political dynasties had two members elected in government, 257 families with three members, and 157 families with four or more. This number further increased to 1,548 families with two in office, 339 with three, and 217 with four or more.

After the 2019 election, 80% of governors, or four out of five, have family members also holding elected

positions. Moreover, up to 68% of vice governors, and 67% of congressmen, also have relatives in various positions.

Most of the dynasties are in Maguindanao, where more than half of elected positions are occupied by political clans with two or more family members in office. This is followed by Pampanga (49%) and Bulacan (45%).

Some of the political dynasties who retained power after the 2019 elections are the families of Dima-poro in Lanao del Norte; Marcos of Ilocos Norte; Kho of Masbate; Mangudadatu of Maguindanao; Ortega of La Union; and Tan of Western Samar.

"Political dynasties are not bad," declared Rodrigo Duterte in November 2021 during his visit to the Matugas family's bulwark in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte. This declaration is expected of the family that is on top of the heap of dynasties and which gains the most in the monopoly of clans. Three of Duterte's children hold positions in the local government of Davao City and in Congress.

These families are after these rewards—pork barrel funds, "SOP", kickbacks, commissions from government contracts and many other forms of corruption. They also gain the most from bribes of capitalists, drug syndicates, smuggling, illegal gambling, and others. These families also use of the military and police as their private armies, aside from the armed goons they directly employ.

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"We should point out that 71% of global emission is caused by only a hundred large companies," they said. Climate crisis is caused by capitalism and its greed for profit. They stand firm on the belief that climate change can be prevented by a system change and not solely by changes by individuals.

"To achieve a net-zero society, climate justice and social justice, international monopoly capitalism has to be dismantled."

On April 15, Filipino activists supported the international campaign #LetTheEarthBreathe. At the same time, 1,000 climate scientists launched a campaign against banks funding oil extraction. In the US, scientists rallied in front of the JP Morgan Chase building. AB

— IN — SHORT

₱157,190

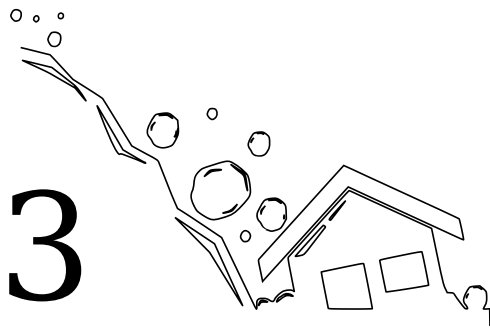
Mindoro onion farmers' net income loss per hectare in the last cropping cycle.

Their produce cannot be sold due to the flooding of onion imports.



Source: Amihan

203



died during **Typhoon Agaton**, majority were caused by landslides in **Baybay** and **Abuyog**, Leyte.

Source: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, April 20, 2022

12 million



of the **65 million target** were given **booster shots** or third dose of the vaccine against the Covid-19 as of the last week of March. **This is amidst the expiration of scores of vaccines.**

Source: Department of Health

20



number of bourgeois-compradors who are "dollar billionaires," higher than the previous year's 17.

Majority of them raked in wealth from "sectors of cronyism."

Source: Forbes World's Billionaires List, 2022; Economist

8

death certificates of the 46 autopsied cadavers of Duterte's "war against drugs" victims were determined fake.

It was discovered that one such certificate stated that the victim died of "heart attack" even when the body was riddled with gunshot wounds.

Source: Report of Dr. Raquel Fortun for Project Arise

94.5%

of **congressmen** have a net worth of above **₱5 million**. For the 83.1% of Filipinos, **₱500,000** net worth each year is the highest.

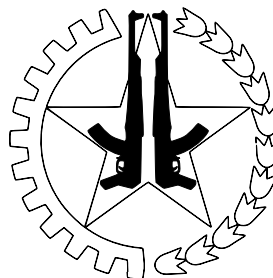
Source: Ibon Foundation

50th



MACLI-ING DULAG

hero of the Igorot people, killed by the Marcos dictatorship on April 24, 1980 because he fought against the Chico Dam. The annual Cordillera Day is celebrated on the anniversary of his martyrdom.



50th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey-Marxist Leninist (TKP-ML) will be celebrated this April 24.

The TKP-ML leads the TIKKO which is waging a people's war in Turkey.

The revolting collusion of the NCIP and NTF-Elcac

Indigenous Filipinos have long called for the abolition of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the repeal of the law that created it, the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act. The NCIP has long betrayed its mandate of protecting and upholding the interests and welfare of minorities. Indigenous peoples have exposed that besides corruption, the agency has committed gross treachery in its sale of ancestral lands to foreign and local companies with mining, logging, commercial plantations and energy operations.

The agency became even more anti-minority after Rodrigo Duterte appointed Allen Capuyan, a corrupt and retired ex-general, as head.

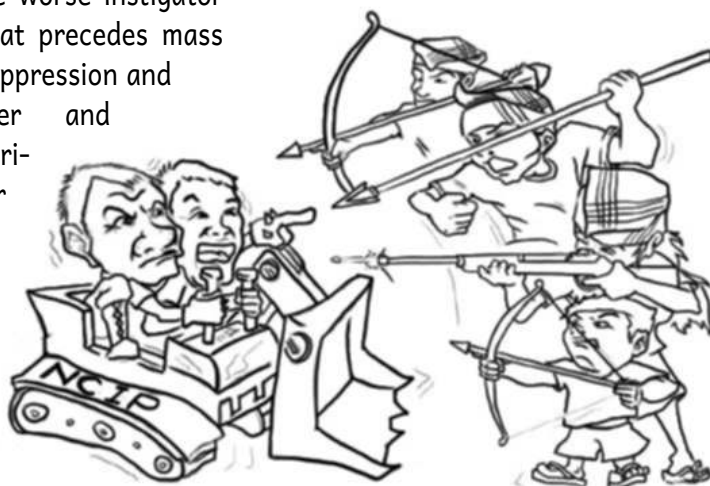
Capuyan was a colonel with a bloody record of attacks against minorities. He became head of Task Force Gantangan which organized paramilitary groups to defend large mining operation and was notorious for unleashing terror and murder of Lumad leaders. Capuyan is also involved in various crimes and anomalies including trafficking illegal drugs. He served as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under Gloria Arroyo and was involved in large-scale election cheating.

While serving as NCIP head, Capuyan was also appointed as executive director of the NTF-Elcac. Under him, the NCIP has served as a main instrument to "neutralize" indigenous peoples in the name of "counterinsurgency." The agency is the worse instigator of red-tagging that precedes mass killings, arrests, oppression and forced surrender and driving away minorities from their land. It has defended the worst crimes of the military and the regime against the national minorities.

Capitalist grabbing of ancestral land

Land grabbing and driving national minorities from their resources-rich land intensified under Capuyan. As much as 5 million hectares of ancestral land was opened up by Duterte for foreign mining exploration and operations. Rivers and lakes were also opened up by the regime to allow Chinese companies to erect dams and expand plantations.

The main role of the NCIP has been to manipulate and force affected communities to give their "Free, Prior, and Informed Consent" (FPIC) to favored companies. In the past years, it became an instrument for manufacturing an FPIC in Kalinga to allow the construction of the two Gened Dams. It also issued questionable FPICs for the TVI-Pacific mining company in Zamboanga del Norte and the Sagittarius Mines Inc. in



South Cotabato. The communities in these areas, as well as those defending their livelihood and culture, have been targets of combat operations and subjected to intense militarization.

Genocide campaign

To justify its large-scale combat operations, bombing, prolonged militarization and suppression of minorities' resistance, Duterte has repeatedly claimed that these communities serve as a deep source of new recruits for the New People's Army.

The NCIP has served as agent for forcible surrender of civilian indigenous peoples. The agency used fake datus (who are actually heads of paramilitary groups) to smear the New People's Army, as well as tribe members accused of supporting the armed movement. People who do not fall for their deception are outrightly murdered.

In 2021 alone, among the worst crimes of the regime include the massacre of three Manobo youths in Lianga, illegal arrest of minorities Renalyn Tejero, Gary Catamin and Beatrice Belen, and filing of false charges against Igorot leader Windell Bolinget. Towards the end of 2020, state agents massacred nine and arrested 17 Tumandoks who opposed the megadam construction in Panay.

In addition, it also attacked the Bakwit School in Cebu where 25 participants were arrested, and seven detained. One of those arrested in that incident was Chad Booc, who was killed by military forces last February, together with Lumad Jurain Nguho and three others while travelling in New Bataan, Davao de Oro.