



## EDITORIAL

# Persevere in arduous struggle, celebrate the Party's 53 years

**T**he Party calls on its tens of thousands of members, Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA), activists and the revolutionary masses across the country and different parts of the world to celebrate this month the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Let us celebrate its achievements and draw lessons from mistakes, while strengthening our resolve to make the necessary sacrifices in carrying forward the arduous struggle to defend the welfare and interests of the people and advance their aspiration to liberate the country from imperialism and tyranny.

Why will the Party's anniversary be celebrated? Because the Party and the people's democratic revolution it leads represent hope for millions upon millions of Filipinos who are fed up with the ruling system that causes them daily suffering and hardships. Amid tyranny's darkness, the revolution is a beacon that lights the way for the workers and peasants, the pettybourgeois intellectuals, women, teachers, nurses, ordinary employ-

ees, drivers, small professionals and low-income earners, members of the LGBT+ community, the unemployed both in the cities and rural areas, and other oppressed and exploited classes and sectors.

The Party and its program for people's democracy and socialism galvanizes them to act and struggle for genuine change—to end the almost century-old semicolonial and semifeudal system dominated by the imperialists, big bourgeois com-

pradors, big landlords and their armed brutes. In the Party, the people's hope of finally attaining their desire for national freedom remains alive.

What is going to be celebrated on the Party's anniversary? There is a lot to celebrate in the upcoming anniversary of the CPP. Let us celebrate how the CPP grew from a small group of proletarian revolutionaries to a Party with tens of thousands of cadres and members that are deeply rooted among millions of people.

Let us celebrate the Party's establishment of the NPA that serves as the masses' weapon to fight the ruling classes' fascist terrorism. Let us celebrate the mutual care of the peasants and the people's army and the big and small victories in waging agrarian revolution through

the past five decades together with the Party and NPA.

Let us celebrate the building of organs of political power, the embryo of their new democratic government. Under these, people practice true democracy, in contrast to the pseudo-democracy of reactionary politics and elections, where fraud, violence, chicanery and money rule.

Let us celebrate how a new economic system is being built by eliminating feudal exploitation of peasants by landlords, and guiding the masses to the system of collective work to raise production and earn more. Let us celebrate how the environment is defended by punishing and driving away the plunderers. Let us celebrate how millions have benefited from the people's government's education, health and economic services. Let us celebrate the rich revolutionary culture that reflects the people's national and democratic aspirations.

Let us celebrate how the people,

inspired and guided by the Party, have built their unions, their peasant associations, their student councils and groups, and other forms of organizations to fight and defend the interests of the oppressed for genuine land reform, higher wages and jobs, defend their homes and their right to education, to free expression, and other basic civil, political and socioeconomic rights.

This year, let us celebrate how the Party, the revolutionary forces and people have fought back valiantly against the onslaught of state terrorism, how they are standing up for their rights and how they are showing determination despite the brutal murders and rampant violations of people's rights committed by the reactionary state forces.

Let us celebrate how the Party and the revolution have so far frustrated Duterte and his armed minions in their annual declarations of crushing the Party and NPA. The Party and the armed revolution re-

mains consolidated, strong and advancing.

Let us celebrate how the continuing growth in the number of Party cadres, NPA Red fighters, and activists of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The brutal realities of Duterte's tyranny teaches them to fight and join the people's democratic revolution.





Let us celebrate international proletarian and anti-imperialist solidarity—the unity of all forces fighting for national and social liberation across the world. The CPP and the Philippine revolution is only one among the numerous revolutionary movements across the world fighting the imperialist monster and all the oppressive and reactionary forces.

Where will celebrations of the Party's 53rd anniversary be held? Celebrations of the Party's anniversary will be held wherever there are branches of the Party, units of the NPA and chapters of revolutionary mass organizations: in factories, docks, offices and other workplaces, in communities of the urban poor, inside homes, in school campuses, in hospitals, in government offices, among migrant Filipino communities overseas, and of course, in the guerrilla zones and base areas among the rural communities and mountains camps of the NPA.

Hold big and small meetings and assemblies. Keep the enemy blind and deaf to the applause and cheers of the people. Frustrate Duterte's evil aim of stopping these celebrations and convocations.

On December 26, all CPP cadres and members are called upon to unfurl and raise the Party's red flag, pay tribute to our heroes and reaffirm their oath of commitment to serve the proletariat and people, to make the necessary sacrifices, surmount all obstacles, and advance the people's democratic revolution until victory.

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 <p>Vol. LII No. 23   December 7, 2021</p> <hr/> <p>Ang <i>Ang Bayan</i> 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> @prwc_info</p> <p> fb.com/editorsofAB</p> <p> cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td><b>Editorial:</b> Persevere in arduous struggle, celebrate the Party's 53 years</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPA raids in Negros</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livelihood, human rights, freedom</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protests</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burdensome surrender drive in Sorsogon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martial law grandbabies: #MarcosNoHero</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Onus of tobacco farmers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Terrorism from the skies</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marcos plundered ₱66M tobacco funds</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Court junks cases vs. 17 activists</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In short</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International protests in 2021</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cagayan Valley farmers protest in NCR</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Editorial:</b> Persevere in arduous struggle, celebrate the Party's 53 years	1	NPA raids in Negros	3	Livelihood, human rights, freedom	3	Protests	3	Burdensome surrender drive in Sorsogon	4	Martial law grandbabies: #MarcosNoHero	5	Onus of tobacco farmers	6	Terrorism from the skies	6	Marcos plundered ₱66M tobacco funds	7	Court junks cases vs. 17 activists	7	In short	8	International protests in 2021	9	Cagayan Valley farmers protest in NCR	9
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<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>																											

## NPA mounts successive raids in Negros

Units of the New People's Army (NPA)-Central Negros mounted successive tactical offensives in the past two weeks. These include two raids and two harassment operations.

Red fighters raided a military safehouse in Barangay Kalupaan, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental on December 4. They were able to seize two military backpacks.

Hours earlier, another NPA unit raided a police headquarters protecting illegal gambling operations at Sitio Makulos, Barangay Bulado in the same city. A policewoman was apprehended and immediately released after being interrogated. Other police operatives fled in fear to their station.

On December 3, the same unit mounted a sniping operation against a CAFGU detachment in Barangay Guba, Vallehermoso. One soldier was killed.

In Negros Occidental, an NPA unit fired at a military detachment at Sitio Mamballo, Barangay Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla on November 21.

In Northern Samar, the NPA ambushed operating troops of the PNP-Special Action Force in Barangay San Jose, Mapanas in the morning of November 20. Two policemen were killed, and four others were wounded.

Earlier, the NPA fired at 20th IB troops along the boundary of Barangay San Miguel, Las Navas and Barangay Hinagonoyan, Catubig on November 17.

In retaliation, the military shelled the encounter site four times. AB

## Livelihood, human rights and freedom!

More than 5,000 converged along the boundary of Quezon City and Manila on November 30 to mark the 158th birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio. Simultaneously, rallyists paid tribute to the heroism of ordinary Filipinos who are defending their rights and welfare.

Spearheaded by Kilusang Mayo Uno, they demanded the distribution of ₱10,000 as aid to all families and a ₱15,000 subsidy for farmers, and the implementation of a living wage. They said Filipinos go hungry due to low wages while prices of petroleum products, food and other goods and services skyrocket.

Rallyists also called on candidates for the 2022 elections to heed the plight of the toiling masses and to stand with them.

They opposed the Marcos-Duterte tandem, which they said will intensify human rights abuses should they be seated in power.

Similarly, more than 200 activists protested in Cebu and 100 in Baguio. Protests were also mounted in the Cities of Davao, Bacolod, Iloilo and San Fernando (Pampanga). There were also protest actions in the provinces of Aklan, Capiz, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna and Batangas. AB



### **Robinsons Handyman warehouse strike.**

The workers' association of Robinsons Handyman won a victory last November 29 as the management agreed to stop laying off workers and reinstate retrenched unionists. The strike was mounted by more than 150 workers at a warehouse in Marikina City to oppose the retrenchment.

### **Benefits for contractual government employees.**

Government employees and members of the Kawani Laban sa Kontraktwalisasyon mounted a picket in front of the office of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in Manila last November 19 to demand a ₱10,000-gratuity pay for all contractual and casual employees. They have submitted their appeal to the Office of the President and DBM in October.

### **Free all political prisoners.**

Democratic groups headed by Kapatid protested in front of the Quezon City Hall on December 3 to call for the removal of Judge Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert. Villavert was the judge who signed the search warrants which were used to arrest and detain 76 activists in recent years. Rallyists also demanded the release of 712 political prisoners in the country, more than 400 of whom were arrested under the Duterte regime.

### **Call to suspend the "No vax, no work" scheme.**

The congress sought the suspension the illegal "no vax, no work," scheme which the IATF plans to implement through Resolutions 148-B at 149. The recommendation was made last December 1. This came after workers protested in Manila on November 29 and launched coordinated actions in offices and factories on November 27.

### **Teachers demand benefits from DepEd.**

More than 100 teachers trooped to the Department of Education (DepEd) in Pasay City on November 26 to demand the release of their overtime pay for 77 days and 25% overtime premium. In Cebu City, teachers of ACT Region 7 mounted a picket in front of the DepEd office seeking approval of their collective negotiation agreement. Unions under ACT also mounted various activities in the respective schools in solidarity with the campaign.

# Burdensome "surrender" drive in Sorsogon

Ordinary civilians in Sorsogon could not live peacefully as the 31st IB, 22nd IB, 93rd Civil Military Operations (CMO) Company and police forces repeatedly coerce them to "surrender" under the Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP).

The most recent victims include residents of barangays San Jose and San Isidro in the town of Bulusan; Barangay San Ramon in Barcelona; and Barangay Bitan-o in Sorsogon City. In recent months, the military repeatedly coerced the residents to "surrender" as supporters of the New People's Army (NPA).

Manoy Rike was among the victims of forced surrenders in these villages. He works as a porter and carries products from farms to a nearby road. He earns ₱500 daily, which he uses to make ends meet for his family. When the military began its forced surrender campaign in their village, he lost more than his income.

Barrios that are under RCSP operations are subjected to military rule. Red-tagging, threat, harassment and intimidation against those accused of being supporters of the armed movement are rampant in these villages. Manoy Rike was summoned by the military to "clear" his name. Each round of interrogation lasts about six hours. This is aside from time wasted during the "surrender" day itself. Based on his estimates, he could have earned around ₱1,500-₱2,000 had he not been disturbed by the military.

On top of this, he loses more than ₱3,500 during RSCP operations in the barrio which usually last one week. "I could not go to the land I lease because soldiers might gang up on me alone in the farm. I could not feed the carabaos and cows, and could not visit other barrios," he complained. "If I fail to appear before them, they will go to my family and harass them."

"This is why residents opt

not to go out of their houses during these operations in the barrio," said Manoy Rike. Interrogations are conducted daily in villages subjected to RCSP. Other residents are summoned to the barangay hall or military camp up to three times daily. They are made to sign documents without being informed what these are for, and their pictures taken. The intimidation campaign culminates in an assembly where residents are made to take their "oath of allegiance" to the state, and admit that they are "NPA supporters." The victims have repeatedly complained to the mayor of Barcelona and other local officials. The youth of Barangay Bitan-o complained that residents are being harassed and coerced by the 93rd CMO to falsely identify their neighbors as "NPA supporters." But since local governments are dominated by Duterte's National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac, they cannot act to address the complaints of their constituents. The 93rd CMO usually connives with the local media to whitewash its atrocity.

Residents are annoyed with the repeated "surrender" ceremonies mounted with only a gap of one month. An example of this is the forced surrender of 70 residents of Sta. Cruz and San Ramon in Barcelona who were forced to "surrender" in February 2020. They

were once again assembled on April 8 in the town center to "pledge their allegiance" and stage a "rally" against the NPA. Later on November 19, they were again forced to "surrender" during an activity in Barangay Bitan-o. Other "surrenderers" were arrested or liquidated by the military. Most of them are known for not complying with the order of the military and police to spy on their villagefolk and relatives. Data by the NPA-Sorsogon indicate that at least three "surrenderers" were arrested and another was killed.

Aside from Barcelona and Sorsogon City, forced "surrender" campaigns are also being conducted in other parts of the province. In Donsol, 17 civilians, including three barangay officials, were coerced to "surrender" in October. In Juban, residents of Barangay Calateo were forced to "surrender" twice. From January 2020 to August 2021, Sorsogonans from at least 97 barangays in 10 towns and cities were coerced to "surrender." The said barangays are among the 113 barangays across the province which have been subjected to forced "surrenders" since 2018. Although afraid, Manoy Rike is filled with anger. "By harassing us and disrupting our lives, soldiers only prove themselves to be depraved people. They are Duterte's attack dogs who do not care about us who are poor. They do not care about the huge losses we suffer when they are here. How will I be able to pay for the cabinet which I bought on credit if I am not able to work for several days?"

"Nothing has changed! We will still fight! Regardless of how many times they coerce us to pledge our allegiance to them, the military will never win the hearts of the people," said ka Manoy Rike.



# For martial law grandbabies, Marcos is no hero

**A**ndi, then 15, was at her basketball practice when Ferdinand Marcos Sr. was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes Cemetery). "I was surprised," she remembers. "Isn't he a dictator? Why was he being buried there?"

She readily joined a rally. She and her classmates trooped to Taft Avenue in Manila City. At the rally, she poured her anger and frustrations. There, she also found the warmth of camaraderie. "I felt proud," she remembers feeling as her schoolmates marched together with other students in the streets.

On the other end of Metro Manila, 5,000 students marched along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. One of them was Mar, then 19, a student from a nearby university who was swept in the noise barrage held in his college. "I was very angry," he recalled.

Red, then 18, also felt intense anger when he read on social media about the secretive burial. He got wind that a rally was going to be held in Iloilo, where he was, and went to participate. "At that time, I already knew of the Marcoses' crimes. But it was a different feeling when I heard those spoken at the rally, from speakers from all sectors of society," he said. "I felt the people's anger towards (Rodrigo) Duterte's decision."

Connie, then 15, went to the Libingan ng mga Bayani on his own. "I held a placard fashioned from a torn notebook page," he recalls. "I was not with any organization then. I shouted myself hoarse."

Not everyone was able to vent in rallies. "I cried all the way home," Eve remembers. In solidarity, she wore a black shirt, replaced her profile picture with black and bombarded her friends. Along with hundreds of thousands, she poured all her anger on social media.

To many like Eve, that day not only changed how history should be read, but also how changes in society should be perceived.

## Denying the truth

Those who marched against the Marcos burial are considered grandchildren of martial law.

"We were told then that we knew nothing because we were children and we did not experience the dictatorship," Andi said. "But I remember my Grade 9 teacher saying 'sua fabula nostra fabula.' Their history is my history. Even if I did not live under martial law, it is my history and I have a say in it."

She thinks that even though her generation did not directly suffer martial law, it is a victim of historical distortions.

"The truth is being revised for self-interest," she said. "This is not only about the past, it is, more importantly, about the present."

According to academics, historical revisionism is not bad if it is done to integrate marginalized voices and is based on legitimate historical evidences. But if what is being denied is the fact that thousands were murdered under martial law, or that millions were stolen from public funds, then it is outright lying.

An educator said that "it doesn't help that martial law history is not taught in its entirety." He said textbooks of the Department of Education have "selective amnesia." Among the lies perpetuated by schools is the lie that the Philippines experienced "golden years" under the dictatorship.

Distortions have grown even more brazen at the era of the internet and social media. Using their billions of stolen wealth, the Mar-

coses are now propagating selective information to glorify the dictator and attack those who publish the truth.

## Enduring activism

The youth are still in the fight against these lies five years after Marcos was declared a hero. Those who were just being awakened then are now activists.

"It is important that we study history so that we do not repeat the errors of the past," Red said. "We already know Marcos' crimes. It is our duty to stop (the Marcoses) return to power and other dictators, thieves and oppressors like them."

Andi said this is more imperative now as the threat of the Marcos return and the Duterte's perpetuation in power is present in the coming elections. "Duterte is responsible for the Marcos burial," she said. "Even then, he has shown that he wants to be like Marcos. Even then, we knew that we needed to act so that our generation can avoid a Marcos revival through Duterte."

Now that the Marcos-Duterte campaign for president and vice president is in full swing, "we need to work double time," she said.

"What is important," said Red, "is to study continuously and be critical. Materials and resources about the dictatorship are available. So are stories from martial law victims."

Andi, Red, Mar and Eve know that student activists have a big role in the fight against tyranny. "It is our duty to arouse, organize and mobilize our fellow youth, as well as other sectors," according to Red. "We can use our voice in voting in the elections, in protests and struggles with various sectors, and even in higher forms of struggle."



# Onus of tobacco farmers

In the past 11 years, tobacco farmers have been seeking an increase in the farmgate price of their products to ₱128 per kilo. At present, farmgate prices range from ₱72 to ₱87 per kilo depending on the type of tobacco. They also demand an end to the downgrading scheme used to shortchange them by categorizing tobacco leaves. However, during the Tobacco Tripartite Consultative Conference on November 10-11, the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) once again connived with traders to prevent a significant increase in the prices of tobacco.

The NTA made it appear that farmers and traders agreed to raise the prices of various types of tobacco by only ₱3-₱4 from ₱69-₱84 per kilo in the past two years. This is not enough to cover the cost of production shouldered by the farmers. The demand to increase farmgate prices to ₱128 is based on the calculation of the farmers' cost of production.

Tobacco production is capital- and labor-intensive. Based on estimates by the NTA and farmers in 2019, the av-

erage cost of production per hectare of tobacco farm is estimated at ₱151,060. A huge portion of this goes to farm inputs (₱62,631) and land rent (₱18,856). Farmers spend six months in production, from planting to harvesting and selling. Latest estimates by the NTA in 2014 indicate that farmers only earn an average of ₱63,281 per hectare of tobacco farm every crop cycle.

Local tobacco production is small-scale and family-based. According to Stop Exploitation-Ilocos, approximately



75% of tobacco farmers in the region are landless. On average, tobacco farmers own only one fourth or half a hectare. Data by the NTA indicates that 65% of tobacco farmers cultivate less than a hectare of land. Majority of tobacco farms in the country are located in the Ilocos Region (66%) and Cagayan Valley (19%).

Around 55% of local tobacco products is Virginia tobacco mostly bought by Lucio Tans' Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco Corporation (PMFTC). The bourgeois comprador Tan controls 70% of the local tobacco market. Since 2017, the NTA and small traders have been directly contracting out farmers in Ilocos and buying their products which are then sold to PMFTC.

## Bankrupt farmers

Due to lack of support from the government, many tobacco farmers go bankrupt and forced to plant other

*Continued on page 7*

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## Terrorism from the skies, terrorism on the ground

BOMBING AND MILITARY operations mounted by the Duterte regime's armed forces sowed terror among the people in the past two weeks. At least six barangays in Iloilo, Sorsogon and Negros were affected by these attacks.

Four bombs were dropped by military fighter jets at Sitio Burak, Barangay Alimodias, Miag-ao, Iloilo in the morning of December 1. Residents reported that they were awakened by explosions at around 5 a.m. The military also shelled the area repeatedly. This affected the livelihood of residents of farmers who have yet to recover from the impact of successive calamities which have struck the area in recent months.

The military made it appear that its unit engaged in an armed encounter with 70 Red fighters in the area prior to the bombing. The regional unit of the New People Army (NPA), however, clarified that no such encounter took place. Only a small NPA unit was in the area to

assist the farmers in production.

In Sorsogon, a farmer was arrested while four others were harassed by soldiers. The military arrested Edwin Hitois, barangay tanod of Trece Martirez, Casiguran on December 2. He was accused of being an NPA member. Soldiers harassed Purisima Hapa and Rolly Estolas, residents of Barangay Sangat, Gubat on November 29. In Barcelona, soldiers fired at Kenneth Escullar but missed in Barangay Sta. Lourdes on November 28. Soldiers also mauled Joey Escurrel of Barangay Olandia on November 2.

In Negros Oriental, soldiers of the 62nd IB combed through two sitios of Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City on November 23 and 28.

They illegally entered houses, interrogated residents, and inspected their cellphones and other belongings. Soldiers also mauled Rodel Montero, 18, on his way to the farm. Soldiers stole his cellphone.

In Guihulngan City, soldiers occupying Sitio Kasingan, Barangay Trinidad indiscriminately fired their guns on November 21 at midnight.

In Bulacan, policemen arrested Joe-art Garrido Salvacion and Herbert Mendoza Rivera, local fisherfolk leaders in Barangay Binuangan, Obando, on November 25. The police made it appear that they were able to recover illegal drugs from the victims.

In Surigao del Norte, the police and military arrested Anecito Patac on November 26 at his house in Barangay Urbiztundo, Claver. Patac is the chairperson of the Adnama Mining Resources Inc Labor Union.


crops. The decline in tobacco production in recent years, and the decrease in the number of farmers and the total area of tobacco farms is primarily attributed to this problem.

During the first quarter of the year, the losses incurred by farmers have worsened, and their production weakened due to the onslaught of drought in Ilocos Norte on the one hand, and torrential rains in La Union and Ilocos Sur on the other hand. Research by the National Democratic Front-Ilocos Region (NDF-Ilocos) indicates that approximately 90% of tobacco farms in Ilocos Sur and La Union were destroyed. According to the NTA's data, 1,132 hectares of tobacco farms were flooded and damaged, causing ₱81 million in damages.

In Ilocos Sur, 453 hectares of tobacco farms were flooded. Around ₱30 million worth of tobacco products were damaged. According to NDF-Ilocos, farmers incurred an income loss of about ₱1.5-₱3 million. In La Union, almost 90% of tobacco farms were damaged. According to a farmer who planted 1,500 tobacco plants, he earned a measly ₱2,000 which was supposed to be ₱20,000.

In the case of a farmer in the town of Burgos, more than half of his farmland was flooded and damaged, leaving him with insufficient income to pay the ₱20,000 which he borrowed for the crop cycle. The


**Volume of tobacco production in the Philippines (metric tons)**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2020</b>
	56,500	52,400

**Total tobacco production area**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2020</b>
	32,501	28,008

**Total number of tobacco farmers**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2016</b>
	53,000	41,000

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, National Tobacco Administration

NDF-Ilocos also documented several cases of peasant suicides in San Juan, Cabugao, Sinit and Vigan in Ilocos Sur due to bankruptcy.

### Useless "gold"

Tobacco is called "green gold" due to its huge contribution to the local economy. From January to July, the reactionary state was able to collect ₱83 billion in tobacco excise taxes. Last year, approximately ₱18 billion was allocated to local governments for tobacco production.

It was also able to earn \$433 million (₱21.7 billion) from tobacco exports last year. On top of this, it also collects billions of pesos in taxes from PMFTC annually. However, these gains do not benefit most farmers.

According to farmers, tobacco is the only crop which can guarantee them a capital and market. Farmers also use their products as collateral to loan for the succeeding crop cycles. AB

### Imee Marcos plundered ₱66.45-million tobacco fund

IN 2017, IMEE Marcos, then governor of Ilocos Norte, was exposed to have plundered ₱66.45 million allotted to subsidize tobacco farmers in the province. The said funds came from the 15% excise tax on tobacco products implemented by virtue of the Republic Act (RA) 7171. Instead of using the funds to improve tobacco production, Marcos admitted that she used the funds to procure more than 110 vehicles. The said vehicles were also exposed to have been overpriced by ₱21.45 million.

Since the enactment of RA 7171, farmers have been demanding the government to use these billions collected annually to directly support tobacco producers. They demand irrigation, free farm inputs, fertilizer and machines among others. They also demand that this fund be used to aid farmers in times of calamities and other disasters such as typhoons, floods, drought, and pandemic crisis.

### Court dismisses cases vs. 17 activists in Agusan del Sur

A COURT IN Agusan del Sur dismissed the trumped-up charges against 17 activists filed in 2019. The decision was issued on June 10, but the pertinent documents were only delivered to the lawyers of the accused on December 1.

According to Judge Fernando Fudalan Jr, the cases have been pending before his office for more than a year without any action by the prosecution.

The judge voided the warrants of arrest because the respondents listed in these are "John Does" without any description.

The 17 activists who were accused of kidnapping, robbery and arson are members of Karapatan, Alliance of Concerned Teachers and Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, who are based in Northern Mindanao.

Their cases are collectively called the "Sibagat cases." The victims were maliciously linked by the military to a raid by the NPA-Agusan del Sur against a CAFGU detachment in Barangay Tubigon, Sibagat on February 19, 2019.

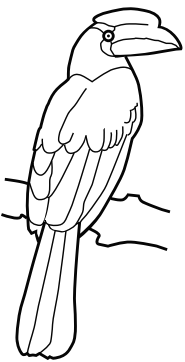
On November 24, a local court also dismissed trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives against a couple activist who were arrested in Metro Manila in 2019. The Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 19 dismissed the cases against Cora Agovida, spokesperson of Gabriela-Metro Manila, and Michael Bartolome, organizer of Kadamay.

# Omicron

a Covid-19 variant of concern

first detected by scientists in South Africa on November 24. It has a "high number of mutations" and can reinfect individuals who have already been infected.

Source: World Health Organization



93 species of birds in the Philippines are at the brink of extinction

due to forest denudation and climate change. These include the rufous hornbill (kalaw), eagles and owls. The country has a total of 594 bird species.

Pinagkunan: Biological Correlates of Extinction Risk in Resident Philippine Avifauna

# IDEVAW

or International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

is commemorated every November 25 annually. This date was selected to honor activists and sisters Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal who were killed in the Dominican Republic on November 25, 1960.

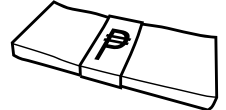


82 individuals fell victim to human rights abuses

under the Duterte regime daily from December 1, 2020 to December 1, 2021.

Source: Duterte's Dirty War in 2021, Ang Bayan, December 4, 2021

P3.7 billion



spent by candidates for the 2022 elections from September 2021 for TV, radio, newspaper and billboard ads, before filing their certificates of candidacy.

Source: Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

P32,000 + interes

Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s unpaid bail

for the tax evasion charge filed against him, according to the regional trial court which convicted him in 1995, and the Court of Appeals which ratified the decision in 1997.

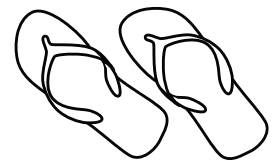
Source: Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 105

## Battle of Tirad Pass

battle between Filipino and American soldiers on

December 2, 1899

in Concepcion (currently Gregorio del Pilar) in Ilocos Sur. Gen. del Pilar was killed in this battle at the age of 24.



3,000

pairs of slippers were placed in front of the National Mall in Washington D.C.

by human rights activists in the US on November 20 to symbolize the victims of Duterte's bogus war on drugs.

Source: Tsinelas Action Campaign



# 2021 protests for decent wages, human rights and freedom

In 2021, two years under the pandemic, millions have incessantly protested for their right to decent wages, human rights, and freedom. Farmers from India mounted sustained protests against the Modi regime's anti-farmer policies. In the US, a strike movement erupted to demand just wages and humane working conditions. Across Latin America, there was a surge of protests against neoliberal policies, worsening fascism, corruption and failed pandemic response. Democratic groups in Palestine, Myanmar and Thailand also sustained their struggles.

## Strike for just wages

In the US, workers organized a strike movement in October called Striketober. More than 100,000 workers from various unions participated in the strike. They demanded wage increases, humane working conditions, and respect as humans. In November, Amazon workers protested to demand just wages and an end to contractualization. Amazon has around 1 million workers across the US.

In South Korea, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions mounted a national protest on October 20 to oppose contractualization and demand benefits.

In France, more than 25,000 workers protested on October 5 to demand humane working conditions and aid amid the economic crisis. Similar protests were mounted in Indonesia, Uganda and South Africa.

## Anti-neoliberal movements

Millions of farmers in India sustained their protest for more than one year to oppose three neoliberal agricultural policies which threatened to drown them further in poverty. More than 1 million farmers marched to the Indian capital in November 2020, with tens of thousands remaining in protest camps until today. Last November 19, the Modi regime announced its plans to revoke the laws.

Chileans were able to sustain the protests called "Estallido So-

cial" (Social Outburst) to oppose neoliberal policies which aggravated the economic and political crisis in the country. Their major demands include calls to amend the constitution which was heavily skewed to favor the private sector. In October, thousands of residents marched through the streets to commemorate the first massive protest in the country in 2019 where 1.2 million Chileans participated.

In Colombia, approximately 5 million individuals participated in protests which started in April to oppose the tax reforms of the Duque regime. In May, its government was forced to revoke the reform.

On October 26, indigenous people in Ecuador spearheaded the call for a "paro nacional" (national strike) in the face of skyrocketing oil prices and to condemn the economic policies of the Lasso government.

## Continuing protests

Protests against racial discrimination against Blacks were sustained in 2021. In March, the movement against racial discrimination against Asian-Americans also gained ground in the US.

Democratic movements in Thailand and Myanmar also sustained their protests against tyranny and suppression. In Sudan, thousands protested against the military junta which deposed their elected civilian leaders in October.

In Cuba, residents twice foiled (in July and November) attempts by the US to intervene in the country by funding small opportunist groups.

Workers in West Bank and Gaza in Palestine, and also in Israel, mounted a strike to protest against the occupation and bombing in Gaza by Israel.

In November, thousands of environmental activists converged in Scotland to criticize the absence of a global plan of action to address climate change. The protest was mounted in conjunction with the COP26 Summit, a conference on climate change organized by the United Nations. AB

### Cagayan Valley farmers protest in the national capital

FARMERS AND PROGRESSIVE groups from Cagayan Valley mounted a two-day noise barrage on November 23 and 24 in the national capital to call for the release of all political prisoners in the region, and demand an end to attacks against democratic groups.

Within two days, the Danggayan Cagayan Valley spearheaded programs in front of Camp Aguinaldo, Senate, Department of Justice, Commission on Human Rights, and House of Representatives. Its members and their supporters related the real situation of farmers in the region who are boldly carrying on with their struggles, despite their dire situation and oppressive campaigns of red-tagging, harassment, militarization and fake surrenders. The group singled out as criminal the NTF-Elcac which is headed by Duterte. They also submitted petitions and conducted dialogues as part of the legal offensive against abusive policemen and soldiers.