



EDITORIAL

Salute the masses and the valiant forces of the armed revolution in Mindanao and across the country

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) salutes the revolutionary masses and the valiant forces of the New People's Army (NPA) and cadres of the Party in the Mindanao regions and across the entire country for their perseverance and iron-determination to defend the interests of the oppressed and exploited masses, in the face of relentless and brutal attacks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). They are making great sacrifices in the struggle to fight imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism and for the cause of national democracy and socialism. The Party pays tribute to Jorge Madlos (Ka Oris), Menandro Villanueva (Ka Bok) and all revolutionary heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in fighting the monsters that prey on the people.

The enemy continues to squander billions upon billions of pesos to terrorize the people and their revolutionary forces. The fascist attacks are most vicious in Mindanao, but are also relentless and ruthless in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Negros, as well as in other regions across the country. The fascists are obsessed with ending the people's resis-

tance and armed revolution before the end of Rodrigo Duterte's term through sheer military superiority, firepower and state terrorism.

Even now, it is certain that Duterte's war against the people will not succeed. It only aggravates the people's socioeconomic conditions that give rise to armed resis-

tance. It is exhausting limited public funds that should instead be going to public health and education, especially as the country faces the continuing pandemic. It exposes the rotten core of the semicolonial and semifeudal system and heightens the people's aspiration for national and social liberation.

The fascists brag of having won over a few renegades who have given up their principles and the people's cause. Although a mere handful, some make so much noise on the behest of the AFP and now serve as paid hacks of the NTF-ELCAC using the people's money. They have betrayed the trust once given them by the peasant masses and minorities. Some of them chose convenience and comfort, overawed by the enemy and bedazzled by its

promises for their selfish personal benefit. Some were captured by the enemy but subjected to intense pressure to turn against themselves. A few of them have turned outright traitors and are actively helping the enemy in its brutal campaign of suppression against civilian communities and people's organizations. They are opportunists and negative examples who are rejected and denounced by the people.

The Party firmly salutes its cadres and leaders and NPA commanders and fighters in Mindanao and across the country who continue to shun personal interests, selflessly make great sacrifices and persevere along the path of serving the Filipino people and waging revolutionary struggle for national and social liberation. They exude revolutionary optimism and militancy even in the face of great adversity and obstacles.

Together with the revolutionary masses, the Party and NPA grieve the deaths of Ka Menandro Villanueva (Ka Bok) and Ka Jorge Madlos (Ka Oris), both important

leaders of the Party and NPA in Mindanao and the entire country. They are both victims of the enemy's fascist crimes and outright contravention of the rules of war and international humanitarian law.

The revolutionary forces draw inspiration from their martyrdom. The movement mourn their deaths, but also know that these losses are not insurmountable and will be overcome. They are ever conscious that when giant trees fall, it provides space and nourishes the ground for new trees to sprout and grow. Thousands of Party cadres and NPA commanders are now picking up their cudgels.

The Party firmly salutes the toiling masses in the Mindanao regions and across the country. In the face of the enemy's attacks, the people's determination to support and join the armed resistance has become stronger than ever before. Even in areas under the AFP's most brutal attacks, the masses continue to build and expand their revolutionary organizations, cherish their people's army, take part in the

armed resistance, and join the Party. The workers, peasants, minority people, the semiproletariat and petty-bourgeois intellectuals in Mindanao and across the country remain unwavering in their determination to unite and fight for their national and democratic aspirations.

In the coming months and years, Party cadres, NPA fighters and the revolutionary masses must steel themselves as they will have to make more difficult sacrifices, shoulder more critical tasks and take on heavier responsibilities.

The NPA must continue to master guerrilla tactics of concentration, dispersal and shifting to maintain initiative at all times and frustrate the enemy's offensives. It must continue to wage extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare on the basis of an ever expanding and deepening mass base. The NPA must further expand its guerrilla fronts and build new ones to cause the enemy to stretch its forces, overcome its strategy of gradual constriction and take away its ability to mount focused military operations to encircle units of the NPA. The NPA must continue efforts to link together the rough mountainous areas with the highly populated plains, build more guerrilla base areas, and mount tactical offensives on a wide area on a nationwide scale. The NPA must target, especially, the fascist and criminal AFP units whose hands are bloodied by the deaths of the Filipino people's heroes and martyrs.

The Party and the New People's Army across the country will continue to strengthen the bonds between the people's army and the masses. The broad united front must continuously be expanded and strengthened against Duterte's fascist tyranny.

In the face of the deep socio-economic crisis, hardships and oppression of the people, the revolutionary forces are ever determined to arouse, organize and mo-

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bilize the people in their numbers to wage widespread mass struggles to demand genuine land reform, oppose the expansion of plantations, resist the entry of mining companies, demand fair prices for farm produce, demand higher wages, and just subsidies. They must intensify resistance to fascist attacks against communities, demand a stop to the bombing and shelling of their farms and villages, demand an end to military occupation of communities, demand respect for people's rights and principles of international humanitarian law. They must hold the Duterte accountable for all his crimes even beyond his term.

The Party fully trusts the revolutionary forces across the entire country will persevere and grow in strength together with all the democratic and patriotic classes. Through untiring efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize the masses, it is certain that we shall frustrate the enemy's all-out war, relentless attacks and declared aims of crushing the armed revolution. Carry forward the people's resistance and bring it to ever greater heights. **AB**

Petitioners criticize junking of complaint against Marcos

MARTIAL LAW VICTIMS criticized the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for dismissing their petition on January 17 to disqualify Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in the upcoming elections.

The petitioners asserted that Marcos Jr. is not eligible to run for any public office since he was convicted in 1995 for tax evasion.

In response, the petitioners filed a motion for reconsideration. Aside from the dismissed petition, Marcos Jr. also faces three other disqualification petitions filed before the Comelec.

Justice for Ka Kaye and Ka Bok!

Comrades Sandra Reyes (Ka Kaye) and Menandro Villanueva (Ka Bok) were captured alive during an encounter in Mabini, Davao de Oro between Red fighters and the butcher 10th ID on December 24, 2021, according to the Mindanao Commission of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The following day, the 10th ID reported that Ka Kaye was "killed in an encounter" while there was no news regarding the whereabouts of Ka Bok.

On the next few days, the 10th ID released a cartographic sketch of Ka Bok and repeatedly bragged that that he is about to be captured, along with other leaders and cadres in the Southern Mindanao Region supposedly as a result of their full-scale "pursuit operations." It repeatedly fired 105mm howitzers to make it appear that there had been an encounter between the AFP and NPA.

On January 6, the 10th ID declared that Ka Bok was killed purportedly during an encounter on January 5. In truth, they already had custody of Ka Bok for 12 days. He was most likely tortured before being killed. According to the 10th ID's own report, his cadaver sustained many gunshot wounds.

The revolutionary party strongly condemned the AFP's cold-blooded killing of Ka Bok and Ka Kaye, and the lies it peddled subsequently. The CPP assured that it will hold to account those responsible for the killing of the two.

Ka Bok served the people for more than five decades. He played a key role in advancing the revolutionary movement in Southern Mindanao as one of strongest regions of the Party and the NPA. Meanwhile, Ka Kaye served the workers, peasants and Lumads full-time since she was organized at the Ateneo de Davao University. As an organizer, she played a key role in strikes and mass actions mounted across Southern Mindanao. **AB**

NPA offensives in South Cotabato in defense of Lumad T'bolis

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-Far South Mindanao mounted successive offensives in South Cotabato to defend the T'boli people subjected to military violence by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Red fighters ambushed an operating unit of the 38th IB in Barangay Tudok, T'boli on December 31, 2021. Initial reports indicate that at least seven soldiers were killed, and three others were wounded.

The following day, the NPA fired at a column of the 11th Special Forces Battalion (SFB) at a mountainous area of the same barangay. Five soldiers were killed and two were wounded.

The NPA deployed a unit in the area after the military dropped 12 bombs at Sitio Busong-Apang in the early morning of December 30, 2021. The bombs hit the farmlands of Lumad T'bolis which were located only few meters away from the village. The attack shattered the peace in the community and traumatized civilians. Afterwards, the AFP deployed 38th IB and 11th SFB soldiers to comb through the said area.

Focused military operations continue unabated in the barangays along the boundary of Kiamba, Sarangani and T'boli, South Cotabato. These areas are covered by the concessions of the 88 Kiamba Mining Development Corporation, Inc. and Kiamba Mining Corporation.

Revolutionary people's struggle against pests

Tay Amag holds dear the principle of collective action because this was key in improving lives in their community. He is a leader of a Lumad-Mamanwa organization at a guerrilla front in Northeastern Mindanao, and has been supporting the revolutionary movement for five decades now.

People in Tay Amag's community have been instilled with the mutual principles of cooperation and collective production. "Comrades guided us in forming our organization to unite the Mamanwa tribe and the Visayan settlers. Through hunglos (bayanihan or communal unity), farmlands expanded and became more productive. We were able to earn more. We are able to supply food for our families, and also we have surplus which we sell in town," recalled the elder.

Thus, despite relentless military harassment, he never surrendered. Instead, he continues to monitor the movements of the soldiers who pester their community, and continues to assist the people's army.

Even when Tay Amag was exposed to the enemy, he stood firm and faced the soldiers' accusations. One time, he knew soldiers were set to order him do something against his will. He evaded the soldiers who surrounded his house, and since then moved to the forest with his family. To survive, he continued to open secret farmlands.

"I and my family never abandoned the revolution," said Tay Amag.

He and his village mates have been steeled in waging revolution. They have devised ways to secure comrades and neighbors who are active in the movement. "We are always cautious especially now that some of our villagefolk are in the enemy's hands. We try to avoid becoming like them."

That the military is anti-peasant is clear to him. "All our hard work are destroyed and gone since

the soldiers arrived." Their farm work has been impeded on the military's absurd claims that "farmlands are large to provide for the people's army." This is why people are back to being poor, explained Tay Amag.

Tay Amag called on his fellow farmers to remain firm and persevere in the face of the enemy's attacks. To comrades in the people's army, "remain strong, master balancing your tasks," he said. "Trust that I will always be with you," pledged Tay Amag. "What ever you need, I will never hesitate to offer my service as your amag sa kahabjun (light in the darkness)."

Pests in the village

Gudo and his father Tay Domeng were seeking a solution to pests also plaguing their village in a Southern Mindanao guerrilla front. In early 2020, rats infested their cornfields resulting in gnawing poverty and hunger in the community. Their expected harvest of 25 sacks of corn became two sacks.

Villagefolk used to act on these economic problems with dispatch. In fact, a *kalmas* (kalihukang masa or mass movement) was already planned to hold the ruling government accountable. They demanded crop insurance and calamity funds, and also sought to take back their lands which the Duterte

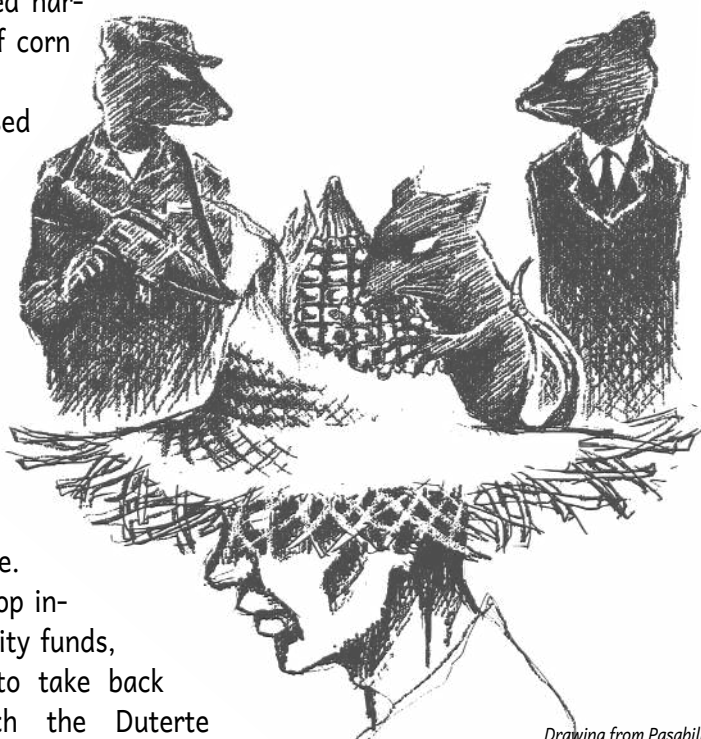
regime gave to mining and plantation companies, and for the expansion of military camps.

But with the current infestation, residents are constrained from acting due to military presence in their village. Residents from adjacent barrios are also apprehensive about participating. "Fear spread further in the community after soldiers killed two of our leaders," said Tay Domeng.

Tay Domeng and Gudo understand that the villagefolk are terrorized by the killings and the continuing and long-term military occupation of their community. But according to Tay Domeng, they should worry more about gradually dying of of hunger, or being buried in debt because of poor harvest due to pests.

"The organization must grasp the error of separating *kalmas* for corn production and *kalmas* against militarization," they noted. Among the solutions to the rat problem they have devised is to be able to get past through checkpoints in order to facilitate meetings once again.

AB



Barricade against land grabbing for ecotourism

Residents of Barangay Patungan (now Sta. Mercedes) in Maragondon, Cavite once again foiled the attempted demolition of their community on January 13 by policemen, soldiers, and private goons hired by big capitalist families Virata and Sy. For several years, they have stood firm against land grabbing to pave the way for ecotourism and business projects.

Three residents were injured, and six were arrested by policemen and soldiers during the violent dismantling of the barricade. More than 1,000 elements of the demolition team trooped to the barangay and repeatedly fired their guns.

Various mass organizations expressed support for the struggle in Barangay Patungan and demanded an immediate investigation and intervention by the local government and agencies.

Fight back Patungan!

Barangay Patungan is a coastal village with around 1,200 residents (more than 350 families) who rely primarily on fishing and farming. According to residents, generations of their families spanning 150 years have lived in the area.

The barangay has a total area of 602 hectares and is surrounded by rich and majestic mountains and seas. This is why the MTV Realty Corporation, owned by Maria

Theresa Virata, and Manila South-coast Development Corporation (MSDC) of the Sy family, are conspiring to land grab the area.

The MTV Realty Corporation has been encroaching on the area since 2012 despite showing no land title. The company constructed roads and claimed the mountains surrounding the area. In the same year, it deployed private goons at the entry point of the barangay to control the movement of residents.

The number of families in Patungan used to be around 600 but has been cut by half since 2012 as residents faced threats, deception, demolition, and were forcibly driven away. Relocation sites offered by the local government are far from residents' livelihood, and housing has to be amortized monthly.

In 2014, there were reports that the village elementary school and high school were to be demolished to pave the way for eco-

tourism projects. In 2016, residents also faced threats of demolition.

The Save Patungan Now Movement continues to frustrate these attempts and unite residents to fight back.

Struggle in Hacienda Looc

The land grabbing case in Barangay Patungan is linked to the Hamilo Coast of the Sy Family which is currently being constructed at Hacienda Looc in Nasugbu, Batangas. The MSDC constructed a beach, resort, and condominium in the area which displaced thousands of farmers.

The land in Hacienda Looc was covered by the reactionary government's agrarian reform program in 1990. Up to 5,218 hectares of the 8,650 hectares of land in Hacienda Looc were distributed to farmers. However, in 1994, the government sold the hacienda to MSDC even if it was already covered by agrarian reform. Around 10,000 farmers and fisherfolk depend on the land, water and rich resources of the hacienda.

The Ugnayan ng Mamamayan Laban sa Pangwawasak ng Kalupaan sa Hacienda Looc has been uniting the community in their struggle since the 1990s. It mounted caravans to Manila, picket protests and barricades, and fought legal battles at the Department of Agrarian Reform and government agencies.

The struggle in Hacienda Looc has gained widespread support. Residents are supported by the religious sector, students from Manila, and other sectors.

To defend the farmers and fisherfolk, the New People's Army disarmed the goons of Henry Sy at his resort in Hacienda Looc on January 2017. Forty-two firearms were confiscated in two raids against the resort. AB

Fascist and stupid restrictions against the unvaccinated

RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY the reactionary government against the unvaccinated are discriminatory, fascist, oppressive, and ultimately pointless and stupid. The "no vax, no labas," "no vax, no ride," "no vax, no entry," and other related policies openly restrict the movement of the majority of the population, and denies them their right to social services.

As of January 11, only 48.45% of the target population (70%) have been fully vaccinated, while 75% have received their first dose.

Duterte imposed policies against unvaccinated people to cover-up its neglect to the health sector, and inefficiencies in its overall pandemic response. This covers-up the regimes refusal to shoulder payments for mass testing, contact tracing, improvement of health facilities, treatment of infected patients, and economic aid for millions of impoverished Filipinos.

On January 15, members of Bayan-Panay protested in front of the Iloilo City Hall to criticize the local ordinance which implemented Duterte's illegal and anti-people "no vax, no labas" policy. Local officials prohibit unvaccinated people from leaving their homes unless they are able to show a negative RT-PCR test taken in the past three days.

— IN — SHORT



₱32B
32 Black Hawk
helicopters



₱30B
naval vessels



₱2.8B
cruise missiles
and antiship missile
systems



₱36M
tank gunnery
simulator



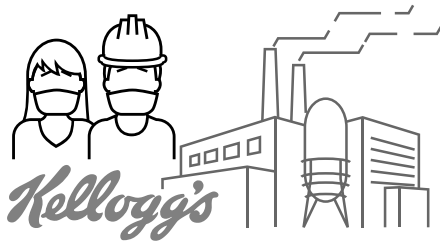
₱9.4B
20 tanks

to be squandered by the regime this year amid the continuing pandemic to upgrade the military AFP's war toys. This is while there is no sufficient funds for mass testing, contact tracing and other measures to address the surge in Covid-19 cases.

Source:
Department of Defense

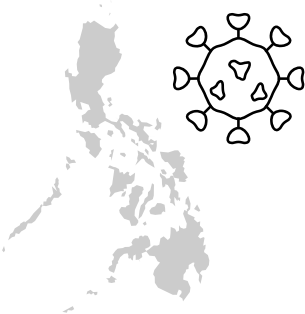
1,400

workers of Kellogg's, an American company,



returned to work and ended their strike in December 2021 after successfully demanding an increase in wages and benefits. The strike forms part of Striketober, the movement which erupted in the US in October 2021.

69%



of 714 samples sequenced by the Philippine Genome Center on January 13-14 tested positive for the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

322 of the patients are local, while 160 are returning migrants.

Source:
Department of Health

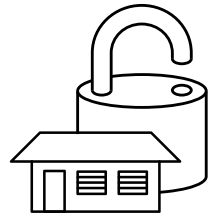
1 nurse is to 24 Covid-19 patients and 11 other patients,

the nurse to patient ratio at the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital Center in Manila during the first weeks of January.

Source: Alliance of Health Workers



540



areas in the country where placed under granular lockdowns

on January 17 due to the rise in Covid-19 infections. This affected 707 households. On the same day, the country recorded 37,070 new cases of Covid-19.

Source: Department of Interior and Local Government

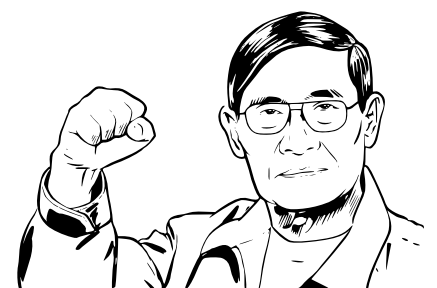
10



presidential candidates are included in the final and official ballot of the Comelec.

The ballot also includes the names of nine vice-presidential candidates, 62 senatoriales, and 178 party-list groups.

Source: Commission on Elections



**Crispin Beltran
"Ka Bel"**

commemorated by his fellow workers at the **Bantayog ng mga Bayani** in Quezon City on the occasion of his birthday on January 7. Ka Bel, a **renowned labor leader** who fought for decades to serve the toiling masses, died in 2008.

Peace 911, the face of fascism in Davao City

The local government of Davao City recently hyped its Task Force (TF) Peace 911 as model local version of the NTF-Elcac of the national reactionary government. The local form of civil-military junta directs the anti-people war of the Duterte regime and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the city.

The TF Peace 911 is purportedly founded on eight pillars of "peace" which include lowering levels of corruption, recognition of people's rights, equitable distribution of resources, and a sound business environment. Clearly, however, these pillars do not aim to resolve the primary demands of the masses, including land and living wages to achieve peace based on justice.

One Lumad farmer in Paquibato said that the Peace 911 is evidently a "madmavolut woy ovubaton," an oppressive and deceptive scheme.

Militarization in Paquibato

On the pretext of "achieving" peace, the AFP deployed three battalions in 13 barangays of Paquibato, and other adjacent barangays in the Calinan District. There are at least 29 military detachments in the said area. The 27th IB, 89th IB and 3rd IB are mounting full-scale operations in these barangays. These units summon the village folk in "mass assemblies" to deceive and force them to surrender.

Simultaneously, it operates "Dos-dos," a mercenary death squad employed to conduct surveillance, harass and intimidate residents.

Several village councils were made to sign "persona non grata" declarations against the Party, people's army and the NDFP. "We were not even given a copy of this document," said some local officials.

The AFP also constructed the anomalous "Kalinaw Village" in Mahayag, Barangay Bunawan, where those declared as "surrenderees" are detained. The facility is located just a few meters away from the headquarters of the 1003rd IBde.

In this project, military generals directly control the ₱2.53-million budget for the construction of the facility, ₱2.6-million funds for "surrenderees" and ₱724,000 for "other expenses."

The military is also aggressively recruiting residents into CAFGU or

paramilitary groups such as the Bagani and Alamara which serve its counterinsurgency campaign.

Bogus Peace Economy

The TF Peace 911 launched the so-called Peace Economy, a program directly administered by Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio. They claim that under the "Peace Economy" resources will be distributed equitably and delivery of social services will be improved.

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State forces kill activist couple in Sorsogon

Three farmers were killed, and entire families became victims of violence by armed agents of the US-Duterte in the past two weeks.

In Sorsogon, suspected military agents gunned down couple Silvestre Fortades, Jr., 70, and Rose Marie Galias, 68, in Barangay San Vicente, Barcelona, on January 15. Both were members of Anakpawis Partylist and the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Sorsogon.

Earlier, the military arrested carpenter Vicente Laguidao in Barangay Sta. Lourdes in the same town last December 9, 2021. He is accused of being a member of the New People's Army (NPA).

In Negros Oriental, the 62nd IB gunned down Arnold Suerte in Sitio Manlibod, Barangay Sandayao, Guihulngan City on January 15. Civilians James and France, and a minor were wounded and detained. The military also arrested and tortured resident Ritchie Sabeleo. After the crime, the military claimed that Suerte was killed in an encounter.

Before the incident, the same military unit illegally entered and searched six houses in adjacent Sitio Natoling in Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City. From midnight until daybreak, soldiers threatened the Corson and Montefalcon families, including children, a person with disability, and an 8-month pregnant woman.

The NPA-Negros reported on January 16 a similar incident of illegal entry in residences at Sitio Tuko Gamay, Barangay Trinidad in Guihulngan City, and the indiscriminate firing at Sitio Mamballo, Barangay Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla in Negros Occidental.

On January 6, suspected state elements abducted Joyna Lacio Sabanal at Fortune Town, Barangay Estefania, Bacolod City. The victim is the wife of political prisoner Roger Sabanal.

Meanwhile, in Tabuk City, Kalinga, two policemen arrested farmer Domingo Sebastian on January 10, 8 p.m., in Barangay Bulo. Sebastian is a farm worker and member of the Danggayon dagiti Mannalon ti Isabela.

In a related development, a court in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya last January 3 dismissed criminal charges against activists and farmers Francis Esponilla, Romar Busania and Michael Gatchalian. They were arbitrarily arrested at a checkpoint in May 2015 in Diadi in the same province. They are members of Timpuyog Dagiti Mannalon iti Quirino and Bayan Muna Partylist.

The Philippines' narrow electronics and electrical subsector

Since 2021, Filipino workers in the electronics and electrical (E&E) subsector have pressed capitalists for safe workplaces and just benefits. They called for a law for free vaccination and paid leave during the pandemic. Like other parts of the manufacturing sector, the E&E industry was deemed essential and all its workers were required to report to their factories even amid an upsurge.

The local economy leans heavily on the E&E subsector. It comprises the biggest portion of the country's exports in terms of value. It is the single biggest contributor to the gross domestic product. This is despite the subsector being narrow and its growth on the decline. It is also dominated by foreign companies and does not have linkages to local industries.

The Philippines is not a significant contributor to the global E&E trade. It only contributes 1% to the global industry of semiconductors, its main product. Growth started to slow in 2007 and has not recovered since Intel withdrew its operations and transferred to Vietnam in 2009. From a 70% share in exports in 2001, it dropped to 43% in 2012 and 55% in 2019. Its share in the GDP also dropped from 15.58% in 2010 to 9.8% in 2018.

In the main, the country's E&E

is focused on assembly and testing or A&T of integrated circuits, mainly analog semiconductors. In the entire process of producing semiconductors, this is the most manual or labor-intensive. There is no manufacturing of components from raw materials, or creation of any parts done in the country. There is also no research and development, and very minimal design and other high value-added processes.

Almost all E&E companies are owned or related to multinationals and are dependent on foreign capital. It is a part of a global assembly line for US, Japanese and South Korean firms. It gets its components from China, US and Japan. Some of the foreign companies which operate from the country are SMNI Electronics, Texas Instruments, Samsung, NXP and Toshiba. Their only link to local industries is for materials used for packaging the

components.

At present, the Philippine E&E does not exist outside the flow of global trade. These past few years, it has been plagued by shortages of semiconductors. When the Covid-19 pandemic raged, it was hit by supply shortages, border closures and the international transport crisis.

The Philippine E&E is a small sector. Electronic firms, its biggest block, only number 259. This is less than 1% of the total number of establishments in the country. Because of its labor-intensive nature, it employs 344,450 workers or almost 12% of the total working force in the manufacturing sector. Its factories are concentrated in the National Capital Region and export processing zones in Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Central Visayas.

As it is mainly focused on A&T, E&E products from the Philippines are low value-added. Its value-added only reaches up to 10%, lower than the value-added in the manufacturing of beverages.

Electronic products do not have high margins. The subsector also do

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In fact, this program is actually no different from the government's program for the production of commercial trees for export such as falcata, rubber, cacao, gemilina, coffee, mahogany and narra under the National Greening Program. This paved the way for the entry of a oil palm plantation in Barangay Colasas.

It has no comprehensive program for the production of food crops such as rice and corn, lacks support for production services such as irrigation, sustainable agriculture, nor prohibits oppressive usury. The claimed "development" is only limited to artificially in-

creasing the farmgate prices of tomatoes in Barangay Malabog.

Currently, road and cell tower construction projects under the Peace Economy are used to obscure the root causes of poverty of the peasant and Lumad masses in Paquibato. Its "wealth sharing" slogan is bogus, given that land and economic opportunities in the area are still controlled by landlords and multinational corporations.

The Davao City local government brags of the peace foundation of Peace 911 which is essentially based on relentless fascism and the bogus and one-sided projects which do not address the basic problems

of Paquibato residents.

In fact, this so-called foundation has been shaken by series of military actions mounted by the New People's Army against operating troops of the AFP in Barangay Colasas towards the end of 2019 wherein the enemy sustained 15 casualties.

This and facts exposing the Peace 911 as fascist and bogus only prove that the people of Paquibato continue to embrace the people's war as the only solution to address their hardships.

(This article is based on the October 2021 issue of Pasabilis!, revolutionary mass newspaper in Southern Mindanao.)

AB

Clamor for nationalization of industries resonates

A wave of massive protests erupted in three countries during the past few weeks to demand the nationalization of key industries and oppose the policy of privatization. The largest of these was the uprising of people in Kazakhstan to oppose oil price increases and demand the government to nationalize foreign oil companies. The protests in Chile and India were directed against the privatization of mining and banks.

Natural gas, oil in Kazakhstan

The continuing protests of tens of thousands of people in Kazakhstan erupted on January 2 to oppose oil price hikes after Pres. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev lifted price controls on liquefied petroleum gas. Rallyists demanded the nationalization of all oil and natural gas mining companies which are currently dominated by multinational companies, primarily those of the US.

The protests were initiated by oilfield workers which subsequently spread across all city and town centers in the country. On top of demanding lower prices of natural gas, they also called on government officials to resign. They also demanded the stripping of political power of former dictator Nursultan Nursultan Nazarbayev who they said continue to dominate the country despite leaving his office in 2019 after three decades of dictatorship. Nazarbayev is responsible for privatizing the oil companies of the country in the 1990s.

Globally, Kazakhstan has the 12th biggest oil reserves (30 billion barrels), and 15th biggest natural gas reserves (85 trillion cubic feet). It is capable of producing 1.8 million barrels of oil daily and 1.5 million cubic feet of natural gas annually. The country's economy is dependent on oil and natural gas extraction, but people do not fully benefit from these resources. The state-owned company KazMunaiGas currently only has minimal shares in major companies which extract the said resources in the country. The biggest of these is the Ten-

gizchevroil which is 70% owned by US multinational companies Chevron (50%) and ExxonMobil (25%), while Kazakhstan only has a 10% share. Similarly, the country only has a 10% share in the Karachaganak Petroleum Operating.

Mining in Chile

People marched across the streets of Santiago, capital of Chile, on January 7 to oppose Pres. Sebastián Piñera's scheme to railroad contracts for the all-out privatization of lithium mining in the country, two months before leaving office. They opposed Piñera for awarding 20-year contracts to two private Chinese and Chilean companies to extract 160,000 tons of lithium. Lithium, one of the primary mineral resources of the country, is used for the production of batteries, including those of electric vehicles and gadgets.

The Chileans demand the nationalization of lithium mining. They asserted that this should be developed to serve national industrialization instead of being exported in its raw form. Across the globe, Chile has the biggest reserve of lithium which is equivalent to 51% (9.2 million metric tons) of global reserves. Chile has formerly nationalized the mining industry, but this policy was reversed by the late dictator Augusto Pinochet who pushed for the privatization of the industry in the 1980s.

Among those who support the call for nationalization is president-elect Gabriel Boric, who recently

won in the national elections and is set to assume office in March. He plans to nationalize lithium mining and establish a national company which will administer the industry.

Public sector banks in India

Around 900,000 employees of public sector banks in India mounted a strike on December 16 and 17, 2021 to oppose the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The employees protested outside the branches of the affected banks in Mumbai, to oppose the impending privatization of public sector banks. The Modi regime intends to privatize five out of 12 public sector banks in the country.

Historically, India implemented the nationalization of banks from 1969 to 1980 as a way to develop the local economy. These banks primarily cater to people in the countryside. The focus of these banks include agriculture, and small industries and businesses. Their programs include cheap credit. AB

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not have the potential for upgrading.

Around 80% of its workers in the production are low- and medium-skilled. Most of them are elementary and high school or technical-vocational school graduates. The industry hires only a small percentage of highly-skilled workers like engineers.

Foreign companies in the industry exploit the vast ocean of unemployed workers in the country. They also benefit greatly from the incentives and tax holidays of up to 10 years offered to them within export processing zones. They are among those pushing for further reduction of corporate taxes. AB