



## EDITORIAL

# Study theory and history to advance revolutionary practice

A widespread study movement to review Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the Party's basic principles is now being carried vigorously through the entire revolutionary movement. Party committees and cadres, as well as the commanders and fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) and activists in the mass movement in the rural and urban areas, are energetically studying theory and principles as weapons to wage revolution.

At the center of this study movement are the writings and teachings bequeathed by Ka Joma (Jose Maria Sison), honored teacher of the Philippine revolution, who then led in laying the Party's basic principles, policies, strategies and tactics for carrying out the two-stage revolution in the Philippines.

Among the writings that comrades are now re-studying are the most definitive documents developed under Ka Joma's leadership including: Rectify Errors and Rebuild the Party, Our Urgent Tasks, Specific characteristics of Our People's War, Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify Errors, and Stand for Socialism Against Modern Revisionism.

Comrades are enthusiastically re-reading Ka Joma's other books and articles such as Struggle for National Democracy and Philippine Society and Revolution. These books are classic writings that remain reflective of the concrete situation of the Philippines which is oppressed by imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. These are studied along with the classic writings of great communist teachers such as Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao and Ho. These explicate the universal truth about the history of class struggle and the need for revolutionary change to end exploitation and oppression.

This study movement was brought forth by the call of the

Party's central leadership to use the treasury of Ka Joma's teachings as guide to carry forward the revolution. It is also part of the call to sum-up experiences of the past five and 25 years, identify and repudiate the subjective errors which have led to losses or which have impeded our work in various fields, and to comprehensively advance the revolutionary movement.

Along the principle of "without revolution theory, there can be no revolutionary movement," Party cadres are currently using Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and Ka Joma's teachings to assess and sum-up their practical experiences, build the determination to correct these, and overcome weaknesses and mistakes. They are reviewing history to draw positive and negative lessons, strengthen positive practices and avoid repeating previous errors.

This study movement is key to the consolidation of the Party. We must all-sidedly strengthen the

Party in order to shoulder the heavy tasks of leadership.

The study movement is part of the general effort to raise the theoretical knowledge and tighten all cadres and activists' grasp of the Party's principles and ideology, as guide in carrying out revolutionary practice. It raises the militance and determination of the Party and the Filipino masses to fight amid the brutal repression of the reactionary state.

Party committees are exerting efforts to have cadres and members complete the Party's 3-level course. Even more basic, non-readers are being taught to read through literacy programs. Through these efforts, the Party continues to raise the ability of its cadres and members

to lead various fields of work at different levels. It also trains new generation of communist leaders and fighters.

Marxist-Leninist-Maoist knowledge and methods of analysis are used to research concrete conditions, problems and urgent demands of the Filipino masses. It clarifies that rising prices of commodities, low wages, landlessness, and various problems faced daily by the people are rooted in the chronic and worsening crisis of the rotten semi-colonial and semifeudal system. It shows how the suffering and hardship of Filipino workers and toiling masses are essentially the same suffering and hardship of masses oppressed and exploited by monopoly capitalism in other parts of the

world.

We are strengthening the determination of revolutionary forces to uphold mass line, and exert all efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize millions of workers, peasants and all oppressed and exploited classes and sectors. This study movement increases the enthusiasm of revolutionary forces and activists to carry out propaganda work in factories, schools, villages and other places to encourage the masses to unite and intensify their courage and will to tread the path of collective resistance to raise their grievances and fight for their interests.


In the countryside, this study movement further energizes Red fighters to strengthen the bonds between the masses and their army, expand and strengthen the guerrilla fronts, fight state terrorism, and valiantly advance guerrilla warfare.

Through the study movement, the Party guides and teaches the NPA to more further vigorously carry out extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare on the basis of an ever expanding and deepening mass bases, and step by step strengthen the NPA from being small and weak to being big and strong people's army.

Fighters and activists are exerting all out effort to mobilize the peasant masses to fight for genuine land reform and other demands in the face of the crisis and disasters brought about by the Marcos regime. The mass organizations are being expanded and strengthened and the seeds of the people's democratic government are being sown. In addition, tactical offensives are set to be mounted to annihilate the enemy part by part, to take his weapons, and raise the strength of the NPA from one level to the next.

During the current year, we anticipate this study movement to result in a steady advancement of the entire revolutionary movement in the rural and urban areas and galvanize the people's struggles for national freedom and democracy. **AB**





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Enero 21, 2023    **ANG BAYAN**

## NCMR holds a Party course in expansion area

A unit of the New People's Army (NPA) in one of the expansion areas in North Central Mindanao Region (NCMR) daringly and determinedly launched a Basic Party Course (BPC) during last quarter of 2022. Despite various challenges, 17 NPA fighters successfully graduated from the course.

Sessions started on November 26, 2022 and ended on December 18, 2022. All BPC students were young peasants and have been members of the people's army for 2-3 years.

During the study course, the people's army deployed a unit for mass work and social investigation in nearby communities. Being in an expansion area that is under the fascist rule of reactionary state forces, mass action was just only beginning to pick up.

Study sessions were interrupted several times because the camp had to be moved to avoid enemy operations. Every time the camp moved, the students and instructors worked together to rebuild the school to continue their classes.

Despite the challenges, the unit persevered and completed their study course. "Most of them are high in spirits! It's been a long time since the last course was launched," said one of the instructors.

"I am more determined to work for the revolution because I learned about how the Party has surmounted past challenges and advanced," said one student.

## Ka Elay, exemplary woman cadre and fighter

THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines honored Helenita Parladis, 65, one of the Party's leading cadres who was killed last year. She is known by the masses and comrades in Bicol and Samar as Ka Ning, Ka Eliz, Ka Celine and Ka Elay.

She is among the hundreds of women Party cadres who have taken on heavy duties to advance and develop the people's war.

In the past years, she has led the fight against relentless enemy attacks and operations by expanding and deepening guerrilla warfare in Eastern Visayas. Along with five other Red fighters, she died in an aerial bombing operations by the military last November 23, 2022 in Barangay Imelda, Las Navas, Northern Samar. That day, the military bombed the area in the nearby community 50 times from 1:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.

A native of Bicol, Ka Elay first served as a Party official in a guerrilla front in Camarines Sur where she eventually became the secretary of the entire province in the 1990s. She was appointed as the deputy secretary of the National Peasant Bureau which conducted advanced agrarian campaigns and later, as the deputy secretary of the Party committee in Eastern Visayas.

She was elected as a member of the Central Committee in the Second Congress in 2016. She was the secretary of the regional committee of the Party in Eastern Visayas at the time of her death. She bequeathed to all revolutionary forces the strong unity between the people's army and the masses.

## AFP soldiers massacre family in Northern Samar

AN ENTIRE FAMILY WAS massacred by soldiers of the 43rd IB at Kilometer 9, Barangay Happy Valley, San Isidro in Northern Samar last November 18, 2022. The fascist-terrorist soldiers claimed that the victims were NPA fighters killed in an encounter. The area has been under intense combat operations.

In the last quarter of 2022, the military conducted a series of at least three bombings in the province. On October 1, 2022, at least 25 artillery shells were fired by soldiers using 105mm and 155mm howitzers hitting farms in Barangay Paco, Las Navas, Northern Samar. This was followed by another bombing in Barangay San Isidro on November 11, 2022.



**Defend the defenders.** Democratic organizations and supporters congratulated 10 human rights defenders, church people and mass leaders in Quezon City on January 9 after a court dismissed the perjury case filed against them by Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

### Defend the right to organize.

Members of Migrante and Kilusang Mayo Uno staged a picket at the Department of Justice on January 16 to demand state action against various attacks against their members. The protest took place a few days before the International Labor Organization makes public the results of its investigation into workers' conditions in the country.

A day earlier, Southern Tagalog workers trooped to the DOLE national office in Manila to assert their right to form unions, and right to living wages and regular jobs. They later proceeded to Mendiola.

### Suspend SIM Card Registration.

Digital rights activists under the Junk Sim Card Registration Network held a picket at the National Telecommunications Commission to call for the suspension of repressive and anti-people mandatory registration.

### Justice for Ka Manny.

Workers and activists stormed the DoJ on January 18 after the agency dismissed the case against 17 policemen involved in the killing of Bayan-Cavite coordinator Manuel Asuncion. Ka Manny was murdered in 2021, along with eight others in what is now called Bloody Sunday.

# From quarantine to the countryside

*The following is the story of a Kabataang Makabayan member who joined the celebration of the Party's 54th anniversary in one of the guerilla fronts of the people's army.*

After Christmas, I immediately prepared my things necessary for our visit. Excitement drowned my fear of the unknown. I have been a member of Kabataang Makabayan (KM) for two years, but due to the strict lockdowns imposed in the name of the Covid-19 pandemic, this is the first time I will witness the stories I've only heard about.

Our journey seemed quite short. By nightfall, we reached the community where we would be picked up. Anxious, I held on to my bag while looking at the darkening path that we would soon be traversing. Then we started to walk. My heart beat fast as I traveled to an unfamiliar place.

After a while the path become thick in vegetation—it was dark, muddy and rocky. To be honest, I've long thought I could not hike through the mud. As someone from the pettybourgeoisie who grew up in the city, I'm fussy and don't want to get dirty. I am also not used to hiking through rocks or to walking in general. I don't want to get all tired and sweaty.

Despite this, comrades showed utmost patience. They immediately reached their hands out the moment I asked for help. I realized just how kind our fighters were, they extended all help to ensure our safety. I remembered when I once said that I had no perspective of going to the countryside—I thought

I wouldn't fit in here. Most people just told me: "trust the comrades to support you."

It was already early morning when we reached their place. Upon arrival, we were led to rest in our sleeping quarters. I had a hard time relaxing at first but eventually fell asleep out of exhaustion. After a while, I woke up to the chatter of comrades who were busy in their preparations. The area was clear. The breeze was fresh. I turned around and saw the fighters in a huddle. My first thought was, "they look so cool, like lead characters of the anime I watch."

The next few hours were filled with conversation and laughter. We slowly got to know each other. In our exchanges, I learned about the sacrifices and necessary perseverance in this field they have chosen.

We saw the comrade's artworks as we arrived at the place where the celebration was going to be held. At the center is a painting with the theme: "Consolidate and strengthen the Party! Frustrate the US-Marcos

regime's counterrevolutionary war and state terrorism! Comprehensively advance the people's democratic revolution!" And on both sides were the red flags of the Party. Below it, a hammer and sickle was carved on the ground. This symbolized the fighters' tribute to the great teacher and servant of the Filipino masses, Jose Maria "Ka Joma" Sison.

By noon the program started. First was the singing of the "Internationale." I looked at everyone with amazement. I imagined how many Filipinos will sing this song together when victory is attained. The comrade fighters performed cultural numbers. I was surprised at their talent. They are not only warriors, they are also artists of the people! The youth happily joined in the performances. The guests' faces showed real joy.

In the evening we prepared for our departure. During our short stay, I was able to immediately form a special relationship with the comrade fighters and the masses we met. I went home with no regrets. Only now did I affirm my perspective—that the path I have chosen is correct. During my few days in the countryside, I brought home many stories and lessons.

The walk back was easier, as though in a short time, I mastered traveling the path. With the ease of traveling home, I became aware of the difficult work and tasks necessary for the success of the revolution. The words during the program kept echoing in my mind. "We chose to work in the countryside because here there is a greater need to serve the masses." I have seen the armed struggle in its actual form, and can now stand on stronger grounds to continue the fight and strengthen our ranks in joining the struggles of the toiling masses and serving the oppressed.



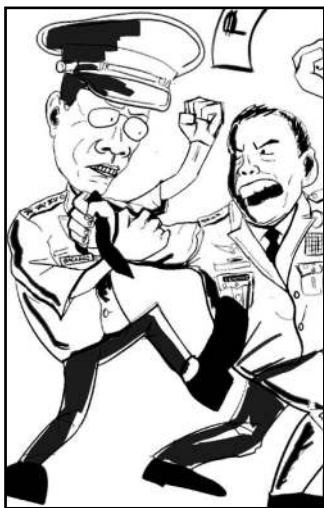
# Human rights abuses to worsen, as generals jostle for power

Human rights abuses will intensify as the military generals jostle for power under the Marcos-Duterte tandem. These conflicts began in mid-2022 and erupted in the early days of 2023. This strife among the ranks of the military reflect the deep contradictions among the allied political dynasties and factions within the ruling Marcos regime.

In the bid to stop the jostling for corruption and stymie the growing discontent that could lead to destabilization, Ferdinand Marcos Jr reshuffled key people in the defense, military and police. He kicked out officials he himself had appointed and brought back the worst generals who served during the Duterte regime.

The shake-up began with the reappointment of Gen. Andres Centino as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the position Marcos awarded to Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro, known as an ally of First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and then Executive Sec. Vic Rodriguez. To protest Bacarro's unceremonious removal, former Gen. Jose Faustino resigned as officer-in-charge of the Department of National Defense (DND). Five other senior DND officials resigned after him. He was replaced by Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr, former presidential adviser on the peace process and chief of the Duterte regime's utterly failed and corrupt response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The last to be removed from office was Prof. Clarita Carlos, who was previously criticized by the generals after she called for the NTF-Elcac budget's reduction. She was replaced by the ultra-militarist Gen. Eduardo Año as National Security Adviser (NSA).



While generals and colonels jostled for juicy positions in the AFP, the entire force of the Philippine National Police (PNP) was placed under "full alert." According to the bourgeois media, a memo about a coup and destabilization was circulated. At the same time, the PNP was undergoing a shake down with more than 900 police generals and colonels being asked to submit their courtesy resignations.

In the face of the so-called "game of the generals," progressive and democratic organizations have expressed concern that human rights abuses and war crimes will intensify. Año, Galvez and Centino are known for the most brutal and dirty tactics in the war against the people. The list of their violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws is long and bloody. They are remembered, along with the former adviser of the NSA, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, as the biggest obstacles to the peace talks.

The military's grip on the civil bureaucracy has tightened with the appointment of Año, Galvez and Centino. In line with the US "anti-terrorism" and anticommunist counterinsurgency doctrine, the military will



continue to define and dictate state policies and place civilian agencies under its control as what is being done through the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac).

With the return of former president Duterte's generals, expect the brutal counterinsurgency tactics to continue. They will obstruct peace talks between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. In Año, Galvez and Centino's book, there is only the military solution. The only peace they know is the "peace of the dead."

In the face of this, the Party has instructed all its committees, as well as NPA units to take advantage of the strife, confusion and maneuvers within the AFP and PNP. They must launch propaganda and education within the military and police, especially among the lowest ranks to persuade them to abandon the rotten organization and cooperate with the revolutionary forces.

It said these strife will ultimately impinge on counterinsurgency operations, especially when there are coup and counter-coup maneuvers by troops. The NPA must take the initiative and intensify military and political work throughout the country and reap big gains in the face of the enemy's chaos.

AB

# Philippines, in US war preparations vs China

The US Biden government is brazenly trampling on Philippine sovereignty as it prepares a "theater of war" against its imperialist rival China. Along with Japan, South Korea, Singapore and other countries in what it calls the "first-island chain" of countries closest to China, the Philippines is now stationed with military personnel and equipment that are ready to be used the moment war breaks out.

Lt. Gen. James Bierman, commanding general of Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) and US Marine Forces Japan very explicitly said that the US has long been preparing to wage a war against China, and compared it to its preparations in the war in Ukraine against Russia. In a recent interview with the Financial Times, Bierman said:

"Why have we achieved the level of success we've achieved in Ukraine? A big part of that has been because after Russian aggression in 2014 and 2015, we earnestly got after preparing for future conflict: training for the Ukrainians, pre-positioning of supplies, identification of sites from

which we could operate support, sustain operations... We call that setting the theatre. And we are setting the theatre in Japan, in the Philippines, in other locations."

Bierman's words show US imperialism's arrogance in pushing to impose its hegemony on any part of the world, manifesting complete contempt of the sovereignty of these countries, especially of semi-colonies like the Philippines. Its treats its "allied" countries as pawns in a game of chess in its strategy of surrounding China.

In using the Philippines as part of its "theater of war" against China, the US is turning it into a magnet or target of possible Chinese attacks in the event that war between the US and China erupts. Using the Philippines as a US launchpad for its wars overseas outrightly violates the country's sovereignty.

The US is brazenly using Japan, Korea and the Philippines because the ruling governments in these countries are subservient to US dictates. The Fumio Kishida government of Japan is presently conniving all-out with the US military, recently increasing spending to acquire US missiles which can hit targets from a 1000-kilometers distance. Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol is pushing for the prepositioning of US nuclear weapons in their country. The US has large military bases both in Japan and Korea.

Last year, the Marcos govern-

ment declared its plan to allow the construction of five additional US facilities in its chosen areas: two in Cagayan province, one each in Isabela, Zambales and Palawan. This is in addition to the five US military facilities inside AFP camps established under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). The US is expected to use these facilities to position ground-to-air missile systems aimed at China.

These facilities form part of the US strategy to push China to "own the starting pistol." Among these provocations are the sailing of warships into the Taiwan Strait which is recognized as Chinese territory under the One China Policy, and the unending navigation of its aircraft carriers in the western and eastern seas of the Philippines and on Japan's eastern coast, and the successive "war exercises" in the Philippines, South Korea and Japan, as well as India, near China's borders.

US war provocations against China are part of its push to control markets and supply of resources. The decades-long US collusion with Chinese monopoly bureaucrat-capilists has now become a heightening economic and military war. The US aims to take away the vast markets dominated by China's cheap commodities. AB



## People reject US presence in Cagayan

THE PEOPLE OF Cagayan rejects the planned transformation of the AFP's military camp to a US military facility, in line with the planned five additional US local camps under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. The US will use these facilities as permanent bases of US military equipment and troops.

The National Democratic Front-Cagayan expects the Marcos puppet regime to permit US forces to use AFP military camps in Sta. Ana and Lal-lo. Another is the 50-hectare land being taken by the AFP from farmers in Divilacan, Isabela.



# Naval Station Carlito Cunanan: A US military base in Palawan

The Naval Station Carlito Cunanan (NSCC) is one of two US military bases in Palawan under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the US and the Philippines. It was established under the Aquino II regime as part of US efforts to ensure control of the Indo-Pacific ocean. It is part of the "first island chain" (Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Borneo, and others) against China. The NSCC can be found within the Oyster Bay, part of Puerto Princesa City's Ulugan Bay.

The said military base was secretly developed and funded by the AFP with US support to transform it into a "mini-Subic" to serve American troops and become a station of US imperialism's warships. It is around 160 kilometers from the Spratly Islands where China's military facilities are positioned.

When the NSCC was built in Ulugan Bay, it destroyed the environment and caused environmental pollution. The erected infrastructures and US military facilities destroyed the rich

and protected mangroves and coral reefs. The cutting of trees in the area was not permitted by the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) given that the bay is a protected area.

This severely impacted the lives, livelihood and properties of about 1,700 residents of Barangay Macarascas, one of the five villages around the Ulugan Bay. Residents in the area were evicted *en massé* with more than 100 houses demolished to give way for the military base. Fisher-

men were dislocated from their place of livelihood because the entire Ulugan Bay became a port for big US warships. Filipino soldiers fire at boats of fishermen sailing near the bay.

The military base brought about abuses against the Palaweños. Cases of violence, abuse against women and children and other violations of human rights by mercenary American soldiers and the AFP have risen. Prostitution and sex trafficking became rampant after lines of bars and entertainment centers were erected in Puerto Princesa to serve American soldiers. There are reports that women are brought by van into the NSCC itself.

*From Ang Pulang Larangan, revolutionary mass publication in Palawan.*

## Police surfaces 2 disappeared Cebu activists

State forces were compelled to release two Cebuano activists on January 16 after calls for them to be surfaced snowballed. Dyan Gumanao and Armand Dayoha were forced into a waiting van by men who identified themselves as police officers at a port of Cebu on January 10 at noon in front of numerous witnesses. They were taken to a safehouse where they were subjected to psychological torture. They were dropped on January 16 at a resort in the town of Carmen after the family released photos of their abduction.

Gumanao is the coordinator of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers for Region 7 while Dayoha is a volunteer for a Cebu chapter of the Alliance of Health Workers. Both graduated from the University of the Philippines-Cebu.

In a video taken by a witness, the two can be seen being forced into a gray-colored SUV parked on the part of the port where private vehicles are not allowed. Before this video surfaced, port officials, police and the crew of the ship denied knowledge of a "kidnapping incident" in the area that day. The family and human rights groups are calling for an independent investigation into the abduction, to look into the involvement not only of the police, but also of the port and its personnel.

**Killing.** On the neighboring island of Negros, the military killed two farmers and attempted to kill another in the past two weeks. As in other cases, the military claimed the victims died in encounters with NPA units.

In Guihulngan City, soldiers of the 62nd IB killed Orlando Fat in Sitio Banderahan, Barangay Trinidad on January 10. They attempted to kill Rodrigo Pasinabo in Sitio Cambaogon on January 15.

These are part of the large-scale combat operation of the 62nd IB in the border barangays of Guihulngan City, Canlaon City and Moises Padilla.

In Himamaylan City, soldiers of the 94th IB killed 49-year-old farmer Jose Gonzalez in Purok Maliko-liko, Sitio Cunalom, Barangay Carabalan on January 9.

## Military holds baby hostage for 2 years

FOR TWO YEARS, now 2-year-old Baby Marx Cairo Salino has been separated from his family. On January 13, 2021, the 79th IB took him during a raid on the house of the Madin family in Hacienda Ambulong, Barangay San Fernando, Talisay City, Negros Occidental.

Since then, the military has been holding the baby hostage and has refused to return him to the custody of his relatives. Baby Marx is the son of Ka Peeta and Ka Jandy, both fighters of the New People's Army in Negros.

The military is using Baby Marx as a hostage to force his parents to surrender. The DSWD refused to turn him over to his grandparents because the military still needed to be "consulted".

Baby Marx's grandfather and grandmother have been repeatedly subjected to pressure, intimidation and surveillance. In the first quarter of 2022, soldiers raided their temporary home. Because of this, they were forced to hide.

9

**billionaires**  
have more wealth  
compared to **55**  
**million** Filipinos.

*Source: Oxfam Pilipinas*



**32** **Blackhawk**  
**helicopters**

were contracted to  
be acquired by the  
AFP for **P32 billion**.

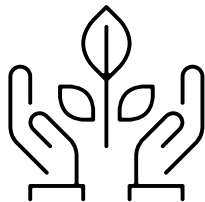
**P45 B**

**2023 budget**  
**for AFP**  
**modernization**

after Congress inserted  
an additional **P6 billion**  
amid generals' jostling  
for corruption.

**228**

key biodiversity  
areas

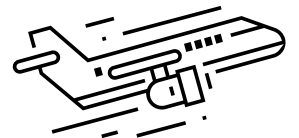


were identified by  
scientists in the  
Philippines but only 91  
are protected

*Source: International Union for  
Conservation of Nature*

**70**

**relatives,**  
**minions and**  
**businessmen**



joined Marcos Jr in a vacation to  
**Switzerland** on January 16-20 to attend the  
World Economic Forum. This is his 8th time  
to travel abroad in 7 months.

**JMSU**

**Joint Marine**  
**Seismic**  
**Undertaking,**

an agreement among the Philippines, China  
and Vietnam to mine the **West Philippine**  
**Sea**, was declared **unconstitutional** by  
the Supreme Court on January 10.



**22** **cities and**  
**municipalities**

remain under the **state of**  
**emergency** since December  
2022 due to severe floods caused  
by rainfall.

**324**

**killed in the sham**  
**war on drugs in**  
**2022,**

49 on the last 6 months of Duterte and  
**175** on the first 6 months of Marcos.



**60,000**

**babies and**  
**Filipino children**



**died in 2021** before reaching the  
age of 5 due to health  
complications which could be  
prevented.

*Source: United Nations Inter-Agency Group  
for Child Mortality Estimation*



On the first month of 2023:

# Increasing prices of food, basic services

At the start of 2023, the Filipino people were met with simultaneous disasters of skyrocketing prices of basic commodities and social services and relentless rains and floods. Amid these, the Marcos regime offers no solution to the worsening economic crises apart from token measures.

## Rising food prices

Onion prices remain at ₱400-₱550 per kilo due to hoarding, manipulation and overpricing by agricultural cartels. The skyrocketing prices are a blow to consumers, even as onion farmers drown in tears and debt due to their losses.

According to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, onion farmgate prices last year was only at ₱30 per kilo in Nueva Ecija. On the other hand, farmers spend ₱150,000 for every planting cycle. In Occidental Mindoro, farmgate prices plummeted to as low as ₱8-15 per kilo.

Merlita Gallardo, wife of an onion farmer in Pangasinan, recounted how their losses pushed her husband to commit suicide in 2021. Apart from Gallardo, four other onion farmers committed suicide.

Coffee remains bitter as sugar prices remain very high. A kilo of refined sugar is at ₱90 to ₱110 while brown sugar costs ₱80 to ₱96. These are ₱10-₱15 higher compared to the last quarter of 2022.

Like in previous regimes, Marcos has resorted to importation as solution to the food crisis. On January 10, he permitted the importation of 17,100 metric

tons of red onions and 3,960 metric tons of white onions. The orders were issued despite upcoming local onion harvest this February.

Meanwhile, the government plans to import up to 450,000 metric tons of sugar this year on the pretext of tempering rising sugar prices.

Egg producers recently disclosed that egg prices will continue to rise this year. Average prices of medium-sized eggs are now at ₱9-₱10, from ₱6.90-₱8.50 in December 2022. However, a number of markets have already been selling regular-sized eggs at ₱10 per piece.

Producers cite as reason for the spread of bird flu which up to now has not been dealt with by Department of Agriculture. According to data by the Bureau of Animal Industry, this pandemic has affected 20 provinces in eight regions. As a result, 1.8 million affected chickens have been culled.

Apart from this, rice prices are set to increase by ₱2 in the coming months. Bread prices are also expected to rise because of increasing prices of eggs and other

ingredients.

## Gasoline, electricity, water and fare

This January, net gasoline prices already increased by ₱3.1 per liter while kerosene, ₱0.8 per liter. This drove average gasoline price to ₱70 per liter.

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) announced this month that electricity charges will increase by ₱0.62 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). It will now charge ₱10.9 per kWh this month. This is equivalent to an additional ₱125 charge for Filipino families who regularly consume 200 kWh per month.

Meanwhile, customers of Manila Water will be charged an additional ₱8.04 per cubic meter, while those of Maynilad will shell out ₱3.29 more per cubic meter consumed.

There are also fears of LRT fare increases this year. Minimum fares are set to increase by ₱2.29, with an additional ₱0.21 for every kilometer. The usual ₱13 fare will become ₱15 while longer rides costing ₱15 will become ₱20. Fare increases are imposed every two years as provided for in the contract between the private contractor and the government.

Meanwhile, prices of the liquified petroleum gas (LPG) are also set to increase this February.



## **CPI (Maoist) condemns aerial bombing of Indian indigenous communities**

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of India (Maoist) condemned the Indian government's armed forces for the brutal bombing of not less than nine communities in parts of South Bastar on the borders of Chhattisgarh-Telangana on the morning of January 11. The group said the relentless bombing of communities started at 11 a.m to sow fear and terror among indigenous peoples.

"It is clear how desperate the fascist Bharatiya Janata Party is to eliminate the Maoist forces," said Comrade Abhay, spokesperson of the CPI (Maoist). He said that the fascists were forced to employ aerial assets because they fear entering the forests through land where they are likely to be met with the indigenous people's armed resistance. "Because the people of those regions are highly politicized and radical, the Central Reserve Police Force and other forces are afraid to enter through land," Abhay added.

These attacks aim to push back and disunite the indigenous peoples to sell all the region's natural resources to imperialists and bourgeois compradors.

Amid enemy attacks, forces under the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army of the CPI (Maoist) were able to inflict damage against attacking forces. They damaged an enemy helicopter and wounded six fascist soldiers.

Abhay said further that they are expecting India's government to intensify its use of aerial strikes and aerial bombing to come after the CPI (Maoist) leadership. However, he said, "the enemy should know that their bombs and drones cannot match the spirit of sacrifice of every single guerrilla, it cannot crush the Indian revolution." AB

## **NPA mounts ambush in Sorsogon, sniping ops in Negros**

THREE FASCIST SOLDIERS of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) were killed in armed actions of the New People's Army (NPA) in Negros and Sorsogon on January 15.

The NPA-Sorsogon ambushed the 18-man operating unit of the 22nd IB and CAFGU in Barangay Calmayon, Juban, Sorsogon. A CAFGU member was killed while two others were injured. The ambushed unit is part of the troops operating in the adjacent barangays of Calmayon, Maalo and Calateo in the town of Juban and Barangay Calpi and Dolos in Bulan since 2020.

The NPA-Central Negros mounted consecutive snipe operations on the same day. Two soldiers were killed. Red fighters first sniped the troops of the 62nd IB in Sitio Palasan, Barangay Guba, Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental. By 6 o'clock in the evening, snipers aimed at the soldiers in Sitio Batangbatangan, Barangay Bucalan, Canlaon City. AB